

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE SCOPING FORM

DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2015-0005-EA

RR/08/V

S:\Blmshare\nepalea_eis\Recreation

NEPA Document Number

RMP Implementation No.

Document Location

Land Description:

Applicant: BLM, KFO Recreation Program

Authorization: CFRA Management Plan

Acres: 5 Acres

INVOLVEMENT: Indicate in the left column which disciplines need to provide information into the EA.

Needed Input (X)	Discipline	Signature
	Lands	
	Minerals	
	Range	
	Wild Horse and Burro	
X	General Recreation	/s/ Matthew Driscoll 12-11-14
X	Cultural and Paleontological Resources	/s/ Tim Watkins 12-11-14
	Wilderness	
	Soils	
	Surface and Groundwater Quality/Water Rights	
	Air Quality	
X	Wildlife	/s/ Rebecca Peck 2-13-15
X	Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals	/s/ Rebecca Peck 2-13-15
X	Migratory Birds	/s/ Rebecca Peck 2-13-15
	Surface Protection	
	Hazardous Materials	
	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	
X	Visual Resources	/s/ Maria Troche 12-11-14
	Socio-Economics/Environmental Justice	
	General Botany/Noxious Weeds	
	Energy Policy	

Writer: /s/ Matthew Driscoll

Date: 12-11-14

Environmental Coordinator: /s/ Daryl Edwards

Date: 2-13-14

Field Manager: /s/ Ruben A. Sanchez

Date: 2-13-14

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2015-0005-EA

Lease/Serial Case File No.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kingman Field Office (KFO)

Proposed Action Title/Type: Construction of connector trail between Camp Beale loop and Badger trails

Location of Proposed Action: T. 21N R. 17W Sections: 5, 8, 9, 15 and 16

Applicant (if any): BLM, KFO, Recreation Program

CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN:

This proposed action is in conformance with the Kingman Resource Management Plan approved March 1995.
Remarks:

RR08/V Develop day use/trailhead sites, trails, campgrounds and interpretive sites within SRMAs
(Alternative 2 on page 76, Table 8 on page 78 and Table on pages 138-139)

This proposed action is also consistent with the *Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area Management Plan (May, 1995)* EA# AZ-025-94-046 which identified the need for development of trails within the CFRA.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION:

The purpose of the proposed action is to enhance the recreational opportunities within the Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area. The proposed action is needed to increase recreational trail opportunities and experiences for non-motorized users. The purpose of this trail would be to satisfy public non-motorized trail user requests while meeting the goals set forth in the Kingman Field Office Resource Management Plan and Cerbat Foothills Recreation Management Plan to develop non-motorized trails.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Construct and maintain an approximately nine and a half mile connector trail within the Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area (CFRA). The trail would begin at Camp Beale Loop trailhead on City of Kingman land in section 15 and connect to the Badger trailhead on BLM-managed lands in section 8. From section 15, the trail would head west towards an existing route in section 15. The trail would follow the existing route for approximately two-tenths of a mile until reaching an adequate point to follow topographic contour lines through sections 15, 16, and 9. In section 16, the trail would follow an existing illegally constructed single-track for approximately three-tenths of a mile. In section 9, the trail would deviate from contour lines southeast of Gross Spring, where a series of switchbacks would be constructed to reach the 3,900 foot contour line in the valley below. The trail would be routed in such a way to avoid Gross Spring to the south and west. Continuing through section 9 and 5, the trail would follow contour lines until reaching the existing Badger trailhead. An additional connector would be constructed and maintained in the northeast part of section 9. The additional trail segment totaling 1.17 miles would further the recreational opportunities by creating more loops within the CFRA (see attached map for specific trail locations).

Volunteers and youth corps trail crews would conduct the trail construction and maintenance under BLM staff supervision. The volunteers would mountain bike, hike, or horseback ride to trail locations and work during the day. Trail construction would include clearing brush in a corridor 6 feet wide, followed by excavation of soil and rock to form a level walking surface 2-3 feet in width and a tread out slope of 1-2 percent. Trail

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construction would remove approximately 6.28 acres of wildlife and plant habitat and may result in some individual plant death, but would not affect any known plant populations. Some wildlife, including mule deer, Sonoran desert tortoise, coyote, grey fox, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, western diamondback rattlesnake, red-tail hawk, Gila monster, desert woodrat, cactus wren, and black-throated sparrow might be temporarily displaced short term by human presence and the noise of trail construction and use but would resume normal activity after trail construction is complete. All vegetation and rock would be hand carried off the trail and spread discretely to avoid piling of plant, sand, and rock. Cacti would be avoided during trail construction, unless conditions warrant removing cacti to build trail. All viable cacti, yucca, and ocotillo would be replanted. Trail construction would be limited to pre-mapped route to avoid any nearby cultural sites. *Sophora arizonica*, a rare plant species found in the area, would be avoided under BLM staff guidance. Pictures of the species would be handed out to volunteers and trail crews prior to construction activities to ensure avoidance (see attachment 2). In addition, BLM staff would be on-site guiding trail construction to avoid sensitive cultural areas.

The proposed trail would maintain a grade of 8 percent or less with pitches of no greater than 10 percent. These factors allow for user friendly trail features while limiting potential soil erosion. Non-motorized (hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding) recreational opportunities would exist on the trail year-round. Local volunteers would assist BLM in performing trail maintenance for the life of the trail. Fiberglass posts with decals to identify the new trail would be installed at trail junctions on both Camp Beale Loop and Badger trails. In T. 21N R. 17W, Section 9 a gate would be installed to get through a fence the proposed trail corridor crosses. The gate would be installed utilizing volunteer, trail crew, or BLM staff. All work would be supervised by BLM recreation personnel.

Gross Spring, located in T. 21N R. 17W, Section 9, is proximate (within 415 feet) to the proposed trail alignment. An approximately 1.10 acre enclosure would be constructed around the spring to alleviate concerns of recreationists adversely affecting the riparian area surrounding the spring or the spring itself. The proposed enclosure would also mitigate the impact of cattle in and around Gross spring while ensuring existing grazing uses in the area are able to continue via an existing trough located outside of the proposed enclosure. The enclosure would be 4 strands consisting of barbed and smooth wire and would conform to BLM fence guidelines for excluding livestock and facilitating wildlife movement. T-posts would be 16-25 feet apart with 2-4 stays in between. The fence would be 42 inches tall and have 4 strands of barbed wire with a bottom smooth wire. Wires would be 16, 23, 30, and 42 inches off the ground respectively. To further mitigate any potential spring degradation from the recreating public, fiberglass posts with decals would be placed near Gross Spring to warn users of sensitive resources and the importance of staying on the trail.

Active nests found along the proposed trail route would be monitored by the BLM staff during trail construction. A temporary "no construction" buffer would be determined by the BLM for each nest to avoid disturbance of the nest. Once the young have fledged that unconstructed portion of the trail would be completed.

The monitoring of the trail for the presence of exotic/invasive weeds by BLM staff, volunteers and the public would minimize the potential for weed introduction. In addition, information pertaining to the spread of invasive species would be posted at all trailheads within CFRA to educate the public on prevention methods concerning invasive species. The City of Kingman has been consulted on trail construction and maintenance on City lands. Trail construction would begin in the winter of 2015.

DESCRIPTION OF NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The trail or any associated facilities (gates, visitor registers, benches, spring enclosure, etc.) would not be constructed under the "No Action" alternative, which could negatively impact recreational opportunities and

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riparian habitat management within the Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area. No wildlife or plant habitat associated with the trail construction would be affected under the “No Action” alternative. However, riparian habitat could be adversely affected if the spring enclosure is not constructed as cattle currently grazing in the area would continue to enter the confines of the riparian habitat surrounding Gross Spring and subsequently degrade the area.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area lies northwest of the Kingman, Arizona city limits in the southern-most portion of the Cerbat Mountains. Access to the proposed trail would be from the existing Camp Beale Loop and Badger trails which can be accessed from a BLM-managed trailhead off of Highway 93 north of Kingman or Camp Beale Loop trailhead located off of Fort Beale Drive in Kingman, AZ.

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the KFO Project Scoping Form found in the Administrative Record for this proposal. Resources of concern that are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted will not be discussed here. Resources which could be impacted by the proposed action or alternatives are discussed below.

This section describes the existing conditions of the environment and expected impacts. The table below summarizes the resources reviewed for this project. Resources not present within the project study area, as well as those present and not affected, are not discussed. Those resources that have been identified by an interdisciplinary team as present and potentially affected are discussed further below.

PROJECT RESOURCE review			
Resources Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
Air Quality*	X		
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*	X		
Cultural and Historic*		X	
Environmental Justice* / Socioeconomics			X
Floodplains*	X		
Grazing		X	
Hazardous or Solid Waste*	X		
Invasive and Non-native Species*		X	
Land Use		X	
Migratory Birds*			X
Native American Religious Concerns*	X		
Prime and Unique Farmland*	X		

PROJECT RESOURCE review			
Resources Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
Threatened and Endangered Species*		X	
Vegetation			X
Visual Resources		X	
Water Quality*	X		
Wetland or Riparian Zones*			X
Wild and Scenic Rivers*	X		
Wilderness*	X		
Wildlife, Candidate, and Proposed Species			X
* Consideration Required By Law or Executive Order			

Present and Not Affected

Cultural and Historic: Along the proposed trail many areas of cultural and historical significance exist. However, internal scoping with a qualified Archaeologist in the planning stage of trail development created buffer zones between existing sites of cultural and historical significance and the proposed trail alignment corridor. Therefore, areas of cultural and historical significance would not be affected under the proposed action.

Grazing: Cattle grazing operations are currently present within the project area. Grazing facilities in the project area consist of spring developments including a trough, fence, and pipeline at Gross Spring. All existing grazing uses in the area would be avoided or mitigated through various actions outlined in this environmental analysis. There would be no impact to current grazing operations associated with the trail construction and maintenance. The gate and cattleguard would be installed where the proposed trail crosses a livestock fence. The gate would be installed next to the cattleguard. The enclosure fence would not affect livestock access to the troughs as they are located outside of the proposed enclosure area.

Invasive and Non-native Species: Youth corps or volunteers that are traveling to the project area from out-of-state locations around the western United States could unknowingly carry invasive and non-native species with them introducing these species into the CFRA. All out-of-state Youth Corps or volunteers would be inspected by BLM personnel for invasive and non-native species located on their vehicles, tools, bikes, etc. prior to any work taking place on the trail. Therefore, there would be no introduction of invasive and non-native species as a result of trail construction and maintenance.

Land Use: The proposed trail alignment begins near an existing power line and old well pad in T. 21N R. 17W Section 15. The trail would come off of the existing Camp Beale loop trail and travel over an existing road for approximately .2 miles until reaching a point where new single-track would be constructed. The existing road serves as access for an old well pad in section 15 which is not currently operable. Access for the power line is gained via an existing access route to the west which the trail does not cross. As the trail would not preclude

access to the route it crosses and does not cross the power line access route there would be no affect to other land uses in the area.

Wetland or Riparian Zones: Gross Spring occurs within 415 feet of the proposed trail. The trail has been routed away from the spring to discourage use of the spring area by the trail users. The spring would be visible to passing users and it is expected that visitor use of the spring would increase. An exclosure fence would be constructed around the spring to prevent horse access and use of the spring. People would be able to go through the wire fence to visit the spring but mountain biking, equestrian use, grazing and watering in the spring area by livestock would be excluded. Livestock would be able to water at the cattle troughs.

Threatened, Endangered Species, and Critical Habitat: The project area extends from US 93 at the Badger trailhead south to the Camp Beale Loop trailhead. The proposed project is within the Endangered California Condor Experimental Range. There would be “no affect” to the condor as a result of trail construction and maintenance activities. Condors have not been observed in this area and are unlikely to frequent this area even to forage. The closest condor location is over 100 miles to the northeast. There are no other Threatened, Endangered species, or Critical Habitat that occur within the project/action area.

Visual Resources: The project area is within Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II. The management objective for Class II VRM areas is to retain the landscape character. Any management activities in these areas should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. The terrain and vegetation of the landscape within the project area dictates that the trail is constructed to BLM’s standard trail construction practices, maintaining a grade of 8% and no greater than 10%. This would force the trail to be constructed following the basic contours of the characteristic landscape ensuring that VRM Class II objectives are met. Furthermore, a visual contrast rating sheet would be completed to verify all VRM Class II objectives are being met. In addition, vegetation in the area is sparse, minimizing the contrast of the trail to the natural vegetation. Through incorporating trail design features that minimize the trail’s imprint upon the characteristic landscape and completion of a visual contrast rating sheet, there would be no impact to visual resources.

Proposed Action

Present and/or Potentially Affected:

Socioeconomics: The CFRA is located in an urban-interfaced environment north of Kingman, AZ. The area provides for a variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, wildlife viewing, photography, and a variety of other recreational pursuits. The proposed trail would allow for greater connectivity within the trail system increasing the opportunities for non-motorized recreational pursuits. In recent years the popularity of the trail system has increased, creating a need for connectivity between existing trails. In addition, the increased popularity of the trail system has created a higher demand for the CFRA to be utilized as a stage for competitive events, particularly mountain bike races. A study by Fix and Loomis in 1997 estimated that mountain bikers in Moab, Utah generated a consumer surplus value of \$200.00 per trip, or between \$8.4 million and \$8.7 million for the region each year. In this, it could be assumed that increased popularity tied to an increase in mountain biking oriented events, would positively affect local commerce. Therefore, the proposed action would directly affect the local economy through an increase in use tied to both general tourism and special events associated with mountain biking.

Vegetation: Mohave Desert scrub is the plant community that occurs along trail corridor. A wide variety of cacti and shrubs including Mohave yucca, beavertail cactus, prickly pear cactus, ocotillo, creosote bush and catclaw acacia are found proximate to the proposed race route. Density and variety of vegetation varies widely along the proposed trail corridor and would only be affected by crushing and trampling if areas of dense

vegetation could not be avoided due to the necessity to align the trail in an optimal location. During trail construction and maintenance succulents that are located within the trail alignment would be moved and transplanted adjacent to the trail.

Wildlife, Candidate, and Proposed Species: Habitat for the Sonoran Desert tortoise, listed by the Fish and Wildlife as a candidate for listing under the endangered species act, is found within the project area. Parts of the project area have been designated by the BLM as Category 3 desert tortoise habitat (Kingman Resource Management Plan, 1995). Tortoise habitat exists along portions of the proposed non-motorized trail. The Category III habitat in this area is characterized by lower densities of desert tortoises minimizing the potential for tortoise encounters or fatalities. Tortoises could be affected by handling from trail construction or maintenance personnel, or injured or killed by trail construction tool encounters. Mitigating measures would be in place to minimize the potential for tortoise harassment, injuries, or fatalities in the event of an encounter.

A variety of wildlife that can be found proximate to the proposed trail corridor include mule deer, coyote, grey fox, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, western diamondback rattlesnake, red-tail hawk, Gila monster, desert woodrat, cactus wren, and black-throated sparrow. Construction activities would not cause long-term displacement of wildlife in the area. Wildlife in the area would be temporarily disrupted from increased noise and human activity on portions of the trail for approximately 1-2 weeks during construction activities. During construction, workers would be working on ½ to two miles of trail at any one time. Construction in these areas is expected to last no more than ½ to 1 day. The workers would then move on to the next ½ to two miles of trail segment until the trail is complete. This 1-2 week disruption to wildlife would be more intense and for a greater period of time (½ to 1 day versus 1-5 minutes of disruption in any one area) than the general use of the trail is expected to create.

The proposed trail is located within the north Highway 93 Wildlife Movement Corridor (Kingman Resource Management Plan, 1996) which links the Cerbat and Hualapai Mountains. Disturbance to wildlife from construction activities would take place daily over a longer period of time (1-2 weeks) in different areas along the proposed trail than general use of the trail would. The construction activities could temporarily displace wildlife from utilizing the wildlife corridor, but as these activities would not be continuous, wildlife could return to normal use of the corridor after the construction activities had concluded.

In the future, general use of the proposed trail from hikers, mountain bikers, or equestrian users would be intermittent with the heaviest use occurring during the weekends. During the week it is expected that use would be light with approximately 15-30 users hiking, biking, or riding the 9.5 mile trail. During the weekends (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) use at its' busiest is expected to increase to 75-100 users. Wildlife could temporarily be displaced from the trail and portions of the wildlife corridor, but these activities are of a short duration typically 1-5 minutes* on any 600 foot length of trail. Wildlife could return to normal activities once recreationists have passed through the trail and corridor.

**1-5 minutes are the time expected for one-5 users to pass through a 600 foot section of trail.*

Migratory Birds: Various types of migratory birds exist within the project area. As trail construction or future maintenance activities take place migratory birds along the proposed race route could be temporarily disrupted from their nests. During construction activities, birds may fly out of their nests for a period of a few minutes or for up to 1 to 2 hours. They are expected to quickly return to their nests once the construction or maintenance activities have concluded. Should the workers cause extended flushing of adults from nests harassment or harm could occur to eggs (from chilling) or nestlings (flushing of nestlings from the nest, chilling, overheating, or lack of feeding by adults). This would be avoided by the establishment of a temporary "no construction" buffer around the active nest. Once the young have fledged that unconstructed portion of the trail would be completed.

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During general use of the trail by hikers, bikers and equestrian users, disruption of migratory birds is expected to be of very short duration (typically 1-5 minutes* on any 600 foot length of trail). This disturbance would not result in harassment or harm to migratory birds.

No Action Alternative

Present and/or Potentially Affected:

Socioeconomics: Under the No Action Alternative, a new trail would not be constructed. There would be no enhancement to the connectivity between trails within CFRA. As a result, the recreating public or special event applicants would not have as many opportunities for recreation within the area. Furthermore, it is unlikely that larger events would take place on the trail system which could adversely affect the local economy as competitive and commercial activities typically draw in recreationists from outside of the community whom in turn spend money in the area positively affecting local commerce.

Vegetation: There would be no impact to vegetation under the No Action Alternative.

Migratory Birds: There would be no impacts to migratory birds associated with the No Action Alternative.

Wildlife and Candidate, Proposed Species: There would be no impact to wildlife under the No Action Alternative.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

There is potential that this trail could be used for special events such as commercial, competitive, or organized community events. It is anticipated that events may occur up to three times per year. The events are typically one day in duration and could have up to 100 participants. These events would be subject to separate NEPA analysis. Migratory birds, wildlife and desert tortoise could be affected by the increased human activity but impacts would be of short duration as nests would be avoided during trail use and maintenance activities and active nests would be monitored by BLM staff to avoid nesting areas and impacts to active nests.

There would be no cumulative impacts to:

-Cultural and historic resources as long as trail alignments follow the approved corridor and adhere to measures incorporated into this EA dealing with cultural and historic resources.

-Socioeconomics as long as all existing trails and the proposed trail remain open to the public for general recreation at no additional charge. In addition, the use of the proposed trail would be open to use for special events on a case-by-case basis that would be evaluated through the NEPA process.

-Visual resources as long as the proposed trail is constructed within the establish corridor as determined by BLM specialists. In addition, all of BLM standard trail construction techniques would be followed to ensure visual resource management objectives are fulfilled.

DESCRIPTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

Trail maintenance measures would be taken throughout the life of the trail to reduce the potential for soil erosion. The trail would be clearly marked and maintained to keep users on the designated trail.

Mitigation Measures:

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1. BLM staff would monitor all trail alignment and construction activities to ensure consistency with the trail alignment analyzed in this environmental analysis.
2. All volunteers and trail crews would be briefed on the replacement/avoidance of sensitive plant species prior to trail construction, particularly *sophora arizonica*. See attachment 2 for a photo of this plant.
3. Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoise would be handed out and explained to all workers prior to trail construction activities.
4. Any active nests with eggs or nestlings would be monitored by the BLM. A safe working distance from the nest would be established by the BLM to avoid harassment or harm of the nesting birds.

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Bureau of Land Management

Tim Watkins, Archaeologist

Rebecca Peck, Biologist

Maria Troche, Land Law Examiner

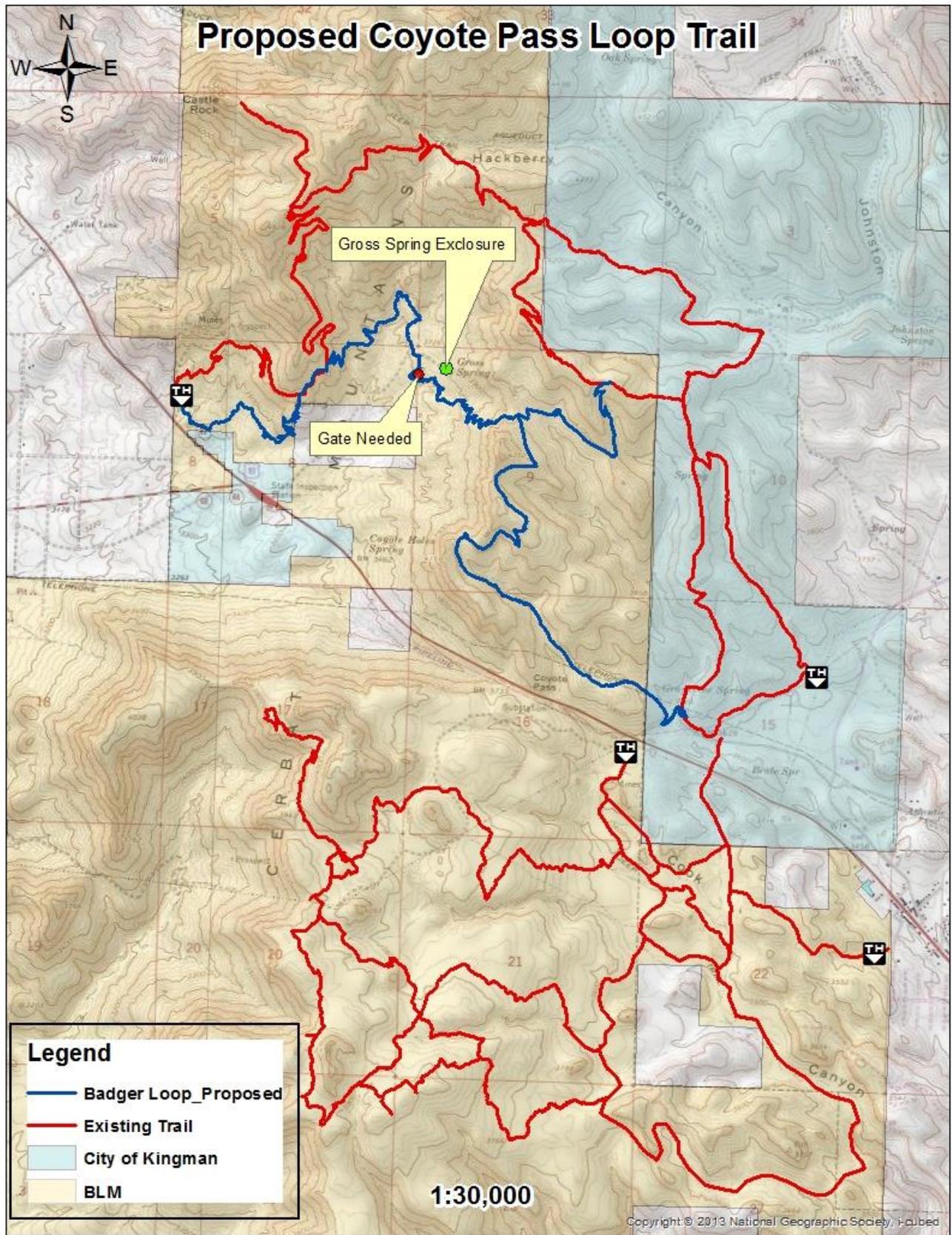
City of Kingman

Rob Owens, Public Works Director

Preparer(s): Matthew Driscoll

Environmental Coordinator: Daryl Edwards

Attachment 1:



Attachment 2:

Sophora arizonica photos



Sophora arizonica in bloom



Sophora arizonica shown from a distance (rounded shrubs)



Sophora arizonica leaves in detail



Sophora arizonica bark of major branches

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE
Badger Extension Construction and Maintenance
NEPA# DOI- BLM-AZ-C010-2015-0005-EA

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The potential impacts that have been identified are localized and are of relatively short duration. No off-site, indirect or cumulative impacts were identified. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

/s/ Ruben A. Sanchez
Ruben Sanchez
Field Manager
Kingman Field Office

2-13-14
Date

/s/ Rob Owens
Rob Owens
Public Works Director
City of Kingman

2-12-15
Date

DECISION RECORD
KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE
Badger Extension Construction and Maintenance
NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2015-0005-EA

It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in Environmental Assessment **DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2015-0005-EA**. This decision will result in the construction and maintenance of one non-motorized trail. Monitoring of this work will be performed by the recreation staff of the Kingman Field Office.

Rationale:

My decision to approve the Proposed Action analyzed in **DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2015-0005-EA** is based on the following:

The Proposed Action has been analyzed, with no significant impacts anticipated, as stated in the FONSI signed on February 13, 2015, thus an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The environmental assessment adequately covers all affected resource values.

Implementation of the proposed action provides trail users with a safe, well defined trail that will limit soil erosion and provide for a variety of recreational pursuits including hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use.

The decision to allow the Proposed Action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation, and is in conformance with the *Kingman Resource Management Plan* and the *Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area Management Plan*.

Alternatives Considered:

Proposed Action: Construct and maintain an approximately nine and a half mile connector trail within the Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area (CFRA). The trail would begin at Camp Beale Loop trailhead on City of Kingman land in section 15 and connect to the Badger trailhead on BLM-managed lands in section 8. From section 15, the trail would head west towards an existing route in section 15. The trail would follow the existing route for approximately two-tenths of a mile until reaching an adequate point to follow topographic contour lines through sections 15, 16, and 9. In section 16, the trail would follow an existing illegally constructed single-track for approximately three-tenths of a mile. In section 9, the trail would deviate from contour lines southeast of Gross Spring, where a series of switchbacks would be constructed to reach the 3,900 foot contour line in the valley below. The trail would be routed in such a way to avoid Gross Spring to the south and west. Continuing through section 9 and 5, the trail would follow contour lines until reaching the existing Badger trailhead. An additional connector would be constructed and maintained in the northeast part of section 9. The additional trail segment totaling 1.17 miles would further the recreational opportunities by creating more loops within the CFRA (see attached map for specific trail locations).

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spread discretely to avoid piling of plant, sand, and rock. Cacti would be avoided during trail construction, unless conditions warrant removing cacti to build trail. All viable cacti, yucca, and ocotillo would be replanted. Trail construction would be limited to pre-mapped route to avoid any nearby cultural sites. *Sophora arizonica*, a rare plant species found in the area, would be avoided under BLM staff guidance. Pictures of the species would be handed out to volunteers and trail crews prior to construction activities to ensure avoidance (see attachment 2). In addition, BLM staff would be on-site guiding trail construction to avoid sensitive cultural areas.

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The “**No Action**” alternative was considered for this project. Under the “No Action” alternative, the proposed construction and maintenance would not occur.

Appeals:

In accordance with Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2931.8(a) and (b), if you are adversely affected by this decision, you may appeal the decision under Title 43 CFR, Part 4 and Part 1840. This decision will go into effect immediately and will remain in effect while appeals are pending unless a stay is granted under 43 CFR 4.21(b).

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

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- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Approved By:

/s/ Ruben A. Sanchez
Ruben Sanchez
Field Manager
Kingman Field Office

2-13-15
Date

/s/ Rob Owens
Rob Owens
Public Works Director
City of Kingman

2-12-15
Date