



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**



Phoenix Field Office

July 2005

**Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North
Management Framework Plan and the Lower
Gila South Resource Management Plan and
Decision Record**



Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management
Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan
and
Decision Record

Prepared by

U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Phoenix Field Office
Arizona

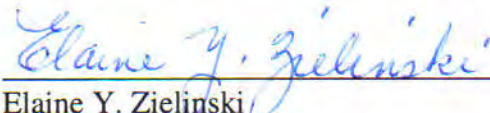
July 15, 2005

It is my recommendation that the Arizona State Director approve the Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan, as per the descriptions of decisions approved and deferred as specified in the attached document.



Teresa A. Raml
Field Manager, Phoenix Field Office

I have reviewed the final decisions in the Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan and have chosen to approve some decisions and not approve other decisions as specified in the attached document.



Elaine Y. Zielinski
State Director, Arizona

This document integrates the Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan with the Decision Record.

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Summary

The *Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan and Decision Record* (“amendment”) establishes management direction pertaining to land tenure adjustments, desert tortoise habitat management, desert bighorn sheep re-establishment and augmentation, recreation management, and oil and gas development on BLM-administered public lands in Arizona. Decisions pertaining to wild horse and burro management were deferred to subsequent planning. The amendment specifies which decisions in the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (MFP) and/or Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (RMP) are modified or replaced; planning decisions for other resources, or for resources outside of the planning area, are not affected by the amendment. In summary, the amendment:

- Reduces public land acreage available for disposal from approximately 62,260 acres to approximately 33,459 acres; establishes guidelines for acquiring lands with high resource values within four management areas; provides for land exchanges to reposition lands within all of the management areas; and establishes the framework for disposal of federal minerals under non-federal surface estate, and the acquisition of non-federal mineral estate under federal surface estate.
- Updates and standardizes desert tortoise habitat management by incorporating the goals and objectives in *Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands: A Range-wide Plan* (BLM, 1988) and *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona* (BLM, 1990). Certain grazing decisions related to desert tortoise habitat management were retained and will be reconsidered in the next planning effort.
- Provides for desert bighorn sheep re-establishment and augmentation, in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, on a case-by-case basis in areas where conflicts with other uses and resources do not occur, or where conflicts can be resolved.
- Provides for resource-based recreation opportunities ranging from recreation site facilities, such as campgrounds, to remote primitive areas with predominantly unconfined recreation opportunities and minimal regulations; supplements and updates off-highway and special recreation vehicle designations and management; designates special recreation management areas; establishes visual resource management classes; establishes recreation opportunity spectrum management classes; establishes a strategy to develop, manage, and maintain camping facilities and stay limits; and establishes guidance to address special uses and scarce opportunities.
- Adds an oil and gas development decision to provide for orderly exploration and development of oil and gas leases and identifies the 375,000 acres of congressionally designated wilderness as closed to oil and gas leasing.
- Defers proposed decisions concerning wild horse and burro management and off-highway-vehicle route designations in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to subsequent planning.
- A summary of land use decisions in effect that result from this amendment and unchanged decisions of the MFP and RMP is provided in appendix 1.

Introduction

Background and Purpose

The process to amend the *Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan* (MFP) and *Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* (RMP) was begun by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Lower Gila Resource Area in 1994 to: 1) expand the resource area's recreation management capabilities and improve resource protection, and 2) implement, through the land use plan, internal directives and policy changes (BLM, 2000). Heavy long-term visitor use through the winter months and growth of Phoenix and surrounding communities were determined to require development of camping facilities and stay limits, designation of off-highway vehicle limits in non-designated areas, identification of special recreation management areas, and provisions for special uses. Additionally, national BLM directives and policy changes with respect to wild horse and burro management, wildlife management, and oil and gas development also required amendment of the MFP and RMP to keep those land use plans current and in conformance with national priorities. During February 2000, the BLM Phoenix Field Office released the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* (BLM, 2000). Two protests were received, as discussed below. This document, the *Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and Lower Gila South Resource Management Framework Plan and Decision Record* ("amendment") represents the culmination of this resource management planning amendment process.

This amendment modifies, supplements, or replaces decisions in the MFP and RMP pertaining to Lands/Realty, Wildlife/Fisheries, Recreation Management, and Minerals (Oil and Natural Gas). Proposed decisions in the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework*

Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan pertaining to Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro management are deferred to subsequent planning, as discussed below. Management actions taken within the area affected by this amendment must comply with this amendment and the appropriate MFP or RMP. This approved amendment and decision record were prepared according to the requirements of the "Federal Land Policy and Management Act" (Public Law 94-579), the "National Environmental Policy Act" (Public Law 91-190), and amendments thereto. The environmental impacts of this amendment were analyzed in Environmental Assessment No. AZ-026-95-08 (BLM, 2000).

Planning Area

The planning area comprises the combined MFP and RMP planning areas (map 1), together with two adjacent areas of public land described below, and encompasses approximately two million acres of public lands in Maricopa, Yavapai, Pima, Pinal, La Paz, and Yuma counties. An additional 1.1 million acres on the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range was initially included in the planning area; however, as described below, recent legislative action has removed this area from the jurisdiction of the BLM.

The communities of Buckeye, Wickenburg, Gila Bend, and Ajo form the population centers within the planning area. Metropolitan Phoenix and the surrounding communities are just east of the eastern boundary of the planning area.

Major Land Management Changes

Two major changes relating to the planning area have occurred subsequent to release of the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan*. These changes impacted

several of the proposed decisions of that document and are reflected in this amendment.

On October 5, 1999, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000” became law (Public Law 106-65). This statute withdrew the Barry M. Goldwater Range from all forms of appropriation under the general land laws and conveyed responsibility for management of the natural and cultural resources of the range to the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force. Prior to passage of this statute, jurisdiction for management of the natural and cultural resources of the range rested with the BLM through the Secretary of the Interior (land use planning decisions for the range were made by the “Goldwater Amendment” to the RMP; BLM, 1990). In addition, four tracts of land identified by the U.S. Air Force as unnecessary for the military purposes of the range were relinquished to the public domain (map 2). Decisions of this amendment proposed and analyzed in the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* apply to the four tracts relinquished to BLM jurisdiction, but do not apply to the Barry M. Goldwater Range proper.

On January 17, 2001 President William J. Clinton established the Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM) by Executive Order 7397 under authority of the Antiquities Act (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431). The largest of the relinquished tracts of the Barry M. Goldwater Range discussed above, an 83,554-acre parcel commonly known as “Area A,” was included as part of the SDNM (map 2). In addition to conformance with this amendment and the RMP, management actions taken within the SDNM must comply with the provisions of Executive Order 7397, as well as with interim monument management policies promulgated by the BLM.

Administrative Boundary Changes

In 1991 and 1997, boundaries of the BLM’s Phoenix, Safford and Yuma District Offices were administratively changed to promote more




efficient resource management. District and Resource Area offices were re-combined into seven field offices, and several areas previously administered by the Lower Gila Resource Area of the Phoenix District [which, together with the Phoenix Resource Area, became the Phoenix Field Office] were transferred to the Kingman, Lake Havasu, and Yuma field offices (map 2). Responsibility for implementation of land use decisions in the existing plans and this amendment also transferred to these field offices.

A portion of the former Phoenix Resource Area included in the MFP and generally described on page 3 of the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* has been properly depicted within the planning area of this amendment (maps 1 and 2, “Weaver Mountains Area”). Due to an administrative oversight, this area was not depicted in earlier planning maps of the amendment. Off-highway vehicle designations and visual resource management decisions of this amendment apply to this area.









Additionally, two areas of public land outside of the MFP and RMP planning areas are included in this amendment. The “Muggins Mountains Area” (map 2) was included in the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* to provide off-highway vehicle and oil and gas decisions to an area of public land that was not included in the Yuma Resource Management Plan. Although the “Palo Verde Mountains—Santa Rosa Wash Area” (map 2) was within the former Lower Gila Resource Area, planning decisions of the *Phoenix Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. (BLM, 1989) applied to this area—this area was not included in the RMP. As a part of the former Lower Gila Resource Area, public lands of the Palo Verde Mountains—Santa Rosa Wash Area were included within the “Gila Bend Management Area” discussed below. Thus, the decisions of



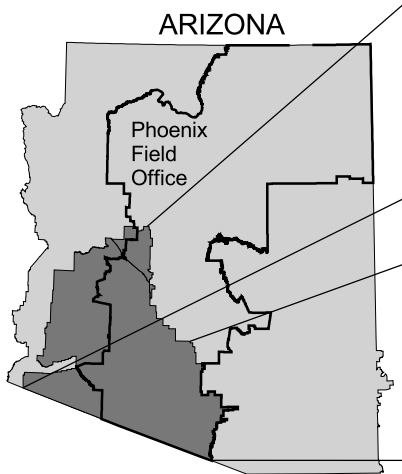
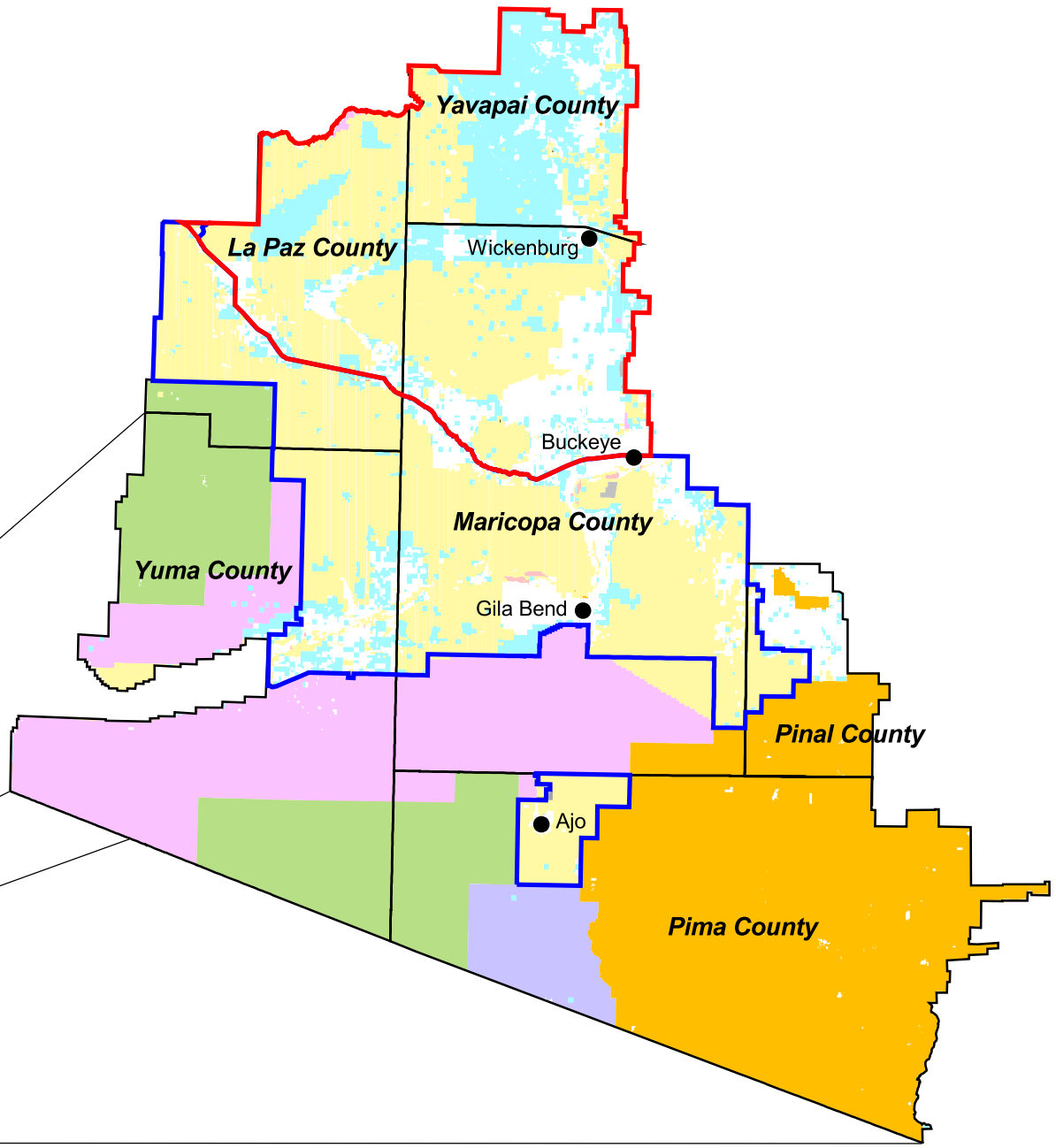
Map 1. Amendment Planning Area

Legend

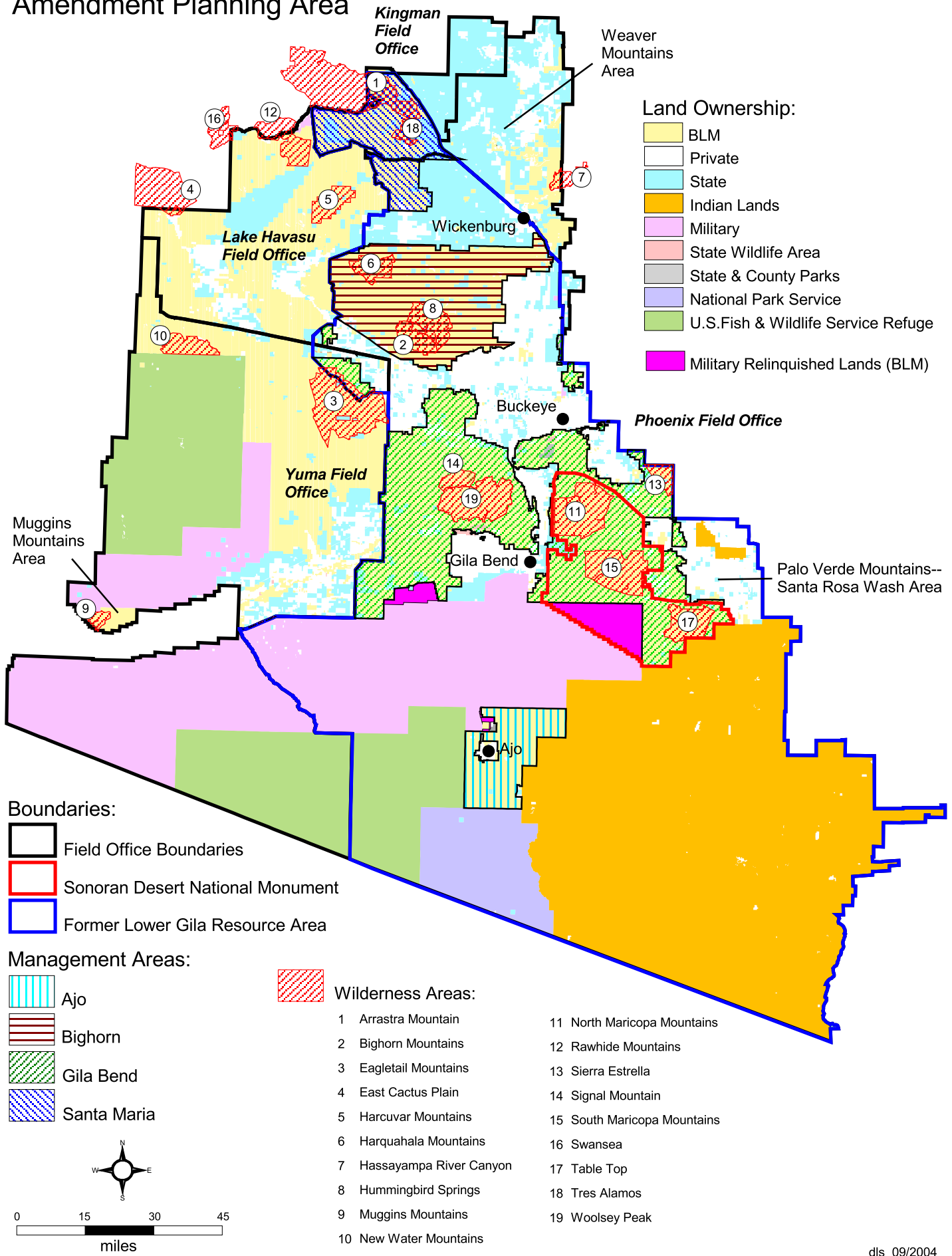
-  Lower Gila North MFP Planning Boundary
-  Lower Gila South RMP Planning Boundary
-  BLM Managed Lands

Other Land Ownership:

-  Private
-  State
-  Indian Lands
-  Military
-  State Wildlife Area
-  State & County Parks
-  National Park Service
-  U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Refuge

Map 2. Administrative Boundaries of the Amendment Planning Area



this amendment properly apply to this area as well.

Finally, decisions of this amendment pertaining to desert tortoise habitat categorizations, off-highway and special recreation vehicle designations, and oil and gas development apply to other public lands outside of the former Lower Gila Resource Area but within the MFP and RMP planning boundaries.

Public lands of the Three Rivers Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) that formerly were a part of the Lower Gila Resource Area are now administered by the Kingman Field Office. The Kingman Resource Management Plan (BLM, 1995) established goals, objectives, and management prescriptions for the ACEC. The decisions of the Kingman Resource Management Plan are not altered by this amendment

Management Areas

BLM staff of the former Lower Gila Resource Area identified four areas of well-blocked public lands in the Lower Gila North and South planning areas, each having unique resource issues and opportunities. Named for unique features or local population centers, these are the “Santa Maria,” “Big Horn,” “Gila Bend,” and “Ajo” management areas. A fifth management area, the “Goldwater Range,” was identified; however, due to the reasons discussed above, was excluded from this amendment. The isolated public lands interspersed with private or state lands outside of the four management areas form the “remaining lands” (Map 2).

Issues

Six planning issues were identified and resolved by this amendment:

1) Should public lands identified for disposal by existing planning be retained if found to contain key resource components such as desert tortoise habitat, wildlife corridors, riparian habitat, and cultural resources?

2) What quantity and quality of desert tortoise habitat currently exists, and do these areas require special management provisions for protection?

3) What is the objective of the desert bighorn sheep augmentation and reestablishment program and where does the Arizona Game and Fish Department anticipate augmentation or reestablishment activities to take place over the next 10 years?

4) What areas currently have zero population prescriptions or herd numbers set without benefit of habitat monitoring data for wild horse and burros, and will revised management prescriptions restrict or modify certain uses of public lands?

5) Pertaining to recreation management, what off-highway-vehicle designations, special recreation area designations, recreational settings, developed recreation facilities, and related management prescriptions are needed to provide for both recreation demand and resource protection?

6) What level of oil and gas development is anticipated over the next 10 years?

Release of Draft and Final Amendments

The *Draft Lower Gila Resource Area Amendment/Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* was released for public comment on November 14, 1994. The *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* was released for a 30-day period of review per 43 CFR 1610.5-2 on February 28, 2000.

Governor’s Consistency Review

As per regulations at 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e), the Governor of Arizona was provided a 60-day period of review to identify inconsistencies between the provisions of this amendment and

state and local plans, policies, or programs. No inconsistencies were identified.

Section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The BLM complied with the “Endangered Species Act” (Public Law 93-205, as amended) through formal and informal Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (BLM, 2000). Additionally, the BLM will assess any future site-specific proposed actions that result from or tier from this plan amendment. The assessment will determine whether the actions may affect any species listed or proposed for listing, or any designated or proposed critical habitat. If such species or habitat would be affected by the action, the BLM will enter into consultation or conference with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Native American Consultation

Native American communities were consulted during development of the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan*, and will be specifically consulted during plan implementation to identify resource concerns (such as access to native plants for traditional uses), sites of traditional cultural or religious importance, or other sensitive areas. Specific consultation will occur as appropriate for compliance with the “National Historic Preservation Act” (Public Law 89-665), the “Archaeological Resources Protection Act” (Public Law 96-95), the “Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act” (Public Law 101-601), and amendments thereto. BLM Manual 8160, “Native American Coordination and Consultation,” will be used for guidance on consultation.

Protests and Resolutions

The BLM resource management planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2 provide for an administrative review of proposed planning decisions by “any person who participated in the

planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval or amendment of a resource management plan.” Two such protests of the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* were received.

By mutual agreement of the BLM and both protesting parties, these protests were settled by the following changes and clarifications to proposed decisions of the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* and are incorporated in the decisions of this amendment:

- 1) This amendment defers to subsequent resource management planning all decisions relating to the management of wild horses and burros that were proposed in the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan*.
- 2) This section clarifies that the proposed decision to formally adopt desert tortoise habitat management guidance contained in *Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands: A Rangeland Plan* (BLM, 1988), and *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona* (BLM, 1990) does not delete or supercede decision WL-5.1 of the MFP (pertaining to seasonal resting of livestock grazing pastures in crucial desert tortoise habitat).
- 3) A proposed decision to designate the Vekol Valley Grassland and Coffeepot Botanical Area areas of critical environmental concern as “limited to designated routes only” for off-highway and special recreation vehicles was deferred to subsequent planning. An existing decision of the RMP, to “close the Vekol Valley Grassland and Coffeepot Botanical areas of critical environmental concern to off-highway vehicle use,” remains in effect.

4) This section clarifies that wildlife habitat-related decisions of the MFP (WL-2.2, WL-2.5, WL-3.1, WL-3.3, WL-6.3, and WL-7.1), a decision of the MFP relating to protection of the Harquahala Mountains Significant Botanical Area (W-4.13), and a decision of the MFP relating to roads in the Saddle Mountain area (R-4.1) remain unchanged by this amendment.

5) The table in Appendix 1 of this amendment lists the existing decisions of the MFP and RMP, clarifies the effect of this amendment on those decisions, and provides a comprehensive summary of land use decisions in effect that result from this amendment and unchanged decisions of the MFP and RMP.

Document Format

This document has been reformatted from the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* so that each decision in the amendment may be numbered using BLM's standard land use plan numbering convention (appendix 2). This renumbering and categorization is for tracking purposes only and has not changed the content of any decision, nor does it imply any priority in management action. Typographic errors, misquotations, grammatical errors, and similar editorial corrections have been made.

Approved Decisions

Land Tenure Adjustments (Lands/Realty)

Decisions of this amendment pertaining to land tenure adjustments apply within the boundary of the former Lower Gila Resource Area (map 3). Except as noted below, public land outside of the management areas are eligible for disposal, and lands inside the management areas are eligible for acquisition from willing sellers. For decisions pertaining to land tenure adjustments outside of the former Lower Gila Resource Area boundary please refer to the appropriate land use plan.

Disposals

All public lands identified for disposal (map 3, appendix 3) meet two of the three criteria identified in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act for sale; however, Arizona BLM preferred methods of disposal are by exchange or through lease or conveyance to local governments or nonprofit organizations under provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (43 U.S.C. 869, et.seq.). All exchanges and sales will be based on fair market value as determined by procedures consistent with 43 CFR 2200 and 2700. All exchanges are voluntary transactions between the BLM and the nonfederal party, and are discretionary. As part of any sale or exchange, a Department of Interior appraiser, or an approved contract appraiser, will appraise the lands, and interests in the lands, to be disposed or acquired. Lands comprising designated wilderness and the SDNM are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public lands laws and are not available for disposal.

LR-1. Approximately 33,459 acres of public lands within the planning area have been identified for disposal (map 3). Appendix 3 is a non-inclusive listing of federal lands within the disposal areas (some very small parcels of land were not listed). Most of these lands are isolated parcels outside the boundaries of the

management areas. Some of these parcels are well suited for agriculture, community expansion, or management by private or state entities. A few parcels within the management areas are being disposed-of to resolve occupancy and trespass issues.

LR-2. Public lands in the Gila Bend Management Area adjacent to the White Tanks County Regional Park described as T. 2 N., R. 3 W., secs. 4, 5, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17 through 22, 26 through 29, and 33 through 35; T. 2 N., R. 4 W., sec. 1; and T. 3 N., R. 4 W., secs. 1, 11 through 14, 24, 25, and 36 will be retained in federal ownership and will only be available for disposal to local or state governmental entities for recreation/park purposes.

LR-3. The BLM will continue to dispose of federal subsurface estate under non-federal surface estate on a case-by-case basis.




LR-4. Exchanges to re-position lands within all the management areas may occur if it has been determined that it would be in the public interest. All disposals meet the criteria for sales and exchanges set forth in sections 203 and 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act as amended by the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act.

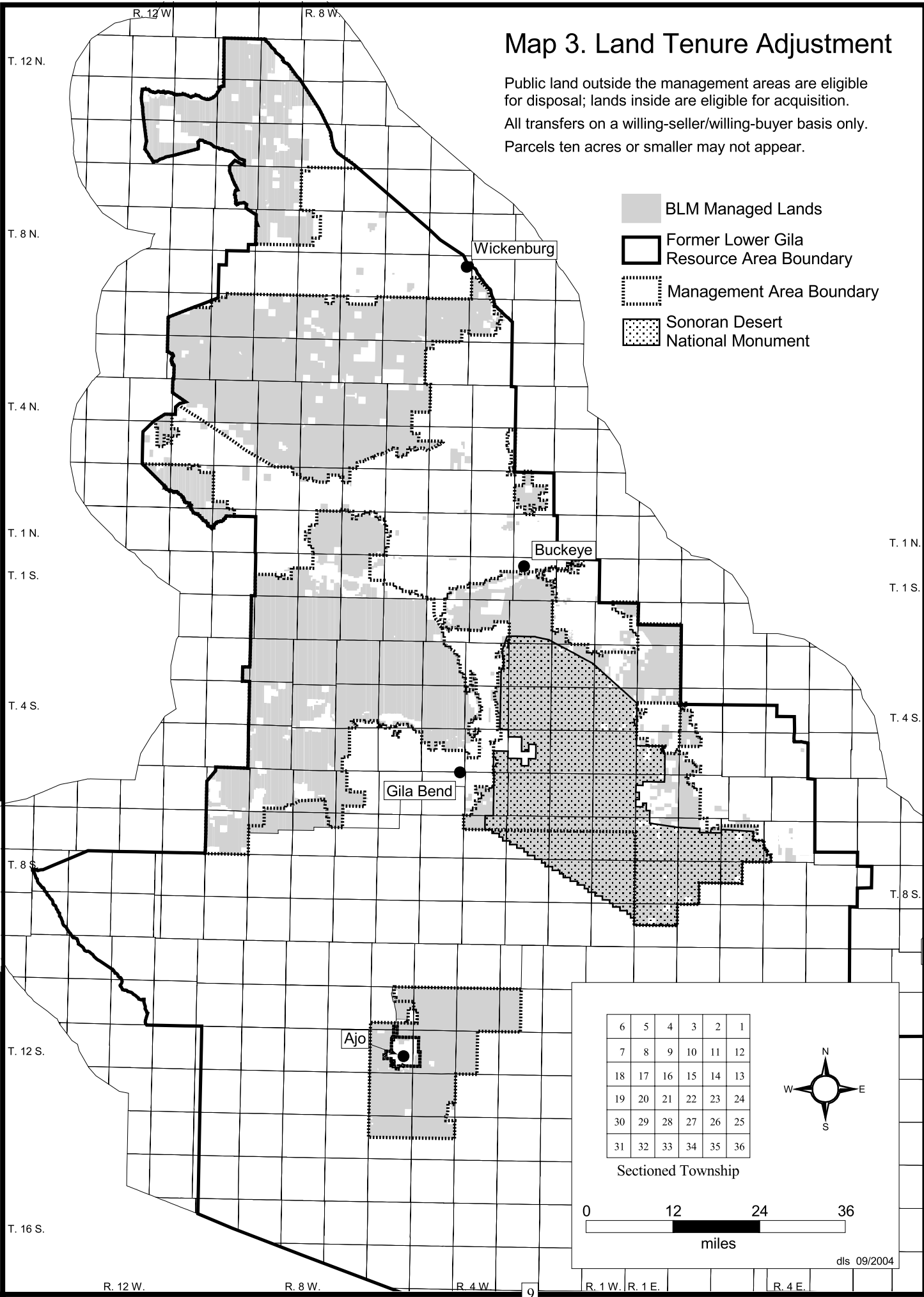
LR-5. Lands identified for disposal may be retained if significant resource values are found during evaluation. The policy is not to dispose of lands occupied by proposed or listed threatened or endangered species. If other public uses outweigh the value of a parcel as federal-owned threatened or endangered species habitat, disposal could be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species would be affected by a land disposal action, consultation or conferencing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be required. Exchange for other parcels of habitat would be encouraged. Compensation for loss of habitat value would be

Map 3. Land Tenure Adjustment

Public land outside the management areas are eligible for disposal; lands inside are eligible for acquisition.

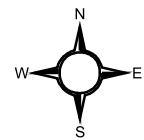
All transfers on a willing-seller/willing-buyer basis only. Parcels ten acres or smaller may not appear.

-  BLM Managed Lands
-  Former Lower Gila Resource Area Boundary
-  Management Area Boundary
-  Sonoran Desert National Monument



6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

Sectioned Township



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required where such a policy exists. Other mitigation may also be required. These determinations would be made during preparation of the site-specific environmental assessments required for every disposal action. Environmental documentation must be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act prior to the approval of any lands action.

LR-6. Approximately 3,043,900 acres not listed in Appendix 3 or identified for specific purposes in this amendment will be retained in public ownership unless needed for recreation or public purposes. Such disposal proposals on lands not identified for disposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Acquisitions

Lands to be acquired will normally have high public and natural resource values that will complement existing and proposed management programs and will consolidate ownership patterns to improve management efficiency (map 3).

LR-7. All nonfederal lands with high resource values within the boundaries of the management areas may be considered for acquisition. Acquisitions will occur primarily through the land exchange process in accordance with 43 CFR 2200 and the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act. Acquisition by donation and purchase using Land and Water Conservation Funds will also be considered when willing parties or available funds exist. All acquisitions will be negotiated with willing landowners only and must be in the public interest. There are approximately 288,800 acres of nonfederal land within the four management areas.

LR-8. The BLM will continue to acquire nonfederal subsurface estate under federal surface estate on a case-by-case basis.

Affect on Decisions of the MFP and RMP

Within the boundaries of the former Lower Gila Resource Area, decisions of the MFP and RMP pertaining to land tenure are replaced in their

entirety by this amendment (appendix 1). All other Land and Realty decisions of the MFP and RMP remain in effect.

Wildlife/Fisheries

Desert Tortoise Habitat Management

Desert tortoise habitat management will be standardized throughout the MFP and RMP planning areas (map 4). This management will be consistent with *Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands: A Rangeland Plan* (BLM, 1988) and *Strategy for Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on Public Lands in Arizona* (BLM, 1990) [“strategy”]. The objectives outlined in the strategy are tailored to BLM Arizona’s needs; each statewide objective is listed below with the Phoenix Field Office management actions to accomplish the objective.

Objective 1. “Develop increased awareness of tortoise resources on the public lands.”

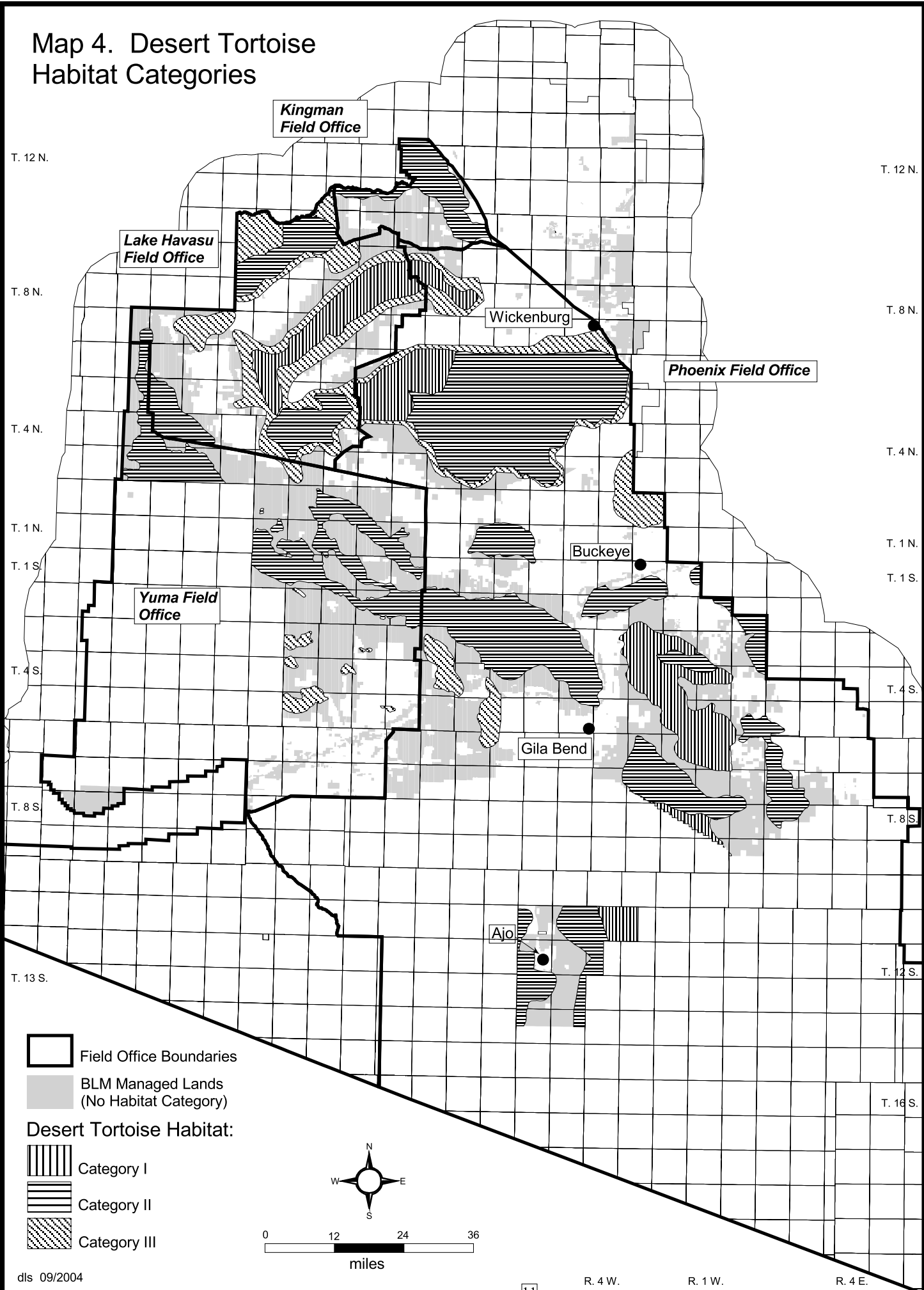
WL-1. Phoenix Field Office personnel will participate, when asked and when appropriate, in public events such as fairs and open houses with information and displays showing the management of public lands including desert tortoise habitat.

WL-2. The Phoenix Field Office will develop a public brochure on desert tortoise.

Objective 2. “Complete and maintain a continuing inventory and monitoring program for tortoise populations and habitats to assist in making management decisions, including habitat categorization, on public lands. The BLM’s desert tortoise inventory and monitoring handbook will contain the standards for inventory and monitoring in Arizona.”

WL-3. The MFP and RMP planning areas have been inventoried for desert tortoise habitat and habitat categories have been established (map 4, appendix 4). These boundaries may be slightly altered as new and better information becomes available on population distributions and dynamics.

Map 4. Desert Tortoise Habitat Categories



WL-4. Three one-square-mile study plots in the Maricopa, Harcuvar, and Harquahala mountains will be read every five years to monitor desert tortoise populations and habitat.

WF-5. Records of environmental assessments that contain stipulations pertaining to the desert tortoise will be maintained for the express purpose of tracking compliance and effectiveness of the stipulations.

Objective 3. “Develop and maintain a monitoring program specifically for land-use activities that adversely affect tortoise habitats for use in analyzing and responding to the cumulative impacts of land-use decisions on tortoise habitats.”

WF-6. An annual summary of the environmental assessments of actions in desert tortoise habitats will be provided to the Arizona State Office.

Objective 4. “Comply fully with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, as it relates to tortoise population and habitat management on public lands.”

WL-7. The Phoenix Field Office will comply with Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act and BLM policy for managing habitat of candidate species to ensure that the Sonoran population of the desert tortoise does not become threatened or endangered through BLM actions.

Objective 5. “Coordinate and cooperate with other Federal and State agencies and other publics concerning tortoise populations and habitat management.”

WL-8. The Phoenix Field Office will continue to work with, share information, and support to the extent possible the interests and work of other agencies and public entities concerning tortoise populations and habitat management.

Objective 6. “Conduct research and studies sufficient to develop and document the knowledge and techniques needed to ensure the viability of tortoise populations and habitats in perpetuity.”

WL-9. The Phoenix Field Office will forward tortoise-related research proposals received to the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group.

Objective 7. “Manage the public lands on a continuing basis to protect the scientific, ecological, and environmental quality of tortoise habitats consistent with the goals and objectives of the *Rangewide Plan*. This implies management, within BLM’s capability, of an adequate number of healthy and vigorous tortoise populations of sufficient size and resilience to withstand the most severe environmental disturbances, and with appropriate sex and age ratios and recruitment rates to maintain viable populations in perpetuity.”

WL-10. Specific and quantifiable desert tortoise management objectives for categorized habitat will be included at the interdisciplinary planning level.

WL-11. Environmental decision documents for all actions occurring in desert tortoise habitat will address and include mitigation measures sufficient to offset, to the extent possible, any loss of tortoise habitat quantity or quality in category I, II, and III habitats.

Objective 8. “When the need is identified through the BLM planning system, acquire and/or consolidate, under BLM administration, management units with high tortoise habitat values. When public land tortoise habitat values will be affected by the issuance of a lease, permit, right-of-way, or other land use authorization, mitigate to minimize loss of those values.”

WL-12. New land uses will be granted in category I, II, and III tortoise habitats only if no reasonable alternative exists. If no alternative exists, mitigation, including compensation, will be evaluated to meet the no net loss goal.

Objective 9. “Ensure that off-highway-vehicle (OHV) use in desert tortoise habitats is consistent with the category goals, objectives,

and management actions of the *Rangewide Plan* and the Strategy.”

WL-13. Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses are prohibited in category I desert tortoise habitat.

WL-14. Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses will not be located in category II desert tortoise habitat unless no reasonable alternative site exists. If no reasonable alternative site exists, impacts will be fully mitigated.

WL-15. Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses will be evaluated in category III desert tortoise habitat and impacts will be mitigated.

Objective 10. “Ensure that livestock use is consistent with the category goals, objectives, and management actions of the *Rangewide Plan* and the Strategy. This may include limiting, precluding, or deferring livestock use as documented in activity plans or other site-specific plans.”

WL-16. Categorized desert tortoise habitat will be reviewed in relation to ongoing livestock use on public lands in the MFP and RMP planning areas; forage needs of desert tortoise and ecological site potential will be considered in determining and prioritizing the resolution of conflicts.

WL-17. In category I and II desert tortoise habitat, only those range improvements for livestock that do not conflict with desert tortoise habitat or populations will be allowed.

Objective 11. “Manage wild horses and burros in a manner consistent with the category goals, objectives, and management actions of the *Rangewide Plan* and the Strategy. This may include limiting or precluding wild horse and/or burro use.”

Decisions regarding the management of wild horses and burros are deferred to subsequent planning.

Objective 12. “Manage other wildlife on the public lands consistent with the goals,

objectives, and management actions of the *Rangewide Plan* and the Strategy.”

WL-18. New wildlife improvements will be allowed in category I and II desert tortoise habitats only if there is no conflict with desert tortoise habitat populations or habitat.

Objective 13. “Cooperate as necessary with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Animal Damage Control to control predators that are taking desert tortoises. This will be considered only where predation is interfering with attaining the goals and objectives of the *Rangewide Plan* or the Strategy.”

WL-19. Information on predation of desert tortoises will be collected as opportunities arise.

WL-20. BLM actions in desert tortoise habitats will be evaluated to assure that they do not encourage the proliferation or range expansion of predator populations.

Objective 14. “Manage the BLM’s energy and minerals program in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives of the *Rangewide Plan* and the Strategy.”

WL-21. The Phoenix Field Office will use the BLM’s discretionary authorities relating to leasable and salable minerals to meet the desert tortoise habitat category goals and objectives.

WL-22. Boulder sale permits will be restricted to areas that will result in no net loss of tortoise habitat.

Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation and Re-establishment

BLM Manual 1745, “Introduction, Transplants, Augmentations and Reestablishment of Fish, Wildlife, and Plants” (updated March 26, 1992) describes the process under which these actions can take place. The manual section indicates that decisions for making introductions, transplants, or reestablishments should be made as part of the land use planning process. Decisions should clearly identify desired

population targets or objectives and anticipated distribution of the proposed species. The manual also requires public participation with all potentially affected parties prior to the decision. Historically, desert bighorn sheep occurred on all of the mountain ranges in the planning units. Desert bighorn sheep populations in some of these mountain ranges are depressed and sheep may be extirpated in a few ranges.

WL-23. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with the Phoenix Field Office, may use re-establishment and augmentation to assist desert bighorn sheep populations in reaching their natural potential.

WL-24. Re-establishment and augmentation of desert bighorn sheep populations will be done in areas where conflicts with other uses and resources do not occur, or where conflicts can be resolved.

WL-25. Final decisions on re-establishment and augmentation proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis within the appropriate level of National Environmental Policy Act documentation that addresses conflicts and meets the requirement for public participation.

Affect on Decisions of the MFP and RMP

Decisions of the MFP and RMP pertaining to Wildlife/Fisheries remain in effect, and are supplemented by this amendment (appendix 1).

Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicles

General

The public lands managed by the Phoenix Field Office are receiving increasing visitor use and recreation conflicts. To provide the desired recreational opportunities, protect the natural resources which draw the public to public lands, and retain the flexibility needed to respond to emerging recreational technologies, the Phoenix Field Office will address recreation management by focusing on four recreation components—off-highway and special recreation vehicle designation and management; designation of

special and extensive recreation management areas; development, management, and maintenance of camping and camping facilities and stay limits; and development and management of recreation facilities for special uses and scarce opportunities.

Primitive areas with low visitation and intensively used areas with high visitation are intermingled and dispersed throughout the management areas. This pattern will be maintained when considering recreation developments. Lands which are remote or primitive will be managed to retain their present conditions. The undeveloped nature of these lands will be protected as an extremely valuable and scarce resource. Road maintenance and recreation developments such as signing, brochures, and information sheets may be provided to promote resource protection through public education and interpretation.

Conversely, recreation facilities and activities requiring a high degree of regulation, or with a high potential for resource impacts, will be focused on accessible, easily maintained lands near communities and well away from remote, pristine, or primitive lands. These facilities and activity areas will be promoted with information fact sheets, brochures or signs to ensure that users can easily locate the most appropriate area for their desired use. Recreational developments and facilities will be designed to lessen or avoid economic competition; therefore, the Phoenix Field Office will primarily provide services and facilities unavailable elsewhere or services and facilities required for visitor safety or resource protection.

RR-1. Management of recreation opportunities and developments will be evaluated using two inventory and management tools called the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (map 5, appendix 5) and Visual Resource Management (map 6, appendix 6).

RR-2. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications will be reviewed, refined, and adopted during interdisciplinary planning.

RR-3. Existing visual resource inventory classes of the RMP will be adopted as management classes.

RR-4. All MFP visual resource management classes will be brought forward.

RR-5. Visual resource management classes will be reviewed and refined during future interdisciplinary planning.

RR-6. Scenic corridors and potential backcountry byways will receive priority evaluation of visual resources to determine appropriate future classifications.

RR-7. All wildernesses including the Harcuvar Mountains, Rawhide Mountains, Eagletail Mountains, and New Water Mountains within the Yuma and Lake Havasu field office areas are designated Class 1 Visual Resource Management areas (map 6).

RR-8. All unclassified lands of the MFP and RMP planning areas are established as Visual Resource Management Class III areas, subject to review and refinement during future interdisciplinary planning (map 6).

Off-Highway and Special Recreation Vehicle Designation and Management

The Phoenix Field Office recognizes two types of backcountry vehicles—off-highway vehicles and special recreation vehicles (see Glossary). Off-highway vehicle designations established by this amendment are depicted by map 7.

RR-9. All public lands described in the MFP and RMP are designated as "limited," except wilderness (which is closed to motor vehicles), and relinquished portions of the Barry M. Goldwater Range (which remain restricted to entry by permit only). Off-highway and special recreation vehicles are limited to existing and/or designated roads and vehicle routes. No unauthorized cross-country vehicle travel is permitted. Creation of unauthorized new trails and widening or extending existing trails is not permitted. This includes lands transferred to the Kingman, Lake Havasu and Yuma field offices.

RR-10. Single- or multiple-use off-highway and special recreation vehicle areas, routes, and management strategies will be designated and developed through interdisciplinary plans. Planning shall address limits of acceptable change indicators and standards, conflicts, issues, and solutions to vehicle management problems.

RR-11. Roads and trails used as race courses will be evaluated for no action, closure, rehabilitation, or upgrading and authorization as race courses.

RR-12. Site-specific inventories will be conducted to delineate existing roads and vehicle routes as requested by the authorized officer.

RR-13. Approved hiking and equestrian trails are closed to unauthorized motorized use.

RR-14. Road or area closures will be enacted where off-highway or special recreation vehicle use is determined to be inconsistent with established Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications (map 5) and/or such use is causing harm to natural or cultural resources.

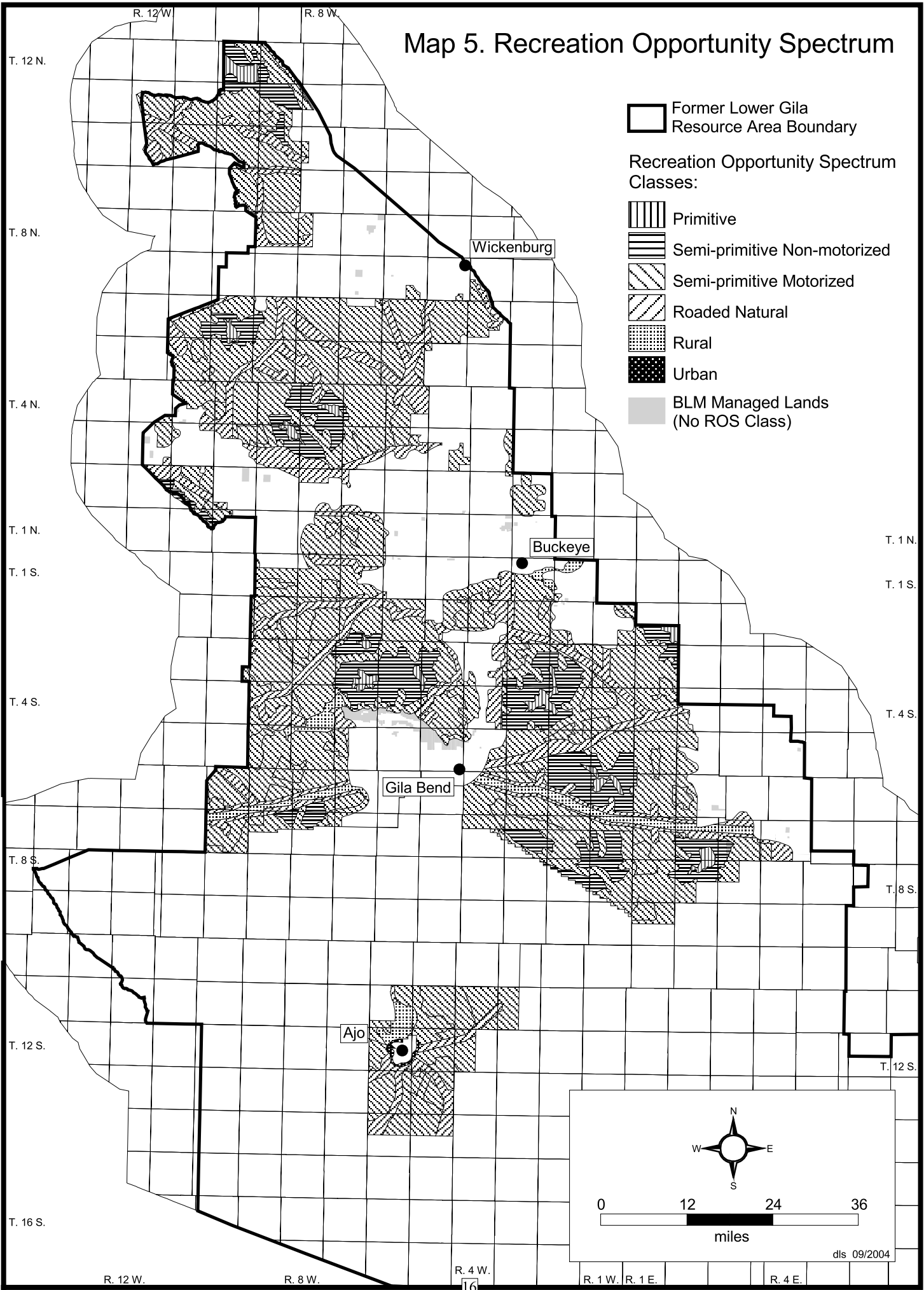
RR-15. Cross-country vehicle travel will be permitted only when specifically authorized to complete a task which requires such use, and only in areas where such use will not cause unnecessary or undue resource impacts.


RR-16. Off-highway vehicle designations for relinquished portions of the Barry M. Goldwater Range are retained—a permit is required for entry to these lands and motorized travel is limited to designated and/or established routes.

RR-17. Wilderness is closed to mechanized use. The provisions of existing wilderness management plans and wildlife operations and maintenance plans pertaining to motorized and mechanized administrative uses in wilderness will remain in effect.








RR-18. Brochures, maps, and information sheets featuring off-highway and special

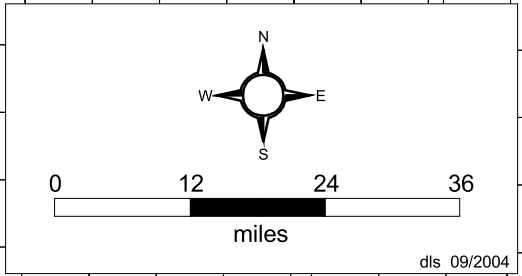
Map 5. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum



 Former Lower Gila Resource Area Boundary


Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes:

-  Primitive
-  Semi-primitive Non-motorized
-  Semi-primitive Motorized
-  Roaded Natural
-  Rural
-  Urban
-  BLM Managed Lands (No ROS Class)



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Map 6. Visual Resource Management


 Former Lower Gila Resource Area Boundary

Visual Resource Management Classes:

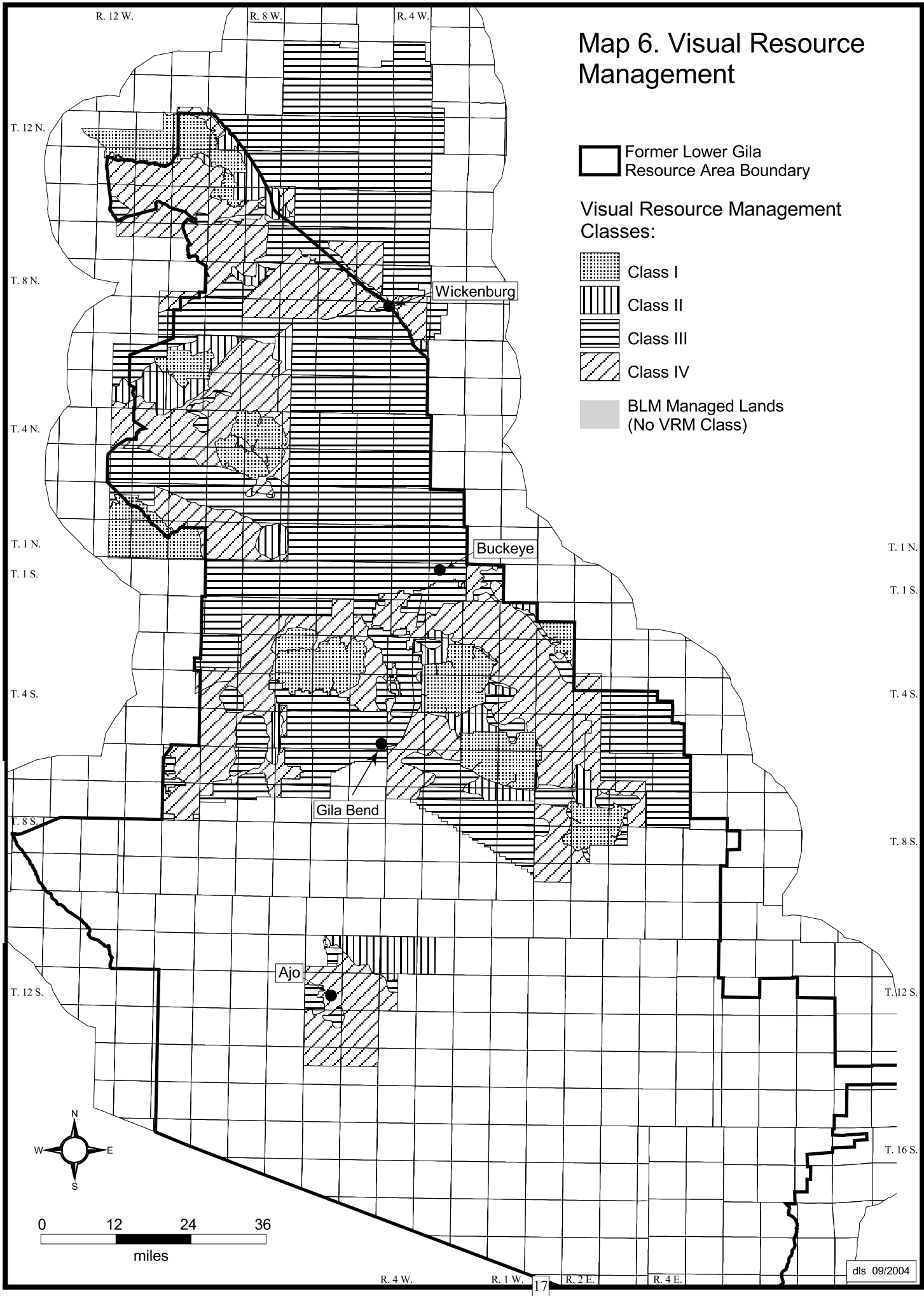
 Class I

 Class II

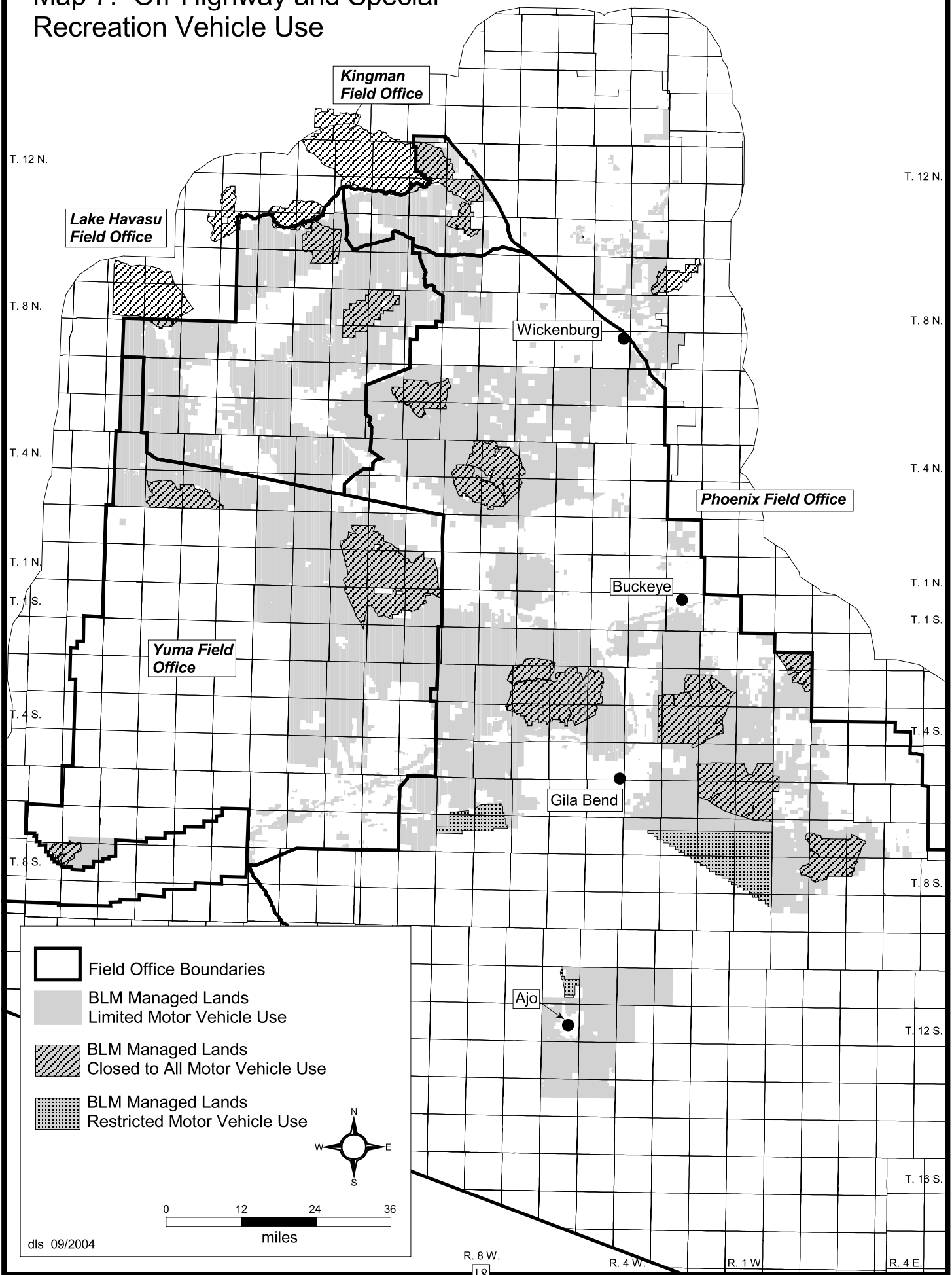
 Class III

 Class IV

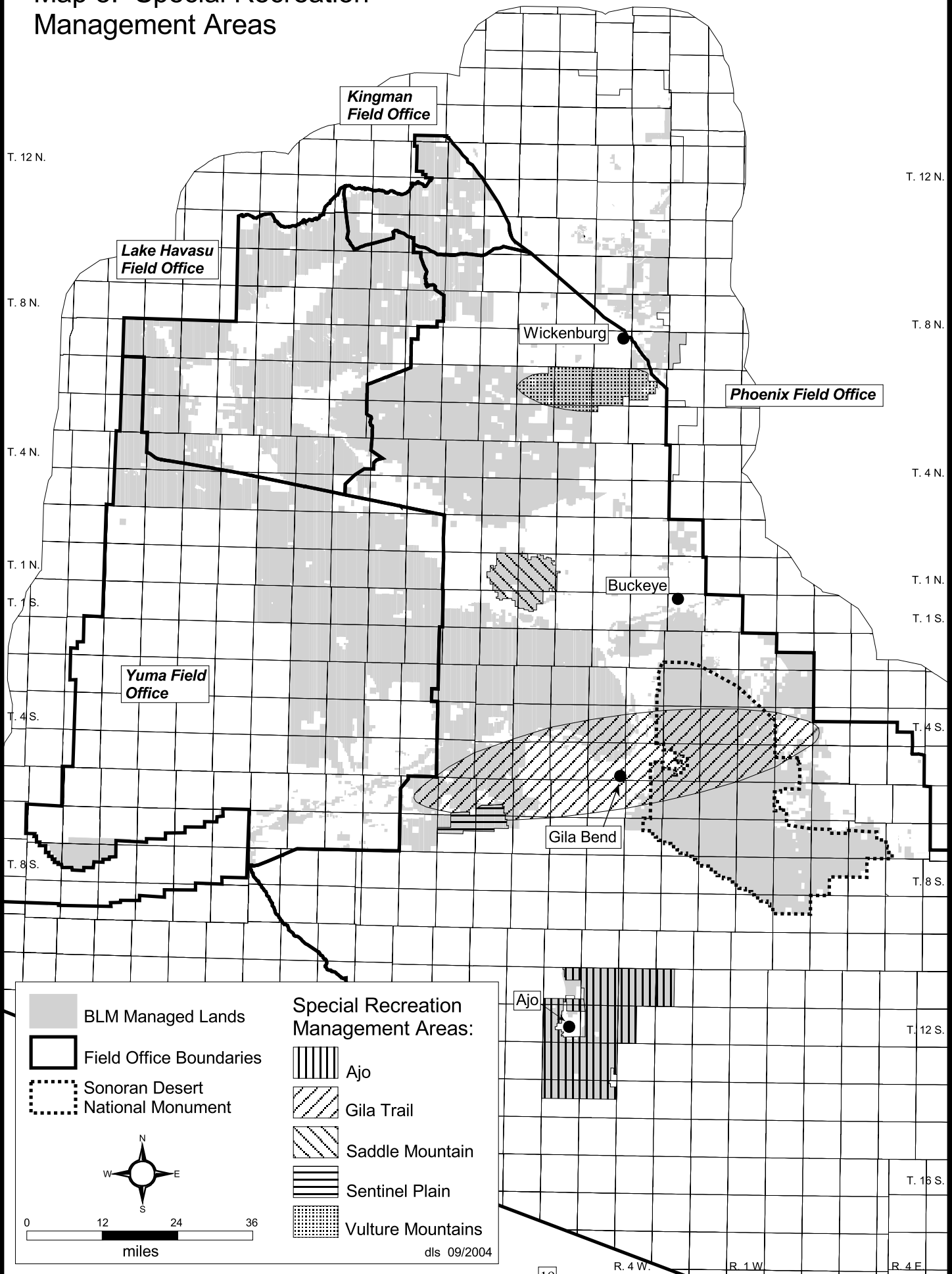
 BLM Managed Lands (No VRM Class)



Map 7. Off-Highway and Special Recreation Vehicle Use



Map 8. Special Recreation Management Areas



recreation vehicle information will be developed and disseminated to the public.

Designation of Special Recreation Management Areas

The BLM differentiates recreation management areas into two classifications—"special" and "extensive." Special recreation management areas are sub-units of the management areas. Delineation of special recreation management areas is based on similar or inter-dependent recreation values, similar or inter-related recreation uses, or administrative efficiency. Special recreation management areas are defined in Recreation Opportunity Spectrum terms (see appendix 5).

Extensive recreation management areas are typically the remaining lands not identified as special recreation management areas and constitute the bulk of public lands. The extensive recreation management areas provide locales where recreationists have freedom of choice and minimal regulatory constraints.

RR-19. Four special recreation management areas are established (Ajo, Gila Trail, Saddle Mountain, and Vulture Mountains) and one is revised (Sentinel Plain) (map 8).

RR-20. Interdisciplinary planning, including public involvement, will be completed for all special recreation management areas to establish boundaries, type and level of facility development, resolve and mitigate impacts to other resources, evaluate and refine existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Visual Resource Management classes, improve recreational opportunities, and reduce conflicts among public land users.

RR-21. A "designated routes only" off-highway and special recreation vehicle classification will be enacted on a management area, or on a site-specific basis, when needed for resource protection or to ensure consistency with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.

Vulture Mountains Special Recreation Management Area

RR-22. The Vulture Mountains Special Recreation Management Area, to include lands surrounding Vulture Peak, the Vulture Mine, and the Vulture Mountains, is established to emphasize diverse recreational opportunities including trails, natural and historic interpretation, camping, and off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas.

RR-23. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized.

RR-24. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.

RR-25. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.

Gila Trail Special Recreation Management Area

RR-26. The Gila Trail Special Recreation Management Area, to include lands surrounding the Gila Trail, the Butterfield Overland Stage Route, the Anza National Historic Trail, the Southern Overland Trail, the Mormon Battalion Trail, the Oatman Massacre Site, the Painted Rock Mountains, and associated cultural and recreational features, is established.

RR-27. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized in areas classified as rural, roaded-natural, or semi-primitive motorized.

RR-28. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.

RR-29. Surface-disturbing activities within one-quarter mile of historic and prehistoric trail segments will be mitigated.

RR-30. All off-highway vehicle routes will be inventoried and designated.

RR-31. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.

Saddle Mountain Special Recreation Management Area

RR-32. The Saddle Mountain Special Recreation Management Area, to include the public lands containing Saddle Mountain and the Palo Verde Hills, is established to emphasize provision of geologic, cultural, and wildlife interpretive sites; protection of the area's scenic landscapes and vistas; and promotion of recreational opportunities.

RR-33. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized for the northern and northeastern portions of the area.

RR-34. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.

RR-35. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.

RR-36. The southern and western portions of the area will be maintained as remote and mostly undeveloped.

Ajo Special Recreation Management Area

RR-37. The Ajo Special Recreation Management Area, to include the entire Ajo Management Area, is established.

RR-38. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized.

RR-39. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.

RR-40. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.

Sentinel Plain Lava Flow Special Recreation Management Area

RR-41. The Sentinel Plain Lava Flow Special Recreation Management Areas is restricted to entry by permit only. Existing boundaries may be adjusted through interdisciplinary planning to respond to changing land uses.

RR-42. Existing prescriptions authorized by the Goldwater Amendment (BLM, 1990) will be brought forward without change.

RR-43. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve recreational opportunities and visitor safety are authorized.

RR-44. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be evaluated.

RR-45. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.

Extensive Recreation Management Area

RR-46. Project level planning for the extensive recreation management area will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

RR-47. Primitive facilities are authorized where needed for resource protection, visitor safety, improvement of the recreation experience, or increasing recreational opportunities.

RR-48. Camping locations, camping stay limits, off-highway and special recreation vehicle use, and utilization of the existing natural resources will be established.

RR-49. Long- and short-term camping areas, commercial or competitive off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas, scenic turnouts, cultural interpretive sites, hiking, equestrian or mountain bike trails, road and portal signage, and road maintenance will be evaluated.

RR-50. A "designated routes only" off-highway and special vehicle classification will be established on a site-specific basis when needed for resource protection or to maintain consistency with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.

Development, Management, and Maintenance of Camping and Camping Facilities and Stay Limits

RR-51. The existing 14-day camping stay limit and all associated policy will be maintained throughout the planning area unless otherwise designated by the authorized officer or through project planning. Areas may be closed for resource protection, rehabilitation, or to reduce conflicts with other uses.

RR-52. Camping facilities and length-of-stay limits may be established as prescribed below for dispersed camping, long-term visitor areas, extended camping areas, and short-term camping areas (see Glossary).

Dispersed Camping—All Public Land Areas

RR-53. Camping will be permitted on all public lands unless otherwise designated, closed, or restricted for resource protection.

RR-54. Self-contained or vehicle-based camping will be permitted within 50 feet of the centerline of designated or existing routes. Cross-country travel to campsites is not permitted.

RR-55. Trailhead facilities will be closed to overnight camping upon written approval of the field manager.

Long-Term Visitor Areas

A long-term visitor area is a parcel established to provide winter visitors with long-term camping opportunities. A permit allows use from September 15 to April 15 for self-contained recreational vehicles with minimum 10-gallon waste water tank. Supplementary rules exist and Golden Access/Golden Age passes are not accepted.

RR-56. Long-term visitor areas (LTVAs) will be defined on the ground with fences or signs. Each LTVA will include designated roads, designated campsites, and amenities to support long-term camping occupancy.

RR-57. The following resource factors will be considered for implementation and development of LTVAs:

- Permitted only in rural or roaded natural Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes.
- Location on rocky or resilient soils.
- Well-maintained ingress and egress routes.
- Location within 30 miles of local community.
- Location outside of category I or II desert tortoise habitat.
- Mitigation if located in Category III desert tortoise habitat.
- Location with no cultural resource conflicts.
- Location outside of burro herd management areas.
- Location of developments in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats.
- Location outside of riparian areas.
- Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas.

RR-58. The following operating rules will be considered for LTVA development and use:

- Long-term camping will be restricted to the term of the permit.
- Long-term camping will be restricted to designated sites.
- Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) will be the responsibility of each occupant.
- Users will be required to comply with all other LTVA regulations.

- LTVA users must comply with all local, state, and federal laws.
- LTVA supplementary rules may be enacted as needed.

RR-59. Other regulations and conditions for LTVA use will be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of LTVAs will require public notification.

Extended Camping Areas

Extended camping areas are similar to long-term visitor areas, but are not integrated into the long-term visitor area system and have a variable stay limit of greater than 14 days. Extended camping areas have a specific and delineated boundary determined by the available resource.

RR-60. Extended camping areas will be defined on the ground with fences or signs. Each such area will include designated roads, designated campsites, and amenities to support extended camping occupancy.

RR-61. Interdisciplinary planning will evaluate and authorize up to six extended camping areas where historic use patterns equate to this type of use, and potential new areas are identified that would be suitable for extended camping.

RR-62. The following resource factors will be considered for implementation and development of extended camping areas:

- Location only in rural, roaded natural, or semi-primitive motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes.
- Topographic or vegetative screening.
- Suitable ingress and egress routes.
- Location on rocky or resilient soils.
- Location within 30 miles of local community.

- Location outside of Category I desert tortoise habitat.
- Mitigation if located in category II or III desert tortoise habitat.
- Location with no cultural resource conflicts.
- Location outside of burro herd management areas.
- Location in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats.
- Location outside of riparian areas.
- Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas.

RR-63. The following operating rules will be considered for extended camping area development and use:

- Camping restricted to designated sites.
- Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) will be the responsibility of each occupant.
- Extended camping area visitors must comply with all local, state, and federal laws.
- Extended camping area supplementary rules may be enacted as needed.

RR-64. Other regulations and conditions for extended camping area use will be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of extended camping areas will require public notification.

Short-Term Camping Areas

Short-term camping areas support resource protection measures in high use areas, promote equitable use for visitors, or serve as overflow

camping adjacent to high use areas. Other resource issues may require short-term camping areas to be closed during certain times or seasons; thus, the term of use or the time of use (season) may be limited based on the resource(s) to be protected. Such factors are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

RR-65. Short-term camping areas will be designated only where such use promotes resource protection and where all conflicts can be mitigated. Short-term camping areas will be defined on the ground with fences or signs.

RR-66. Interdisciplinary planning will evaluate short-term camping areas where historic use patterns equate to this type of use, and potential new areas are identified that would be suitable for short-term camping.

RR-67. The following resource factors will be considered for implementation and development of short-term camping areas:

- Primitive ingress and egress routes.
- Location on rocky or resilient soils.
- Mitigation if located in category I, II or III desert tortoise habitat.
- Location with no cultural resource conflicts.
- Location outside of burro herd management areas. Location of developments in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats.
- Location outside of wildernesses.
- Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas.

RR-68. The following operating rules will be considered for short-term camping area development and use:

- Camping will be restricted to the terms and conditions of that campground.
- Camping will be restricted to designated sites.
- Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services

(firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) will be the responsibility of each occupant.

- Camping area users must comply with all local, state and federal laws.
- Specific supplementary rules may be enacted as needed.

RR-69. Other regulations and conditions for short-term camping area use will be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of short-term camping areas will require public notification.

Special Uses and Scarce Opportunities

Aside from camping and off-highway and special recreation vehicle use, activities that require a scarce resource or that pose a serious threat to public safety were identified by the public scoping meetings as activities that could benefit from increased management. Such resource-dependent opportunities include areas for recreational gold panning, rockhounding, hang gliding launches, free climbing, aid climbing, watchable wildlife viewing, cultural interpretation, mountain biking, equestrian uses, hiking trails, ultralight aircraft, and shooting.

RR-70. Interdisciplinary planning will evaluate and authorize development of special use areas within the management areas.

Affect on Decisions of the MFP and RMP

Decisions of the MFP and RMP pertaining to Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicles are retained or replaced, and supplemented, by this amendment as indicated in appendix 1. Generally, all existing decisions pertaining to site-specific recreation developments were retained; all existing decisions pertaining to Visual Resource Management were replaced; and all existing decisions pertaining to Off-

Highway Vehicle travel were replaced, except for an OHV designation for ACEC's (see "Deferred Decisions) and decisions relating to access permitting requirements for relinquished lands of the Barry M. Goldwater Range, which were retained.

Minerals (Oil and Gas Development)

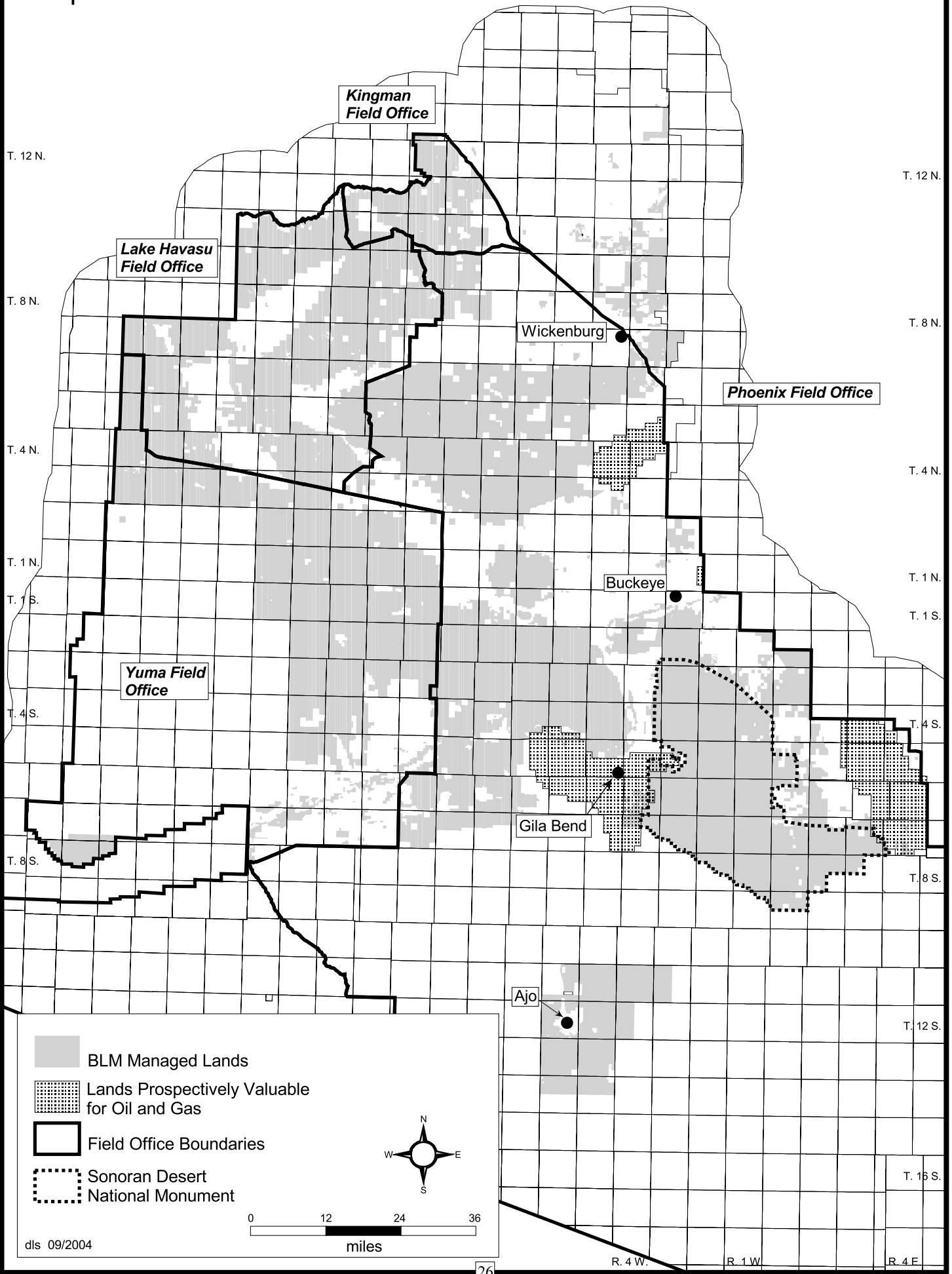
Within the planning area, a few areas of public land are considered potentially valuable for oil and gas exploration because of accumulations of sediments more than 1,000 feet in depth (Map 9). Due to the lack of economic development of oil or gas wells in the planning area; however, few lease applications are expected.

MI-1. All lands in the planning area not closed to oil and gas leasing will remain open for such purposes. Approximately 375,000 acres of federal minerals in wilderness are closed to oil and gas leasing. The approximately 1.6 million acres of federal minerals remaining in the planning area are open to oil and gas leasing. Conditions of approval and special stipulations will be developed and incorporated as part of any operational permit after site-specific environmental analyses are completed and documented per the National Environmental Policy Act. Stipulations will mitigate impacts to special status species, cultural areas, and other resources affected by leasing-related activities.

Affect on Decisions of the MFP and RMP

Neither the MFP nor the RMP directly addressed oil and gas development; thus, requests for oil and gas exploration or development leases would be handled on a case-by-case basis and require a plan amendment for each request. The decision of this amendment supercedes any general mineral management decisions that could be applied to oil and gas in the MFP and RMP, and oil and gas leases may be considered without additional plan amendments. The decisions of the MFP and RMP remain in effect for all other minerals-related actions.

Map 9. Oil and Gas



Deferred Decisions

Proposed decisions listed below from the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* were not approved by this amendment, as per the protest settlement agreements discussed on pages 6-7. Decisions of the MFP and RMP pertaining to these topics remain in effect (see Table 1 and Appendix 1). These deferred, proposed decisions will be considered in subsequent resource management planning by the BLM.

Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros

HB-1. The Harquahala, Little Harquahala, and Painted Rocks herd areas will be established as herd management areas, pending a manageability determination and research and analysis of resource use to determine the number of burros that can be maintained in a thriving natural ecological balance with the environment on public lands in each herd area.

HB-2. Herd management plans will be developed for all herd management areas, including Alamo.

HB-3. That portion of the wild burro population that exceeds a thriving natural ecological balance will be humanely captured and removed from the public lands, as established by interdisciplinary habitat monitoring.

HB-4. Livestock range improvements and habitat development projects within wild burro herd management areas will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and modified/constructed, as appropriate, so as not to significantly affect wild burro populations.

HB-5. The BLM will collaborate with the U.S. Air Force, Tohono O'odham Nation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs to maintain the boundary fence between the Tohono O'odham reservation and the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

Affect on Decisions of the MFP and RMP

All wild horse and burro management decisions of the MFP and RMP remain in effect (Table 1, Appendix 1).

Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicles

RR-71. Off-highway and special recreation vehicle use of the Vekol Valley Grassland and Coffeepot Botanical Area ACEC's will be designated as "limited to designated routes only."

Affect on Decisions of the MFP and RMP

The Vekol Valley Grassland and Coffeepot Botanical Area ACEC's remain closed to off-highway vehicle use, as specified in the RMP (Table 1, Appendix 1).

Table 1. Proposed decisions of the *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan* that are deferred to subsequent planning, and existing decisions of the MFP and RMP that are retained by this amendment per the protest settlement agreements discussed on pages 6-7.

Deferred Proposed Decisions	Retained Decisions
<p><u>Wild Horse and Burro Management</u></p> <p>HB-1. The Harquahala, Little Harquahala, and Painted Rocks herd areas will be established as herd management areas, pending a manageability determination and research and analysis of resource use to determine the number of burros that can be maintained in a thriving natural ecological balance with the environment on public lands in each herd area.</p> <p>HB-2. Herd management plans will be developed for all herd management areas, including Alamo.</p> <p>HB-3. That portion of the wild burro population that exceeds a thriving natural ecological balance will be humanely captured and removed from the public lands, as established by interdisciplinary habitat monitoring.</p> <p>HB-4. Livestock range improvements and habitat development projects within wild burro herd management areas will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and modified/constructed, as appropriate, so as not to significantly affect wild burro populations.</p> <p>HB-5. The BLM will collaborate with the U.S. Air Force, Tohono O’odham Nation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs to maintain the boundary fence between the Tohono O’odham reservation and the Barry M. Goldwater Range.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicles</u></p> <p>RR-71. Off-highway and special recreation vehicle use of the Vekol Valley Grassland and Coffeepot Botanical Area ACEC’s will be designated as “limited to designated routes only.”</p>	<p><u>Wild Horse and Burro Management</u></p> <p><i>Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.1. Maintain a viable, color-diverse burro population of 200 animals in the Alamo HMA; however, burro numbers in the remaining herd areas should be reduced to 0 by 1986.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.2. Maintain free access for wild burros to livestock-watering facilities in the Alamo Herd Area.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.3. Maintain access to Alamo Lake for the wild burro herd in the Alamo HMA.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.4. Designate a wild-burro viewing route within the Alamo HMA and sign with on-the-ground interpretative [sic] signs. Also, post signs which provide a telephone number that citizens may call to report violations of the Wild Horse and Burro Act.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.5. Limit or modify construction of new structures within Herd Management Areas which would restrict burro movement.</p> <p><i>Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan</i></p> <p>After the filing of the final RMP/EIS, BLM will prepare a burro capture plan in consultation with appropriate government agencies and interest groups. All burros would be removed from the Painted Rock Reservoir area. Details for the burro capture program would be outlined in a herd management area plan (HMAP).</p> <p><u>Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicles</u></p> <p><i>Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-4.1. No new land will be acquired in this area [former Saddle Mountain Wilderness Study Area]. If Saddle Mountain is rejected as a wilderness area, no new roads will be allowed but it will be designated as a recreation and rock-hound area.</p> <p><i>Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan</i></p> <p>The Vekol Valley Grassland and Coffee Pot Botanical Area ACECs will be closed to recreational</p>

Wildlife/Fisheries

None.

ORV use in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 8340, Subpart 8342.

Wildlife/Fisheries

Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan

LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.2. Reduce competition for cover, water, and space between big game, livestock, and burros by reducing livestock aggregations and removing all burros at waters in the Big Horn, Granite Wash, and Harquahala Mountains by FY-87.

LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.5. Protect big horn sheep lambing areas and a 2-mile buffer zone (20,000 acres) in the Harquahala Mountains and Little Harquahala Mountains from habitat and behavioral disturbances created by: a) land disposal; b) excess fencing; c) structure building; d) land clearing and wood cutting; e) mining activity between December 15 and April 15 (within the framework of the 3809 regulations); f) ORV use on other than existing roads and trails in the Little Harquahala Mountains; g) road building; h) intense recreational use and development; i) burro use; j) rights-of-way; k) utilization of key browse in excess of 40 percent.

LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.1. By FY-87, exclude livestock and burros at the following dirt tanks (75 acres) to enhance waterfowl and long-eared owl nesting opportunities: a) SHF #95-Lone Mountain Tank; b) SHF #132-Mitchell Tank; c) SHF #150-Unnamed; and d) SHF #158-Unnamed.

LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.3. Protect significant cliffs and a 2-mile zone of influence (18,000 acres), in the Big Horn Mountains and the Vulture Mountains area, from the following activities: a) land disposal; b) excess fencing; c) building of structures; d) land clearing or removal of downed wood or woodcutting; e) reduce or modify mining activities to the extent possible under 3802 and 3809 mining regulations; f) road building; g) intense recreational use or development; g) no burro overuse; i) [sic] rights-of-way. Especially protect these areas from disturbing human activities between February 1 and May 1 each year. Protection zones for golden eagle nests will not exceed ¼ mile radius unless special need for a larger protection zone is identified. These zones will be identified on a case-by-case basis.

LGN-MFP-WL-5.1. As Allotment Management Plans are written for allotments containing crucial desert tortoise habitat, the recommendation to rest tortoise habitat from livestock use between February and July will be incorporated into the grazing systems. Implementation of intensive management on allotments will occur as per WL-2.6. (A list of allotments containing tortoise habitat is presented in Table 3-8, Page 53, LGN EIS). Allotments which do not receive intensive management will be monitored as to livestock use. Adjustments in use will be made by changing seasons of use or number of livestock. Fencing out entire tortoise populations may be done, but only after contact with interested user groups.

LGN-MFP-3-WL-6.3. Monitor livestock (sheep and cattle) use on Ohaco Allotment, especially between February 1 to June 30, in crucial desert tortoise areas on the allotment. Adjust use (either season of use and/or number of sheep) based upon results of range monitoring program.

LGN-MFP-3-WL-7.1. Designation of the Harquahala Mountains as a Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (approximately 5,000 acres) is not necessary. An allotment

<p><u>Soil, Water, Air (Watershed)</u></p> <p>None.</p>	<p>Management Plan will be developed that will protect this area from overgrazing. All other users or developments incompatible with the protection of this area will be restricted to the extent possible under existing regulations. (see WL-7.2).</p> <p><u>Soil, Water, Air (Watershed)</u></p> <p><i>Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-W-4.13. An allotment management plan will be developed that will protect this area [the major chaparral basin and areas below it to the east in the Harquahala Mountains] from overgrazing. All other uses or developments incompatible with the protection of this area will be restricted to the extent possible under existing regulations.</p>
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References

Bureau of Land Management. 1988. *Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on the Public Lands: A Rangewide Plan*. Washington, D.C.

-----, 1988. *Final Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Lower Gila South RMP/EIS Area*. Phoenix District.

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-----, 1990. *Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (Goldwater Amendment)*. Phoenix District Office.

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-----, 2000. *Final Amendment and Environmental Assessment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan and the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan*. Phoenix Field Office.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1. Summary of MFP, RMP, and Amendment Planning Decisions.
- Appendix 2. Standard Land Use Plan Decision Numbering Convention.
- Appendix 3. Lands Identified for Disposal
- Appendix 4. Goals and Criteria for Three Categories of Desert Tortoise Habitat.
- Appendix 5. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes.
- Appendix 6. Visual Resource Management Classes.
- Appendix 7. Glossary.

Appendix 1. Summary of MFP, RMP, and Amendment Planning Decisions.¹

<p>Decisions from the <i>Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i> and <i>Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan</i> pertaining to Lands/Realty (Land Tenure), Wildlife/Fisheries, Wild Horse and Burro Management, Recreation Management, and Minerals (Oil and Natural Gas).</p>	<p>Approved decisions from the <i>Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i> and <i>Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan</i> and <i>Decision Record</i>.</p>	<p>Summary list of approved land use plan decisions pertaining to Lands/Realty (Land Tenure), Wildlife/Fisheries, Wild Horse and Burro Management, Recreation Management, and Minerals (Oil and Natural Gas) for the Lower Gila North and Lower Gila South planning areas.</p>
<p><u>Lands/Realty (Land Tenure)</u></p> <p><i>Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-L-4.1. Specified lands identified for disposal will be made available with certain priorities: 1) State selections; 2) public purposes; 3) exchanges to improve management by all landowners and support local community growth and development; 4) public sales. An Environmental Assessment will be written along with all clearance requirements and public input before the final decision is made to dispose of the listed lands. Public lands not identified in this list are considered suitable for retention and use under multiple-use management.*</p> <p><i>Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan</i></p> <p>Approximately 73,123 acres of public land within the planning unit will be available for either state or private exchanges, or transferred under special legislation or public sale. These lands are identified in Appendix 3 of the final RMP/EIS. Most of these lands are isolated parcels that are difficult and uneconomical to manage. Some parcels are well-suited for community expansion, agricultural development and management by the Arizona State Land Department.*</p> <p>Approximately 36,845 acres of non-public lands are identified for acquisition. Acquisition of these lands would benefit wildlife, botanical, wilderness and multiple use values. These lands are identified in Appendices 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the final RMP/EIS.*</p> <p>Approximately 112,160 acres of state and private mineral estate underlying public lands are proposed to be acquired and approximately 23,645 acres of federal mineral estate underlying state or private are proposed for disposal. The majority of the mineral estates will be acquired or disposed of through exchanges. These lands are identified in Appendix 9 and 10 of the final RMP/EIS. Acquisition and disposal action will be</p>	<p><u>Lands/Realty (Land Tenure)</u></p> <p>LR-1. Approximately 33,459 acres of public lands within the planning area are identified for disposal (map 3, appendix 3).</p> <p>LR-2. Public lands in the Gila Bend Management Area adjacent to the White Tanks County Regional Park, described as T. 2 N., R. 3 W., sections 4,5,8,9,14,15,17 through 22, 26 through 29, and 33 through 35; T. 2 N., R. 4 W., section 1; and T. 3 N., R. 4 W., sections 1,11 through 14, 24,25, and 36 will be retained in federal ownership and will only be available for disposal to local or state governmental entities for recreation/park purposes.</p> <p>LR-3 The BLM will continue to dispose of federal subsurface estate under non-federal surface estate on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>LR-4. Exchanges to re-position lands within all the management areas may occur if it has been determined that it would be in the public interest.</p> <p>LR-5. Lands identified for disposal may be retained if significant resource values are found during evaluation. The policy is not to dispose of lands occupied by proposed or listed threatened or endangered species. If other public uses outweigh the value of a parcel as federal-owned threatened or endangered species habitat, disposal could be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species would be affected by a land disposal action, consultation or conferencing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be required. Exchange for other parcels of habitat will be encouraged. Compensation for loss of habitat value would be required where such a policy exists. Other mitigation may also be required. These determinations would be made during preparation of the site-specific environmental assessments required for every disposal action. Environmental documentation must be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act prior to the approval of any lands action.</p>	<p><u>Lands/Realty (Land Tenure)</u></p> <p>LR-1. Approximately 33,459 acres of public lands within the planning area are identified for disposal (map 3, appendix 3).</p> <p>LR-2. Public lands in the Gila Bend Management Area adjacent to the White Tanks County Regional Park, described as T. 2 N., R. 3 W., sections 4,5,8,9,14,15,17 through 22, 26 through 29, and 33 through 35; T. 2 N., R. 4 W., section 1; and T. 3 N., R. 4 W., sections 1,11 through 14, 24,25, and 36 will be retained in federal ownership and will only be available for disposal to local or state governmental entities for recreation/park purposes.</p> <p>LR-3. The BLM will continue to dispose of federal subsurface estate under non-federal surface estate on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>LR-4. Exchanges to re-position lands within all the management areas may occur if it has been determined that it would be in the public interest.</p> <p>LR-5. Lands identified for disposal may be retained if significant resource values are found during evaluation. The policy is not to dispose of lands occupied by proposed or listed threatened or endangered species. If other public uses outweigh the value of a parcel as federal-owned threatened or endangered species habitat, disposal could be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species would be affected by a land disposal action, consultation or conferencing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be required. Exchange for other parcels of habitat will be encouraged. Compensation for loss of habitat value would be required where such a policy exists. Other mitigation may also be required. These determinations would be made during preparation of the site-specific environmental assessments required for every disposal action. Environmental documentation must be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act prior to the approval of any lands action.</p>

<p>analyzed on a case-by-case basis to determine the suitability of the action.*</p> <p><u>Wildlife/Fisheries</u></p> <p><i>Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-1.1. Provide wildlife safe access and year-round water at 150 livestock waters on public lands by 1987 and cooperate with allottees to develop similar considerations on private lands.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-1.2. Develop small and upland game waters in 11 areas by FY-87.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.1. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish Department to develop big game water catchments on public land at sites designated in the Lower Gila North Habitat Management Plan. Construction of the facilities will depend on availability of funding.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.2. Reduce competition for cover, water, and space between big game, livestock, and burros by reducing livestock aggregations and removing all burros at waters in the Big Horn, Granite Wash, and Harquahala Mountains by FY-87.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.3. Allocate additional forage to big game species as forage production increases so that carrying capacities can be increased to those listed in this objective and decrease browse utilization by 10 percent in the following allotments: Auza, Brown, Santa Maria Community, Loma Linda, Palmarita, Lambertson, Carco, and Ridgeway-Kong.</p>	<p>LR-6. Approximately 3,043,900 acres not listed in appendix 3 or identified for specific purposes in this amendment will be retained in public ownership unless needed for recreation or public purposes. Such disposal proposals on lands not identified for disposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>LR-7. All nonfederal lands with high resource values within the boundaries of the management areas may be considered for acquisition. Acquisitions will occur primarily through the land exchange process in accordance with 43 CFR 2200 and the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act. Acquisition by donation and purchase using Land and Water Conservation Funds will also be considered when willing parties or available funds exist. All acquisitions will be negotiated with willing landowners only and must be in the public interest. There are approximately 288,800 acres of nonfederal land within the four management areas.</p> <p>LR-8. The BLM will continue to acquire nonfederal subsurface estate under federal surface estate on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><u>Wildlife/Fisheries</u></p> <p>WL-1. Phoenix Field Office personnel will participate, when asked and when appropriate, in public events such as fairs and open houses with information and displays showing the management of public lands including desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p>WL-2. The Phoenix Field Office will develop a public brochure on desert tortoise.</p> <p>WL-3. The MFP and RMP planning areas have been inventoried for desert tortoise habitat and habitat categories have been established (map 4, appendix 4). These boundaries may be slightly altered as new and better information becomes available on population distributions and dynamics.</p> <p>WL-4. Three one-square-mile study plots in the Maricopa, Harcuvar, and Harquahala mountains will be read every five years to monitor desert tortoise populations and habitat.</p> <p>WF-5. Records of environmental assessments that contain stipulations pertaining to the desert tortoise will be maintained for the express purpose of tracking compliance and effectiveness of the stipulations.</p> <p>WF-6. An annual summary of the environmental assessments of actions in desert tortoise habitats will be provided to the Arizona State Office.</p> <p>WL-7. The Phoenix Field Office will comply with Section 2 of</p>	<p>LR- 6. Approximately 3,043,900 acres not listed in appendix 3 or identified for specific purposes in this amendment will be retained in public ownership unless needed for recreation or public purposes. Such disposal proposals on lands not identified for disposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>LR-7. All nonfederal lands with high resource values within the boundaries of the management areas may be considered for acquisition. Acquisitions will occur primarily through the land exchange process in accordance with 43 CFR 2200 and the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act. Acquisition by donation and purchase using Land and Water Conservation Funds will also be considered when willing parties or available funds exist. All acquisitions will be negotiated with willing landowners only and must be in the public interest. There are approximately 288,800 acres of nonfederal land within the four management areas.</p> <p>LR-8. The BLM will continue to acquire nonfederal subsurface estate under federal surface estate on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><u>Wildlife/Fisheries</u></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-1.1. Provide wildlife safe access and year-round water at 150 livestock waters on public lands by 1987 and cooperate with allottees to develop similar considerations on private lands.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-1.2. Develop small and upland game waters in 11 areas by FY-87.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.1. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish Department to develop big game water catchments on public land at sites designated in the Lower Gila North Habitat Management Plan. Construction of the facilities will depend on availability of funding.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.2. Reduce competition for cover, water, and space between big game, livestock, and burros by reducing livestock aggregations and removing all burros at waters in the Big Horn, Granite Wash, and Harquahala Mountains by FY-87.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.3. Allocate additional forage to big game species as forage production increases so that carrying capacities can be increased to those listed in this objective and decrease browse utilization by 10 percent in the following allotments: Auza, Brown, Santa Maria Community, Loma Linda, Palmarita, Lambertson, Carco, and Ridgeway-Kong.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.4. Avoid subdividing big horn sheep lambing areas with fencing and monitor livestock use of these</p>
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<p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.4. Avoid subdividing big horn sheep lambing areas with fencing and monitor livestock use of these key areas. Negotiate with range user to alleviate competition where documented. This will be done by change in season of use or by instituting a grazing system to rest lambing areas during critical lambing season (January through May).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.5. Protect big horn sheep lambing areas and a 2-mile buffer zone (20,000 acres) in the Harquahala Mountains and Little Harquahala Mountains from habitat and behavioral disturbances created by: a) land disposal; b) excess fencing; c) structure building; d) land clearing and wood cutting; e) mining activity between December 15 and April 15 (within the framework of the 3809 regulations); f) ORV use on other than existing roads and trails in the Little Harquahala Mountains; g) road building; h) intense recreational use and development; i) burro use; j) rights-of-way; k) utilization of key browse in excess of 40 percent.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.6. Livestock use on Palmerita, Primrose, Alamo, and Santa Maria allotments will be managed as per WL-4.2 Decision. Priorities for implementation of intensive management of livestock (Allotment Management Plans) will be as per range R-1.1 Decision.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.7. Cooperate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to allow reintroduction of big horn sheep into the Black and Weaver Mountains and allocate forage to the big horn's reasonable population level 1 year before reintroduction.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.8. Decrease cattle densities in big horn habitat to relieve competition between big horn sheep and livestock for space, water, and browse. Graze domestic sheep as far from big horn habitat as possible to decrease big horn disease vectors. Management will begin by 1990. Implementation of this recommendation will be met through range management in the following allotments: Agula (intensive), Ohaco and Calhoun (nonintensive). Implementation of this recommendation will be met through habitat management plans for the remaining allotments or as a result of planning for Lower Gila South (Crowder Cattle Company-portion lying within LGN; K-Lazy-B-portions lying within LGN, Carter-Herrera, Muse-portion lying within LGN, Clem-portion lying within LGN, and Orosco). Domestic sheep will graze as far from big horn habitat as practicable.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.9. Use the very important browse species as "key species" in developing objectives and in monitoring grazing allotments' activity plans (those species receiving importance factors greater than 7.0 in Ough and Miller 1980: 65-</p>	<p>the Endangered Species Act and BLM policy for managing habitat of candidate species to ensure that the Sonoran population of the desert tortoise does not become threatened or endangered through BLM actions.</p> <p>WL-8. The Phoenix Field Office will continue to work with, share information, and support to the extent possible the interests and work of other agencies and public entities concerning tortoise populations and habitat management.</p> <p>WL-9. The Phoenix Field Office will forward tortoise-related research proposals received to the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group.</p> <p>WL-10. Specific and quantifiable desert tortoise management objectives for categorized habitat will be included at the interdisciplinary planning level.</p> <p>WL-11. Environmental decision documents for all actions occurring in desert tortoise habitat will address and include mitigation measures sufficient to offset, to the extent possible, any loss of tortoise habitat quantity or quality in category I, II, and III habitats.</p> <p>WL-12. New land uses will be granted in category I, II, and III tortoise habitats only if no reasonable alternative exists. If no alternative exists, mitigation, including compensation, will be evaluated to meet the no net loss goal.</p> <p>WL-13. Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses are prohibited in category I desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p>WL-14. Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses will not be located in category II desert tortoise habitat unless no reasonable alternative site exists. If no reasonable alternative site exists, impacts will be fully mitigated.</p> <p>WL-15. Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses will be evaluated in category III desert tortoise habitat and impacts will be mitigated.</p> <p>WL-16. Categorized desert tortoise habitat will be reviewed in relation to ongoing livestock use on public lands in the MFP and RMP planning areas; forage needs of desert tortoise and ecological site potential will be considered in determining and prioritizing the resolution of conflicts.</p> <p>WL-17. In category I and II desert tortoise habitat, only those range improvements for livestock that do not conflict with desert tortoise habitat or populations will be allowed.</p>	<p>key areas. Negotiate with range user to alleviate competition where documented. This will be done by change in season of use or by instituting a grazing system to rest lambing areas during critical lambing season (January through May).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.5. Protect big horn sheep lambing areas and a 2-mile buffer zone (20,000 acres) in the Harquahala Mountains and Little Harquahala Mountains from habitat and behavioral disturbances created by: a) land disposal; b) excess fencing; c) structure building; d) land clearing and wood cutting; e) mining activity between December 15 and April 15 (within the framework of the 3809 regulations); f) ORV use on other than existing roads and trails in the Little Harquahala Mountains; g) road building; h) intense recreational use and development; i) burro use; j) rights-of-way; k) utilization of key browse in excess of 40 percent.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.6. Livestock use on Palmerita, Primrose, Alamo, and Santa Maria allotments will be managed as per WL-4.2 Decision. Priorities for implementation of intensive management of livestock (Allotment Management Plans) will be as per range R-1.1 Decision.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.7. Cooperate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to allow reintroduction of big horn sheep into the Black and Weaver Mountains and allocate forage to the big horn's reasonable population level 1 year before reintroduction.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.8. Decrease cattle densities in big horn habitat to relieve competition between big horn sheep and livestock for space, water, and browse. Graze domestic sheep as far from big horn habitat as possible to decrease big horn disease vectors. Management will begin by 1990. Implementation of this recommendation will be met through range management in the following allotments: Agula (intensive), Ohaco and Calhoun (nonintensive). Implementation of this recommendation will be met through habitat management plans for the remaining allotments or as a result of planning for Lower Gila South (Crowder Cattle Company-portion lying within LGN; K-Lazy-B-portions lying within LGN, Carter-Herrera, Muse-portion lying within LGN, Clem-portion lying within LGN, and Orosco). Domestic sheep will graze as far from big horn habitat as practicable.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-2.9. Use the very important browse species as "key species" in developing objectives and in monitoring grazing allotments' activity plans (those species receiving importance factors greater than 7.0 in Ough and Miller 1980: 65-133. Key browse species will include one or more of the following: <i>Cercoparpus montanus</i>, <i>Atriplex canescens</i>,</p>
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<p>133. Key browse species will include one or more of the following: <u>Cercoparpus montanus</u>, <u>Atriplex canescens</u>, <u>Ceanothus greffii</u>, <u>Ephedra fasciculata</u>, <u>Populus fremonti</u>, <u>Simmondsia chinensis</u>, <u>Brickellia coulteri</u>, <u>Calliandra eriophylla</u>, <u>Eriogonum</u> sp., <u>Krameria gravii</u>, <u>Janusia gracilis</u>.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.1. By FY-87, exclude livestock and burros at the following dirt tanks (75 acres) to enhance waterfowl and long-eared owl nesting opportunities: a) SHF #95-Lone Mountain Tank; b) SHF #132-Mitchell Tank; c) SHF #150-Unnamed; and d) SHF #158-Unnamed.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.2. Prior to spring development, evaluate for clearance any planned spring development to avoid elimination of endemic snails.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.3. Protect significant cliffs and a 2-mile zone of influence (18,000 acres), in the Big Horn Mountains and the Vulture Mountains area, from the following activities: a) land disposal; b) excess fencing; c) building of structures; d) land clearing or removal of downed wood or woodcutting; e) reduce or modify mining activities to the extent possible under 3802 and 3809 mining regulations; f) road building; g) intense recreational use or development; h) no burro overuse; i) [sic] rights-of-way. Especially protect these areas from disturbing human activities between February 1 and May 1 each year. Protection zones for golden eagle nests will not exceed ¼ mile radius unless special need for a larger protection zone is identified. These zones will be identified on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.4. Establish cottonwood and willow regeneration around significant springs through supplemental planting and protection from livestock utilization by FY-85. Significant springs include: Cottonwood Springs, Grapevine Springs, Hackberry Springs, Peeples Canyon Springs, Weaver Mountain Springs.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.1. Establish broadleaf tree reproduction and perpetuation via supplemental planting of seedlings in existing and potentially suitable riparian habitat by FY-87 (approximately 2,500 acres).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.2. On the Primrose and Alamo Lake ephemeral allotments, utilization of cottonwood seedlings will be monitored through the season of use to determine when cattle begin to concentrate their use in the riparian areas. Adjustments in season of use and stocking rate will then be made to decrease pressure on the riparian area. This process will occur the next time application for ephemeral forage is made on either</p>	<p>WL-18. New wildlife improvements will be allowed in category I and II desert tortoise habitats only if there is no conflict with desert tortoise habitat populations or habitat.</p> <p>WL-19. Information on predation of desert tortoises will be collected as opportunities arise.</p> <p>WL-20. BLM actions in desert tortoise habitats will be evaluated to assure that they do not encourage the proliferation or range expansion of predator populations.</p> <p>WL-21. The Phoenix Field Office will use the BLM's discretionary authorities relating to leasable and salable minerals to meet the desert tortoise habitat category goals and objectives.</p> <p>WL-22. Boulder sale permits will be restricted to areas that will result in no net loss of tortoise habitat.</p> <p>WL-23. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with the Phoenix Field Office, may use re-establishment and augmentation to assist desert bighorn sheep populations in reaching their natural potential.</p> <p>WL-24. Re-establishment and augmentation of desert bighorn sheep populations will be done in areas where conflicts with other uses and resources do not occur, or where conflicts can be resolved.</p> <p>WL-25. Final decisions on re-establishment and augmentation proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis within the appropriate level of National Environmental Policy Act documentation that addresses conflicts and meets the requirement for public participation.</p>	<p><u>Ceanothus greffii</u>, <u>Ephedra fasciculata</u>, <u>Populus fremonti</u>, <u>Simmondsia chinensis</u>, <u>Brickellia coulteri</u>, <u>Calliandra eriophylla</u>, <u>Eriogonum</u> sp., <u>Krameria gravii</u>, <u>Janusia gracilis</u>.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.1. By FY-87, exclude livestock and burros at the following dirt tanks (75 acres) to enhance waterfowl and long-eared owl nesting opportunities: a) SHF #95-Lone Mountain Tank; b) SHF #132-Mitchell Tank; c) SHF #150-Unnamed; and d) SHF #158-Unnamed.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.2. Prior to spring development, evaluate for clearance any planned spring development to avoid elimination of endemic snails.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.3. Protect significant cliffs and a 2-mile zone of influence (18,000 acres), in the Big Horn Mountains and the Vulture Mountains area, from the following activities: a) land disposal; b) excess fencing; c) building of structures; d) land clearing or removal of downed wood or woodcutting; e) reduce or modify mining activities to the extent possible under 3802 and 3809 mining regulations; f) road building; g) intense recreational use or development; h) no burro overuse; i) [sic] rights-of-way. Especially protect these areas from disturbing human activities between February 1 and May 1 each year. Protection zones for golden eagle nests will not exceed ¼ mile radius unless special need for a larger protection zone is identified. These zones will be identified on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-3.4. Establish cottonwood and willow regeneration around significant springs through supplemental planting and protection from livestock utilization by FY-85. Significant springs include: Cottonwood Springs, Grapevine Springs, Hackberry Springs, Peeples Canyon Springs, Weaver Mountain Springs.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.1. Establish broadleaf tree reproduction and perpetuation via supplemental planting of seedlings in existing and potentially suitable riparian habitat by FY-87 (approximately 2,500 acres).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.2. On the Primrose and Alamo Lake ephemeral allotments, utilization of cottonwood seedlings will be monitored through the season of use to determine when cattle begin to concentrate their use in the riparian areas. Adjustments in season of use and stocking rate will then be made to decrease pressure on the riparian area. This process will occur the next time application for ephemeral forage is made on either allotment. Currently, Santa Maria and Palmerita perennial allotments are</p>
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<p>allotment.</p> <p>Currently, Santa Maria and Palmerita perennial allotments are lightly used. Riparian vegetation is apparently recovering along the Santa Maria River in these allotments. When application for use occurs, Allotment Management Plans will be negotiated with the range user to rest the river areas from livestock overuse.</p> <p>Other allotments, not managed intensively but possessing small tracts of riparian habitat, will be monitored and managed through Habitat Management Plans. (See Table 3-8, page 53, LGN EIS, for these allotments).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.3. Draw up a Habitat Management Plan (which includes public lands along Bill Williams and Santa Maria river floodplains, Grapevine Springs, and Peeples Canyon) to protect and restore riparian habitat. Insure that the following land actions occur so as to be compatible with this goal: a) Mineral development; b) ORV (on existing roads and trails only); c) Road building; d) Woodcutting; e) Rights-of-way; f) Building of structures; g) Livestock and feral burro grazing; h) Land disposal (including Asset Management); and i) Habitat planning decisions.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.4. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish to acquire water rights to maintain or enhance spring habitats and riparian habitats in the planning unit. Specific sites will be determined in the Habitat Management Plan to achieve the goals stated in the plan.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.5. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish Department, Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the event that these agencies agree on a proposal for reintroduction of native fish species into a 6 mile stretch of the canyon below Alamo Dam and along a 4 mile stretch of the Bill Williams River from the western most edge of the planning unit.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.6. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow access to aquatic habitat in Grapevine Springs and Peeples Canyon, and to acquire water rights necessary to maintain existing aquatic habitat by FY-85 (1,100 acres).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.7. Monitor selected aquatic habitat in cooperation with Arizona Game and Fish Department, State Health Services, and Environmental Protection Agency where water pollution is a problem to insure that water quality meets appropriate federal and state standards. Improve conditions that do not meet these standards.</p>		<p>lightly used. Riparian vegetation is apparently recovering along the Santa Maria River in these allotments. When application for use occurs, Allotment Management Plans will be negotiated with the range user to rest the river areas from livestock overuse.</p> <p>Other allotments, not managed intensively but possessing small tracts of riparian habitat, will be monitored and managed through Habitat Management Plans. (See Table 3-8, page 53, LGN EIS, for these allotments).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.3. Draw up a Habitat Management Plan (which includes public lands along Bill Williams and Santa Maria river floodplains, Grapevine Springs, and Peeples Canyon) to protect and restore riparian habitat. Insure that the following land actions occur so as to be compatible with this goal: a) Mineral development; b) ORV (on existing roads and trails only); c) Road building; d) Woodcutting; e) Rights-of-way; f) Building of structures; g) Livestock and feral burro grazing; h) Land disposal (including Asset Management); and i) Habitat planning decisions.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.4. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish to acquire water rights to maintain or enhance spring habitats and riparian habitats in the planning unit. Specific sites will be determined in the Habitat Management Plan to achieve the goals stated in the plan.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.5. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish Department, Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the event that these agencies agree on a proposal for reintroduction of native fish species into a 6 mile stretch of the canyon below Alamo Dam and along a 4 mile stretch of the Bill Williams River from the western most edge of the planning unit.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.6. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow access to aquatic habitat in Grapevine Springs and Peeples Canyon, and to acquire water rights necessary to maintain existing aquatic habitat by FY-85 (1,100 acres).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.7. Monitor selected aquatic habitat in cooperation with Arizona Game and Fish Department, State Health Services, and Environmental Protection Agency where water pollution is a problem to insure that water quality meets appropriate federal and state standards. Improve conditions that do not meet these standards.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.8. Draft a Habitat Management Plan for public land along Bill Williams and Santa Maria Rivers, Grapevine Springs, and Peeples Canyon. The plan will address</p>
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<p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.8. Draft a Habitat Management Plan for public land along Bill Williams and Santa Maria Rivers, Grapevine Springs, and Peeples Canyon. The plan will address all activities mentioned in the original recommendation. Grazing by domestic livestock and feral burros will also be addressed. (see WL-4.3 and LGN/Wildlife – HMP Decision)</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.9. Develop a fire management program for all cottonwood-willow riparian, mixed broadleaf riparian, and mesquite-salt cedar woodland.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-WL-5.1. As Allotment Management Plans are written for allotments containing crucial desert tortoise habitat, the recommendation to rest tortoise habitat from livestock use between February and July will be incorporated into the grazing systems. Implementation of intensive management on allotments will occur as per WL-2.6. (A list of allotments containing tortoise habitat is presented in Table 3-8, Page 53, LGN EIS). Allotments which do not receive intensive management will be monitored as to livestock use. Adjustments in use will be made by changing seasons of use or number of livestock. Fencing out entire tortoise populations may be done, but only after contact with interested user groups.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-5.2. Within distribution of desert and Arizona night lizards (10,000 acres) and Sonoran Mountain king-snake (1,200 acres), utilize 43 CFR 3809 (Surface Mining Regulations) to minimize habitat disturbance during new road construction. Specify closing new roads as a provision in new mining plans of operation, when and where necessary, to prevent recreation disturbance to night lizard and king-snake habitat. Limit wood collection in the Weaver Mountains, particularly along Antelope, Weaver, Arrastra, Cottonwood, and Yarnell Creeks. Protect Yucca and beargrass (<i>Nolina</i> sp.) from destruction to the extent possible under the Surface Mining Regulations, 43 CFR, 3809 and the Arizona Native Plant Law (Arizona Revised Statutes, Chapter 7, Article 1, Section 3-901).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-6.1. Monitor the effects of livestock grazing on different range sites in open chaparral and cottonwood willow SHSs. Enclosures of varying sizes will be constructed. Size will depend on area needed for the purpose.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-6.2. Maintain existing range condition where possible, around significant cliffs on allotments not under intensive management. To the extent possible place water developments in the recommended zones on Pipeline, Calhoun, Aguila, Ohaco and Santa Maria Allotment.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-6.3. Monitor livestock (sheep and cattle) use on Ohaco Allotment, especially between February 1 to June 30,</p>		<p>all activities mentioned in the original recommendation. Grazing by domestic livestock and feral burros will also be addressed. (see WL-4.3 and LGN/Wildlife – HMP Decision)</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-4.9. Develop a fire management program for all cottonwood-willow riparian, mixed broadleaf riparian, and mesquite-salt cedar woodland.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-WL-5.1. As Allotment Management Plans are written for allotments containing crucial desert tortoise habitat, the recommendation to rest tortoise habitat from livestock use between February and July will be incorporated into the grazing systems. Implementation of intensive management on allotments will occur as per WL-2.6. (A list of allotments containing tortoise habitat is presented in Table 3-8, Page 53, LGN EIS). Allotments which do not receive intensive management will be monitored as to livestock use. Adjustments in use will be made by changing seasons of use or number of livestock. 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Monitor the effects of livestock grazing on different range sites in open chaparral and cottonwood willow SHSs. Enclosures of varying sizes will be constructed. Size will depend on area needed for the purpose.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-6.2. Maintain existing range condition where possible, around significant cliffs on allotments not under intensive management. To the extent possible place water developments in the recommended zones on Pipeline, Calhoun, Aguila, Ohaco and Santa Maria Allotment.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-6.3. Monitor livestock (sheep and cattle) use on Ohaco Allotment, especially between February 1 to June 30, in crucial desert tortoise areas on the allotment. Adjust use (either season of use and/or number of sheep) based upon results</p>
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<p>in crucial desert tortoise areas on the allotment. Adjust use (either season of use and/or number of sheep) based upon results of range monitoring program.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-6.4. Develop a Fire Management Plan for Lower Gila North which incorporates protection for sensitive riparian habitats and Lower Sonoran habitats, establishes a mechanism for rehabilitation of riparian habitats, and establishes cover “level” strips in open and closed chaparral habitats. (see WL-7.4).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-7.1. Designation of the Harquahala Mountains as a Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (approximately 5,000 acres) is not necessary. An allotment Management Plan will be developed that will protect this area from overgrazing. All other users or developments incompatible with the protection of this area will be restricted to the extent possible under existing regulations. (see WL-7.2).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-7.2. Minimize detrimental impacts of mineral exploration and development to habitat in the 2,000 acre basin east and north of Harquahala Peak. Utilize surface protection measures in 43 CFR 3802 and 43 CFR 3809. Require plan of operation for all claims 5 acres and over. Require performance bonds from all owners/operators to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. Leaching operations will be reviewed for environmental and human safety by the State Mine Inspector prior to commencement or upon suspension of the operation as per ARS 27-303.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-7.3. Control intensity and season of use by livestock on the Harcuvar and Harquahala mountains open chaparral SHSs (8,500 acres).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-WL-7.4. Develop a controlled (prescribed) burn plan to improve open chaparral habitat in the Harcuvar Mountains and, if not visually impacting, the Harquahala Mountains by 1984 (8,500 acres).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.1. The storage area above the upper Centennial Dike will be deepened. Negotiations will be undertaken with water users upstream to procure unneeded waste water. This water will be channeled into the storage area to maintain a stable water level.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.2. Plant cottonwood poles above the upper Centennial Dike and other dikes along Centennial Wash where a sufficing water supply is present. Monitor the growth and/or mortality of the trees.</p>		<p>of range monitoring program.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-6.4. Develop a Fire Management Plan for Lower Gila North which incorporates protection for sensitive riparian habitats and Lower Sonoran habitats, establishes a mechanism for rehabilitation of riparian habitats, and establishes cover “level” strips in open and closed chaparral habitats. (see WL-7.4).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-7.1. Designation of the Harquahala Mountains as a Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (approximately 5,000 acres) is not necessary. An allotment Management Plan will be developed that will protect this area from overgrazing. All other users or developments incompatible with the protection of this area will be restricted to the extent possible under existing regulations. (see WL-7.2).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-7.2. Minimize detrimental impacts of mineral exploration and development to habitat in the 2,000 acre basin east and north of Harquahala Peak. Utilize surface protection measures in 43 CFR 3802 and 43 CFR 3809. Require plan of operation for all claims 5 acres and over. Require performance bonds from all owners/operators to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. Leaching operations will be reviewed for environmental and human safety by the State Mine Inspector prior to commencement or upon suspension of the operation as per ARS 27-303.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-7.3. Control intensity and season of use by livestock on the Harcuvar and Harquahala mountains open chaparral SHSs (8,500 acres).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-WL-7.4. Develop a controlled (prescribed) burn plan to improve open chaparral habitat in the Harcuvar Mountains and, if not visually impacting, the Harquahala Mountains by 1984 (8,500 acres).</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.1. The storage area above the upper Centennial Dike will be deepened. Negotiations will be undertaken with water users upstream to procure unneeded waste water. This water will be channeled into the storage area to maintain a stable water level.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.2. Plant cottonwood poles above the upper Centennial Dike and other dikes along Centennial Wash where a sufficing water supply is present. Monitor the growth and/or mortality of the trees.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.3. Negotiate an Allotment Management Plan with the range user of Babcock Allotment. Explore</p>
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<p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.3. Negotiate an Allotment Management Plan with the range user of Babcock Allotment. Explore possibility of including the dikes, spreader system and associated riparian scrub habitat in a single pasture.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.4. Negotiate with the State Land Department to facilitate exchange of Section 26, T. 7 N., R. 11 W., provided that the riparian habitat can be feasibly maintained.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.5. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish, State Health Services, and the Environmental Protection Agency in monitoring water quality on public land in the Centennial Dikes area.</p> <p><i>Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan</i></p> <p>BLM will continue to place wildlife escape ramps in water troughs and construct or maintain new wildlife waters in coordination with state and other federal agencies.</p> <p>New livestock waters to be located within two miles from crucial tortoise habitat and/or crucial desert bighorn sheep habitat will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis to determine potential impacts. Significant impacts will be mitigated with appropriate stipulations on site selection.</p> <p>Before installing facilities, BLM will conduct a site evaluation for state-protected animals and will develop mitigation to protect these species and their habitats. Such mitigation might include project relocation, redesign, or abandonment.</p> <p>BLM will initiate formal Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on all actions that may affect federal listed threatened and endangered species or it's critical habitat as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended.</p> <p>During construction of rangeland developments, vehicles will use existing roads and trails wherever possible for access to sites. Where feasible or where no roads exist, vehicles will travel cross-country to avoid the need for road building. Where new roads must be built, roadbeds will be no wider than needed for reliable access; BLM specifications will also be used to reduce erosion and gulling.</p> <p>During construction of all rangeland developments, surface resources will be disturbed as little as possible. After construction, disturbed surfaces will be restored to a natural condition as far as is practicable.</p> <p>Fences proposed in big game habitat will be designed to reduce adverse impacts to big game movement. Specifications in BLM</p>		<p>possibility of including the dikes, spreader system and associated riparian scrub habitat in a single pasture.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.4. Negotiate with the State Land Department to facilitate exchange of Section 26, T. 7 N., R. 11 W., provided that the riparian habitat can be feasibly maintained.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-WL-8.5. Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish, State Health Services, and the Environmental Protection Agency in monitoring water quality on public land in the Centennial Dikes area.</p> <p>BLM will continue to place wildlife escape ramps in water troughs and construct or maintain new wildlife waters in coordination with state and other federal agencies.</p> <p>New livestock waters to be located within two miles from crucial tortoise habitat and/or crucial desert bighorn sheep habitat will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis to determine potential impacts. Significant impacts will be mitigated with appropriate stipulations on site selection.</p> <p>Before installing facilities, BLM will conduct a site evaluation for state-protected animals and will develop mitigation to protect these species and their habitats. Such mitigation might include project relocation, redesign, or abandonment.</p> <p>BLM will initiate formal Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on all actions that may affect federal listed threatened and endangered species or it's critical habitat as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended.</p> <p>During construction of rangeland developments, vehicles will use existing roads and trails wherever possible for access to sites. Where feasible or where no roads exist, vehicles will travel cross-country to avoid the need for road building. Where new roads must be built, roadbeds will be no wider than needed for reliable access; BLM specifications will also be used to reduce erosion and gulling.</p> <p>During construction of all rangeland developments, surface resources will be disturbed as little as possible. After construction, disturbed surfaces will be restored to a natural condition as far as is practicable.</p> <p>Fences proposed in big game habitat will be designed to reduce adverse impacts to big game movement. Specifications in BLM Manual 1737 and in local BLM directives will be used. BLM will consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Department on the design and location of new fences.</p>
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<p>Manual 1737 and in local BLM directives will be used. BLM will consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Department on the design and location of new fences.</p> <p>Where existing fences in big game habitat do not meet BLM specifications, they will be modified according to BLM Manual 1737 when they are scheduled for replacement or major maintenance.</p> <p>As a general practice, new roads will not be bladed for use in fence construction. Vehicles will travel overland, or fences will be built by hand.</p> <p>All livestock waters will provide safe, usable water for wildlife. As funding and opportunities permit, existing facilities will be modified for safe wildlife use. The following standards apply to design and modification of livestock waters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The above-ground height of livestock troughs and tanks will not exceed 20 inches. BLM will install wildlife escape ladders in each facility and provide ramps for small bird and mammal access. Storage tanks will have either a metal or floating vinyl cover to reduce evaporation and prevent wildlife from drowning. • Ground-level wildlife water developments will be established on livestock waters where feasible. An enclosure of three to seven acres containing the water source, storage, and related riparian habitat will be built to exclude livestock. Where terrain permits, livestock water will be provided at least 0.25 miles outside of the fenced enclosure. • Developed spring storage and adjacent riparian habitat will be fenced to exclude livestock. • Where practical, water troughs and tanks will be kept full year-round to provide a continuous water supply for wildlife. <p>Domestic sheep grazing will not be allowed on allotments containing bighorn sheep habitats to avoid transmittal of diseases.</p> <p>BLM will initiate a cooperative Habitat Management Plan with Arizona Game and Fish Department to address critical wildlife habitat needs in the Lower Gila South Planning Area.</p> <p>A management plan for the Fred J. Weiler Green Belt will be developed in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the BLM. Establish wildlife inventories and monitoring for game and non-game species [Goldwater].²</p>		<p>Where existing fences in big game habitat do not meet BLM specifications, they will be modified according to BLM Manual 1737 when they are scheduled for replacement or major maintenance.</p> <p>As a general practice, new roads will not be bladed for use in fence construction. Vehicles will travel overland, or fences will be built by hand.</p> <p>All livestock waters will provide safe, usable water for wildlife. As funding and opportunities permit, existing facilities will be modified for safe wildlife use. The following standards apply to design and modification of livestock waters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The above-ground height of livestock troughs and tanks will not exceed 20 inches. BLM will install wildlife escape ladders in each facility and provide ramps for small bird and mammal access. Storage tanks will have either a metal or floating vinyl cover to reduce evaporation and prevent wildlife from drowning. • Ground-level wildlife water developments will be established on livestock waters where feasible. An enclosure of three to seven acres containing the water source, storage, and related riparian habitat will be built to exclude livestock. Where terrain permits, livestock water will be provided at least 0.25 miles outside of the fenced enclosure. • Developed spring storage and adjacent riparian habitat will be fenced to exclude livestock. • Where practical, water troughs and tanks will be kept full year-round to provide a continuous water supply for wildlife. <p>Domestic sheep grazing will not be allowed on allotments containing bighorn sheep habitats to avoid transmittal of diseases.</p> <p>BLM will initiate a cooperative Habitat Management Plan with Arizona Game and Fish Department to address critical wildlife habitat needs in the Lower Gila South Planning Area.</p> <p>A management plan for the Fred J. Weiler Green Belt will be developed in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the BLM.</p> <p>Establish wildlife inventories and monitoring for game and non-game species [Goldwater].</p> <p>Support continued Sonoran pronghorn monitoring and recovery</p>
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<p>Support continued Sonoran pronghorn monitoring and recovery efforts, including specific recovery efforts stipulated in the EMP [Goldwater].</p> <p>Avoid new surface disturbing activities within six miles of permanent water sources within Sonoran pronghorn antelope range [Goldwater].</p> <p>Remove trespass livestock [Goldwater].</p> <p>Inventory, categorize and manage desert tortoise habitat on the BGR consistent with Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on the Public Lands: A Rangeland Plan (BLM 1988) [Goldwater].*</p>		<p>efforts, including specific recovery efforts stipulated in the EMP [Goldwater].</p> <p>Avoid new surface disturbing activities within six miles of permanent water sources within Sonoran pronghorn antelope range [Goldwater].</p> <p>Remove trespass livestock [Goldwater].</p> <p>WL-1. Phoenix Field Office personnel will participate, when asked and when appropriate, in public events such as fairs and open houses with information and displays showing the management of public lands including desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p>WL-2. The Phoenix Field Office will develop a public brochure on desert tortoise.</p> <p>WL-3. The MFP and RMP planning areas have been inventoried for desert tortoise habitat and habitat categories have been established (map 4, appendix 4). These boundaries may be slightly altered as new and better information becomes available on population distributions and dynamics.</p> <p>WL-4. Three one-square-mile study plots in the Maricopa, Harcuvar, and Harquahala mountains will be read every five years to monitor desert tortoise populations and habitat.</p> <p>WF-5. Records of environmental assessments that contain stipulations pertaining to the desert tortoise will be maintained for the express purpose of tracking compliance and effectiveness of the stipulations.</p> <p>WF-6. An annual summary of the environmental assessments of actions in desert tortoise habitats will be provided to the Arizona State Office.</p> <p>WL-7. The Phoenix Field Office will comply with Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act and BLM policy for managing habitat of candidate species to ensure that the Sonoran population of the desert tortoise does not become threatened or endangered through BLM actions.</p> <p>WL-8. The Phoenix Field Office will continue to work with, share information, and support to the extent possible the interests and work of other agencies and public entities concerning tortoise populations and habitat management.</p> <p>WL-9. The Phoenix Field Office will forward tortoise-related research proposals received to the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group.</p>
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		<p>WL-10. Specific and quantifiable desert tortoise management objectives for categorized habitat will be included at the interdisciplinary planning level.</p> <p>WL-11. Environmental decision documents for all actions occurring in desert tortoise habitat will address and include mitigation measures sufficient to offset, to the extent possible, any loss of tortoise habitat quantity or quality in category I, II, and III habitats.</p> <p>WL-12. New land uses will be granted in category I, II, and III tortoise habitats only if no reasonable alternative exists. If no alternative exists, mitigation, including compensation, will be evaluated to meet the no net loss goal.</p> <p>WL-13. Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses are prohibited in category I desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p>WL-14. Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses will not be located in category II desert tortoise habitat unless no reasonable alternative site exists. If no reasonable alternative site exists, impacts will be fully mitigated.</p> <p>WL-15. Competitive off-highway-vehicle race courses will be evaluated in category III desert tortoise habitat and impacts will be mitigated.</p> <p>WL-16. Categorized desert tortoise habitat will be reviewed in relation to ongoing livestock use on public lands in the MFP and RMP planning areas; forage needs of desert tortoise and ecological site potential will be considered in determining and prioritizing the resolution of conflicts.</p> <p>WL-17. In category I and II desert tortoise habitat, only those range improvements for livestock that do not conflict with desert tortoise habitat or populations will be allowed.</p> <p>WL-18. New wildlife improvements will be allowed in category I and II desert tortoise habitats only if there is no conflict with desert tortoise habitat populations or habitat.</p> <p>WL-19. Information on predation of desert tortoises will be collected as opportunities arise.</p> <p>WL-20. BLM actions in desert tortoise habitats will be evaluated to assure that they do not encourage the proliferation or range expansion of predator populations.</p> <p>WL-21. The Phoenix Field Office will use the BLM's discretionary authorities relating to leasable and salable minerals</p>
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<p><u>Wild Horse and Burro Management</u></p> <p><i>Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.1. Maintain a viable, color-diverse burro population of 200 animals in the Alamo HMA; however, burro numbers in the remaining herd areas should be reduced to 0 by 1986.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.2. Maintain free access for wild burros to livestock-watering facilities in the Alamo Herd Area.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.3. Maintain access to Alamo Lake for the wild burro herd in the Alamo HMA.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.4. Designate a wild-burro viewing route within the Alamo HMA and sign with on-the-ground interpretative [sic] signs. Also, post signs which provide a telephone number that citizens may call to report violations of the Wild Horse and Burro Act.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.5. Limit or modify construction of new structures within Herd Management Areas which would restrict burro movement.</p> <p><i>Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan</i></p> <p>After the filing of the final RMP/EIS, BLM will prepare a burro</p>	<p><u>Wild Horse and Burro Management</u></p> <p>None. No decisions pertaining to the management of wild horses and burros were approved.</p>	<p>to meet the desert tortoise habitat category goals and objectives.</p> <p>WL-22. Boulder sale permits will be restricted to areas that will result in no net loss of tortoise habitat.</p> <p>WL-23. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with the Phoenix Field Office, may use re-establishment and augmentation to assist desert bighorn sheep populations in reaching their natural potential.</p> <p>WL-24. Re-establishment and augmentation of desert bighorn sheep populations will be done in areas where conflicts with other uses and resources do not occur, or where conflicts can be resolved.</p> <p>WL-25. Final decisions on re-establishment and augmentation proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis within the appropriate level of National Environmental Policy Act documentation that addresses conflicts and meets the requirement for public participation.</p> <p><u>Wild Horse and Burro Management</u></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.1. Maintain a viable, color-diverse burro population of 200 animals in the Alamo HMA; however, burro numbers in the remaining herd areas should be reduced to 0 by 1986.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.2. Maintain free access for wild burros to livestock-watering facilities in the Alamo Herd Area.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.3. Maintain access to Alamo Lake for the wild burro herd in the Alamo HMA.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.4. Designate a wild-burro viewing route within the Alamo HMA and sign with on-the-ground interpretative [sic] signs. Also, post signs which provide a telephone number that citizens may call to report violations of the Wild Horse and Burro Act.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-RM-3.5. Limit or modify construction of new structures within Herd Management Areas which would restrict burro movement.</p> <p>After the filing of the final RMP/EIS, BLM will prepare a burro capture plan in consultation with appropriate government agencies and interest groups. All burros would be removed from the Painted Rock Reservoir area. Details for the burro capture program would be outlined in a herd management area plan</p>
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<p>capture plan in consultation with appropriate government agencies and interest groups. All burros would be removed from the Painted Rock Reservoir area. Details for the burro capture program would be outlined in a herd management area plan (HMAP).</p> <p><u>Recreation Management</u></p> <p><i>Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-1.1. a) Designate Vulture Mine Road from Highway 60 south to the Vulture Mine as a scenic drive by 1984 and establish a scenic corridor ½ mile on either side of the road; b) Interpret, through signing, the existing scenic, geologic and botanic values in T.6 N., R. 5 W., sec. 6.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-1.4. a) Manage public lands in T. 10 N., R. 4 W., sec. 26 G&SRBM for their scenic values; b) Interpret the history, geology, and hazards to human safety of the area near the privately owned Placerita Mining Camp. This decision has been modified by deleting interpretive signs but still manage for protection.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-2.1. a) Establish a hiking and horseback riding trail system near Wickenburg. The width and exact routing of the trail will be determined through a process of close consultation with the concerned public. Identify the trail by standard trail markers and install hazard warnings where needed; b) Work with the Desert Caballeros of Wickenburg to establish a trail system between Wickenburg and Wagoner to ensure continuous management on public lands.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-3.1. Continue to protect and interpret the Harquahala Peak observatory site.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-4.1. No new land will be acquired in this area [former Saddle Mountain Wilderness Study Area]. If Saddle Mountain is rejected as a wilderness area, no new roads will be allowed but it will be designated as a recreation and rock-hound area.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-5.3. Designate Peeples Canyon and Grapevine Springs closed to off-road vehicle use.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-6.1. a) Develop a recreation brochure for the LGN Planning Area; b) Increase public contact through use of suggestion boxes at interpretive sites.*</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-10.1. a) Recognize areas proposed as Class II visual management being an area where contrast may be seen</p>	<p><u>Recreation Management</u></p> <p>RR-1. Management of recreation opportunities and developments will be evaluated using two inventory and management tools called the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (map 5, appendix 5) and Visual Resource Management (map 6, appendix 6).</p> <p>RR-2. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications will be reviewed, refined, and adopted during interdisciplinary planning.</p> <p>RR-3. Existing visual resource inventory classes of the RMP will be adopted as management classes.</p> <p>RR-4. All MFP visual resource management classes will be brought forward.</p> <p>RR-5. Visual resource management classes will be reviewed and refined during future interdisciplinary planning.</p> <p>RR-6. Scenic corridors and potential backcountry byways will receive priority evaluation of visual resources to determine appropriate future classifications.</p> <p>RR-7. All wildernesses including the Harcuvar Mountains, Rawhide Mountains, Eagletail Mountains, and New Water Mountains within the Yuma and Lake Havasu field office areas are designated Class 1 Visual Resource Management areas (map 6).</p> <p>RR-8. All unclassified lands of the MFP and RMP planning areas are established as Visual Resource Management Class III areas, subject to review and refinement during future interdisciplinary planning (map 6).</p> <p>RR-9. All public lands described in the MFP and RMP are designated as "limited," except wilderness—which is closed to motor vehicles, and relinquished portions of the Barry M. Goldwater Range—which remain restricted to entry by permit only. Off-highway and special recreation vehicles are limited to existing and/or designated roads and vehicle routes. No unauthorized cross-country vehicle travel is permitted. Creation of unauthorized new trails and widening or extending existing trails is not permitted. This includes lands transferred to the</p>	<p>(HMAP).</p> <p><u>Recreation Management</u></p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-1.1. a) Designate Vulture Mine Road from Highway 60 south to the Vulture Mine as a scenic drive by 1984 and establish a scenic corridor ½ mile on either side of the road; b) Interpret, through signing, the existing scenic, geologic and botanic values in T.6 N., R. 5 W., sec. 6.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-1.4. a) Manage public lands in T. 10 N., R. 4 W., sec. 26 G&SRBM for their scenic values; b) Interpret the history, geology, and hazards to human safety of the area near the privately owned Placerita Mining Camp. This decision has been modified by deleting interpretive signs but still manage for protection.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-2.1. a) Establish a hiking and horseback riding trail system near Wickenburg. The width and exact routing of the trail will be determined through a process of close consultation with the concerned public. Identify the trail by standard trail markers and install hazard warnings where needed; b) Work with the Desert Caballeros of Wickenburg to establish a trail system between Wickenburg and Wagoner to ensure continuous management on public lands.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-3.1. Continue to protect and interpret the Harquahala Peak observatory site.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-4.1. No new land will be acquired in this area [former Saddle Mountain Wilderness Study Area]. If Saddle Mountain is rejected as a wilderness area, no new roads will be allowed but it will be designated as a recreation and rock-hound area.</p> <p>LGN-MFP-3-R-5.3. Designate Peeples Canyon and Grapevine Springs closed to off-road vehicle use.</p> <p>The Vekol Valley Grassland and Coffee Pot Botanical Area ACECs will be closed to recreational ORV use in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 8340, Subpart 8342.</p> <p>Enforce all BGR public access permit requirements developed by BLM, USAF, and USMC [Goldwater]. Develop a computerized and uniform permitting system [Goldwater].</p>
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<p>but should not attract attention. Manage visual resources using existing utility corridors (refer to Lands for existing corridors);</p> <p>b) Recognize areas proposed as Class II[I] visual resource management areas as being an area that contrast may be evident and begin to attract attention. Manage visual resources using existing utility corridors (refer to Lands for existing corridors);</p> <p>c) Recognize areas proposed as Class IV visual resource management areas as being an area that a contrast may attract attention and be a dominant feature in the landscape. Manage visual resources by using existing utility corridors (refer to Lands for existing corridors). Refer to Scenic Recommendations in Recreation Objective 1.*</p> <p><i>Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan</i></p> <p>The plan limits ORV use to existing and/or designated roads, trails, and vehicle routes. ORV closures may be made on areas where ORV use is determined to be causing irreparable harm to the existing resources. This applies to all public lands in the LGS planning area except for those specific areas identified for closure. Cross-country vehicle travel will be permitted only when a specific authorized task requires such use and only in areas where such use would not cause unnecessary or undue resource damage. Random off-road travel which results in the creation of new trails or the widening or extension of existing trails is not permitted.*</p> <p>Wilderness study area lands not designated as wilderness by Congress will be managed as limited ORV use areas as described above.*</p> <p>Site specific designation (limited, closed, open) will be made as circumstances warrant. This will be done through the planning process, with full public participation.*</p> <p>The Vekol Valley Grassland and Coffee Pot Botanical Area ACECs will be closed to recreational ORV use in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 8340, Subpart 8342.</p> <p>Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning. These evaluations will consider the significance of a proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for visual resources. On BLM lands where classes have not been established, the lands will be managed as VRM Class III. All wilderness study areas will be managed as VRM Class II, and designated wilderness areas as VRM Class I.*</p> <p>Establish visual resource management classes for the BRG</p>	<p>Kingman, Lake Havasu and Yuma field offices.</p> <p>RR-10. Single- or multiple-use off-highway and special recreation vehicle areas, routes, and management strategies will be designated and developed through interdisciplinary plans. Planning shall address limits of acceptable change indicators and standards, conflicts, issues, and solutions to vehicle management problems.</p> <p>RR-11. Roads and trails used as race courses will be evaluated for no action, closure, rehabilitation, or upgrading and authorization as race courses.</p> <p>RR-12. Site-specific inventories will be conducted to delineate existing roads and vehicle routes as requested by the authorized officer.</p> <p>RR-13. Approved hiking and equestrian trails are closed to unauthorized motorized use.</p> <p>RR-14. Road or area closures will be enacted where off-highway or special recreation vehicle use is determined to be inconsistent with established Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications (map 5) and/or such use is causing harm to natural or cultural resources.</p> <p>RR-15. Cross-country vehicle travel will be permitted only when specifically authorized to complete a task which requires such use, and only in areas where such use will not cause unnecessary or undue resource impacts.</p> <p>RR-16. Off-highway vehicle designations for relinquished portions of the Barry M. Goldwater Range are retained—a permit is required for entry to these lands and motorized travel is limited to designated and/or established routes.</p> <p>RR-17. Wilderness is closed to mechanized use. The provisions of existing wilderness management plans and wildlife operations and maintenance plans pertaining to motorized and mechanized administrative uses in wilderness will remain in effect.</p> <p>RR-18. Brochures, maps, and information sheets featuring off-highway and special recreation vehicle information will be developed and disseminated to the public.</p> <p>RR-19. Four special recreation management areas are established (Ajo, Gila Trail, Saddle Mountain, and Vulture Mountains) and one is revised (Sentinel Plain) (map 8).</p> <p>RR-20. Interdisciplinary planning, including public</p>	<p>Develop an action plan or related agreement stipulating inter-agency law enforcement obligations, search and rescue responsibilities, radio communications and other matters of mutual concern among affected BGR agencies and law enforcement jurisdictions [Goldwater].</p> <p>Prohibit woodcutting and wood collection for commercial or domestic use and issue no wood cutting permits for BGR lands [Goldwater].</p> <p>Prohibit woodcutting and collection of dead and down wood in ACEC's [Goldwater].</p> <p>Adopt appropriate USAF Rules of Conduct and USAF Range Clearance Noncompliance Policies for the BGR [Goldwater].</p> <p>RR-1. Management of recreation opportunities and developments will be evaluated using two inventory and management tools called the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (map 5, appendix 5) and Visual Resource Management (map 6, appendix 6).</p> <p>RR-2. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications will be reviewed, refined, and adopted during interdisciplinary planning.</p> <p>RR-3. Existing visual resource inventory classes of the RMP will be adopted as management classes.</p> <p>RR-4. All MFP visual resource management classes will be brought forward.</p> <p>RR-5. Visual resource management classes will be reviewed and refined during future interdisciplinary planning.</p> <p>RR-6. Scenic corridors and potential backcountry byways will receive priority evaluation of visual resources to determine appropriate future classifications.</p> <p>RR-7. All wildernesses including the Harcubar Mountains, Rawhide Mountains, Eagletail Mountains, and New Water Mountains within the Yuma and Lake Havasu field office areas are designated Class 1 Visual Resource Management areas (map 6).</p> <p>RR-8. All unclassified lands of the MFP and RMP planning areas are established as Visual Resource Management Class III areas, subject to review and refinement during future interdisciplinary planning (map 6).</p> <p>RR-9. All public lands described in the MFP and RMP are</p>
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<p>[Goldwater].*</p> <p>Enforce all BGR public access permit requirements developed by BLM, USAF, and USMC [Goldwater].</p> <p>Develop a computerized and uniform permitting system [Goldwater].</p> <p>Prepare and issue visitor use maps and related materials for the BGR [Goldwater].*</p> <p>Establish in coordination with the USAF, USMC, USFWS, and the AGFD a BGR environmental education program [Goldwater].*</p> <p>Implement a BGR signing program [Goldwater].*</p> <p>Develop an action plan or related agreement stipulating inter-agency law enforcement obligations, search and rescue responsibilities, radio communications and other matters of mutual concern among affected BGR agencies and law enforcement jurisdictions [Goldwater].</p> <p>Prepare recreation plans or appropriate management prescriptions for the Sentinel Plain Lava Flow Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), Crater Range SRMA, Mohawk and Sand Dunes ACEC, Camino del Diablo Backcountry Byway, the Yuma Desert and Sand Dunes Habitat Management Area, and the Gran Desierto Dunes ACEC [Goldwater].*</p> <p>Identify and survey sites suitable for installation of primitive or minimally developed campground facilities [Goldwater].*</p> <p>Permit vehicle-based camping on all BGR lands within 50 feet of roads except where otherwise posted or restricted for public safety or resource protection purposes [Goldwater].*</p> <p>Permit primitive camping on BGR lands unless otherwise posted, and prohibit camping within one-quarter mile of water sources [Goldwater].*</p> <p>Prohibit woodcutting and wood collection for commercial or domestic use and issue no wood cutting permits for BGR lands [Goldwater].</p> <p>Prohibit woodcutting and collection of dead and down wood in ACEC's [Goldwater].</p> <p>Implement a maximum 14-day length-of-stay limit for recreational camping within any 23-day period on BGR lands</p>	<p>involvement, will be completed for all special recreation management areas to establish boundaries, type and level of facility development, resolve and mitigate impacts to other resources, evaluate and refine existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Visual Resource Management classes, improve recreational opportunities, and reduce conflicts among public land users.</p> <p>RR-21. A "designated routes only" off-highway and special recreation vehicle classification will be enacted on a management area, or on a site-specific basis, when needed for resource protection or to ensure consistency with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.</p> <p>RR-22. The Vulture Mountains Special Recreation Management Area, to include lands surrounding Vulture Peak, the Vulture Mine, and the Vulture Mountains, is established to emphasize diverse recreational opportunities including trails, natural and historic interpretation, camping, and off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas.</p> <p>RR-23. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized.</p> <p>RR-24. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>RR-25. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p> <p>RR-26. The Gila Trail Special Recreation Management Area, to include lands surrounding the Gila Trail, the Butterfield Overland Stage Route, the Anza National Historic Trail, the Southern Overland Trail, the Mormon Battalion Trail, the Oatman Massacre Site, the Painted Rock Mountains, and associated cultural and recreational features, is established.</p> <p>RR-27. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized in areas classified as rural, roaded-natural, or semi-primitive motorized.</p> <p>RR-28. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>RR-29. Surface-disturbing activities within one-quarter mile of historic and prehistoric trail segments will be mitigated.</p> <p>RR-30. All off-highway vehicle routes will be inventoried and</p>	<p>designated as "limited," except wilderness—which is closed to motor vehicles, and relinquished portions of the Barry M. Goldwater Range—which remain restricted to entry by permit only. Off-highway and special recreation vehicles are limited to existing and/or designated roads and vehicle routes. No unauthorized cross-country vehicle travel is permitted. Creation of unauthorized new trails and widening or extending existing trails is not permitted. This includes lands transferred to the Kingman, Lake Havasu and Yuma field offices.</p> <p>RR-10. Single- or multiple-use off-highway and special recreation vehicle areas, routes, and management strategies will be designated and developed through interdisciplinary plans. Planning shall address limits of acceptable change indicators and standards, conflicts, issues, and solutions to vehicle management problems.</p> <p>RR-11. Roads and trails used as race courses will be evaluated for no action, closure, rehabilitation, or upgrading and authorization as race courses.</p> <p>RR-12. Site-specific inventories will be conducted to delineate existing roads and vehicle routes as requested by the authorized officer.</p> <p>RR-13. Approved hiking and equestrian trails are closed to unauthorized motorized use.</p> <p>RR-14. Road or area closures will be enacted where off-highway or special recreation vehicle use is determined to be inconsistent with established Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications (map 5) and/or such use is causing harm to natural or cultural resources.</p> <p>RR-15. Cross-country vehicle travel will be permitted only when specifically authorized to complete a task which requires such use, and only in areas where such use will not cause unnecessary or undue resource impacts.</p> <p>RR-16. Off-highway vehicle designations for relinquished portions of the Barry M. Goldwater Range are retained—a permit is required for entry to these lands and motorized travel is limited to designated and/or established routes.</p> <p>RR-17. Wilderness is closed to mechanized use. The provisions of existing wilderness management plans and wildlife operations and maintenance plans pertaining to motorized and mechanized administrative uses in wilderness will remain in effect.</p> <p>RR-18. Brochures, maps, and information sheets featuring off-</p>
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<p>[Goldwater].*</p> <p>Adopt appropriate USAF Rules of Conduct and USAF Range Clearance Noncompliance Policies for the BGR [Goldwater].</p>	<p>designated.</p> <p>RR-31. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p> <p>RR-32. The Saddle Mountain Special Recreation Management Area, to include the public lands containing Saddle Mountain and the Palo Verde Hills, is established to emphasize provision of geologic, cultural, and wildlife interpretive sites; protection of the area's scenic landscapes and vistas; and promotion of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>RR-33. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized for the northern and northeastern portions of the area.</p> <p>RR-34. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>RR-35. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p> <p>RR-36. The southern and western portions of the area will be maintained as remote and mostly undeveloped.</p> <p>RR-37. The Ajo Special Recreation Management Area, to include the entire Ajo Management Area, is established.</p> <p>RR-38. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized.</p> <p>RR-39. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>RR-40. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p> <p>RR-41. The Sentinel Plain Lava Flow Special Recreation Management Areas is restricted to entry by permit only. Existing boundaries may be adjusted through interdisciplinary planning to respond to changing land uses.</p> <p>RR-42. Existing prescriptions authorized by the Goldwater Amendment (BLM, 1990) will be brought forward without change.</p> <p>RR-43. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values</p>	<p>highway and special recreation vehicle information will be developed and disseminated to the public.</p> <p>RR-19. Four special recreation management areas are established (Ajo, Gila Trail, Saddle Mountain, and Vulture Mountains) and one is revised (Sentinel Plain) (map 8).</p> <p>RR-20. Interdisciplinary planning, including public involvement, will be completed for all special recreation management areas to establish boundaries, type and level of facility development, resolve and mitigate impacts to other resources, evaluate and refine existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum and Visual Resource Management classes, improve recreational opportunities, and reduce conflicts among public land users.</p> <p>RR-21. A "designated routes only" off-highway and special recreation vehicle classification will be enacted on a management area, or on a site-specific basis, when needed for resource protection or to ensure consistency with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.</p> <p>RR-22. The Vulture Mountains Special Recreation Management Area, to include lands surrounding Vulture Peak, the Vulture Mine, and the Vulture Mountains, is established to emphasize diverse recreational opportunities including trails, natural and historic interpretation, camping, and off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas.</p> <p>RR-23. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized.</p> <p>RR-24. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>RR-25. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p> <p>RR-26. The Gila Trail Special Recreation Management Area, to include lands surrounding the Gila Trail, the Butterfield Overland Stage Route, the Anza National Historic Trail, the Southern Overland Trail, the Mormon Battalion Trail, the Oatman Massacre Site, the Painted Rock Mountains, and associated cultural and recreational features, is established.</p> <p>RR-27. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized in areas classified as rural, roaded-natural, or semi-</p>
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	<p>and improve recreational opportunities and visitor safety are authorized.</p> <p>RR-44. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be evaluated.</p> <p>RR-45. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p> <p>RR-46. Project level planning for the extensive recreation management area will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>RR-47. Primitive facilities are authorized where needed for resource protection, visitor safety, improvement of the recreation experience, or increasing recreational opportunities.</p> <p>RR-48. Camping locations, camping stay limits, off-highway and special recreation vehicle use, and utilization of the existing natural resources will be established.</p> <p>RR-49. Long- and short-term camping areas, commercial or competitive off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas, scenic turnouts, cultural interpretive sites, hiking, equestrian or mountain bike trails, road and portal signage, and road maintenance will be evaluated.</p> <p>RR-50. A "designated routes only" off-highway and special vehicle classification will be established on a site-specific basis when needed for resource protection or to maintain consistency with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.</p> <p>RR-51. The existing 14-day camping stay limit and all associated policy will be maintained throughout the planning area unless otherwise designated by the authorized officer or through project planning. Areas may be closed for resource protection, rehabilitation, or to reduce conflicts with other uses.</p> <p>RR-52. Camping facilities and length-of-stay limits may be established as prescribed below for dispersed camping, long-term visitor areas, extended camping areas, and short-term camping areas (see Glossary).</p> <p>RR-53. Camping will be permitted on all public lands unless otherwise designated, closed, or restricted for resource protection.</p> <p>RR-54. Self-contained or vehicle-based camping will be permitted within 50 feet of the centerline of designated or existing routes. Cross-country travel to campsites is not</p>	<p>primitive motorized.</p> <p>RR-28. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>RR-29. Surface-disturbing activities within one-quarter mile of historic and prehistoric trail segments will be mitigated.</p> <p>RR-30. All off-highway vehicle routes will be inventoried and designated.</p> <p>RR-31. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p> <p>RR-32. The Saddle Mountain Special Recreation Management Area, to include the public lands containing Saddle Mountain and the Palo Verde Hills, is established to emphasize provision of geologic, cultural, and wildlife interpretive sites; protection of the area's scenic landscapes and vistas; and promotion of recreational opportunities.</p> <p>RR-33. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized for the northern and northeastern portions of the area.</p> <p>RR-34. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>RR-35. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p> <p>RR-36. The southern and western portions of the area will be maintained as remote and mostly undeveloped.</p> <p>RR-37. The Ajo Special Recreation Management Area, to include the entire Ajo Management Area, is established.</p> <p>RR-38. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities are authorized.</p> <p>RR-39. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be developed.</p> <p>RR-40. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p>
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	<p>permitted.</p> <p>RR-55. Trailhead facilities will be closed to overnight camping upon written approval of the field manager.</p> <p>RR-56. Long-term visitor areas (LTVAs) will be defined on the ground with fences or signs. Each LTVA will include designated roads, designated campsites, and amenities to support long-term camping occupancy.</p> <p>RR-57. The following resource factors will be considered for implementation and development of LTVAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted only in rural or roaded natural Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes. • Location on rocky or resilient soils. • Well-maintained ingress and egress routes. • Location within 30 miles of local community. • Location outside of category I or II desert tortoise habitat. • Mitigation if located in Category III desert tortoise habitat. • Location with no cultural resource conflicts. • Location outside of burro herd management areas. • Location of developments in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats. • Location outside of riparian areas. • Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas. <p>RR-58. The following operating rules will be considered for LTVA development and use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term camping will be restricted to the term of the permit. • Long-term camping will be restricted to designated sites. • Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) will be the responsibility of each occupant. • Users will be required to comply with all other LTVA regulations. • LTVA users must comply with all local, state, and federal laws. • LTVA supplementary rules may be enacted as needed. 	<p>RR-41. The Sentinel Plain Lava Flow Special Recreation Management Areas is restricted to entry by permit only. Existing boundaries may be adjusted through interdisciplinary planning to respond to changing land uses.</p> <p>RR-42. Existing prescriptions authorized by the Goldwater Amendment (BLM, 1990) will be brought forward without change.</p> <p>RR-43. Facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve recreational opportunities and visitor safety are authorized.</p> <p>RR-44. Single-use and multiple-use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking opportunities will be evaluated.</p> <p>RR-45. Signing, regulations, and brochures will be provided as needed.</p> <p>RR-46. Project level planning for the extensive recreation management area will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>RR-47. Primitive facilities are authorized where needed for resource protection, visitor safety, improvement of the recreation experience, or increasing recreational opportunities.</p> <p>RR-48. Camping locations, camping stay limits, off-highway and special recreation vehicle use, and utilization of the existing natural resources will be established.</p> <p>RR-49. Long- and short-term camping areas, commercial or competitive off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas, scenic turnouts, cultural interpretive sites, hiking, equestrian or mountain bike trails, road and portal signage, and road maintenance will be evaluated.</p> <p>RR-50. A "designated routes only" off-highway and special vehicle classification will be established on a site-specific basis when needed for resource protection or to maintain consistency with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications.</p> <p>RR-51. The existing 14-day camping stay limit and all associated policy will be maintained throughout the planning area unless otherwise designated by the authorized officer or through project planning. Areas may be closed for resource protection, rehabilitation, or to reduce conflicts with other uses.</p> <p>RR-52. Camping facilities and length-of-stay limits may be</p>
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	<p>RR-59. Other regulations and conditions for LTVA use will be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of LTVAs will require public notification.</p> <p>RR-60. Extended camping areas will be defined on the ground with fences or signs. Each such area will include designated roads, designated campsites, and amenities to support extended camping occupancy.</p> <p>RR-61. Interdisciplinary planning will evaluate and authorize up to six extended camping areas where historic use patterns equate to this type of use, and potential new areas are identified that would be suitable for extended camping.</p> <p>RR-62. The following resource factors will be considered for implementation and development of extended camping areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location only in rural, roaded natural, or semi-primitive motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes. • Topographic or vegetative screening. • Suitable ingress and egress routes. • Location on rocky or resilient soils. • Location within 30 miles of local community. • Location outside of Category I desert tortoise habitat. • Mitigation if located in category II or III desert tortoise habitat. • Location with no cultural resource conflicts. • Location outside of burro herd management areas. • Location in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats. • Location outside of riparian areas. • Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas. <p>RR-63. The following operating rules will be considered for extended camping area development and use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping restricted to designated sites. • Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) will be the responsibility of each occupant. 	<p>established as prescribed below for dispersed camping, long-term visitor areas, extended camping areas, and short-term camping areas (see Glossary).</p> <p>RR-53. Camping will be permitted on all public lands unless otherwise designated, closed, or restricted for resource protection.</p> <p>RR-54. Self-contained or vehicle-based camping will be permitted within 50 feet of the centerline of designated or existing routes. Cross-country travel to campsites is not permitted.</p> <p>RR-55. Trailhead facilities will be closed to overnight camping upon written approval of the field manager.</p> <p>RR-56. Long-term visitor areas (LTVAs) will be defined on the ground with fences or signs. Each LTVA will include designated roads, designated campsites, and amenities to support long-term camping occupancy.</p> <p>RR-57. The following resource factors will be considered for implementation and development of LTVAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted only in rural or roaded natural Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes. • Location on rocky or resilient soils. • Well-maintained ingress and egress routes. • Location within 30 miles of local community. • Location outside of category I or II desert tortoise habitat. • Mitigation if located in Category III desert tortoise habitat. • Location with no cultural resource conflicts. • Location outside of burro herd management areas. • Location of developments in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats. • Location outside of riparian areas. • Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas. <p>RR-58. The following operating rules will be considered for LTVA development and use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term camping will be restricted to the term of the permit. • Long-term camping will be restricted to designated sites.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended camping area visitors must comply with all local, state, and federal laws. Extended camping area supplementary rules may be enacted as needed. <p>RR-64. Other regulations and conditions for extended camping area use will be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of extended camping areas will require public notification.</p> <p>RR-65. Short-term camping areas will be designated only where such use promotes resource protection and where all conflicts can be mitigated. Short-term camping areas will be defined on the ground with fences or signs.</p> <p>RR-66. Interdisciplinary planning will evaluate short-term camping areas where historic use patterns equate to this type of use, and potential new areas are identified that would be suitable for short-term camping.</p> <p>RR-67. The following resource factors will be considered for implementation and development of short-term camping areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primitive ingress and egress routes. Location on rocky or resilient soils. Mitigation if located in category I, II or III desert tortoise habitat. Location with no cultural resource conflicts. Location outside of burro herd management areas. Location of developments in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats. Location outside of wildernesses. Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas. <p>RR-68. The following operating rules will be considered for short-term camping area development and use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camping will be restricted to the terms and conditions of that campground. Camping will be restricted to designated sites. Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) will be the responsibility of each occupant. Users will be required to comply with all other LTVA regulations. LTVA users must comply with all local, state, and federal laws. LTVA supplementary rules may be enacted as needed. <p>RR-59. Other regulations and conditions for LTVA use will be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of LTVAs will require public notification.</p> <p>RR-60. Extended camping areas will be defined on the ground with fences or signs. Each such area will include designated roads, designated campsites, and amenities to support extended camping occupancy.</p> <p>RR-61. Interdisciplinary planning will evaluate and authorize up to six extended camping areas where historic use patterns equate to this type of use, and potential new areas are identified that would be suitable for extended camping.</p> <p>RR-62. The following resource factors will be considered for implementation and development of extended camping areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location only in rural, roaded natural, or semi-primitive motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes. Topographic or vegetative screening. Suitable ingress and egress routes. Location on rocky or resilient soils. Location within 30 miles of local community. Location outside of Category I desert tortoise habitat. Mitigation if located in category II or III desert tortoise habitat. Location with no cultural resource conflicts. Location outside of burro herd management areas. Location in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats. Location outside of riparian areas.
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	<p>sanitation, trash, water, etc.) will be the responsibility of each occupant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping area users must comply with all local, state and federal laws. • Specific supplementary rules may be enacted as needed. <p>RR-69. Other regulations and conditions for short-term camping area use will be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of short-term camping areas will require public notification.</p> <p>RR-70. Interdisciplinary planning will evaluate and authorize development of special use areas within the management areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas. <p>RR-63. The following operating rules will be considered for extended camping area development and use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping restricted to designated sites. • Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) will be the responsibility of each occupant. • Extended camping area visitors must comply with all local, state, and federal laws. • Extended camping area supplementary rules may be enacted as needed. <p>RR-64. Other regulations and conditions for extended camping area use will be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of extended camping areas will require public notification.</p> <p>RR-65. Short-term camping areas will be designated only where such use promotes resource protection and where all conflicts can be mitigated. Short-term camping areas will be defined on the ground with fences or signs.</p> <p>RR-66. Interdisciplinary planning will evaluate short-term camping areas where historic use patterns equate to this type of use, and potential new areas are identified that would be suitable for short-term camping.</p> <p>RR-67. The following resource factors will be considered for implementation and development of short-term camping areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primitive ingress and egress routes. • Location on rocky or resilient soils. • Mitigation if located in category I, II or III desert tortoise habitat. • Location with no cultural resource conflicts. • Location outside of burro herd management areas. • Location of developments in a manner that "is not likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species and their habitats. • Location outside of wilderneses.
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<p><u>Minerals (Oil and Natural Gas)</u></p> <p><i>Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan</i></p> <p>No decisions relating to the management of oil and natural gas.</p> <p><i>Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan</i></p> <p>No decisions relating to the management of oil and natural gas.</p>	<p><u>Minerals (Oil and Natural Gas)</u></p> <p>MI-1. All lands in the planning area not closed to oil and gas leasing will remain open for such purposes. Approximately 375,000 acres of federal minerals in wilderness are closed to oil and gas leasing. The approximately 1.6 million acres of federal minerals remaining in the planning area are open to oil and gas leasing. Conditions of approval and special stipulations will be developed and incorporated as part of any operational permit after site-specific environmental analyses are completed and documented per the National Environmental Policy Act. Stipulations will mitigate impacts to special status species, cultural areas, and other resources affected by leasing-related activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location outside of areas of critical environmental concern and wild and scenic river areas. <p>RR-68. The following operating rules will be considered for short-term camping area development and use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping will be restricted to the terms and conditions of that campground. • Camping will be restricted to designated sites. • Services may be provided by contract or local vendor, but the costs of services (firewood, sanitation, trash, water, etc.) will be the responsibility of each occupant. • Camping area users must comply with all local, state and federal laws. • Specific supplementary rules may be enacted as needed. <p>RR-69. Other regulations and conditions for short-term camping area use will be identified as required during interdisciplinary project planning. If, during the planning process, the interdisciplinary project planning team determines that modifications need to be made to the guidelines listed above those modifications may be made without the need for a planning amendment. Other regulations and conditions identified during ongoing operation of short-term camping areas will require public notification.</p> <p>RR-70. Interdisciplinary planning will evaluate and authorize development of special use areas within the management areas.</p> <p><u>Minerals (Oil and Natural Gas)</u></p> <p>MI-1. All lands in the planning area not closed to oil and gas leasing will remain open for such purposes. Approximately 375,000 acres of federal minerals in wilderness are closed to oil and gas leasing. The approximately 1.6 million acres of federal minerals remaining in the planning area are open to oil and gas leasing. Conditions of approval and special stipulations will be developed and incorporated as part of any operational permit after site-specific environmental analyses are completed and documented per the National Environmental Policy Act. Stipulations will mitigate impacts to special status species, cultural areas, and other resources affected by leasing-related activities.</p>
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¹Decisions of the MFP and RMP that were replaced by the Amendment are denoted with an asterisk (*).

²[Goldwater] denotes decisions of the Goldwater Amendment to the RMP (BLM, 1990).

Appendix 2. Standard Land Use Plan Decision Numbering Convention.

<i>Standard Resource Categories:</i>	<i>Abbreviation:</i>
Administrative Actions	AA
Administrative Management (Administrative Sites, Agreements, etc.).....	AM
Cultural Resource Management.....	CL
Fire Management	FM
Grazing Management.....	GM
Hazardous Materials Management.....	HM
Lands/Realty	LR
Minerals	MI
Paleontological Resources	PL
Recreation & Off-Highway Vehicles.....	RR
Riparian.....	RP
Soil, Water, Air (Watershed)	WS
Special Management Areas.....	SM
Special Status Species.....	TE
Term and Condition from a Biological Opinion.....	TC
Transportation/Access.....	TA
Vegetation Management & Forest and Woodland Management.....	VM
Visual Resources Management.....	VR
Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	WR
Wilderness	WD
Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros	HB
Wildlife/Fisheries.....	WF

Appendix 3. Lands Identified for Disposal.

Parcels will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This list is not inclusive—some small parcels may not be listed.

<u>Township/Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Subdivision</u>	<u>Acres</u>
T. 1 N., R. 3 W.	3	S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;	20.00
	7	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.	160.00
T. 1 N., R. 4 W.	1	lots 1 through 4, incl., S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$;	320.64
	11	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	200.00
	12	all;	640.00
	13	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;	120.00
	14	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.	80.00
T. 6 N., R. 4 W.	11	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;	40.00
	14	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	80.00
	23	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.	40.00
T. 1 N., R. 5 W.	27	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.	40.00
T. 2 N., R. 5 W.	36	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.	130.00
T. 3 N., R. 5 W.	22	all;	640.00
	23	S $\frac{1}{2}$;	320.00
	25	all;	640.00
	26	W $\frac{1}{2}$;	320.00
	27	all;	640.00
	34	W $\frac{1}{2}$;	320.00
	35	W $\frac{1}{2}$.	320.00
T. 1 N., R. 6 W.	1	E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	160.00
	17	SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	160.00
	20	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.	80.00
T. 4 N., R. 6 W.	25	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.	40.00
T. 7 N., R. 6 W.	17	S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;	40.00
	18	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	20.00
	27	N $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	600.00
	34	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.	80.00
T. 2 N., R. 7 W.	17	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;	80.00

<u>Township/Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Subdivision</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	31	lots 1 and 2, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, lot 3 (portion north of Buckeye-Salome road), NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ (portion north of Buckeye-Salome road), N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (portion north of Buckeye-Salome road).	317.89
T. 7 N., R. 7 W.	16	all;	640.00
	33	NW $\frac{1}{4}$.	160.00
T. 8 N., R. 7 W.	10	S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	80.00
	11	S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	120.00
	14	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;	280.00
	15	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.	240.00
T. 2 N., R. 8 W.	7	lots 3 and 4, lot 2 (portion south of Interstate 10);	300.00
	9	E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ (portion south of Interstate 10), SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (portion south of Interstate 10);	2.50
	34	all.	640.00
T. 2 N., R. 9 W.	8	all.	640.00
T. 3 N., R. 9 W.	31	lots 1 and 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;	240.00
	32	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (portion southwest of Buckeye-Salome road).	60.00
T. 2 N., R. 10 W.	2	lots 1 through 4, incl., S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$;	639.84
	11	all.	640.00
T. 3 N., R. 10 W.	8	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;	60.00
	25	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (portion southwest of Buckeye-Salome road).	40.00
T. 2 N., R. 11 W.	1	lots 1 through 4, incl., S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$.	480.00
T. 3 N., R. 11 W.	2	lots 1 through 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$.	640.33
T. 3 N., R. 12 W.	16	all;	640.00
	27	NW $\frac{1}{4}$;	160.00
	36	all.	640.00
T. 2 S., R. 1 W.	25	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$;	320.00
	26	N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	480.00

<u>Township/Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Subdivision</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	27	E $\frac{1}{2}$;	320.00
	34	NE $\frac{1}{4}$;	160.00
	35	all.	640.00
T. 3 S., R. 1 W.	1	lots 3 and 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;	160.00
	3	SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	160.00
	4	SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	160.00
	6	lots 1 through 7, incl., S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.	509.96
T. 1 S., R. 2 W.	30	lot 1;	39.87
	31	lots 3 and 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;	159.92
	32	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	200.00
	36	E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.	282.50
T. 2 S., R. 2 W.	5	lots 1 and 2, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;	117.29
	6	N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	80.00
	18	lots 1 and 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;	153.47
	28	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;	195.00
	33	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.	175.00
T. 3 S., R. 2 W.	1	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.	40.00
T. 1 S., R. 3 W.	25	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.	170.00
T. 2 S., R. 4 W.	36	all.	640.00
T. 3 S., R. 4 W.	2	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;	240.00
	14	S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;	60.00
	27	NE $\frac{1}{4}$.	160.00

<u>Township/Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Subdivision</u>	<u>Acres</u>
T. 4 S., R. 4 W.	3	SE ¹ / ₄ ;	160.00
	10	E ¹ / ₂ ;	320.00
	22	E ¹ / ₂ W ¹ / ₂ ;	160.00
	27	E ¹ / ₂ W ¹ / ₂ .	160.00
T. 5 S., R. 4 W.	27	SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ .	40.00
T. 6 S., R. 4 W.	19	lots 3 and 4, E ¹ / ₂ , E ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ ;	473.39
	31	lots 1 and 2, NE ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ .	313.81
T. 12 S., R. 5 W.	19	E ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄ , SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ ;	360.00
	30	E ¹ / ₂ , E ¹ / ₂ W ¹ / ₂ .	480.00
T. 13 S., R. 5 W.	25	SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ ;	40.00
	25	E ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ ;	5.00
	25	E ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , NW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ S ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ ;	17.50
	25	SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ ;	2.50
	35	E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ (portion east of Highway 85).	30.00
T. 1 S., R. 6 W.	4	SW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , W ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ ;	70.00
	5	lot 3, SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ .	81.86
T. 12 S., R. 6 W.	10	E ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , W ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , S ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , W ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ NW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ ;	100.00
	11	N ¹ / ₂ , SW ¹ / ₄ , E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ ;	560.00
	12	NW ¹ / ₄ ;	160.00
	22	M.S. 3895 in the SW ¹ / ₄ ;	21.00
	27	lots 3 and 4, M.S. 4316 in the SW ¹ / ₄ and unsurveyed lot in the W ¹ / ₂ ;	2.00
	33	SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ NE ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ ;	20.00
	35	lots 6 and 9.	40.84
T. 1 S., R. 7 W.	1	S ¹ / ₂ ;	320.00
	11	NE ¹ / ₄ , SW ¹ / ₄ , N ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ ;	400.00
	12	N ¹ / ₂ .	320.00
T. 6 S., R. 7 W.	15	SW ¹ / ₄ ;	160.00
	23	NW ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , S ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ ;	120.00
	32	W ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ .	280.00

<u>Township/Range</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Subdivision</u>	<u>Acres</u>
T. 1 S., R. 9 W.	14NE ¹ / ₄ , S ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ ; 16	240.00 E ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ .	80.00
T. 4 S., R. 1 E.	31 34 35	E ¹ / ₂ ; E ¹ / ₂ ; W ¹ / ₂ .	320.00 320.00 320.00
T. 5 S., R. 1 E.	2 3 9 10 11 13	lots 1 through 4, incl., S ¹ / ₂ N ¹ / ₂ , S ¹ / ₂ ; lots 1 through 4, incl., S ¹ / ₂ N ¹ / ₂ , S ¹ / ₂ ; W ¹ / ₂ ; all; W ¹ / ₂ ; SE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ , NE ¹ / ₄ SE ¹ / ₄ , S ¹ / ₂ SE ¹ / ₄ .	640.16 639.92 320.00 640.00 320.00 160.00
T. 6 S., R. 2 E.	25 27	lots 7, 8, 17 through 24, incl., S ¹ / ₂ NW ¹ / ₄ , SW ¹ / ₄ ; S ¹ / ₂ S ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ .	637.56 40.00
T. 6 S., R. 3 E.	33	NW ¹ / ₄ , S ¹ / ₂ .	480.00
T. 7 S., R. 3 E.	3 4 5	lots 1 through 4, incl., S ¹ / ₂ ; lots 1 through 4, incl., S ¹ / ₂ ; S ¹ / ₂ S ¹ / ₂ .	435.20 434.20 160.00
T. 5 S., R. 4 E.	13	NW ¹ / ₄ .	160.00
T. 7 S., R. 4 E.	10 15 21 27 28 34 35	S ¹ / ₂ NE ¹ / ₄ , SE ¹ / ₄ ; NE ¹ / ₄ SW ¹ / ₄ ; W ¹ / ₂ SW ¹ / ₄ ; all; W ¹ / ₂ ; all; W ¹ / ₂ .	240.00 40.00 80.00 640.00 320.00 640.00 320.00
Total			33,459.15

Appendix 4. Goals and Criteria for Three Categories of Desert Tortoise Habitat.¹

	<i>Category I</i>	<i>Category II</i>	<i>Category III</i>
Category goals	Maintain stable, viable populations and protect existing tortoise habitat values; increase populations where possible	Maintain stable, viable populations and halt further declines in tortoise habitat values	Limit tortoise habitat and population declines to the extent possible by mitigating impacts
Criterion 1	Habitat area essential to maintenance of large viable populations	Habitat area may be essential to maintenance of viable populations	Habitat area not essential to maintenance of viable populations
Criterion 2	Conflicts resolvable	Most conflicts resolvable	Most conflicts not resolvable
Criterion 3	Medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density	Medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density	Low to medium density not contiguous with medium or high density
Criterion 4	Increasing, stable or decreasing population	Stable or decreasing population	Stable or decreasing population

¹Criteria are ranked by importance to the categorization process with criterion 1 being the most important.

Appendix 5. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes.

The following chart describes each of the six Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes in terms of experience opportunities, setting opportunities, and activity opportunities. The descriptions provide an overview of the opportunities included in each class. The overview statements do not describe each class in detail, but rather provide a point of departure from which the planner or manager can develop more precise prescriptions for each class based on specific situations encountered in field operations. The listing of activity opportunities is provided for illustrative purposes and is not an all-inclusive list of activity opportunities on public lands.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class descriptions			
<i>Opportunity class</i>	<i>Experience opportunity</i>	<i>Setting opportunity</i>	<i>Activity opportunity</i>
Primitive	Opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of people, to feel a part of the natural environment, to have a high degree of challenge and risk and to use outdoor skills.	Area is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Concentration of users if very low and evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of man-induced restrictions and controls. Only facilities essential for resource protection are provided. Spacing of groups is informal and dispersed to minimize contacts among groups. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.	Camping, hiking, climbing, enjoying scenery or natural features, nature study, photography, spelunking, hunting (big game, small game, upland birds, waterfowl), ski touring and snowshoeing, swimming, diving (skin and scuba), fishing, canoeing, sailing and river running (nonmotorized craft).
Semi-primitive (non-motorized)	Some opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of people, but not as important as for primitive opportunities. Opportunity to have high degree of interaction with the natural environment, to have moderate challenge and risk and to use outdoor skills.	Area is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment of moderate to large size. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other area users. On-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Facilities are provided for the protection of resource values and the	Camping, hiking, climbing, enjoying scenery or natural features, nature study, photography, spelunking, hunting (big game, small game, upland birds, waterfowl), ski touring and snowshoeing, swimming, diving (skin and scuba), fishing, canoeing, sailing and

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class descriptions (continued)

<i>Opportunity class</i>	<i>Experience opportunity</i>	<i>Setting opportunity</i>	<i>Activity opportunity</i>
Semi-primitive (motorized)	Some opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of people, but not as important as for primitive opportunities. Opportunity to have high degree of interaction with the natural environment, to have moderate challenge and risk and to use outdoor skills. Explicit opportunity to use motorized equipment while in the area.	<p>safety of users only. Spacing of groups may be formalized to disperse use and limit contacts among groups. Motorized use is not permitted.</p> <p>Area is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment of moderate to large size. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other area users. On-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Facilities are provided for the protection of resource values and the safety of users only. Spacing of groups may be formalized to disperse use and limit contacts among groups. Motorized use is permitted.</p>	<p>river running (nonmotorized craft).</p> <p>Same as above, plus off-highway vehicle use (four-wheel-drive, dune buggy, dirt bike, snowmobile, power boating).</p>
Roaded natural	About equal opportunities for affiliation with other user groups and for isolation from sights and sounds of humans. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Challenge and risk opportunities are not very important except in specific challenging activities. Practice of outdoor skills may be important. Opportunities for both	Area is characterized by a generally natural environment with moderate evidence of humans. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Concentration of users is low to moderate with facilities sometimes provided for group activity. On-site controls and restrictions offer a sense of security. Rustic facilities	All activities listed previously plus picnicking, rock collecting, wood gathering, auto touring, downhill skiing, snowplay, ice skating, waterskiing and other water sports, hang gliding, interpretive use, rustic resorts and organized camps.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class descriptions (continued)

<i>Opportunity class</i>	<i>Experience opportunity</i>	<i>Setting opportunity</i>	<i>Activity opportunity</i>
Rural	<p>motorized and nonmotorized recreation are present.</p> <p>Opportunities to experience affiliation with individuals and groups are prevalent as is the convenience of sites and opportunities. These factors are generally more important than the natural setting. Opportunities for wildland challenges, risk taking and testing of outdoor skills are unimportant, except in those activities involving challenge and risk.</p>	<p>are provided for user convenience as well as for safety and resource protection. Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards and design of facilities.</p> <p>Area is characterized by substantially modified natural environment. Resource modification and utilization practices are obvious. Sights and sounds of humans are readily evident and the concentration of users is often moderate to high. A considerable number of facilities are designed for use by a large number of people. Facilities are often provided for specific activities. Developed sites, roads and trails are designed for moderate to high use. Moderate densities are provided far away from developed sties. Facilities for intensive motorized use are available.</p>	<p>All activities listed previously plus competitive games, spectator sports, bicycling, jogging, outdoor concerts and modern resorts.</p>
Modern urban	<p>Opportunities to experience affiliation with individuals and groups are prevalent as is the convenience of sites and opportunities. Experiencing the natural environment and the use of outdoor skills are largely unimportant.</p>	<p>Area is characterized by a highly modified environment, although the background may have natural elements. Vegetation is often exotic and manicured. Soil may be protected by surfacing. Sights and sounds of humans on-site are predominant. Large numbers of users can be expected. Modern facilities are provided for the use and convenience of large numbers of people. Controls and</p>	<p>All activities listed previously plus competitive games, spectator sports, bicycling, jogging, outdoor concerts and modern resorts.</p>

		restrictions are obvious and numerous. Facilities for high-intensity motor vehicle use and parking are present with forms of mass transit often available.	
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Appendix 6. Visual Resource Management Classes.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Objective</i>
Class I	The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
Class II	The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
Class III	The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
Class IV	The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Appendix 7. Glossary.

Activity Plan: A detailed, specific plan for management of a single resource program or plan element undertaken as necessary to implement the more general resource management plan decisions.

Allotment: An area of land assigned to one or more livestock operators for grazing livestock. It generally consists of public lands but may also include state-owned and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and seasons of use are specified for each allotment.

Allotment management plan: A livestock grazing management plan for a specific allotment based on multiple-use resource management objectives. It considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources -- watershed, vegetation and wildlife. It also establishes the seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted on the range and the rangeland developments needed.

Alternatives: Different ways of addressing the planning issues and management activities considered in the planning process. These serve to provide the decisionmaker and the public a clear basis for choices among options.

Area of critical environmental concern: An area of public lands where special management attention is required to protect important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife or natural systems or processes or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Augmentation: The act of releasing animals or plants to maintain or enlarge an existing population of the same species within a specified area.

Backcountry Byways: Backcountry roads and vehicle trails that the BLM designates and

promotes for their high scenic and public interest values. As part of the National Scenic Byway

System, these byways vary from single-track bike trails to narrow, low-speed, paved roads.

Bajada: A broad, gently inclined slope or outwash plane at the foot of a mountain, formed by the coalescing of alluvial fans.

Block/blocked up: Consolidated, for example, landownership.

Categories I, II and III: Classification of desert tortoise habitat based upon importance of habitat, resolvability of conflicts, density of tortoises, and stability of populations (see Appendix 3).

Category 1: Species for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sufficient (but not necessarily complete) information on vulnerability and threats to support a proposal to list them as threatened or endangered.

Category 2: Species for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has insufficient information to support a proposed rule to add them to the threatened or endangered species list. Further biological research and field study will usually be needed to change the status of these species.

Category 3A: Species for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has persuasive evidence of extinction.

Category 3B: Species that are considered to be invalid by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Such species could be reevaluated in the future on the basis of subsequent research.

Category 3C: Species that are more abundant or widespread than previously believed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or not subject to any identifiable threat. Should further research or changes in land use indicate decline in any of these species, they may be reevaluated for

possible inclusion in category 1 or 2 or listed as threatened or endangered.

Closed area: An area where off-highway or special recreation vehicle use or camping is prohibited. Use of vehicles in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons; however, such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorized officer.

Community: A group of plants and animals living together in a common area and having close interactions.

Cultural property: Any definite location of past human activity, habitation or use identified through a field inventory, historical documentation or oral evidence. This term may include archaeological or historic sites, structures and places and sites or places of traditional cultural or religious importance to a specific group whether or not represented by physical remains. Cultural properties are managed by the system of inventory, evaluation, protection and use.

Cultural resources: A broad, general term for any cultural property (as defined above) or any traditional lifeway value. A traditional lifeway value is an abstract, nonmaterial idea important in maintaining a cultural group's traditional religious beliefs, cultural practices or social interaction. Unlike cultural properties, traditional lifeway values are not closely identified with definite locations.

Desired plant community: One that produces the kind, amount and proportions of vegetation needed to meet or exceed the resource management plan/activity plan objective established for the site. It must be within the site's capability to produce the desired vegetation through natural succession, management intervention or both.

Disposal: A transaction that leads to the transfer of title of public lands from the federal government.

Ecological site: A distinctive kind of land that differs from other kinds of lands in its ability to

produce a characteristic natural plant community. An ecological site is the product of all the environmental factors responsible for its development. It is capable of supporting a native plant community typified by an association of species that differs from that of other ecological sites in the kind or proportion of species or in total production.

Economic impact: The change, positive or negative, in economic conditions (including distribution and stability of employment and income in affected local and regional economies) that directly or indirectly result from an activity, project or program.

Ecosystem: A complex, self-sustaining natural system which includes living and nonliving components of the environment and the circulation of matter and energy between organisms and their environment.

Endangered: Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Environmental assessment: The procedure for analyzing the impacts of some proposed action on a given environment and the documentation of the analysis. It is similar to an environmental impact statement but is generally smaller in scope. An environmental assessment may be preliminary to an environmental impact statement.

Environmental consequence: A change in the human environment caused by an act of man. The change should be perceptible, measurable and relatable through a change agent to a proposed action or alternative. Consequences are the same as impacts and effects. In Council on Environmental Quality regulations, consequences are caused by a proposed action (40 CFR 1508.7; 1508.14).

Environmental impact statement: An analytical document prepared for use by decision makers to weigh the environmental consequences of a potential decision. It should accurately portray potential impacts to the environment of a

particular course of action and its possible alternatives.

Ephemeral: A stream that flows only briefly after a storm or during snowmelt.

Extended Camping Area: Extended camping areas are similar to long-term visitor areas, but are not integrated into the long-term visitor area system and have a variable stay limit of greater than 14 days. Extended camping areas have a specific and delineated boundary determined by the available resource.

Extensive Recreation Management Area: An area where recreation is unstructured and dispersed and where minimal recreation facilities are required. It provides recreation visitors the freedom of choice with minimal regulatory constraint.

Fair Market Value: The amount in cash, or in terms reasonably equivalent to cash, for which in all probability a leasable mineral deposit would be sold or leased by a knowledgeable owner willing but not obligated to sell or lease to a knowledgeable purchaser who desires but is not obligated to buy or lease.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976: Public Law 94-579, which gives the BLM legal authority to establish public land policy, to establish guidelines for administering such policy and to provide for the management, protection, development and enhancement of the public lands.

Floodplain: The nearly level lowland that borders a stream or river and is subject to flooding.

Forage: Vegetation of all forms available for animal consumption.

Goal: The desired state or condition that a resource management policy or program is designed to achieve. It is usually not quantifiable and may not have a specific date by which it is to be completed. Goals are the bases from which objectives are developed.

Grazing System: The rotation of livestock through an allotment, designed to accomplish management objectives.

Habitat: A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover and living space.

Habitat Management Plan: A written and officially approved plan for a specific geographic area which identifies wildlife habitat and related objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

Hazardous Waste: Any substance that poses a threat to the health or safety of persons or the environment, including any material that is toxic, ignitable, corrosive or radioactive.

Herd Area: The geographic area identified as having been used by a herd as its habitat in 1971.

Herd Management Area: A herd area identified in a management framework plan or resource management plan for long-term management of a wild horse or burro herd.

Herd Management Area Plan: A plan for the management of a geographic area used by wild horses or burros. It outlines details of a burro or horse capture plan, adoption program and long-term management of populations.

Interdisciplinary: A cooperative, interactive consultation and analysis approach among individuals representing two or more disciplines. Such an approach should ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts in planning and in decision making [National Environmental Policy Act 102(2)(A)].

Intermittent: As it relates to source dependability, springs that discharge only during certain periods but at other times of the year are dry; streams with alternating surface and subsurface flow; stock ponds are not intermittent.

Isolated Parcels: Those parcels of public lands surrounded by nonfederal lands.

Land and Water Conservation Fund: A federally maintained fund used for acquiring and developing federal outdoor recreation resources and for assisting states in planning, acquiring and developing land and water areas and facilities for outdoor recreation.

Leasable Minerals: Minerals such as coal, oil shale, oil and gas, phosphate, potash, sodium, geothermal resources and all other minerals that may be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

Limits of Acceptable Change: A system in which the amount of allowable change of physical and social conditions is defined; the management actions needed to prevent further change are identified and monitoring and evaluating procedures are established.

Limited Area: An area restricted at certain times, in certain areas and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the categories of: numbers of vehicles; types of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; and other restrictions.

Long-term Visitor Area: A parcel established to provide winter visitors with long-term camping opportunities. A permit allows use from September 15 to April 15 for self-contained recreational vehicles with minimum 10-gallon waste water tank. Supplementary rules exist and Golden Access/Golden Age passes are not accepted.

Management Area: An administrative unit of blocked-up lands in the planning units, used for resource management, planning, land tenure adjustments and budgeting.

Management Framework Plan: A planning decision document prepared before the effective date of the regulations implementing the land use

planning provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Mineral Entry: The location of mining claims by an individual to protect the individual's right to a valuable mineral.

Mineral Estate: Mineral or subsurface ownership.

Mineral Material: Materials such as sand, building and decorative stone, gravel, pumice, clay or petrified wood. Common variety mineral materials may be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

Mining Plan of Operation: A plan for mining exploration and development that an operator must submit to the BLM for approval when more than five acres a year will be disturbed or when an operator plans to work in an area of critical environmental concern, wilderness study area or wilderness. A mining plan of operation must document in detail all actions the operator plans to take from exploration through reclamation and present all information needed for preparing a National Environmental Policy Act document.

Mitigation: The lessening or elimination of a potential adverse effect by applying appropriate protection measures, *e.g.*, the recovery of cultural resource data.

Mitigation Measures: Methods used (often included as stipulations or special conditions attached to a decision) to reduce the significance of or eliminate an anticipated environmental impact.

Monitoring: The orderly collection and analysis of data to evaluate progress in meeting resource management objectives.

Multiple-use: Management of public lands and their resources so that they are used in the combination best meeting the present and future needs of the American people. Relative resource values are considered, not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest potential economic return or the greatest unit output.

National Environmental Policy Act: A federal law that establishes policy, sets goals and provides means to ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and actions are taken.

National Historic Preservation Act: The primary federal law providing for the protection and preservation of cultural resources. Making it a national policy to preserve cultural heritage, the National Historic Preservation Act established the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and State Historic Preservation officers.

National Register of Historic Places: A list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture maintained by the Secretary of the Interior; expanded as authorized by Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 462) and Section 101(a)(1)(A) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Natural Potential: The population level a species can attain, given the capacity of its habitat.

Off-Highway Vehicle: Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat, (2) any military, fire, emergency or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes, (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer or otherwise officially approved, (4) vehicles in official use, (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies and (6) wheelchairs when used by the disabled.

Off-Highway and Special Recreation Vehicle Designations:

Open: Designated areas and trails where vehicles may be operated (subject to operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in BLM Manual 8341 and 8343).

Limited: Designated areas and trails where the use of vehicles is subject to restrictions, such as limiting the number or type of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions), limiting use to designated or existing roads and trails. Combinations of restrictions are possible, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year.

Closed: Designated areas, roads and trails where the use of vehicles is permanently or temporarily prohibited. Emergency use of vehicles is allowed.

Patent: A government instrument (or deed) that conveys legal title for public lands to an individual or another government entity.

Perennial: As it relates to source dependability, wells where water is available continuously; springs and streams with a continuous surface discharge; stock ponds where water is ponded up through the year.

Planning Criteria: The standards of rules and other factors developed by the manager and interdisciplinary team for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis and data collection during planning.

Proper Functioning Condition (riparian): One which maintains a stable flow regime, can absorb and dissipate energy of floodwaters, has a stable vegetative cover of all ages of plants (representing all species appropriate for the area), filters out sediment from the water, improves water quality and provides food, water, shade and cover for wildlife.

Public Participation: Part of the BLM's planning system that provides the opportunity for citizens as individuals or groups to express local, regional and national perspectives and concerns in the rule making, decision making, inventory and planning processes for public lands. This includes public meetings, hearings or advisory boards or panels that may review resource management proposals and offer suggestions or criticisms for the various alternatives considered.

Range Improvement: An authorized activity or program on or relating to rangelands which is designed to improve production of forage, change vegetation composition, control patterns of use, provide water, stabilize soil and water conditions and provide habitat for livestock, wild horses and burros and wildlife. The term includes, but is not limited to, structures, treatment projects and use of mechanical means to accomplish the desired results.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: A classification system for inventory, planning and management of recreation resources. It divides land into six classes ranging from urban to primitive.

Reestablishment: The act of releasing or planting native species into habitat formerly occupied by that species for the purpose or intent of creating self-sustaining populations in the wild state.

Rehabilitation: Restoration of damaged or lost environment as nearly as possible to its original state.

Resource Area: An administrative subdivision of a BLM district replaced in 1997 by field office.

Resource Management Plan: A written land use plan that outlines the BLM's decisions and strategies for management of the resources in a particular area, replacing the management framework plan in the BLM's planning system.

Right-of-Way: The legal right for use, occupancy or access across land or water areas for a specified purpose or purposes. Also, the lands covered by such a right.

Riparian Habitat: Lands directly influenced by permanent water and having visible characteristics, e.g., vegetation, reflective of the presence of permanent water, i.e., surface and/or subsurface.

Road: Vehicle route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use.

Scenic Corridor: The area encompassing the foreground-middleground zone along roadways.

Scoping: An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. It may involve public meetings, field interviews with representatives of agencies and interest groups, discussions with resource specialists and managers, written comments in response to news releases, direct mailings and articles about the proposed action and scoping meetings.

Sediment: Soil or mineral material transported by water and deposited in streams or other bodies of water.

Semi-primitive Motorized Recreation: Those recreation opportunities available in backcountry areas with natural settings and having little or no development, where visitor use is relatively low and few visitor controls are apparent and in which travel by motorized vehicle is permitted.

Sensitive Species (plants and animals): Species occurring on public lands which require special management attention to protect it and the important resources or other natural systems or processes on which it depends.

Short-term Camping Area: Short-term camping areas support resource protection measures in high use areas, promote equitable use for visitors, or serve as overflow camping adjacent to high use areas. Other resource issues may require short-term camping areas to be closed during certain times or seasons; thus, the term of use or the time of use (season) may be limited based on the resource(s) to be protected. Such factors are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Special Recreation Management Area: An area requiring explicit recreation management to achieve the BLM's recreation objectives and to provide specific recreation opportunities. The resource management plan identifies special recreation management areas and defines management objectives.

Special Recreation Vehicles: Mechanized equipment, designed to provide a mechanical advantage, intended for human conveyance. This includes, but is not limited to, mountain bikes, ultralights and hang gliders. This does not include wheelchairs when used by the disabled.

Special Status Species: Wildlife and plant species either federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, state-listed or BLM-determined priority status.

Stipulation: A requirement, usually dealing with protection of the environment, that is made a part of a lease, grant or other authorizing document.

Threatened Species: Any plant or animal species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant part of its range.

Thriving Natural Ecological Balance: The condition existing when wild horses and burros and other resource components (and their habitats) are maintained in a healthy, self-sustaining and productive condition.

Trail: As related to vehicle designations, a single track route designated or constructed for off-highway or special recreation vehicle use. It does not include game trails, cow trails, etc.

Utilization: The proportion or degree of a current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It may refer to either a single plant species, a group of species or the vegetation as a whole. Utilization is synonymous with use.

Vegetation type: A plant community with distinguishable characteristics.

Vehicle Route: A track, established and maintained solely by the passage of an off-highway vehicle or special recreation vehicle, regularly used for travel.

Visual Resource Management Classes:
Class 1: Provides primarily for natural ecological changes only. It is applied to primitive areas,

some natural areas and similar situations where management activities are to be restricted.

Class II: Changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color or texture) caused by a management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape.

Class III: Changes in the basic elements caused by a management activity may be evident in the characteristic landscape, but the changes should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the existing character.

Class IV: Changes may subordinate the original composition and character but must reflect what could be a natural occurrence within the characteristic landscape.

Watershed: All land and water within the confines of a drainage divide.

Wetlands: Lands including swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas such as wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats and natural ponds.

Wilderness: An area officially designated by Congress, managed to preserve characteristics of naturalness and solitude and devoted to the public purposes of conservation and recreational, scenic, scientific, educational and historical uses.

Wildlife: All species of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles found in a wild state.

Wildlife Corridors: Lands needed for maintaining or reconnecting natural habitat islands to facilitate traditional movement, migration, genetic interchange and population expansion of native wildlife species.

Withdrawn Lands: An area of federal land withheld from settlement, sale, location or entry under some or all of the general land laws in order to maintain other public values in the area or reserving the area for a particular public purpose or program; transferring jurisdiction over an area of federal lands from one department, bureau or agency to another department, bureau or agency.