

**Checklist for Determination of Existing NEPA Adequacy**

**Document Title:** SRP for University of Arizona Outdoor Adventures Program

**Document Number:** DOI-BLM-AZ-0010-2011-0012 **Case File Number:** 36556

**Preparer Name and Title:** Todd Murdock, Outdoor Recreation Planner

**Date Scoping Initiated:** 7/14/14 **Date Scoping CLOSED:** 7/23/14

  
 Thomas J. Schnell, AFM for Non-Renewable Resources

Tim Goodman - Jeff Conn  
 Biologist Assigned

  
 Melanie Barnes, AFM for Renewable Resources

NEPA Coord. Assigned

 6/23/14  
 Scott C. Cooke, SFO Field Manager

Critical Elements and Other Issues	Specialists	Affected		Comments		Document Review Signature	Date
		Yes	No	Yes	No		
Air Quality*	Melanie Barnes		✓		✓	Melanie Barnes	7/18/14
ACECs*	Todd Murdock		✓		✓	Todd Murdock	7/18/14
Climate Change	Melanie Barnes		✓		✓	Melanie Barnes	7/18/14
Cultural Resources*	Dan McGrew		✓		✓	Dan McGrew	13 July 14
Env. Jus. and Socioeconomics*	Tim Goodman		✓		✓	Tim Goodman	7/18/14
Floodplains*	Melanie Barnes		✓		✓	Melanie Barnes	7/18/14
Hazardous Materials*	RJ Estes	✓	✓	✓	✓	RJ Estes	7/14/14
Lands/Realty	Roberta Lopez		✓		✓	Roberta Lopez	7/22/14
NEPA Maps	Sharisse Fisher		✓		✓	Sharisse Fisher	7/18/14
Nonnative/Invasive Plants*	Dave Arthun		✓		✓	Dave Arthun	7-18-14
Native American Rel.*	Dan McGrew		✓		✓	Dan McGrew	13 July 14
Prime/Unique Farmlands*	Appropriate RMS	✓	X	✓	X	Appropriate RMS	7/14/14
Range	Appropriate RMS		✓		✓	Appropriate RMS	7/14/14
Soils	Appropriate RMS		✓		✓	Appropriate RMS	7/14/14
Solid Waste*	RJ Estes	✓	✓		✓	RJ Estes	7/14/14
T&E Animal Species*	Tim Goodman		✓		✓	Tim Goodman	7/18/14
T&E Fish/Fisheries	Heidi Blasius		✓		✓	Heidi Blasius	7/18/14
T&E Plant Species*	Tim Goodman		✓		✓	Tim Goodman	7/18/14
VRM*	Ron Peru, Todd Murdock		✓		✓	Todd Murdock	7/18/14
Water Quality (Grnd. & Srfc.)*	Melanie Barnes		✓		✓	Melanie Barnes	7/18/14
Water Rights	Melanie Barnes		✓		✓	Melanie Barnes	7/18/14
Wetlands/Riparian*	Melanie Barnes		✓		✓	Melanie Barnes	7/18/14
Wild & Scenic River*	Todd Murdock		✓		✓	Todd Murdock	7/15/14
Wilderness*	Todd Murdock	✓	✓		✓	Todd Murdock	7/15/14
Wilderness Characteristics	Todd Murdock		✓		✓	Todd Murdock	7/15/14
Wildlife	Tim Goodman		✓		✓	Tim Goodman	7/18/14

Other

\*required by law

Attachments:

Planning and Environmental Coordinator:



Date:

7/22/14



Date:

7/22/14

Assistant Field Manager - Reviewed/Recommended

AZ-040-1790-2

(Rev. 08/02)



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

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Special Recreation Permits for Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Lands in Arizona EA # AZ-931-93-001.

Gila Box Management Plan, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1997. EA #AZ-40-08-03

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Management Plan, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1988. EA #AZ-40-6-38

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (*e.g.*, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Yes**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed actions are provided for in the Safford RMP. Additionally the existing EAs for the Gila Box Management Plan/Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Plan analyze day use and multi-day commercial trips inside both the Gila Box RNCA and Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness. University of Arizona Outdoor Adventures Program proposes to lead guided hiking and backpacking tours in the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness and guided canoe and raft trips on the Gila River within the Gila Box RNCA. All solid human waste/trash will be packed out. Liquid waste will be disposed of according to Leave No Trace principles.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The trips the University of Arizona Outdoor Adventure Program proposes are included in the types of activities analyzed in EA # AZ-040-6-38 and EA# AZ-040-08-03.

**3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?**

Yes

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The range of alternatives for both of the EAs adequately covers the University of Arizona Outdoor Adventure Programs proposed hiking, backpacking and river running tours. There has been no significant change in the circumstances or significant new information germane to the Proposed Action. Additional wildlife species "critical habitat" has been designated under the Endangered Species Act since preparation of the existing EAs. The Safford Field Office received an "Informal Consultation on Special Recreation Use Permits for the Safford Field Office" concerning the Endangered Species Act and Special Recreation Permits from the Fish and Wildlife Service. The consultation concluded that "Effects on aquatic habitat for fishes are anticipated to be infrequent and light". There are no issues regarding invasive species, water quality, and Environmental Justice.

**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**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed guiding business are not significantly different than those identified in the existing EAs. The impacts of these activities would be less than many of the general public activities analyzed in the existing EAs. Further, additional beneficial economic impacts would result from the issuance of a permit for the proposed guiding activities.

The proposed guide business would not change the analysis of cumulative impacts in the existing EAs because it is included in the types of commercial activities analyzed in both of the EAs.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Both existing EAs included substantial public/interagency comment and review. Both EAs addressed public comments/issues. Public comments/response is documented in each EA.

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

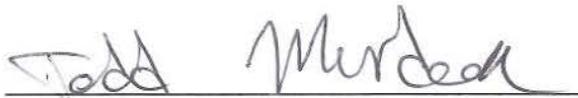
<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Heidi Blasius	Biologist	T & E Fish/Fisheries
RJ Estes	RMS	Hazard Materials/Solid Waste
Tim Goodman	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Todd Murdock	ORP	Recreation/Wilderness
Dan McGrew	Archeologist	Archeology/Cultural
Melanie Barnes	AFM	Wetlands Riparian
Dave Arthun	RMS	Invasive Plants
Sharisse Fisher	GIS Specialist	NEPA Maps
Roberta Lopez	Realty Specialist	Lands/Realty

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**

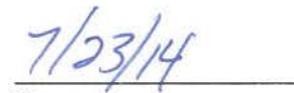
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Project Lead

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Responsible Official

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.