



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management • Arizona

Congressional Staff Briefing
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Agenda

Welcome and Comments

Elaine Zielinski
BLM Arizona State
Director

2004 Fire Season Recap

Mike Fisher
Arizona Fire Management
Officer

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EIS Project Update

Bill Civish
Field Manager, Safford

Land Use Planning Updates

Mike Taylor
Deputy State Director,
Resources

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Mike Taylor

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Mike Taylor

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Topock
Compressor Station

Wayne King
Acting District Manager,
Colorado River District

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Arizona 2004 Fire Management Program

October 2004

OVERVIEW:

The Arizona BLM Fire Management Program involves five key activities across the public lands as identified by the National Fire Plan. The five key activities are fire preparedness/suppression, fire rehabilitation/restoration, hazardous fuel reduction, community assistance, and accountability. The Fire Management Program is interagency in operation and management. Through coordination, collaboration and cooperation the Bureau's fire management mission is accomplished.

The following is a summary of 2004 fire management accomplishments.

Preparedness	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Wildland Urban Interface Fuels	Community Assistance (RFA's)
To date: 288 fires for 11,307 acres	To date: 8,334 ac.	To date: 2,488 ac.	41 Grants

FIRE HISTORY:

Through September 2004, the BLM fire season has resulted in 288 wildland fires, consuming 11,307 acres in Arizona. The fire season has been above average for number of fires and slightly below average for acres burned. Arizona BLM assisted the Arizona State Land Department and other federal agencies on an additional 110 fires throughout the state.

BLM fires	Average (1980-2004)	2004 fire season	Percent of Difference
Number of fires	207	288	+ 39%
Acres burned	12,908	11,307	- 14%

COOPERATION/COLLABORATION:

Arizona's BLM Fire Management Program coordinates with its state and federal interagency partners on fire preparedness, suppression, and rehabilitation activities. BLM also works cooperatively with them to evaluate and award Rural Fire Assistance Grant funds to state, local and community fire departments to enhance fire protection capabilities.

PREVENTION/MITIGATION PROGRAM:

Since the completion of the Arizona BLM Wildland Urban Interface assessment, high risk communities have been a top priority for community outreach programs. Town meetings, workshops, distribution of defensible space materials, and risk inventories have been completed.

HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION:

Since the funding of the National Fire Plan, the Arizona State Office and its four Fire Zones have added fuels management personnel to plan and carry out fuel treatments. Arizona's planned accomplishments in hazardous fuels reduction averages 30,000 acres per year. In 2004, approximately 8,334 acres have been treated. Severe drought and fire conditions have restricted BLM's window for hazardous fuel treatments.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE – RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

In 2004, BLM awarded 41 Rural Fire Assistance grants for \$592,000. The grants have improved the rural fire department's wildland firefighting capability with purchases of new equipment and wildland fire training.

LARGE AIR TANKER PROGRAM

Late in the 2004 fire season, the P-3 Orion aircraft became available for fires in Arizona. Arizona BLM has five Single Engine Air Tankers (SEAT) contracts, which are used for initial attack and large fire support. These aircraft provided adequate support in most of the fires occurring in Arizona this year. The need for large air tanker support was not as critical this year, as it's been in the past. However, other severity resources, such as the Modulare Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) were brought in as the season progressed.

The Large Air Tanker Program for 2005 is not yet determined. The final air tanker composition will be determined by the results of the inspections on remaining aircraft. Seven to nine P-3 Orion aircraft were approved for use this year, and it should not change for next season. Two P2V Neptune aircraft were equipped with sensing devices to determine stress and loading on the aircraft when they drop retardant. However, they will most likely not fly enough this season to provide sufficient data for the study. The study will be continued until enough data is obtained to make determinations of air worthiness for all large air tankers. Once enough data is obtained, the engineering company evaluating the large air tankers will determine if the P2Vs can return to service.

Currently, no results are in for the DC-4, 6, and 7 aircraft, and they are not approved to fly at this time. BLM is planning to add, as many as, 13 new exclusive-use Single Engine Air Tankers contracts for possible use in the 2005 fire season.

2004 FIRE CONDITIONS

Since the spring, Arizona's fire conditions were above average until the March and April rains dampened the fuels. However, the spring rains produced more annual growth than the past few years. Although, the moisture received was not enough to reduce the long-term effects of the drought. By May, fire conditions quickly climbed to very high and extreme danger by the time the monsoon season began. The brief monsoon season allowed for high fire conditions to resume in September. However, the rains caused below normal fire conditions in the second half of September. With the current drying trends, it is expected fire conditions will be above average in October, and will be driven by the continuing long-term drought.

Key Factors for Fire Season:

- Late winter and early spring precipitation delayed the onset of the early fire season (March and April) across much of Arizona.
- A rapid escalation to critical fire danger conditions occurred from late April through mid-May. Conditions remained critical into September.
- Due to the continuing drought conditions, fire danger increased quickly during normal warm and dry periods of one week or less.
- Large fire potential was normal through April, increasing rapidly to above normal during May and June.
- Annual and perennial fuels underwent an early spring growth and become available to carry surface fire as they cured. Fine fuels loadings may have been higher, than in 2002 and 2003, but not above normal annual production levels in large areas.

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PHELPS DODGE DOS POBRES/SAN JUAN MINE PLAN EIS PROJECT RECORD OF DECISION PROTESTS

October 2004

ISSUES:

The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by BLM Safford Field Manager on June 29, 2004, and was available to the public on July 12. The 45-day protest period ended August 31, 2004. The Safford Field Office received two protests.

A protest dated August 26, was filed by the law offices of Sparks, Tehan, and Ryley on behalf of the San Carlos Apache Tribe (SCAT), stating that the Tribe was protesting both the ROD and FEIS. A protest dated August 27, was filed by the Western Mining Action Project (WMAP) representing the Center for Biological Diversity, Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club, Western Land Exchange Project, and Earthworks (former Mineral Policy Center).

Commonalities between the two protests include:

1. Appraisal process and appraised values with WMAP specifically stating that the offered lands were overvalued.
2. Impacts to reserved water rights, with San Carlos specifically mentioning groundwater and surface water as Trust Resources.
3. Both listed cumulative impacts as a concern.

The Western Mining Action Project also stated:

1. Offered lands were still at risk for mineral development.
2. That mining will occur with or without the land exchange is a flawed assumption.
3. State mining standards are not adequate.
4. Mining reclamation is not adequate.

They asked that the State Director vacate the ROD.

The San Carlos Apache Tribe's additional concerns included:

1. Threats to the human environment.
2. There was not an adequate range of alternatives.
3. Mining can occur with or without the land exchange.
4. Loss of federal protection for cultural resources.
5. Boundary dispute.
6. Environmental Justice

They stated that the State Director should rescind and override the Decision.

SUMMARY:

The ROD, signed June 29, 2004, selected the BLM's Preferred Alternative, which was the land exchange. Under this alternative, Phelps Dodge would acquire approximately 16,297 acres of public lands at the mine site, and the BLM would receive 11 private parcels comprising 3,867 acres. The offered parcels are located in the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Tuzigoot National Monument, Dos Cabezas Mountains Wilderness Long-Term Management Area (LTMA), and BLM's Sonoita Valley Acquisition Planning District which surrounds the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. In developing the offered and selected lands packages of the preferred alternative,

BLM sought to maximize the management benefits and maintains diversity in the resource values of lands that would come into federal ownership while minimizing the discrepancy on appraised dollar values between the selected and offered lands. Resource values associated with this offered lands package that would come into public ownership and federal management include, but are not limited to, riparian and wetland habitats; threatened and endangered species habitats; cultural resources, wildlife and recreation resources; and public land access to special management areas.

The BLM is currently in the process of reviewing the protests to determine if all relevant points were addressed in the FEIS.

BLM PERSPECTIVE:

The ROD culminates 10 years of environmental and socioeconomic evaluation, coordination with Native American nations, and numerous opportunities for public input. The BLM, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and BIA worked diligently to resolve several issues related to the Dos Pobres/San Juan Project, and together outlined a process in which the BIA, BLM and USGS engaged in a facilitated effort to: 1) revise and improve the proposed groundwater monitoring and mitigation plan for the project; 2) conduct Tribal consultation; and, 3) complete the NEPA process.

Graham County and City of Safford officials were concerned about the timely completion of the ROD for the project, and contacted the Arizona delegation and the Department during Washington visits. Congressman Rick Renzi has been a strong proponent of the mine as a means to improve the local economy, and he has been very vocal in his support for completion of the NEPA process.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was published and released for public review on December 12, 2003. The ROD was signed on June 29, 2004, and the Notice of Availability was published in several Arizona newspapers. The 45-day protest period ended August 31, 2004.

The BLM will now determine if all the applicable concerns listed in the two protests were addressed in the FEIS. If they have been adequately covered, the BLM will reaffirm its land exchange choice selected in the ROD. This choice is the best option for bringing valuable lands into public ownership, while allowing Phelps Dodge to acquire public lands needed for its proposed mine.

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PHELPS DODGE DOS POBRES/SAN JUAN MINE PLAN EIS PROJECT

October 2004

BACKGROUND:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued the Dos Pobres/San Juan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on December 12, 2003. The FEIS analyzes a proposed mining plan of operations from the Phelps Dodge Corporation (Phelps Dodge) for a major new open pit copper mine, which would be located approximately eight miles north of the city of Safford, Arizona, in Graham County. A key issue surrounding the proposed mining plan stems from the use of groundwater from wells located on both private and public lands for the mining operation. The well field is located in the project area about eight miles north of the Gila River. The BLM used a groundwater model (MODFLOW) to analyze impacts and developed the "Model, Monitor, and Mitigate" (3M) program to minimize model prediction uncertainties and provide for adaptive management remedies. The analysis of potential impacts indicates that the proposed groundwater pumping is predicted to reduce flows in the Gila River by about 34 acre-feet (af) per year. In addition, storm water management requirements for the proposed mine are predicted to capture another 94 af of surface water per year, pit lake evaporation will capture 21af per year, with a total reduction of approximately 149 af per year. Phelps Dodge has proposed measures to completely mitigate any impacts of the proposed mine on Gila River surface flows. These mitigation measures include allowing farmland with decreed water rights, owned by Phelps Dodge, to go unused on an alternate-year schedule, thereby decreasing demand on surface flow in the Gila River by an amount equal to or greater than 149 af per year. This proposal is expected to increase flow in the Gila River sufficiently to compensate for the impacts of surface water management, groundwater pumping activities associated with the proposed mining operation, and would be continued for the duration of the predicted impacts.

The MODFLOW model predicted there might also be a slight, temporary impact to the groundwater aquifer under the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Neither, the predicted annual impact or the total cumulative impact to the groundwater aquifer is measurable. The actual impact to the groundwater aquifer, if any, will only be accurately determined by the "Monitoring" component of the 3M program. An important consideration on the groundwater issue is the San Carlos Apache Tribe Water Settlement Agreement (March 30, 1999), between the United States and the San Carlos Apache Tribe that states in part, "the Tribe and the United States acting on behalf of the Tribe shall have the permanent right to the on-reservation diversion, use, and storage of all groundwater beneath the reservation." BLM is continuing consultation efforts with Gila River Indian Community and San Carlos Apache Tribe regarding trust assets.

Phelps Dodge is proposing development under the mining laws, and as an alternative, the acquisition of federal lands via land exchange at fair market value. The company owns approximately 19,000 acres of land at the mine site, and the majority of the mineral reserve that would be mined in the project. Additionally, the company holds unpatented mining claims, and the right to pursue these claims on the selected federal lands regardless of a land exchange.

During the review period, the BLM contacted the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Gila River Indian Community, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) asking for their participation in the preparation and development of the ROD. During the week of May 24, 2004, BLM Arizona provided briefings to the

Director, BLM and the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Lands and Minerals Management on the status of the draft ROD. BLM received comments on the draft ROD from the Washington Office BLM and the Office of the Solicitor.

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ARIZONA LAND USE PLANNING UPDATE

October 2004

Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw - Harquahala Land Use Plans

- BLM staff addressed 19 community association meetings and special interest groups between February 6 and June 11, 2002. Additional meetings were also conducted in September 2002 to highlight the planning schedule and effective strategies for collaboration.
- Ten (10) scoping meetings were held between September 28 and October 16, 2002
- The scoping report was approved in February 2003. First round of Alternative Formulation workshops (five) were held the week of March 3. Approximately 50 participants attended each meeting. A second round of public workshops on alternative formulation was conducted during the first week of April 2003. The alternative formulation and impact analysis stages are nearing completion. **The Draft RMP/Draft EIS has been reviewed by the State Office. The NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS should be published October or November 2004.**
- Over 200 Cooperating Agency invitation letters were sent out statewide to local, county, state and federal government entities. Cooperating Agency memorandums of understanding (MOUs) are being developed with the City of Phoenix, City of Peoria, U.S. Forest Service, Luke Air Force Base, ADOT, FHWA, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- A contract to help the Phoenix Field Office complete this planning effort was awarded to Jones and Stokes in May 2002. This contract effort is moving along on schedule and within projected budget levels.
- Major issues include: diverse recreation impacts and increased demand for casual and commercial recreation; increased demand for sand, gravel, and decorative rock, and municipal infrastructure; protection of fragile resources, i.e., riparian habitat and cultural sites; concern for public health and safety, i.e., hazardous materials and abandoned mines; access to public lands and transportation planning; land tenure and intermixed management jurisdictions; open space, and trash.

Sonoran Desert National Monument and Phoenix South Land Use Plans

- The scoping phase is underway. The scoping report was approved by the State Director on September 25, 2003. The planning effort is scheduled to be complete in 2006.

- Eleven (11) public scoping meetings were held between February 10 and March 6, 2003. Preliminary meetings were held in August and September 2002, with the Hopi Tribe, the Ak Chin Indian Community, and the Tohono O'odham Nation to discuss consultation and cooperating agency status. BLM is working to schedule additional meetings with other Tribal Nations with interest in the public lands.
- Over 200 Cooperating Agency invitation letters were sent out statewide to local, county, state and federal government entities. Cooperating Agency memorandums of understanding (MOUs) are being developed with the Tohono O'odham Nation, U.S. Forest Service, Luke Air Force Base and Barry Goldwater Range, ADOT, FHWA, INS and Border Patrol, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- A contract to help the Phoenix Field Office complete this planning effort was awarded to URS Corporation in June 2003.
- Public meetings to develop alternatives were held during January and February 2004. **State Office review of the alternatives is scheduled to begin by December 2004.**
- **The NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS is scheduled to be published on July 1, 2005.**

Lake Havasu Land Use Plan

- Five open house meetings were held during November 2001. In addition, a series of community-based partnerships and ecosystems meetings were held in Lake Havasu City, Parker and Bullhead City to foster collaboration. The BLM Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) coordinated with federal, state, city, and county agencies and tribes.
- LHFO has received several hundred comments. Comments were grouped into four areas: 1) access to public lands, 2) additional boat ramps on the south end of Lake Havasu, 3) request for a trail around the Lake; and 4) no additional wilderness designations.
- August 13, 2002, the BLM Arizona State Office approved the Scoping Report for the Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan. The alternative formulation stage began in September 2002.
- Six (6) public meeting were held between February 15 and February 24, 2003, to involve the public in formulating alternatives. The alternative formulation stage should be completed by late June 2003.
- LHFO did not receive any requests from agencies or tribes to be considered as a Cooperating Agency.
- **The RMP/EIS planning effort is nearing completion of the alternative formulation and**

impact analysis stages, and the NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS should be published late Fall early Winter 2004.

Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument/Vermilion Cliffs National Monument/Arizona Strip Field Office Land Use Plans

- The scoping period was conducted April 24, 2002 through July 31, 2002. Ten (10) public scoping open houses were held from May 28 through June 13, 2002.
- On July 22, 2002, a public scoping open house was held at Peach Springs, Arizona, at the request of the Hualapai Tribe. BLM also met with the tribal councils of all tribes in the Grand Canyon Region before the planning process began.
- Several community-based partnership and stewardship workshops were held in Arizona Strip communities by the BLM National Training Center and James Kent Associates to establish local collaboration.
- The Scoping Report was approved September 24, 2002.
- **The RMP/EIS planning effort is nearing completion of the alternative formulation and impact analysis stages, and the NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS should be published in October or November 2004.**
- Over 200 Cooperating Agency invitation letters were sent out statewide to local, county, state and federal government entities. Cooperating Agency memorandums of understanding (MOUs) are being developed with the Hopi Tribe; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Flagstaff, Arizona; Arizona State Game and Fish; State Land Department; ADOT, FHWA, and Mohave County. Coconino County is also interested, but has not responded formally.
- Access and transportation are the major issues for the planning effort, particularly OHV use. Other issues include wilderness and protection of the resources.
- There is overwhelming public response to leave the area as it is today B remote and isolated, with no services and diverse recreational experiences away from civilization.
- The planning effort is partially contracted. National Park Service and BLM staffs are primarily completing it, with assistance from Lake Mead National Recreation Area staff.

Ironwood Forest National Monument Land Use Plan

- The Notice of Intent to prepare a RMP for the Monument was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2002. Nine public scoping meetings were held in communities

surrounding the Monument between July 10 and July 30, 2002.

- Over 10,000 comments letters were received and the scoping report is being developed. The scoping report was approved February 12, 2004
- A contract to help the Tucson Field Office complete this planning effort was awarded to URS Corporation in July 2003.
- Over 200 Cooperating Agency invitation letters were sent out statewide to local, county, state, tribal and federal government entities in September 2002. Another round of 90 invitation letters was sent out in December 2003. Pima and Pinal Counties are considering formal cooperating agency status. Many of the contacted entities expressed interest in remaining engaged in the planning process, but are not prepared to enter into a formal cooperating agency agreement at this time.
- Major issues include: OHV use, grazing, target shooting, undocumented immigrants, transportation, user conflicts, public contact and visitor expectations.
- **The RMP/EIS planning effort is in the alternative formulation stage, and the NOA for the Draft RMP/Draft EIS is scheduled to be published on May 27, 2005.**

Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Land Use Plan

- The BLM completed the RMP with the help of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (SVPP), through a five-year collaborative planning effort. The SVPP is a voluntary association of federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and private citizens who share a common interest in the resources and management of the public lands within the Sonoita Valley, including the upper watershed of Cienega Creek.
- The Approved RMP and Record of Decision were signed on July 25, 2003 by the Arizona State Director. **An Implementation Strategy is being developed with the assistance of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (SVPP) and others.**

Arizona LUP Amendment for Fire, Fuels and Air Quality Management

- The National Fire Policy needs to be incorporated into all of Arizona BLM's Land Use Plans (LUP's) by the 2004 fire season. The most recent comprehensive land use plan evaluations in Arizona indicated a need to update the fire decisions in every LUP. The proposal to amend the LUPs has been analyzed through an Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposal incorporates adaptive fire management into the LUPs and provides a consistent approach to incorporating the National Fire Policy.
- A contract for the preparation of the Arizona Statewide LUP Amendment was awarded to the Dynamac Corporation in September 2002.

- The Notice of Intent (NOI) to amend all of Arizona's land use plans was published in the Federal Register on January 27, 2003. The public comment period on the NOI ended March 14, 2003. Two planning bulletins were mailed to over 4000 individuals and public groups. Over 70 responses to the letters or planning bulletin worksheets were received. Overwhelming amounts of the responses support the amendment effort (90%). Concerns focused mostly on reduction of rangeland forage for cattle and logging large diameter trees.
- Letters extending cooperating agency status was sent to federal, state, county governments and Tribal contacts. The Prescott and Tonto National Forests, and the Grand Canyon National Park specifically asked to be kept informed of our efforts. Most of our Tribal partners have responded favorably and would like to be kept informed of the effort as well.
- The preliminary finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and supporting EA was released to the public on September 26, 2003, and was available for public review and comment until Monday, October 27, 2003. Seven comment letters were received.
- The notice of availability (NOA) for the Proposed LUP Amendment, Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment was published April 9, 2004. Release of the NOA began the 30-day protest period on the Proposed LUP Amendment, which closed on May 10, 2004. No letters of protest were received.
- **Arizona BLM received the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion on September 3, 2004. The Statewide LUP Amendment and Decision Record was approved by the State Director on September 28, 2004.**

Yuma Land Use Plan

- The Yuma Field Office manages public lands under three land use plans and eight LUP amendments. The comprehensive land use plan evaluation was completed in December 2000.
- Fiscal year 2004 is the initial year of funding for the Yuma RMP revision. The Preparation Plan, which guides the development of the RMP, was approved on April 30, 2004.
- The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the land use plan was published in the Federal Register on March 30, 2004. Four public scoping meetings were held during the first week of June 2004. These meetings were held in Yuma, AZ, Quartzsite, AZ, Wellton, AZ, and Blythe, CA. **The scoping report was approved on September 28, 2004.**
- **This planning effort is being contracted, and the contract was awarded to Tetra Tech, Inc. in August 2004.**

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and Tucson Field Office Land Use Plans

- The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (San Pedro RNCA) is located within the Tucson Field Office. Public lands in the San Pedro RNCA are managed under the Safford RMP (1992, 1994) and San Pedro RNCA Management Plan (1989).
- Fiscal year 2004 is the initial year of funding for this planning effort. The San Pedro RNCA RMP will be combined with the Tucson Field Office RMP (Tucson RMP) under one planning effort. The Tucson RMP will address all remaining BLM administered lands not covered by the Las Cienegas NCA, Ironwood Forest National Monument, and San Pedro RNCA RMPs. **The Preparation Plan, which guides the development of the RMP, should be approved in November 2004.**
- **The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare both land use plans should be published in November 2004. The scoping report should be approved during the third quarter of fiscal year 2005.**
- **This planning effort will be a contracted, and the contract should be awarded by late January 2005.**

Aravaipa Ecosystem Management Plan

- **Public outreach efforts for the Aravaipa Ecosystem Management Plan will begin in October with five public open houses in southeastern Arizona. Meetings are scheduled for Klondyke, West Aravaipa, Tucson, Chandler, and Safford/Thatcher on October 5, 6, 12, 13, and 14 respectively.**
- The Ecosystem Plan, a collaborative effort by the BLM Safford Field Office, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Arizona Game and Fish Department will provide guidance for 69,609 acres of public land around Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness managed by the BLM and 7,802 acres of private land owned by TNC.
- The Ecosystem Plan will replace the 1988 Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Management Plan, which does not include additional lands added by the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990.
- Management plans for three BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, one BLM wilderness, and seven grazing allotments will be incorporated into the Aravaipa Ecosystem Plan.
- The Ecosystem Plan will also address management issues such as access, recreation use, protection of riparian resources and water quality, continued use of prescribed fire, and enhancement of habitat for special status species (fish, wildlife, and plants).



Luke Air Force Base Acquisition Interest

October 2004

ISSUES:

There are several parties interested in preserving Luke Air Force Base through a public/private land exchange. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Phoenix Field staff have received letters and met with representatives from the William Lyons Group Inc., and Olympia LLC development to discuss their exchange proposals and share information on lands that are available for disposal.

Both groups are interested in preserving Luke Air Force Base through a public/private land exchange and are hoping to acquire property inside the 65th LDN line of Luke Air Force Base to trade for the BLM properties. BLM-Phoenix Field Office staff first met with representatives from the William Lyons group June 9, to discuss their proposal to acquire BLM parcels. During this meeting and in follow up discussions, the BLM provided information on public lands available for disposal through the current land use plans. This same information was shared with representatives from the Olympia LLC development group during a meeting on August 26.

To support their position, the Olympia development group provided BLM with copies of resolutions urging Congress to authorize the BLM to prepare a land trade of equitable value between the U.S. and land owners of vacant land and farm land within the defined noise contours of Luke Air Force Base. These resolutions were signed by the towns and cities of Buckeye, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, Surprise, Yuma, along with Maricopa County, and the Westmarc Association.

SUMMARY:

The BLM will continue to work with all parties, as appropriate, to best facilitate this effort in accordance with the Governor's initiative and the BLM's mission. In order for BLM to fully participate in the process, federal legislation will be required to accommodate the specific acquisition and disposal actions. BLM will continue to work with the Arizona Congressional delegation on these matters.

BLM PERSPECTIVE:

BLM Arizona has been very supportive of Governor Napolitano's initiative to protect and ensure the long-term retention of Arizona's premier military facilities. Under the guidance of the Military Affairs Commission, BLM hopes to develop a partnership with the State of Arizona, Department of Defense, United States Air Force, United States Army Corp of Engineers, and the private sector to fully achieve the goals of the Governor's initiatives.

The towns and cities of Buckeye, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, Surprise, Yuma, along with Maricopa County, and Westmarc Association have signed separate resolutions supporting and urging Congress to authorize and direct the BLM to prepare and execute a land trade of equitable value between the United States and land owners of vacant and farm land within the defined noise contours of Luke Air Force Base.

Governor Napolitano also sent a letter to Senator McCain on June 14, 2004, citing the resolutions of support from the various communities and urged the Senator to strongly consider supporting legislation directing the BLM to execute the land exchange between interested landowners surrounding Luke Air Force Base and the United States.

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Pima County Land Adjustment Act – Proposed Legislation

October 2004

ISSUES:

For some months, the Tucson Field Office (TFO) has been working with the Ironwood Preservation LLC (which is now referred to as the Las Cienegas Conservation, LLC) on its proposed legislative land exchange. The exchange would result in the acquisition by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of inholdings within, or adjacent to the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM) and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA). The federal lands selected are 1,200 acres in Pima County, which were designated for disposal under the Phoenix Resource Management Plan (RMP). The proponents are actively working with community organizations, individuals and congressional staffs to win support for a legislative land exchange. Various other parcels have been identified, and as the discussion continues, may affect other National Landscape Conservation System units and other selected public lands. TFO has learned from multiple sources that the legislation was introduced on July 22. The title of the proposed act is the "Pima County Land Adjustment Act."

SUMMARY:

The draft legislation indicates it reflects elements of a proposed land exchange which has been in discussion since 2002. The legislation would exchange a 1,280-acre federal parcel southeast of Tucson for these properties (depending on values): Empirita-Simonson in Las Cienegas NCA (2,490 acres) and the Ironwood-Moore property (600 acres) inside the IFNM.

The legislation also includes: a boundary adjustment for the LCNCA to ensure that the newly acquired Empirita-Simonson property is fully within the NCA boundaries; a requirement that Simonson relinquish some water withdrawals; no road construction on the Empirita-Simonson property; and the transfer of Tumamoc Hill (290 acres of state trust land) to Pima County. Pima County wants to protect a 100-year-old science study conducted by University of Arizona at Tumamoc. Tumamoc Hill would first be transferred to the Secretary of the Interior and then to Pima County with appropriate compensation. No property appraisals have been completed and little environmental information has been collected.

Supporters of the land exchange include: Pima County, the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Sky Island Alliance and some other local environmental groups. The Nature Conservancy and the Sonoran Institute are involved in discussions and field trips. Congressman Raul Grijalva and Jim Kolbe staffs have been involved in field trips, discussions and negotiations for several months.

The BLM was asked to comment on the draft legislation.

BLM PERSPECTIVE:

Federal lands selected by the proponents implement the land-use plan disposal decisions made in 1989. Environmental issues will require consultation and potential mitigation for archaeological or biological resources. The proposed acquisitions will resolve inholdings or adjacent land needs to protect several NLCS units. The legislation contains complex steps to be completed in a short timeframe, and will be challenging to implement.

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White Hills Land Exchange Proposal

October 2004

ISSUES:

Arizona Acreage, LLC (Proponent), managed by Leonard Mardian (a developer from Las Vegas, NV), owns approximately 35,000 acres of private land in the White Hills north of Kingman, Arizona and has proposed a land exchange with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The exchange as proposed would convey approximately 10,000 to 14,000 acres to BLM (surface and mineral estate) and approximately 7,200 acres to Arizona Acreage (surface and mineral estate). The exchange would be completed on an equal value basis and exact acreage will be known upon approval of an appraisal.

The proposed land exchange has broad local and statewide support. It is supported by all three Mohave County Supervisors, as well as by the Mohave Livestock Association, Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, University of Arizona Mohave County Extension, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Support letters have also been received from State Legislators Joe Hart, Gary Pearce, and Linda Binder, and Arizona Congressmen John Shadegg and Trent Franks. BLM has not received any calls or letters in opposition to this proposal.

Mohave County is currently processing a request by the Proponent for a Master Planned Community in checkerboard ownership. Mohave County Planning and Zoning and Mohave County Public Works would prefer blocked ownership so that the private land development can be as compact as possible. The County wants a compact arrangement in order to provide services and infrastructure in an efficient, cost effective manner. Mohave County supports a land exchange in White Hills and would prefer blocked private lands near Highway 93, and blocked private land near the existing White Hills Community.

A decision by BLM to pursue this land exchange would require a major commitment of its limited staff and resources. The proponent has agreed to fund 100% of the exchange costs. Total exchange costs are estimated to be \$200,000.

BLM representatives met with the Proponent on September 1, 2004, to discuss an exchange that would be much smaller than the original proposal. The applicant is very interested in pursuing this revised exchange which would block private lands in what he calls "White Hills Central," the focus of his master Planned Community.

SUMMARY:

BLM will continue to evaluate the potential for a cooperative land exchange in the White Hills area that is beneficial to the general public. BLM must consider existing workloads and available staff to complete the land exchange. BLM will not entertain a proposal that further complicates or does not resolve split-estate management issues.

BLM PERSPECTIVE:

BLM Arizona is currently not actively pursuing land exchanges. However, this proposal has broad local community support, as well as the interest and support of state and federal elected officials. BLM has an opportunity to improve community relations and partnerships with local, county and city businesses and officials by finding a way to support this proposed development.

CONTACT:

Elaine Zielinski, BLM State Director, (602) 417-9500



Santa Fe Railroad Split Estate Lands in Arizona

October 2004

ISSUES:

Certain Santa Fe deeds have been ruled by Arizona courts to convey the right to sand and gravel resources to the surface owner.

SUMMARY:

Sand and gravel mining operations near Kingman Arizona, on lands where the surface estate is owned by the public and administered by BLM, have raised serious issues concerning the ownership of sand and gravel resources. In the 1950s, the Santa Fe Railroad (Santa Fe) used a particular type of deed when selling the surface estate. These deeds were used in Arizona and possibly other western states.

The subject deeds contain two separate reservations. One reservation is for the mineral estate and the second is for construction rights. The second reservation gives Santa Fe the right to re-entry and use the surface and its materials for railroad related purposes, such as "gravel and ballast" for railroad construction. Arizona state courts have ruled the reservation of gravel and ballast is separate from the general reservation for minerals found in the deed. As such, the courts have held that gravel and ballast (referred to as sand and gravel by the courts) are owned by both the surface holder and Santa Fe. In the latter case, the sand and gravel are to be used only for railroad purposes.

Through a land exchange, BLM Arizona acquired rights to the surface of lands that were originally deeded under this type of Santa Fe deed. Mining operations near Kingman are currently being conducted on such deeded lands. Concerned citizens in the area, as well as local city and county governments, have informed BLM that the mining of sand and gravel is inconsistent with the current land uses for the area. Local citizens have brought forward the argument that sand and gravel are resources owned by the BLM, and are part of the surface estate.

BLM has long held that sand and gravel are part of the mineral estate. The interpretation of the state courts goes against these long-standing views held by BLM. The decision made by the courts is based on a reasonable interpretation of the subject deed. As a result of the completed land exchange, BLM may now own the rights to the sand and gravel resource as well as the surface. BLM Arizona has also contacted Santa Fe Railroad to ascertain its view of this issue.

BLM Arizona has asked its Solicitor for a formal opinion on key issues in this case. Pending the outcome of this review, BLM may well assert ownership of sand and gravel resources on Santa Fe deeded lands. If through consultation with the Solicitor, sand and gravel resources on these former Santa Fe properties are determined to be under BLM's jurisdiction, BLM Arizona will conduct appropriate environmental assessments and work with the all current operators to see that surface resources are adequately protected and reasonable reclamation is completed.

BLM PERSPECTIVE:

The BLM has submitted the Santa Fe Railroad split estate issue to its Solicitor and is waiting for a legal opinion.

CONTACT:

Elaine Zielinski, BLM State Director, (602) 417-9500



For Release: September 21, 2004
Deborah Stevens (602) 417-9504
E-Mail: Deborah_Stevens@blm.gov

04-SO-019

Secretary Norton Announces New BLM Resource Advisory Council Members in Arizona

Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced today the appointment of several new and current members to Arizona's citizen-based Resource Advisory Council (RAC), which advise the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on public land issues.

"We value the input the Arizona Resource Advisory Council provides in helping us to manage America's public lands," Norton said. "I welcome our new and reappointed members, thank them for their commitment and look forward to their counsel as we work to improve the health of our public lands."

The BLM's Resource Advisory Councils (RACs), composed of citizens chosen for their expertise in natural resource issues, help the agency carry out its stewardship of 261 million acres of public lands. The Bureau, which manages more land than any other Federal agency, has 24 RACs across the West, where most BLM-managed land is located.

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said, "RAC members bring a wealth of experience and a wide range of perspectives to each of our councils. This diversity results in a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses." The BLM, an agency of the Department of the Interior, is responsible for managing these various uses – such as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production – while conserving the land's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

The RAC appointments include: 1) Lee S. Aitken from Tucson, representing Transportation/Rights-of-Way, 2) Carolyn Loder from Tempe, representing Energy/Minerals, 3) William V. Branan from Elgin, representing Environmental, 4) Jan Kelly Holder from Safford, representing Dispersed Recreation, and 5) Jay R. Adkins from Goodyear, representing Public-At-Large.

"I am very pleased with Secretary Norton's appointments," said BLM Arizona State Director Elaine Zielinski. "As BLM's advisor, the RAC has worked diligently on numerous issues and paved the way for more effective on-the-ground land management, while helping to build strong partnerships between BLM and its constituencies."

-More-

Secretary Norton Announces BLM RAC Appointments

Following is a complete list of the RAC members, the category they represent and their place of residence.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Term</u>
Thomas Kelly	Commodity/Grazing	Wickenburg	9/2006
**Lee Aitken	Commodity/Transportation/ROW	Tucson	9/2007
Sandra McCullen	Commodity/Off-Road Vehicle Use	Mesa	9/2006
*Carolyn Loder	Commodity/Energy/Minerals	Tempe	9/2007
Stephen Saway	Commodity/Off-Road Vehicle Use	Sierra Vista	9/2005
**William Branan	Non-Commodity/Environmental	Elgin	9/2007
*Jan Kelly Holder	Non-Commodity/Dispersed Recreation	Safford	9/2007
Tina Clark	Non-Commodity/Historical/Archaeology	Yuma	9/2006
Glendon Collins	Non-Commodity/Dispersed Recreation	Phoenix	9/2005
<i>Frances Werner</i>	Non-Commodity/Dispersed Recreation	Tucson	9/2005
Lorraine Eiler	Local Area/Public-At-Large	Glendale	9/2006
Peggy Titus	Local Area/Public-At-Large	Mayer	9/2006
*Jay Adkins	Local Area/Public-At-Large	Goodyear	9/2007
Lawrence Nelson	Local Area/Elected Official	Yuma	9/2005
Lamar Smith	Local Area/Academician	Benson	9/2005

***Newly Appointed, **Reappointed RAC Members, RAC Chair**

For more information on the Arizona RAC, please contact Deborah Stevens at 602-417-9504, or check BLM's webpage at www.az.blm.gov/fr_news.htm.



Kane and Two-Mile Ranch Acquisition by the Grand Canyon Trust

October 2004

ISSUES:

The Grand Canyon Trust, aided by The Conservation Fund, has acquired a one-year purchase option to the Kane and Two Mile Ranches on the Arizona Strip from the Kane Ranch Land Stewardship and Cattle Company. This purchase includes 333,000 acres of BLM grazing lands, 550,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands, and 950 deeded acres. The purchase includes about 470 acres of deeded land within the BLM's Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, along with the majority of grazing allotments and water rights within the Monument.

BLM has identified the private inholdings for acquisition and had previously sought to acquire from the Kane Ranch 910 acres of the private land within the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and adjacent House Rock Valley area.

The acquisition includes 23,869 Animal Unit Months (AUM) from BLM allotments and 7,476 AUMs from USFS allotments.

The organizations report they have had high success raising funds and expect to purchase the ranches in July 2005.

Grand Canyon Trust in recent years has acquired grazing rights on the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, and together with the monument has sought to retire the AUMs for these permits. This has been very controversial. The Trust also acquired rights to the Arizona Strip BLM's Tuweap Allotment within the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. Both the Grand Staircase and Arizona Strip have responded to FOIA requests from Kane and Garfield counties in Utah specific to the Trust's acquisition and management of these allotments.

The Trust and The Conservation Fund have stated publicly that they will be "restoring" the Kane and Two-Mile ranches, which have been "hit hard by grazing and drought." Monitoring by the Arizona Strip BLM and the North Kaibab District of the Kaibab National Forest has shown these ranches are actually in good ecological condition. Although this area was overgrazed more than 100 years ago, the ranches have been well-managed for the past 40 years. BLM and USFS have made it clear to the Trust and The Conservation Fund that the grazing permits they are acquiring will not be retired. If they do not use the permits, other parties may apply for the AUMs in these areas. Bill Hedden, the Trust's Executive Director, has acknowledged this and stated that they intend to manage these ranches as sustainable, working ranches.

The Grand Canyon Trust met with the Arizona Strip Field Office September 10, 2004, and reported they are hoping to work with Northern Arizona University to establish a Science Advisory Board to assist with their cattle operations on these ranches.

SUMMARY:

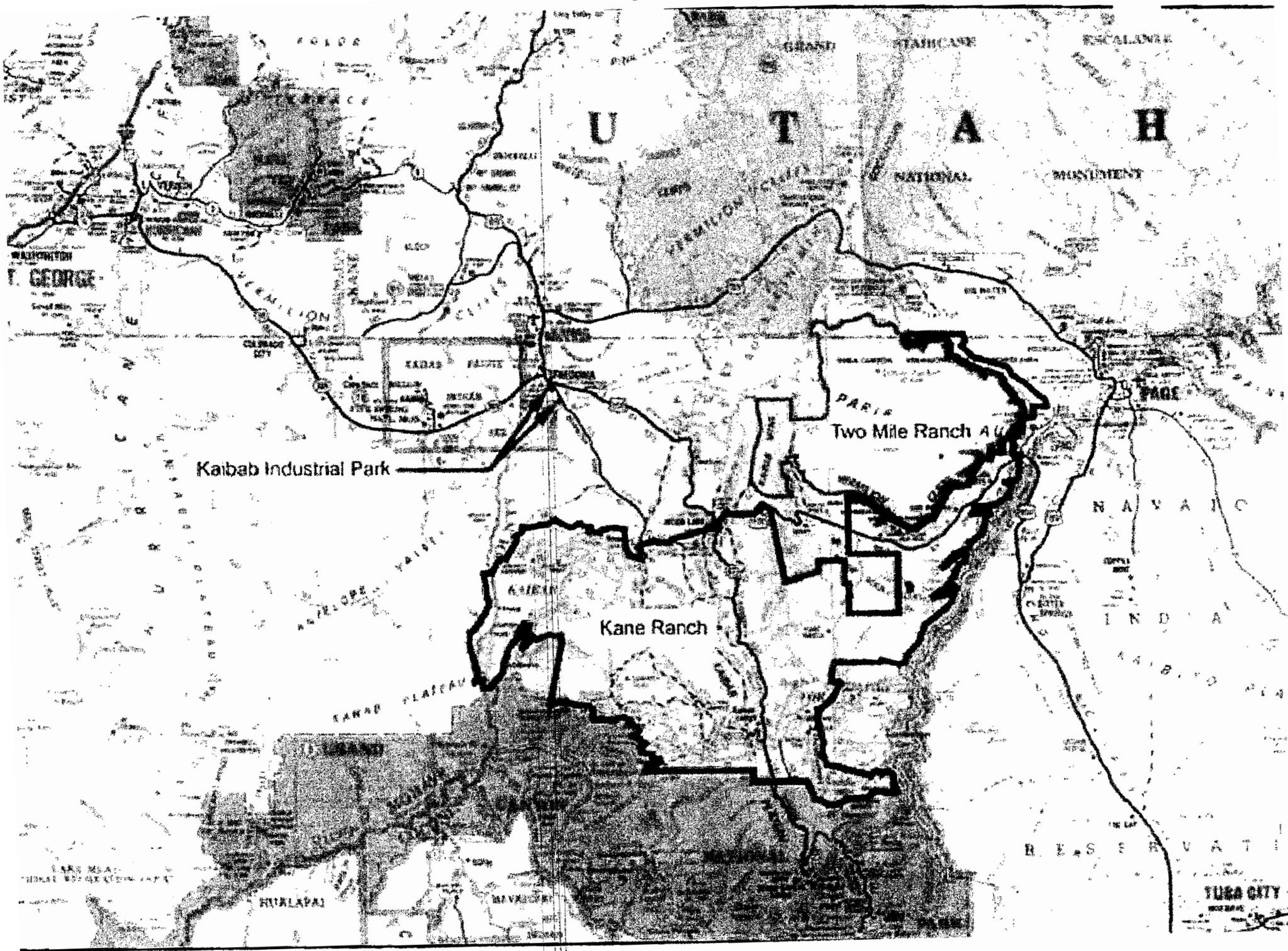
BLM supports managing the Kane and Two Mile ranches as sustainable, working ranches. These grazing permits will not be "retired." BLM will strive to work closely on grazing and other applicable issues with the permittee. BLM is currently working closely with Grand Canyon Trust and The Conservation Fund on managing other allotments, including the Arizona Strip's Tuweap Allotment and several allotments within the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument.

BLM PERSPECTIVE:

The Arizona Strip Field Office and Arizona State Office will continue to work closely with USFS, The Conservation Fund and the Grand Canyon Trust on livestock grazing issues within these allotments.

CONTACT:

Elaine Zielinski, BLM State Director, (602) 417-9500



UTAH

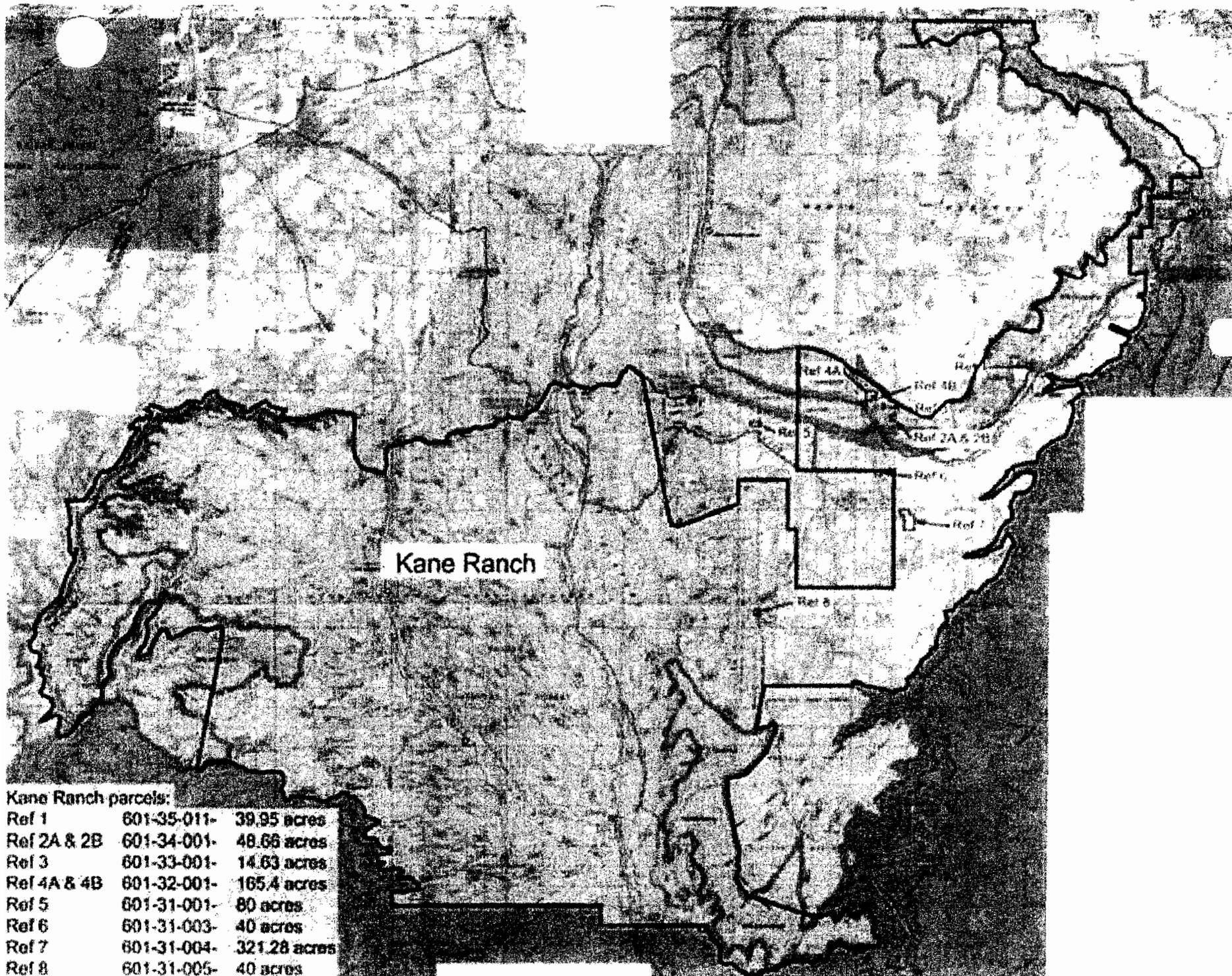
WASHINGTON
F. GEORGE

Kaibab Industrial Park

Kane Ranch

Two Mile Ranch A

TUBA CITY



Kane Ranch parcels:

Ref 1	601-35-011-	39.95 acres
Ref 2A & 2B	601-34-001-	48.66 acres
Ref 3	601-33-001-	14.63 acres
Ref 4A & 4B	601-32-001-	165.4 acres
Ref 5	601-31-001-	80 acres
Ref 6	601-31-003-	40 acres
Ref 7	601-31-004-	321.28 acres
Ref 8	601-31-005-	40 acres



Chromium Contamination at PG&E/Topock

October 2004

ISSUES:

Since 1951, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) has operated a natural gas compressor station on the California side of the Colorado River, adjacent to Interstate 40 just west of the town of Topock, Arizona. The majority of the lands surrounding the station are managed by three Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies: the BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The private land is held by PG&E and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The BLM-managed lands are within the Lake Havasu Field Office.

Until 1985, the station used chromium-based corrosion and biological inhibitors in the cooling towers. The chromium-based inhibitor was treated and disposed of in several different ways. Until 1969, untreated waste water was discharged into a bermed percolation bed in Bat Cave Wash, located west of the facility. In 1970, PG&E began treating the solution and placing it into an injection well. In 1973, treated wastewater was placed in lined evaporation ponds.

In 1993, PG&E submitted a clean closure plan to the California Environmental Protection Agency, which is under the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). In 1995, hexavalent chromium (CrVI) was detected in the groundwater, and in 1996, PG&E and DTSC agreed that PG&E would address past waste discharge at Bat Cave Wash, and conduct a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation.

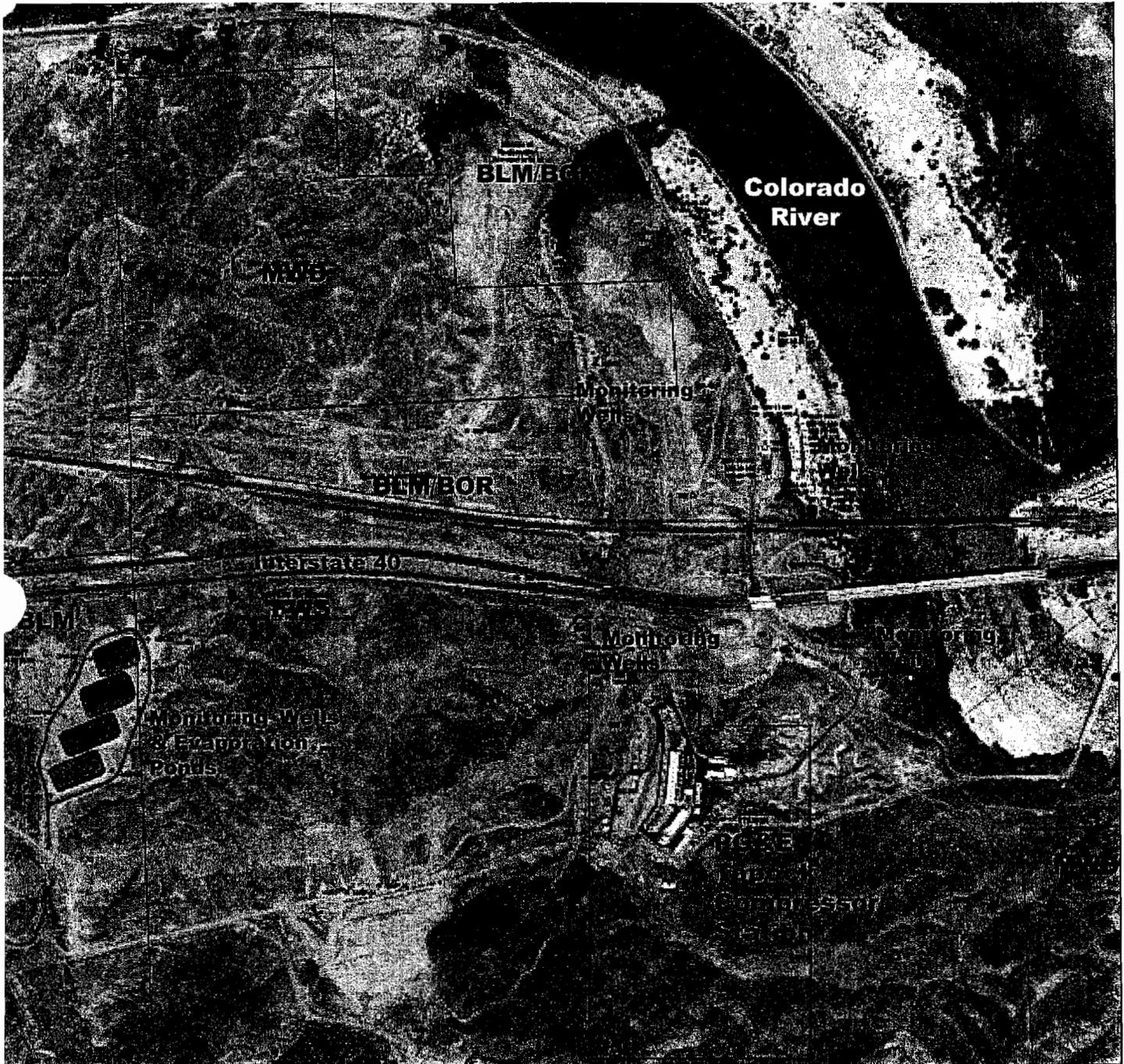
Ground water sampling detected CrVI in significant concentrations in wells within 150 feet of the Colorado River. To address the plume of contaminated groundwater, time-critical removal actions were authorized by BLM, in coordination with DTSC, to prevent release of hexavalent chromium in the River. While investigations have not confirmed that contaminated groundwater has reached the Colorado River, the proximity of the groundwater plume to the River constitutes a potential threat of contamination of a significant water supply.

To initiate hydraulic control of the chromium plume, PG&E submitted an Interim Measures Workplan on February 11, 2004, to begin time critical removal by pumping, transporting and disposing of the contaminated groundwater from existing wells on BLM. The contaminated plume is approximately 150 feet from the Colorado River.

SUMMARY:

Under subsequent work plans and action memorandums issued between February and September 2004, approximately 6.5 million gallons of contaminated water has been pumped, retracting the contaminated plume's distance from the river. Over half of the pumped water was removed as hazardous material and transported to facilities in the Los Angeles area. The remaining three million gallons were chemically treated on site and transported to other facilities out of the area.

Pacific Gas & Electric Topock Compressor Station Site Vacinity Map and Pumping Stations



- BLM** Bureau of Land Management
- BLM/BOR** Bureau of Reclamation - Managed by BLM
- FWD** Fish & Wildlife Service
- MWD** Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Monitoring Wells

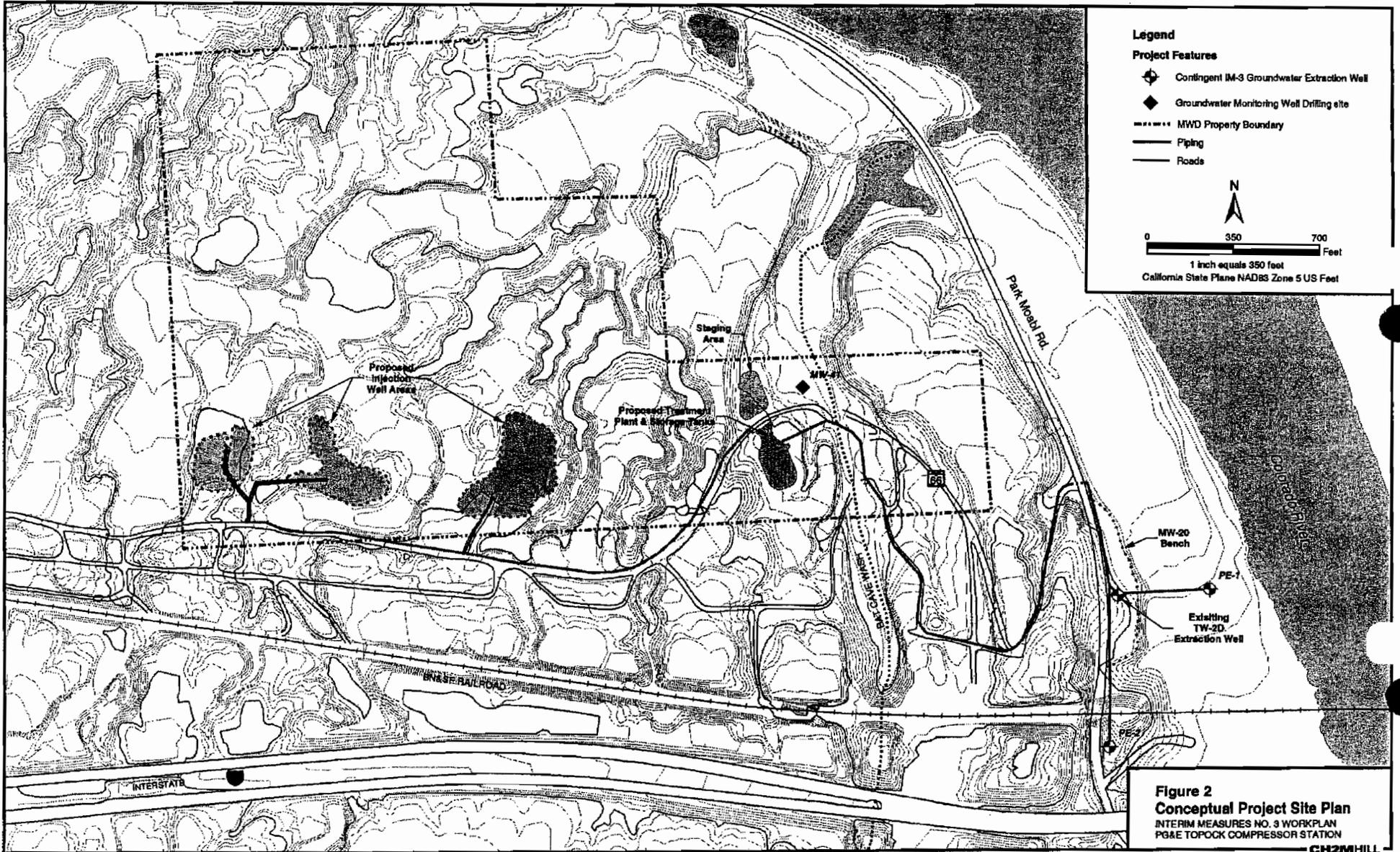
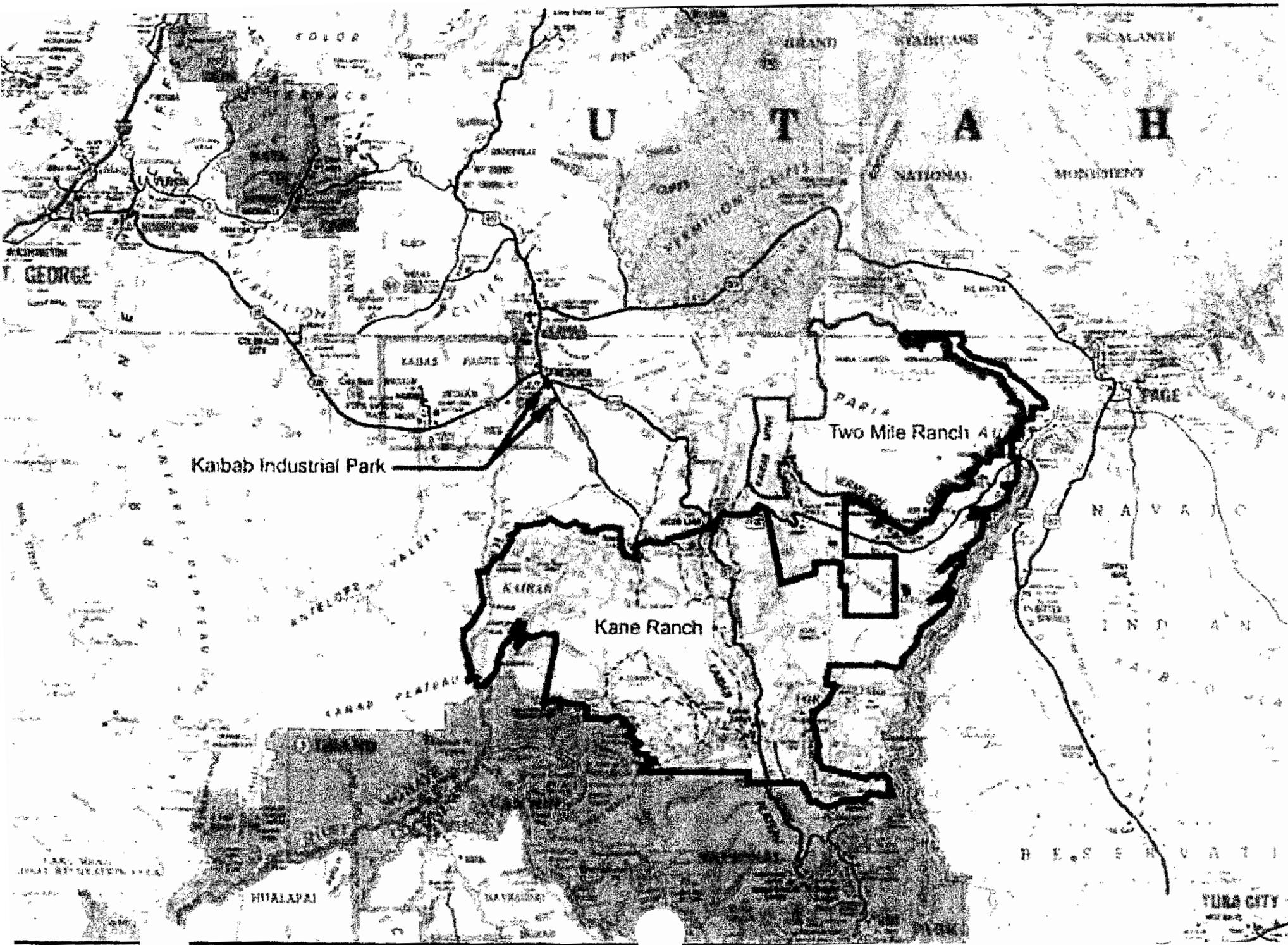


Figure 2
Conceptual Project Site Plan
 INTERIM MEASURES NO. 3 WORKPLAN
 PG&E TOPOCK COMPRESSOR STATION

CH2MHILL



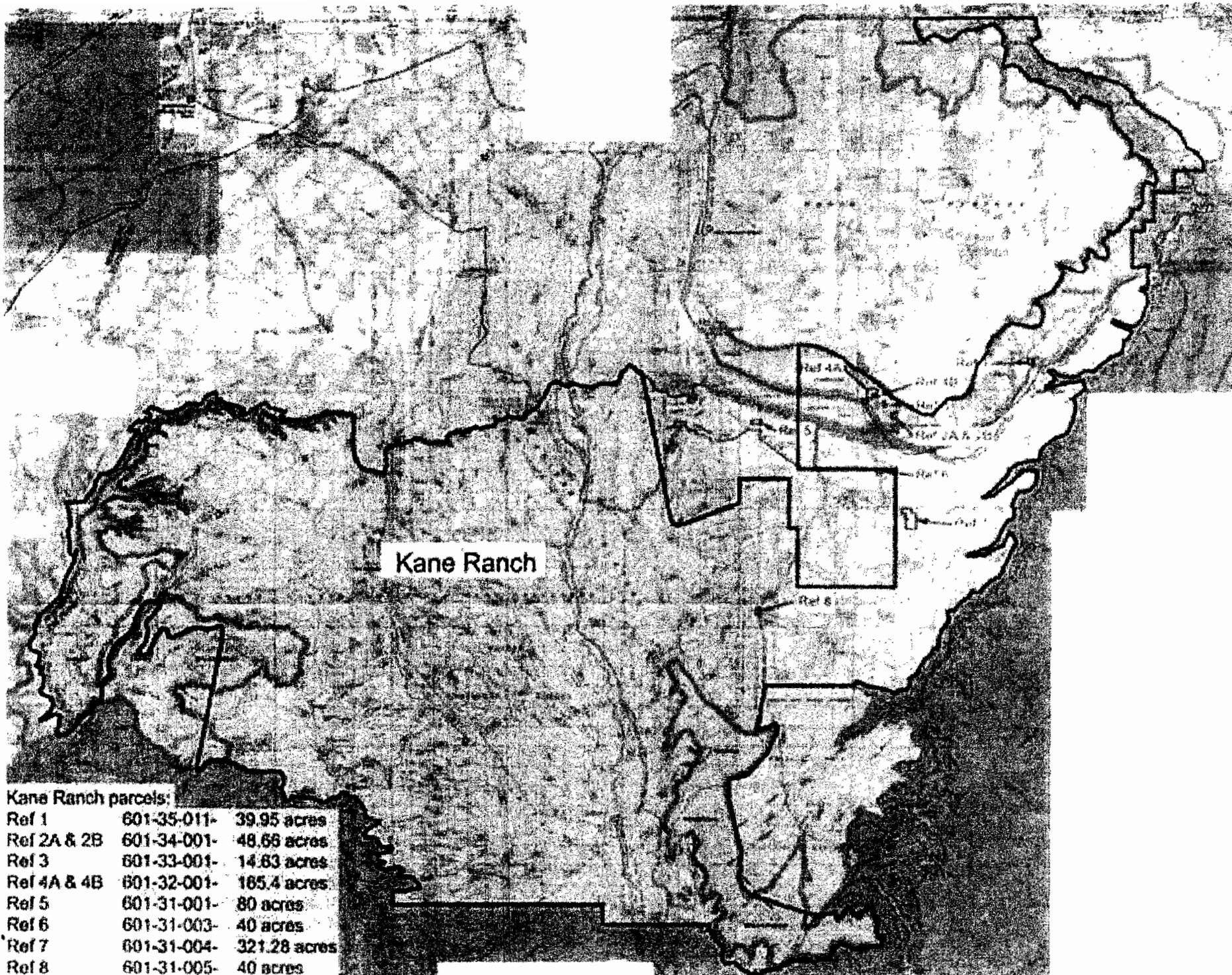
UTAH

Kaibab Industrial Park

Two Mile Ranch A

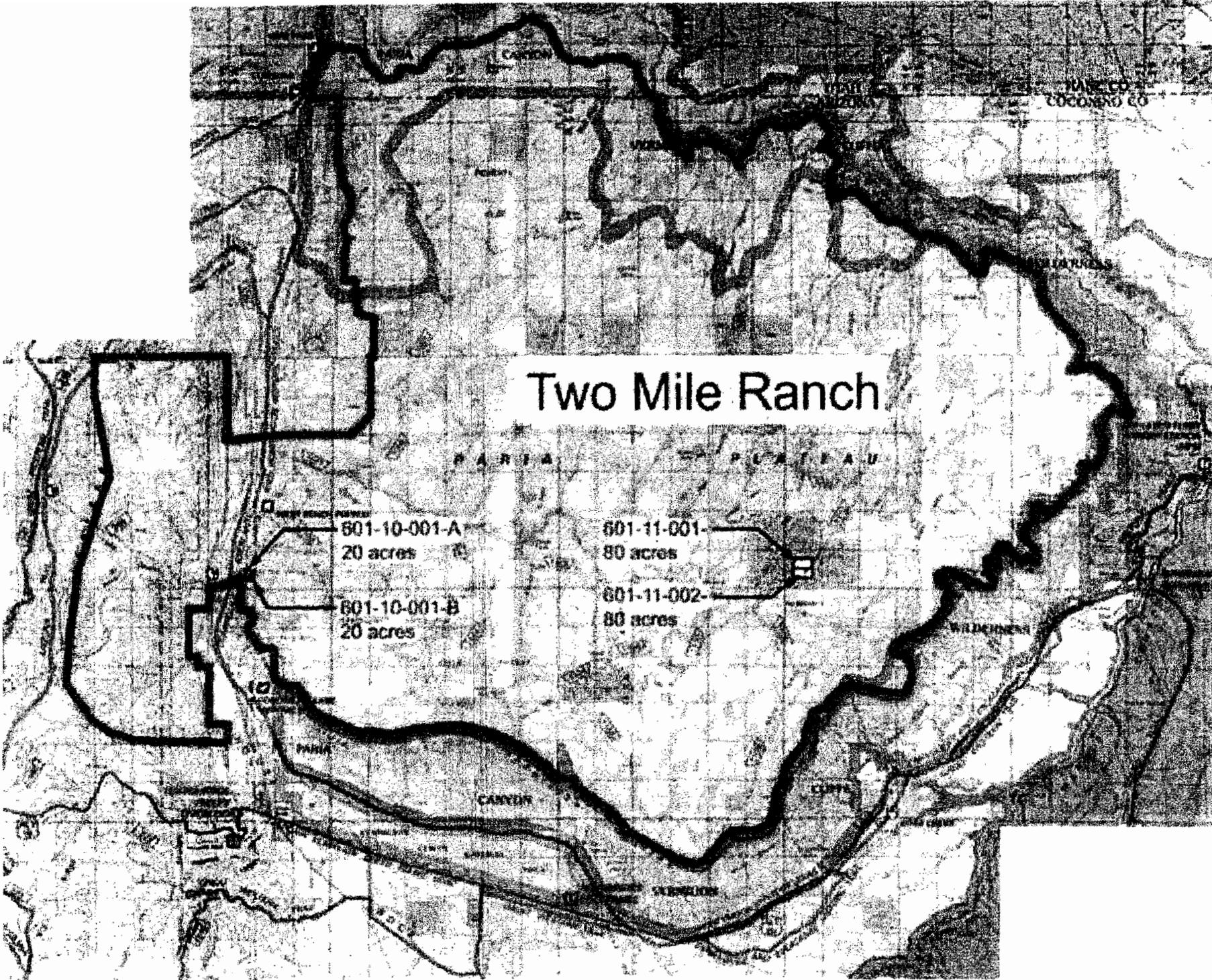
Kane Ranch

UTAH CITY



Kane Ranch parcels:

Ref 1	601-35-011-	39.95 acres
Ref 2A & 2B	601-34-001-	48.66 acres
Ref 3	601-33-001-	14.63 acres
Ref 4A & 4B	601-32-001-	165.4 acres
Ref 5	601-31-001-	80 acres
Ref 6	601-31-003-	40 acres
Ref 7	601-31-004-	321.28 acres
Ref 8	601-31-005-	40 acres



Two Mile Ranch

801-10-001-A
20 acres

801-10-001-B
20 acres

601-11-001
80 acres

601-11-002
80 acres



Joanie
Losacco/AZSO/AZ/BLM/DOI
09/08/2004 04:31 PM

Andy.Jacobs@kyl.senate.gov,
Nick_Matiella@mccain.senate.gov,
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glenn.miller@mail.house.gov,
rachel.kondor@mail.house.gov,
brian.murray@mail.house.gov

cc

bcc

Subject October 5 Meeting

Hi Everyone,

We have scheduled the next BLM Quarterly Congressional Staff Briefing for October 5 at 9 a.m. As usual, we'll hold the meeting here at the BLM Office, 222 N. Central Avenue. I'll get more information to you as the date draws closer. Let me know if there are any topics of interest you would like to see on the agenda. Also, please reply with a quick email to confirm that this date works for you. See you soon!

Joanie Losacco
Deputy State Director, External Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
222 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.417.9405
602.417.9424 FAX



**Joanie
Losacco/AZSO/AZ/BLM/DOI**
10/01/2004 10:41 AM

To crystal_caballero@mccain.senate.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: TUESDAY REMINDER

Hi Crystal,
Nick Matiella told me you were likely to attend the BLM quarterly congressional staff briefing scheduled for next Tuesday (see email below). I wanted to offer you more information or directions, if needed. Please let me know if I can answer any questions and also, if you will be attending the briefing. Thanks so much and I look forward to meeting you.

Joanie Losacco
Deputy State Director, External Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
222 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.417.9405
602.417.9424 FAX

----- Forwarded by Joanie Losacco/AZSO/AZ/BLM/DOI on 10/01/2004 10:37 AM -----



**Joanie
Losacco/AZSO/AZ/BLM/DOI**
09/30/2004 03:19 PM

To Congressional Local
cc
Subject TUESDAY REMINDER

Hi Everyone,
This is a reminder of the BLM Quarterly Congressional Staff briefing scheduled for Tuesday, October 5 at 9 a.m. We'll meet at the BLM office at 222 N. Central Avenue. If anyone needs more information, directions, etc, give me a call or send an email. I look forward to seeing all of you next week!

Joanie Losacco
Deputy State Director, External Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
222 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.417.9405
602.417.9424 FAX



"Caballero, Crystal (McCain)"
<Crystal_Caballero@mccain.
senate.gov>

10/04/2004 08:35 AM

To <Joanie_Losacco@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: TUESDAY REMINDER

Hi Joanie. Nick had told me about the meeting, but he wasn't sure of the date. Unfortunately, I have already committed to other meetings for that date. Please keep me posted an any upcoming meetings because I would really like to attend. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Crystal Caballero
Legislative Liaison, Office of Senator McCain
2400 East Arizona Biltmore Circle, Suite 1150
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-952-2410

-----Original Message-----

From: Joanie_Losacco@blm.gov [mailto:Joanie_Losacco@blm.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2004 10:42 AM
To: Caballero, Crystal (McCain)
Subject: Fw: TUESDAY REMINDER

Hi Crystal,
Nick Matiella told me you were likely to attend the BLM quarterly congressional staff briefing scheduled for next Tuesday (see email below). I wanted to offer you more information or directions, if needed. Please let me know if I can answer any questions and also, if you will be attending the briefing. Thanks so much and I look forward to meeting you.

Joanie Losacco
Deputy State Director, External Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
222 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.417.9405
602.417.9424 FAX

----- Forwarded by Joanie Losacco/AZSO/AZ/BLM/DOI on 10/01/2004 10:37 AM

Joanie
Losacco/AZSO/AZ/B
LM/DOI

09/30/2004 03:19
PM

Congressional Local

TUESDAY REMINDER

To
cc
Subject