

# ARIZONA Planning Bulletin



Ironwood Forest National Monument  
Resource Management Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement (RMP and EIS)

Bureau of Land Management • Tucson Field Office

MARCH 2007

The BLM Tucson Field Office would like to thank everyone who participated in the public meetings or submitted comments throughout the development of the RMP/EIS for the Ironwood Forest National Monument. The continuing interest from agencies, organizations, and individuals has helped BLM develop the Draft RMP/EIS.

BLM conducted a public workshop in the summer of 2005 to present the preliminary draft alternatives for the RMP. Based on the comments received from the public and agencies, BLM revised the alternatives. In addition, BLM conducted an extensive evaluation of the travel routes within the monument in support of the planning effort. Since revising the preliminary draft alternatives and completing the route evaluation, BLM has conducted analyses to determine the potential impacts from the management strategies that would be employed under each of the alternatives. These analyses are presented in the Draft RMP/EIS.



## Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Available

The Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM) is now available for public review and comment. The RMP/EIS can be accessed at [http://www.blm.gov/az/env\\_docs/library/rmps/rmps.htm](http://www.blm.gov/az/env_docs/library/rmps/rmps.htm).

For additional information or to request a printed copy or CD version of the Draft RMP/EIS, please contact the Tucson Field Office at (520) 258-7200 or by e-mail at [AZ\\_IFNM\\_RMP@blm.gov](mailto:AZ_IFNM_RMP@blm.gov). Printed copies of the Draft RMP/EIS are available for review at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tucson Field Office at 12661 E. Broadway, Tucson, Arizona. In addition, copies are available for review at the following public libraries: Geasa-Marana Branch Library in Marana, Arizona; Salazar-Ajo Branch Library in Ajo, Arizona; Joel D. Valdez Main Library and the Nanini Branch Library in Tucson, Arizona; and Casa Grande Public Library in Casa Grande, Arizona.

## Public Input Requested

BLM requests your comments on the Draft RMP/EIS. Based on your input, BLM may revise the preferred alternative presented in the Draft RMP/EIS. BLM will then prepare a Proposed RMP and Final EIS. To assure that your comments are fully considered in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS, they must be received by May 30, 2007.

Comments are most useful when they address one or more of the following:

- Possible errors in the analysis
- New information that would have a bearing on the analysis
- Misinformation that would affect the outcome of the analysis
- Requests for clarification
- A substantive new alternative whose mix of allocations differs from those under any of the alternatives.

When commenting on a particular statement or map in the document, please refer to the section number and title, or map number and title to which your comment applies.

Please note that public comments, including names and street addresses of

respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Tucson Field Office. Comments may be published as part of the Final EIS or other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Written comments should be sent to the attention of: Mark Lambert, IFNM Planning Lead, BLM Tucson Field Office, 12661 East Broadway, Tucson, Arizona 85748-7208. We appreciate your interest and encourage your continued involvement in the planning process.

## Public Meetings

To ensure you have opportunities to share your comments about the Draft RMP/EIS, five public meetings will be held in four locations: Tucson, Sahuarita, Sells, and Chandler. The specific meeting locations are listed in this newsletter. The meetings will be an open house format for the public to interact with BLM staff. A brief presentation will be given approximately 30 minutes after the start of each meeting.

## Summary of the Alternatives

BLM analyzed four alternatives including the preferred alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS, which are summarized below.

### ALTERNATIVE A, NO ACTION

Alternative A, the "No Action" Alternative, would continue management of public land within the IFNM according to the management prescriptions of the 1989 Phoenix RMP and the Eastern Arizona Grazing EIS, as amended by the Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management and the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. Alternative A would include modifications to management mandated by the Proclamation, which BLM has already implemented with current management guidance for the IFNM.

**Bureau of Land Management**

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**ALTERNATIVE B**

The management theme of Alternative B is preservation—it is the most restrictive strategy, designed to protect the monument's resources by limiting use of the area's resources to an allowable minimum. This alternative places more restrictions on motorized travel throughout the monument and favors dispersed, non-motorized recreational activities over motorized recreational activities. The types of allowable uses and the intensity of those uses are restricted to provide the strongest, reasonable protection for objects of historic, scientific, and aesthetic interest within the monument.

**ALTERNATIVE C**

Alternative C is BLM's preferred alternative. It incorporates elements from each of the other alternatives to strike a balance between long-term conservation of public land and resources within the IFNM, and uses that have traditionally taken place on the land within the monument, such as grazing and recreation.

In sensitive resource areas, Alternative C would provide a higher level of resource protection and less public use; however, greater opportunities for public use would be allowed outside those areas.

**ALTERNATIVE D**

The management theme of Alternative D is access—it emphasizes the maintenance of existing public access to monument lands and resources. It identifies areas that are most appropriate to accommodate various uses—especially those identified as desirable during public scoping—and emphasizes those uses, particularly with respect to transportation and recreation. It includes the most miles of routes designated for motorized use, would allow for the establishment of more recreational sites (e.g., campsites), and generally provides a maximum amount of allowable uses that would still afford adequate protection of the monument's objects and conform to the guiding principle of sustained yield of renewable resources on public land, as set forth by the Proclamation and FLPMA.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Please Attend! A brief presentation will be given approximately 30 minutes after the start of each meeting.

**March 29, 2007: Tucson, Arizona**

Pima County Parks & Recreation  
3500 West River Road  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**April 3, 2007: Sahuarita, Arizona**

Sahuarita High School  
350 West Sahuarita Road  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**April 5, 2007: Chandler, Arizona**

Chandler Public Library, City Council Chambers  
22 South Delaware Street  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**April 10, 2007: Sells, Arizona**

Legislative Council Chambers, Main Street  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**April 12, 2007: Tucson, Arizona**

Pima County Parks & Recreation  
3500 West River Road  
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**BLM Staff Updates:**

**Mark Lambert –  
RMP Project Leader**

Mark assumed the role of RMP Project Leader in January 2006. Before coming to Tucson, Mark worked in BLM's Planning and Science Policy Division in Washington, D.C. He can be reached at (520) 258-7242.

**Scott Berkenfield –  
Monument Manager**

Scott was selected as the IFNM Manager in June 2006. He came to Tucson from the BLM Monticello Field Office in southern Utah where he was the Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner. Prior to joining the BLM, Scott worked for the National Park Service and the Forest Service. He can be reached at (520) 258-7203.