

## Scoping: A Guide to Effective Commenting

Scoping is a collaborative public engagement process to define the issues that will be addressed in the Resource Management Plan (RMP). Public input received through official scoping comments will be analyzed and summarized to develop the final set of planning issues.

Planning issues are the major resource challenges that will guide the planning process. Resource management alternatives will be developed to address the issues defined during scoping. **Scoping comments define the issues, and the issues define the Resource Management Plan.** The scoping phase will culminate with a written summary of the final set of issues that will move forward in the planning process.

***Making targeted and specific scoping comments is the best way to affect the planning process at this stage!***

### How are scoping comments analyzed?

All comments are reviewed, assessed and then sorted into one of three categories.

**Only Category 1 can be directly addressed in the RMP.**

Category 1: Can be dealt with in RMP

- *Restrict or prohibit OHV use in washes and riparian areas.*
- *Consider water quality, watershed condition, bank conditions and shearing when considering the biological impacts from grazing.*

Category 2: Can be dealt with administratively

- *I want to be a volunteer to fix this area.*
- *I want to ensure that I can maintain my right-of-way.*

Category 3: Outside of scope of the project:

- *I am opposed to ATVs.*
- *I believe that Luke Air Force base should be closed.*

Addressed in Implementation Plan (following RMP):

- *The BLM should build a wildlife water on the Anvil allotment at x location on the allotment.*

**A starting point:** The BLM staff has developed a preliminary set of issues, based on their experience of the resources in the SPRNCA. These preliminary issues can be commented on, added to, or changed through the scoping process.

**When to comment:** The official scoping period will end on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013. All scoping comments must be received before this date.

**Do I have to attend one of the meetings to submit a scoping comment?** No. Anyone can submit a scoping comment whether or not they have attended one of the meetings. There are a variety of ways to submit scoping comments please see below.

**Can I only submit one comment?** You can submit as many comments as you would like during the official scoping period. Comments can also be submitted after the official scoping period ends but they will not be considered in the scoping report.

**How to comment:** Comments can be submitted to the BLM by any of the following methods:

**Fax:** (520) 258-7238

**Email:** [blm\\_az\\_tfo\\_sprnca\\_rmp@blm.gov](mailto:blm_az_tfo_sprnca_rmp@blm.gov)

**Mail:** Amy Markstein, BLM Tucson Field Office, 3201 E. Universal Way,  
Tucson, AZ 85756