

CHAPTER 5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) represents the efforts and involvement of a broad range of participants, including public agencies, tribal councils, and private organizations and individuals. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) met and consulted with various Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies throughout the process, including coordination with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) which assumed a more formal role as a cooperating agency. BLM conducted and attended many meetings throughout the planning process to keep all interested parties informed, and to solicit opinions and input germane to management of public land resources within the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM or monument). The general public also was brought into the process. All interested parties were invited into the process by means of various formal and informal methods, including meetings (with public agencies, tribal councils, interest groups, and individuals), scoping meetings, workshops, e-mail correspondence, and distribution of newsletters. This section summarizes these activities.

5.1 COMMUNICATION METHODS

The planning area is a special place to many people, and BLM recognizes there is great interest in the outcome of this planning process. It was the agency's task, therefore, to make the process as transparent as possible and engage the surrounding communities' help in identifying all relevant issues. All those with an interest in the RMP process—including communities, tribes, government agencies, various organizations and groups, and individuals—were informed that the planning process was underway, and presented with opportunities for involvement. The response to this, including verbal and written comments received during all phases of the planning process, was helpful to the development of this plan. Comments from the public will continue to be accepted for consideration in the subsequent phases of this planning process.

Internal guidelines were established to ensure that the planning process remain as open and inclusive as possible. In response to these guidelines, BLM followed through with these actions:

- Accepted public comments for consideration throughout all stages of the planning effort
- Granted all requests for information (unless the information was unavailable or prohibited by policy or law)
- Assigned staff and managers to meet with all groups and individuals requesting meetings to discuss the RMP process
- Opened internal processes for review by the cooperating agencies, and actively invited their comments and assistance
- Assigned staff and managers to prepare planning information for all meetings, such as meetings with Federal managers, tribal councils, the Grazing Advisory Board, and the Resource Advisory Council

BLM used the following means to inform all interested parties about the progress of the planning effort:

- Public scoping
- Community-based partnership and stewardship workshops
- Formal presentations to American Indian tribes and tribal representatives
- Informal presentations to interested groups

- Planning bulletins
- Posting of information on the BLM website
- Partnerships with cooperating agencies

5.2 PLANNING BULLETINS AND WEBSITE

Planning bulletins were sent to interested individuals and groups, affected Federal and State agencies, community groups, and tribes to inform them about planning issues and progress and to invite comment. The bulletins were also made available on BLM’s website (http://www.blm.gov/az/LUP/ironwood/ironwood_plan.htm). Table 5-1 lists the four planning bulletins that were placed on the BLM website and sent to those who requested copies.

Table 5-1: IFNM Planning Bulletins for the Proposed and Draft RMP/EIS

Date	Contents
July 2002	Announcement of scoping meetings
August 2003	Update of planning process and schedule; announcement of URS Corporation as contractor to assist with the development of the RMP/EIS
February 2004	Summary of scoping results; announcement of meetings to develop goals for the long-term management of the IFNM
August 2005	Summary of preliminary draft alternatives; announcement of meeting to review preliminary draft alternatives
February 2007	Announce availability of the Draft RMP/EIS
July 2010	Announce availability of the Proposed RMP/FEIS

Planning information, including the schedule, meeting locations and dates, planning bulletins, the scoping report, the draft alternatives, associated maps, and a copy of the Proposed and Draft RMP/EIS was posted on the BLM website.

5.3 FORMAL PRESENTATIONS TO AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES

Before and after the notice of intent was published and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, and Executive Order 13007, meetings were held with representatives of concerned American Indian tribes. The goal of these meetings was to inform and solicit input for the planning process from all American Indian Tribes or communities living on or near the IFNM. Table 5-2 lists those meetings.

Table 5-2: Meetings with American Indian Tribes

Date	Tribe, Band, or Council Meeting	Location
July 23, 2002	Gila River Indian Community	Sells, Arizona
October 19, 2004	Gila River Indian Community	Sacaton, Arizona
July 15, 2005	Four Southern Tribes Cultural Committee (Tohono O’odham, Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community) and elected officials	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Learning Center
August 18, 2005	Tohono O’odham	BLM Tucson Field Office
January 12, 2006	Tohono O’odham	IFNM

Date	Tribe, Band, or Council Meeting	Location
May 23, 2007	Four Southern Tribes Cultural Committee (Tohono O'odham, Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community) and elected officials	Cyprus Tohono Mine, Tohono O'Odham Nation
May 19, 2009	Four Southern Tribes Cultural Committee (Tohono O'odham, Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community) and elected officials	Sells, Arizona

5.4 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The planning process was initiated April 24, 2002, with the publication of a notice of intent in the Federal Register. In July 2002, the BLM Tucson Field Office hosted a series of nine open house public scoping meetings throughout southern Arizona to provide information and a forum for public input into both the plan and the process. The open-house scoping meetings were held in the Arizona communities of Mesa, Casa Grande, Eloy, Arizona City, Tucson, Sells, Picture Rock, Marana, and Green Valley.

5.5 PUBLIC MEETINGS ON DRAFT RMP/EIS

The release of the Draft RMP/EIS in March 2007 was accompanied by a 90-day public comment period during which BLM held six public meetings throughout southern Arizona and in the Phoenix area, as shown in Table 5-3. BLM received over 12,000 comments during the comment period from the public, agencies, and other organizations throughout the United States, with a few comments coming from outside the country (see Appendix J). Since the release of the Draft RMP, BLM has consulted further with the Four Southern Tribes, and participated in ongoing discussions with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Land Department, Pima and Pinal Counties, and other government entities as well as individuals and organizations to receive clarification on comments and discuss issues relevant to the IFNM RMP.

Table 5-3: Dates and Locations of Public Hearings on the Draft RMP/EIS

Date	Location
March 29, 2007	Tucson, Arizona
April 3, 2007	Sahuarita, Arizona
April 5, 2007	Chandler, Arizona
April 10, 2007	Sells, Arizona
April 12, 2007	Tucson, Arizona
May 19, 2007	Tucson, Arizona

5.6 COMMUNITY-BASED WORKSHOPS AND COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

BLM held 11 public workshops to encourage active community involvement in the planning process, and establish a management vision for the planning area. The specific goals of these workshops were to:

- Gather input and information from local communities, agencies, groups, and individuals to help establish goals and objectives for management of public land resources within the IFNM.
- Inform participants about the ongoing planning effort

- Encourage active involvement in planning for the IFNM, including establishment of community-based planning groups

Table 5-4 shows the date and topic for each community workshop. Each workshop was held at the Pima County Parks and Recreation Facility.

Table 5-4: Community Workshops

Date	Topic
March 8, 2004	Vision, overarching goals
March 29, 2004	Vision, overarching goals, public participation opportunities
April 29, 2004	Wildlife and wildlife habitat
May 19, 2004	Wildlife and wildlife habitat
May 26, 2004	Vegetation and special status species
June 9, 2004	Cultural resources
June 16, 2004	Soil, water, air, geology, and minerals
June 23, 2004	Recreation and visual resources
June 30, 2004	Travel Management
July 21, 2004	Livestock grazing
July 28, 2004	Mining and lands and realty

5.7 COOPERATING AGENCIES

As discussed in Section 1.6.1, BLM is required by law to prepare NEPA analysis and documentation "in cooperation with State and local governments," and other agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise (42 U.S.C. 4331(a), 4332(2)). Qualified agencies, tribes, or other governments that enter into formal cooperation under this provision are called cooperating agencies. In support of the cooperating agency mandate, BLM invited a broad range of Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies to become cooperating agencies on the development of the IFNM RMP. AGFD formally agreed to be a cooperating agency during this planning process, and developed a Memorandum of Understanding with BLM outlining the agencies' various responsibilities with regard to the planning process.

In addition, representatives from other interested Federal and State agencies and tribes provided BLM with ongoing verbal and/or written comments, and provided planning information, including Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers and information.

Various other groups have also played a vital role in the planning process. Their participation has been informal and infrequent. Public involvement in planning for the IFNM is ongoing. There will continue to be many opportunities for public involvement. Planning is merely the beginning of collaboration and communication that translates into healthy landscapes and continuing opportunities to use and appreciate the resources in a wide variety of ways.

5.8 IFNM PROPOSED AND DRAFT RMP/EIS DISTRIBUTION LIST

5.8.1 Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Phoenix, Arizona
 - Reston, Virginia

- Bureau of Land Management
 - Washington D.C. Office
 - Tucson Field Office
 - Phoenix District Office
 - Gila District Office
 - Arizona Strip District Office
 - Colorado River District Office
 - Arizona State Office
- Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colorado
- Federal Highway Administration, Phoenix, Arizona
- Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C.
- National Park Service
 - Washington Service Center, Washington, D.C.
 - Pacific West Region, San Francisco, California
 - Saguaro National Park, Tucson, Arizona
- Minerals Management Service
 - Denver, Colorado
 - Herndon, Virginia
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Phoenix, Arizona
- Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Oakland, California
- Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement, Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Bureau of Mines, Denver, Colorado
- U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Compliance (EH-23), Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Washington, D.C.
 - Denver, Colorado
 - San Francisco, California
- U.S. Department of Defense
 - Air Force Regional Environmental Office, San Francisco, California
 - Army Corps of Engineers, Phoenix, Arizona
 - Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - Laguna Nigule, California
 - U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson, Arizona
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Phoenix, Arizona
 - Tucson, Arizona
 - Division of Environmental Quality, Arlington, Virginia
- U.S. Forest Service
 - Coronado National Forest, Tucson, Arizona
- U.S. Geological Survey
 - Tucson, Arizona
 - Reston, Virginia

5.8.2 State Agencies and Organizations

- Arizona Army National Guard, Western Army National Guard Aviation Training Site
- Arizona Corporation Commission
- Arizona Department of Agriculture
- Arizona Department of Commerce
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Arizona Department of Water Resources
- Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources
- Arizona Department of Transportation
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona Geological Survey
- Arizona Historical Society
- Arizona Mines and Mineral Resources
- Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
- Arizona State Land Department
- Arizona State Parks

5.8.3 Local Governments

- Casa Grande, Arizona
- Eloy, Arizona
- Marana, Arizona
- Oro Valley, Arizona

- Pima Association of Governments
- Pima County
- Pinal County
- Tucson, Arizona

5.8.4 Tribal Governments

- Ak Chin Indian Community
- Gila River Indian Community
- Tohono O’odham Nation
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- San Carlos Apache Indian Community

5.8.5 Congressional

- Senator Jon Kyl, Arizona
- Senator John McCain, Arizona
- Representative Raul Grijalva, Arizona
- Representative Gabrielle Giffords, Arizona
- Representative Rick Renzi, Arizona (Draft RMP/DEIS)
- Representative Anne Kirkpatrick, Arizona (Proposed RMP/FEIS)

5.8.6 Libraries

- Geasa-Marana Branch Library, Marana, Arizona
- Salazar-Ajo Branch Library, Ajo, Arizona
- Joel D. Valdez Main Library, Tucson, Arizona
- Casa Grande Public Library, Casa Grade, Arizona

5.9 RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Written and oral comments on the Draft RMP/EIS that were received during the 90-day public comment period were reviewed and categorized into substantive and non-substantive comments. Most non-substantive comments expressed the commenter’s opinion regarding which alternative is preferred. Substantive comments were further categorized by RMP topic. Substantive comments were summarized, particularly in cases where several individuals submitted a similar comment. The summarized substantive comments and responses to these comments are included in Appendix J.

For concerns or issues considered non-substantive, BLM extends its thanks to those commenters for participating in the IFNM RMP process.

Comment submittals may be viewed in their entirety by contacting the BLM at 520-258-7200 to arrange to review that information at the BLM’s Tucson Field Office in Tucson, Arizona.

5.10 LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Draft RMP/EIS Responsibilities	Education
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