

## Checklist for Determination of Existing NEPA Adequacy

<b>Document Title:</b> SRP for Southwest Discoveries	
<b>Document Number:</b> DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2015-0020-DNA	<b>Case File Number:</b> 036758
<b>Preparer Name and Title:</b> Todd Murdock ORP	
<b>Date Scoping Initiated:</b> 2/26/2015	<b>Date Scoping Closed:</b>

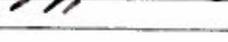
  
 Thomas J. Schnell, AFM For Non-Renewable Resources

**Biologist Assigned:** Jeff Conn

  
 Acting AFM For Renewable Resources

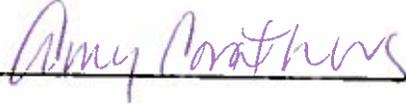
  
 NEPA Coordinator Assigned

 3/2/15  
 Scott C. Cooke, SFO Field Manager

Critical Elements & Other Issues	Specialist	Affected		Comments		Document Review Signature	Date
		Yes	No	Yes	No		
Air Quality*	Renewable AFM		✓		✓		3/9/15
ACECs*	Todd Murdock	✓		✓			3/6/15
Climate Change	Renewable AFM		✓		✓		3/9/15
Cultural Resources*	Dan McGrew		✓		✓		3/30/15
Env. Jus. & Socioeconomics*	Jason Martin		✓		✓		3/9/15
Floodplains*	Renewable AFM		✓		✓		8/9/15
Hazardous Materials*	RJ Estes		✓		✓		3/9/15
Lands/Realty	Roberta Lopez		✓		✓		3/9/15
NEPA Maps	Sharisse Fisher		✓		✓		3/30/15
Nonnative/Invasive Plants*	Doug Whitbeck		✓		✓		3/30/15
Native American Rel.*	Dan McGrew		✓		✓		3/30/15
Prime/Unique Farmlands*	Appropriate RMS		✓		✓		3/9/15
Range	Appropriate RMS		✓		✓		2/20/15
Soils	Appropriate RMS		✓		✓		3/30/15
Solid Waste*	RJ Estes		✓		✓		3/9/15
T&E Animal Species*	Jeff Conn		✓		✓		3/16/15
T&E Fish/Fisheries*	Heidi Blasius	✓			✓		3/16/15
T&E Plant Species*	Jeff Conn		✓		✓		3/16/15
VRM*	Todd Murdock		✓		✓		3/16/15
Water Quality (Grnd. & Srfc.)*	Renewable AFM		✓		✓		3/9/15
Water Rights	Renewable AFM		✓		✓		3/9/15
Wetland/Riparian*	Renewable AFM		✓		✓		3/9/15
Wild & Scenic River*	Todd Murdock		✓		✓		3/6/15
Wilderness*	Todd Murdock		✓		✓		3/6/15
Wilderness Characteristics	Todd Murdock		✓		✓		3/16/15
Wildlife	Jeff Conn	✓			✓		3/16/15
Other							3/16/15

\*required by law

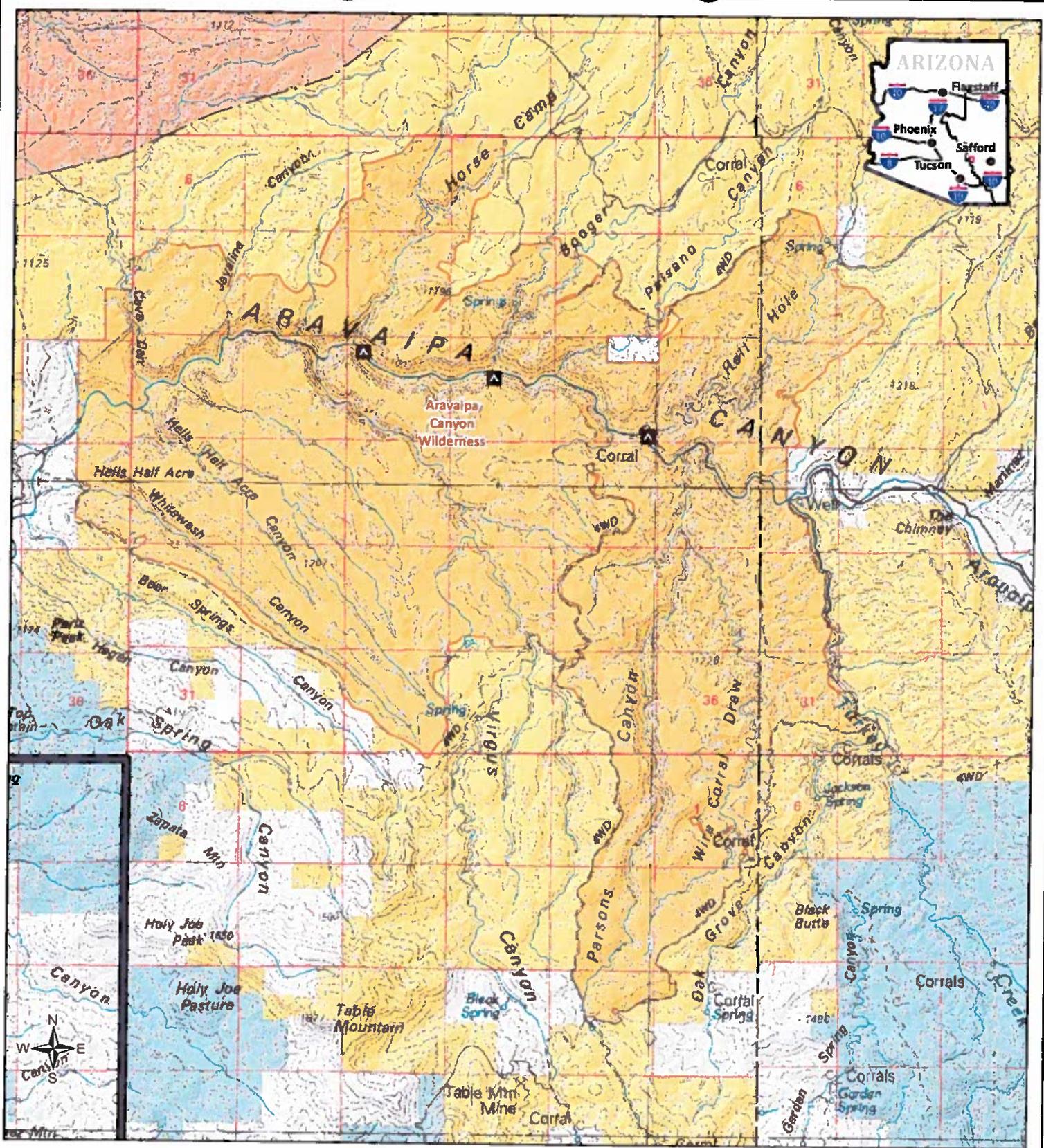
**Attachments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Planning and Environmental Coordinator:**  Date: 4/13/15

 Date: 4/14/15  
 Assistant Field Manager – Reviewed/Recommended

### **Proposed Action for Southwest Discovers Special Recreation Permit**

Mitch Stevens on behalf of Southwest Discoveries proposes to provide hiking and backpacking tours within the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness. Trips length would be from one to three days per Aravaipa Canyon stipulations. Maximum group size would be 10 people including guides. All trash will be packed out and liquids disposed of according to Leave No Trace principles. Human waste will be disposed in the proper manner of burying all waste. All cooking will take place with stove only. The Safford Outdoor Recreation Planner (ORP) will be notified two weeks prior to any trips within the Wilderness. All Leave No Trace principles will be followed while in the canyon. Southwest Discoveries currently anticipates 2 to 3 trips per year.



**Southwest Discoveries SRP  
DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2015-0020-DNA**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  BLM Wilderness Area |  State              |
|  BLM                 |  Private            |
|  Indian Lands        |  Proposed campsites |

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



*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.*

**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-G010-2015-0020

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**A. BLM Office:**           **Lease/Serial/Case File No. AZA 036758**

**Project Title/Type:** Southwest Discoveries SRP

**Location of Proposed Action:** Graham and Pinal Counties

**Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:**

Southwest Discoveries proposes to provide hiking and backpacking tours within the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness. Trips length would be from one to three days per Aravaipa Canyon stipulations. Maximum group size would be 10 people including guides. All solid human waste and liquids will be disposed of according to Leave No Trace principles. All other trash will be packed out. All cooking will take place with stove only. Applicant will provide breakfast, lunch and dinner on all trips. The applicant has held permits with the BLM and Forest Service in the past. Standard stipulations will apply. This would be a five year permit.

**Applicant (if any):** Southwest Discoveries

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

LUP Name\*    Safford Resource Management Plan (RMP) Date Approved: ROD part I: Sept, 1992.

ROD part II: July 1994

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 meet public demand and are compatible with the Bureau's stewardship responsibilities.

**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  
Environmental Assessment (EA) # AZ-931-93-001.  
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 action is in conformance the Safford RMP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Additionally the existing EA for Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Plan analyzed day use and multi-day commercial trips inside Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness. Southwest Discoveries proposes to lead guided hiking and backpacking tours in the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness.

**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 that Southwest Discoveries proposes are included in the types of activities analyzed in EA # AZ-040-6-38 and EA # AZ-931-93-001.

**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 (see section C) adequately covers Southwest Discoveries proposed hiking and backpacking activities. 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 U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. The consultation concluded that "Effects on aquatic habitat for fishes are anticipated to be infrequent and light", thus the proposed action would not result in significant impacts. 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(s)? 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	Rangeland Management Specialist	Hazard Materials/Solid Waste
Jeff Conn	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Todd Murdock	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation/Wilderness
Dan McGrew	Archeologist	Archeology/Cultural
Lann Moore	Associate Field Manager	Wetlands Riparian
Jason Martin	Rangeland Management Specialist	Env. Jus. & Socioeconomics
Sharisse Fisher	Geographic Information Specialist	NEPA Maps
Roberta Lopez	Realty Specialist	Lands/Realty
Doug Whitbeck	Rangeland Management Specialist	Nonnative/Invasive Plants

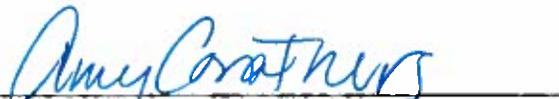
Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

**CONCLUSION**

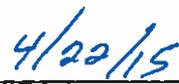
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

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.