

**San Pedro
Riparian
National
Conservation
Area**

**Resource
Management
Plan
Development**

**Alternatives Development
Meeting #2
March 22, 2014
Hereford, AZ**

Agenda for Today's Meeting

- Overview and Update
- Feedback from Last Meeting
- Small Group Work
- Conclusion/Wrap Up/Next Steps



Overview and Update

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area
Resource Management Plan

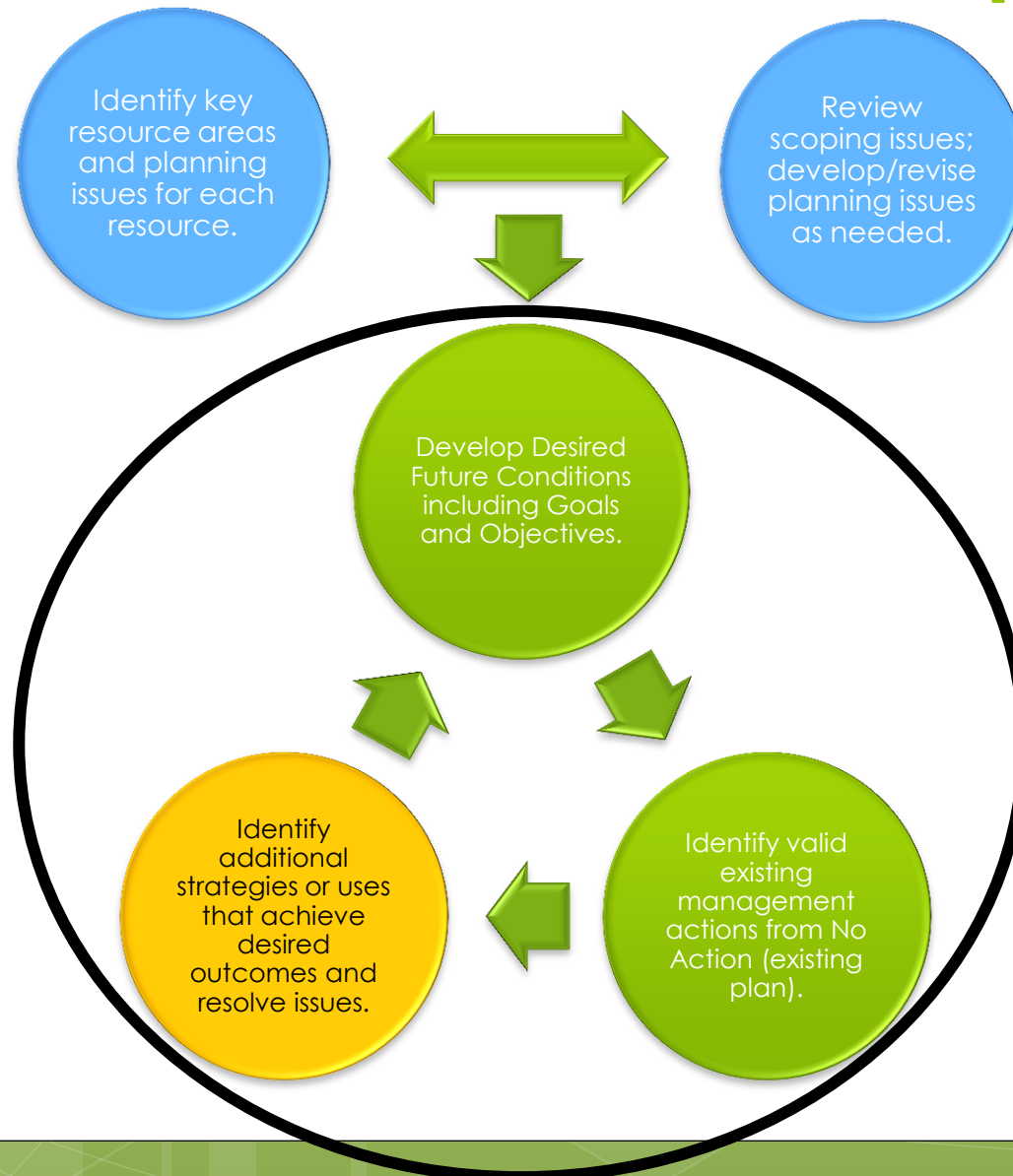
Progress to Date

- Public engagement strategy meetings (May-June 2013).
- Focused education and scoping forums (July-Aug 2013).
- Formal scoping meetings (Aug-Sept 2013).
- Feedback on Issues and Alternatives Overview Meetings (December 2013).
- Decision on Planning Area Boundary Jan 2014.
- Final scoping report published Jan 22 2014.

Progress to Date

- Decision to do TMP Jan 2014.
- Feb 22 - First Alternative Development Meeting
- March 21 - Range Field Trip
- March 22 - Second Alternative Development Meeting

Steps of Alternatives Development



Ways to Participate in Alternatives Development

- Small group discussion on issues (Today)
- Self Directed Issue Group Discussions (After Today)
- Upcoming Field Trips
 - March 28 - Wildlife Field Trip
 - April 4 - Recreation Field Trip
 - Specific Date TBD – Cultural and Water Resources Field Trip.
 - Specific things you would like to see.
 - Local folks you would like to have come along.



Summary of Input received during and after February 22 Meeting

Group Input: Lands and Realty

Information Learned

- Desired future condition of “consolidating BLM ownership of entire SPRNCA”
 - Sellers often do not openly advertise their willingness to sell, so alternative strategies may need to take place to locate willing sellers
- Utility corridor- a place where BLM has designated a preference for power lines, gas lines, and other energy sources to be located.
 - Utility companies will look to these corridors first, because BLM has already identified that relatively few obstacles exist there for development.
 - Currently, the only utility corridor existing in the SPRNCA is the Charleston Corridor; no other proposals for utility projects are currently being considered.
 - Utility corridors are only **preferred areas** for utilities; one strategy could be to make it a requirement that utilities ONLY occur inside the corridor.
 - The powerline that runs north-south on the east side of the SPRNCA is an example of a utility line without a corridor.
- Exclusion areas- places where sensitive resources occur, where utility corridors would be prevented.
 - Requests by power companies are decided on a case-by-case basis through an Environmental Assessment.

Group Input: Lands and Realty

Suggestions for Strategies

- Add the phrase “In accordance with Public Law...” to the Desired Future Conditions statement
- Word the Desired Future Conditions as goals/descriptions instead of actions
- Refer to the SPRNCA is considered not an isolated entity, but a connected feature of a connected landscape that includes the mountains, larger watershed, etc. Landscape alternative is supported.
- Consider utility ROWs on a case-by-case basis.
- Place restrictions on overhead development of utilities.
- Eliminate the concept of corridors altogether.
- Keep flexibility in alternatives- lean towards case-by-case analysis, to allow ability to manage within the plan; the last thing we want to do is prevent functioning and adaptive management.
- On a case-by-case basis, negotiate an agreement with Cochise County in which the County must coordinate with BLM in advance of approving residential development.

Small Group Input: Recreation

Information Learned

- Recreation Areas are where individuals participate in preferred activities; these activities occur in different areas of the SPRNCA.
- Special Recreation Management Area versus Extensive Recreation Management Area- Special RMA has a more specialized use, while Extensive RMA has broader uses.
 - The entire SPRNCA has been designated as a Special RMA

Small Group Input: Recreation

Suggestions

- Hereford Bridge parking area- mow the trail and facilitate equestrian and bicycle use.
- Create a group of private property owners and volunteers that will work closely with BLM to complete projects- many willing equestrians.
- Put the SPRNCA recreation policy on the website.
- Designate recreation zones within the SPRNCA, with different levels of management for each (ex: Zone 1 has interpretive areas, dense recreation use; Zone 2 has less management, less interpretive features, and further away from developed areas, etc.).
- Create a permit system for low-impact use such as hiking, and list the rules and regulations for that use according to the Zone the recreation will occur in.
- Have permits available only for students, youth, and special needs individuals.
- Options for maintaining roads: Rebuild roads with culverts, create interpretive routes, improve for off-road vehicle use; do not improve for off-road vehicle use; maintain for physically disabled users.
- Consider gaining more recreational access on private lands adjacent to the SPRNCA boundary.
- Del Valle Road- Allow equestrian access past the gate on at the south end; allow dog access on road.

Small Group Input: Fish and Wildlife

Suggestions

- Write DFCs as descriptions, rather than actions
 - Examples: “Diverse native habitats are maintained, restored, and/or enhanced”
“...where habitats can support them.... Where actions are practiceable”
- Use step-down strategies- “In the first 10-15 years, we will...”
- Integrate AM at DFC and strategy levels) reassess goals for wildlife based on changing conditions)
- Language in issues/strategies should be consistent with language in the Act
- Enhance aquatic stream habitat
- DFCs should include narratives on dynamic systems- how to manage change
- Look at communities and assemblages versus specific species
- Regular habitat assessments to match the “possible” with “desirable” conditions
- Include beaver under riparian
- Focus on representative or keystone species
- Strategies for ponds:
 - Only let river naturally create ponds
 - Restore native fish and other native aquatic species

Small Group Input: Fish and Wildlife

Strategies for corridors

- Inventory and rank corridors by quality of connectivity by priority species
- Develop partnership agreements with other entities to protect corridors
- Plan for incorporating and managing BLM lands outside of SPRNCA and into the corridors
- Partner with appropriate entities for grassland restoration
- Support regular monitoring corridor traffic (wildlife using the corridors)
- See WRP and AZGFD mapping of corridors

Small Group Input: Cultural Resources

Information Learned

- 35% of the inventory work for the SPRNCA has been completed, and the goal is 100% complete
- *Site- Constituted by 2 or more different kinds of artifacts within a 300-meter radius
- Tribes with which consultation is ongoing: Tohono O'odham, Salt River Pima/Maricopa, Gila River, Hopi, Ak Chin
- There are places on the SPRNCA where cultural sites are not as numerous or dense as others

Small Group Input: Cultural Resources

Suggestions

- Add an “educational” site
- Add a “town” site to the Mill sites
- Tribes could work with BLM on this- Sobaipuri idea came from tribal consultation
- Raise awareness of the presence of cultural sites on the SPRNCA
- Public access should be given to Lehner site
- Public access should be given to Contention City
- Consider sites that the public might want to visit but cannot obviously and readily access
- Identify location of Tombstone Pipeline
- Currently missing a “no action” alternatives for some issue/strategy pairs
- Why do educational trips need SRP?
- New issue: Criteria for trying to stabilize sites against flooding and erosion

Small Group Activity

- 4 Resource Topics: (Range, Water Resources, Upland Vegetation, Riparian Vegetation)
- At each table: Consider the issue questions in turn. What strategies are missing? What is unclear?

30 minutes: Topic 1

15 minutes: Topic 2 (review and add to previous group)

15 minutes: Topic 3 (review and add to previous groups)

Conclusion/Wrap Up/Next Steps

- Discuss process moving forward
 - Field Trip(s)
 - Individual working groups
- How to submit input
 - Email
 - Snail Mail
 - At the field trip or meeting

Questions?

