

Environmental Assessment Special Recreation Permits for Outfitters NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2009-0024-EA

BLM Office: *Kingman Field Office/Lake Havasu Field Office/Hassayampa Field Office*

Applicant and Case File #: Silvergrand Outfitters AZ-310-09-SRP003
Bedlion Outfitters AZ-310-09-SRP005
Double D Outfitters AZ-310-09-SRP006
Dry Creek Outfitters AZ-310-09-SRP007
Arizona Wildlife Outfitters AZ-310-09-SRP008

1. INTRODUCTION

- A. Project Location:** The project is located on public lands in northwestern Arizona. Specifically, the project involves Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) Game Management Units (GMUs) 15A/B/C/D, 16A, 18A/B, 20C and 44A. Public lands within these GMUs are administered primarily by BLM's Kingman Field Office, although some GMUs extend into the jurisdiction of the Lake Havasu Field Office and the Hassayampa Field Office.
- B. Project Background:** Public lands on the GMUs described above are traditionally hunted by the public for a variety of big and small game species. Some hunters lack the time, skill or equipment necessary to pursue the sport and turn to professional outfitter/guides (O/G) to assist them. O/Gs are licensed and regulated by the AGFD, and BLM manages commercial recreation uses of public land through a permitting process. 5 O/Gs have submitted BLM Special Recreation Permit applications to operate their businesses on public lands in the aforementioned units.
- C. Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action:** The purpose of the proposed action is to provide O/G business owners with authorization to pursue a recreation-based commercial venture on public lands managed by the BLM. The need for this action is established by BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). FLPMA establishes outdoor recreation as one of the principal uses of public lands and directs the DOI to regulate through permits or other instruments the use of the public lands, which includes commercial recreation use.
- D. Decision to be Made:** The BLM will decide whether or not to issue Special Recreation Permits to the applicants, authorizing them to conduct commercial guiding and outfitting for big game species on public lands managed by the Kingman, Lake Havasu and Hassayampa Field Offices.
- E. Scoping and Issues:** Internal scoping was conducted at the individual field offices to determine what needs to be analyzed in this EA.

2. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

- A. Proposed Action:** Issue 5-year Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) to Silvergrand Outfitters, Bedlion Outfitters, Double D Outfitters, Dry Creek Outfitters and Arizona Wildlife Outfitters, authorizing those businesses to conduct guided big game hunts on public lands within Arizona Game and Fish Hunt Units 15A/B/C/D, 16A, 18A/B, 20C and 44A (**See Map, Attachment 1**). The permits would be valid year-round, though most hunting seasons occur between early September and the end of February. Clients may

be pursuing elk, mule deer, desert bighorn sheep, antelope or javelina. Applicant camps would consist of self-contained travel trailers, motor homes and/or tents. Transportation would consist of pickup trucks, ATVs and/or the occasional boat (see operating plans). Base camps may be established for up to 14 consecutive nights at any one location outside of areas prohibited by stipulations. Occasionally there may be a need to exceed the 14-night limit due to difficulties with hunting success and when the length of the hunting season allows. These rare situations would require additional advance authorization from the BLM office with jurisdiction. The permits would be subject to the stipulations shown in **Attachment 2**. Permits would also be subject to annual renewal requirements.

B. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, SRPs would not be issued to the applicants.

C. Conformance with Land Use Plan:

LUP Name: *Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan, Approved 5/10/07*
Kingman Resource Management Plan/EIS Approved 3/95
Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan(MFP), Approved 3/15/83
Lower Gila North MFP Amendment, Approved 7/15/05

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Kingman Resource Management Plan* because it is specifically provided for in **Decision #RR18** - "Commercial and competitive recreation uses would continue to be accommodated through the issuance of special recreation permits. Proposals for these permits would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis"

The proposal is also in conformance with following Kingman RMP decisions:

Kingman RMP, Decision #SM02 – "Manage the twelve "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern" designation according to the goals and objectives in the RMP pages 95 to 111. Evaluate land use authorizations, including all existing activity plans, for compatibility with goals and objectives of the area of critical environmental concern".

Kingman RMP, Decision #SM04 – "Limit off-highway vehicle use in riparian areas to designated roads, trails, washes and river crossings (White Margined Penstemon ACEC, Burro Creek ACEC (includes Francis Creek), and Three Rivers (includes Big Sandy and Santa Maria Rivers)".

Kingman RMP, Decision #SM11 - Minimize surface disturbance

Kingman RMP, Decision #TE03 – "BLM will manage for conservation of candidate and BLM-sensitive species (and State Listed species) (BLM and their habitats. BLM will ensure that actions authorized will not contribute to the need to list any of these species as threatened or endangered".

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Lake Havasu Field Office Resource Management Plan* because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

TM-9. OHV area designations are shown in Table 8 and on Map 31. Generally, the planning area will be classified as "limited to existing roads and trails" for motorized travel, unless a specific classification has been applied to the area as in Table 8. Existing roads and trails for motorized use will be defined as those routes and trails found on route inventories completed in the period between 1990 and 2004 and shown

on the Lake Havasu Field Office inventory maps (Map 32 and the six detailed electronic maps with inserts found in the attached CD).

TM-10. Washes in areas designated Open, are available for motorized travel. In areas designated “existing road or trails” only washes with routes shown on inventory maps will be open to motorized travel. After the TMP is completed only washes with designated routes will be open for travel. All other washes will be closed to motorized travel unless at a later date reviewed as a new route or trail and evaluated under the route evaluation process as outlined in Appendix L.

TM-29. The BLM will require permittees (e.g., for hunting, wood gathering, livestock operators) to comply with field office route designations. Exceptions may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

TM-33. Upon completion of the TMP process, the route network will be limited to *designated* roads, primitive roads, and trails. Upon completion of each TMP, a map will be published showing the status, maintenance intensity, and other relevant information for all roads, primitive roads, and trails within each respective Travel Management Area.

VM-4. The BLM will require the use of certified weed-free forage for all stock in Wilderness Areas (WAs), Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), lands managed for wilderness characteristics, and WHAs. Domestic-sheep-free forage will be required for any permitted activity within or adjacent to bighorn sheep habitat.

WC-3. Use of motor vehicles and mechanical transport, and the construction of temporary roads, structures, and installations will be allowed for emergency purposes. Any emergency actions will be conducted in a manner that creates the least disturbance and will be reclaimed as soon as possible after the situation has ended.

WC-4. Use of non-motorized wheeled carts (game carriers) will be allowed. (outside of designated wilderness)

WC-10. Vending operations and concession leases will be prohibited. Other temporary commercial or recreation permits that meet the land use plan objectives for the area could be issued. These permits include, but not limited to, SRPs for backcountry guides or temporary land use authorizations for filming.

WF-8. Previous lambing grounds are now identified as sensitive sheep habitat (Map 10) and existing seasonal closures (43 CFR 8365.1-6 Part II) will remain for wildlife habitat and scenic values and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) recreation settings until evaluation by TMP. The TMP may change this limitation by individual routes; limitation may also change as a result of scientific studies.

WF-10. 791,885 acres in the Lake Havasu Field Office planning area will be cooperatively managed as WHAs with state and federal wildlife agencies. See Map 6. This land is comprised of (some of these areas overlap leading to the smaller total acreage);

Riparian Habitat, Springs and Seeps (6,126 acres)

Bighorn Sheep Habitat (562,022 acres)

Mojave and Sonoran Desert Tortoise Habitat (I,II) (440,599 acres)

Wildlife Corridors (288,206 acres)

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Habitat

WF-29. Vehicular access within the Lake Havasu Aubrey Hills to retrieve game will not be allowed.

WS-4. For the protection of habitat and other natural values, no motorized vehicles will be allowed within the Lake Havasu Aubrey Hills Area. This restriction does not include authorized vehicles for administrative purposes, authorized ROWs, lands under Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) lease/patent, and ownership access to private land.

The proposed action is not specifically provided for in the *Lower Gila North MFP and Amendment*. The issuance of SRPs contributes to meeting MFP goals and objectives and is not inconsistent with the plan; hence it can be considered to be in conformance.

HFO LGNMFP 05:

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, and loss of tortoise habitat quantity or quality in category I, II, and III habitats.

RR-9 All public lands are designated as limited except wilderness (which is closed to motorized vehicles) . Off-highway and special recreation vehicles are limited to existing and/or designated routes. No unauthorized cross-country vehicle travel is permitted. Creation and widening or extending existing trails is not permitted.

RR-17. Wilderness is closed to mechanized use.

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 and historic interpretation, camping, and off-highway and special recreation vehicle use areas.

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

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

RR-54 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.

D. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans:

- Management of commercial recreation uses on public lands is governed by **43 CFR 2930** and policy is dictated in **BLM Manual 2930** and **BLM Manual Handbook H-2930-1**.
- The *Black Mountain Ecosystem Management Plan* (1996), *Wabayuma Peak & Mount Tipton Wilderness Management Plan* (1995) and *Upper Burro Creek Wilderness Management Plan* (2005) all provide guidance on management of commercial hunting groups in wilderness.
- The **Wilderness Act of 1964** allows commercial services to be performed within wilderness areas but also directs the Bureau of Land Management to manage wilderness areas in such a manner as will preserve wilderness character. Though the Wilderness Act does not explicitly define wilderness character, the definition of wilderness in Section 2 (c) describes wilderness as being untrammeled and undeveloped, managed to preserve natural conditions and with opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The Bureau of Land Management must evaluate any possible negative effects to these characteristics when considering any proposed project or activity in wilderness.

3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

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

PROJECT RESOURCE REVIEW			
Resources & Programs Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
Air Quality*		✓	
Cultural, Historic & Paleontological Resources*			✓
Fish Habitat*		✓	
Forests and Rangelands*		✓	
Migratory Birds*		✓	
Native American Religious Concerns*		✓	
Threatened or Endangered Species*		✓ See Biological Evaluation, Attachment 3	
Hazardous or Solid Wastes*	✓		
Drinking or Groundwater Quality*		✓	
Wild & Scenic Rivers*	✓		
Wilderness*			✓
Environmental Justice*/ Socioeconomics		✓	
Floodplains*		✓	
Wetlands-Riparian Zones*		✓	
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern		✓	
Prime or Unique Farmlands	✓		
Fuels/Fire Management		✓	
Lands & Realty		✓	

Law Enforcement		✓	
Minerals		✓	
Human Health & Public Safety		✓	
Recreation			✓
Grazing		✓	
Soils		✓	
Travel Management		✓	
Vegetation		✓	
Visual Resources		✓	
Weeds(Invasive & Non-Native)		✓	
Wild Horses/Burros		✓	
Wildlife			✓

*Consideration Required by Law or Executive Order

A. Cultural, Historic & Paleontological Resources:

Lake Havasu Field Office - Although earlier occupation during the Paleo Indian Period is possible, archaeological evidence indicates that humans first occupied the Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) area during what archaeologists call the Archaic Period. Few sites have been tested or excavated to establish absolute dates, but it is likely that first occupation may have been 7000 years before the present. During this period people would have been hunting and gathering wild plants for food and other material needs. It is possible that some of the rock art sites in the area were made during the Archaic. These sites are considered as sacred places to the Native American groups in the region today. As people began to settle into larger camps and villages, and cultivate crops their lifeway changed. Archaeologists call this the Formative period. The date of this transition varies widely with locality, but was probably somewhere between A.D. 500 and 800 in the planning area. Preliminary evaluation of archaeological remains in the planning area indicates that the area was used by both the Patayan and Hohokam cultural groups, with most prehistoric Patayan material and features representing the ancestors of the Mohave and Yavapai. Sites continue to represent resource exploitation, hunting and gathering, with semi-permanent habitations and indication of continued ceremonial use. Native Americans used this area up until the first contact with Euro-Americans. During the Cambrian, the central and eastern parts of Arizona were above water, and the edge of the continent went from southern California through central Nevada. In between, most of Arizona was covered by a shallow carbonate platform. The sandstones, siltstones, and limestones that originated in these environments contain abundant invertebrate fossils, such as trilobites and brachiopods. The LHFO area was mostly underwater so most fossil finds are limited to snails and shells. There are some Late Pleistocene mega fauna sites known within the LHFO.

Kingman Field Office - Although only a small percentage (<10%) of public land within Kingman Field Office has been inventoried for cultural resources, cultural resources range (approximately 12,000 years ago to present) from prehistoric Native American to historical mining to WWII and Cold War training sites. Paleontological resources are also known within the project area.

Hassayampa Field Office - West-central Arizona has a rich and diverse cultural heritage. Cultural resources represent the tangible remnants of this reach and the legacy of native American groups living in this region for over 1000 years. This area has one of the best-preserved prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the American

Southwest. Additionally, cultural resources include sites of significance to Indian tribes. Archaeological evidence reveals that Archaic hunters and gatherers began to live in the region at least 6,000 years ago. Later occupants include the farmers of the prehistoric Hohokam, Perry Mesa, Prescott, and Patayan traditions. These people may have been ancestors of the O'odham, Hopi, Yavapai, and Yuman tribes. Prehistoric archaeological sites include properties as diverse as pueblo ruins, agricultural terraces, hunting camps, seasonal settlements, lithic quarries, and trails and rock art. Tribes have expressed concerns regarding preserving cultural heritage values of prehistoric sites. They often cite special significance to rock art, springs, habitation sites, and cemeteries. On-going consultations are needed to determine which traditional cultural properties or other places are of significance.

Cultural diversity also encompasses the history of ethnic groups including Mexican and Cornish miners, Chinese workers, Basque shepherds, and African-American settlers. Archaeological sites the planning area may hold compelling clues about their lives and challenges in the Arizona desert.

Avoidance and mitigation of adverse effects to cultural resources in evaluating and implementing proposed projects is necessary. It is more difficult to manage impacts caused by unplanned and casual activities. Frequently monitoring inspections and public education can help protect archaeological sites, particularly those near the Phoenix urban areas, rural towns, and transportation routes.

A minimal amount of paleontological research has been conducted. Eleven sites are known to occur within or in close proximity to the planning area. None of these however, have been found on BLM managed land.

B. Wilderness:

Kingman and Lake Havasu Field Offices - 14 designated wilderness units (Mount Wilson, Mount Tipton, Mount Nutt, Warm Springs, Wabayuma Peak, Upper Burro Creek, Aubrey Peak, Arrastra Mountain, Tres Alamos, Rawhide Mountains, Swansea, East Cactus Plain, Gibraltar Mountain, and Harcuvar Mountains) are located within the project area. These areas were set aside for protection because they have wilderness character (as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964): that is, they are generally untrammeled (free from human control or manipulation) and undeveloped (little evidence of modern human presence, occupation or modification), they are natural (ecological systems are substantially free from effects of modern civilization), and they offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The degree of wilderness character varies between units with some areas containing more manmade structures and ground disturbances than others. Some units have chronic problems with illegal motor vehicle intrusions, and others are prone to frequent overflight from military aircraft, tour planes, helicopters and wildlife survey operations. Opportunities for solitude vary greatly due to differences in terrain and vegetation, but all areas are lightly visited by humans and all offer unlimited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Hassayampa Field Office- Two wilderness areas administered by BLM are located in within the requested hunting area. These are the Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness and the Harquahala Mountains Wilderness. The Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness, on the southern flank of the Weaver Mountains, consists of the deep river gorge with numerous side canyons and washes and rugged, highly dissected mountains. Vegetation is Sonoran desertscrub, interior chaparral, and Sonoran riparian deciduous woodland. This area is not habitat for any listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species of plant or wildlife including the southwestern willow flycatcher.

Outstanding opportunities exist for solitude and primitive recreation throughout much of the wilderness is due to rugged terrain. Trails provide access to spectacular views of pristine Sonoran Desert canyons.

Harquehala Mountains Wilderness consists of 22,880 acres and lies in Maricopa and La Paz Counties, 80 miles northwest of Phoenix, Arizona. The Wilderness contains part of one of western Arizona's largest desert mountain ranges. The 5,691 foot high Harquahala Peak, the highest point in southwest Arizona provides a breathtaking panorama of surrounding desert and distant mountain ranges. This area contains a screened interior canyon system. The distinctive ecosystems provide exceptional natural diversity, including a relic stand of interior chaparral, desert grasslands, and rare cactus populations. The area also supports habitat for desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and mule deer populations.

C. Recreation:

Kingman and Lake Havasu Field Offices - Recreation use of public lands in the project area, while not intensive, is extremely varied, and includes camping in developed campgrounds to backpacking in a wilderness area. Dispersed forms of recreation are the most common and include driving ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles and 4 wheel drive vehicles on roads and washes, hiking, riding horses, primitive camping, rockhounding, photography, hunting, wildlife viewing, swimming and more. People visit these public lands to gain an appreciation for nature, to challenge themselves at a sport or against the elements, to improve their physical and mental health, and/or to spend time with friends and family.

Hassayampa Field Office - Recreation levels have dramatically increased as a result of the fast-growing Phoenix metropolitan area. Although opportunities for developed recreation site activities exist in relatively few locations, opportunities for dispersed recreation activities abound throughout. A study conducted by Arizona State University revealed that hiking and walking were the most frequent activities, followed by 4 wheel driving, sightseeing, motorcycle/all-terrain vehicle riding, and camping. Other activities occurring on BLM public lands include visiting cultural sites, picnicking, photography, wildlife viewing, target shooting, and hunting. The demand for these activities is likely to increase as the Phoenix metropolitan area experiences accelerated growth over the next two decades.

D. Wildlife and Migratory Birds:

Kingman and Lake Havasu Field Offices - Wildlife and migratory birds typically found within this region include species such as coyote, bobcat, kangaroo rat, gopher snake, diamond back rattle snake, Sonoran Desert tortoise, red-spotted toad, cactus wren, and red-tailed hawk.

Hassayampa Field Office - Wildlife and migratory birds found in this region include species such as coyote, bobcat, black bear, desert bighorn sheep, elk, javelin, mountain lion, mule deer, pronghorn, white tailed deer, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, desert cottontail rabbit, raccoon, ringtail cat, bobcat, gray fox, skunks, and badger.

E. Special Status Species:

Kingman and Lake Havasu Field Offices - A list of special-status species that occur within the project area can be found in Appendix 3.

Hassayampa Field Office - These species include the threatened bald eagle, candidate species for listing as is the western yellow-billed cuckoo, endangered southwestern

willow flycatcher, endangered desert pupfish, endangered Gila topminnow, endangered Gila chub, threatened spikedace, threatened lesser long-nosed bat, threatened brown pelican, threatened Yuma clapper rail. In addition the AGFD has a list of wildlife of special concern in Arizona. This list includes taxa that are federally listed as threatened or endangered. The Sonoran desert tortoise is listed as a sensitive species by both BLM and the AGFD.

F. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs):

Kingman and Lake Havasu Field Offices - There are twelve ACECs found within the project area on KFO-managed public lands. A complete description of the Goals and Objectives, locations, and Management Prescriptions can be found in (Kingman RMP, Table 11; pgs. 92,93 and 94).

Hassayampa Field Office - None

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Cultural, Historic & Paleontological Resources:

Proposed Action- All sites have potential for impacts from casual visitation such as surface artifact collecting. Potentially eligible prehistoric/historic sites would not be impacted by the presence of outfitters or guides, and their clients. Therefore, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to have direct or secondary impacts to cultural resources within the project area.

No Action – No impacts anticipated.

B. Wilderness:

Proposed Action – The use of a professional guide to pursue big game may result in a slightly higher hunter success rate in killing wildlife, thereby manipulating (or trammeling) wildlife populations. Gunshots within the wilderness would momentarily disrupt the naturally quiet conditions of the area being hunted. The presence of a hunter accompanied by a guide would have no greater degree of impact on the solitude of other visitors than would the presence of the same hunter without a guide. The proposed action would have no effects on the undeveloped quality or wilderness.

No Action – No new impacts to wilderness character would occur under this alternative.

C. Recreation:

Proposed Action – Using a professional outfitter/guide to establish a camp and to successfully pursue game would likely result in a more satisfying recreation experience for clients and an increased likelihood that hunters will attain the beneficial outcomes they desired.

No Action – The inability to employ a professional outfitter/guide to assist in pursuing a game species could result in a less satisfying recreation experience for some hunters and may deny those hunters the opportunity to attain the beneficial outcomes they desired.

D. Wildlife and Migratory Birds:

Proposed Action – The presence of outfitters or guides, and their clients, may disrupt the natural movement of wildlife and migratory birds that may be nearby. These disruptions would occur in small areas directly around the campsites. The disruptions could last for up to 14 days. There would be very limited potential for disturbance to migratory bird nests or nestlings as the proposed action would occur primarily outside of the breeding season of birds. Effects to BLM sensitive animal species and Arizona Wildlife of Special Concern may consist of disruptions by the presence of humans in the

habitat. This would occur primarily in the mornings and evenings to animal species in small areas around the campsites. This could last for up to 14 days. Tortoise/rosy boa/chuckwalla may be encountered and possibly disturbed during hunting activities. Disruptions to special-status plants would be primarily from trampling or crushing by vehicles.

No Action – No disturbances to wildlife and migratory birds would occur under implementation of the No Action alternative.

E. Special Status Species:

Proposed Action – There would be “no effect” to any T&E species or to the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL) Critical Habitat from implementation of the Proposed Action. See Appendix 3, *Biological Evaluation*, for a description of impacts to Special Status Species.

No Action – There would be “no effect” to any Special-Status Species or southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) Critical Habitat from implementation of the No Action alternative as no new disturbances would occur within these areas.

F. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs):

Proposed Action: All of the ACECs with exception of the Carrow-Stephens were established for the purposes of applying special management to areas that contain habitat for special status species or riparian resources. The analysis of impacts to the ACECs (with the exception of Carrow-Stephens) can be found in Appendix 3, *Biological Evaluation*.

No Action – There would be no disturbances to ACECs from implementation of the No Action alternative.

- G. Cumulative Impacts:** Within the project area, it can be anticipated that approximately 10 to 15 additional commercial hunting outfitter/guide operations may be permitted on public lands in addition to the 5 applicants under consideration. Additionally, hundreds or thousands of other hunters or hunting groups can be expected to use public lands in a similar fashion without the benefit of these commercial operators. Dispersed recreation activities including camping, hiking, horseback riding and especially OHV driving will continue to be very common and public land use is expected to escalate as the human population in the area continues to grow. Implementation of either the proposed action or no action alternatives is not expected to contribute toward any cumulative impacts on the human environment.

- H. Mitigation:** All mitigation has been incorporated into the Proposed Action and in the attached stipulations.

5. Consultation and Coordination/ List of Preparers

This project proposal was presented at the Kingman Field Office interdisciplinary Project Coordination meeting on July 7, 2009. Resource specialists who indicated an interest in evaluating the proposal are listed on the attached KFO Scoping Form.

The project was presented at the Lake Havasu Field Office NEPA Team Meeting on July 1, 2009. Subsequent to the meeting, scoping issues were identified as: biology, cultural, recreation and wilderness resources.

Compliance/Monitoring and assignment of responsibility Recreation Staff in Lake Havasu, Hassayampa and Kingman field offices

Prepared by: _____
Bruce M. Asbjorn
Project Lead

Date

Reviewed by: _____
Gina B. Trafton
LHFO NEPA Coordinator

Date

Bruce M. Asbjorn
KFO NEPA Coordinator

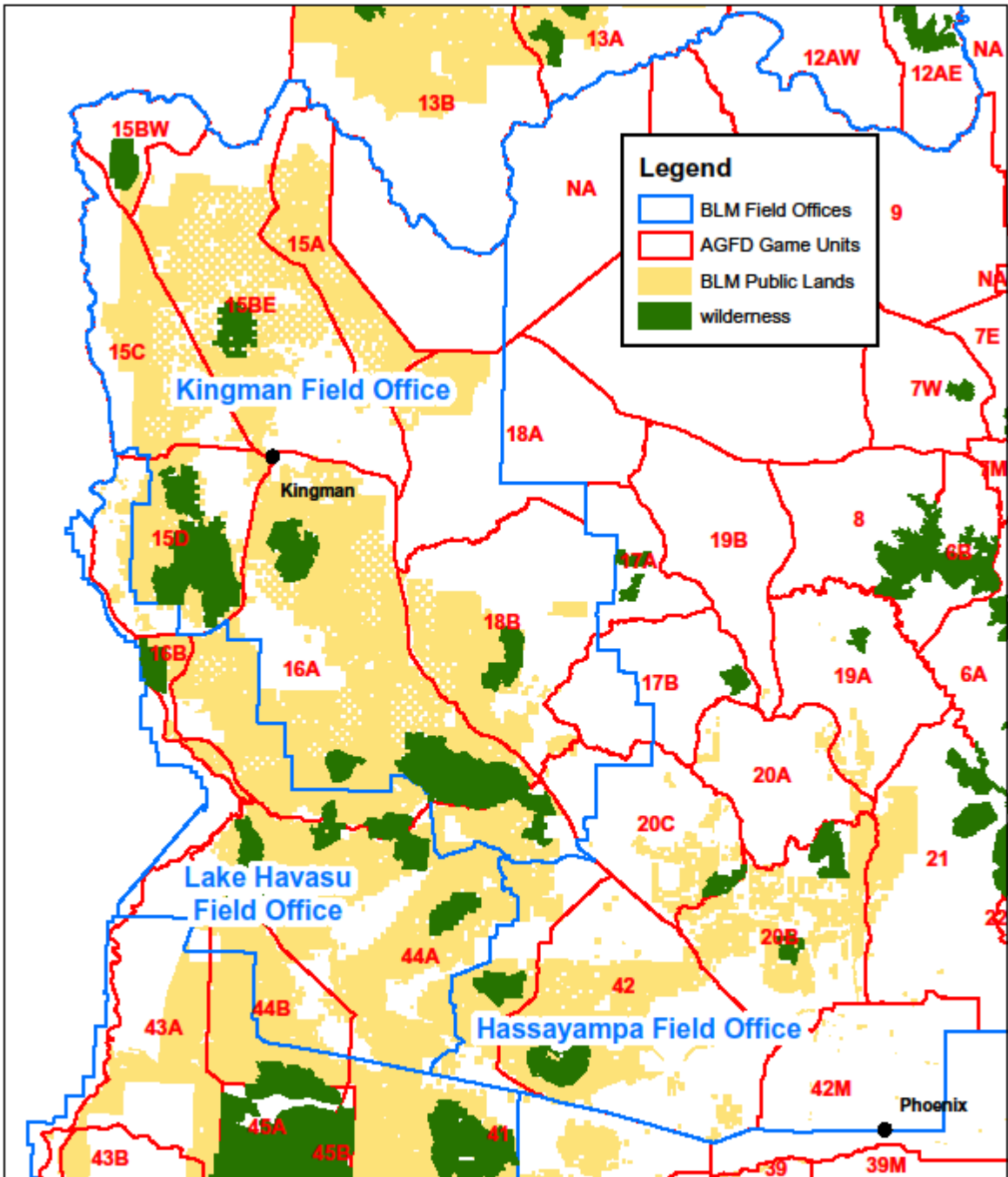
Date

Connie Stone
HFO NEPA Coordinator

Date

Reviewed by: _____
Ramone B. McCoy
Field Manager,
Lake Havasu Field Office

Date



ATTACHMENT 1

Attachment 2**Stipulations to be attached to the authorization**

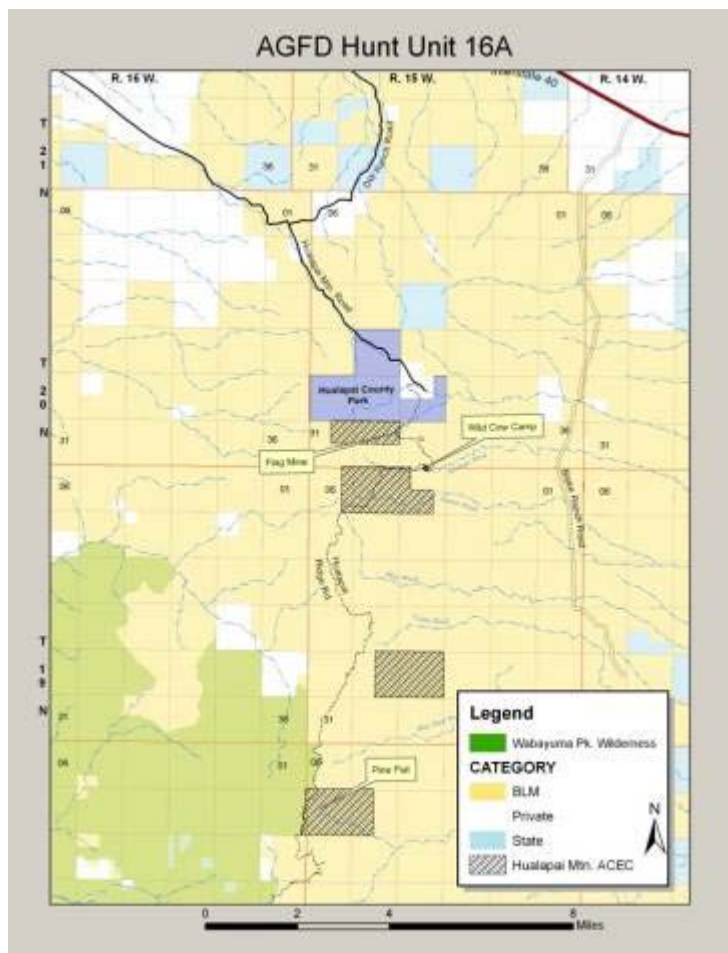
1. The permittee shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws; ordinances; regulations; orders; postings; or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the SRP. The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients, customers, participants, or spectators under the permittee's supervision.
2. An SRP authorizes special uses of the public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including modification of the amount of use. The authorized officer may suspend or terminate an SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or because of non-compliance with permit stipulations. Actions by the BLM to suspend or terminate an SRP are appealable.
3. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price, or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
4. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.
5. The permittee or permittee's representative may not assign, contract, or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, contracting of equipment or services may be approved by the authorized officer in advance, if necessary to supplement a permittee's operations. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services for any one trip and the permittee must retain operational control of the permitted activity. If equipment or services are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
6. All advertising and representations made to the public and the authorized officer must be accurate. Although the addresses and telephone numbers of the BLM may be included in advertising materials, official agency symbols may not be used. The permittee shall not use advertising that attempts to portray or represent the activities as being conducted by the BLM. The permittee may not portray or represent the permit fee as a special federal user's tax. The permittee must furnish the authorized officer with any current brochure and price list if requested by the authorized officer.
7. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., trail and route conditions, landslides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees, submerged objects, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.
8. In the event of default on any mortgage or other indebtedness, such as bankruptcy, creditors shall not succeed to the operating rights or privileges of the permittee's SRP.
9. The permittee cannot, unless specifically authorized, erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on public lands. Upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to pre-existing conditions.
10. The permittee must present or display a copy of the SRP to an authorized officer's representative, or law enforcement personnel upon request. If required, the permittee must display a copy of the permit or other identification tag on equipment used during the period of authorized use.

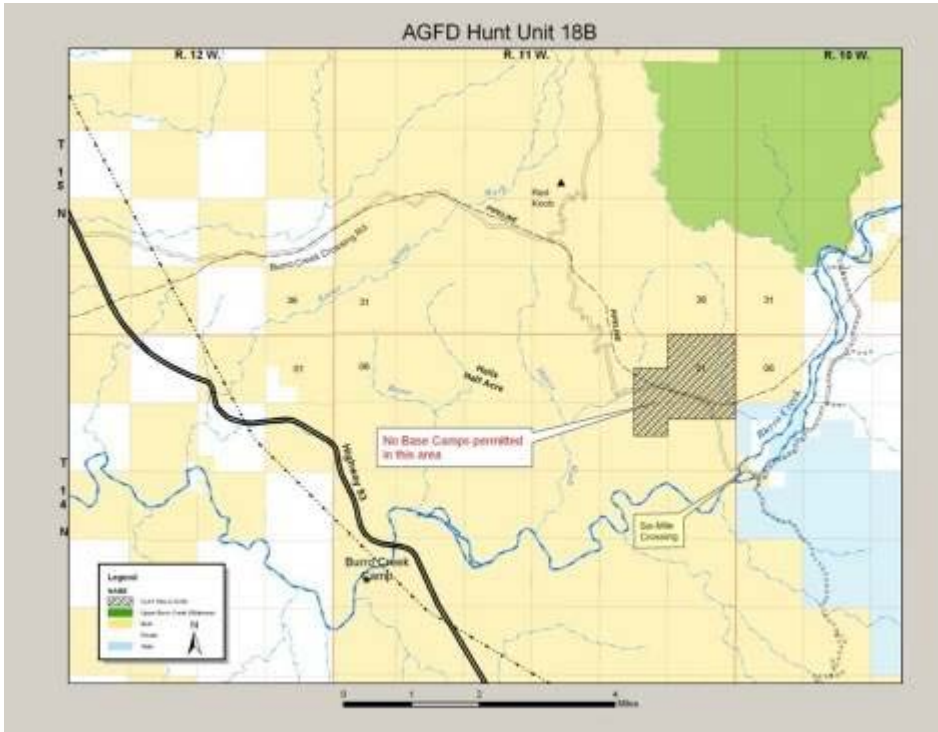
11. The authorized officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to three years after expiration of the permit.
12. The permittee must submit a post-use report to the authorized officer for every year the permit is in effect. For hunting and fishing outfitters, the report is due by January 31st. If the post-use report is not received by the established deadline, the permit will be suspended and/or fines assessed.
13. The permittee shall notify the authorized officer of any accident that occurs while involved in activities authorized by these permits which result in: death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or in property damage greater than \$2,500 (lesser amounts if established by State law). Reports should be submitted within 48 hours in the case of death or injury, or 10 days in accidents involving property damage.
14. The applicant/permittee is required to contact private landowners whose property is affected by the use associated with the permit. Evidence that permission has been obtained to use private property must be available upon request.
15. The permittee is required to contact the Authorized Officer annually, at least 45 days prior to the beginning of the use season, to discuss any changes in the previous year's operating plan. Significant changes in the operation plan may require additional environmental analysis and permit stipulations. The BLM authorized officer must first approve any changes to the Operating Plan.
16. The permit will remain valid only if annual fees have been paid.
17. The applicant/permittee is required to provide the Authorized Officer with a copy of a valid insurance policy or proof thereof covering the periods of use, before any use under this permit begins. The required minimum general liability limits are: \$300,000 per occurrence and \$600,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury; and \$30,000 per occurrence for property damage. The U.S. Government and the permittee must be named as additional insured on the policy.
18. All motor vehicle use will comply with existing vehicle regulations, including local off-highway vehicle regulations. "Local off-highway vehicle regulations" refer to BLM Off-highway vehicle designations on BLM administered lands as established in the Resource Management Planning process, or in emergency closures authorized by a BLM manager. Motor vehicles are limited to existing roads and may not be taken off-road to retrieve game.
19. All motor vehicle use will be conducted in a safe manner; reckless driving and/or excessive speed are permit violations.
20. Motor vehicles and mechanical transport (i.e. bicycles, wheeled game carts) are not permitted in designated wilderness areas.
21. All signs on public lands must be authorized by BLM in writing.
22. The collection of artifacts or disturbance of archaeological resources on Federal Lands is prosecutable under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Disturbance of human graves are also prohibited. Actions other than those explicitly approved by the Bureau of Land Management, which result in impacts upon archaeological or historical resources, shall be subject to the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The permittee will immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any archaeological or historical resources encountered during permitted operations and maintain the integrity of such resources pending subsequent investigation.
23. Surface collection of artifacts (either historic or prehistoric) by permittee or tour participants is prohibited. Permittee is required to inform all participants that collecting artifacts, theft or vandalism of any cultural property is a violation of the above mentioned Federal and/or State laws.

24. It is prohibited to collect vertebrate fossils which are protected under the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (PRPA). Invertebrate fossils (i.e. ammonites and trilobites) and plant fossils may be collected for personal use only – up to 25 pounds per day, plus one piece, but no more than 250 pounds per year. Fossil collection for commercial uses (selling or trading) is not permitted.
25. Permittee and all event participants are prohibited from stopping at, or entering any and all known and unknown abandoned mine features.
26. Harassment of livestock, wildlife, wild horses or burros, or destruction of private and public improvements such as fences and gates is prohibited. Gates will be left open or closed, as they are found.
27. All migratory birds shall be observed from a distance. Any injured wildlife shall be reported to the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. at (928)342-0091.
28. State protected plant species, including all cacti shall not be disturbed, damaged, or destroyed. The taking of any threatened or endangered plant or animal is prohibited.
29. The permittee will practice “Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly!” outdoor ethics. See the enclosed reference materials.
30. Practice proper precautions for noxious weed spread by cleaning vehicles and using certified weed-free feed for livestock.
31. The permittee will follow the tortoise handling guidelines attached to the permit.

BASE CAMP OPERATIONS

1. Prior to establishing a base camp, the permittee will advise the Bureau of Land Management of the planned location of the camp.
2. Camps established on previously disturbed areas that involve no ground-disturbing activities (i.e. campfire pits, catholes, latrine pits) are available for use without obtaining prior clearance from the BLM.
3. Camps established on previously disturbed areas that require ground-disturbing activities (i.e. campfire pits, catholes, latrine pits) must receive clearance from the BLM Authorized Officer prior to occupation. Two weeks advance notice must be given to BLM for use of such sites.
4. No base camps are permitted on previously undisturbed ground.
5. In AGFD GMU 16A, base camps located within the Hualapai Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (see map) will require prior approval from the BLM authorized officer to ensure protection of special-status wildlife species.





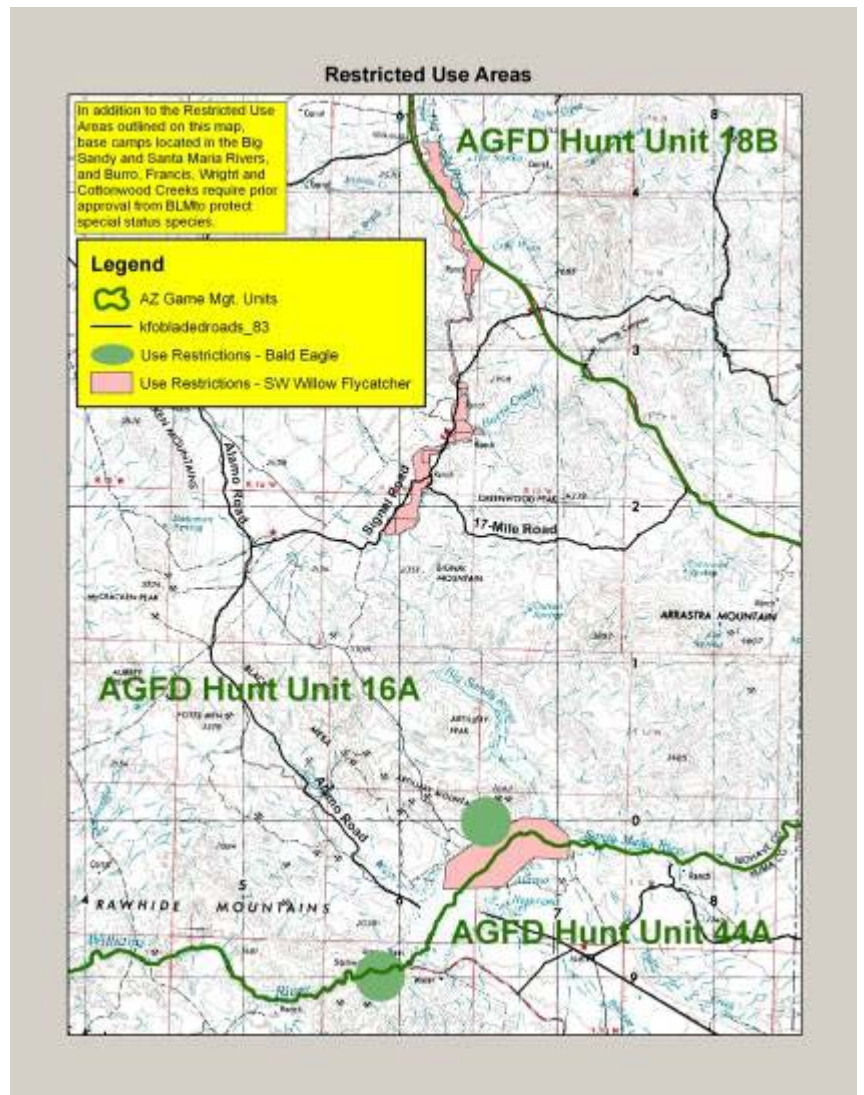
6. In AGFD GMU 18B, base camps are not allowed within the Clay Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern (see map) to protect the endangered plant, Arizona Cliffrose.

7. Base camps located within the Big Sandy River, Santa Maria River, Burro Creek, Wright Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Francis Creek, or within the “**Restricted Use Areas**” shown on the attached map will require prior approval from the BLM authorized officer to ensure protection of special-status wildlife species.

8. No dogs are permitted within southwest willow flycatcher habitat (see **Restricted Use Areas** map) during the months of April 1 through

August 31.

- 9. Approval from the BLM authorized officer is required prior to conducting guiding activities within one mile of bald eagle nesting areas (see **Restricted Use Areas** map). Permittees would be notified of new nesting areas as they occur.
- 10. Generally, the maximum overnight stay in any one location is 14 days within any 28-day period. The BLM Authorized Officer must be notified of anticipated base camp stays of greater than 14 days. This notification must be given to BLM prior to the 14th day of occupancy.
- 11. Do not park vehicles or camp in locations that will interfere with use of livestock facilities (such as corrals) or ongoing livestock operations.
- 12. No developed base camps are permitted in wilderness.
- 13. Arizona Revised Statute 17-308 states that it is unlawful for a person to camp within one-fourth mile of a natural water hole containing water or a man-made watering facility containing water *in such a manner that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only*



reasonably available water. This regulation is enforced by the State of Arizona.

14. In other places where access is not denied to wildlife or domestic stock, camps will be located at least 200 feet from water holes, live water sources (springs and streams), or man-made watering facilities.
15. All base and spike camps will be located at least 200 feet from any archaeological sites, including prehistoric camps, rock shelters, caves, and historic buildings.
16. Camps and use areas will be maintained in a neat and clean condition with no litter.
17. All noncombustible refuse and all unburned combustible refuse must be carried out of the area and disposed of in a county approved disposal site. Burying garbage is prohibited.
18. A portable toilet or group latrine will be utilized at base camps. Portable toilets are the preferred method for human waste disposal and must be emptied at approved sites. Group latrines will be located no closer than 200 feet from water sources and active dry washes on a site that maximizes direct sunlight. The hole excavated for the latrine will be 8-12 inches deep and will be completely filled in and disguised when camp is broken.

Use of fire

1. The permittee may use only dead and down wood for camp and cooking fires (unless otherwise prohibited). Cutting or removing any live vegetation or standing dead vegetation is prohibited. In the Lake Havasu Field Office, wood gathering requires a BLM permit.
2. Camp and cooking fires are permitted unless otherwise posted during periods of wildfire danger or for other circumstances.
3. The permittee must use existing campfire circles, rather than construct new ones, when they exist. If no fire circle exists, select a site that can be "naturalized" when you leave.
4. Build fires away from trees, shrubs and other vegetation. Do not build fires next to rock and avoid the need to encircle your fire with stones. Use smaller firewood that will burn more completely. After making certain that the fire is dead out, scatter the ash and "naturalize" the area.
5. The permittee must take reasonable precautions to prevent wildland fires. Fires must not be left unattended.

Specific to Hassayampa Field Office

1. No base camps in undisturbed areas for groups larger than 8 people without prior approval from the Field Office Manager.
2. Hunters shall not hunt within ¼-mile of any known archaeological site.
3. Catholes may be used for less than 8 people and must be located at least 200 feet from water sources or dry wash beds.
4. Toilet paper and feminine hygiene products must be packed out and properly disposed of.
5. The permittee shall provide the BLM contact with the following information at least 7 business days prior to the start of the hunt: Game Management Unit, hunt number; overnight base camp if applicable; name of lead guide; vehicle information including license number.

ATTACHMENT 3. BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED, STATE LISTED, AND BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES, MIGRATORY BIRDS, AND WILDLIFE.

**BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION
FOR
THREATENED AND ENDANGERED
CANDIDATE SPECIES
STATE LISTED SPECIES
BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES
MIGRATORY BIRDS & WILDLIFE**

KINGMAN AND LAKE HAVASU FIELD OFFICES - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DATE: 7-15-2009

From: Rebecca Peck, Wildlife Biologist
To: Bruce Asbjorn, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Subject: NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2009-0024-EA

Location: Kingman Field Office Wide and Lake Havasu Field Office

Stipulations as outlined in the *Proposed Action* above would reduce the potential to affect wildlife, migratory birds, and special-status species. See below for more detail.

Wildlife and Migratory Birds: The presence of outfitters or guides, and their clients, may disrupt the natural movement of wildlife and migratory birds that may be nearby. These disruptions would occur in small areas directly around the campsites. The disruptions could last for up to 14 days. There would be very limited potential for disturbance to migratory bird nests or nestlings as the proposed action would occur primarily outside of the breeding season of birds.

Special-Status Species:

Federally Listed (T&E):

There would be no effect to any T&E species or to the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (SWFL) Critical Habitat from implementation of the Proposed Action as stipulations outlined above in the *Proposed Action* would prevent impacts to the species found or potentially found within the project area. The following federally listed species or federal candidate species were considered:

Arizona cliffrose
Southwestern willow flycatcher
Desert bald eagle
Bonytail Chub
Razorback Sucker
Round-tailed Chub (candidate species)
Gila topminnow
Desert pupfish
Yuma clapper rail
Yellow-billed cuckoo (candidate species)
Hualapai Mexican vole
Mexican spotted owl
California condor

Special Recreation Permits for Outfitters
DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2009-0024-EA

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (willow flycatcher)

Within the project area, along the Big Sandy River, *Critical Habitat* is designated for the willow flycatcher (see *Restricted Use Areas Map, Proposed Action*, above) (Federal Register Notice October 19, 2005). The northern boundary begins on private land just north of the town of Wikieup and ends at its southern boundary just north of where Graveyard Wash empties into the Big Sandy River.

The willow flycatcher and the Critical Habitat for the willow flycatcher would not be affected by the Proposed Action for the following reasons:

- a) Prior to setting up base camps the habitat area would be evaluated to determine its suitability for willow flycatcher nesting. Areas determined to be suitable or potential would not be authorized for base camps.
- b) Hunting season occurs from October through February outside of the willow flycatcher breeding season of late April through August. Therefore hunting within flycatcher habitat would have no effect on willow flycatchers as flycatchers are not present when hunters are in the area.
- c) Hunting does not involve any ground disturbing activities therefore hunting would have no ground disturbing effects to critical habitat.

Desert Bald Eagle

The desert bald eagle is found nesting along Alamo Lake and near Alamo Dam. The nesting season for the bald eagle in this area is December through June. The habitat areas where the nests are located are Sonoran Desert uplands however the eagles are foraging primarily on the lake.

There would be no effect to the Desert bald eagle from implementation of the Proposed Action for the following reasons:

- a) Bald eagles would not be disturbed by the setting up of a base camp because no base camp would be authorized within one mile of an active bald eagle nest. Prior to setting up base camps along the Big Sandy, Santa Maria and Burro Creek, the habitat area would be evaluated to determine its suitability for nesting. Areas determined to be suitable or potential would not be authorized for base camps.
- b) Bald eagles would not be disturbed by hunting because the BLM would not authorize guided hunting activities within 1 mile of an active bald eagle nest during the bald eagle breeding season December 1 through June 30. Hunters would not be closer than one mile from a nest during the breeding season. Hunters are required to obtain approval prior to hunting within the bald eagle restricted use area. Bald eagle nest locations may change and notification provided to the BLM, of an intention to hunt within the *Restricted Use Area*, would trigger a review of known active nests. The permittee would be advised of any change of information and sent a new map of areas to avoid.

Hualapai Mexican vole

There would be no effect to the Hualapai Mexican vole because base camps located within the Hualapai Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (see map) will require prior approval from the BLM authorized officer to ensure protection of Mexican voles and their habitat. Also, prior to establishing a base camp, the permittee will advise the Bureau of Land Management of the planned location of the camp and the BLM would not authorize a base camp in suitable or occupied Mexican vole habitat. Disturbances to

voles or vole habitat would also be avoided by advising the BLM of temporary camps that may have ground disturbance. The BLM would not authorize these types of camps in Mexican vole habitat.

Arizona Cliffrose

There would be no effect to the Arizona cliffrose because base camps are not allowed within the Clay Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Arizona cliffrose locations outside of the ACEC are not good locations for camping and are difficult to access. Therefore there would be no effect to the cliffrose from the Proposed Action.

California Condor

There would be no effect to the California Condor as none have been observed within the project area. If a condor were to occur within the project area they would not be attracted to the base camps or camps as it is stipulated that the permittee pick up all trash and dispose of it properly.

Other Listed and Candidate Species

There is potential for the following species to be found in riparian and certain spring areas located within the Kingman Field Office: Gila topminnow (spring), desert pupfish (spring), round-tailed chub (riparian-stream habitat), Yuma clapper rail (riparian), and yellow-billed cuckoo (candidate species)(riparian)

The following species may be found in the Colorado River within the Lake Havasu Field Office: bony-tail chub, and razorback sucker.

There would be **no effect** to the above species from implementation of the Proposed Action for the following reasons:

- a) Prior to establishing a base camp, the permittee would advise the Bureau of Land Management of the planned location of the camp. The BLM would not permit camps to be located in those areas where listed or candidate species would be affected. Also base camps would be located on previously disturbed ground.
- b) Prior to setting up base camps the habitat area would be evaluated to determine its suitability for the above species. Areas determined to be suitable or potential would not be authorized for base camps.
- c) Hunting season occurs from October through February outside of the Yuma clapper rail and yellow-billed cuckoo breeding season of late April through August. Therefore hunting within potential Yuma clapper rail or yellow-billed cuckoo habitat would have no effect on these two species as they are not nesting when hunters are in the area.
- d) Impacts to those species that use or live within natural water holes or at man-made watering facilities would not occur as camping would be restricted around those areas. The Arizona Revised Statute 17-308 states that it is unlawful for a person to camp within one-fourth mile of a natural water hole containing water or a man-made watering facility containing water in such a manner that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water. This regulation is enforced by the State of Arizona.
- e) In other places where access is not denied to wildlife or domestic stock, camps will be located at least 200 feet from water holes, live water sources (springs and streams), or man-made watering facilities, therefore there would be no effects to the above species from implementation of the proposed action.

- f) The permittee would be required to call the BLM prior to camping in Burro Creek, Big Sandy River, Santa Maria River, Wright Creek, and Cottonwood Creek. Camping in these riparian zones would be evaluated by the BLM and the permittee advised on how to avoid impacts to riparian species (round-tail chub).

Arizona Wildlife of Special Concern and BLM Sensitive Species and Migratory Birds

The following species were considered:

Plants

Aravaipa woodfern (*Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*)
 Parish phacelia (*Phacelia parishii*)
 Parish Wild Onion (*Allium parishii*)
 Pinto beardtongue (*Penstemon bicolor*)
 Straw-top Cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*)
 Three hearts (*Tricardia watsonii*)
 Varied Fishhook Cactus (*Mammillaria viridiflora*)
 White-margined penstemon (*Penstemon albomarginatus*)

Invertebrates

Hydrobiid spring snails (all species in genus *Pyrgulopsis*) on public land

Fish

Longfin dace (*Agosia chrysogaster*)
 Flannelmouth sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*)
 Desert sucker (*Catostomus* [*Pantosteus*] *clarki*)
 Sonora sucker (*Catostomus insignis*)
 Speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*)

Amphibians

Arizona Toad (*Bufo microscaphus*)
 Lowland Leopard Frog (*Rana yavapaiensis*)

Reptiles

Sonoran Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)
 Chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*)
 Banded Gila Monster (*Heloderma suspectum cinctum*)
 Rosy boa (*Charina trivirgata*)

Birds

Western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*)
 Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
 Common black-hawk

Mammals

Greater Western Bonneted Bat (Western Mastiff Bat) (*Eumops perotis californicus*)
 Western Red Bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*)

Western Yellow Bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*)
 California Leaf-nosed Bat (*Macrotus californicus*)
 Allen's (Mexican) big-eared bat (*Idionycteris phyllotis*)
 Small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*)
 Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*)
 Fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*)
 Cave myotis (*Myotis velifer*)
 Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)
 Big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*)
 Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*)
 Arizona Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus occultus*)
 Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)
 Spotted Bat (*Euderma maculatum*)
 Townsend's Big-Eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*)
 Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)

Impacts to Arizona Wildlife of Special Concern, BLM Sensitive Species, Raptor, and Migratory Birds and Riparian Areas

1. Effects to BLM sensitive animal species, Migratory Birds, Raptors, and Arizona Wildlife of Special Concern may consist of disruptions by the presence of humans in the habitat. This would occur primarily in the mornings and evenings to animal species in small areas around the campsites. This could last for up to 14 days. Nesting of migratory birds would not be disrupted as hunting would occur outside of the breeding season. All migratory birds would be observed from a distance.
2. The permittee would be required to call the BLM prior to camping in Burro Creek, Big Sandy River, Santa Maria River, Wright Creek, and Cottonwood Creek. Camping in these riparian zones would be evaluated by the BLM and the permittee advised on how to avoid impacts to riparian species (fish, birds, raptors, amphibians) and the riparian zone.
3. Prior to establishing a base camp, the permittee would advise the Bureau of Land Management of the planned location of the camp. The BLM would not permit camps to be located in those areas where special-status species would be affected. Also base camps would be located on previously disturbed ground.
4. Impacts to those species that use or live within natural water holes or at man-made watering facilities would not occur as camping would be restricted around those areas. The Arizona Revised Statute 17-308 states that it is unlawful for a person to camp within one-fourth mile of a natural water hole containing water or a man-made watering facility containing water in such a manner that wildlife or domestic stock will be denied access to the only reasonably available water. This regulation is enforced by the State of Arizona.
5. In other places where access is not denied to wildlife or domestic stock, camps will be located at least 200 feet from water holes, live water sources (springs and streams), or man-made watering facilities, therefore there would be no effects to spring snails, fish, or amphibians.
6. Tortoise/rosy boa/chuckwalla may be encountered and possibly disturbed during hunting activities. Disturbances could occur primarily if these animals are handled in any way or encountered along the roadway in a vehicle (run over). Giving the permittee handling guidelines for these animals would avoid most disturbances.

7. Disruptions to special-status plants would be primarily from trampling or crushing by vehicles. Most of the camps are located alongside roads within previously disturbed areas. Therefore most disruptions would be avoided by camping in these traditional campsites. All base camps would have BLM authorization prior to establishment. None would be authorized where special-status plants would be crushed or trampled. All other more temporary camp locations where any ground-disturbing activities would occur (such as digging latrines, campfire pits, catholes) would also receive a review from the BLM

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE, LAKE HAVASU FIELD OFFICE, HASSAYAMPA FIELD OFFICE

**Special Recreation Permits for Outfitters
NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2009-0024-EA**

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The potential impacts that have been identified are localized and are of relatively short duration. Guided hunting within designated wilderness occurs at a very light level within the project area, is an appropriate and proper activity for realizing the recreational purpose of wilderness, and is not considered controversial. No off-site, indirect or cumulative impacts were identified. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

Jackie Neckels
AFM, Non-Renewable Resources
Kingman Field Office

Date

Ramone B. McCoy
Field Manager
Lake Havasu Field Office

Date

Steven Cohn
Field Manager
Hassayampa Field Office

Date