



**US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Lower Sonoran Field Office**

Sonoran Desert National Monument Management Plan
Amendment and
Environmental Impact Statement



SOCIOECONOMIC BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2016

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

| | |
|-------|---|
| AZGFD | Arizona Game and Fish Department |
| BLM | United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| EIS | environmental impact statement |
| OHV | off-highway vehicle |
| RMP | resource management plan |
| SDNM | Sonoran Desert National Monument |
| US | United States |

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The United States (US) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing a resource management plan (RMP) amendment and associated environmental impact statement (EIS) to develop new management actions to address recreational target shooting in the Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM). This planning effort will focus solely on recreational shooting and those resources directly or indirectly impacted by recreational shooting. This focus is needed to meet a judicially mandated response date and to address critical public safety concerns. Public involvement will be a critical component of the plan amendment process. The BLM will work closely with private landowners; local city, county, and state governments; tribal members; members of the target shooting community; environmental and cultural resources preservation organizations; and interested individuals and members of the public.

This report has been prepared to support the SDNM RMP amendment. As part of the RMP amendment process, the BLM will analyze the impacts on the human environment, including social and economic conditions.

The objectives of this report are:

- Document the current socioeconomic conditions and trends of the planning area, which encompasses portions of three counties in south-central Arizona
- Provide data that will help the BLM determine how the management of target shooting on BLM-administered lands in the SDNM could affect local communities
- Provide data that will help the BLM document how their decisions may affect different social, ethnic, and cultural groups within the planning area
- Document input from interested parties

The information presented here has been obtained from a variety of sources, including data from the BLM and other state and federal agencies, statistical data sources, public scoping process responses (BLM 2016a), and input gathered at the economic strategy workshop. This report was

prepared pursuant to Appendix D of the BLM’s H-1601-01, Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM 2005).

1.1 SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY AREA OVERVIEW

The 496,400-acre RMP amendment planning area is composed of BLM, state, and private lands; the decision area for the SDNM RMP amendment includes only the 486,400 acres of BLM-administered lands where implementation of management actions will occur. **Table 1-1**, Planning Area Surface Ownership, shows the acreage in each type of surface ownership in the planning area. **Figure 1-1**, Sonoran Desert National Monument Surface Administration, displays the geographic location of the planning area.

Table 1-1. Planning Area Surface Ownership

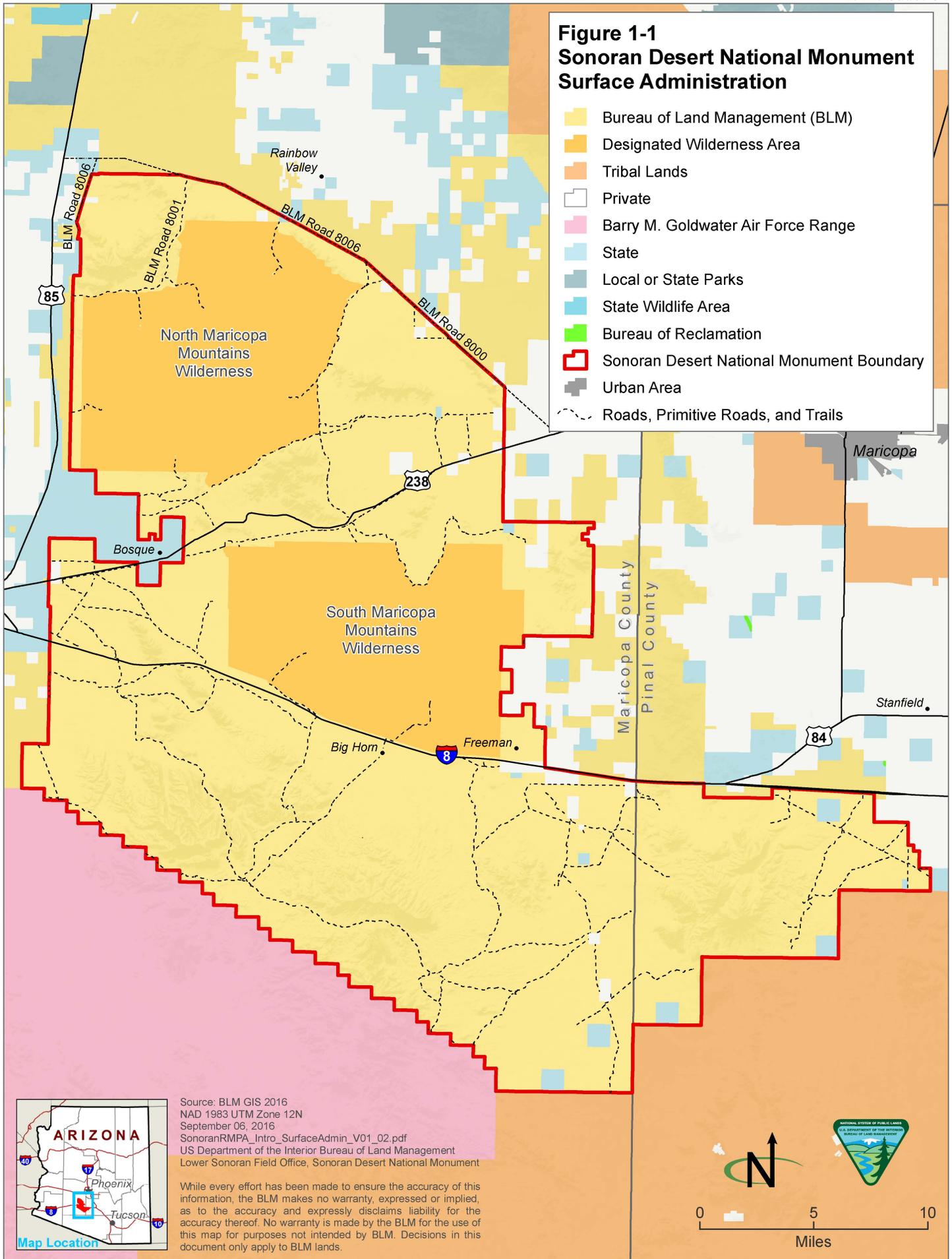
| Landowner/Surface Management Agency | Acres | Percent of Total |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| BLM | 486,400 | 98.0 |
| State of Arizona | 3,900 | 0.8 |
| Privately owned | 6,100 | 1.2 |
| Total | 496,400 | 100 |

Source: BLM GIS 2016

This socioeconomic report will provide analyses of the social and economic conditions in counties comprising the socioeconomic study area. The socioeconomic study area extends beyond the RMP amendment planning area and encompasses the counties of Pima, Maricopa, and Pinal. These counties were chosen as the area of analysis, because they are the area most likely to be impacted by proposed management actions. Counties are selected as the units of analysis, because most publicly available data are collected at the county level.

The majority of Pima County’s population is in and around the city of Tucson, which is Arizona’s second-largest city. Tucson is a major commercial and academic center. Outside of Tucson’s suburbs, the county is sparsely populated, with only 8 percent of Pima County residents living in rural areas (City-Data 2016a). Maricopa County contains 60 percent of Arizona’s population and the state’s capital, Phoenix. Phoenix contains approximately one-third of the county’s population. Manufacturing and tourism are Phoenix’s major industries. Only 2 percent of Maricopa County’s residents live in rural areas (City-Data 2016b). Pinal County is experiencing growth in its northern portion, as suburban growth extends southward from Phoenix. Twenty-two percent of Pinal County residents live in rural areas (City-Data 2016c).

**Figure 1-1
Sonoran Desert National Monument
Surface Administration**

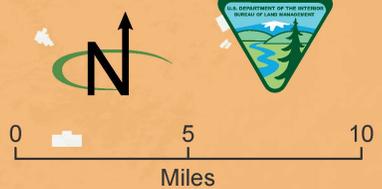


- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Designated Wilderness Area
- Tribal Lands
- Private
- Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range
- State
- Local or State Parks
- State Wildlife Area
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Sonoran Desert National Monument Boundary
- Urban Area
- Roads, Primitive Roads, and Trails



Source: BLM GIS 2016
 NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
 September 06, 2016
 SonoranRMPA_Intro_SurfaceAdmin_V01_02.pdf
 US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
 Lower Sonoran Field Office, Sonoran Desert National Monument

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CHAPTER 2

REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

2.1 POPULATION

Measuring changes in population over time can be an indicator of economic or social trends or changes within an area. These statistics are also used in federal funding allocations in a variety of sectors, including transportation, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and assistance programs.

Table 2-1, Socioeconomic Study Area Population, shows population trends in the three-county socioeconomic study area. In 2000, the socioeconomic study area total population was 4,095,622, with Maricopa County making up 75 percent of that population at 3,072,149. In 2014, the county region (consisting of Pima, Maricopa, and Pinal Counties) population grew 30.2 percent to 5,330,686. All counties in the study area, as well as the overall population of Arizona, are experiencing growth. In particular, Pinal County experienced that fastest rate of growth over that 4-year period, growing by 117.1 percent.

Population can influence the amount of people looking for recreational opportunities in the area and can indicate trends in recreational use of the SDNM; with increasing populations, there could be a higher demand for recreational opportunities in the study area.

Table 2-1. Socioeconomic Study Area Population

| | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| Population (2014) | 993,144 | 3,947,382 | 390,160 | 5,330,686 | 6,561,516 |
| Population (2000) | 843,746 | 3,072,149 | 179,727 | 4,095,622 | 5,130,632 |
| Percent Population Change (2000-2014) | 17.7% | 28.5% | 117.1% | 30.2% | 27.9% |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

2.2 HOUSING

The availability of housing units can be an indirect indicator of economic and social stability, given the assumption that homeowners will be more likely to stay in an area and obtain a steady

income. The amount of overall availability and vacant rooms can also be an indicator of how well a community could handle a sharp influx of workers and families. Seasonal residency in an area could indicate seasonal variation in recreational use. **Table 2-2**, Housing Characteristics, shows some of these characteristics for the socioeconomic study area.

Table 2-2. Housing Characteristics *

| | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|---|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| Occupied | 86.9% | 85.9% | 77.7% | 85.5% | 83.0% |
| Vacant | 13.1% | 14.1% | 22.3% | 14.5% | 17.0% |
| For rent | 3.3% | 3.5% | 2.3% | 3.4% | 3.1% |
| Rented, not occupied | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.4% | 0.6% | 0.5% |
| For sale only | 1.5% | 1.7% | 3.0% | 1.8% | 1.8% |
| Sold, not occupied | 0.6% | 0.7% | 0.8% | 0.7% | 0.6% |
| For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use | 3.6% | 4.8% | 11.2% | 5.0% | 7.4% |
| For migrant workers | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Other vacant | 3.5% | 2.8% | 4.6% | 3.1% | 3.4% |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

*The data in this table are calculated by American Community Survey using annual surveys conducted during 2009-2014 and are representative of average characteristics during this period.

Pinal County has the highest percentage of housing for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use; at 11.2 percent of homes being in this category, this is more than double that of the county region.

Table 2-3, Land Area Developed with Residences, Percent Change 2000-2010, shows the change in the percentage of land developed with residences in each county in the socioeconomic study area. All counties experienced an increase, but Pinal County had a much higher change in land area developed with residences than any other county, the county region, and Arizona.

Table 2-3. Land Area Developed with Residences, Percent Change 2000-2010

| | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| Percent Change (2000-2010) | 26.3% | 34.0% | 75.6% | 35.8% | 38.3 |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

CHAPTER 3

LOCAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

3.1 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Employment is a key economic indicator, as patterns of growth and decline in a region's employment are largely driven by economic cycles and local economic activity. Employment patterns are discussed in **Section 3.1.1**, Employment.

Income is derived from two major sources: (1) labor earnings or income from the workplace and (2) nonlabor income, including dividends, interest, and rent (collectively often referred to as money earned from investments), and transfer payments (payments from governments to individuals, including Medicare, disability and social security insurance payments, and retirements). Income patterns are discussed in **Section 3.1.2**, Income.

3.1.1 Employment

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics considers persons as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. As shown in **Table 3-1**, Unemployment Rate in 2014, the unemployment rates in Pima (5.6 percent) and Maricopa (5.2 percent) Counties are lower than the state unemployment rate of 6.1 percent. Only Pinal County has an unemployment higher than the state, at 6.3 percent.

Table 3-1. Unemployment Rate in 2014

| Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| 5.6% | 5.2% | 6.3% | 5.3% | 6.1% |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

As shown in **Table 3-2**, Employment by Industry in the Study Area, in 2014, the largest employment sectors within the study area were retail trade (10.8 percent), health care and social assistance (10.8 percent), and government (11.4 percent). From 2001 to 2014, employment decreased in the retail trade sector, increased in the health care and social assistance sector, and fluctuated in the government sector. Employment in nonservice sectors is declining over time while employment in service-related sectors is increasing.

Table 3-2. Employment by Industry in the Study Area

| Employment Sector | 2001 | 2005 | 2010 | 2014 |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Non-services related | 398,761 <i>16.6%</i> | 423,795 <i>15.5%</i> | 302,462 <i>11.2%</i> | 333,285 <i>11.3%</i> |
| Farm | 11,987 <i>0.5%</i> | 10,600 <i>0.4%</i> | 9,649 <i>0.4%</i> | 10,535 <i>0.4%</i> |
| Forestry, fishing, and ag. services | 3,971 <i>0.2%</i> | 3,647 <i>0.1%</i> | 3,594 <i>0.1%</i> | 3,543 <i>0.1%</i> |
| Mining (including fossil fuels) | 7,014 <i>0.3%</i> | 6,295 <i>0.2%</i> | 10,970 <i>0.4%</i> | 14,762 <i>0.5%</i> |
| Construction | 182,072 <i>7.6%</i> | 232,204 <i>8.5%</i> | 135,865 <i>5.0%</i> | 152,725 <i>5.2%</i> |
| Manufacturing | 193,717 <i>8.1%</i> | 171,049 <i>6.3%</i> | 142,384 <i>5.3%</i> | 151,720 <i>5.1%</i> |
| Services related | 1,710,534 (~) <i>71.2% (~)</i> | 1,986,421 (~) <i>72.6% (~)</i> | 2,072,046 <i>76.4%</i> | 2,280,577 <i>77.3%</i> |
| Utilities | 9,386 <i>0.4%</i> | 10,347 <i>0.4%</i> | 10,565 <i>0.4%</i> | 10,138 <i>0.3%</i> |
| Wholesale trade | 95,062 <i>4.0%</i> | 100,871 <i>3.7%</i> | 99,146 <i>3.7%</i> | 96,726 <i>3.3%</i> |
| Retail trade | 269,454 <i>11.2%</i> | 312,556 <i>11.4%</i> | 295,276 <i>10.9%</i> | 317,650 <i>10.8%</i> |
| Transportation | 70,607 <i>2.9%</i> | 77,740 <i>2.8%</i> | 75,696 <i>2.8%</i> | 87,570 <i>3.0%</i> |
| Information | 56,931 <i>2.4%</i> | 48,555 <i>1.8%</i> | 41,189 <i>1.5%</i> | 49,169 <i>1.7%</i> |
| Finance and insurance | 141,753 <i>5.9%</i> | 160,746 <i>5.9%</i> | 180,374 <i>6.7%</i> | 203,995 <i>6.9%</i> |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | 120,391 <i>5.0%</i> | 171,547 <i>6.3%</i> | 189,903 <i>7.0%</i> | 196,589 <i>6.7%</i> |
| Professional and technical services | 150,668 (~) <i>6.3% (~)</i> | 172,462 (~) <i>6.3% (~)</i> | 184,775 <i>6.8%</i> | 196,602 <i>6.7%</i> |
| Management of companies and enterprises | 21,361 (~) <i>0.9% (~)</i> | 24,506 (~) <i>0.9% (~)</i> | 28,008 <i>1.0%</i> | 33,095 <i>1.1%</i> |
| Administrative and waste services | 218,591 <i>9.1%</i> | 250,016 <i>9.1%</i> | 229,314 <i>8.5%</i> | 262,692 <i>8.9%</i> |
| Educational services | 27,107 <i>1.1%</i> | 43,261 <i>1.6%</i> | 59,836 <i>2.2%</i> | 65,602 <i>2.2%</i> |
| Health care and social assistance | 191,282 <i>8.0%</i> | 232,711 <i>8.5%</i> | 289,978 <i>10.7%</i> | 319,962 <i>10.8%</i> |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | 46,211 <i>1.9%</i> | 52,201 <i>1.9%</i> | 57,748 <i>2.1%</i> | 65,185 <i>2.2%</i> |
| Accommodation and food services | 174,340 <i>7.3%</i> | 194,712 <i>7.1%</i> | 193,869 <i>7.2%</i> | 219,291 <i>7.4%</i> |
| Other services | 117,390 <i>4.9%</i> | 134,190 <i>4.9%</i> | 136,369 <i>5.0%</i> | 156,311 <i>5.3%</i> |
| Government | 292,744 <i>12.2%</i> | 324,377 <i>11.9%</i> | 336,326 <i>12.4%</i> | 335,369 <i>11.4%</i> |
| Total Employment | 2,402,886 | 2,735,178 | 2,710,834 | 2,949,231 |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

Notes: This table displays data for the county region – Pima, Pinal, and Maricopa Counties.

Estimates for data that were not disclosed are indicated with tildes (~).

3.1.2 Income

Labor Income

As shown in **Table 3-3**, Earnings by Industry in the Study Area*, in 2014 the employment sectors with the largest earnings within the study area were manufacturing (8.5 percent), finance and insurance (8.4 percent), professional and technical services (8.4 percent), health care and social assistance (12.2 percent), and government (14.9 percent). Earnings for all of these sectors are increasing over time except for manufacturing, which is decreasing.

Table 3-3. Earnings by Industry in the Study Area*

| Employment Sector | 2001 | 2005 | 2010 | 2014 |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Non-services related | \$28,236,548 | \$30,227,193 | \$21,692,859 | \$23,707,548 |
| | 22.2% | 20.6% | 15.3% | 15.4% |
| Farm | \$487,105 | \$616,612 | \$230,549 | \$672,122 |
| | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.4% |
| Forestry, fishing, and ag. services | \$149,495 | \$126,064 | \$102,556 | \$105,541 |
| | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Mining (including fossil fuels) | \$452,944 | \$451,939 | \$601,538 | \$815,755 |
| | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.5% |
| Construction | \$11,775,312 | \$15,049,416 | \$8,207,253 | \$9,070,632 |
| | 9.3% | 10.2% | 5.8% | 5.9% |
| Manufacturing | \$15,371,692 | \$13,983,160 | \$12,550,962 | \$13,043,497 |
| | 12.1% | 9.5% | 8.9% | 8.5% |
| Services related | \$60,466,260 (~) | \$78,299,906 | \$88,693,835 | \$107,369,324 |
| | 47.5% (~) | 53.3% (~) | 62.6% | 69.7% |
| Utilities | \$1,140,574 | \$1,254,493 | \$1,464,153 | \$1,450,940 |
| | 0.9% | 0.9% | 1.0% | 0.9% |
| Wholesale trade | \$7,255,113 | \$7,922,385 | \$8,019,021 | \$8,116,034 |
| | 5.7% | 5.4% | 5.7% | 5.3% |
| Retail trade | \$10,233,957 | \$12,211,807 | \$10,938,955 | \$11,650,052 |
| | 8.0% | 8.3% | 7.7% | 7.6% |
| Transportation | \$4,046,719 | \$4,591,730 | \$4,367,995 | \$4,816,528 |
| | 3.2% | 3.1% | 3.1% | 3.1% |
| Information | \$3,784,392 | \$3,215,341 | \$2,778,785 | \$3,545,295 |
| | 3.0% | 2.2% | 2.0% | 2.3% |
| Finance and insurance | \$9,234,148 | \$11,086,049 | \$10,413,295 | \$12,957,659 |
| | 7.3% | 7.5% | 7.3% | 8.4% |
| Real estate and rental and leasing | \$3,859,433 | \$4,847,927 | \$3,053,780 | \$3,725,157 |
| | 3.0% | 3.3% | 2.2% | 2.4% |
| Professional and technical services | \$9,914,944 (~) | \$11,172,220 (~) | \$11,934,604 | \$13,019,878 |
| | 7.8% (~) | 7.6% (~) | 8.4% | 8.4% |
| Management of companies and enterprises | \$1,875,148 (~) | \$1,941,843 (~) | \$2,331,929 | \$3,060,398 |
| | 1.5% (~) | 1.3% (~) | 1.6% | 2.0% |
| Administrative and waste services | \$7,726,653 | \$9,348,863 | \$8,673,055 | \$10,020,378 |
| | 6.1% | 6.4% | 6.1% | 6.5% |
| Educational services | \$1,015,089 | \$1,700,826 | \$2,582,915 | \$2,720,882 |
| | 0.8% | 1.2% | 1.8% | 1.8% |
| Health care and social assistance | \$10,566,602 | \$13,763,690 | \$17,930,910 | \$18,778,851 |
| | 8.3% | 9.4% | 12.7% | 12.2% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation | \$1,541,986 | \$1,583,554 | \$1,671,436 | \$2,025,475 |
| | 1.2% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 1.3% |

Table 3-3. Earnings by Industry in the Study Area*

| Employment Sector | 2001 | 2005 | 2010 | 2014 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Accommodation and food services | \$4,557,917 | \$5,301,585 | \$5,156,531 | \$5,814,489 |
| | 3.6% | 3.6% | 3.6% | 3.8% |
| Other services | \$4,211,648 | \$5,113,772 | \$5,092,835 | \$5,774,682 |
| | 3.3% | 3.5% | 3.6% | 3.7% |
| Government | \$18,088,805 | \$21,570,176 | \$23,619,859 | \$22,939,908 |
| | 14.2% | 14.7% | 16.7% | 14.9% |
| Total Labor Earnings | \$127,281,489 | \$146,894,071 | \$141,722,918 | \$154,124,154 |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

*Data is in thousands of 2015 dollars.

Notes: This table displays data for the county region – Pima, Pinal, and Maricopa Counties.

Estimates for data that were not disclosed are indicated with tildes (~).

As shown in **Table 3-4**, Average Earnings by Major Industry in the Study Area in 2014, the service-related industry has the lowest average earnings while the non-service-related industry has the highest average earnings.

Table 3-4. Average Earnings by Major Industry in the Study Area in 2014*

| Industry | Average Annual Wages |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Non-Service-Related | \$62,223 |
| Service-Related | \$45,423 |
| Government | \$50,214 |
| All Sectors | \$48,120 |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

*Data is in 2015 dollars.

Note: This table displays data for the county region – Pima, Pinal, and Maricopa Counties.

Table 3-5, Employment in Travel and Tourism in 2014, shows employment in the travel and tourism industry. Employment in this sector is particularly relevant to the decisions being considered in this RMP amendment. In the RMP amendment and EIS, the BLM will consider how decisions being made regarding recreational target shooting could impact the travel and tourism industry.

Table 3-5. Employment in Travel and Tourism in 2014

| Employment Sector | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Travel & Tourism Related | 60,610 (~) | 263,613 (~) | 9,029 (~) | 333,252 (~) | 395,011 (~) |
| | 19.9% (~) | 17.3% (~) | 19.5% (~) | 17.7% (~) | 17.6% (~) |
| Retail Trade | 10,770 | 44,549 | 1,464 | 56,783 | 68,978 |
| | 3.5% | 2.9% | 3.2% | 3.0% | 3.1% |
| Gasoline Stations | 2,225 | 9,361 | 888 | 12,474 | 18,084 |
| | 0.7% | 0.6% | 1.9% | 0.7% | 0.8% |
| Clothing and Accessory Stores | 5,788 | 23,235 | 295 | 29,318 | 32,925 |
| | 1.9% | 1.5% | 0.6% | 1.6% | 1.5% |

Table 3-5. Employment in Travel and Tourism in 2014

| Employment Sector | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Miscellaneous Store Retailers | 2,757 | 11,953 | 281 | 14,991 | 17,969 |
| | 0.9% | 0.8% | 0.6% | 0.8% | 0.8% |
| Passenger Transportation | 802 (~) | 11,927 (~) | 10 (~) | 12,739 (~) | 10,747 (~) |
| | 0.3% (~) | 0.8% (~) | 0.0% (~) | 0.7% (~) | 0.5% (~) |
| Air Transportation | 786 | 11,807 (~) | 2 (~) | 12,595 (~) | 10,000 (~) |
| | 0.3% | 0.8% (~) | 0.0% (~) | 0.7% (~) | 0.4% (~) |
| Scenic and Sightseeing Transport | 16 (~) | 120 | 8 (~) | 144 (~) | 747 |
| | 0.0% (~) | 0.0% | 0.0% (~) | 0.0% (~) | 0.0% |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 6,036 | 29,921 | 1,262 (~) | 37,219 (~) | 42,507 |
| | 2.0% | 2.0% | 2.7% (~) | 2.0% (~) | 1.9% |
| Performing Arts and Spectator Sports | 1,065 | 5,181 | 423 (~) | 6,669 (~) | 7,152 |
| | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.9% (~) | 0.4% (~) | 0.3% |
| Museums, Parks, and Historic Sites | 361 | 1,498 | 20 (~) | 1,879 (~) | 2,271 |
| | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.0% (~) | 0.1% (~) | 0.1% |
| Amusement, Gambling, and Rec. | 4,610 | 23,242 | 819 | 28,671 | 33,084 |
| | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.8% | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| Accommodation and Food | 43,002 | 177,216 | 6,293 (~) | 226,511 (~) | 272,779 |
| | 14.2% | 11.6% | 13.6% (~) | 12.1% (~) | 12.2% |
| Accommodation | 9,335 | 26,598 | 1,334 (~) | 37,267 (~) | 49,573 |
| | 3.1% | 1.7% | 2.9% (~) | 2.0% (~) | 2.2% |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | 33,667 | 150,618 | 4,959 | 189,244 | 223,206 |
| | 11.1% | 9.9% | 10.7% | 10.1% | 10.0% |
| Non-Travel & Tourism | 243,231 (~) | 1,264,186 (~) | 37,179 (~) | 1,544,596 (~) | 1,846,066 (~) |
| | 80.1% (~) | 82.7% (~) | 80.5% (~) | 82.3% (~) | 82.4% (~) |
| Total Private Employment | 303,841 | 1,527,799 | 46,208 | 1,877,848 | 2,241,077 |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

Note: Estimates for data that were not disclosed are indicated with tildes (~).

Nonlabor Income

As shown in **Table 3-6**, Nonlabor Share of Total Personal Income in 2014, labor income is the main source of income for all study area counties. However, nonlabor income from rent, dividends, and other sources provides a significant percentage of income for some counties. For the county region, almost the same amount of nonlabor income comes from dividends, interest, and rent (18.0 percent) as from transfer payments (18.6 percent). A similar ratio is seen in the comparison population.

Table 3-7, Components of Transfer Payments in 2014*, shows the sources of transfer for nonlabor income. Most transfer payments in the socioeconomic study area come from age-related transfer payments (10.4 percent); Pinal County has the most transfer payments coming from that source, at 16.8 percent.

Proximity of public lands can attract retirees and others with sources of nonlabor income. The kinds of opportunities these lands offer, such as the availability of different kinds of recreational opportunities, can be considered a nonmarket value of BLM-administered lands; nonmarket values are discussed further below.

Table 3-6. Nonlabor Share of Total Personal Income in 2014*

| Employment Sector | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Nonlabor Income | \$16,811,387 | \$58,025,090 | \$4,199,064 | \$79,035,541 | \$98,515,265 |
| | 45.1% | 34.4% | 40.4% | 36.5% | 38.6% |
| Dividends, Interest, and Rent | \$7,953,756 | \$29,712,679 | \$1,220,182 | \$38,886,618 | \$46,356,155 |
| | 21.4% | 17.6% | 11.7% | 18.0% | 18.2% |
| Transfer Payments | \$8,857,631 | \$28,312,410 | \$2,978,882 | \$40,148,924 | \$52,159,110 |
| | 23.8% | 16.8% | 28.6% | 18.6% | 20.4% |
| Labor Earnings | \$20,424,527 | \$110,626,822 | \$6,199,102 | \$137,250,452 | \$156,832,767 |
| | 54.9% | 65.6% | 59.6% | 63.5% | 61.4% |
| Total Personal Income | \$37,235,914 | \$168,651,912 | \$10,398,166 | \$216,285,993 | \$255,348,033 |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

*Data is in thousands of 2015 dollars.

Table 3-7. Components of Transfer Payments in 2014*

| Employment Sector | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|--|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Age-Related Transfer Payments | \$4,772,841 | \$16,012,306 | \$1,749,883 | \$22,535,031 | \$29,153,680 |
| | 12.8% | 9.5% | 16.8% | 10.4% | 11.4% |
| Social Security | \$2,951,935 | \$9,739,782 | \$1,073,375 | \$13,765,092 | \$17,745,143 |
| | 7.9% | 5.8% | 10.3% | 6.4% | 6.9% |
| Medicare | \$1,820,906 | \$6,272,525 | \$676,508 | \$8,769,939 | \$11,408,537 |
| | 4.9% | 3.7% | 6.5% | 4.1% | 4.5% |
| Hardship-Related Transfer Payments | \$2,899,465 | \$7,712,239 | \$924,728 | \$11,536,431 | \$15,441,770 |
| | 7.8% | 4.6% | 8.9% | 5.3% | 6.0% |
| Medicaid | \$2,075,980 | \$4,776,053 | \$674,772 | \$7,526,805 | \$10,185,821 |
| | 5.6% | 2.8% | 6.5% | 3.5% | 4.0% |
| Income Maintenance (“Welfare”) | \$769,970 | \$2,722,593 | \$229,671 | \$3,722,235 | \$4,858,796 |
| | 2.1% | 1.6% | 2.2% | 1.7% | 1.9% |
| Unemployment Insurance Compensation | \$53,514 | \$213,593 | \$20,284 | \$287,392 | \$397,153 |
| | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| Other Transfer Payments | \$1,185,325 | \$4,587,865 | \$304,271 | \$6,077,462 | \$7,563,660 |
| | 3.2% | 2.7% | 2.9% | 2.8% | 3.0% |
| Veterans Benefits | \$602,393 | \$1,471,540 | \$130,362 | \$2,204,295 | \$2,942,800 |
| | 1.6% | 0.9% | 1.3% | 1.0% | 1.2% |
| Education and Training Assistance | \$215,997 | \$1,793,643 | \$50,013 | \$2,059,653 | \$2,302,941 |
| | 0.6% | 1.1% | 0.5% | 1.0% | 0.9% |
| All Other, Including Workers’ Compensation | \$366,936 | \$1,322,682 | \$123,896 | \$1,813,514 | \$2,317,920 |
| | 1.0% | 0.8% | 1.2% | 0.8% | 0.9% |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

*Data is in thousands of 2015 dollars.

3.2 NONMARKET VALUES

Some of the most important socioeconomic factors associated with BLM-administered lands are the nonmarket values offered by public lands management. Nonmarket values are the benefits derived by society from the uses or experiences that are not dispensed through markets and do

not require payment (i.e., value that does not have a clear monetary equivalent). These values enhance the quality of life and enjoyment of place, thereby improving regional and local economic conditions. Proximity to undeveloped natural lands and the resources they harbor, including scenic vistas and recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities, add nonmarket value to the area.

Open space can be an important contributor to the quality of life for communities adjacent to public lands providing scenic views, recreational opportunities, and other benefits. In addition, nonmarket resources may provide indirect economic benefits. Enhancement value is the tendency of open space to enhance the property value of adjacent properties. Public lands in the planning area may provide enhanced value to adjacent private parcels. Open space is generally seen as an enhancement value, especially if the open space lands are not intensively developed for recreational purposes (Fausold and Lilieholm 1996).

Additionally, open space may attract new residents who in turn bring new sources of income to the area. Communities adjacent to public lands offer a high level of natural amenities that often attract retirees and others with nonlabor sources of income, as well as sole proprietors and telecommuters who bring income from other regions into the local economy. These new residents, in turn, spur economic development. Residents who rely on nonlabor income become both a pool of customers and clients for new business and a potential source of investment capital (Haefele et al. 2007).

During the public scoping period, commenters noted that target shooting adds benefits to the quality and ways of life for Arizona residents, maintains family traditions that have always included shooting in their activities, and teaches children how to shoot responsibly in an outdoor environment at a relaxed pace rather than in a stressful and loud shooting range environment (BLM 2016a). Preservation of tradition and having the option or opportunity to participate in an activity (e.g., recreational target shooting) are nonmarket values.

3.3 BLM CONTRIBUTIONS

3.3.1 Recreation

The principal recreation activities in the SDNM are off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, recreational target shooting, and nonmotorized activities such as hiking. Growing urban populations surrounding the SDNM are increasing demands for outdoor recreational opportunities on nearby BLM-administered lands, including the SDNM. Increased OHV sales and new OHV technology have also increased the demand for trail-based motorized recreational opportunities within the SDNM. There is also an increasing demand for nonmotorized recreational opportunities, such as hiking, backpacking, and nature photography. **Table 3-8**, Visitor Use in the SDNM, summarizes the trends in recreational use in the SDNM.

Commercial and competitive recreational use is limited in the SDNM (see **Table 3-9**, Special Recreation Permits in the SDNM).

Table 3-8. Visitor Use in the SDNM

| Year | Visits/Visitor Days |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 2003 | 21,738/17,839 |
| 2004 | 18,157/16,500 |
| 2005 | 30,058/37,235 |
| 2006 | 36,852/43,719 |
| 2007 | 31,328/35,775 |
| 2008 | 34,349/42,755 |
| 2009 | 14,304/17,706 |
| 2010 | 17,287/20,340 |
| 2011 | 26,069/30,178 |
| 2012 | 26,835/30,856 |
| 2013 | 26,560/31,000 |
| 2014 | 29,894/32,612 |
| 2015 | 40,310/39,717 |

Source: BLM 2016b

Table 3-9. Special Recreation Permits in the SDNM

| Year | Number of Special Recreation Permits |
|-------------|---|
| 2001 | 1 |
| 2002 | 3 |
| 2003 | 3 |
| 2004 | 2 |
| 2005 | 3 |
| 2006 | 2 |
| 2007 | 4 |
| 2008 | 3 |
| 2009 | 2 |
| 2010 | 3 |
| 2011 | 1 |
| 2012 | 1 |
| 2013 | 0 |
| 2014 | 0 |
| 2015 | 0 |

Source: BLM 2016b

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation is one of the oldest and most comprehensive continuing recreation surveys. The survey collects information on the number of anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers; how often they participate; and how much they spend on their activities in the US.

Table 3-10, Recreation Spending in Arizona in 2011, shows the economic impact of fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Arizona. The trends in the amounts of spending of these types of recreationists may be similar to recreational target shooters.

Table 3-10. Recreation Spending in Arizona in 2011*

| Type of Recreation | Total | Trip-Related | Equipment | Other |
|--------------------|-------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Fishing | \$755 | \$357 | \$337 | \$61 |
| Hunting | \$338 | \$149 | \$134 | \$55 |
| Wildlife Watching | \$936 | \$391 | \$336 | \$209 |

Source: USFWS 2011

*Data is in millions of 2011 dollars.

The spending patterns of visitors to National Forests are likely to be similar to spending patterns of visitors to BLM-administered lands. **Table 3-11**, National Forest Visitor Spending Profiles in 2003, shows spending patterns of these visitors and reflects the portion of spending allocated to different trip components. Recreational target shooters on BLM-administered lands may have similar spending patterns as the typical visitor to a National Forest.

Table 3-11. National Forest Visitor Spending Profiles in 2003*

| Spending Category | Day Trips (nonlocal) | Overnight Trips (nonlocal) | Day Trips (local) | Overnight Trips (local) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lodging | \$0 | \$47.08 | \$0 | \$16.82 |
| Restaurant/Bar | \$13.60 | \$43.98 | \$6.12 | \$16.96 |
| Groceries | \$7.61 | \$34.13 | \$5.41 | \$33.63 |
| Gas and Oil | \$15.99 | \$36.53 | \$11.67 | \$26.95 |
| Other Transportation | \$0.98 | \$5.42 | \$0.21 | \$0.58 |
| Activities | \$3.87 | \$12.31 | \$1.82 | \$5.06 |
| Admissions/Fees | \$5.24 | \$9.53 | \$3.42 | \$9.62 |
| Souvenirs/Other | \$4.31 | \$19.26 | \$4.19 | \$11.32 |
| Total Spending | \$51.60 | \$208.23 | \$32.84 | \$120.93 |

Source: Stynes and White 2006

*Data is in 2003 dollars, dollar per party per trip.

3.3.2 Target Shooting

The BLM does not have data illustrating demand placed on the SDNM for recreational target shooting; however, BLM staff observations indicate this use has increased during the past five years. Since specific information is not available for BLM contributions from target shooting, data is provided from industry groups related to average spending, state levels of use, and state level economic contributions.

According to data collected by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD; AZGFD 2014), shooting sports have seen an increase in participation. Their study indicated that in 2012, 62 percent of survey respondents indicated they have never shot recreationally; in 2014, that percentage declined to 45 percent. Average shooter days also increased from 12 days in 2012 to 14.1 days in 2014. Approximately 29 percent of shooters exclusively use public ranges, while 46 percent shoot only at private ranges or dispersed recreational shooting (the BLM's decisions in the RMP amendment regard dispersed recreational shooting). The remaining 31 percent shoot at a combination of public and private ranges and dispersed recreational shooting.

During the public scoping period, a number of commenters emphasized contributions to the local economy from target shooters who use local services, such as hotels and restaurants, specifically hunters who use the area for practice prior to hunting, and campers who incorporate recreational target shooting into their hiking and camping trips to the Monument (BLM 2016a). **Table 3-12**, National Average Spending per Shooter in 2011*, shows the national average economic impact per shooter in different spending components. It is likely that spending levels vary for local trips as compared with those visiting from outside the region, as well as for day trips as compared with overnight visits, as seen in National Forest Visitor Spending Profiles (**Table 3-11**).

Table 3-12. National Average Spending per Shooter in 2011*

| Spending Component | Dollars (2013) |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Equipment Spending | \$406 |
| Trip-Related Spending | \$87 |
| Fuel | \$48 |
| Food | \$24 |
| Lodging | \$15 |

Source: Southwick Associates 2013

*Data is in 2013 dollars.

Table 3-13, Arizona Economic Contributions from All Target Shooting Activities in 2011*, shows the economic impact of target shooting on the state level for Arizona. According to Southwick Associates (2013), 3,422 jobs are supported in businesses directly and indirectly by serving target shooters.

Table 3-13. Arizona Economic Contributions from All Target Shooting Activities in 2011*

| Economic Component | Dollars (2011) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Retail Sales | \$213,112,803 |
| Total Multiplier Effect | \$366,329,097 |
| Salaries and Wages | \$127,372,769 |
| Gross Domestic Product Contributions | \$226,285,398 |
| State and Local Taxes | \$29,658,560 |
| Federal Taxes | \$29,460,654 |

Source: Southwick Associates 2013

*Data is in 2013 dollars.

Notes: Retail Sales equals the dollars spent by target shooters; the Total Multiplier Effect is the total amount of spending that occurs in the economy as a result of target shooters' spending; Salaries and Wages are the total amounts paid to employers and small business owners in companies that serve target shooters or support businesses who directly serve target shooters; Tax Revenues are the receipts received from businesses and individuals who directly and indirectly serve target shooters.

CHAPTER 4

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

4.1 AFFECTED GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

There are specific groups for whom management of public lands is of particular interest. For the SDNM RMP amendment, these groups include recreational target shooters, other recreational users, conservation-minded users, adjacent landowners, and businesses supporting target shooting activities.

4.1.1 Recreational Target Shooters

Recreational target shooters include both local residents and destination visitors from communities outside the planning area who participate in this type of recreation in the SDNM. Sportsmen and women use the SDNM for target shooting to practice and sight-in rifles. One commenter during the public scoping period mentioned that by purchasing hunting tags, they contribute taxes to support the land and wildlife (BLM 2016a). This group would be concerned with changes to opportunities for recreational target shooting. The primary concern that this group might have would be displacement (i.e., having to find other areas, possibly outside the SDNM, to conduct target shooting).

4.1.2 Other Recreational Users

Recreational visitors to the planning area include both local residents and destination visitors from communities outside the planning area. This user group includes OHV users, hikers, backpackers, campers, horseback riders, and wildlife watchers. Concerns that this group would have would be user conflicts (i.e., recreational target shooting disrupting their type of preferred recreation) and sense of safety.

4.1.3 Conservation-Minded Users

Various individuals and groups at the local, regional, and national levels are interested in how the BLM administers lands. They value public lands for open space, wildlife, recreation, and scenic qualities, among other aspects. Concerns that this group would have when it comes to target shooting are impacts on noise, visual resources, wilderness characteristics, wildlife, and vegetation.

4.1.4 Adjacent Landowners

Neighboring landowners adjacent to public lands are an important group to consider in the planning process. Concerns that this group would have when it comes to target shooting are impacts on their quality of life, their sense of safety, and the quality or quantity of local natural resources. They would also be concerned about any changes to access to public lands that might encourage trespass on their private lands.

4.1.5 Business Interests

Business owners who operate businesses locally selling supplies for target shooting as well as those operating private shooting ranges in the area could be impacted by management decisions regulating target shooting on public lands. Scoping comments were received indicating concerns that additional public shooting opportunities may impact the private range market. In addition, this group would be concerned with any management that resulted in changes to the level of recreational shooters in the area, as changes in the number of shooters are likely to result in related changes in sales of equipment.

CHAPTER 5

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

5.1 OVERVIEW

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations, requires that federal agencies identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. Guidance for evaluating environmental justice issues in land use planning is included in the BLM planning handbook, Appendix D (BLM 2005). Environmental justice refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies (BLM 2005). Guidance on environmental justice terminology developed by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ 1997) provides the following definitions:

- Low-income population. A low-income population is determined based on annual statistical poverty thresholds developed by the US Census Bureau.
- A low-income community may include either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another or dispersed individuals, such as migrant workers or Native Americans.
- Minority. Minorities are individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, Black, or Hispanic.
- Minority population area. A minority population area is so defined if either the aggregate population of all minority groups combined exceeds 50 percent of the total population in the area or if the percentage of the population in the area comprising all minority groups is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the broader region. Like a low-income population, a minority population may include

either individuals living in geographic proximity to one another or dispersed individuals.

- Comparison population. For the purpose of identifying a minority population or a low-income population concentration, the comparison population used in this study is the state of Arizona as a whole.

5.2 LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS

In 2014, poverty level is based on total income of \$12,071 for an individual and \$24,230 for a family of four (US Census Bureau 2014). As shown in **Table 5-1**, Individuals and Families Living Below Poverty in 2014, poverty data for counties in the socioeconomic study area indicate that the percentage of the individuals and families living below the poverty level for the county region is lower than the comparison population. Pima County is the only county with a slightly higher percentage of individuals living below poverty than the comparison population; however, this difference is less than one percentage point. In addition, as shown in **Table 5-2**, Household Income Distribution in 2014, income data for counties in the socioeconomic study area indicate that the per capita income of the county region is slightly lower than the comparison population. However, median household income is slightly higher than the comparison population. As a result, no low-income populations have been identified at the county level for further analysis based on CEQ standards. It is possible that low-income populations could be present at different geographic levels, such as local communities or census tracts.

Table 5-1. Individuals and Families Living Below Poverty in 2014

| | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| Individuals | 184,229 | 666,748 | 61,397 | 912,374 | 1,169,309 |
| | 19.0% | 17.1% | 16.8% | 17.5% | 18.2% |
| Families | 31,526 | 118,619 | 10,406 | 160,551 | 209,238 |
| | 13.2% | 12.7% | 11.5% | 12.7% | 13.3% |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

Table 5-2. Household Income Distribution in 2014*

| | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| Per capita income | \$25,524 | \$27,477 | \$20,983 | \$24,661 | \$25,537 |
| Median household income | \$46,233 | \$53,689 | \$50,248 | \$50,057 | \$49,928 |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

* Data is in 2014 dollars.

5.3 MINORITY POPULATIONS

As shown in **Table 5-3**, Population by Race/Ethnicity in 2014, data for counties in the socioeconomic study area indicate that the percentage of the individuals identifying as racial or ethnic minorities for the county region is similar to the comparison population. Therefore, as with poverty and income data, the data does not indicate that there is a minority population at the county level for further environmental impacts analysis based on CEQ standards. It is possible that minority populations could be present at different geographic levels, such as local communities or census tracts.

Table 5-3. Population by Race/Ethnicity in 2014

| | Pima County | Maricopa County | Pinal County | County Region | Arizona |
|--|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Hispanic or Latino of any race | 351,329 | 1,181,100 | 113,046 | 1,645,475 | 1,977,026 |
| | 35.4% | 29.9% | 29.0% | 30.9% | 30.1% |
| White alone | 782,395 | 3,162,279 | 309,920 | 4,254,594 | 5,174,082 |
| | 78.8% | 80.1% | 79.4% | 79.8% | 78.9% |
| Black or African American alone | 35,426 | 203,650 | 18,113 | 257,189 | 274,380 |
| | 3.6% | 5.2% | 4.6% | 4.8% | 4.2% |
| American Indian alone | 31,649 | 74,454 | 20,698 | 126,801 | 290,780 |
| | 3.2% | 1.9% | 5.3% | 2.4% | 4.4% |
| Asian alone | 26,796 | 144,749 | 6,616 | 178,161 | 191,071 |
| | 2.7% | 3.7% | 1.7% | 3.3% | 2.9% |
| Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander alone | 1,331 | 8,138 | 1,658 | 11,127 | 12,638 |
| | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Some other race alone | 80,977 | 235,737 | 22,280 | 338,994 | 418,033 |
| | 8.2% | 6.0% | 5.7% | 6.4% | 6.4% |
| Two or more races | 34,570 | 118,375 | 10,875 | 163,820 | 200,532 |
| | 3.5% | 3.0% | 2.8% | 3.1% | 3.1% |
| Aggregate minority population | 455,418 | 1,666,248 | 163,322 | 2,284,988 | 2,826,663 |
| | 45.9% | 42.2% | 41.9% | 42.9% | 43.1% |
| Total Population | 993,144 | 3,947,382 | 390,160 | 5,330,686 | 6,561,516 |

Source: Headwaters Economics 2016

5.4 NATIVE AMERICAN GROUPS

Native American Tribes and individuals are present in the three-county socioeconomic planning area. These tribal groups include the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, Hopi Tribe, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and Tohono O'odham Nation. The BLM has involved these tribes by sending formal consultation letters inviting them to consult on this RMP amendment.

As shown in **Table 5-3**, Population by Race/Ethnicity in 2014, the American Indian populations at the county level is similar to comparison population at the state level. However, there is potential that individuals or tribal groups may be impacted by management decisions. Issues that have the potential to impact Native American groups include access to certain areas on BLM-administered lands; some tribal groups continue to collect natural resources, such as plant materials traditionally used for food, medicine, ceremonies, or crafts.

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CHAPTER 6

ECONOMIC STRATEGY WORKSHOP

6.1 OVERVIEW

According to Appendix D of the BLM's H-1601-01, Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM 2005), the public involvement effort on RMP amendments accompanied by environmental impact statements must include at least one economic strategies workshop. Such workshops provide an opportunity for local government officials, community leaders, and other citizens to discuss regional economic conditions, trends, and strategies with BLM managers and staff. The workshop provides an opportunity for stakeholders from local communities to participate in the planning process.

On August 12, 2016, the BLM hosted a socioeconomic workshop in Phoenix, Arizona. In total, there were 16 attendees. Attendees included:

- 5 members of the public
- 1 member of the Ak-Chin Indian Community
- 3 AZGFD employees
- 1 Forest Service (Tonto National Forest) employee
- 4 BLM employees
- 2 EMPSi (contractors for the RMP amendment) employees

The purpose of the workshop was to provide attendees an overview of economic trends in the socioeconomic planning area (i.e., Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties) and to get feedback on material that was presented, along with attendees' thoughts and inputs on meaningful ways to characterize the socioeconomic impacts of target shooting in the SDNM.

6.2 TOPICS OF CONCERN

After the conclusion of a PowerPoint presentation that included background information on social and economic conditions, such as presented in this report, workshop attendees discussed the material presented and their concerns. Group discussion coalesced around the following topics:

Social Impact: Safety

- Social impacts of shooting are mainly related to safety concerns.
- Many SDNM visitors are not engaging in recreational target shooting and feel threatened by irresponsible shooting practices.
- Visitors seem to be going to other places (e.g., national parks) because shooting is occurring in areas without a backstop, resulting in a fear about public safety.
- Tonto National Forest seems to have more injuries and fatalities associated with other activities.
- People like to visit national parks because shooting is not allowed.

Social Impact: User Conflict

- Shooting can also impact visitors' expectations, especially if they come to SDNM not knowing that target shooting is allowed in many areas.
- User conflicts are a big concern and causing visitors to change where they recreate.
- It's difficult to assess impacts on visitor experiences because of variance in individuals' expectations and sensitivity to shooting noise and visual impacts. More consistent may be visitors' feelings about public safety concerns related to irresponsible shooting.
- Visitor experience – there is a difference between being annoyed by other uses compared with safety concerns.
- Consider impacts on other recreational users and visitors if shooting is allowed or prohibited.

Social Impact: Displacement of Shooters

- It's very difficult to predict where shooters will go; to do this accurately, a lot of data would be needed. That data likely does not exist, making it difficult to model any changing patterns.
- A lot of shooters don't want to tell agencies where they shoot for fear of closures.
- Would shooters be displaced by a closure or would there be a reduction in the number of shooters? The group felt it would be a displacement. If information is available on where shooters went when Agua Fria and Ironwood National Monuments were closed to shooting, this could be useful.
- The BLM has received phone calls from the public asking about the temporary closure and where they can legally shoot.
- A negative impact of shooting closure might not be felt economically, but would be a social loss.
- Access to dispersed shooting is important, as nearby ranges have limited public access (e.g., Joe Foss).

- The group seems to agree that loss of shooting opportunities would not result in a large economic impact (i.e., jobs and dollars). It would be more of a social impact of where would shooters go.
- The Forest Service is experiencing that users may be migrating to the Tonto National Forest from other areas that are no longer available for shooting.
- Shutting down popular and historical shooting areas will cause problems with displacing shooters to other areas and possibly introducing adverse impacts on those other areas.

Shooter Preferences and Patterns

- There is a seasonal increase in recreational target shooting prior to the hunting season as hunters sight in their rifles and practice before the season begins.
- A lot of hunters will also engage in recreational shooting on the same trip, before or after hunting.
- Shooting is concentrated on the gas line road along the outer boundary. In the interior of the SDNM, there is not much target shooting (especially not south of Interstate 8).

Possible Sources of Data

- There is limited quantitative data related to target shooting.
- The AZGFD has not surveyed shooters for their preferences or patterns.
- The AZGFD may have data from a 2014 survey on the percentage of Arizona residents who have discharged a firearm in the past 12 months.
- The AZGFD might have a study showing percent of shooters that will go to a range versus going to dispersed area for shooting. They believe there is little overlap between the two groups of shooters.
- The state lands department has not shared data with AZGFD about changes in shooting patterns since temporary closure has been implemented.
- There is industry in the Phoenix area related to shooting and firearms, such as manufacturers of firearm parts.
- There are data available for injuries and accidents related to target shooting.
- Special recreation permits might be a good source of information for all activities in the SDNM.
- The BLM will need to rely on qualitative analysis and information and include it as part of the consideration in this EIS.
- There is a gun club in the area; they helped the BLM with cleanup outside the Monument recently. The Dusty Bunch is another group.

Other Feedback

- Is there a need to be consistent with other National Monuments in Arizona? For example, if Ironwood and Agua Fria are completely closed, wouldn't that be acceptable for the SDNM?
- Enforcement of safe target shooting practices is too difficult; there are too few BLM resources to enforce and monitor irresponsible shooters.
- Irresponsible shooting is the source of many problems associated with target shooting (as opposed to responsible shooting practices, such as no dumping and using a backstop).

CHAPTER 7

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