

## Checklist for Interdisciplinary Review of Categorical Exclusions

Document Title: Verizon Wireless Access Road

Document Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2013-<sup>0014</sup>~~0002~~-CX

Case File Number: AZA-35692

Preparer Name and Title: Ron Peru / Realty Specialist

Date Scoping Initiated: 04/17/13

Date Scoping CLOSED:

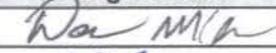
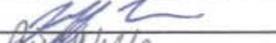
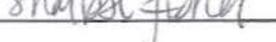
 4/22/13  
 Thomas J. Schnell, AFM for Non-Renewable Resources

Tim Goodman - Jeff Conn - Heidi Blasius  
 Biologist Assigned

 4/22/13  
 Joe David, AFM for Renewable Resources

NEPA Coord. Assigned

 4/22/13  
 Scott C. Cooke, SFO Field Manager

Critical Elements and Other Issues	Specialists	Affected		Comments		Document Review Signature	Date
		Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. NRHPP/Cultural	Dan McGrew		✓		✓		4/25/13
2. T&E Species	JEFF CONN		✓		✓		4/29/13
3. Floodplains/Wetlands	BILL WELLS		✓		✓		5-6-13
4. Invasive Species	Dave Arthun		✓		✓		4-25-13
5. NEPA Map	SHARISSE FISHER		✓		✓		4/30/13

Attachments:  
 Planning and Environmental Coordinator:  Date: 5/20/13

 Date: 5/20/13

Authorized Officer - Reviewed/Recommended

**NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD**  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)**  
Safford Field Office

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2013-0002-CX

Serial/Case File No. AZA-35692

Proposed Action Title/Type: Right-of-way (ROW) of an existing road to access a communication site on Rhyolite Peak

Location of Proposed Action (include name of 7.5 topographic map):

Gila and Salt River Meridian

T. 7 S., R. 30 E., sec. 32, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

7.5 minute series topographic map is Ash Peak, AZ.

Description of Proposed Action: On June 6, 2011 Verizon Wireless submitted an application for a right-of-way to use and maintain an existing road to a communication tower and building near Rhyolite Peak. There will not be any new improvements done to the existing roadway. The roadway would provide Verizon Wireless access to their communication site located on private land. The roadway right of way is 30 ft. in width and 4,054.29 feet in length and contains 2.8 acres, more or less. This communication site will expand Verizon's coverage in the area.

ACCESS: Approximately 20 miles east of Safford, AZ between milepost 365 and 366 on Highway 70.

LAND STATUS IN THE AREA: The land ownership of adjacent lands is public, State and Private lands. See attached map for land status.

OTHER USES IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA: The lands are used primarily for grazing, recreation, open space, watershed and wildlife habitat.

The term of the grant will be for 30 years per FLPMA sec. 504 (b) [43 USC 1764] which states "Each right-of-way or permit granted, issued, or renewed pursuant to this section shall be limited to a reasonable term in light of all circumstances concerning the project."

Applicant (if any): Verizon Wireless

PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW. The proposed action conforms with the Safford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision approved September 1992 and July 1994. According to page 22 of the RMP, "Rights-of-way, leases and permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the decisions of this Resource Management Plan."

The proposed action has been reviewed and determined to be in conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

  
Specialist Signature

5/20/13  
Date

PROGRAM CONSULTATION & COORDINATION/CX CHECKLIST  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SAFFORD FIELD OFFICE

**PART II: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

NEPA #: DOI-BLM-G010-2013-0002-CX

ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW

Subactivity: 2810  
Case/Project No.: AZA-35692

Project Name: Verizon Wireless Access Road  
Location (legal description): T. 7 S., R. 30 E., sec. 32, E½NW¼, NE¼SW¼.  
NLCS Unit: NA  
Quad Name: Ash Peak  
Project Lead: Ron Peru

Draft Review: Unit Manager/Supervisor: [Signature] Date: 5/20/13  
Technical Review:

Applies? Yes No	NAME	EXCEPTION	SIGNATURE	DATE
( ) (✓)	R.J. Estes	(1) Have Significant adverse effects on public health or safety?	[Signature]	5/20/13
( ) (✓)	Bill Wells	(2) Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as principal drinking water aquifers, or wetlands.	[Signature]	5-6-13
( ) (✓)	Tom Schnell	(3) Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as parks, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.	[Signature]	5/20/13
( ) (✓)	Dan McGrew	(4) Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners.	[Signature]	4-25-13
( ) (✓)	Jeff Coan	(5) Have adverse effects on species listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	[Signature]	4/29/2013
( ) (✓)	Dave Arthun	(6) Contribute to the introduction, continuation existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.	[Signature]	4-25-13
( ) (✓)	Ron Peru	(7) Have highly controversial environmental effects	[Signature]	5/20/13
( ) (✓)	Ron Peru	(8) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	[Signature]	5/20/13
( ) (✓)	Ron Peru	(9) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	[Signature]	5/20/13
( ) (✓)	Ron Peru	(10) Individually Insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects.	[Signature]	5/20/13
( ) (✓)	Tim Goodman	(11) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.	[Signature]	4/25/13

Final Review:

Environmental Coordinator: [Signature] Date: 5/20/13

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 4. E. 12 (DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2013-0009CX). It has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

This states: "Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed right-of-way."

The action does not have significant adverse effects on public health and safety nor does the action adversely affect such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. The action does not have highly controversial environmental effects nor have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk nor does it adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered or threatened species. It does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration with significant environmental effects or related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The proposed action does not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment or which require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

#### **Mitigation Measures/Stipulations:**

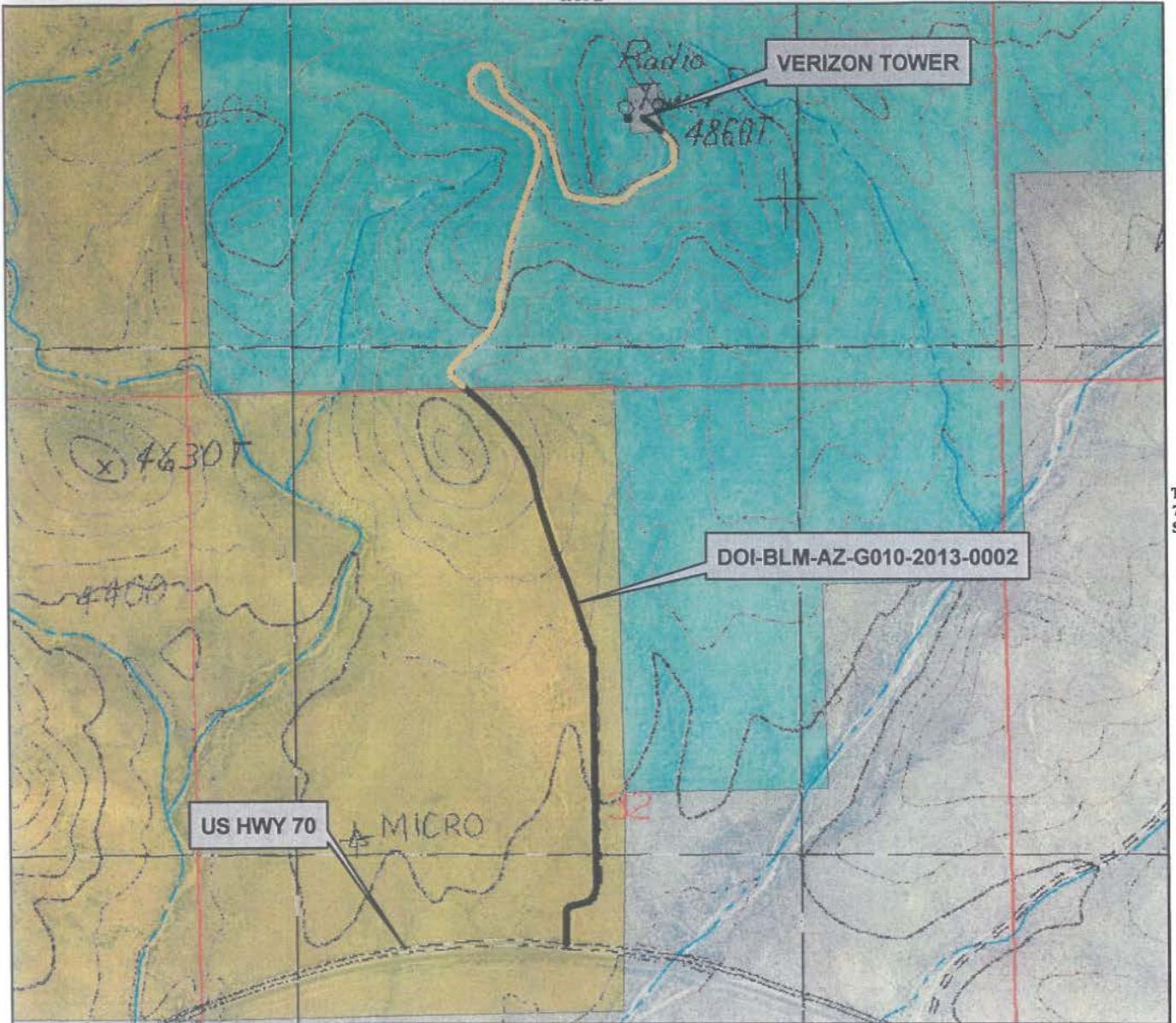
- A. Any archaeological or historical artifacts or remains, or vertebrate fossils discovered during construction, maintenance and use shall be left intact and undisturbed; all work in the area shall stop immediately and the Assistant Field Manager for Non-Renewable Resources shall be notified immediately. Commencement of operations shall be allowed upon clearance by the Assistant Field Manager.
- B. An additional cultural and paleontological resource survey may be required in the event that the project location is changed or additional surface disturbing operations are added to the project after the initial survey. Any such survey would have to be completed prior to commencement of operations.
- C. If in connection with operations under this authorization, any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601; Stat. 3048; U.S.C. 3001) are discovered, the permittee shall stop operations in the immediate area of the discovery, protect the remains and objects, and immediately notify the Assistant Field Manager for Non-Renewable Resources of the discovery. The permittee shall continue to protect the immediate area of the discovery until notified by the Assistant Field Manager that operations may resume.
- D. The proponent, in concert with the BLM, shall be responsible for weed control (*if required*) on disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way or construction site. The proponent and contractor will be responsible for consultation with the Authorized Officer and local authorities for implementing acceptable weed treatment methods. All herbicidal treatments must abide by all safety and application guidelines as listed on the product label and Material Data Safety Sheet (MSDS) and comply with: Record of Decision, Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM lands in 17 Western States, EIS, 2007, Herbicide Active Ingredients Approved for Use. When specified, any reclamation efforts requiring seeding will be done with certified, weed-free native seed. Contact BLM for approved sources of native seed, certified testing and mixtures.

- E. This grant is issued subject to the holder's compliance with all applicable regulations contained in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations part 2800.
- F. Upon grant termination by the authorized officer, all improvements shall be removed from the public lands within 180 days, or otherwise disposed of as provided by the authorized officer.
- G. Failure of the holder to comply with applicable law or any provision of this right-of-way grant shall constitute grounds for suspension or termination thereof.
- H. All operations shall be performed in a good and workmanlike manner so as to ensure protection of the environment and the health and safety of the public.
- I. All activities directly or indirectly associated with construction, operation and maintenance shall be conducted within the limits of the approved right-of-way. This right-of-way does not allow for any surface disturbing activities outside the right-of-way area.
- J. The holder(s) shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated. In any event, the holder(s) shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency or State government.
- K. The holder shall notify the Authorized Officer prior to commencement of emergency maintenance outside the right-of-way to discuss repair and construction activities.
- L. No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 4 inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment.
- M. The holder must amend the right-of-way grant at any time additional land, equipment, and/or new uses are proposed which are beyond the scope of the existing authorization. This includes significant maintenance such as upgrades, and/or construction of new roads.
- N. At least 60 days prior to termination of the right-of-way, the holder shall contact the Authorized Officer to arrange a joint inspection of the right-of-way. This inspection will be held to agree to an acceptable termination (and rehabilitation) plan. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, or surface material, recontouring, top soiling, or seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.
- O. The holder shall notify the Authorized Officer of any address change that occurs during the term of the right-of-way.
- P. Any changes to the authorization require prior written approval from the Authorized Officer.

**Part III: DECISION.** I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action does not conflict with major land-use-plans and will not have any major adverse impacts on other resources. Therefore, it does not represent an exception, and is categorically excluded from further environmental review. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures attached.

Authorized Official:  Date: 5/20/13

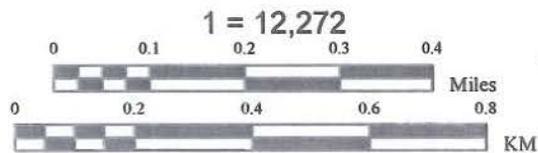
R 30 E



T 7 S

**Legend**

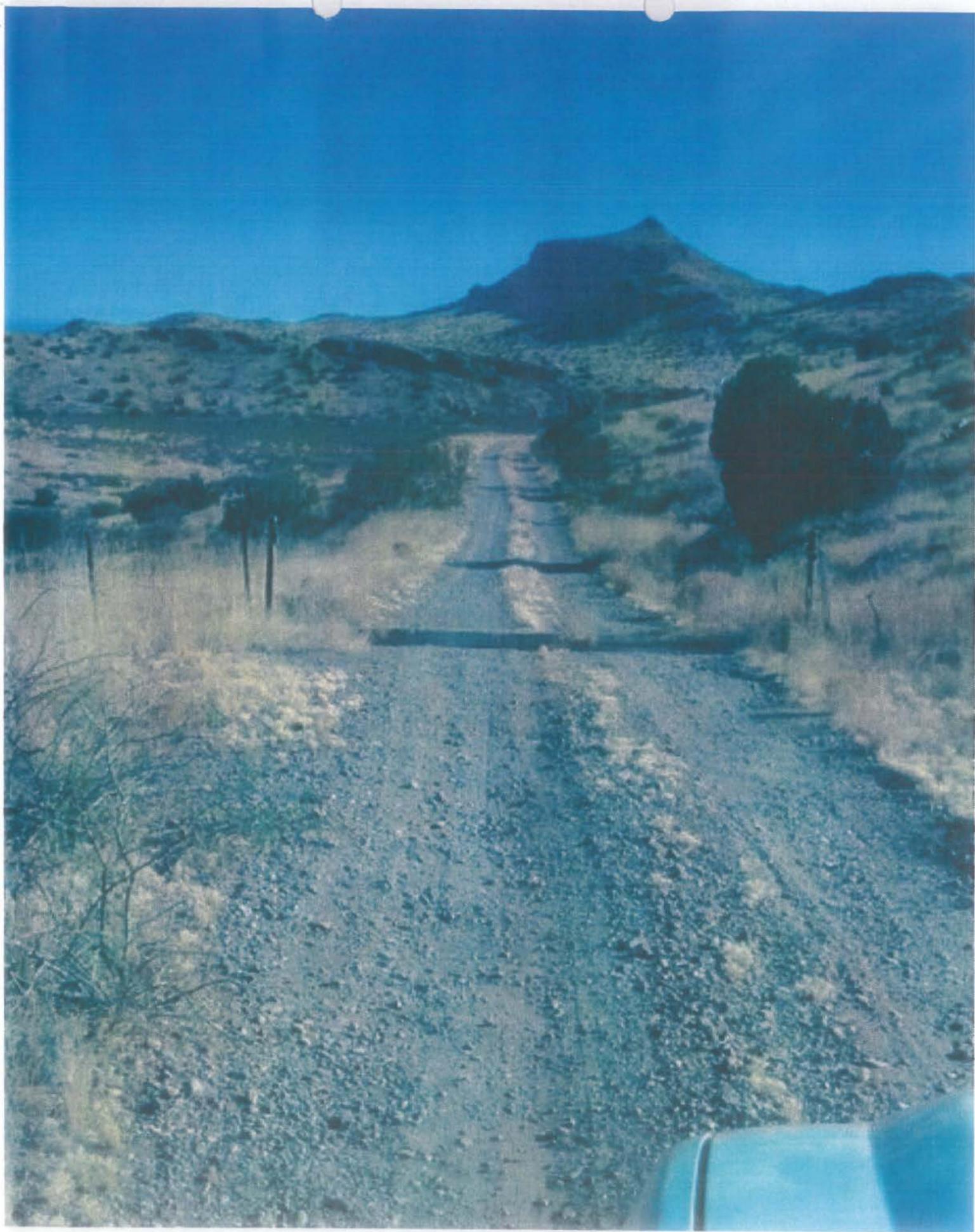
- |                           |   |                                |  |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Private Lands             | Bureau of Land Management (BLM)         | BLM Wilderness Area            | BLM National Monument                    |
| State Lands               | National Forest Lands (USFS)            | Forest Service Wilderness Area | National Conservation Area               |
| State Wildlife Area       | National Park Service (NPS)             | NPS Wilderness Area            | Military Reservations/Corps of Engineers |
| City, State, County Parks | USFW Service, National Wildlife Refuges | USFW Service Wilderness Area   | Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)              |
| County Lands              | Indian Lands or Reservations            |                                |  |



United States Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Arizona State Office  
 Land Status updated as of August, 2010  
 Map created on Mar 27, 2013

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of this map. This map does not address encroachments or questions of location, boundary, and area, which an accurate survey may disclose. This map is intended and is to be used as an illustration only. The map is merely representational, it and the data from which it was derived are not binding on the BLM and may be revised at any time in the future. The BLM shall not be liable under any circumstances for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or any third party on account of or arising from the use of this map or the data from which it was derived.







U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Gila District  
Safford Field office

**NEPA supplement for biological assessment and ESA compliance**

**Action Information**

Attach location Map – refer to DNA

**Action Name:** Verizon Wireless Access Road Right of Way

**EA#:** DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-201-0002-CX

**Project Contact:** Ron Peru

**County:** Graham

**Summary of Proposed Action:** Application for right of way on existing road to access existing communication tower.

**Summary of the Purpose and Need for Proposed Action:** Application for ROW to use and maintain an existing road to a communication tower.

**General Biological Assessment**

**Watershed:** San Simon

**Vegetative Community (Riparian, Upland etc.):** Upland

**Affected Species:** Golden Eagle may be near tower site but not within 1.0 miles of access road on BLM.

**Affected Habitat:** Semi-desert grassland

**Recommended Mitigation:** Compliance with stipulations will provide adequate mitigation and compliance with Safford District RMP biological opinion.

**Threatened and Endangered Species**

**County Species List Reviewed:** Graham, Greenlee

**Date:** July 27, 2012

**Listed Species considered:** Southwest willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*),

**Designated Critical Habitat Considered:** Razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*)

**Current BO(s) in place that cover the proposed action**

**BO(s) Name and Number:**

*(If proposed action is already covered Sign below)*

1) Determination on Original Project Proposal:

- No Effect  
 May Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect (request concurrence)  
 May Effect, Likely to Adversely Effect (consult)  
Attach Determination Rationale

2) Determination on Project Proposal with Mitigation, Stipulations and/or Management Changes:

- No Effect  
 May Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect (consult w/ USFWS-concurrence)  
 May Effect, Likely to Adversely Effect (consult w/ USFWS)

Attach Determination Rationale with Recommended Mitigation, Stipulations and/or Management Changes

The nearest T&E habitat (razorback sucker critical habitat and potential Southwestern willow flycatcher habitat) is over 7 miles away and within a different watershed, activities associated with the road and tower access will not affect any listed species or their habitat.

*(If determination is "No Effect" Sign below)*

**Informal Consultation**

Date: NA

Information Provided by the Service

*(Sign below if informal consultation leads to a Bureau "No Effect" determination or sign and attach copy of concurrence letter when received)*

**Formal Consultation**

Date Initiated (Date BE is accepted by the Service): NA

*(Sign below and Attach copy of BO when received)*

Prepared By Jeff Conn

Title Natural Resource Specialist

Date April 29, 2013



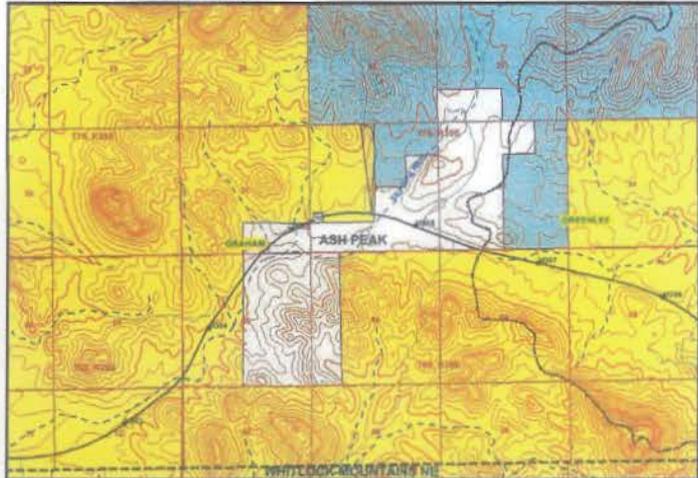
Arizona's On-line Environmental Review Tool

Search ID: 20130429020253

Project Name: Verizon Access Road Right of Way

Date: 4/29/2013 2:55:16 PM

**Project Location**



The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide in-depth comments and project review when additional information or environmental documentation becomes available.

**Special Status Species Occurrences/Critical Habitat/Tribal Lands within 2 miles of Project Vicinity:**

Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	State
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden Eagle	BGA		S	

**Project Name:** Verizon Access Road Right of Way

**Submitted By:** Jeff Conn

**On behalf of:** BLM

**Project Search ID:** 20130429020253

**Date:** 4/29/2013 2:55:11 PM

**Project Category:** Transportation & Infrastructure, Maintenance of existing roadway facilities

**Project Coordinates (UTM Zone 12-NAD 83):** 659517.321, 3628705.907 meter

**Project Area:** 23.652 acres

**Project Perimeter:** 2338.902 meter

**County:** GRAHAM

**USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle ID:** 1517

**Quadrangle Name:** ASH PEAK

**Project locality is not anticipated to change**

**Location Accuracy Disclaimer**

Project locations are assumed to be both precise and accurate for the purposes of environmental review. The creator/owner of the Project Review Receipt is solely responsible for the project location and thus the correctness of the Project Review Receipt content.