

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2013-0017-EA

Date March 01, 2013

Palmerita OHV Trail Maintenance

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kingman Field Office
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Title
DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2013-0017-EA
Palmerita OHV Trail Maintenance

I. Introduction: The Palmerita OHV Trail Maintenance EA # DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2013-0017-EA will be for the maintenance and rehabilitation of an approximately one three-quarter mile section of off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail along the canal of the Palmerita Ranch between the ranch and the Santa Maria River. This trail is located in the Santa Maria River valley close to the border of southern Mojave County and northern La Paz County. The OHV trail is located in the Kingman Field Office (KFO) area of jurisdiction, located in T11N R11W section 17 of the Gila and Salt River Base Line and Meridian (USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Palmerita Ranch, Ariz.).

A. Background: The BLM acquired Palmerita Ranch in late 2000. Restoration of the Ranch was initiated in 2011. It was anticipated that the renovations would serve as a launching point for the Arrastra Wilderness and a parking lot and interpretive signs would be added as well. This restoration would attract hikers and backpackers into the area and increase the amount of foot traffic in and around Palmerita Ranch. The development of Palmerita Ranch as a launching point for the Wilderness area would offer the ability to educate the public as well as serve as a gateway into the wilderness. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is a popular recreational activity at the nearby Alamo Lake and the Wayside RV Park. Some OHV users illegally travel through up the streambed of the Santa Maria River which is in the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness. Illegal OHV use could be deterred by providing this alternative route and inclusion of signage delineating property boundaries and acceptable modes of travel. With just a six mile distance between Palmerita Ranch and the Wayside RV Park, OHV users leave from their temporary dwellings and head into the Alamo Lake State Park where they can follow OHV trails back into the area. The Alamo Lake State Park runs into the Alamo Wildlife Area. This area has not permitted OHV use since 1990. Despite the fact OHV use is illegal in the area, it is quite difficult to enforce and currently nothing is being done to counteract the illegalities of OHV use on restricted areas due to the rural atmosphere and lack of law enforcement patrolling the area. OHV use is a big issue with those who wish to preserve the land and those that wish to recreate. The Santa Maria River acts as a corridor for OHV users for the dry river bed makes an easy pathway that parallels Palmerita Ranch and leads to other nearby trails in and around the ranch. One issue that consistently comes up with regard to OHV use is the fact that vegetation in desert ecosystems is particularly vulnerable to damage by off-road vehicles because root systems are shallow and plant growth is extremely slow. With the high-intensity use of OHVs, soil and vegetation may be affected, directly impacting Palmerita Ranch. Increased signage along the trails enforcing the sections off-limits to OHV use would help to eliminate illegal OHV use and regulate the amount of trails used by OHVs.

Arrastra Mountain area was designated as Wilderness with the passage of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990. No Wilderness Management Plan has yet been completed for this wilderness. Santa Maria River has been proposed as a Wild & Scenic River and traverses the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness (*Final Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report*, February, 1997). The wide sandy washes appeal to OHV users as an easy corridor between Alamo Lake and points upstream.

B. Purpose and Need: The purpose of the proposed action is to comply with the policy statement of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Sec. 603. [43 U.S.C.

1782), which directs BLM to preserve and protect certain public lands (wilderness) in their natural condition while providing for use and enjoyment of wilderness by people. BLM H-8320-1 – Recreation and Visitor Services Planning Handbook provides policy for trail maintenance. The proposed action is needed to protect the values and character of Arrastra Mountain Wilderness.

C. Decision to be made: The decision that needs to be made is whether the BLM will authorize the maintenance of this off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail to provide an alternative route to motorized travel outside of but adjacent to the wilderness.

D. Conformance with BLM Land Use Plans(s): *Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS* Date Approved: March 1995. The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP – Page 26 “Recreation sites, interpretive sites, trails and roads will be maintained and developed where needed to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use” (RR17/V); – Page 111 “Manage [Three Rivers Riparian Area of Critical Environmental Concern] according to the goals and objective of the area of critical environmental concern – limit off-highway vehicle use in riparian areas to designated roads and trails” (SM02/II).

WL-55 Protect the important, crucial use, conflict or habitat areas for the threatened, endangered, state-listed or sensitive species (Kingman Resource Management Plan, page 584).

TE03 BLM will manage for conservation of candidate and BLM-sensitive species (*and* State Listed species). BLM will ensure that actions authorized will not contribute to the need to list any of these species as threatened or endangered (Kingman Resource Management Plan, page 29).

E. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans: The proposed action is in conformance with the objective of 43 CFR, Part 8560, which requires BLM to preserve and protect wilderness character while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness by people in a manner that will leave these areas unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The proposed action also conforms to the direction given in the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (PL 101-628) and the Wilderness Act of 1964 (PL 88-577) which have the same objective as that given in the BLM Regulations.

F. Identification of Issues: Internal scoping occurred on November 06, 2012 (Attachment 1 – NEPA minutes 11/06/12) where potential issues were identified by an interdisciplinary team. Issues identified were:

Cultural Resources – Will the proposed action and alternatives affect any cultural resources?
Wilderness – Will the proposed actions and alternatives affect wilderness character and other criteria?

Threatened and Endangered Species – How will the proposed action and alternatives affect the habitat of T&E species, Proposed species, Candidate species and BLM Sensitive species?

Wildlife – How will the proposed action and alternatives affect the habitat of wildlife species?

Migratory Birds – How will the proposed action and alternatives affect the habitat of upland and migratory birds?

II. DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING PROPOSED ACTION

Recreation use of the trail would be year-round.

In order to meet the purpose and need, the BLM has developed a range of action alternatives. The alternatives were developed based on whether they would meet the purpose and need and any unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

A. Alternative 1 - Proposed Action: The BLM proposes to authorize the maintenance of portions of the OHV trail by force account and fire crew. The proposed action is to perform maintenance on the Palmerita OHV Trail along the edge of the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness in the Kingman Field Office area. It is proposed that this project be completed during FY14.

The maintenance of approximately half mile of trail would consist of clearing the pathway involving brush trimming and trimming tree limbs. The trail path would meander so as to remove the least amount of tree limbs. Brush and tree limbs removed would be placed along the wilderness boundary to discourage incursions into the wilderness. At the end of the half mile section of trail adjacent to the concrete ditch, the trail would jog south slightly requiring the removal of a single tree and abandoning the remainder of that original trail. This trail maintenance project would then follow along another trail (approximately quarter mile) to the current Rogers Property access Road (Figure 1). Similar maintenance activity would recur on this trail on a periodic basis on a regular enough schedule to minimize environmental damage (estimated to be every three to seven years). All maintenance would occur between the dates of August 1 through January 31 which is outside of the migratory bird breeding season. The migratory bird breeding season for the Palmarita area is (February 1 through July 31).

Tortoise handling guidelines would be handed out to all work crews prior to project maintenance activities to increase crew awareness of proper tortoise handling etiquette and to prevent tortoise injury in case crew members encountered tortoise during trail work. (Attachment 2)

B. Alternative 2 - No Action: (Current Management): If the no action alternative were selected, the proposed repairs and improvements would not occur. OHV use of the Santa Maria River wash would continue in the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness despite the continued placement of barriers and signage. Migratory bird habitat would not be removed.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:

Palmerita Ranch is located in northern La Paz County, Arizona. The ranch is close to the border of southern Mojave County and northern La Paz County, and lies on the southern edge of the Santa Maria River. The site is bordered by the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness Area to the north. The ranch is located at the bottom of a basin in the Basin and Range province and is perched on the bedrock of an old terrace or flood plain. The climate of the area is consistent with that of the Sonoran Desert, with hot summers and mild winters.

Wilderness Values (including Recreation and Visual Resources) Arrastra Mountain Wilderness exhibits a high degree of naturalness, with little evidence of human use and development. Arrastra Mountain Wilderness is classified as Visual Resource Management Class I, which is a classification reserved for highly scenic areas located in special management areas, such as wilderness. The objective for management of Class I areas is to preserve the existing character of the landscape; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

Visitation to the area has been estimated by BLM to be moderate (2500 visitor days/year) for Arrastra Mountain Wilderness. Some visitors are hunters, pursuing mule deer, mourning doves or Gambel's quail. Other visitor activities may include hiking, camping, sightseeing, wildlife observation or photography (*Upper Sonoran Wilderness FEIS*, August, 1987; BLM-AZ-PT-87-007-8500).

The area's remoteness and rugged topography provide visitors with excellent opportunities for solitude and natural quiet. Natural quiet is only occasionally broken by the overhead passing of aircraft or by hunter's guns. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are readily available to the public in Arrastra Mountain Wilderness.

Vegetation Arrastra Mountain Wilderness supports six major plant communities representing both Sonoran and Mojave Desert plants and provides unusual ecological diversity. Vegetation in the project area consists of riparian plants in the river bottom such as Gooding's willow, Fremont cottonwood, seepwillow, arrowweed, and salt cedar, to mesquite bosques on terraces, to typical Sonoran desert vegetation, including saguaro cactus, buckhorn cholla, ocotillo, creosotebush, white bursage and brittlebush on the drier uplands.

The proposed OHV trail would traverse a section of a small mesquite bosque that exists on the first terrace above the Santa Maria River. This bosque also has remnant cottonwoods left over from when the river ran on the south side of the floodplain.

Wildlife, Migratory and Upland Birds Wildlife that can be found within a mesquite bosque include, desert mule deer, javelina, coyote, bobcat, desert cottontail, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, northern cardinal, Bell's vireo, ruby crowned kinglet, ladderback woodpecker, yellow-rumped warbler, kingsnake, gophersnake, western diamondback rattlesnake, desert spiny lizard, western whiptail lizard, side-blotched lizard, zebra-tailed lizard, and red-spotted toad. Mesquite bosques provide nesting and foraging habitat for a great variety of migratory birds. Adjacent to the bosque is the active river channel where all of the above species can be found as well. The desert bald eagle is known to use the river corridor as a wintering area.

The following BLM-sensitive, federal candidate, and federal proposed species, and species of concern may be found within or near the project area: American peregrine falcon, bald eagle, gilded flicker, golden eagle, and the yellow-billed cuckoo (proposed for listing). Suitable and potential southwestern willow flycatcher (endangered) habitat has been documented farther downstream from the Palmarita Ranch Headquarters and at the confluence of the Big Sandy and Santa Maria Rivers and on the Santa Maria River above the confluence. Other species include California leaf-nosed bat, Arizona myotis, cave myotis, spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat,

and the desert bighorn. Reptile, amphibian, and fish species include lowland leopard frog, longfin dace, speckled dace, desert sucker, Sonora sucker, and Sonora mud turtle. These are all aquatic species and are found upstream (approximately 250 feet away) of the project area within the active channel of the Santa Maria River where water flows most of the year. Gila topminnow (endangered) and the desert pupfish (endangered) are historically known to inhabit Yerba Mansa Spring located about 1 mile southeast and upstream of the project area. The northern Mexican gartersnake (proposed for listing) has been found on the Bill Williams River downstream of Alamo Dam. The project area is classified by the BLM as Category II Sonoran desert tortoise (candidate species) habitat.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

The Palmerita Ranch is located within the Three Rivers Riparian Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which includes the the Santa Maria, Big Sandy and Bill Williams Rivers, and public lands within approximately two miles of these river drainages. It does not include lands that have already been placed in wilderness protection. The purpose of the ACEC is to protect and enhance aquatic, riparian and threatened & endangered resources, emphasizing total ecosystem management.

Cultural Resources Palmerita Ranch Restoration Project (EA # DOI-BLM-AZ-2010-0061) is on-going.

Economics Outdoor recreation opportunities in Mohave County contribute to the overall economic health of local communities. Recreation visitation to local wilderness areas is a part of those outdoor recreation opportunities. No data has been collected by BLM as to annual numbers of persons seeking wilderness recreation. It is assumed that visitation is light, based on field observations by BLM staff, and by the number of public inquiries received at the BLM office. It could therefore be assumed that the overall contribution to the local economy from wilderness recreation visitors would be small.

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the KFO Project Scoping Form found in the Administrative Record for this proposal. Resources of concern that are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis will not be discussed here. Resources which could be impacted by the proposed action or alternatives are discussed below.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Cultural

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action Trail Maintenance

No impacts to known cultural resources are anticipated as a result of proposed maintenance activities.

Alternative 2 – No action

This alternative would have no effect on cultural resources in the area.

Wilderness Values (including Recreation and Visual Resources)

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action Trail Maintenance

Recreation and Visual Resources: The trails would remain clear and well identified for the public to follow. Current problems with motorized vehicle use in the wilderness would be alleviated by providing an alternative route for users to follow.

Wilderness Values: Wilderness values would be enhanced by removing the threat of OHV use in the wilderness.

Alternative 2 – No action

Recreation and Visual Resources: The proposed repairs and improvements would not occur.

Wilderness Values: The Santa Maria River wash would continue to be used as an OHV route inside the wilderness boundary.

Wildlife (including T&E Species, Critical Habitat, Proposed and Candidate Species, BLM Sensitive Species, and Migratory Birds)

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action Trail Maintenance

Threatened and Endangered Species:

There would be no affect to T&E species or critical habitat from implementation of the proposed action. This particular portion of the Santa Maria River does not support dense enough riparian habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher. Surface water which is important early in the nesting season is intermittent in the Santa Maria River adjacent to the project area. The portion of the Santa Maria River that flows past the Palmerita Ranch Headquarters does not contain suitable or potential southwestern willow flycatcher habitat.

Geomorphically, this portion of the Santa Maria River cannot support the wide enough patches of woody riparian vegetation to provide suitable willow flycatcher habitat.

Cottonwood and willow are either located in thin linear stands along the river channel or in braided anastomosed stands.

The Gila topminnow and the desert pupfish are historically known to inhabit Yerba Mansa Spring about 1 mile southeast and upstream of the project area. There would be no affect to these two species from this action as they do not occur and have no potential to occur in the project area.

Proposed Species:

The Mexican garter snake is not likely to occur within the project area as it is dependent upon live water to forage for fish and amphibians.

The yellow-billed cuckoo has not been documented within or adjacent to the project area however there is potential for it to be found nesting and foraging within the mesquite woodlands of the project area. Habitat trimming and vehicle use within this area potentially could cause this species to abandon its use of the area. Surveys for this species have not been conducted in this area.

Candidate Species:

Desert tortoise would be expected more on the uplands and desert washes rather than within the riparian area where the project area is located.

Sensitive Species, Species of Concern and Migratory Birds:

The desert bighorn sheep which are generally considered to be negatively impacted by roads are not expected to use this area in any frequency. Bighorn sheep typically do not use mesquite bosques because of the high vegetation density. Bighorn prefer more open areas where they can more easily detect predators.

The gilded flicker is found on the uplands adjacent to the project area. It may forage in the project area woodlands but does not nest in riparian woodlands of mesquite or cottonwood-willow.

The bald eagle, golden eagle, and the American peregrine falcon use the river corridor for foraging habitat. There is no nesting habitat in the project area.

Bats – bats are expected to extensively use the riparian woodland habitat of the project area for foraging. Some bats are known to roost in trees however no tree removal is proposed with the exception of one mesquite.

Affects to aquatic species would be indirect and could come from sedimentation off of the OHV road into the river. Should people stray off of the designated route into the river then habitat for these species (when the water is running) would be destroyed or disturbed.

Migratory Birds and Upland Birds: 1.2 acres of foraging and nesting habitat for migratory birds and upland birds (Gambel's quail) would be permanently removed along the trail from the cutting and clearing of overgrown brush along the trail. One mesquite tree would be removed. Trail maintenance would occur outside of the breeding season therefore the project would not result in any death or loss of eggs or nestling of migratory bird species. No designated camping areas are along the trail therefore impacts of the people and vehicles passing through this area would be temporary (5 minutes or less). There is potential for people to stray off of the designated road where the trail leaves the canal, on the south side of the trail. Migratory species habitat could be further disturbed or destroyed due to the impacts of the crushing of vegetation by vehicles.

Alternative 2 – No action

Under the No Action alternative no habitat for any species of wildlife or migratory birds would be disturbed.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action Trail Maintenance

Permanent removal of habitat along the trail would occur from the cutting and clearing of overgrown brush along the trail. This alternative would affect less than 1.2 acres of ACEC habitat and remove OHV traffic from the ephemeral Santa Maria wash.

Alternative 2 – No action

Under this alternative, the Santa Maria wash would continue to be used as an OHV route.

V. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS FROM THE PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE:

No significant cumulative impacts are anticipated.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES and RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

1. The Palmerita Ranch area would be identified as a travel management area limited to travel on designated routes only in the Travel Management Plan for the area.
2. Camping would not be allowed along the proposed trail route.
3. To avoid further impacts to migratory bird habitat, where the trail leaves the canal, fencing would be constructed on the south side of the trail *if* vehicles do not stay within the designated route (Figure 1).
4. A preconstruction survey for yellow-billed cuckoo would be conducted prior to project construction. If cuckoos are found the project would not proceed until impacts to this species can be assessed.

VII. PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: This proposal was presented at the BLM/ bi-monthly project coordination meetings held (Date: 11/06/2012 – Attachment 1). Persons expressing an interest in reviewing the proposal are listed on the KFO Scoping Form, and below.

- Rebecca Peck, Wildlife Biologist, Kingman Field Office
- Len Marceau, Outdoor Recreation Planner/Visual Resource Management, Kingman Field Office
- Tim Watkins, Archaeologist, Kingman Field Office
- Matt Driscoll, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Kingman Field Office
- Ramone McCoy, Wilderness Specialist, Kingman Field Office

Preparer(s): Ramone McCoy, Kingman Field Office

Environmental Coordinator: Ramone McCoy, Kingman Field Office

1. References

Kingman Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement 1993 BLM/AZ/PL-93/009-4410

Palmerita Ranch Restoration Project EA # DOI-BLM-AZ-CO10-2010-0061-EA

Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (PL 101-628)

Wilderness Act of 1964 (PL 88-577)

Upper Sonoran Wilderness FEIS, August, 1987 (BLM-AZ-PT-87-007-8500).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE

**Palmerita OHV Trail Maintenance
NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2013-0017-EA**

I have reviewed this Environmental Assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The potential impacts that have been identified are localized and are of relatively short duration. No off-site, indirect or cumulative impacts were identified. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

Authorized Official: /s/ Ruben A. Sánchez Date: 12/17/2013
Ruben Sánchez, Field Office Manager
Kingman Field Office, Kingman Arizona

DECISION RECORD:

I have determined that the proposed Palmerita OHV Trail Maintenance is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the project as described in the Proposed Action of Environmental Assessment Number DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2013-0017.

Authorized Official: /s/ Ruben A. Sánchez Date: 12/17/2013
Ruben Sanchez, Field Office Manager
Kingman Field Office, Kingman Arizona

PROJECT COORDINATION

Minutes
10:30 a.m.
11-06-2012

Facilitator: Amanda Deeds Recorder: Len Marceau Timekeeper: Ramone McCoy

Agenda Items: Brief description, legal description, general location, name of presenter, time needed.

Rules: 90 minute meetings
No side conversations
Stick to time limits
Additional agenda items added at end of meeting if time permits

PAST DUE CLEARANCES:
Oil & Gas Lease Sale, public and staff comment period ends November 12, 2012.

DECISION RECORDS TO BE DISCUSSED:

PROJECT:

1. Freeport McMoran Bagdad Inc./Bagdad Mine South Waste Rock Dump Expansion.
Mining Plan revision to authorize the disturbance of the remaining 30 acres in Section 8, T. 14 N., R. 9 W., Gila & Salt River Meridian, near Bagdad, Yavapai County, Arizona. This authorizes a total of 670 acres of public land in Sections 8 and 9 to be used to store waste rock dumps and heap leach dumps. A Determination of NEPA Adequacy has been prepared because the environmental analysis was completed by an EIS in 1996. Team members are Amanda Deeds (Recreation & VRM), Tim Watkins (Cultural), Mike or Celeste (Range), Becky or Ammon (Wildlife, T&E & Migratory Birds) and Paul Misiaszek (Minerals). (Misiaszek, 15 minutes).
2. Abandoned mine land closures by backfilling mine shafts. A Categorical Exclusion (CX), (516 DM 11.9, Appendix 4, J (8)), Installation of minor devices to protect human life, (e.g. grates across mines), has been prepared to authorize backfilling abandoned mine shafts on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Kingman Field Office (KFO) for fiscal years 2013 – 2015. Team members are Amanda Deeds (Recreation & VRM), Tim Watkins (Cultural), Mike or Celeste (Range), Becky or Ammon (Wildlife, T&E & Migratory Birds) and Paul Misiaszek (Minerals). (Misiaszek, 15 minutes).
3. Abandoned mine land closures by fabricating and installing bat gates and grates. A CX (see above) has been prepared to authorize these closures to protect the public and conserve bat colonies and their habitat on public land managed by BLM KFO for fiscal years 2013 – 2015. Team members are Amanda Deeds (Recreation & VRM), Tim

Watkins (Cultural), Mike or Celeste (Range), Becky or Ammon (Wildlife, T&E & Migratory Birds) and Paul Misiaszek (Minerals). (Misiaszek, 15 minutes).

4. Route along canal near Palmerita Ranch. Propose to clear a previously open route to move vehicular traffic out of the wilderness. Approximately ½ mile of brush and trees will need to be removed. Is NEPA required? This action should be covered by the original NEPA for the ranch improvements. The site was reviewed for locations for a ramada kiosk with visitor register and interpretive panels overlooking the site. (McCoy, 15 min).



5. Heads-up: December 4, 2012, 1 pm meeting with Chloride Copper regarding their Mine Plan Operations and their Right-of-Way applications. Specifically we'll gathering issues and concerns associated with the proposed action.

Attendees: Amanda Deeds, Len Marceau, Buzz Todd, Ramone McCoy, Andy Whitefield, Paul Misiaszek & Tim Watkins. **No managers or renewable staff.**

Next Meeting: November 19 at 1:30 pm.

Facilitator: Andy Whitefield
Recorder: John Reid
Timekeeper: Amanda Deeds

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE SCOPING FORM

Proposal: Palmerita OHV Trail Maintenance

DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2013-0017-EA RR 17 / V; SM02 / II S:/BLMshare: / wilderness / projects / 2013 /
 NEPA Document Number RMP Implementation No. Document Location

Land Description: Palmerita Ranch – T11N R11W S17.

Applicant: BLM

Authorization:

INVOLVEMENT: Indicate in the left column which disciplines need to provide information into the EA.

Needed Input (X)	Discipline	Signature
	Lands	
	Minerals	
	Range	
	Wild Horse and Burro	
	General Recreation	
X	Cultural and Paleontological Resources	/s/ Tim Watkins 03/05/2013
X	Wilderness	/s/ Ramone B. McCoy 03/-5/2013
	Soils	
	Surface and Groundwater Quality/Water Rights	
	Air Quality	
X	Wildlife	/s/ Rebecca L. Peck 09/05/2013
X	Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals	/s/ Rebecca L. Peck 09/05/2013
X	Migratory Birds	/s/ Rebecca L. Peck 09/05/2013
	Surface Protection	
	Hazardous Materials	
X	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	/s/ Rebecca L. Peck 09/05/2013
	Visual Resources	
	Socio-Economics/Environmental Justice	
	General Botany/Noxious Weeds	
	Energy Policy	

Writer: /s/ Ramone B. McCoy

Date: 03/05/2013

Environmental Coordinator: /s/ Ramone B. McCoy

Date: 03/05/2013

Field Manager: /s/ Ruben A. Sanchez

Date: 12/17/2013



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING DESERT TORTOISE ENCOUNTERED ON ROADS, VEHICLE WAYS AND PROJECT AREAS

1. Stop your vehicle and allow the tortoise to move off the road.
2. If the tortoise is not moving, gently** pick up the tortoise and move it approximately 200 feet off the road to a shaded location.
 - a. **Do not** turn the tortoise over.
 - b. Move the tortoise in the direction it was traveling. If it was crossing the road, move it in the direction it was crossing.
 - c. Keep the tortoise within 12-18 inches of the ground, move slowly so as not to cause it to become alarmed.
 - d. Release the tortoise under the shade of a bush or rock.

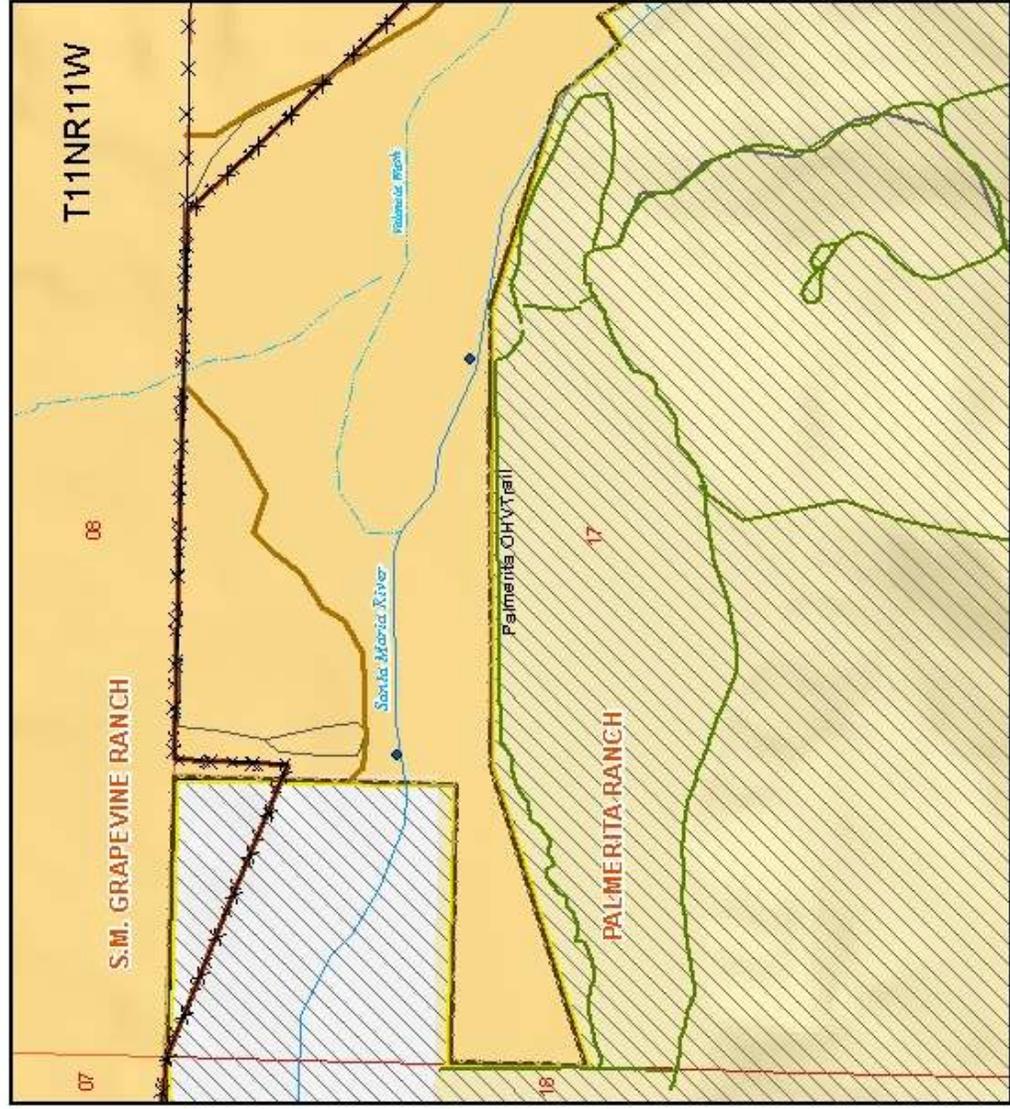
** Tortoise store water in their bladder. If a tortoise becomes alarmed its defense is to void its bladder onto the captor. This could lead to dehydration of the tortoise and potentially to death.

3. Prior to moving any parked vehicle or equipment at project sites, check for tortoise under the vehicle.



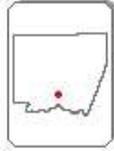
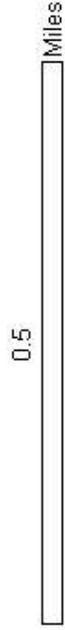
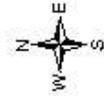
Figure 1

Palmerita Ranch OHV Trail Maintenance Project



LEGEND

-  Private Lands
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Kingman OHV routes
-  Wild & Scenic River Photopoints
-  Arrastra Wilderness Trail
-  BLM Routes
-  Rivers/Streams
-  Intermittent Streams and Washes
-  Allotment Boundaries
-  Arrastra Mountain Wilderness
-  Three Rivers ACEC



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