



Sonoran Desert National Monument Target Shooting
Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement
Public Alternatives Listening Session

Preliminary Draft Alternatives Summary

The five preliminary draft alternatives outlined below were developed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM) interdisciplinary team in coordination with cooperating agencies, interested stakeholders (including private landowners; local city, county, and state governments; tribal members; members of the target shooting community; and others), and comments received from the general public during the public scoping period. The preliminary draft alternatives focus solely on recreational target shooting activities in response to court order No. CV-13-01973-PHX-DGC.

Alternatives Allocation Summary

Alternative	Acres Available for Recreational Target Shooting	Acres Where Recreational Target Shooting Would be Restricted
Alternative A: No Action Alternative – All Areas Available for Target Shooting	486,400	0 acres
Alternative B: Temporary Restriction on Target Shooting Becomes Permanent	476,300	10,100
Alternative C: Target Shooting Available in the Desert Back Country RMZ	433,600	52,800
Alternative D: Target Shooting Available Outside Designated Wilderness, Lands Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics, and the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT RMZ	166,500	319,900
Alternative E: Target Shooting Restricted in All Areas	0 acres	486,400

Source: BLM GIS 2016

Alternative A: No Action Alternative - All Areas Available to Target Shooting

- Because the Lower Gila South RMP of 1988, as amended, is still in effect, the No Action Alternative results in no restriction with respect to recreational target shooting within the entire decision area.
- Under all alternatives, anyone engaging in recreational activities within the SDNM must comply with all standard operating procedures and administrative actions described in the Recreation Management section and Appendix H of the SDNM Final EIS, as adopted in the ROD, applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

Alternative B: Temporary Restriction on Target Shooting Becomes Permanent

- The area that is temporarily restricted under the 2015 court order (approximately 10,100 acres in the decision area) would become permanently restricted to recreational target shooting.



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- The restriction area is on the north side of the SDNM along the El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline right-of-way along BLM Road 8000 and on both sides of BLM Road 8001, extending to the wilderness boundary to the east and terminating at BLM Road 8006.
- This area had been identified as having concentrated target shooting activity, and the temporary restriction is intended to reduce impacts on resources and Monument objects until the RMPA/EIS is completed (81 FR 3468).
- Under this alternative, recreational target shooting would be available in all areas outside the restriction area.

Alternative C: Target Shooting Available in the Desert Back County Recreation Management Zone

- Recreational target shooting would be available in the Desert Back Country Recreation Management Zone (RMZ). The Desert Back Country RMZ has been identified in the 2012 RMP to “provide recreation opportunities for visitors seeking a remote, undeveloped, back country experience with resource-dependent activities such as hunting, camping, hiking, sightseeing, and four-wheel-drive touring.”
- Shooting would be restricted in the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail RMZ. This RMZ was identified in the 2012 RMP to “provide recreation and educational opportunities directed at visitors seeking to discover, tour, and learn about the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, Arizona history and natural history of the Sonoran Desert.”

Alternative D: Target Shooting Available Outside Designated Wilderness, Lands Managed to Protect Wilderness Characteristics, and the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT RMZ

- The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail RMZ, three designated wilderness units, and lands managed to protect wilderness characteristics would be restricted to recreational target shooting. Specifically:
- Approximately 159,100 acres of designated wilderness within the SDNM would be restricted to this activity, which would provide protection for wilderness attributes defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, including untrammeled, undeveloped, natural, solitude, or primitive unconfined recreation.
- Approximately 108,100 acres of lands managed for wilderness characteristics would be restricted to target shooting.
- Recreational target shooting would be restricted in the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail RMZ, which contains the Butterfield Pass Trail, the Mormon Battalion Trail, and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Alternative E: Target Shooting Restricted in All Areas

- Recreational target shooting would be restricted on public lands in the Sonoran Desert National Monument.