

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT # AZ-200-2006-06

TITLE: "V" Corral

### INTRODUCTION

#### Background

The Cordes allotment is located east of the Bradshaw Ranger District, Prescott National Forest, south and west of Codres Junction AZ. The allotment is intersected by I 17; two thirds of the allotment west of the interstate, one third east. The east portion is within the Agua Fria National Monument. The proposed corral is west of I 17.

#### Need for the Proposed Action

The corral is needed for the proper and efficient management of public rangeland within the Cordes allotment.

#### Conformance with Land Use Plan and Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration

Proposed Phoenix Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP) 1988. This RMP provides authority for issuing grazing leases/permits, supervising grazing use, managing grazing use, installing range improvement facilities and treatments, acting to detect and abate unauthorized use and taking other range management actions on the Cordes allotment.

### PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

#### Proposed Action

Applicant would construct a shipping corral 60 feet by 60 feet in the SE1/4, SW1/4 Sec. 34, T. 11N., R. 2 E. The corral would be constructed of steel pipe, wire and steel "t" posts.

#### Alternative (No Action)

The project would not be constructed.

### AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

#### Livestock:

The applicant holds a perennial ephemeral cattle grazing permit on the Cordes allotment, where 936 animal unit months are authorized annually. In addition, a 731 animal unit months sheep grazing permit on the Cordes allotment is authorized annually, April 1 to May 15.

#### Vegetation:

The allotment is located in the Arizona Interior Chaparral-Grassland with an annual average precipitation of 12 to 16 inches per year. The current plant community includes Prickly pear cactus, cholla cactus, catclaw acacia, broom snakeweed, mountain mahogany, buck wheat,

juniper and shrub live oak.

**Riparian:**

Three riparian areas exist on this allotment: Bumble Bee Creek, Antelope Creek and Badger Springs Wash. Antelope Creek was fenced to exclude livestock in 1999. Vegetation includes cottonwood, Gooding willow, seep willow, bulrush and Bermuda grass.

**Wildlife:**

Mule deer are found throughout the allotment, pronghorns are found in the western and central portions of the allotment. All riparian areas are important for most wildlife species including aquatic vertebrates (lowland leopard frog and longfin dace), migratory birds and deer.

**Recreation:**

Recreation uses include hiking, birding, hunting/camping and equestrian activities.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

### Impacts of the Proposed Action

**Rangeland/Livestock/Wildlife:** The proposed action would provide the applicant with an additional location to ship cattle from the allotment. No increase in livestock use, livestock numbers, or season of use would result from implementing the proposed action. There are no desert tortoise, riparian, or special status plant concerns impacted by the proposed action.

**Threatened or Endangered Species:** The structure and diversity of habitat within the project area is not suitable for cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls.

**Invasive Non-Native Species:** The action adds to an existing disturbed area, but will not facilitate the spread or establishment of any invasive non-native species

The following thirteen critical elements have been analyzed and would not be affected by the proposed action.

1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's)
2. Cultural Resources
3. Riparian or Wetland Zones
4. Prime or Unique Farmland or Floodplains
5. Wild or Scenic Rivers
6. Hazardous Materials or Solid Waste
7. Native American Religious Concerns
8. Air Quality
9. Water Quality–Surface Water and Ground Water
10. Environmental Justice
11. Wilderness
12. Recreation and Visual Resources
13. Invasive Non-Native Species

### Impacts of the No Action Alternative

**Rangeland/Livestock**

All cattle would have to be driven to the Headquarters for shipping.

Wildlife:  
None

Threatened and Endangered Species:  
None

The following thirteen critical elements have been analyzed and will not be affected by the “no action” alternative.

1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's)
2. Cultural Resources
3. Riparian or Wetland Zones
4. Prime or Unique Farmland or Floodplains
5. Wild or Scenic Rivers
6. Hazardous Materials or Solid Waste
7. Native American Religious Concerns
8. Air Quality
9. Water Quality—Ground Water and Surface Water
10. Environmental Justice
11. Wilderness
12. Recreation and Visual Resources
13. Invasive Non-Native Species

### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

#### Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Action

No cumulative impacts would result from authorizing the proposed action.

#### Cumulative Impacts of the No Action Alternative

None

### RESIDUAL IMPACTS

#### Residual Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposal would have no residual impacts. The project site could be reclaimed if authorization is revoked in the future.

#### Residual Impacts of the No Action Alternative

This alternative would have no residual impacts.

### MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource discovered by the operator, or any person working on his behalf, on public or federal land would be immediately reported to the BLM

authorized officer. Operator would suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY ANALYSIS

Team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this assessment:

Name	Title	Resource	Comments
Tim Hughes	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, T&E Species	attached/incorporated
Tim Watkins	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	attached/incorporated
Kyle Mohan	Range Management Specialist	Rangeland Resources	incorporated
Mathew Plis	Geologist	Minerals	attached/incorporated
Jim Anderson	Reality Specialist	Lands	attached/incorporated
Penny Foreman	Recreation Planner	Recreation	attached/incorporated

### CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Patsy McDonald, Grazing permittee, Cordes allotment

