

WORKSHEET

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



Bureau of Land Management
Safford Field Office
Safford, AZ

A. Identifying Information

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2016-0012-DNA

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AZA-036497

Project Title/Type: Sierra Club Special Recreation Permit (SRP)

Location of Proposed Action:

Redfield Canyon Wilderness and surrounding areas, Cochise County. T11S S27 R20E, UTM 12S 560745 3589287

Description of the Proposed Action and Any Applicable Mitigation Measures:

David Perry on behalf of the Sierra Club is applying for a 5-year permit to conduct backpacking trips within the Redfield Canyon Wilderness and surrounding areas.

Mitigation Measures to reduce impacts to listed species and their habitats include:

- 1) Avoid hiking through Redfield Canyon stream when possible.
- 2) Cross stream at low water crossings.
- 3) No bathing, washing or swimming in fish pool habitats.

Applicant: David Perry

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

LUP Name* Safford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and EIS Date Approved: Partial ROD I: Sept, 1992, Partial ROD II: July 1994.

LUP Name* Muleshoe Ecosystem Management Plan (MEMP), Environmental Assessment (EA), and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Date Approved: May 1998

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 LUP(s) because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

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

Safford District RMP

RR07 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. Partial ROD I page 7.

MEMP EA –AZ-060-98-004

F. Social Environment Objective 6: Maintain or improve the current range of open space recreation opportunity settings (rural, semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized and primitive) that provide existing recreational activities in the Muleshoe Ecosystem. (p. 74)

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 Number AZ-931-93-001.

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).

N/A

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

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

x Yes ___ No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The proposed actions (hiking and backpacking) are in conformance with the Safford District RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the MEMP EA –AZ-060-98-004. Additionally, the existing Special Recreation Permit for Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Lands in Arizona EA (AZ-931-93-001) analyzes both day and overnight trips for commercial recreation operators who propose activities (hiking and backpacking) that comply with the standard stipulations shown in Attachment A of the EA.

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?

x Yes ___ No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The Special Recreation Permits for Commercial Recreation Activities EA (AZ-931-93-001) analyzed the impacts of a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, backpacking, trail riding and birdwatching. From the analysis, the EA developed Attachment A - Arizona BLM Stipulations for Commercial Special Recreation Permits to help protect the lands or resources involved, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and safety hazards. Resources that were analyzed were: Cultural Resources, Wildlife, Threatened or Endangered Species, Wild Horses and Burros, Wilderness, Recreation, Soils, Water and Riparian Areas, and Vegetation. Sierra Club's

proposed activities (hiking and backpacking) and associated impacts would be the same as those addressed in the Special Recreation Permits EA (AZ-931-93-001).

The MEMP EA (DOI-BLM-AZ-060-98-004) specifically addressed activities and impacts associated with recreational use within the Muleshoe Ecosystem Management Area, including Redfield Canyon Wilderness where the Sierra Club proposes recreating. The following resources were analyzed in the MEMP EA: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Cultural Resources, Floodplains, Threatened or Endangered Species, Water Quality, Wetlands or Riparian Zones, Plants Identified as Traditionally Useful by Native Americans, Wilderness, and Recreation. The proposed activities from the Sierra Club are the same as the activities analyzed in MEMP EA (DOI-BLM-AZ-060-98-004) and would not create any new resource issues or concerns that were not analyzed previously.

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 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 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Resource - Listed Species. As per the February 1, 2016 memorandum from BLM Fisheries Biologist Heidi Blasius, Sierra Club's proposed actions of hiking and backpacking in Redfield Canyon may affect recently listed fish species and their critical habitat and BLM Special Status Fish species and their habitat. Redfield Canyon supports federally endangered Gila chub and its designated critical habitat, federally endangered Gila topminnow and four BLM Sensitive fish species, Longfin dace, Speckled dace, Sonora Sucker, and Desert sucker. Effects to individuals are expected although most adult fish will likely avoid the disturbances from hiking and backpacking. Some eggs and larvae may also be affected. Effects to habitat will likely be temporary or limited to specific areas. The vast majority of the creek where the fish could occur should continue to provide the necessary characteristics to maintain the populations.

Stipulations. To reduce or eliminate the impacts to listed species and their critical habitat and BLM Special Status fish species and their habitat, the applicant will be notified to avoid hiking through the stream when possible, to cross the stream at low water crossings, if stream crossing is necessary, and to not bathe and avoid swimming in pool habitats.

Effect. With the previous stipulations added, the proposed activities (hiking and backpacking) would not have a significant impact on the recently listed species and habitats.

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 No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed activities (hiking and backpacking) are the same as

those impacts already identified and analyzed in both the MEMP EA (DOI-BLM-AZ-060-98-004) and the SRP EA (AZ-931-93-001). The impacts of these proposed activities (hiking and backpacking) would be mitigated by the Commercial SRP Stipulations for Safford Field Office and the stipulations noted in section D(3) of this document. The resulting impacts will be less than significant as determined in the EAs and their associated Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI)s).

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

Yes No

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The MEMP EA (DOI-BLM-AZ-060-98-004) and the SRP EA (AZ-931-93-001) included substantial public/interagency comment and review. The EAs addressed public comments/issues. Public comments/responses are documented in both EAs.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Resource
Todd Murdock	BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness
Amelia Underwood	BLM Assistant Field Manager (Renewables)	Air Quality, Climate Change, Flood Plains, Water Quality, Water Rights, Wetland Riparian
Dan Mcgrew	BLM Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Relations
Jason Martin	BLM Range Management Specialist	Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics, Nonnative/invasive Plants, Prime/Unique Farmlands, Range, Soils
RJ Estes	BLM Range Management Specialist	Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste
Roberta Lopez	BLM Realty Specialist	Lands/Realty
Sharisse Fisher	BLM GIS Specialist	NEPA Maps
Mark Mccabe	BLM Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species (TES) - Animal, Plant, and Wildlife
Heidi Blasius	BLM Fisheries Biologist	TES Fish/Fisheries

Note: Refer to the AZ-931-93-001 EA and AZ-060-98-004 EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analyses 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 in Section D above are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked.

Todd Murdock
Project Lead

Amy Conners
NEPA Coordinator

Scott C. Cooke
Scott C. Cooke, Field Manager

4/4/16
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 pursuant to 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(s) and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with any mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation measures or other remarks:

The following stipulations will be incorporated into the Sierra Club SRP:

- 1) BLM Safford Field Office Commercial SRP stipulations (attached)
- 2) Stipulations from the 1993 SRP EA Attachment A - Arizona BLM Stipulations for Commercial Special Recreation Permits (attached).
- 3) Avoid hiking through Redfield Canyon stream when possible.
- 4) Cross stream at low water crossings.
- 5) No bathing, washing or swimming in fish pool habitats.



Scott C. Cooke, Field Manager

4/4/14

Date

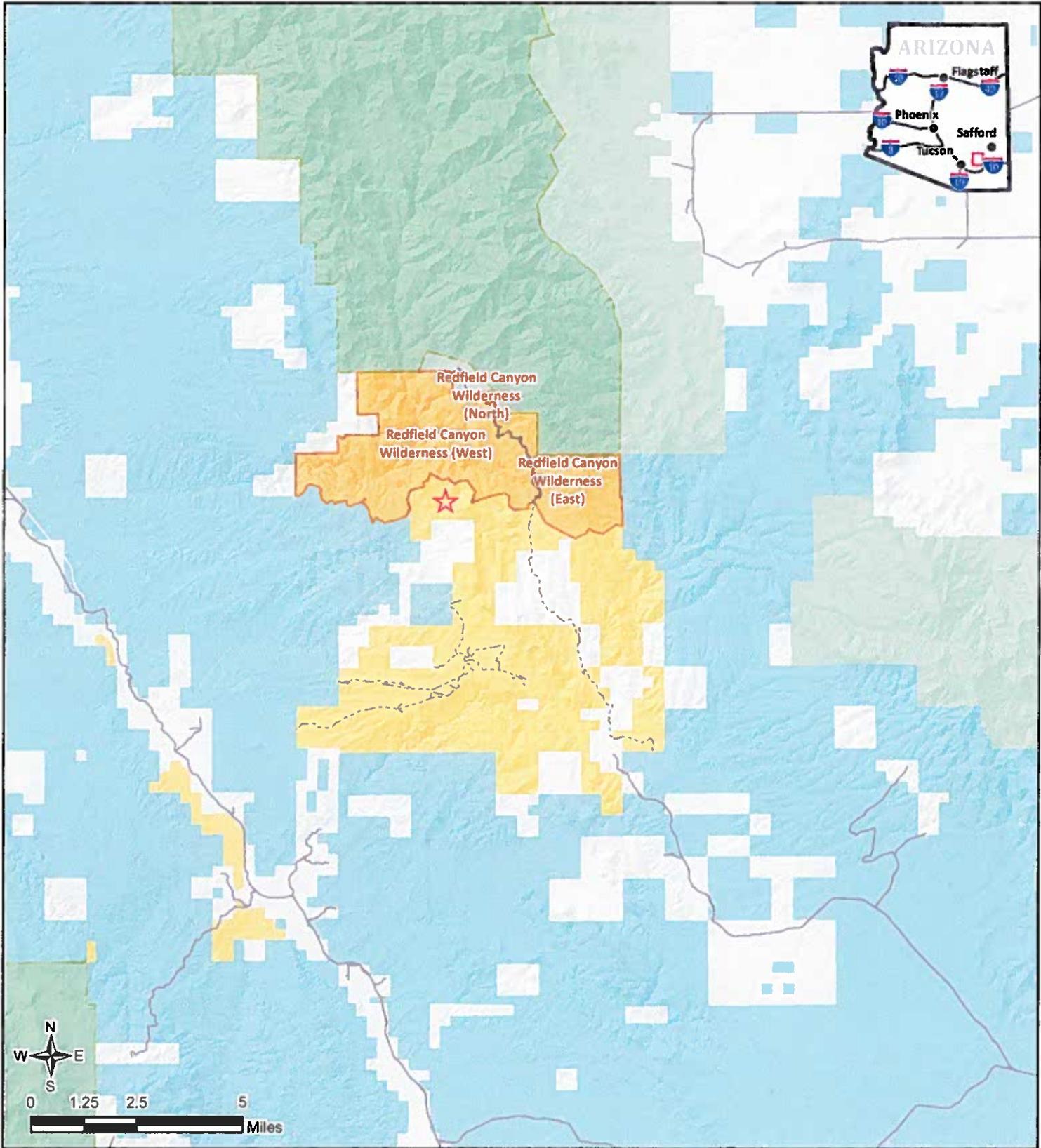


Figure 1. Project Location Map

Sierra Club SRP

DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2016-0012-DNA

- BLM Wilderness Area
- BLM
- Indian Lands
- State
- Private
- USFS
- USFWS
- Primary Road Paved
- Proposed use locations

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.

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



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Memorandum

To: Todd Murdock, Outdoor Recreation Planner
From: Heidi Blasius, Fisheries Biologist
Subject: Sierra Club Special Recreation Permit (SRP) Application
Date: February 01, 2016

The proposed actions of hiking and backpacking in Redfield Canyon may affect listed fish species and their critical habitat and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Special Status Fish species and their habitat. Redfield Canyon supports federally endangered Gila chub (*Gila intermedia*) and its designated critical habitat, federally endangered Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis occidentalis*), and four BLM Sensitive fish species, Longfin dace (*Agosia chrysogaster*), Speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*), Sonora sucker (*Catostomus insignis*), and Desert sucker (*Pantosteus clarkii*). Effects to individuals are expected although most adult fish will likely avoid the disturbances from hiking/backpacking. Some eggs and larvae may also be affected. Effects to habitat will likely be temporary or limited to specific areas. The vast majority of the creek where the fish could occur should continue to provide the necessary characteristics to maintain the populations.

To reduce or eliminate impacts to listed species and their critical habitat and BLM Special Status fish species and their habitat, the applicant will be notified to avoid hiking through the stream when possible, to cross the stream at low water crossings, if stream crossing is necessary, and to not bathe, wash-up, or swim in pool habitats.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Heidi Blasius, Fisheries Biologist
Bureau of Land Management, Safford Field Office
711 South 14th Avenue
Safford, Arizona 85546