



IDENTIFYING A RANGE OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of developing new Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for the Sonoran Desert National Monument and other Federal lands outside the Monument within the Phoenix South Planning Area. The RMPs need to consider alternative ways of managing (1) natural and cultural resources on public lands and (2) sustainable multiple uses of the resources. As part of the plan we will compare and analyze these alternatives to help us choose the best future management for the public lands. We are currently working on identifying a “range of alternatives” to consider and analyze in the plan.

We have developed some tables to help guide the development of the alternatives. The tables contain some preliminary ideas on what the **limits** of the range of alternatives might be for key topics. When we develop the draft range of alternatives, we will include these outer limits and a range of options in between. The tables also include (in the middle column) a summary of the “no action” alternative, which describes our current management. The tables cover 14 areas including:

- Air Quality
- Caves
- Geological Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Lands and Realty
- Transportation and Access
- Public safety
- Watershed
- Cultural Resources
- Mineral Resources
- Grazing
- Hazardous Materials and Wastes
- Recreation
- Visual Resources

(The range of alternatives for all these resources, as well as for biological resources and wildfire management, will be developed next.)

The tables generally apply to both SDNM and Phoenix South; however, certain options cannot be applied to the SDNM because of the Monument Proclamation. No option that is incompatible with the Proclamation will be considered for the SDNM.

We welcome any thoughts you might have about this preliminary information. We will continue to ask for public input as we move forward in developing alternatives to be included in the draft RMP and EIS.

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

AIR QUALITY		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p>No management activities have been identified in this category.</p>	<p><i>Compliance with law and regulation</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comply with Federal and State requirements to ensure no activities violate the air quality standards. 2. Take action when an air quality agency identifies an air quality compliance issue, including fugitive dust, on public lands. <p><i>Coordinate with other agencies</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Participate in the Interagency Smoke Program. 4. Review and comment on proposed permit activities for all major sources within 50 kilometers of a wilderness area for possible effects on the wilderness area. <p><i>Manage public uses</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Control excessive fugitive dust at construction sites and recreation activity areas in the Sentinel Plain, Sand Tank Mountains, and Ajo Airport parcels and monitor air quality trends. <p><i>Monitor Air Quality</i> No actions were identified under this heading</p>	<p><i>Compliance with law and regulation</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comply with Federal and State requirements to ensure no activities violate the air quality standards. 2. Take action when an air quality agency identifies an air quality compliance issue, including fugitive dust, on public lands. <p><i>Coordinate with other agencies</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Work with adjoining land managers and users to mitigate air quality effects on public lands. 4. Participate in the Interagency Smoke Program 5. Review and comment on proposed activities for major sources permits within 50 kilometers and for non-major source permits within 10 kilometers of a wilderness area or SDNM for possible effects on the area. <p><i>Manage public uses</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Manage unpaved roads on or near (within 10 kilometers) public lands by using one or more of the following control methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lowering speed limits Create obstacles to speed (such as speed bumps) • utilizing fugitive dust control measures such as dust suppressants or gravel • installing cattle guards at the ends of unpaved roads prior to paved roads 7. Control excessive fugitive dust at construction sites and recreation activity areas. <p><i>Monitor Air Quality</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Monitor visibility, ozone, acid deposition and other Air Quality indicators. 9. Encourage research of air quality related issues.

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

CAVES		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p>No management actions have been identified under this category.</p>	<p><i>Cave Protection and Management</i> 1. According to law, protect significant cave resources including cultural, scientific, biological, geological, hydrological, educational and recreational values; and manage each cave for its primary unique resource opportunity.</p> <p><i>Cave Inventory</i> No management actions were identified under this heading.</p>	<p><i>Cave Protection and Management</i> 1. Protect significant cave resources including cultural, scientific, biological, geological, hydrological, educational and recreational values; and manage each cave for its primary unique resource opportunity. 2. Evaluate caves discovered on public lands on a case-by-case basis and identify appropriate management direction related to primary cave value(s).</p> <p><i>Cave Inventory</i> 3. Conduct targeted field surveys of public lands prior to any ground disturbing activities or land disposal/exchange actions, to determine whether significant caves exist. 4. Conduct targeted field surveys to establish an inventory of caves on public lands. Evaluate the significance of caves based on criteria established as part of the inventory. 5. Establish agreements with local scientific museums or universities to conduct surveys as directed by BLM. 6. Set inventory priorities to survey those areas that are geologically most likely to have caves and are relatively accessible to the public.</p>

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p><i>SDNM</i></p> <p>1. Protect geological resources in SDNM in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397.</p> <p><i>Unique Geologic Resources</i></p> <p>2. Do not manage the Sentinel Plain Lava Flow south of Interstate 8 as a unique geologic resource.</p> <p><i>Other Geologic Resources</i></p> <p>3. Manage other geological resources on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p><i>SDNM</i></p> <p>1. Protect geological resources in SDNM in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397.</p> <p><i>Unique Geologic Resources</i></p> <p>2. Manage Sentinel Plain as a unique geologic resource in accordance with the current SRMA designation.</p> <p><i>Other Geologic Resources</i></p> <p>3. Manage geological resources on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p><i>SDNM</i></p> <p>1. Protect geological resources in SDNM in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397.</p> <p><i>Unique Geologic Resources</i></p> <p>2. Manage the Sentinel Plain Lava Flow south of Interstate 8 as a unique geologic resource.</p> <p>3. Determine if any other areas contain unique geologic resources and prescribe appropriate management actions to protect those resources.</p> <p><i>Other Geologic Resources</i></p> <p>4. Manage other geological resources on a case-by-case basis.</p>

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
No actions have been identified under this alternative category.	<p><i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage paleontological resources for their scientific, educational, and recreational values according to agency-wide BLM guidelines. 2. Evaluate actions required to manage individual paleontological resources discovered on public lands on a case-by-case basis and mitigate project effects in accordance with agency-wide BLM guidelines. <p><i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Restrict collection of all vertebrate fossils to legitimate scientific uses and only when officially authorized by permit. 4. Allow collection of "reasonable" amounts of invertebrate and plant fossils, in Phoenix South, when not aided by mechanical or motorized devices, in accordance with 40 CFR 3622. 5. On the SDNM, no collection of paleontological resources is allowed. <p><i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. No actions are identified in this category under the no-action alternative. 	<p><i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage paleontological resources for their scientific, educational, and recreational values according to agency-wide BLM guidelines. 2. Evaluate actions required to manage individual paleontological resources discovered on public lands on a case-by-case basis and mitigate project effects in accordance with agency-wide BLM guidelines. <p><i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Restrict collection of paleontological resources to legitimate scientific uses and only when officially authorized by permit. <p><i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Complete field surveys for paleontological resources prior to ground disturbing actions or land disposal/exchange actions. 5. Develop an inventory of paleontological resources on public lands by conducting targeted field surveys.. 6. Assign survey priorities to those areas that are most likely to: include significant paleontological resources, be relatively accessible to the public, and/or be vulnerable to damage or loss from land use activities.

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

LANDS AND REALTY		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p><i>Realty and Land Use Authorizations</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dispose of isolated parcels of public land, lands with split estate (mineral and surface), and other lands identified as needed for public purposes. 2. Conduct no land acquisitions. 3. Allow expansion of existing communication sites and evaluate new communication sites on a case-by-case basis. <p><i>Corridors</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Provide for utility access in SDNM through options such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retaining both or one existing corridor(s) • implementing use restrictions, such as underground-only utilities 5. Retain the existing utility corridors and establish additional new corridors (at least one-mile wide) in Phoenix South. 6. Allow corridors in Phoenix South to be increased to or designated at up to two miles in width to accommodate industry needs. 7. Continue to allow small utility distribution systems to be developed on an "as needed" basis. <p><i>Renewable Energy</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Work with industry to identify areas with high renewable energy potential in Phoenix South and designate areas where renewable energy development will be a priority. 	<p><i>Realty and Land Use Authorizations</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain all lands and interests in lands within the SDNM, as provided by Presidential Proclamation 7397, unless disposal by exchange furthers the protective purposes of the Monument. 2. Dispose of or acquire lands in Phoenix South identified for these actions in the Lower Gila South RMP. Lands not identified for disposal will be retained unless needed to accommodate State exchanges, State in-lieu selections, or legislative action. 3. Acquire State and private mineral estate underlying Federal surface estate, and in Phoenix South, dispose of Federal minerals that underlie State or privately owned surface estates. 4. Identify for disposal all subsurface mineral estate underlying Federal surface designated for disposal. 5. Evaluate proposals for new communication sites on a case-by-case basis. <p><i>Corridors</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Retain the 10 existing corridors in the SDNM and Phoenix South (each one-mile-wide) and route major utility rights-of-way in these corridors. 7. Allow small utility distribution systems to be developed on an "as needed" basis. <p><i>Renewable Energy</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Do not authorize renewable energy sites in SDNM. Valid existing rights will be respected in the SDNM. 9. Authorize renewable energy sites in Phoenix South on a case-by-case basis. 	<p><i>Realty and Land Use Authorizations</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain all public land within Federal ownership (surface and subsurface); no disposals. 2. Acquire non-Federal surface and subsurface estate to further resource protection goals. Parcels prioritized for acquisition could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lands with cultural resources including the Anza National Historic Trail • threatened and endangered species habitat • wildlife corridors or lands with unique recreation opportunities • lands in the SDNM 3. Prohibit new communication sites on public land in SDNM and other areas with sensitive resources. <p><i>Corridors</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Allow no new utility corridors or widening of existing corridors in Phoenix South and retain only those corridors identified, in coordination with industry, as necessary. 5. Remove all corridors in SDNM. 6. Continue to allow small utility distribution systems to be developed in Phoenix South on an "as needed" basis. <p><i>Renewable Energy</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. In Phoenix South, establish exclusion areas in Phoenix South where renewable energy sites will not be allowed. 8. Do not authorize or allow development of renewable energy test or production sites in SDNM.

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS (INCLUDING RECREATION VEHICLE USE)		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p><i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Vehicle Use</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain designated wildernesses as closed vehicle use areas. Generally designate non-wilderness locations, including existing ACECs, as limited vehicle use areas (i.e., vehicles would be limited to routes designated as available for vehicle use). Allow potential future designation of some modestly-sized open areas, outside of SDNM and existing ACECs, as open vehicle use areas. <p><i>Designate the Routes Available for Vehicle Use on Public Lands that are Designated as limited for Vehicle Use</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the existing route network as available for vehicle use. Establish opportunities for motorized recreation, including areas of dense route networks that are available for a variety of uses (e.g., single track, motorcycle routes). Increase recreational opportunities on public lands by designating washes, unless the wash is closed for resource protection purposes, new connector routes, and spur routes, as part of the route system. <p><i>Establish, Maintain, and Enhance Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance public access to public lands by establishing legal public access where necessary to maintain existing physical access and expanding legal access to underserved areas. Provide access to non-federal inholdings. 	<p><i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Vehicle Use</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain designated wildernesses and ACECs as closed vehicle use areas. Limit vehicle use to existing and/or designated routes elsewhere within the SDNM and Phoenix South decision areas. <p><i>Designate the Routes Available for Vehicle Use on Public Lands that are Designated as Limited for Vehicle Use</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Retain existing route network as open for vehicle use, based on the current BLM and ALRIS route inventory. <p><i>Establish and Maintain Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing legal public access and, to the extent possible, maintain existing physical access to public lands. <p><i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support motorized or non-motorized race events, outside of SDNM and parcels relinquished from the BMGR, and commercial use on existing and/or designated routes. Allow maintenance or upgrading of existing routes. 	<p><i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Vehicle Use</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain designated wildernesses and ACECs as closed vehicle use areas except designate existing through routes in ACECs as open for vehicle use. Close areas that contain wilderness characteristics or ecological resources sensitive to fragmentation from roads to vehicle use. Designate other locations within the SDNM and Phoenix South decision areas as limited vehicle use areas (i.e., vehicles would be limited to routes designated as available for vehicle use). Prohibit designating open vehicle use areas on public lands but promote establishing open areas outside of public lands if regional public demand for off-road recreation emerges. <p><i>Designate the Routes Available for Vehicle Use on Public Lands that are Designated as Limited for Vehicle Use</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the route network designated as open for vehicle use to: (a) protect and restore the objects of SDNM; (b) protect and restore sensitive resources in the Phoenix South area (c) eliminate routes that are within the areas that contain wilderness characteristics; and (d) eliminate routes that are redundant or unsupported by legal public access. Limit vehicle travel in washes to existing routes that incorporate washes as part of the route. Establish designated areas that are limited or closed to the use of certain types of vehicles.

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS (INCLUDING RECREATION VEHICLE USE)		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p><i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i></p> <p>8. Support motorized or non-motorized race events, outside of SDNM, and commercial use on public land routes designated as open for vehicle use.</p> <p>9. Allow further planned expansion of the overall designated access point and route network outside of designated closed wilderness.</p> <p>10. Allow maintenance or upgrading of existing routes to occur to preserve passable physical conditions and/or development of alternative access points or routes to compensate for the loss of system components.</p> <p>11. Prepare a transportation plan and promote ongoing public involvement in managing the access point and route system.</p>		<p><i>Establish and Maintain Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i></p> <p>8. Develop legal public access for routes that are designated for public use and to provide access to non-federal inholdings.</p> <p><i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i></p> <p>9. Prohibit motorized race events on public lands.</p> <p>10. Support qualified commercial use on public land routes designated as open for vehicle use.</p> <p>11. Prohibit further expansion of the designated access point and route network but, when necessary, allow maintenance of existing routes to preserve passable physical conditions.</p> <p>12. Prepare a transportation plan and promote ongoing public involvement in managing the access point and route system.</p>

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

PUBLIC SAFETY		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p><i>Maintain an Inventory of Public Safety Hazards and Incidents and Corresponding Management Actions</i></p> <p>1. Continue the same inventory programs as the no-action alternative.</p> <p><i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i></p> <p>2. Develop public safety information in BLM visitor use brochures, web sites, and Sand Tank Mountains area permit materials.</p> <p><i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i></p> <p>3. Continue to require that visitors obtain the BMGR/Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge/SDNM visitor permit prior to entering the Sand Tank Mountains area of SDNM.</p> <p>4. Continue current fire safety information programs and fuel loading management practices.</p> <p>5. Emphasize visitor acceptance of the risks of entering public lands and responsibility for their own safety.</p> <p><i>Enhance Public Safety Through Emergency Response Services</i></p> <p>6. Maintain current law enforcement/public safety patrol, fire suppression, and search and rescue programs.</p>	<p><i>Maintain an Inventory of Public Safety Hazards and Incidents and Corresponding Management Actions</i></p> <p>1. Maintain an inventory of abandoned mine sites as these sites are reported.</p> <p>2. Maintain records of public safety/law enforcement incidents—such as wildland fires, accidents, or crimes—that affect public safety as these events are reported.</p> <p><i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i></p> <p>3. Provide public safety information in BLM visitor use brochures, web sites, and Sand Tank Mountains area permit materials.</p> <p>4. Post signs in the field to identify certain hazardous situations.</p> <p><i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i></p> <p>5. Require that visitors obtain the BMGR/Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge/SDNM visitor permit prior to entering the Sand Tank Mountains area of SDNM.</p> <p>6. Provide public safety information about wildland fire closures and other restrictions.</p> <p>7. Manage fuel loading in accordance with the current fire management plan.</p> <p><i>Enhance Public Safety Through Emergency Response Services</i></p> <p>8. Maintain official law enforcement/public safety patrols and improve search and rescue coordination and cooperation in wilderness areas.</p>	<p><i>Maintain an Inventory of Public Safety Hazards and Incidents and Corresponding Management Actions</i></p> <p>1. Expand the existing inventory of hazardous mine sites and develop an inventory of other hazardous sites, including abandoned mines and wells, construction sites, vehicle routes, unexploded ordnance, and other potential hazards, through proactive surveys and third party reporting and corresponding management action records.</p> <p>2. Expand record keeping for public safety/law enforcement incidents into an inventory of incidents and corresponding management actions.</p> <p>3. Prepare an annual public safety report.</p> <p><i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i></p> <p>4. Provide enhanced public safety information, including an emphasis on abandoned mines, recreational shooting, wildland fire closures and risks, and unexploded ordnance safety, in BLM visitor use brochures and web sites.</p> <p>5. Post signs in the field to identify certain hazardous situations.</p> <p><i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i></p> <p>6. Manage hazards by barring entry to hazardous mines, wells, or other dangerous areas; resolving recreational shooting conflicts, removing unexploded ordnance, and resolving other hazardous conditions in accordance with identified annual priorities.</p> <p>7. Expand the BMGR/Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge/SDNM visitor entry permit to apply to the Sentinel Plain south of Interstate 8.</p> <p><i>Enhance Public Safety Through Emergency Response Services</i></p> <p>8. Expand official law enforcement/public safety patrols and improve search and rescue coordination and cooperation.</p>

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

WATERSHED		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p><i>Watershed (Soil)</i> <i>Management of Uses</i> 1. After construction, disturbed surfaces will be allowed to naturally revegetate if there is no expected loss to soil resources.</p> <p><i>Management for Resource Protection</i> 2. Mitigate erosion of cultural resource and ecologically sensitive sites if an irretrievable loss of resource is suspected. 3. Biological soil crusts and desert pavement will be conserved, where practical.</p> <p><i>Watershed (Water)</i> <i>Water Use</i> 4. Manage watersheds through natural reclamation; if there are no expected hazards to public or irrecoverable soil loss. 5. Develop ground water resources where required and not in conflict with other resource conservation. 6. Allow field activities relating to groundwater exploration and development anywhere except areas of high sensitivity to ecological or cultural disturbance. 7. Assess impacts of management activities in special management areas on stream flows as directed by Clean Water Act.</p> <p><i>Water Quality</i> 8. Consider impact of runoff control projects on the salinity of waters draining to the Colorado River. 9. Use Rangeland Health Standards as Best Management Practices to comply with Clean Water Act and AZ/BLM non-point source pollution agreement.</p>	<p><i>Watershed (Soil)</i> <i>Management of Uses</i> 1. During construction of all rangeland developments, surface resources will be disturbed as little as possible. After construction, disturbed surfaces will be restored to a natural condition as far as is practicable.</p> <p><i>Management for Resource Protection</i> 2. In Sand Tanks, Sentinel Plains, and Ajo Parcels, assess, on a project basis, the vulnerability of soils to disruption and subsequent wind and water erosion.</p> <p><i>Watershed (Water)</i> <i>Water Use</i> 3. Repair and maintain the existing watershed dike system and associated watershed fence in upper Vekol Valley. 4. In Sand Tanks, Sentinel Plain, and Ajo parcels keep groundwater development and exploration to a minimum in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), other management areas, and other environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p><i>Water Quality</i> 5. Comply with Clean Water Act.</p>	<p><i>Watershed (Soil)</i> <i>Management of Uses</i> 1. During construction of all developments, surface resources will be disturbed as little as possible. Mitigation plans will be developed and disturbed surfaces will be restored and soils stabilized. 2. Develop uses on areas where the soil can support the intended use (e.g., areas where soils are resistant to erosion).</p> <p><i>Management for Resource Protection</i> 3. Develop an erosion hazards map that can be used to assess potential impacts to cultural sites and landscapes and ecologically sensitive areas. Mitigate problems immediately. 4. Biological soil crusts and desert pavement will be inventoried in the Decision Area and conserved.</p> <p><i>Watershed (Water)</i> <i>Water Use</i> 5. Develop and implement a watershed improvement plan that restores watershed condition, including modified landscapes such as dike systems. 6. Prohibit groundwater development and exploration in SDNM, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and other sensitive areas. 7. Allow groundwater exploration and development only if minimal resource impact can be demonstrated and a mitigation plan is developed. 8. Prohibit management actions in special management areas that impact stream flow.</p> <p><i>Water Quality</i> 9. Design runoff control structures that reduce salinity load to Colorado River tributaries from Decision Area. 10. Preclude sediment load that causes impairment of the Gila River and violation of state surface water quality criteria.</p>

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

CULTURAL RESOURCES		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p>No management actions have been identified under this alternative category.</p>	<p><i>Inventory and Evaluation</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allocate cultural resources identified through inventory for scientific uses. 2. Conduct a cultural resource inventory in the Sand Tanks, Sentinel Plains, and Ajo parcels (former Goldwater Range parcels) prior to undertaking any BLM-sponsored projects affecting cultural resources, and act as lead agency for Section 106 compliance as outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1996. <p><i>Resource Protection and Conservation</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Reduce or eliminate indirect impacts of land uses on cultural resources as identified through study plots. 4. Provide special protection for significant cultural sites that are being impacted or threatened by the public. 5. Minimize impacts on cultural resources in the Sand Tanks, Sentinel Plains, and Ajo parcels by avoiding cultural property locations whenever feasible and using previously disturbed areas as the preferred locations for ground-disturbing activities when practical. 6. Conserve a representative sample of site types in the planning area for future use. <p><i>Planning</i></p> <p>No management actions were identified under this heading.</p> <p><i>Resource Use (Study and Public Interpretation)</i></p> <p>No actions were identified under this heading.</p>	<p><i>Inventory and Evaluation</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the inventory of known cultural resources recorded on public lands and make or update use allocations as warranted. Develop an electronic database to track assigned use allocations. 2. Conduct general inventories of cultural resources on public lands (in addition to inventories for specific projects), by focusing on areas with potential significant cultural resources that are at risk. Currently identified high priority areas include: Anza Trail corridor, Lower Gila River Valley, Saddle Mountain, Ajo Block, and Vekol Valley. <p><i>Resource Protection and Conservation</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Develop and implement limit-of-acceptable-change monitoring and an adaptive management program, emphasizing areas accessible by roads and trails. 4. Develop and implement a formal program for identifying “benchmark” examples of site types for protection and preservation in place. 5. Designate ACEC(s) as needed and appropriate to protect cultural resources, such as the Painted Rocks Petroglyph Site. 6. Protect cultural landscapes and viewsheds to preserve the context of the resources. <p><i>Planning</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Develop cultural resource management plans for high priority areas including any designated cultural resource-based ACECs. <p><i>Resource Use (Study and Public Interpretation)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Develop additional sites for public interpretation. Current candidates include: Bighorn Station and associated Bender family ranching sites, Estrella railroad siding, and Papago Indian Chief Mine. 9. Promote archaeological and historical research through partnerships, cooperative agreements, and volunteer programs.

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

MINERAL RESOURCES		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p>Phoenix South</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review existing withdrawals and segregations, including Sentinel Plain Lava Flow and Ajo Airport parcels (formerly part of the Goldwater Range), and consider opening to mineral entry. 2. Lands with high potential will be prioritized for mineral development. 	<p>SDNM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Federal lands and interests in lands are appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws. Mineral interests within the monument, not owned by the United States, shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition by the United States. 2. For those lands within the monument encumbered by mining claims, no activity beyond casual use as defined in the 43 CFR 3809 regulations will be allowed without a validity determination. <p>Phoenix South <i>Leasable Minerals</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. All lands are open for mineral leasing and exploration except those lands with existing segregations or withdrawals. Leasable minerals will be administered in accordance with existing regulations. 4. Lease applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be issued with needed restrictions to protect resources. <p><i>Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Except for legislatively withdrawn areas and other withdrawn and segregated areas, all public lands within the planning area are open to mineral material disposal through sales or free use permits on a case-by-case basis. <p><i>Locatable Minerals</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. All lands are open, except those withdrawn and segregated areas. Exploration and development will be administered in accordance with existing regulations. 	<p>Phoenix South <i>Leasable Minerals</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certain lands may have restrictions to exploration and leasing based on resource management priorities and conflicts. These restrictions could range from closure to special stipulations or mitigation. <p><i>Saleable Minerals</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To ensure no net loss of tortoise habitat, mineral material disposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis in identified tortoise habitat. 3. Certain lands may have restrictions on mineral sales based on resource management priorities and conflicts. These restrictions could range from closure to special stipulations or mitigation. <p><i>Locatable Minerals</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Certain lands may be closed to entry for locatable minerals based on resource management priorities and conflicts. These restrictions could range from closure to special stipulations or mitigation.

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

GRAZING		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p><i>SDNM</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate federal grazing leases within SDNM south of Interstate 8 by 2008 in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397. 2. North of I-8, reclassify allotments as appropriate (perennial, perennial/ephemeral, and ephemeral) for management of vegetation and ecological processes to meet desired future conditions and to protect monument resources, with consideration of the Special Ephemeral Rule and public input. <p><i>Phoenix South</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Reclassify allotments as appropriate (perennial, perennial/ephemeral, ephemeral) for management of vegetation and ecological processes, consideration of the Special Ephemeral Rule, and public input. 		<p><i>SDNM</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate grazing within the SDNM. Fence areas that are closed to grazing and remove range developments that will not be converted to another purpose (e.g., wildlife waters, recreation uses, etc.). <p><i>Phoenix South</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Eliminate grazing on all public lands in Phoenix South. Fence areas that are closed to grazing and remove range developments that will not be converted to another purpose (e.g., wildlife waters, recreation uses, etc.).

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND SOLID WASTES		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
No management actions have been identified under this alternative category.	<p><i>Identify Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Plan/Implement Management Responses</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rely on routine BLM field work activities or non-BLM sources to discover and report spills or other releases of hazardous materials/solid wastes on public lands. 2. Investigate reported hazardous materials/solid wastes sites and plan necessary containment and/or cleanup responses on a cases-by-case basis. 3. Generally establish priorities for investigating releases and planning/implementing responses based on the order in which releases are discovered unless other factors, such as the immediacy of a public health threat, elevate the response urgency. 4. Identify and prioritize abandoned mines (as funding allows) for containment and/or cleanup responses, in part, based on the potential for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 high levels of heavy metals in waste rock or tailings 4.2 ground or surface water quality degradation <p><i>Identify and Pursue Potentially Responsible Parties to Recover Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Identify and pursue potentially responsible parties based on readily available information 	<p><i>Identify Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Plan/Implement Management Responses</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review records and, where necessary, conduct field surveys to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 establish a comprehensive inventory of known historic and active mining sites and other spill or release areas on public lands where hazardous materials and wastes are known or suspected to be present 1.2 evaluate the extent/severity of the known or potential hazardous materials/solid wastes problem 1.3 identify the probable scope of needed containment and cleanup efforts 1.4 rank all sites as to their relative priority for active treatment planning and action 2. Maintain an up-to-date inventory and treatment priority list of hazardous materials/solid waste sites by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 updating the inventory established through the review of known historic and active sites as information on previously unknown historic or new sites is identified 2.2 establishing a simple suspected site reporting system for BLM personnel engaged in all types of field work activities 2.3 encourage citizens to report suspected spill and dump sites or suspected dumping activities 3. Implement treatment planning, containment, cleanup, and any required monitoring at priority hazardous materials/solid waste sites. <p><i>Identify and Pursue Potentially Responsible Parties to Recover Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Conduct active investigations to identify potentially responsible parties and recover planning, containment, cleanup, monitoring, investigation, and enforcement costs associated with spill/release responses.

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

RECREATION		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p>General Management Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage to maximize recreation opportunities and use to the extent that use remains sustainable relative to natural/cultural resource conservation and protection goals. 2. Authorize commercial recreation use permits. <p>Recreation Zoning and Special Recreation Management Areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Do not designate public lands as primitive recreation management areas. 4. Designate special recreation management areas to provide areas to support intensive recreation uses. <p>Recreation Services and Use Supervision</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Emphasize recreation use data collection that measures social and economic benefits and identifies community preferences for recreation and quality of life outcomes. 6. Develop recreation sites and other amenities as needed to accommodate and support sustainable recreational use demand. 7. Do not expand the special visitor entry permit program to areas other than the Sand Tank Mountains. <p>Camping and Visitor Stay Limits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Allow camping in designated locations for periods longer than the 14-day limit on camping within a 25-mile radius of one location on public lands. 9. Promote Painted Rocks Petroglyph campground and establish additional developed campgrounds (including recreation fee demonstration sites) where not in competition with privately owned sites. 	<p>General Management Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage recreation use on a case-by-case basis. <p>Recreation Zoning and Special Recreation Management Areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Manage for multiple, dispersed use outside designated wildernesses, ACECs, and special recreation management areas. 3. Maintain the Sentinel Plain Lava Flow special recreation management area and prepare a management plan. <p>Recreation Services and Use Supervision</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Continue to focus recreation data collection on visitor use of wilderness areas. 5. Maintain Painted Rocks Petroglyph campground as the only developed campground with amenities. 6. Maintain the Sand Tank Mountains area as the only public lands location where a permit is required for entry. 7. Maintain the current level of BLM management presence and regulatory enforcement relative to dispersed and concentrated recreation use sites. <p>Camping and Visitor Stay Limits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Maintain the 14-day limit on camping within a 25-mile radius of one location on public lands. 9. Continue to require campers at the Painted Rocks Petroglyph campground to pay a daily use fee under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. 	<p>General Management Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage and promote recreation activities that are compatible with emphasizing conservation and protecting natural and cultural resources. 2. Do not authorize commercial recreation use permits. <p>Recreation Zoning and Special Recreation Management Areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Emphasize designation of primitive, non-motorized areas. 4. Maintain the Sentinel Plain Lava Flow special recreation management area and prepare a management plan. <p>Recreation Services and Use Supervision</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Develop and implement limits-of-acceptable change monitoring as a means of measuring and managing recreation impacts on natural and cultural resources and recreation use conflicts. 6. Develop recreation sites and other amenities or designated campsites and other designated use sites where needed to protect natural and cultural resources. 7. Extend the existing visitor entry permit system for the Sand Tank Mountains area to the Sentinel Plain area. 8. Require Recreation Permit for groups sizes of 50 or more. <p>Camping and Visitor Stay Limits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Reduce the 14-day limit on camping within a 25-mile radius of one location on public lands to a shorter time period in areas of concentrated use. 10. Continue to require campers at the Painted Rocks Petroglyph campground to pay a daily use fee under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. 11. Avoid establishing additional developed campgrounds or recreation fee demonstration sites unless such facilities are needed to protect natural or cultural resources.

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

RECREATION		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p>10. Allow vehicle-based camping within 100 feet of designated routes.</p> <p>11. Designate large-group camping sites and expand or develop new sites as needed to meet demand.</p> <p>Wood Cutting, Collection and Campfires</p> <p>12. Allow campfires using dead and down wood.</p> <p>Recreational Shooting</p> <p>13. Allow dispersed recreational shooting on public lands outside of designated wildernesses and developed areas in accordance with 43 CFR 8365.</p> <p>14. Develop regional shooting ranges to support concentrated recreational shooting activities.</p> <p>Rockhounding</p> <p>15. Allow collecting of “reasonable” amounts of mineral specimens, rocks, semi-precious gems, and invertebrate and plant fossils for noncommercial, personal purposes when not aided by mechanical/motorized devices.</p> <p>16. Identify and promote select rockhounding sites in appropriate areas.</p> <p>Equestrian Use</p> <p>17. Allow noncommercial and commercial equestrian use to occur on public lands.</p> <p>18. Establish watering locations for equestrian use.</p> <p>Emerging Recreation Uses</p> <p>19. Continue to manage emerging (e.g., paintball, geocaching) or unforeseen recreation uses, for which no specific policies have been identified, in accordance with existing regulatory authority.</p>	<p>10. Allow camping on all lands open to the public in accordance with standard operating procedures.</p> <p>11. Do not designate large-group camping sites.</p> <p>Wood Collection and Campfires</p> <p>12. Allow campfires using dead and down wood.</p> <p>Recreational Shooting</p> <p>13. Allow recreational shooting within the decision area outside of developed areas in accordance with 43 CFR 8365.</p> <p>Rockhounding</p> <p>14. Allow collecting of “reasonable” amounts of mineral specimens, rocks, semi-precious gems, and invertebrate and plant fossils in Phoenix South for noncommercial, personal purposes when not aided by mechanical or motorized devices.</p> <p>15. Maintain the Saddle Mountain area as a designated recreation and rockhound area in which no new roads will be allowed.</p> <p>16. Collection and removal of any materials from SDNM are prohibited.</p> <p>Equestrian Use</p> <p>17. No specific action identified.</p> <p>Emerging Recreation Uses</p> <p>18. Manage emerging (e.g., paintball, geocaching) or unforeseen recreation uses, for which no specific policies have been identified, in accordance with existing regulatory authority.</p>	<p>12. Allow vehicle-based camping only at designated campsites/pull-out locations.</p> <p>13. Designate large-group camping sites and associated length-of-stay limits to support sustainable, natural-resource based, large-group events while conserving/protecting natural and cultural resources.</p> <p>14. Manage large-group events (30 or more persons) under special recreation permit terms established for the event.</p> <p>15. Close areas to camping as required to protect natural and cultural resources.</p> <p>Wood Collection and Campfires</p> <p>16. Prohibit native wood campfires.</p> <p>17. Prohibit removal of wood from public lands.</p> <p>Recreational Shooting</p> <p>18. Eliminate unplanned and undeveloped concentrated/intense recreational shooting sites and promote developed regional shooting sites, preferably, outside of public lands.</p> <p>19. Continue dispersed recreational shooting where it is compatible with public safety in most locations outside of designated wilderness but emphasize shooting safety.</p> <p>20. Eliminate recreational shooting in the SDNM.</p> <p>21. Prohibit recreational shooting in areas where shooting is in conflict with other public lands uses or is damaging sensitive resources.</p> <p>22. Develop a recreational shooting safety management plan in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>23. Require the use of paper targets on public lands and require all brass, shells, targets, and other litter be removed.</p>

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

RECREATION		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
20. Consider designating land use allocations to accommodate emerging uses or unforeseen recreation uses.		<p><i>Rockhounding</i> 24. Close public lands to personal collecting of mineral specimens, rocks, semi-precious gems, invertebrate and plant fossils, and petrified wood.</p> <p><i>Equestrian Use</i> 25. Allow equestrian use to occur only on designated routes. 26. Require equestrian users to provide weed-free feed for their animals and restrict them from allowing their stock to consume forage on public lands.</p> <p><i>Emerging Recreation Uses</i> 27. Prohibit paintball and geocaching activities. 28. Manage emerging or unforeseen recreation uses on a case-by-case basis.</p>

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

VISUAL RESOURCES		
Action Alternative	No-Action Alternative (Based on Current Management Plans and Resource Conditions)	Action Alternative
<p>Visual Resource Management Classes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider designating VRM Class IV around urban areas. 2. Consider reclassifying selected VRM Class II areas to Class III or IV to accommodate increased use. Priority reclassification areas may include designated linear corridors (e.g., roads and utilities), areas with high mineral development potential, and other areas where resource development is emphasized. <p>Scenic Views</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Increase the number of developed trailheads, trails, and interpretive areas to take advantage of views of scenic and historic landscapes. <p>Scenic Quality No management actions were identified under this heading.</p>	<p>Visual Resource Management Classes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage designated wilderness areas as VRM Class I and manage other public lands as VRM Class III. 2. Use interim VRM classes to manage special recreation management areas, mountain ranges, and recreation travel corridors in the Sand Tanks, Sentinel Plains, and the Ajo Airport parcels under VRM Class II objectives and all other areas of these parcels under VRM Class III objectives. <p>Scenic Views No management actions were identified under this heading.</p> <p>Scenic Quality No management actions were identified under this heading.</p>	<p>Visual Resource Management Classes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand VRM Class I & II in the SDNM and primitive areas to protect visual quality. 2. Manage utility corridors and rights-of-way and other developed areas to maintain visual quality and designated class. <p>Scenic Views</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Designate scenic corridors, trails, etc., and apply VRM and scenic management prescriptions for their preservation and enhancement. 4. Place the priority in designated scenic areas (e.g., SDNM, Wilderness, ACECs, byways, historic trails) on protecting and maintaining the visual quality and designated management classes and allow further development of trailheads, trails, campgrounds, roads, utilities, etc. only to the extent that visual quality is protected. <p>Scenic Quality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Encourage development of intense use activities (utilities, mines, roads, campgrounds) in or adjacent to previously disturbed areas. 6. Restore/reclaim areas of previous disturbance or man-made modifications, and restore in a manner that would enhance future desired landscape scenic quality.

VRM CLASSES:

VRM Class I – No Visible Change: The objective is to preserve the existing character of the landscape.

VRM Class II – Change Visible but Does Not Attract Attention: The objective is to retain the existing landscape.

VRM Class III – Change Attracts Attention but is Not Dominant: The objective is to partially retain the landscape.

VRM Class IV – Change is Dominant, but Mitigated: The objective is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing landscape. The level of change to the landscape can be high.