

Checklist for Determination of Existing NEPA Adequacy

Document Title: SRP for Arizona Pro Elk Hunts

Document Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-600-2015-0017

Case File Number: AZA 036691

Preparer Name and Title: Todd Murdock ORP

Date Scoping Initiated: 1/29/2015

Date Scoping CLOSED:


Thomas J. Schnell, AFM for Non-Renewable Resources

Jeff Conn
Biologist Assigned


Lann Moore, AFM for Renewable Resources


NEPA Coord. Assigned

 1/30/15
Scott C. Cooke, SFO Field Manager

Critical Elements and Other Issues	Specialists	Affected		Comments		Document Review Signature	Date
		Yes	No	Yes	No		
Air Quality*	Lann Moore		X		+	Lann Moore	3/2/15
ACECs*	Todd Murdock		X		X	Todd Murdock	2/26/15
Climate Change	Lann Moore		X		X	Lann Moore	3/2/15
Cultural Resources*	Dan McGrew		✓		✓	Dan McGrew	2/26/15
Env. Jus. and Socioeconomics*	Jason Martin		✓		✓	Jason Martin	3/2/15
Floodplains*	Lann Moore		✓		✓	Lann Moore	3/2/15
Hazardous Materials*	RJ Estes		X		X	RJ Estes	2/9/15
Lands/Realty	Roberta Lopez		X		+	Roberta Lopez	2/26/15
NEPA Maps	Sharisse Fisher		X		X	Sharisse Fisher	2/26/15
Nonnative/Invasive Plants*	Doug Whitbeck		X		X	Doug Whitbeck	2-9-15
Native American Rel.*	Dan McGrew		X		X	Dan McGrew	2/26/15
Prime/Unique Farmlands*	Appropriate RMS		X		X	Appropriate RMS	2/19/15
Range	Appropriate RMS		✓		✓	Appropriate RMS	
Soils	Appropriate RMS		✓		✓	Appropriate RMS	
Solid Waste*	RJ Estes		X		X	RJ Estes	2/9/15
T&E Animal Species*	Jeff Conn		X		X	Jeff Conn	3/2/15
T&E Fish/Fisheries	Heidi Blasius		X		X	Heidi Blasius	2/26/15
T&E Plant Species*	Jeff Conn		X		X	Jeff Conn	3/3/15
VRM*	Ron Peru ^{Todd Murdock}		X		X	Todd Murdock	2/26/15
Water Quality (Grnd. & Srfc.)*	Lann Moore		✓		✓	Lann Moore	3/2/15
Water Rights	Lann Moore		✓		✓	Lann Moore	3/2/15
Wetlands/Riparian*	Lann Moore		✓		✓	Lann Moore	3/2/15
Wild & Scenic River*	Todd Murdock		X		X	Todd Murdock	2/26/15
Wilderness*	Todd Murdock		X		X	Todd Murdock	2/26/15
Wilderness Characteristics	Todd Murdock		X		X	Todd Murdock	2/26/15
Wildlife	Jeff Conn	X			X	Jeff Conn	3/3/15

Other

*required by law

Attachments:

Planning and Environmental Coordinator:

Amy Coratman

Date: 3/9/15

[Signature]

Date: 3/25/15

Assistant Field Manager - Reviewed/Recommended

AZ-040-1790-2

(Rev. 08/02)

Worksheet
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
NEPA #: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2015-0017

A. BLM Office: Safford Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No. AZA 036691

Project Title/Type: Arizona Pro Elk Hunts SRP

Location of Proposed Action: Safford Field Office (Navajo and Apache Counties)

Description of the Proposed Action: Arizona Pro Elk Hunts is proposing to conduct guided elk and mountain lion hunting trips on BLM lands within the Safford Office. Hunts would take place in units 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 3b, 4a and 4b. Group sizes would be 3-7 people including guides. Average trip length would be 5-7 days. Camping would occur on both State and Federal lands depending on the hunt location. Standard stipulations apply to issues of sanitation and trash/garbage, Leave No Trace practices and notifying BLM of all future activity including location and dates. Outfitter/Guide must notify the BLM of proposed use/location at least two weeks prior to use of public lands. ORP will notify Resource staff of more detailed use/location year to year when notified by the SRP holder. Arizona Pro Elk Hunts has not held a permit with Safford BLM in the past.

Applicant (if any):

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name*	Safford RMP	Date Approved	<u>ROD Part I Sept, 1992 and</u> <u>ROD Part II July, 1994</u>
LUP Name*	_____	Date Approved	_____
Other document**	_____	Date Approved	_____

*List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans or applicable amendments).

**List applicable activity, project, management, water quality restoration, or program plans.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because **it is specifically** provided for in the following LUP decisions:

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 decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

The Safford District will endeavor to provide a variety of recreational opportunities that meets public demand and are compatible with the Bureau's stewardship responsibilities.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) 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 Number AZ-931-93-001.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard's assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

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

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes

The proposed actions are provided for in the Safford RMP. Additionally the existing special recreation permit EA for commercial recreation activities on public lands in Arizona analyzes day use and multiple day trips for commercial recreation operators who propose activities that comply with the standard stipulations shown in Attachment A of the EA. Much of the EA analyzes overnight camping, multiple day activities, vehicle use, use of pack stock, use of campfires, and use of latrines.

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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes

The trips Arizona Pro Elk Hunts proposes are included in the types of activities analyzed in the 1993 SRP EA. The types of activities proposed are covered by the analysis of the existing EA.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; inventory and monitoring data; most recent lists of endangered species listing; updated BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes

The existing EA analyzes two alternatives, the Proposed Action Alternative (issues a commercial permit with stipulations) and the No Action Alternative (no permitting). That range of alternatives adequately covers Arizona Pro Elk Hunts proposed guided hunts. There has been no significant change in the circumstances or significant new information germane to the Proposed Action. Additional wildlife species and critical habitat have been listed under the Endangered Species Act since preparation of the existing EA. The Safford Field Office reviewed the current Fish and Wildlife Service; IPAC Species List in relation to the actions specified in the permit request in conjunction with the standard Special Recreation Permit stipulations and concluded that there would be no effect from the proposed action on listed species. 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?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes

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

The proposed hunting guiding business would not change the analysis of cumulative impacts in the existing EA because it is included in the types of commercial activities analyzed in that EA. Further, the existing environment has not changed substantially since 1993, necessitating further analysis of impacts from commercial recreation uses.

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

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes

Public involvement in the existing SRP was substantial. About 700 draft EAs were mailed for review and comment during preparation of the analysis. Many individuals, organizations, and agencies were asked to review the draft EA.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Todd Murdock		Recreation
Dan McGrew		Cultural Resources
Jeff Conn		Wildlife, T&E Species,
Doug Whitbeck		Nonnative/Invasive Plants
Lann Moore		Air Quality, Water Quality
Roberta Lopez		Lands/Realty
Jason Martin		Range, Environmental Justice
RJ Estes		Hazardous Materials
Sharisse Fisher		NEPA Maps
Heidi Blasius		Fisheries

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

3/26/15

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.

DECISION:

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action is either (a) in conformance with or (b) clearly consistent with terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my Decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation measures or other remarks:



Field Manager

3/26/15

Date

ATTACHMENT A
ARIZONA BLM STIPULATIONS
FOR
COMMERCIAL SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS

In addition to the stipulations on the application form, the Arizona BLM has established the following additional stipulations designed to protect the lands or resources involved, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and safety hazards. These stipulations will be made part of the permit. Please make sure that these are fully understood because failure to comply may result in the loss of permit privileges. Other stipulations covering specific areas may be established by local offices.

General Stipulations

1. A post-use report must be returned to the authorized officer within 30 days after the use season. For hunting and fishing outfitters, the report is due by January 31 for every year the permit is in effect and must include a copy of the report required by AGFD.
2. The applicant/permittee is required to contact private landowners whose property is affected by the use associated with the permit. Evidence that permission has been obtained to use private property must be available upon request.
3. Any changes to the approved Operating Plan must be first approved by the authorized officer.
4. The permit shall not be construed in any way so as to prevent public use or access on any public lands except as expressly allowed under the permit.
5. The permit will remain valid only if annual fees have been paid.
6. The applicant/permittee is required to provide the authorized officer with a copy of a valid insurance policy or proof thereof covering the periods of use. The U.S. Government must be named as a co-insured on the policy.
7. All motor vehicle use will comply with existing BLM off-highway vehicle regulations on public lands.
8. If a permittee's performance is found to be unsatisfactory, the authorized officer can modify or revoke the permit at any time.
9. All signs on public lands must be authorized by BLM in writing.
10. Collection of prehistoric or historic artifacts is prohibited. Disturbance, detachment, or excavation of prehistoric and historic sites is also prohibited.

Collection or destruction of archaeological resources on Federal lands is prosecutable under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Disturbance of human graves is subject to the Native American Graves Protection Act.
11. Harassment of livestock, wildlife, wild horses or burros, or destruction of private and public improvements such as fences and gates is prohibited. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited. Gates will be left open or closed, as they are found.

Overnight Use

12. The applicant/permittee will not establish a campsite for overnight use on public lands without first notifying and receiving approval from the authorized officer.
13. No structures or improvements will be allowed to remain after the permitted use. Such structures may include such things as corrals, picnic tables, hanging poles, etc.
14. Arizona Revised Statute 17-308 states that it is unlawful for a person to camp within one-fourth mile of a natural water hole containing water or a man-made watering facility containing water in such a place that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonable available water.

temporary structures

All other camps will be located at least 200 feet from water holes, live water sources (springs and streams), or man-made water facilities, or farther if specified by the local office, up to 1/4-mile from such features.

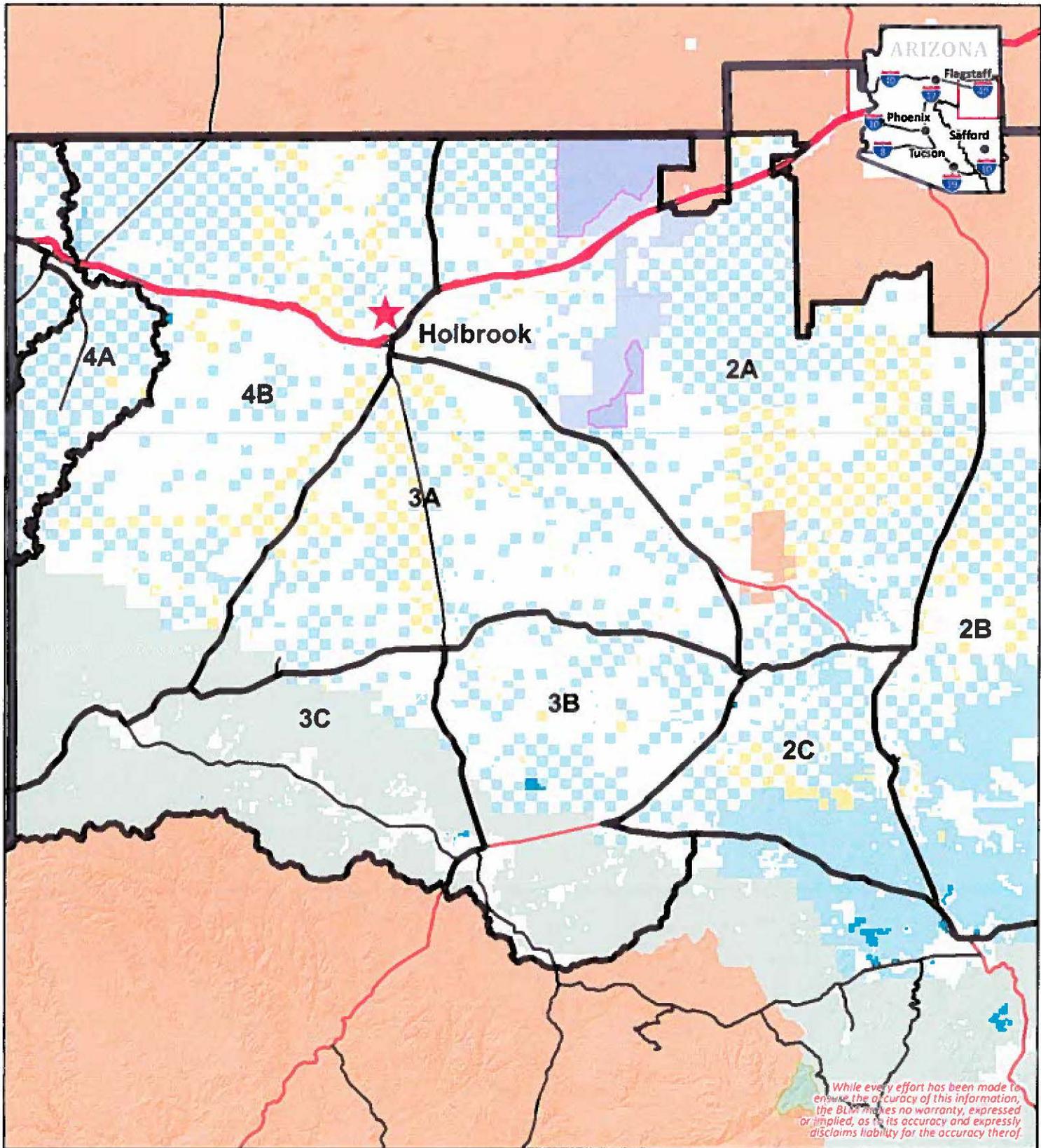
15. All base and reserve camps will be located at least 200 feet from any archaeological sites, including prehistoric camps, rock shelters, caves, and historic buildings.
16. Camps and use areas will be maintained in a neat and clean condition with no litter.
17. All noncombustible refuse and all unburned combustible refuse must be carried out of the area and disposed of in a county approved disposal site. Burying garbage is prohibited.
18. In base and reserve camps, portable toilets will be used unless otherwise authorized in writing. The "cat-hole" method will be allowed in spike camps.
19. Cutting or removing any live vegetation or standing dead vegetation is prohibited.

Livestock Use

20. When the permittee is authorized to graze stock on public lands, fees for that use will be based on rates prescribed for grazing under the regulations for range management.
21. All animals will be under control enroute and in camp to protect wildlife, other livestock, and range forage.
22. Do not tie, corral, or picket animals within 200 feet of any lake, stream, spring, main trail or developed campground. If it is necessary to keep stock tied for any length of time, select a site where damage to vegetation is minimized.

Arizona Pro Elk Hunts permit application

Keith Williams on behalf of Arizona Pro Elk Hunts is applying for a 5 year permit to conduct guided elk and mountain lion hunting trips on BLM lands within the Safford Office. Hunts would take place in units 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 3b, 4a and 4b. Group sizes would be 3-7 people including guides. Average trip length would be 5-7 days. Camping would occur on both State and Federal lands depending on the hunt location. Standard stipulations apply to issues of sanitation and trash/garbage, Leave No Trace practices and notifying BLM of all future activity including location and dates. Outfitter/Guide must notify the BLM of proposed use/location at least two weeks prior to use of public lands. ORP will notify Resource staff of more detailed use/location year to year when notified by the SRP holder. Arizona Pro Elk Hunts has not held a permit with Safford BLM in the past.



While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the BLM makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to its accuracy and expressly disclaims liability for the accuracy thereof.

Arizona Pro Elk Hunts
DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2015-0017

- BLM
- USFS
- Indian Lands
- State
- Private
- NPS
- Hunting Units permitted

United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Gila District Office
 Safford Field Office

