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Project Lead: Whit Bunting

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**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Arizona Strip Field Office

Environmental Assessment

Mainstreet Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal

EA-AZ-110-2007-0019

I. INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the proposed grazing permit renewal for the Mainstreet allotment. The action culminates an evaluation conducted on the allotment under the Arizona BLM Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management (S&Gs). In addition, this EA looks at the present allotment management, and determines if current grazing management practices would maintain desirable conditions and continue to allow improvement of public land resources where that potential has been identified, or if changes in grazing management for this allotment are necessary. This EA is intended to evaluate the findings of the Mainstreet assessment as it relates to vegetation conditions and resource values in the allotment. This is done in an effort to balance demands placed on the resources by various authorized uses within the allotment.

Analyses of existing allotment data indicate that while readings on individual plant species have fluctuated over the years, overall trend on key species has gradually increased. The exceptions to this appear to be 2002, where a severe drought impacted all vegetation, causing a die-off or at least a set back of many plants including sagebrush, juniper, and pinyon pine. Species composition data suggest vegetation cover objectives are being met or are progressing toward Desired Plant Community objectives. The Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT) determined during the assessment process, that resource conditions on the allotment are meeting all applicable standards for rangeland health.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of this action is to renew the grazing permit associated with the Mainstreet grazing allotment (#4808) for a period of ten years. The Mainstreet grazing allotment is located in the west central portion of the Arizona Strip approximately 30 miles south of St. George, Utah. It stretches from the desert grasslands in Hurricane Valley underneath the Hurricane Rim on the east to the sagebrush flats of Sullivan Draw and the pinyon-juniper hills of the Hidden Rim on the west. Poverty Mountain and the private lands around Bundyville are along its southern boundary. The three major vegetative types on the allotment are the desert grassland, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper. It is one of the largest allotments on the Arizona Strip.

Conformance with Land Use Plan

This proposal is found to be in conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan (RMP) dated January 1992, as amended April 1997. BLM is in the final stages of revising the RMP for the Arizona Strip District.

Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument

Approximately 170 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) are within the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. This portion of Mainstreet is located along the southwest boundary of the allotment and constitutes 1% of the total active AUM preference.

Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans

This action is in conformance with Arizona's Standards and Guides, which were developed through a collaborative process involving the Arizona Resource Advisory Council and the Bureau of Land Management State Standards and Guidelines team. The Secretary of the Interior approved the Standards and Guidelines in April 1997. The Decision Record, signed by the BLM Arizona State Director (April 1997) provided for full implementation of the Standards and Guides in all Arizona BLM Land Use Plans

Grazing permit renewals are also provided for in 43 CFRs 4100 where the objectives of regulations are "...to promote healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems; to accelerate restoration and improvement of public rangelands to properly functioning conditions; to promote the orderly use,....; to establish efficient and effective administration of grazing of public rangelands;....", and as provided for in the Land Use Plans in accordance with multiple-use objectives, requirements and provisions of established laws, regulations and BLM policies incorporating Desired Plant Community (DPC) objectives using the Ecological Site Index approach.

Grazing management practices of the Mainstreet allotment are in conformance with Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. These practices are intended to assist management in meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health.

Renewal of the Mainstreet permit conforms to the President's National Energy Policy and would not have adverse energy impacts. This action would not deny energy projects, withdraw lands, close roads or in any other way deny or limit access to mineral materials to support energy actions.

Issues raised relating to Standards for Rangeland Health

Identification of issues for the Mainstreet S&G evaluation and this assessment were accomplished by the Rangeland Resources Team (RRT), Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT), and livestock permittee during scoping on January 14, 2003. A field trip to the allotment

was also conducted on September 17, 2003. Specific issues brought out during scoping were as follows:

- Noxious weeds, such as Scotch thistle and Knapweed have been identified on the allotment.
- Erosion along the Hurricane Wash between Rock Crossing and Childers, and in the Keller pasture.
- Lack of ground cover in lower Hurricane Valley, southeast of the Cecil Pond.
- Lack of herbaceous understory and fawning cover west of the Mainstreet road and within ½ mile of water. This was confirmed, but vegetation conditions in 2004 during the field trip appeared much improved in terms of structure, vigor, and diversity than they did in 2003.
- Utilization may be exceeding 50% along Mainstreet road.
- Dense pinyon, juniper and sage around Poverty Knoll and Poverty Mountain.
- Reinvasion of woody species into treatment areas and closed, monoculture stands of sagebrush on the west end of the allotment.
- Seed harvesting activities on the allotment, effects of motorized equipment used for seed harvesting, and seed harvesting compliance on private lands.

Current Planning Process

The Arizona Strip District Office is currently involved in a planning process that will result in three stand alone RMPs, one for each new National Monument and one for the Arizona Strip outside of the monuments. No grazing changes are currently anticipated for the Mainstreet allotment. However, there may be modifications as a result of the new RMPs. The 10- year grazing permit, in part, states “This permit is subject to (A) modification, suspension or cancellation as required by land plans and applicable law; (B) annual review and to modification of terms and conditions as appropriate; ...”. BLM may use these permit conditions to implement any changes required under the new RMPs.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action (Renewal of 10 Year Grazing Permit with current terms and conditions)

The Proposed Action is to renew the grazing permit on the Mainstreet allotment for a period of ten years with current terms and conditions. Under this alternative, BLM would:

- Cancel the existing annual permit (Table 2) and reissue term (ten year) grazing permit on the Mainstreet allotment as listed in Table 1. Livestock grazing would occur during the season of use, livestock numbers, and AUMs, identified in Table 1. There would be no change to the current active grazing preference on the allotment.
- Consider, through the NEPA process any new range improvements to assist in grazing practices and promote rangeland health.

Table 1 - Proposed Action Ten Year Term Permit Issuance								
Allotment Name	Permittee	Permit Number	Livestock			Active AUMs	Public Land (acres)	% Public Land
			No.	Kind	Season of Use			
Mainstreet	NA	4808	1,558	Cattle	12/01-11/30	14,396	156,454	77%
			15	Horses	12/01-11/30	139		

Table 2 – Annual Grazing Permits to be Cancelled								
Allotment Name	Permittee	Permit Number	Livestock			Active AUMs	Public Land (acres)	% Public Land
			No.	Kind	Season of Use			
Mainstreet	NA	4808	1,558	Cattle	12/01-11/30	14,396	156,454	77%
			15	Horses	12/01-11/30	220		

Alternatives Considered But Rejected For Further Analysis

Alternatives are tiered to the Arizona Strip District RMP (January, 1992) and the Shivwits Grazing EIS (July, 1980) which was adopted into the RMP and are basically the same for this action. The Grazing EIS addressed five alternatives: Full Stocking with Management, Stocking Level by Condition Class, No Vegetation Manipulation, Elimination of Grazing on Public Lands, and Less Intensive Management of Livestock Grazing.

The following three alternatives were considered for this EA but rejected because they were analyzed in the RMP, to which this document is tiered.

- **Full Stocking with Management alternative** would allow stocking at the estimated livestock carrying capacity of each allotment but otherwise would provide the same management as the proposed action, which is intensive management of 40 allotments and less intensive management on 10 allotments.
- **Stocking Level by Condition Class alternative** would set the stocking level based on the average condition and apparent trend of the allotment.
- **No Grazing Alternative (Elimination of Livestock Grazing on Public Lands).** The decision to authorize livestock grazing in this area and specifically on the Mainstreet allotment is documented in the approved land use plan. The absence of new information or other land use plan decisions showing that continued livestock grazing would preclude BLM from meeting or making significant progress toward achieving land health standards renders the existing land use plan authorizing grazing valid. A no grazing alternative or not renewing a grazing permit would not conform to the land use plan. A plan amendment would be required before closing an allotment to livestock grazing.

The Grazing System Description for the Mainstreet Allotment

The allotment is split into two main segments, a summer use area on the south and west portions of the allotment and a winter use area on the east side. Four pastures between the two segments serve as transition pastures. These four are used for separation and shipping of livestock as well as using when moving cattle from the summer to winter range and back. One of the transition pastures is rested each year.

The summer country is used from the middle of June until December 15, with the winter country being used from the middle of December until about June 15. The grazing system is referred to as the “best pasture” system. Each year before livestock turn out, BLM and the permittee evaluate and determine which pastures to use and in what rotational sequence.

The main source of water on the Mainstreet Allotment is provided by earthen ponds or reservoirs built along dry washes or drainages throughout the allotment.

Grazing Preference and Current Use on the Allotment

Mainstreet

<u>Livestock Numbers</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>% Federal</u>	<u>Active AUMs</u>
1,558 Cattle	12/01 to 11/30	77%	14,396
15 Horses	12/01 to 11/30	77%	<u>139</u>
		Total	14,535

Terms and Conditions of Grazing Permit

Grazing would be in accordance with the grazing preference, livestock numbers, and season of use specified on the grazing permit. Billing for grazing use would be based on the actual use report which is due on or before December 15th each year. Livestock may be moved 15 days before or after scheduled move dates.

Desired Plant Community (DPC)

This EA also incorporates by reference the “Implementation of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, Mainstreet Allotment S&G Assessment” (2005)¹. The Mainstreet Allotment Assessment lists and evaluates achievement of the allotments DPC objectives summarized below. These objectives are expressed in species composition by weight (CBW) and percent vegetation cover. DPC objectives were established in an effort to address issue concerns and improve all vegetative resources, which includes pronghorn fawning cover and pronghorn habitat as a whole.

¹ Mainstreet Allotment S&G Assessment, available at the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790.

Gypsum Upland 7"-11" precipitation zone range site: located at key areas in the Square Pond and South Cecil pastures in Lower Hurricane Valley.

Square Pond

Maintain winterfat at 5% to 10%
Maintain Mormon tea at 10% to 20%
Maintain galleta grass at 35% to 45%
Maintain black grama at 15% to 20%
Maintain dropseed species at 5% to 10%

South Cecil

Increase fourwing salt bush from 1% to 5% to 10%
Maintain Mormon tea at 1% to 5%
Maintain galleta grass at 10% to 25%
Maintain winter fat at 1% to 5%
Maintain dropseed species at 1% to 5%
Maintain black grama at 30% to 40%
Increase Indian ricegrass from 2% to 5% to 10%

Clay loam upland 7" - 11" precipitation zone range site: Located at Key Areas in the Cecil, Calving, and Marchant pastures of Hurricane Valley.

Cecil

Maintain fourwing saltbush at 5% to 10%
Maintain Mormon tea at 1% to 3%
Maintain galleta grass at no less than 30%
Maintain black grama at 10% to 15%
Maintain dropseed species at 2% to 7%

Calving

Increase fourwing saltbush from 1% to 5% to 10%
Increase winterfat from 1% to 5% to 10%
Maintain galleta grass at 15% to 30%
Maintain sand dropseed at 2% to 7%

Marchant

Maintain Mormon tea at 1% to 5%
Increase fourwing saltbush from 2% to 5% to 10%
Maintain galleta grass at 30% to 55%
Increase sand dropseed from 1% to 2% to 7%
Maintain black grama at 10% to 15%

Shallow loamy 7”-11” precipitation zone range site: Located at Key Areas in the Doolittle and Childers pastures of Hurricane Valley.

Doolittle

Increase fourwing saltbush from 8% to a range of 10%-15%

Increase winterfat from 2% to a range of 5%- 10%

Maintain Mormon tea at 10%-15%

Maintain galleta grass at 25%-35%

Maintain black grama at 10%-15%

Maintain sand dropseed at 5%-10%

Childers

Increase fourwing saltbush from 0% to 1%-5%

Increase winterfat from 0% to 1%-5%

Increase Mormon tea from 2% to 5%-10%

Maintain galleta grass at 5%-15%

Maintain sand dropseed at 5%-10%

Maintain black grama at 15%-20%

Shallow loamy 10”-14” precipitation zone range site: Located at Key Areas in the Mudhole, Bishop & Burr, Christman, Poverty Mountain, Dutchman, Little Joe, Bull Pond, Hy Pond, Mustang, and New Spring or Nutter pastures.

Mudhole

Maintain winterfat at 15%-20%

Maintain Mormon tea at 1%-5%

Increase needle and thread grass from 6% to a range of 10%-15%

Maintain galleta grass at 25%-35%

Maintain blue grama at 5%-15%

Maintain black grama at 5%-20%

Maintain sand dropseed at 1%-5%

Bishop & Burr

Increase fourwing saltbush from 2% to a range of 5%-10%

Maintain galleta grass at 5% to 15%

Maintain needle and thread grass at 10%-20%

Maintain sand dropseed at 20% -35%

Maintain blue grama at 5%-15%

Increase squirrel tail from 3% to a range of 5%-10%

Increase Indian rice grass from 3% to a range of 5%-10%

Christman

Maintain blue grama at 20%-35%

Maintain ring muhly at 1%-5%

Increase squirrel tail from 3% to a range of 5%-15%
Maintain galleta grass at 10%-15%
Increase western wheat grass from a trace to 1%-5%

Poverty Mountain

Decrease big sagebrush from 57% to a range of 5%-30%
Maintain cliff rose at 5%-10%
Increase grasses such as blue grama, galleta, and squirrel tail, which currently exist only in trace amounts, to a 5%-10% range for each.

Dutchman

Maintain squirrel tail at 10%-15%
Increase Indian rice grass from 2% to a range of 3%-5%
Maintain sand dropseed at 15%-25%
Increase blue grama from 2% to a range of 5%-10%
Maintain galleta grass at 15%-25%
Increase needle and thread grass from 2% to a range of 10% -15%

Little Joe

Reduce sagebrush from 81% to a range of 5%-30%
Maintain squirrel tail at 5%-10%
Increase blue grama from a trace to a range of 5%-15%
Increase galleta grass from a trace to a range of 5%-15%
Increase Indian rice grass from 2% to a range of 5%-10%
Increase sand drop seed from a trace to 1%-5%

Bull Pond

Maintain needle and thread grass at 20%-35%
Maintain blue grama at 35%-45%
Increase Indian rice grass from 2% to a range of 5%-10%
Increase galleta grass from 2% to a range of 5%-10%
Increase squirrel tail from 2% to a range of 5%-10%

Hy Pond

Maintain blue grama in a range of 40% to 50%
Maintain sand drop seed at 1% -5%
Increase needle and thread grass from 2% to a range of 10%-15%
Maintain squirrel tail at 5%-10%

Mustang

Maintain blue grama at 35%-45%
Maintain squirrel tail at 5%-10%
Increase galleta from 2% to a range of 5%-10%

Nutter or New Spring

Reduce sagebrush from 63% to a range of 5%-30%
Maintain squirrel tail at 10%-15%
Maintain galleta grass at 15%-25%
Increase blue grama from a trace to 10%-15%
Increase needle and thread from a trace to 5%-10%
Increase western wheat from a trace to 1%-5%

Sandy loam upland 7"-11" precipitation zone range site: Located at Key Areas in the Higley and Salaratus pastures.

Higley

Maintain the CBW of winterfat at 1%-5%
Maintain galleta grass at 60%-80%
Maintain sand dropseed at 5%-15%
Increase blue grama from a trace up to 5%-10%

Salaratus

Maintain Mormon tea at 5%-15%
Maintain galleta grass at 20%-35%
Maintain sand dropseed at 30%-45%
Maintain black grama at 15%-20%
Maintain blue grama at 1%-5%

Loamy Upland 10"-14" precipitation zone range site: Located at Key Areas in the Polyg, Sullivan or Cox Atkin, Twin Tank and Dave Pond pastures.

Polygamist

Maintain blue grama at 25%-40%
Maintain needle and thread grass at 5%-10%
Maintain galleta grass at 5%-15%
Maintain sand dropseed at 1%-3%

Sullivan

Reduce big sagebrush from 39% to a range of 5%-15%
Maintain squirrel tail at 5%-15%
Increase blue grama from 6% to a range of 10%-15%
Maintain galleta grass at 5%-15%
Increase Indian rice grass from 3% to 5%-10%
Maintain sand dropseed at 15%-20%

Twin Tank

Reduce sagebrush from 36% to a range of 5%-15%
Maintain blue grama at 15%-20%
Maintain galleta grass at 5%-15%

Increase squirrel tail from 2% to 5%-10%
Maintain sand dropseed at 15%-20%

Dave Pond

Maintain blue grama at 30%-60%
Increase galleta from 1% to 5%-10%
Maintain black grama at 5%-20%
Maintain sand dropseed at 1%-5%
Maintain needle and thread grass at 10%-15%

Sandy loam upland 9"-13" precipitation zone range site: Located at the Key Area in the Calf pasture at the base of the Hurricane Cliffs.

Calf

Maintain galleta grass at 30%-55%
Maintain needle and thread grass at 5%-10%
Maintain black grama at 10%-15%
Increase fourwing saltbush from a trace to 5%
Increase Mormon tea from 4% to 5%-15%

Loamy bottom 10"-14" precipitation zone range site: Located at the Key Area in the Englestead pasture.

Englestead

Maintain western wheat grass 30%-45%
Maintain squirrel tail at 10%-15%
Maintain galleta grass at 1%-5%
Increase sand drop seed from 1% to a range of 5%-10%
Reduce sagebrush from 40% to a range of 5%-15%
Increase Indian rice grass from a trace to a range of 5%-10%

Limestone slopes 13"-17" precipitation zone range site: Located at the Key Area in the Hidden Pump pasture.

Hidden Pump

Reduce sagebrush from 78% to a range of 5%-25%
Maintain blue grama at 5%-25%
Increase galleta grass from a trace to 5%-10%
Increase squirrel tail from a trace to 5%-10%
Increase june grass and mutton grass from a trace to 5%-15%

Monitoring

The goals of monitoring would be to determine if the fundamentals or conditions of Rangeland

Health are being met within the allotment area under 43 CFR 4180. These conditions of Rangeland Health are:

- (a) Watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, properly functioning physical condition, including their upland, riparian-wetland, and aquatic components; soil and plant conditions support infiltration, soil moisture storage, and the release of water that are in balance with climate and land form and maintain or improve water-quality, water quantity, and timing and duration of flow.
- (b) Ecological processes, including the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow, are maintained, or there is significant progress toward their attainment, in order to support healthy biotic populations and communities.
- (c) Water quality complies with State water quality standards and achieves, or is making significant progress toward achieving, established BLM management objectives such as meeting wildlife needs.
- (d) Habitats are, or are making significant progress toward being restored or maintained for Federal threatened and endangered species, Federal Proposed, Category 1 and 2 Federal candidate and other special status species.

To monitor rangeland health conditions, key areas as defined in the *Monitoring "Planning for Monitoring"*, "TR 4400-1", (1984) would be used. The key area would be used as an indicator area to reflect the effect of on the ground management on the site they represent. Each key area would be established based on a Range Site/Ecological Site (developed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, (NRCS)) with a specific Potential Natural Community (PNC) and specific physical site characteristics. Knowing the PNC of the area, and using the ecological site descriptions as a guide, DPC objectives can be developed. The DPC then becomes the objectives by which management actions would be measured.

Dry Weight Rank (DWR) method of data collection would be used to monitor species composition. In addition, Pace Frequency and Step-Point studies would be used at each key area to detect changes of individual species and vegetative cover, which indicates a trend and status of basal and foliar cover. Pace Frequency, Step-Point and DWR would be completed on each key area every 3-6 years. DWR and Pace Frequency study methods are described in *Sampling Vegetation Attributes*, "Interagency Technical Reference 1734-4" (1996).

Livestock use on forage plants would be determined by conducting grazing utilization studies using the Grazed-Class Method as described in the *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements* "Interagency Technical Reference 1734-3" (1996). Utilization studies would be completed annually in each grazing unit by BLM prior to and/or after livestock have been removed from the pasture. Study data would be compiled each year. Other information to be collected and compiled is precipitation, actual use, etc. All monitoring data would be used to evaluate current management and assist BLM in making management decisions that helps

achieve vegetation objectives on the allotment.

Analysis of existing frequency and DWR data on the allotment suggests DPC objectives are either being met or progressing toward being met. It was determined by the Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT) during the assessment process, that resource conditions on the allotment are meeting applicable standards for rangeland health.

Allotment compliance would be conducted annually on the allotment. Compliance monitoring assures terms and conditions of the permit and any other subsequent requirements attached to range improvement permits are being met.

Based on analyses of the allotment's monitoring data and supporting documentation contained in the Mainstreet S&G Assessment Report (2005), resource conditions on the allotment are meeting the applicable standards for rangeland health.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The Mainstreet allotment lies approximately 30 miles south of St. George, Utah in the west central portion of the Arizona Strip. The allotment is within the boundaries of Townships 35, 36, 37, and 38 N., Ranges 9, 10, 11, and 12 W. The north end of the allotment boundary begins 3-4 miles south of Seegmiller Mountain and runs approximately 20 miles south towards Bundyville. Mainstreet is confined by the Hurricane Cliffs to the east and Hidden Rim on the west.

Elevations range from 4,400 feet in Lower Hurricane Valley to 6,790 feet on Poverty Mountain. The topography of the allotment is characterized by long open valleys, broken limestone ridges, and pinyon-juniper hills.

The affected environment is tiered to the Arizona Strip District RMP (January 31, 1992), Affected Environment pages III-1 to III-58, and pages 41 to 92 of the Shivwits Grazing EIS (July, 1980) which was adopted into the RMP and are essentially the same for this action. Chapter 2 of the Shivwits Grazing EIS describes the environmental components likely to be impacted by the proposed action. Environmental components discussed in the EIS that might affect or be affected by the proposal are: Climate, Vegetation, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species, Riparian Vegetation, Soils, Water Resources, Animals (wildlife), Cultural Resources, Visual Resources, and Land Uses including livestock grazing and recreation.

This EA also incorporates by reference the "Implementation of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, Mainstreet Allotment S&G Assessment" (2005)². This S&G Assessment describes the resources and issues applicable to the allotment area. See the Mainstreet Allotment S&G Assessment Appendix for other resource data and associated information.

² Mainstreet Allotment S&G Assessment, available at the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790.

The following resources and critical elements of the human environment are not present in the allotment and are therefore not affected by the proposed action or alternatives:

Resources

- Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Wilderness
- Wetlands/Riparian Areas
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)
- Wild Horses and Burros
- Minerals
- Hazardous Materials

Critical Elements of the human environment

- Air Quality
- Native American Religious Concerns
- Water Quality, Drinking or Ground

Climate

Average annual precipitation on the Mainstreet allotment falls into three zones. The higher elevations on the allotment are within a 13-17" precipitation zone (p.z.). The Poverty rain gauge located in T35N, R12W, Sec. 28 is the reference gauge for annual precipitation data. This rain gauge is approximately ½ mile from the southwest boundary fence. Average precipitation is ~ 15.67" annually. Seasonal distribution is 16% (2.47") in the fall, 35% (5.49") in the winter, 19% (2.96") in spring, and 30% (4.74") during the summer.

Mid elevations on the allotment are within the 10-14" precipitation zone (p.z.). The Alcorn rain gauge positioned in T35N, R10W, Sec. 30 is used for collecting annual precipitation data. The Alcorn gauge is 1 mile south of the southern most boundary fence. Average precipitation is ~ 12.67" annually. Seasonal distribution is 14% (1.76") in the fall, 30% (3.85") in the winter, 18% (2.28") in spring, and 38% (4.78") during the summer.

The lower, dryer reaches of the allotment, such as lower Mainstreet and Hurricane Valley are in a 7-11" precipitation zone. The Marchant Tank rain gauge provides reference rain fall data for this zone. It is located in the southeast portion of the allotment in T37N, R9W, Sec. 4 below the Hurricane Rim. Average precipitation is ~ 10.05" annually. Approximately 16% (1.56") is distributed in the fall, 29% (2.94") in the winter, 19% (1.93") in spring, and 36% (3.62") during the summer.

Vegetation

The principal vegetative subtypes³ within the allotments are desert grasslands, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper woodlands.

- The desert grassland is characterized by galleta grass, blue grama, black grama, sand dropseed, ephedra, snakeweed, and banana yucca. Seasonal annual and perennial forbs are also present in this vegetative community.
- Associated species in the sagebrush subtype are big sagebrush, ephedra, cliffrose, fourwing saltbush, snakeweed, blue grama, squirrel tail, galleta, and a mixture of forbs.
- The pinyon-juniper subtype includes pinyon, juniper, sagebrush, cliffrose, turbinella oak, banana yucca, blue grama, squirrel tail and various annual/perennial forbs.

Within these vegetative subtypes are nine dominant ecological sites⁴ that are part of the Major Land Resource Units, as defined by the NRCS.

Water Sources

Mainstreet allotment contains:

- 89 fenced reservoirs
- 30 unfenced reservoirs
- 2 developed springs
- 3 wildlife catchments
- 11 livestock catchment

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species

There is no suitable habitat for any listed threatened or endangered species on the allotment. However, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) may occasionally fly over the area. There are no riparian areas that would provide habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*). An experimental non-essential population (as defined under section 10J of the Endangered Species Act) of California condors was established on the Vermillion Cliffs in 1996. These birds may eventually forage on carrion within the allotment but have not yet been observed doing so.

On March 24, 2006 BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and AGFD convened to categorize Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) habitat polygons across the Arizona Strip. These polygons were grouped into areas of high, medium, low and no likelihood of finding MSO. All BLM acres

³ Shivwits Grazing Environmental Impact Statement

⁴ An ecological site is a distinctive kind of land that differs from other kinds in its ability to produce a characteristic plant community. Each ecological site is a product of all environmental factors responsible for its development. Each site is capable of producing and supporting a plant community typified by an association of species that differs from other ecological sites in species kind, proportion and total production.

within the allotment were placed in the ‘No’ category.

No other, federally listed T&E species are known to occur in the area covered by this EA.

BLM Sensitive and State Species of Concern

There are two special status plants on the allotment. First is the Fickiensen plains cactus (*Pediocactus peeblesianus var. fickeiseniae*). There is one macroplot measuring demographic data-width size, mortality, and recruitment. The plot has been in place since 1986. There are also three cluster locations to count the cactus every ten years in the allotment. The macroplot has been studied since 1986.

Table 1: Dutchman Plot

86 Yr	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	95	97	98	99	00	01	02	03
21 #'s	107	102	185	180	194	219	168	188	122	49	45	37	41	30	50

Table 1 shows the year and number of cactus counted and measured in the plot.

The cluster plots show the following counts: Ward Place: 1987, 12; 1993, 0; 2001,10. Navajo:1986, 4; 1993,0; 2001,10. Salaratus I: 1986, 5; 1993, 3; 2001, 0; Salaratus II; 1986, 12; 1993, 11; 2001, 0.

The second plant found on the allotment is the Mohave Panic Grass. The number of Mojave panics is estimated to be a few thousand during wet summers in Mainstreet Valley and the Salaratus Hills.

Ferruginous hawks (*Buteo regalis*) are known to forage over some habitat similar to that found on the allotment, though specific sightings have not been recorded for the area. Black-crowned night Heron (*Nysticorax nycticorax hoactli*) and snowy egrets (*Egretta thula brewsteri*) have occasionally been observed using stock tanks in the area, but have not been recorded on the allotment. A variety of sensitive bat species have been captured on neighboring allotments including Townsend’s big-eared (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), spotted bats (*Euderma maculatum*), small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), and big free-tailed bats (*Nyctinomops macrotis*).

Wildlife

The primary big game on the Mainstreet Allotment is pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*), although mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are also present. Pronghorn are native to the Arizona

Strip, but were extirpated in the early 1900s. They were first re-introduced to the Strip in 1961 and to the area of this allotment in 1979 when 84 head were released near Diamond Butte. There have been several subsequent releases.

The pronghorn population in Game Management Unit 13B appears stable to slightly increasing. Annual fawn production varies considerably from year to year. This variation is attributed to predation, annual differences in timing and amount of precipitation and subsequent forb production. Because there is some natural interchange between the 13A and the 13B pronghorn herds, AGFD has periodically conducted supplemental releases of pronghorn in 13B in order to increase numbers and to provide more genetic diversity.

The Hurricane Valley provides habitat for a herd of from 100 to 150 pronghorn. This area is managed under the Clayhole HMP. This plan does not distinguish between pronghorn populations in the Clayhole and Hurricane Valleys. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) manages the Clayhole Valley pronghorn herd within Game Management Unit (GMU) 13A and the Hurricane Valley herd within GMU 13B. The two GMUs have different management strategies and have separate hunts and corresponding harvest objectives. Some exchange between the two pronghorn herds exists.

Mule deer occur in limited numbers on the allotment and contains several hundred acres of winter range. Summer habitat for mule deer is identified as areas above 6,000 feet elevation, and usually is in ponderosa pine ecotypes. It is not uncommon however, for some deer to spend time and use the pinyon-juniper/sagebrush communities for summer range when dependable water is available. Mule deer population declined over most of the Arizona Strip about 1970. However, Unit 13B deer herds are believed to be stable with 34 bucks per 100 deer and 57 fawns per 100 does, calculated from 102 deer surveyed.

Predators including coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions can be found in this allotment. Non-game wildlife found on the allotment is typical of the area, including a variety of small mammals, grassland birds, raptors, and reptiles.

Soil

The only soils monitoring data for this area is the Phase 1 Watershed Conservation and Development Inventory of 1971-1973 (See Field Office Files 7300). It was based upon a general soils map and thus ended up as broad interpretations and averages over large areas. Other more specific and detailed soils information is as follows

- 08 Barx-Strych complex, 1 to 10 percent slopes, (fan terraces), mixed; Loamy Upland, 9" to 13" ppt
- 09 Berzatic fam-RO-Goblin complex, 35 to 70 percent slopes, (escarpments, cliffs), LS-gyp; Berzatic-Breaks, 7" to 11"; Goblin-Breaks (gypsiferous), 7" to 11"

- 11 Bisoodi-Anasazi family complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes, (plateaus), limestone and sandstone; Bisoodi-Shallow Loamy, 9" to 13" ppt; Anasazi family-Sandy Loam Upland (calcareous), 9" to 13" ppt
- 17 Chic-Teesto-RO complex, 1 to 30 percent slopes, (hills), basalt; Chic-Cinder Upland, 9" to 13" ppt; Teesto=Basalt Upland, 9" to 13" ppt
- 19 Dera very gravelly fine sandy loam, 1 to 10 percent slopes (fan terrace) mixed sedimentary; Sandy Loam Upland, 7" to 11"
- 20 Dermalama fam-Guy fam-Rock Outcrop complex, 10 to 40 percent slopes (mesa scarp) basalt; Basalt Slopes, 13" to 17"
- 22 Dutchman-McCullan complex, 1 to 10 percent slopes (fan terrace) Moenkopi; Gypsum Upland, 7" to 11"
- 23 Goblin gravelly fine sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent slopes (hills, scarps) Moenkopi; Gypsum Hills, 7" to 11"
- 23 Goblin-Gypocket complex, 2 to 10 percent slopes, (hills, fault benches), gypsite, LS; Goblin-Gypsum Hills, 7" to 11"; Gypocket-Gypsum Upland, 7" to 11"
- 40 Ivanpach fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes, (fan terraces), mixed gyp- alluvium; Gypsum Fan, 9" to 13"
- 41 Ives loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, (floodplains), mixed sediments; Loamy Bottom, 7" to 11"
- 45 Mellenthin-Rock outcrop-Torriorthents complex, 10 to 70 percent slopes (hills) Kaibab; Mellenthin-Shallow Loamy, 9" to 13"; Torriorthents-Breaks, 9" to 13"
- 46 Mellenthin-Strych Complex, 4 to 25 percent slopes, cool, (plateaus, mesas), limestone; Mellenthin-Shallow Loamy, 9" to 13"; Strych-Loamy Upland, 9" to 13"
- 48 Mellenthin-Tanbark complex, 5 to 50 percent slopes, cool (mesas, hills) Kaibab, Harrisburg; Mellenthin-Shallow Loamy, 9" to 13"; Tanbark-Gypsum Hills, 9" to 13"
- 54 Moenkopie-Goblin complex, 5 to 50 percent slopes (bench, mesa) Kaibab-Harrisburg; Moenkopie-Shallow Loamy, 7" to 11"; Goblin-Gypsum Hills, 7" to 11"
- 55 Moenkopie-Pennell-RO complex, 10 to 50 percent slopes, (plateau, mesa), Limestone; Shallow Loamy, 7" to 11" ppt
- 63 Radnik loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes (floodplain) mixed; Loamy Bottom, 9" to 13" ppt
- 66 Robroost fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, (fan terrace), mixed sedimentary; Gypsum Fan, 7" to 11"
- 73 Strych very gravelly loam, 2 to 10 percent slopes (fan) mixed; Loamy Upland, 9" to 13"
- 75 Tanbark loam, 15 to 75 percent slopes, (hills, escarpments), Moenkopi; Gypsum Hills (calcareous), 9" to 13"
- 79 Tours silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, (floodplain, fan), mixed stream alluvium; Clayey Bottom, 7" to 11"

82 Twist loam, 2 to 10 percent slopes (fan terrace) Moenkopi; Sandy Loam Upland, 7" to 11"

An assessment of the indicators for Standard #1 was conducted at three sites during the field visit. Ground litter, live vegetation (or bare ground), rock, flow patterns, gullies, rills and plant pedestalling were evaluated at the cactus plot, in the Dave Pond pasture and in the Pump Station pasture. All three areas were found to be meeting Standard #1.

The watershed areas within the allotment were classified as Category II and IV in the 1992 RMP. Category II watersheds are those in satisfactory erosion condition, but susceptible to wind and water erosion following disturbance. Category IV watershed units are less resistant to erosion, but would be responsive to treatment. Most of the Mainstreet allotment is currently in fair to good erosion condition or demonstrates fair to good resistance to erosion. Some areas in the Keller pasture and along the Hurricane Wash from Rock Crossing, south to Higley Tank would qualify as category IV units. Although there are signs of an improving watershed in these areas, these portions of the allotment should remain a category IV until treatments have reduced the erosion to an acceptable level.

Lithology

The lithology varies greatly for this relatively large allotment. Slopes vary from one to seventy percent. Gypsum, basalt, limestone and sandstone rock dominate the fans, hills, scarps, hills, terraces and benches. Mainstreet Valley is primarily fans, and fan terraces. Hurricane Wash and Valley is dominated by floodplain, and fan terraces; they are surrounded by scarps and fans. The western part of Mainstreet comprises of scattered floodplains; fans and rock out crops surround those floodplains. The southeastern portion of the allotment comprises of old basalt flows, mesas, escarpments and fan terraces.

Cultural/Historical

Prehistoric and Historical sites exist throughout the allotment.

Visual Resources

The Mainstreet allotment is classified by the 1992 RMP as Visual Resource Management Class (VRM) Class IV. The area along the Hurricane Cliffs is classified as Class II, but is outside the allotment boundary. VRM Class IV lands are considered to have low relative value for visual resources. The objective for VRM Class II is “to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low”.

Livestock Grazing

The Mainstreet Allotment (#4808) is comprised of 157,869 acres of federal BLM land, 23,406 acres of state land, and 10,806 acres of private land. The total number of active AUMs on the

allotment is 14,535. The current season of use is 12/01 to 11/30.

Recreation Resources

The allotment is considered to have recreation setting attributes which include geology, scenic view sheds, remoteness and solitude. General recreation activities include: recreational OHV use, driving for pleasure, horseback riding, hiking, hunting, rock collecting, photography, bird watching and nature study. Visitors enjoy a variety of experiences as they engage in these activities. A number of personal, community, and economic benefits are possible as a result.

Mainstreet allotment was classified as having the following Recreation Spectrum classes: Semi Primitive Motorized, Semi Primitive-Non Motorized, and Roaded Natural. Recreation activities occur primarily in a “semi-primitive, motorized” recreation setting, which is characterized by predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate to large size where the concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in a manner that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is permitted (on existing routes).

The area along main travel corridors are within the “roaded natural” setting. “Roaded Natural” settings are characterized by a predominantly naturally appearing environment with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds of man. Such evidences usually harmonize with the natural environment. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Interaction between users may be low to moderate, but with evidence of other users prevalent. Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards and design of facilities, including roads.

There are three isolated tracts within the allotment that lie within a “semi-primitive, non-motorized” recreation setting. This setting is characterized by predominantly natural or natural appearing environment of moderate to large size. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users.

Noxious Weeds

Isolated infestations of Scotch thistle have been identified around various ponds on the allotment. A small area of Russian knapweed has also been detected along a pond bank on private property. There have been concerted efforts over the past five years to treat these infested areas. These areas are inventoried, monitored, and treated annually when weeds are detected.

Socio/Economic

Economic revenue generated from the Arizona Strip is mainly ranching with a few gypsum/selenite mines and uranium operations. Nearby communities are supported by tourism (including outdoor recreation), construction and light industry. The social aspect involves remote, unpopulated settings with moderate to high opportunities for solitude.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Only impacts that may result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives are described in this EA. If an ecological component is not discussed, it should be assumed that the resource specialists have considered effects to the component and found the proposed action or alternatives would have minimal or no effects. General effects from projects similar to the proposed action alternative are also described in the documents to which this plan is tiered.

This document incorporates by reference the Mainstreet Allotment S&G Assessment (2005), which provides a complete discussion, analysis and summaries of the range resources and associated issues. Also, see the Mainstreet S&G Assessment Appendix for specific resource data and other associated information.

Climate

Implementing the Proposed Action would have no effect on the climate. The proposed action would allow affected resources to respond to the climate with improvement to these resources, as mentioned below in the vegetation section.

Drought

In response to drought conditions, BLM may modify the terms and conditions of a grazing permit (ie. number of cattle, turn out dates, removal dates, etc.) temporarily or on a more long-term basis. Most modifications are accomplished on a cooperative basis with the livestock permittee. However, if a permittee disagrees with BLM's assessment of the resource conditions or the necessary modifications, BLM may nevertheless issue a Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision to protect resources.

Vegetation

Grazing impacts on vegetation under the Proposed Action are mitigated by timing of use, duration of grazing, adjusting of stocking rates, and conformance with Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Management. The Proposed Action would have an established grazing rotation designed to allow each pasture a different season of rest during growing cycles, let cool and warm season grasses and browse to elongate their apical buds, build vigor and achieve seed ripe.

The allotments' major vegetation components consist of desert grasslands, sagebrush steppe, and pinyon-juniper woodlands. The desert grassland is characterized by galleta grass, blue grama, black grama, sand dropseed, ephedra, snakeweed, and banana yucca. Seasonal annual and perennial forbs are also present in this vegetative community. Associated species in the sagebrush subtype are big sagebrush, ephedra, cliffrose, fourwing saltbush, snakeweed, blue grama, squirrel tail, galleta, and a mixture of forbs. The pinyon-juniper subtype includes an associated understory of sagebrush, cliffrose, desert holly, blue grama, squirrel tail, sand dropseed, and a variety of forbs.

Vegetation issues identified on the Mainstreet allotment were as follows:

- *The presence of noxious weeds*; Scotch thistle has been found around various ponds on the allotment and has been treated using mechanical and chemical means. Russian knapweed is growing along a pond bank on private land inside the allotment. Part of it was sprayed with the herbicide Tordon in the spring of 2003. It has been re-sprayed every year since and is scheduled for treatment each year as necessary.
- *Erosion along the Hurricane Wash between Rock Crossing and Childers, and in the Keller pasture*; The field visit confirmed this erosion in the Lower Hurricane Wash between these two points. However, the soil surface and upland vegetation away from the immediate wash demonstrate intact structure, adequate surface litter, and a vigorous vegetation community. The Hurricane Wash cuts through the Keller pasture and runs the entire length of Hurricane Valley before emptying into the Ft. Pearce Wash. The wash indicates signs of healing and stabilization with vegetation establishing in the bottom and lateral side drainages. Small amounts of lateral cutting are still occurring at close proximity to the wash during high intense, short duration rainfall events. The evaluating IAT and RRT determined that this erosion is geologic and current livestock grazing practices are neither causing nor accelerating current erosion rates. The group recommended a data transect be established in the wash area to monitor future erosion.
- *Lack of ground cover in lower Hurricane Valley, southeast of the Cecil Pond*; The field visit in 2004 demonstrated healthier and more vigorous vegetation conditions than those observed prior to the scoping meeting in January. The 2001 and 2002 water years on the Arizona Strip are recognized as one of the most severe drought period since precipitation data has been collected. The 2003 water year was near average with several good rains coming during the summer growing season, and the vegetation has responded proportionately to the moisture events and restored area to near normal conditions.
- *Lack of herbaceous understory and fawning cover west of the Mainstreet road and within ½ mile of water*; This was confirmed, but vegetation conditions in September 2004, during the field trip appeared much better in terms of structure, vigor, and diversity than they did one year ago. Precipitation in August of 2003 produced considerable vegetation demonstrating the issue was more a factor of soil moisture than grazing practices.
- *Utilization may be exceeding 50% along Mainstreet road*; In 2003 this was an accurate statement. It was not the case in 2004 during the field visit. Utilization was read at the trend plot in the Twin Tanks pasture along the Mainstreet road seven years between 1986 and 1998. Use exceeded 50% on winterfat in 1989 (57%), and Indian ricegrass in 1986, 1988 and 1989 (51%, 55%, 53% respectively). The highest average use of all key species was 44% in 1989. In 2002 there was no measurable precipitation in this area

between March 1st and the end of August, which is essentially the growing season. There was virtually no vegetative growth in 2002.

- *Dense pinyon, juniper, and sagebrush around Poverty Knoll and Poverty Mountain;* The vegetation around Poverty Mountain and Poverty Knoll consists of closed stands of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush making it both unproductive for wildlife and poor watershed cover. An environmental assessment has been prepared for this area that will incorporate the use of the herbicide “Spike 20P” to reduce the composition of sagebrush and pinyon-juniper and allow the native understory vegetation to increase. This would aid in achieving DPC objectives, increase ground cover, and in turn reduce surface erosion and the likelihood of severe wildfires in the area.
- *Reinvasion of woody species into past treatment areas, and closed monoculture stands of sagebrush on the west side of the allotment;* Large areas on the west side of the allotment were treated in the 1950’s and 1960’s to reduce the dense, closed stands of pinyon and juniper and allow understory vegetation to establish. Over time, sagebrush and the pinyon and juniper have reestablished, crowding out the understory plant community. Preparing prescribed burn plans and an environmental assessment addressing the use of “Spike 20P” to reduce the composition of undesirable woody species would aid in reaching DPC objectives while improving habitat and watershed conditions of the target areas.
- *Seed harvesting activities on the allotment, effects of motorized equipment used for seed harvesting, and seed harvesting compliance on private lands;* As recommended by the IAT and RRT, a programmatic EA and cultural clearances authorizing mechanical seed harvesting has been completed. In addition, some type of seed allocation agreement between operators should be resolved. Future monitoring, analyzing the amount of seed left on the soil surface after harvesting should also be implemented. It was also concluded by the field teams that better public education and patrolling by BLM law enforcement be implemented to help alleviate trespass problems on private lands.

For a more detailed analysis and discussion of these issues refer to the Mainstreet Allotment S&G Assessment.

Trend data collected at 29 key area locations on the Mainstreet indicate that while readings on individual plant species have fluctuated over the years, overall trend on key species has gradually increased. The exceptions to this appear to be 2002, where a severe drought impacted all vegetation to varying degrees. This drought resulted in mortality of many plants including sagebrush, pinyon pine and juniper. These data reflect and suggest that current management coupled with precipitation would allow objectives for the vegetation components to be met on the allotment. These vegetation components constitute the ecological sites upon which DPC objectives are based. Key areas are established on ecological sites and monitored to determine the species composition, the frequency of plant species, and the vegetative ground cover.

Utilization data collected between 1986 and 1999 in twenty-nine pastures has been compiled for this evaluation. The Key Species Grazed Class method was used to collect the data. Utilization is read at or around the designated key area for each pasture.

The highest average utilization over this period was 41% in the Marchant pasture. However, there are 108 instances where an individual species has been grazed heavier than 50% in one of the 28 pastures during the 14-year span in which the utilization studies have been conducted. Of the 108 instances, only 18 of those involved a specie whose frequency in the vegetative composition was 5% or greater. Most of the heavy use was on the browse species winter fat (*Ceritoides lanata*), four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescense*), and Mormon tea (*Ephredra nevadensis*), which generally made up only a trace to 2% of the composition. In only one instance did species show a decline in trend following a season of heavy grazing. That was on galleta grass in the Calving pasture in 1991. Utilization was read at 51%. Frequency for galleta had been 21% in 1986, 39% in 1991 and then read at 15% in 1997. A complete listing of utilization on key species by pasture is located in the Mainstreet S&G evaluation.

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species

The Proposed Action would not impact any listed threatened or endangered species nor would the Proposed Action have an impact on an occasional fly over by the bald eagle or California condor.

BLM Sensitive Species and State Species of Concern

The Proposed Action would have no substantial impact on BLM sensitive, special status, and state species of concern. Special status plant species on the allotment are Fickiensen plains cactus and Mojave panic grass.

The fickiensen plains cactus in the Dutchman Plot is a cactus that retracts into the ground during drought periods. The number of cactus reflects the rainfall amounts that occur at the plot. During wet periods the numbers increased to a high in 1992, but drought conditions since 1998 and has pulled the number of cactus down. (Refer to Dutchman plot table on page 16 of this EA)

Mortality data at the plot shows 261 fick cactus died naturally. From 1986 to present, three died by cattle trampling in the plot. Many of the natural deaths occurred due to retracting and dying underground. However, this is difficult to ascertain until several years have passed. Even then a cactus will re-emerge during a monitoring period after being underground for seven years, at least during monitoring periods.

Other plots across the Arizona Strip on this cactus show similar flucuations. The Clayhole plots had 20 to 40 cacti from 1986 to 2000. Since 2001 cactus numbers have increased to over 60. North Canyon in House Rock Valley has varied from 14 in 1986, to 36 in 1991; in 1992 rodent depredation reduced it to 7. By 2001, the number of fickiensen at the North Canyon plot had increased back to 34. The Sunshine plot shows similar trends.

This cactus is a rare plant which fluctuates with weather conditions. Mortality by cattle has been around 1-2 % at North Canyon and Dutchman and 16% at Clayhole. Clayhole, however has had fewer over all mortalities than Dutchman and North Canyon.

Cactus trends appear to be weather controlled. If the plot area gets adequate rains, the cactus increases in numbers monitored. If the area of the plots is in drought, the number of cactus goes down. To date, trend data has consistently fluctuated up and down. These fluctuations appear to be weather and its numerous indirect impacts on the cactus and not man-induced impacts. Overall, the trend appears to be stable.

The Mojave panic is very short and small and cattle cannot graze it. The talus and balds where it grows are unlikely to be trampled or grazed due to talus and little available forage.

The avian species including Ferruginous hawk, Black-crowned night heron, and Snowy egret and sensitive bat species such as Townsend's big eared, spotted bats, small-footed myotis, fringed myotis and big free-tailed bats would not be substantially impacted by the Proposed action.

Wildlife

The Proposed Action would have no substantial impacts on big game (pronghorn and mule deer) or the other non-game wildlife found on the allotment. Most of the Mainstreet Allotment is considered pronghorn habitat. The habitat quality varies widely, however. While the Arizona Strip provides some of the most extensive habitat in the state, a consistent lack of summer forbs and vegetative succulence significantly limits pronghorn habitat quality. In 1996, AGFD evaluated the pronghorn habitat in Arizona and rated the quality section by section. In the Mainstreet Allotment, most of the habitat rated in the moderate category. In this and adjacent allotments, the S&G report identified two primary problems that were not weather/climate dependent. These were fences that were not pronghorn passable and lack of reliable, accessible water.

Migratory Birds

Executive Order 13186 requires BLM and other federal agencies to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve protection for migratory birds. Implementation of the Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect any species of migratory bird known or suspected to occur on the allotment. No take of any such species is anticipated.

Soil

Attributes making up the soil resource should remain stable or improve thru implementation of the Proposed Action and the enforcement of the Arizona Standards and Guides process for permitted livestock grazing within the Mainstreet grazing allotment. Grazing rotations associated with the Proposed Action allow for seasonal plant rest resulting in increased vigor and

allowing ground litter and cover to increase, thus protecting the soil. Utilization levels are within that allowable levels and current trends are expected to remain static or track up.

Cultural Resources

There would be no substantial impact to cultural or historical sites as a result of renewing this grazing permit under the Proposed Action. Cultural resources project file AZ BLM 110-2007-047 contains documentation of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Great efforts are made to avoid these sites during allotment project implementation. Further, archaeological inventories are completed prior to all project initiation.

Visual Resources

The long-term success of improving land health could contribute to enhancing visual resource conditions by increasing the variety of visual forms, lines, colors and textures where past land use practices may have virtually eliminated any such variety. Conversely, the proposed action could potentially create slight to minor visual contrast from the construction of rangeland developments. Also such developments could add weak to moderate horizontal structural lines to the landscape. Conducting a Visual Resource Contrast Rating evaluation as part of rangeland development design would likely enable projects to be mitigated to meet specific VRM objectives.

Livestock Grazing

Under the Proposed Action, the forage preference would remain active and livestock grazing would continue.

Possible Future Range Improvement Projects

The following actions described below are a result of issues raised during S&G scoping or the allotment field visit and could be proposed as range improvement projects during the ten-year life of the renewed grazing permit. This EA does not analyze the impacts of these projects in detail. Environmental Assessment (EA) AZ-110-2005-0027 and Decision Record (DR) AZ-110-2005-0027 have been prepared and address the specific impacts of treatment to some of these areas using the herbicide "Spike 20P". Appropriate NEPA documentation for proposals not analyzed in the mentioned EA would occur prior to any other action being taken.

1. *Dense pinyon, juniper and sage around Poverty Knoll and Poverty Mountain.* An environmental assessment would be written for this area that will incorporate the use of the herbicide Spike to reduce the amount of sagebrush and pinyon-juniper and allow the native grasses in the area to increase. This would increase ground cover and decrease the likelihood of severe wildfires in the area.

2. *Reinvasion of woody species into treatment areas.* Preparing prescribed burn plans for this area to allow naturally occurring fires to burn, igniting fires in the area to clear out much of these invading species. An environmental assessment addressing the application of the herbicide Spike to reduce sagebrush will be done to improve the habitat and watershed conditions of the area.
3. *Closed stands of sage on the west end of the allotment.* An environmental assessment will be written for this area to reduce the stands of sagebrush allowing native grasses to increase. This will provide better ground cover and biodiversity and reduce the likelihood of wild fire burning in this area.

Recreation Resources

Future construction of rangeland developments in the allotment could slightly impact physical recreation settings and recreation opportunities in the short term due to the presence of new structures and access routes in semi-primitive non-motorized and primitive settings. Future construction of new fence developments could have a slight to minor impact to recreation settings and recreation activity and experience opportunities in the short-term due to fencing as an impediment to access, as well as the increase in evidence of human use created by the placement of the fencing. The potential for most visitors to attain personal and other benefits from recreation use in the area would not be compromised by the proposed action.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative Impacts are tiered to the Arizona Strip RMP (1992), Environmental Consequences pages IV-36 to IV-38, and to chapter 3 of the Shivwits Grazing EIS (1980) which was adopted into the RMP. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts, Relationship between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment, Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity, and the Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitments of Resources were discussed.

Cumulative impacts occur when additional management facilities are added to those already present. Grazing plans set specific objectives in the plan area and include rangeland improvements that are designed to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, watershed, and overall resource conditions, thus improving ecosystem health.

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions within the analysis area would continue to influence range resources, naturalness, aesthetics, watershed conditions and trends. The impact of land treatments targeting woody species, voluntary livestock reductions during dry periods and implementation of a grazing system have improved range conditions. The net result has been greater species diversity, improved plant vigor, and increased ground cover from grasses and forbs. No cumulative impacts are predicted to the range resource as a result of the Proposed Action.

Residual Impacts

Residual Impacts are tiered to the Arizona Strip RMP (1992), Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitments of Resources page 172 of the Shivwits Grazing EIS (1980) which was adopted into the RMP. Though the Proposed Action does not propose any new fences, it does allow for the existence of present fence lines and the modification of those fences to meet the needs of pronghorn and other wildlife on the allotment. BLM and AGFD have completed and will yet perform inventories identifying fences which need to be brought up to pronghorn standards. To date, 12 miles of fence have been modified to pronghorn specifications on the Mainstreet allotment.

There are no residual impacts as a result of the Proposed Action to the vegetative resource. Future maintenance of existing vegetation treatments and range improvements would not likely affect additional acres beyond that done previously. Residual impacts from maintenance activities would be improved watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, and rangeland resources over time.

Monitoring

The monitoring addressed in the proposed action (pages 11-13) is sufficient to identify changes in vegetation as a result of livestock grazing activities. In addition to those methods described, there are efforts in place to inventory for noxious weed establishment, as well as monitor treated areas for treatment effectiveness. BLM weed specialist (LD Walker) has the lead on monitoring and treating noxious weeds on the Arizona Strip. He has provided training in identification and treatment as well as ways to reduce the spread of weeds to BLM employees and permittees.

Annual compliance checks would be included in monitoring conducted on the allotment. Compliance monitoring would assure terms and conditions of the permit are being met. Compliance checks would also monitor any special conditions or mitigation included in Cooperative Agreements, Section 4 Permits, or other grazing regulations.

Mitigation

When noxious weeds are located, various methods are used for their control depending on the size of the infestation and growth stage of the plants. The methods include but are not limited to:

- Physical or mechanical
- Biological
- Chemical or Cultural

If vegetative monitoring indicates current livestock grazing practices are causing non-attainment of resource objectives, BLM would modify the terms and conditions of a grazing permit (i.e. number of cattle, turn out dates, removal dates, etc.) temporarily or on a more long-term basis. Most modifications are accomplished on a cooperative basis with the livestock permittee. However, if a permittee disagrees with BLM's assessment of the resource conditions or the

necessary modifications, BLM may nevertheless issue a Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision to protect resources.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This EA was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District Office, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, UT 84790. Phone (435) 688-3200. Public involvement for the Mainstreet S&G evaluation began on January 14, 2003. An assessment field trip to the allotment was conducted on September 17, 2003. The Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT) was assisted by the Rangeland Resources Team (RRT) appointed by the Arizona Resource Advisory Council. A draft evaluation was sent out for public review and comment to Individuals, Groups and Agencies. BLM received no comments on the evaluation.

Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT)

Linda Price.....Project Coordinator

Ken Beckstom....Range/Grazing

Whit Bunting....Range/Grazing

John Herron.....Archaeologist

Robert Smith....Soils, Watershed

Larry Gearhart.....Wilderness/Recreation

Mike Small.....Wildlife Biologist

Luke Thompson.....Wildlife Manager,
Arizona Game and Fish Department

Internal Reviewers:

Gloria Benson, Native American Coordinator

Tom Folks, Recreation

Laurie Ford, Lands/Realty/Minerals

Michael Herder, Wildlife

John Herron, Cultural

Lee Hughes, T/E Plants

Linda Price, S&G Coordinator

Bob Sandberg, Range

Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator

Ron Wadsworth, Supervisory Law Enforcement

Dennis Curtis, GCPNM Manger

Becky Hammond, Field Manager

Reviewed by Arizona Strip District Office Planning and Environmental Coordinator (P&EC)

/s/ Richard Spotts

Richard Spotts,
P&EC

March 5, 2007

Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Environmental Assessment AZ-110-2007-0019, hereby incorporated by reference, analyzed a livestock grazing permit renewal action conducted under the Arizona BLM Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management (S&Gs) where an intensive allotment evaluation was conducted with public and other agency involvement throughout the process. Analysis of existing study data indicates that overall Ecological Condition trends are static or up and pace frequency trends are improving on the allotment. The resource conditions on the allotment are meeting all applicable standards for rangeland health. Issues were analyzed and it was determined that current management is not a factor in preventing attainment of Standards.

The Environmental Assessment reaffirmed the allotment's current grazing practices, and determines that the present grazing management program would continue to allow improvement to the health of public land resources, such as soil, water, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and wildlife and other resource values.

Based on the analysis of Environmental Assessment AZ-110-2007-0019, I have determined that the renewal of the Mainstreet Livestock Grazing Permit with current terms and conditions will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

/s/ Becky Hammond
Field Manager,
Arizona Strip Field Office

March 6, 2007
Date



Phone: (435)



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GRAND CANYON-PARASHANT NATIONAL MONUMENT**

**345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790
688-3345 Fax: (435) 688-3388**

In Reply Refer To:
(4110) (010)

March 7, 2007

**Certified #
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION

Dear Interested Publics:

A Formal Allotment Evaluation was completed to address the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration for the Mainstreet Grazing Allotment #4808. On April 28, 1997, Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (S&Gs) were approved by Secretary of the Interior and adopted into all Land Use Plans (LUPs) in Arizona as indicated by the Decision Record for the Statewide Amendment. The Mainstreet Allotment Evaluation was conducted in accordance with the direction set forth in the Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 98-91 for implementation of Standards Rangeland Health and guidelines for grazing administration. The evaluation revealed that issuing a grazing permit, for a period of ten years, conformed to the applicable land use plans and amendments and the existing NEPA documentation adequately addresses the proposed action.

In accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations 4130.2, and based upon the allotment evaluation, consultation with affected permittee, interested publics, rangeland resource team and recommendations from the interdisciplinary assessment team, my proposed decision is to offer the grazing permit/lease, for the Mainstreet Allotment for a period of ten years with the following terms and conditions. The following terms and conditions become effective upon acceptance of the permit/lease.

1. The new Desired Plant Community (DPC) and vegetation cover objectives as listed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) EA-AZ-110-2007-0019 will be monitored to determine trends.

2. The season of use for the Mainstreet Allotment will be from December 1 through November 30.
3. Livestock grazing will be in accordance with the Proposed Action as outlined in EA-AZ-110-2007-0019. The following terms will apply.
 - Billing for grazing use will be based on the Actual Use Report which is due on or before December 15th each year.
 - Livestock may be moved into or out of a pasture 15 days before or after scheduled move dates.
 - Associated maintenance of facilities and improvements relevant to the grazing operation will be required and authorized.

Authorized Permitted use is as follows:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Active AUMs</u>	<u>Suspended AUMs</u>	<u>Permitted Use</u>
04808 Mainstreet	14,535	0	14,535

Kind and number of Livestock, period(s) of use and the amount of use, in animal unit months (AUMs):

Mainstreet Allotment Grazing Preference								
Allotment Name	Permittee	Permit Number	Livestock			Active AUMs	Public Land (acres)	% Public Land
			No.	Kind	Season of Use			
Mainstreet	NA	4808	1,558	Cattle	12/01-11/30	14,396	156,454	77%
			15	Horses	12/01-11/30	139		

RATIONALE:

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provides for livestock grazing use of the public lands which have been classified as proper for grazing. Grazing use must be consistent with proper rangeland management aimed at conservation and protection of the natural resources.

Arizona Standards and Guidelines (S&G) for grazing administration were developed through a collaborative process involving the Bureau of Land Management State S&G Team and the Arizona Resource Advisory Council. Together, through meetings, conference calls, correspondence, and Open Houses with the public, the BLM State Team and RAC prepared Standards and Guidelines to address the minimum requirements outlined in the grazing regulations. The Standards and Guidelines, criterion for meeting Standards, and indicators are

an integrated document that conforms to the fundamentals of rangeland health and the requirements of the regulations when taken as a whole.

The BLM has also reviewed the legal concerns and has concluded that the Standards and Guidelines evaluation and term permit renewal is supported by the National Environmental Policy Act and Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. The proposed action of renewing leases/permitted use conforms to the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan (Land Use Plan) dated January 31, 1992, as amended. The NEPA documentation covers the proposed action and alternatives which constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA, and procedural requirements as provided in the CEQ regulations. This is demonstrated by the following background information:

In December of 1996 a ("draft") Statewide Plan Amendment of Land Use Plans in Arizona for implementation of Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact, and supporting Environmental Assessment was sent out to 900 interested publics.

On April 28, 1997, Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (S&Gs) were approved by Secretary of the Interior and adopted into all LUPs in Arizona as indicated by the Decision Record for the Statewide Amendment.

The BLM has followed the mandate of Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which requires the Secretary of the Interior to: develop, maintain, and revise land use plans. The Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement guides the BLM's management of public lands and all resources.

The BLM has complied with the grazing regulations, Washington Office and Arizona BLM policies for permit/lease renewals and fundamentals of Rangeland Health as specified in 43 CFR 4180.

The Bureau of Land Management's grazing regulations contains many provisions for public participation in the decision making process. Consultation, cooperation and coordination (CCC) are the core of the public participation process and provides the BLM decision-maker the opportunity to consider the most complete information before making decisions.

Prior to scoping, the public was notified that the Mainstreet Grazing Allotment would be evaluated during that year to determine if the resource conditions were meeting the Arizona standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. This initial notification was provided to allow for public participation in CCC process. Different individuals, groups, organizations and agencies, were contacted from the general Resource Management Plan mailing lists to determine specific interest in the Mainstreet Allotment and to solicit interest in the decision making process for grazing term permit renewal and Standard and Guideline evaluation.

Issue scoping took place on January 14, 2003, and a Draft Mainstreet S&G evaluation was sent out for public review and comment to Individuals, Groups and Agencies. No response from the public was received. The Final Mainstreet S&G evaluation report was completed and signed August 4, 2005.

The assessment fulfilled its purpose of determining if the existing permitted livestock use, and other activity plans, which identify terms and conditions for management on public lands within the Mainstreet Allotment, meet, or are making significant progress toward meeting the standards or other LUP objectives and are in conformance with Arizona's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. A thirty-day comment period on the draft report was afforded to the Permittees, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Land Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and interested public and other agencies.

The S&G assessment was conducted by an interdisciplinary assessment team (IAT) of resource specialists from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The IAT was assisted by the Rangeland Resource Team (RRT). The RRTs were established under the charter of the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and are involved during the S&G assessment process for permit/lease renewals. Recommendations were considered from the (RRTs), which represented a variety of commodity, environmental and recreational interests, to assist in the interdisciplinary assessment of Standards for Rangeland Health.

In accordance with Bureau Policy and regulations, all applicable monitoring data were examined and evaluated in order to determine progress in meeting Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and other land use plan objectives. Analysis of data indicated that the Land Use Planning (LUP) Objectives are being met. LUP Objectives pertaining to DPC's are being met and they assure rangeland health, state water quality standards, and habitat for: endangered, threatened, and sensitive species, as well as other wildlife is being maintained and improved. All key area DPC objectives for the allotment are being met. Issues were analyzed and it was determined that current management is not a factor in preventing attainment of Standards. A review of the resource data revealed that the allotment meets Standards 1 and 3. Standard 2 is not applicable (there are no riparian areas in the Allotment).

The IAT completed the rangeland health assessment to determine if renewal of the term grazing permits/leases would preclude the attainment of Arizona's S&Gs and determine if the proposed action (permit/lease renewal) was in conformance with the documented Land Use Plan and adequately covered under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The EA/FONSI, EA-AZ-110-2007-0019, which analyzed the livestock grazing permit renewal action, based on the S&G evaluation, was completed March 6, 2007. This referenced EA/FONSI is considered a public document and is available upon request.

The Environmental Assessment proposed no modifications to livestock numbers or current season of use for Mainstreet, reaffirmed the present grazing management, and determined that

the present grazing management program would continue to allow improvement to the health of public land resources, such as soil, water, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and wildlife and other resource values. Further, the Authorized Officer made a determination that issuing a grazing permit for a period of ten years, conformed to the applicable land use plans and amendments, and the existing NEPA documentation adequately addresses the proposed action.

The Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(a) require that, “Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through . . .” the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan, which adopted the Shivwits Resource Area Grazing Environmental Impact Statement.

The Mainstreet allotment is primarily within the Arizona Strip Field Office. Approximately 1 percent of the active AUMs (170) are within the designated Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. Designation of the monument does not, in and of itself, require modification of the current grazing practices. The presidential proclamation states that “Laws, regulations, and policies followed by the Bureau of Land Management in issuing and administering grazing leases on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply...”. Therefore, the renewal of grazing permits within the Grand Canyon Parashant National is consistent with the Monument Proclamation. Under the Antiquities Act, BLM must protect objects identified in the presidential proclamations that establish national monuments. If BLM determines, through the current planning process or otherwise, that any monument objects are harmed by current management, then management (including permit conditions) will be modified accordingly.

Also, the renewal of grazing permits are allowed: As provided for in 43 CFRs 4100 where the objectives of regulations are “. . . to promote healthy sustainable rangeland ecosystems; to accelerate restoration and improvement of public rangelands to properly functioning conditions; to promote the orderly use, . . . ; to establish efficient and effective administration of grazing of public rangelands; . . .”, and as provided for in the Land Use Plans in accordance with multiple-use objectives, requirements and provisions of established laws, regulations and BLM policies incorporating DPC Objectives using the Ecological Site Index approach.

Renewal of the grazing permit would comply with Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act and ARS§ 49-202 of the State Environmental Quality Act Certification. The management practices of the allotment are in conformance with Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, and are designed to assist management in meeting these Standards for Rangeland Health through guideline consistency on the Mainstreet Grazing Allotment.

As required by Bureau Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-052 renewal of these grazing permits would not result in an adverse effect on energy development, production or distribution.

Authority: The authority for this proposed decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4100.0-8 “The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b).”

4110.3 “The authorized officer shall periodically review the permitted use specified in grazing permits or leases and shall make changes in the permitted use as needed to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to properly functioning condition, to conform with land use plans or activity plans or to comply with provisions of subpart 4180 of this part.”

4130.2(a) “Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans. Permits or leases shall specify the types and levels of use authorized, including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. These grazing permits or leases shall also specify terms and conditions pursuant to 4130.3, 4130.3-1, and 4130.3-2.”

4130.2(b) “The authorized officer shall consult, cooperate and coordinate with affected permittees or lessees, the State having lands or responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public prior to the issuance or renewal of grazing permits and leases.”

4130.3 “Livestock grazing permits and leases shall contain terms and conditions determined by the authorized officer to be appropriate to achieve the management and resource condition objectives for public lands and other lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and to ensure conformance with the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part.”

4130.3-1(a) “The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity of the allotment.”

4130.3-2 “The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits or leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands...”

4130.2(f) “The authorized officer will not offer, grant or renew grazing permits or leases when the applicants, including permittees/lessees seeking renewal, refuse to accept the proposed terms and conditions of a permit or lease.”

4160.1(a) “Proposed decisions shall be served on any affected applicant, permittee, or lessee, and any agent and lien holder of record, who is affected by the proposed actions, terms or conditions, or modification relating to applications, permits and agreements (including range improvement permits) or leases, by certified mail or personal delivery. Copies of proposed decisions shall also be sent to the interest publics.”

4160.2 “Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interests may protest the proposed decision under Sec. 4160.1 of this title in person or in writing to the authorized officer within 15 days after receipt of such decision.”

4180.2(c) The authorized officer shall take appropriate action as soon as practicable but not later than the start of next grazing year upon a determination that existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve standards and conform with the guidelines that are made effective under this section...”

Protests:

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interests may protest the proposed decision under 43 CFR 4160.1 in person or in writing to the authorized officer, Becky Hammond, at 345 East Riverside Dr., St. George, Utah 84790, within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the proposed decision is in error.

In the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal and petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on appeal under 43 CFR 4160.4, 4.21 and 4.470. The appeal and petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above, within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error.

Should you wish to file a motion for stay, the appellant shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

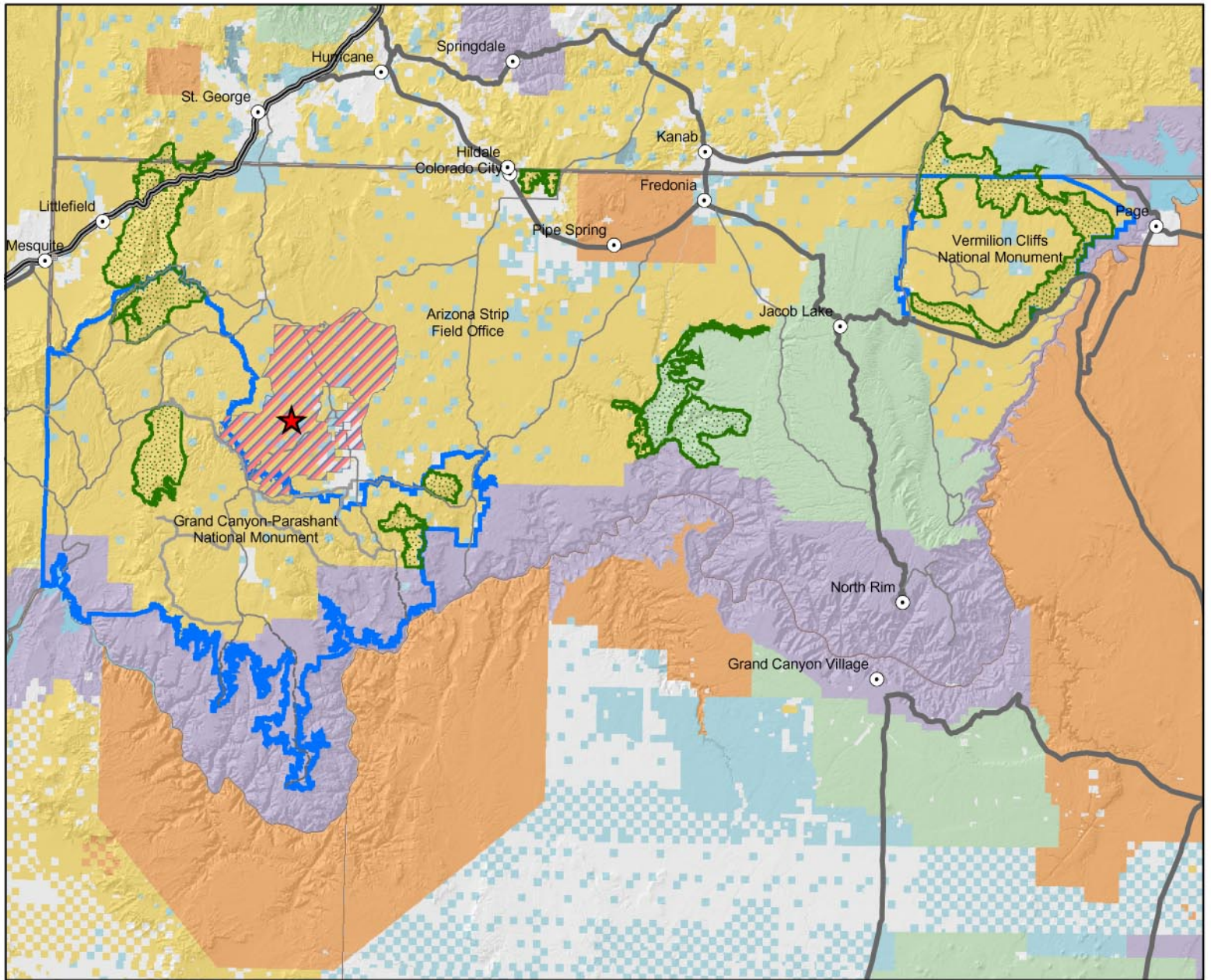
- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant’s success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors the stay.

As noted above the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

Sincerely,

/s/ Becky Hammond

Becky Hammond, Field Manager
Arizona Strip Field Office



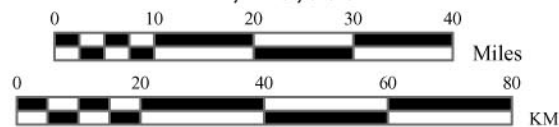
Legend

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Area of NEPA Project | Bureau of Land Management | National Park Service | Interstate |
| Designated Wilderness | State Lands | Indian Lands | Primary Routes |
| Monuments | Private Lands | National Forest | Secondary Routes |
| | | | Light Duty Routes |
| | | | 4WD Routes |

Location Map



1:1,220,000



CAUTION:

Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona Strip District Office

Map created on July 30, 2007

