

**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
**U.S. Department of Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

---

**OFFICE:** Tucson Field Office (LLAZGO2200)

**NEPA/TRACKING NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2014-0023-DNA

**CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:** Three Brothers 52320

**PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE:** East SPRNCA Boundary Fence

**LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Eastern San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Boundary on Three Brothers Allotment #52320

**APPLICANT (if any):** Tate Coleman

**A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures that are part of the Proposed Action.**

The East SPRNCA Boundary Fence DNA (DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2014-0023-DNA) is proposed to implement the construction of a 2.5 mile barbed wire fence originally analyzed by the SPRNCA Boundary Fence EA (EA\_AZ\_069\_2003\_0001). The lease holder of the Three Brothers grazing allotment, Mr. Coleman, would be constructing the fence utilizing fencing materials provided by the BLM and reimbursed for his time through funding sources from Arizona Game and Fish [and ADEQ](#). The fence construction would take place shortly after the authorization is approved. A survey for nesting birds would be required if the project is implemented between March 1 and October 1. Total time from start to finish should take 2-3 weeks' worth of working days but is dependent on the amount of time Mr. Coleman can set aside to complete the project. The construction for this fence was originally brought forward by Mr. Coleman in 2014 to better distribute livestock within the Three Brothers allotment which currently does not have pasture fencing and is under no rotational grazing system. The location for the fence construction is just south east of Fairbank on the eastern SPRNCA boundary. This fence was never installed due to funding constraints after the designation of the NCA along with another 2 miles in the Lucky Hills allotment just south of this location. Cadastral surveys have already taken place for exact placement, within 1 foot, of the boundary line. Using a [maximum possible distance to](#) analyze the project a 25 foot buffer on each side of the fence as a maximum possible disturbance area for the construction of this fence, this project has a total area affected of 14 acres. Only [on the state lands side](#) will fence construction access occur except for the three wash access points authorized by BLM. Realistically a total of 10-12 feet at the fence would be affected with the majority of the 10-12 feet on the state lands side. [Disturbance beyond](#)

[this buffer will be kept to an absolute minimum. Sloping of banks will be avoided to prevent any additional soil erosion.](#)

Utilizing Arizona Game and Fish funding there has also been a cultural clearance done by Desert Archeology. From the cultural clearance report BLM has identified certain locations for minimal tool impact and avoidance areas due to the presence of cultural resource sites. The fence construction will require clearing the boundary line to be within the 1 foot requirement of the cadastral survey. [Hand clearing of vegetation will be completed by an inmate crew](#) and if funded the entire fence line. There is one area identified to avoid these activities and minimal tool will be required to go through a cultural site which is approximately 300 feet in length. The cultural site to avoid (red in figure 1) will have at least a 100 foot buffer to the south (blue in figure 1). Cultural resource monitors will be on site during vegetation clearing and construction.

The lessee will access the fence construction site by driving on Powerline Road (black in figure 1) and then up 3 major washes (green in figure 1) across Arizona State Land Department Land (see figure 1). The lessee and associated vehicles will drive for approximately a total of 1 mile up the three major washes. The washes come in from the west from the Powerline Road as well as existing road that cross the boundary fence line. The majority of traffic will be directly down the project fence line (blue in figure 1) on Arizona State Land. After the completion of the fence construction there will be blocked access and signs on this temporary construction road to prevent further use. Vehicles will include truck, atv, utv and a backhoe. The back hoe will be used only to dig the corner braces, quarter mile braces and to pull out vegetation from the construction line and will not be used for any other soil disturbing activities. The truck, atv and utv will be used to haul supplies, stretch wire and remove any old materials from the site.

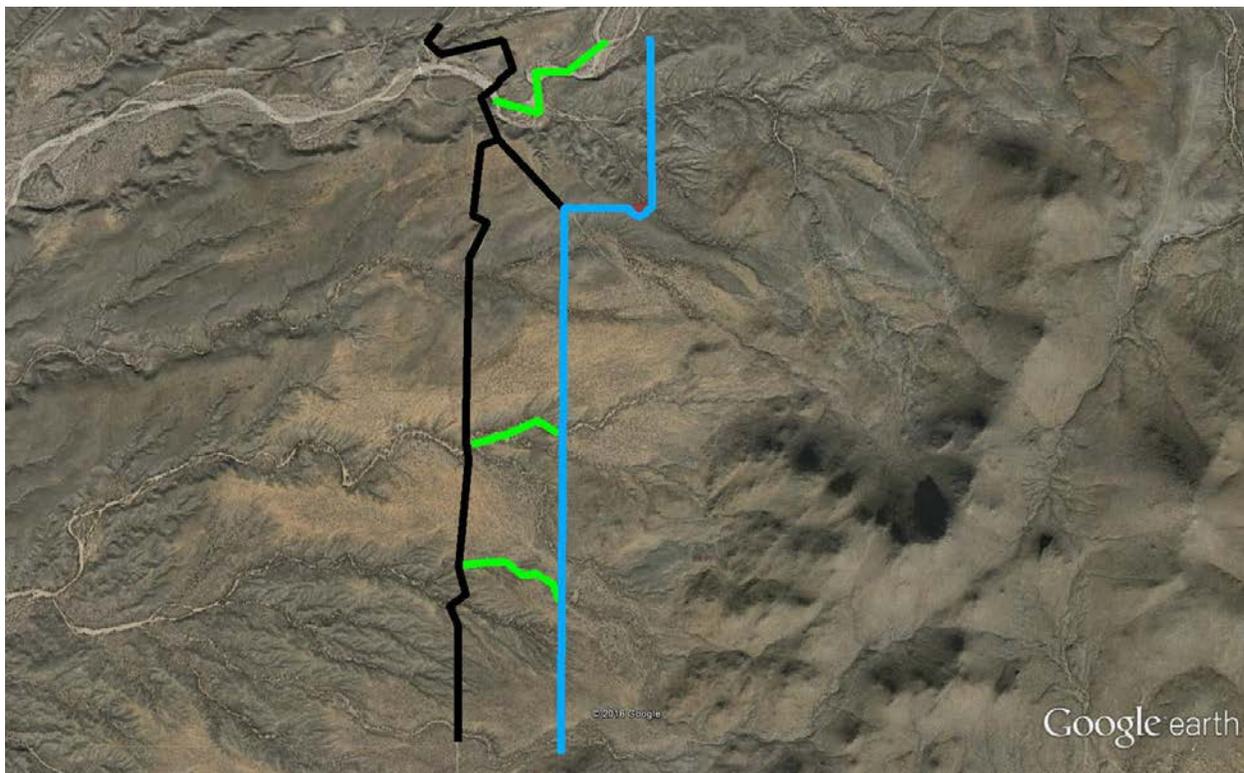


Figure 1

This action was previously analyzed under AZ-060-2003-001 SPRNCA Fence EA and is fully covered under the decision document for AZ-060-2003-001. Under this Environmental Assessment (EA) the “proposed action includes the replacement of approximately 50 miles of fence. Some brush clearing will be necessary but no blading will be used to clear fence lines. Old wooden post and old metal tee posts will be replaced with steel, angle-braced ends, corners and stress panels set in concrete and new tee posts. Old barbed wire will be replaced. Some metal gates will be installed in areas with frequent vehicle access. One or more cattle guards will be installed on major roadways.”

Fencing will be built to the specifications of BLM Manual H-1741-1 and to the BLM wire spacing standards for a combination of cattle (requiring greater restriction of livestock movement) with deer etc. as shown in Illustration 2 (4D) in BLM Manual 1741- 1. Spacing was identified in the original EA as 4 strand barbed wire with smooth bottom total height 40 inches. (16 inches, 22 inches, 28 inches, and 40 inches)

The following was from the 2003 SPRNCA Fence EA: "East Boundary Escapule and Lucky 7 Ranch/ Powerline Road. Approx. 7 miles. Access will be from the Powerline road up side roads and arroyos. This section will require Cadastral Survey as it is currently unfenced. The existing fence follows the Land Grant boundary but this section is included within the SPRNCA designation." (AZ-060-2003-001).

The decision was signed on March 4, 2003.

#### **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: San Pedro River Riparian Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended June 1989.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

- Fence property boundaries to establish visual identification of the land ownership and reduce the probability of unauthorized use (page 5 in the San Pedro River Riparian Management Plan).

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

#### **C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

SPRNCA Fence EA. EA AZ-060-2003-001 March 4, 2003.

#### **D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

- 1. Is the proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

EA AZ-060-2003-001 analyzed the impacts from this fence line. There are no substantial differences in the proposed action of this project from what was analyzed in EA AZ 060-2003-001. The location of the project was specifically analyzed in the EA.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values? Yes.**

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

New Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) inventories have been done in last 2 years. Recent VRI inventory shows that this project location is on the boundary of Inventory Classes III and IV.

Manual H-8410-1 - Visual Resource Inventory

Class III Objective: The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class IV Objectives: The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Jaguar listings have changed since 2003.

Yes, fencing will be in accordance to the law of the NCA designation and will be constructed to wildlife friendly AZGFD specifications. A cultural survey was completed in 2015.

- 4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes. They have been analyzed in the SPRNCA Fence EA from 2003.

- 5. Are there public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, the NCA law requires this fence. There should be little to no controversy over the implementation of this project.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Eric Baker	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM
Tate Coleman	Three Brothers Allotment Lessee	Citizen
Rana Tucker	Regional Landowner Incentive Specialist - Partner Biologist - AZGFD	

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

**CONCLUSION:**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/ Eric Baker	6/1/2016
Project Lead, Rangeland Management Specialist	Date

/s/ Amy Markstein	6/1/2016
Planning & Environmental Coordinator	Date

/s/ Melissa Warren	6/1/2016
Authorized Signing Official, Field Office Manager	Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

## Additional Project Specific Stipulations:

### Range Stipulations:

1. The fence would be a 4 strand barbed wire with smooth bottom total height 40 inches. (16 inches, 22 inches, 28 inches, and 40 inches)
2. New construction must be within 1 foot of cadastral survey at all times.
3. Rubber tired vehicles will be used for the installation of the fence line including trucks, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and a backhoe. The backhoe will be used to remove vegetation from the fence line, would not be used to blade the line, and would stay within the 10-12 feet of fence line disturbance primarily the State Lands side. It would also be used if necessary to dig holes for braces. No other heavy equipment will be used. Trucks and ATVs will be used to construct and haul materials to the project.
4. All motorized equipment (trucks, backhoe, ATVs, etc.) will be washed prior to fence construction to avoid spread of invasive vegetative species.
5. Vehicles will park away from washes in case of any spills of fluids.
6. There are no restrictions on disturbing vegetation within the construction corridor (50 feet wide). To the extent possible, impacts to vegetation would be minimized within the 50 foot fence construction corridor. The corridor will be limited as much as possible without affecting the construction of the fence.

### Cultural Avoidance Measures:

Site location will be shown on map below.

1. Any grubbing proposed for the fence alignment that is within the recorded site boundary (See Map) has the potential to displace or destroy artifacts within the site. So any ground disturbance within the recorded site boundary is prohibited.
2. Any vegetation clearing taking place on the fence line should be only hand cut or cleared. No mechanical grubbing or clearing is permitted within the recorded site boundary area.
3. The installation of new tee posts can proceed as needed however, the fewest possible tee posts should be used to secure the fence within the recorded site boundary area.
4. All project operations to install the fence (this includes all ingress/egress) would be required to travel to the south of the boulder rock outcrop at least 100 feet away and to the southern end from the edge of the boulder outcrop to access the 1/4 section survey monument.

### Wildlife Stipulations

1. The following are pruning restrictions within wash access only. A minimum number of sites for cross-country motorized travel shall be used and approved by BLM before use. Washes for access are at following locations and could use a map. Include the access roads in the wash map along with the location of the fence (see attached). Motorized access in washes will be kept to narrowest and smallest area necessary, with the number of trips kept to a minimum as necessary only to deliver materials. The major washes should also be mapped where xeric riparian vegetation will be avoided to maintain dense, low vegetation per 2012 grazing BO. These would be in addition to the washes used for access. There are at least nine xeric riparian washes where the buffer and veg measures (below) should be used (see attached map) and three of the nine are

access washes. Veg pruning in the access washes to get to the fenceline should be minimum required with proper pruning techniques. Avoidance and proper pruning techniques (cut branch to lateral) will be used with the following species in the washes and buffer zones. These species will not be removed to ground level or removed with backhoe. These following species would be pruned to lateral only:

- Hackberry
- Mesquite
- Desert willow
- Little-leaf sumac
- Desert honeysuckle
- Spicebush
- Yucca (salvage restricted native plant)

The following shrubs are ok to remove to ground level where necessary in washes and buffer, but no grubbing.

- Acacia
- Catclaw
- Creosote bush
- Tarbush

0580447x3508439

0580467x3508961

0580528x3510642 (Walnut Gulch)



Wash Access Map. Access highlighted in white. Proposed fence is highlighted in red.

2. The fenceline should be limited to rubber tired vehicles including backhoe, truck, atv and utv equipment in order to limit the amount of vegetation disturbance. If possible, trucks should only be used on the roads/washes for material delivery only in order to minimize the width of new impact from crushing and soil disturbance while turning.
3. Construction should occur outside of majority of nesting season. Construction ok without nesting survey from October 1 - March 1.
4. No soil disturbance shall occur other than what is needed to construct braces and put in T-posts unless otherwise stipulated for protection of cultural resources.
5. Only a backhoe will be used to construct the fence, no other heavy equipment will be used such as a dozer. The backhoe will be used to remove a large amount of the vegetation but no "blading" will occur.
6. No disturbance to cacti and agave or native plants protected by ADA shall be allowed
7. Barbed wire from the old existing fence shall be removed from the site, including old wire that has been rolled up previously.
8. Use specifications for combination of cattle (requiring greater restriction of livestock movements) with deer in BLM H-1741-1, Illustration 2 (4D) at 40", 28", 22", and 16". Use smooth wire (not barbed wire) for top and bottom wire. The top wire of pasture or boundary fence will be 12 ½ gauge smooth wire. The second wire will be 12 ½ gauge barbed wire and at least 12 inches below the top wire to reduce chances of deer becoming entangled in the fence. Increase bottom smooth wire in washes to 18" above ground in order to provide crossing areas for deer fawns (AZGFD Wildlife Compatible Fencing, page 12).
9. New fenceline will be marked with temporary flagging material between every other post (BLM H-1741-1, page IV-3) to enable deer to become familiar with location of new fence without causing long-term visual impacts.