

**Environmental Assessment
for the Disposal of 5.96 Acres
of BLM-Administered Land in
Pima County, Arizona
DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2013-0015-EA**

Prepared for

**Three Points Fire District
Bureau of Land Management**

Prepared by

SWCA Environmental Consultants

May 2013

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE DISPOSAL OF 5.96
ACRES OF BLM-ADMINISTERED LAND IN PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA
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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND MAP NAMES

The 5.96-acre parcel (the project area) that is evaluated in this Environmental Assessment (EA) is located within a previously authorized Three Points Fire District (TPFD) grant on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under case number AZA 17556. This parcel is located at 10351 South Sasabe Road, Lot 17, in the SE 1/4 of Section 4, Township 16 South, Range 10 East, Pima County, Arizona (Figure 1). The disposal of the parcel by the BLM and the acquisition of the parcel by the TPFD are referred to as the Proposed Action.

The parcel can be accessed via Interstate 19, taking Exit 99 and then traveling west on State Route (SR) 86 for approximately 20 miles to SR 286. From the intersection of SR 86 and SR 286, turn south and travel for approximately 0.5 mile to the property (Three Points Fire Station #303) which is located on the east side of SR 286. This parcel is depicted on the U.S. Geological Survey Three Points, Arizona, 7.5-minute quadrangle (Figure 2).

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The TPFD intends to acquire, through purchase, a 5.96-acre parcel of land currently administered by the BLM Tucson Field Office. TPFD, which currently leases the parcel from the BLM, would construct a new facility (fire station) on the parcel. TPFD contracted SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to assist in preparing this EA for submittal to the BLM to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This EA evaluates the impacts on the human environment by the disposal of the 5.96-acre parcel by the BLM, acquisition of the parcel by the TPFD, and the connected actions.

1.3 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide TPFD with ownership of the land parcel, totaling 5.96 acres and currently managed by the BLM. The need for the Proposed Action is to allow TPFD to be able to serve the local residents more efficiently and effectively. The project consists of a request to patent the BLM-administered 5.96-acre parcel by the TPFD as allowed in the stipulation of its lease AZA-28137-01 (granted on July 5, 2000). At this time there are no site-specific development plans; however, the intent of the TPFD is to eventually build a larger, permanent fire station structure on the property once the disposal/acquisition is complete.

1.4 CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN

The Proposed Action (disposal of the land by the BLM and acquisition of the land by TPFD) is subject to the BLM Phoenix Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved in December 1988 (BLM 1989). The RMP was reviewed to ensure that the land disposal conforms to the land use plan terms and conditions, as required under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610.5, BLM Manual Section 1617.3. The RMP states that “land use authorizations would continue to be issued on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with recommendations in this Proposed RMP/FEIS [Final Environmental Impact Statement].” The land being evaluated in this EA has been previously used as a fire station and would not result in any deviation from the land use planned for the area.

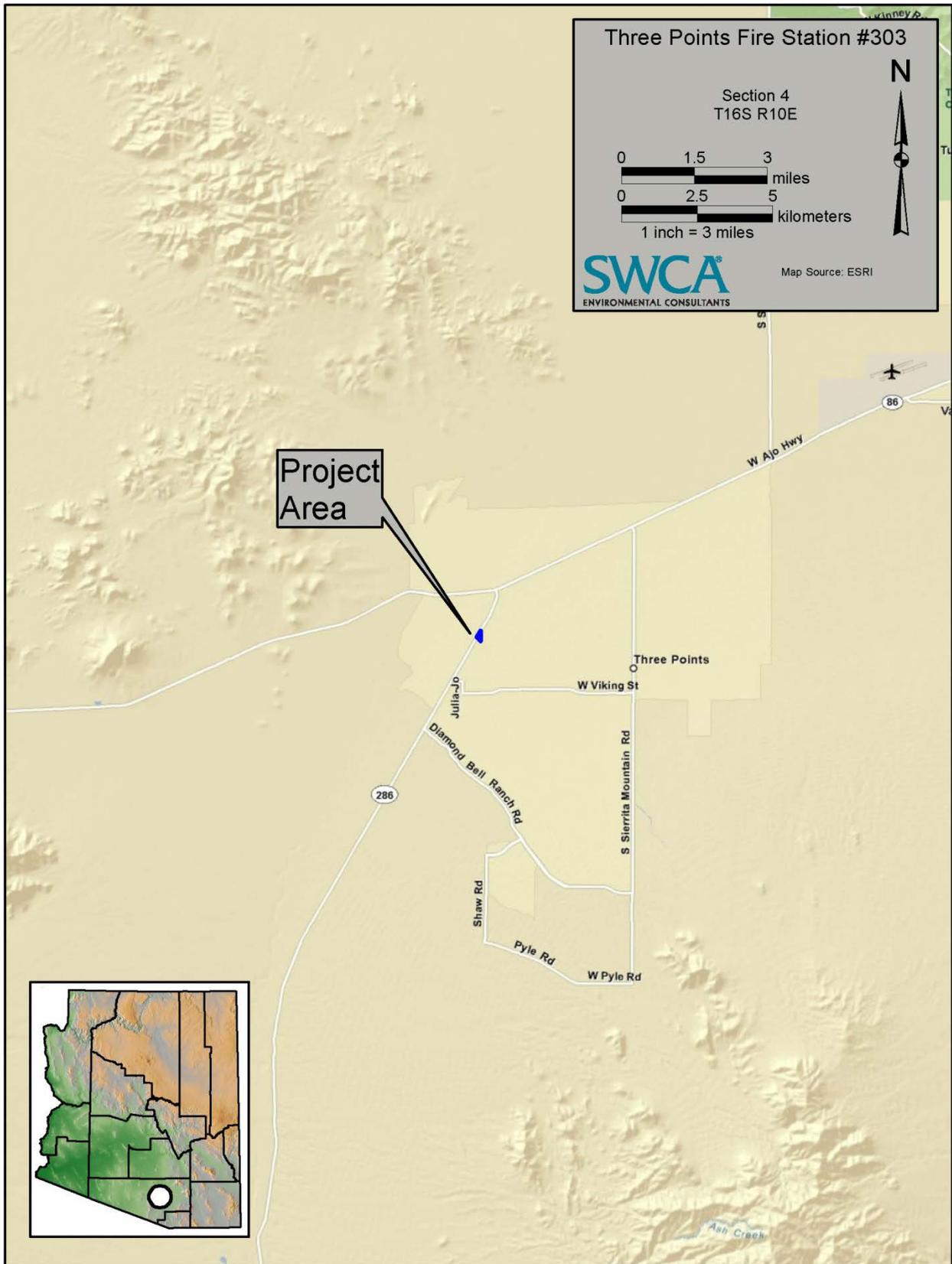


Figure 1. Project location overview map.

1.5 RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, OR OTHER PLANS OR POLICIES

The BLM may authorize this disposal of this land pursuant to Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), October 21, 1976, with 43 CFR 2710 and 43 CFR 2720 governing the terms and conditions of the disposal. This parcel meets the criteria for disposal as described in Section 203(a)(1) of the FLPMA: "...such tract because of its location or other characteristics is difficult or uneconomical to manage as part of the public land and is not suitable for management by another federal agency or department."

The conveyance of Federally Owned Mineral Interest is covered by Section 209(b) of the FLPMA, 43 CFR 1719(b). Section 209(b) of FLPMA, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey mineral interests owned by the United States where the surface is, or will be, in non-Federal ownership. The objective behind Section 209(b) is to allow the consolidation of surface and subsurface or mineral ownership where there are no known mineral value; or in those instances where the reservation interferes with or precludes appropriate non-mineral development and such development is a more beneficial use of the land than the mineral development.

It is also possible for the BLM to dispose of the parcel under the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act of 1988. Regulations for the R&PP Act are found in 43 CFR 2740 (Sales) and 2912 (Leases). The act authorizes the sale or lease of public lands for recreational or public purposes to State and local governments and to qualified nonprofit organizations. Examples of typical uses under the act are historic monument sites, campgrounds, schools, fire houses, law enforcement facilities, municipal facilities, landfills, hospitals, parks, and fairgrounds.

As required by FLPMA, public lands identified for proposed land disposal are subject to inventory protocols for archaeological resources in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, threatened and endangered plants and animals in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), floodplain/flood hazards, and prime and unique farmland before actual disposal of the lands by the BLM. Furthermore, work related to the proposed land disposal is consistent with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and plans, including, but not limited to, the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) Arizona Native Plant Law.

Chapter 2

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action involves the disposal of the BLM-administered land and acquisition of the land by purchase by the TPFD, consisting of a request to patent the BLM-administered 5.96-acre parcel by the TPFD, as allowed in the stipulation of the parcel's current lease AZA-28137-01 (granted on July 5, 2000). At this time, there are no site-specific development plans; however, the intent of the Three Points Fire District is to build a fire station on the property once the disposal/acquisition is complete. The eventual construction of an improved fire station is considered a connected action in the context of this EA. The project area is defined as the 5.96-acre parcel that is proposed for disposal.

2.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, the BLM would not grant the sale of the parcel as requested by the TPFD and would not dispose of the parcel. The BLM would require that an updated Plan of Development be submitted prior to any additional buildings or upgrades to the site. The TPFD would not have unrestricted ownership of the parcel, therefore funding for upgrades and/or new buildings would not be granted by the funding source. Thus, the existing fire station would continue to be used by the TPFD to serve nearby residences and businesses.

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED

Alternative site acquisition and construction of a new fire station outside BLM-administered land would entail substantial construction costs and create an unnecessary level of environmental impacts. This could also result in an interruption or loss of service, as well as delays or an inability to provide the local communities and businesses with fire protection. Conversely, the land disposal by the BLM would result in uninterrupted service and no significant environmental impacts. For these reasons, other alternatives were not considered.

Chapter 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 GENERAL SETTING

The parcel is located in southern Avra Valley/northern Altar Valley at an elevation of approximately 2,590 feet above mean sea level. Brawley Wash is approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the project area and the Sierrita Mountains are approximately 12 miles to the southeast. There are no ephemeral washes in the project area; however, there is one wash that borders the parcel to the south. The parcel is not located in a 100-year floodplain (Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] 2011). There are several structures in the project area, including the existing Three Points Fire Station #303 modular buildings. No agaves (*Agave* sp.), saguaros (*Carnegiea gigantea*), aquatic habitats (including stock ponds), broadleaf deciduous riparian vegetation communities (i.e., communities containing willow [*Salix* sp.], cottonwood [*Populus* sp.], or ash [*Fraxinus* sp.], etc.), or natural caves or mine features (bat roosts) occur on the parcel.

3.2 RESOURCE ISSUES ANALYZED

The BLM is required to consider many resources when evaluating a federal action. Those elements of the human environment that are subject to the requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order, and must be considered in all EAs (BLM 2008), have been considered by BLM resource specialists to determine whether they would be potentially affected by the Proposed Action. The following elements/resource issues are not affected by the Proposed Action or No-Action Alternative because they do not occur in the project area or because of the nature of the Proposed Action: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Farmlands (Prime or Unique); Floodplains; Wastes, Hazardous or Solid; National Energy Policy; Water Quality, Drinking or Ground; Wetlands/Riparian Zones; Wild and Scenic Rivers; and Wilderness.

The following resource issues may be affected and are discussed in detail below: Air Quality; Cultural Resources; Environmental Justice; Threatened or Endangered Species; Wildlife; MBTA; Native American Religious Concerns; Vegetation; Invasive and Non-Native Weeds; and Soils.

Air Quality

The Pima County Department of Environmental Quality, subject to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, is responsible for regulating activities affecting air quality in the area being evaluated. Under the State Implementation Plan, the BLM land containing proposed project parcel lies completely within an attainment area for all six criteria pollutants (carbon monoxide [CO], lead, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter [PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀]) (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality [ADEQ] 2011). A Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan was developed by the Pima Association of Governments for the Tucson Air Planning Area, submitted by the ADEQ to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1996, and updated in 1997. The Tucson Air Planning Area was designated to CO attainment status by EPA, effective July 10, 2000. EPA's Limited Maintenance Plan option required a revision for the remaining 10-year period of the Limited Maintenance Plan, 2010–2020. The 2008 Revision to the Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan for the Tucson Air Planning Area, developed by the Pima Association of Governments, was submitted by ADEQ to EPA on July 10, 2008. This 10-year plan essentially maintains existing controls and contingency provisions and succeeds the

previous plan approved by EPA in 2000. CO levels are expected to remain well below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the 10-year period ending in 2020.

Ambient lead monitoring was discontinued in Pima County in March 1997, as a result of EPA regulations since the levels were so low; the reduction in lead readings to below a detectable level is primarily the result of the federal regulation that eliminated lead in automobile gasoline (Pima County Department of Environmental Quality 2011). According to the 2005 National Air Emissions Inventory from EPA, Pima County has no sources of lead of 1 ton or more, so Pima County will not be required to perform monitoring near the project area.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The land disposal and its connected actions would not result in any adverse impacts to air quality, because the only activity covered by this EA is the actual transfer of ownership of this parcel from the BLM to the TPFD.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would have no effect on air quality.

Cultural Resources

The Three Points Fire District (TPFD) intends to acquire through purchase a 5.96 acre parcel of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management Tucson Field Office.

TPFD retained SWCA Environmental Consultants to conduct a Class III archaeological survey of the parcel being purchased in September 2011. The Class III archaeological survey was conducted to assist the BLM in its responsibilities to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended and implemented, requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on sites that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Section 106 also requires federal agencies to consult with Native American groups concerning properties of traditional religious or cultural importance.

In order to comply with Section 106 NHPA, the 5.96 acre land disposal parcel was surveyed at Class III level. This survey resulted in the identification of no archaeological or historical features or artifacts. SWCA recommended that this project will result in no historic properties being affected. No further archaeological work is recommended for the project area. However, if previously undocumented buried cultural remains are identified during ground disturbing activity, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery should stop until the find can be evaluated by a professional archaeologist.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

This project would have no effect on any historic properties.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would have no adverse effect on any historic properties.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice, dated 11 February 1994, directs that programs, policies, and activities not have a disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effect on minority and low-income populations (EPA 2011a). Environmental justice is 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. The EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across the United States; it will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work (EPA 2011a). Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes ensure that individuals are not excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, and disability.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau (2011), data from 2005–2009 show that 27.4% of people of all ages living in Three Points are below the national poverty level (compared with the national average of 13.5%), 41.6% of Three Points residents consider themselves to be Hispanic or Latino (compared with the national average of 15.1%), and 28.4% of Three Points residents speak a language other than English at home (compared with the national average of 19.6%). Thus, there are expected to be numerous low-income and minority residents served by the TPFD.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The land disposal and its connected action would provide more reliable fire service to local Three Points residents, many of whom are minorities and live below the national poverty level. No structures or businesses would be altered as a direct result of the Proposed Action, and no private properties would be affected; however, TPFD intends to build a larger, permanent fire station sometime in the near future. The land disposal and subsequent construction of a larger fire station would result in a positive overall impact for the residents served by TPFD, and would not result in any negative impacts related to environmental justice.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be a negative impact on the minority and low-income populations currently served by Three Points Fire Station #303, which needs the parcel in order to upgrade the facilities and allow TPFD to better serve nearby residents. Thus, the No-Action Alternative would likely result in disproportionately high adverse effects on low-income and minority populations in the area, because TPFD would be at a disadvantage in its attempt to serve the community.

Threatened or Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, establishes a national program for the conservation and protection of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals and the preservation of their habitats. Section 7 of the ESA requires federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to ensure that the actions they authorize do not jeopardize the continued existence of a federally listed threatened or endangered species.

An evaluation of federally listed threatened and endangered species was conducted (SWCA 2011b), and it was determined that the project would have no effect on any of the species listed by the USFWS as potentially occurring in Pima County (USFWS 2011). Only two species were considered as being likely to occur in the area: Pima pineapple cactus (PPC) (*Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina*), a federally listed Endangered plant, and Sonoran desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), a Candidate species. None of the other 24 species that are currently listed by the USFWS in Pima County have the potential to occur in the project area. According to the online Arizona Heritage Geographic Information System (AZHGIS) (2011), there are occurrence records for PPC within 3 miles of the project area. However, much of the project area has been previously cleared and is devoid of vegetation. A species-specific survey for PPC was conducted in undisturbed areas as well as areas that were becoming recolonized by native vegetation.

No PPC were found during the survey (SWCA 2011b). Additionally, no tortoises or their sign were observed during field reconnaissance. The project area contains marginal habitat for desert tortoise and it is possible for a tortoise to travel through the project area.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The land disposal and its connected actions would have no effect on any of the 26 federally listed threatened or endangered species known to occur in Pima County, or on any proposed or designated Critical Habitat.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species or their proposed or designated Critical Habitat.

Wildlife

Wildlife species in the vicinity of the parcel are expected to be typical of the Sonoran Desertscrub vegetation community. No unusual wildlife species or unusually high concentrations of wildlife species are anticipated. There is no permanent surface water in the parcel; therefore, no aquatic species are expected to occur.

The AZHGIS (2011) was reviewed to determine whether special-status wildlife species have been documented near or within the parcel proposed for disposal. The search results are included in Appendix B of the biological evaluation (SWCA 2011b). The AZHGIS response document indicated that there are occurrence records for four species within 3 miles of the project area: PPC, Tumamoc globeberry (*Tumamoca macdougalii*), lowland leopard frog (*Rana yavapaiensis*), and arid throne fleabane (*Erigeron arisolius*). Tumamoc globeberry and lowland leopard frog are listed as BLM sensitive species, and arid throne fleabane is not listed as a BLM sensitive species nor is it protected under the ESA. As the project area does not provide suitable habitat for the frog, none of the 22 wildlife species listed for the Tucson Field Office by the BLM have the potential to occur in the project area. The parcel is beyond the known geographic or elevational range of these species, and does not contain vegetation or landscape features known to support any of these species.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

No State-listed special-status wildlife species or other more common wildlife species would be adversely affected as a result of project-related activities. It is assumed that impacts on wildlife habitat would be equivalent to the acreage of native desert vegetation lost during the connected actions (i.e., fire station construction) as described in Chapter 2, which is expected to be very limited. Because impacts on habitat would be limited, it is unlikely that any wildlife would be displaced, even temporarily, from the parcel.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would have no effect on any wildlife species or their habitat.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and subsequent amendments (16 USC 703–711), it is unlawful to take, kill, or possess migratory birds. Executive Order 13186, issued 11 January 2001, further defines the responsibilities of federal agencies to protect migratory birds; a list of those protected birds can be found in 50 CFR 10.13. The MBTA provides federal protection to all migratory birds, including

their nests and eggs. In order to relocate or alter any MBTA-protected nests, it is necessary to obtain a permit from the USFWS.

Investigations of the parcel determined that there are currently no potential migratory bird nests present on the parcel.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The land disposal and all connected action would have no effect on any migratory bird species or their nests.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would have no effect on any migratory bird species or their nests.

Native American Religious Concerns

Section 106 NHPA requires federal agencies to consult with Native American groups concerning properties of traditional religious or cultural importance. Tribal consultation as part of the Section 106 process and the NEPA process is currently ongoing.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The land disposal and all connected actions would have no effect on Native American religious concerns.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would have no effect on Native American religious concerns.

Vegetation

Vegetation was classified to the community level according to the map “Biotic Communities of the Southwest” Brown (1994). The parcel is located in the Arizona Upland subdivision of the Sonoran Desertscrub biotic community. Dominant vegetation includes creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata* var. *tridentata*), velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*), burroweed (*Isocoma tenuisecta*), needle grama (*Bouteloua aristidoides*), and buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.). Less common species include fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), whitethorn acacia (*Acacia constricta*), soap tree yucca (*Yucca elata*), spidergrass (*Aristida ternipes*), Arizona cottontop (*Digitaria californica*), and chainfruit cholla (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*). Non-native species include puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*), Lehmann lovegrass (*Eragrostis lehmanniana*), Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and buffelgrass (*Pennisetum ciliare*).

Xeroriparian vegetation associated with the ephemeral wash along the southern boundary of the parcel includes blue paloverde (*Parkinsonia florida*), velvet mesquite, whitethorn acacia, catclaw acacia (*Acacia greggii*), and wolfberry (*Lycium* sp.).

Of the 11 plant species listed as sensitive by the BLM that have the potential to occur in the geographic region of the Tucson Field Office, all but Tumamoc globeberry are considered unlikely to occur in the project area. The AZHGIS response document (Appendix B of the biological evaluation [SWCA 2011b]) noted that Tumamoc globeberry has been documented within 3 miles of the project area. According to the AZHGIS (2011) search, two other special-status plant species besides the BLM-sensitive Tumamoc globeberry have been observed within 3 miles of the project area: the federally listed Endangered PPC and arid throne fleabane.

Plants protected under the Arizona Native Plant Law cannot be removed from any lands without permission of the owner and a permit from the ADA. Landowners have the right to destroy or remove plants growing on their land; however, 20 to 60 days prior to the destruction, transport, or removal of any protected native plants, landowners are required to notify the ADA and secure a permit (ADA 2011a).

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The land disposal and its connected actions (i.e., the construction of a larger permanent fire station) would likely result in minor impacts on vegetation, expected to be negligible. Impacts would be limited to the crushing and clearing of a small amount of grasses, forbs, and small shrubs, most of which are already highly disturbed. No special-status vegetation species were observed during field reconnaissance and, given the small impact area associated with the land disposal and its connected action, impacts are unlikely to result in population-level impacts or contribute to the future listing of any species as threatened or endangered under the ESA.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, no impacts to vegetation would occur.

Invasive and Non-Native Weeds

The ADA is responsible for enforcing Arizona's invasive (or noxious weed) regulations, which categorize noxious weeds into three groups: Prohibited, Regulated, and Restricted. According to the Arizona noxious weed regulations, Prohibited noxious weeds are those exotic plant species that are prohibited from entry into the state, whereas Regulated and Restricted noxious weeds are those exotic plant species that may be controlled or quarantined to prevent further infestation or contamination if found within the state (ADA 2011b). The parcel was surveyed for noxious weeds by a qualified biologist on September 13, 2011 and one Prohibited noxious weed species was observed: buffelgrass. Three other non-native species not categorized as Prohibited, Regulated, or Restricted were observed: Bermudagrass, puncturevine, and Lehmann lovegrass.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed parcel disposal would not have an impact on invasive and non-native weeds. The connected action of eventually constructing a fire station on the parcel would require best management practices during construction to avoid spreading seeds from invasive and non-native weeds. TPFD contractors would power-wash any equipment brought into the project area both before and after entry and before moving the equipment onto any other public lands. Thus, the Proposed Action and connected actions are not expected to have any significant adverse impacts related to invasive and non-native weeds.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, noxious weeds could still enter the project area by means outside BLM control because the parcel is adjacent to a public road. Thus, the No-Action Alternative is expected to have a neutral impact with respect to invasive and non-native weeds.

Soils

The project area is relatively flat, with lands gently sloping towards a wash at the southern end, and soil horizons have been disturbed from previous activities, construction, and maintenance. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (2011), the project area is entirely composed of the Bucklebar-

Sahuarita complex, with 0% to 3% slopes. These soils are characteristic of deep, well-drained mixed alluvium fan terraces.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The disposal of the parcel and its connected action would not significantly affect soils in the project area. The future construction of the new fire station would take place on previously disturbed soils. Soil disturbance would include compaction and minor blading, and overall would be insignificant.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, no impacts to soils would occur.

Description of Mitigation Measures

Proposed Action

Mitigation measures will not be necessary as no direct adverse effects would occur as a result the disposal of the parcel by the BLM.

No-Action Alternative

No mitigation measures have been identified for this alternative.

Cumulative Impacts

A cumulative impact, as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.7), is the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative impacts are interdisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional and usually do not conform to political boundaries. Past and present actions, such as the existing fire station on the parcel, have been identified in the existing conditions. Therefore, the cumulative impacts of these past and present actions are included in the impacts assessment for each resource. To determine cumulative effects of reasonably foreseeable future actions within the same geographic extent as the Proposed Action, the following list of reasonably foreseeable actions are evaluated:

- Operational activities associated with underground pipelines.
- Road maintenance activities associated with Sasabe Road/SR 286.
- Activities associated with the maintenance of the overhead telephone and power lines.

Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Action

The disposal of the BLM land, in conjunction with the identified reasonably foreseeable future actions, would not significantly impact any of the resources issues discussed in this document; therefore, no cumulative impacts are anticipated. Cumulative impacts of the connected action (construction of the new fire station) and the No-Action Alternative are as follows.

CUMULATIVE CONSTRUCTION-RELATED IMPACTS

Construction of the new fire station, in conjunction with other projects in the area, would result in minor, short-term cumulative air quality impacts. The construction activities could also contribute to the cumulative, incremental loss of Sonoran Desertscrub in southern Arizona. Loss of vegetation, however,

would be insignificant in light of the limited disturbance anticipated and the abundance of similar vegetation in the areas surrounding the project area.

CUMULATIVE MAINTENANCE- AND OPERATION-RELATED IMPACTS

Maintenance activities within the parcel, in conjunction with operational activities of other nearby facilities (i.e., SR 286) would not result in cumulative impacts to the resources described above.

Cumulative Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

There are no anticipated cumulative impacts of the No-Action Alternative.

Compliance and Area Monitoring

TPFD shall notify the BLM prior to commencing any activities on the piece of BLM-administered land before the disposal is finalized. The BLM Terms and Conditions are incorporated by reference in this document.

Chapter 4

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1 PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

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Chapter 5

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