

PRELIMINARY DRAFT MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES
PHOENIX SOUTH AND SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT
PLANNING AREAS

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS
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Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Phoenix Field Office

PRELIMINARY DRAFT MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Notes to the Reader:

Over the last couple years, BLM has been preparing Resource Management Plans and an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Phoenix South and Sonoran Desert National Monument. We have held a series of public workshops to discuss ideas for the issues that should be addressed in the RMPs, the goals and objectives of the RMPs, and the range of alternatives we should consider in the RMPs. This document describes a preliminary set of alternatives for the Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM) and Phoenix South. It builds on and includes several items that we have previously asked the public to comment on including:

- Purpose and Significance Statement describing the SDNM
- Vision and overarching goals for the SDNM and Phoenix South
- Goals and objectives for the resources on SDNM and Phoenix South
- Preliminary desired future conditions for Natural Resources
- Parameters for developing the range of alternatives

Alternatives are different ways that BLM can manage land uses and resources on public lands. Because BLM is guided by the Federal Land Policy & Management Act, we accommodate multiple uses of public lands we manage. Uses include such activities as grazing, mining, utility rights-of-way, and recreation. There are many options for managing these uses. In order to sustain the natural and cultural resources that form the basis of these uses, management alternatives also need to address the effects of public use on the environment. The most challenging part of the alternatives development effort is to define alternatives that meet the diverse, and sometimes competing, objectives of the many people interested in the public lands. As you review the alternatives you will likely find that some alternatives better meet your interests and concerns than others. The goal of the range of alternatives is to offer options for management of the public lands.

BLM is seeking public input on this preliminary range of alternatives. As you review the preliminary range of alternatives, you may wish to consider these questions:

- Are your issues and concerns addressed in at least one of the alternatives?
- Can your uses of the public land be accommodated within at least one of the alternatives?
- Are the resources you would like to see conserved addressed in at least one of the alternatives?
- What specific additions would you like us to include in at least one of the alternatives?

Based on public input and input from other agencies, tribes, and organizations, BLM will update these alternatives. The next step will be for BLM to begin analyzing the impacts and effects of the different alternatives and to use this analysis to develop an agency preferred alternative. The agency preferred alternative will not exactly match any of the four alternatives presented here. Instead, it will developed by choosing a mix of decisions from these four alternatives. Once this process of choosing the preferred alternative and comparing and analyzing the effects and impacts of each alternative is complete, a Draft RMP & Draft EIS will be available for public review and comment.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Background

The U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Phoenix Field Office is responsible for managing almost 1.42 million acres of public land and about 1.7 million acres of federal subsurface mineral estate within the combined Phoenix South and Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM) planning areas in Arizona (Map 1-1). Public lands and minerals are managed by the BLM in accordance with applicable law and guidance provided in resource management plans (RMP). Current guidance for the public lands and mineral resources within the Phoenix South Planning Area is found in six RMPs and RMP amendments that were implemented at various times from 1983 through 2005 (Table 1-1). Management guidance for SDNM and its subsurface mineral estate is provided, in part, by four RMPs and RMP amendments (Table 1-1) and by Presidential Proclamation No. 7397, which is the enabling legal instrument that established the Monument.

TABLE 1-1 EXISTING RMPs AND RMP AMENDMENTS AFFECTING THE PHOENIX SOUTH AND SDNM PLANNING AREAS		
RMP or RMP Amendment	Phoenix South	SDNM
Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (1983)	v	
Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan (1988)	v	v
Phoenix Resource Area Resource Management Plan (1989)	v	
Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan Goldwater Amendment (1990)	v	v
Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (1997)	v	v
Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management (2005)	v	v

The BLM prepares new RMPs to establish: (1) goals and objectives for desired resource and use conditions for public lands, minerals, and other associated resources; (2) management measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives; and (3) parameters for governing the use of public lands, minerals, and other associated resources. Trends in natural and cultural resource conditions on public lands; existing and anticipated uses of lands, minerals, and other resources; the adequacy of existing management for achieving desired resource and use conditions; and requirements for new management approaches are carefully weighed during the RMP planning process. BLM RMPs are prepared collaboratively with federal, tribal, state, and local divisions of government and with the public through extensive outreach and involvement.

The BLM is preparing two new RMPs—one for the Phoenix South Planning Area and one for SDNM—that will supersede and replace the RMPs and RMP amendments that are currently applicable to one or both of these two planning areas (Table 1-1). The RMPs will comply with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*)¹, the BLM land use planning regulations at

¹ FLPMA sets forth the policies of the United States for the management, administration, use, acquisition, and disposal of public lands and the administration, reservations, and conveyance of mineral interests administered by the BLM. FLPMA also provides that the Secretary of the Interior will develop, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise land use plans for public lands.

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43 CFR 1600², and other laws and regulations. The SDNM RMP also will meet the goals of the Presidential Proclamation No. 7397. Associated with these two RMPs will be one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 *et seq.*) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508)³.

Each plan includes a set of 4 alternatives that address management for:

- air quality
- geologic and cave resources
- paleontological resources
- wilderness characteristics
- lands and realty
- transportation and access
- public safety
- biological resources
- special designations
- watersheds
- cultural resources
- mineral resources
- livestock grazing
- hazardous materials and wastes
- recreation
- visual resources
- wildfire
- wild burros (Phoenix South only)

Each alternative represents a potential RMP for either the Phoenix South Planning Area or SDNM. From these alternatives, one preferred alternative will be developed for the Phoenix South Planning Area and one will be developed for SDNM.

Description of the Planning Areas

The Phoenix South and SDNM planning areas are located in the south-central portion of Arizona and include much of Maricopa County as well as sections of Gila, Pima, Pinal, and Yuma Counties (Map 1-1). Population centers within the planning areas include the Phoenix metropolitan area, Goodyear, Buckeye, Gila Bend, Ajo, Globe-Miami, Tonopah, Mobile, and Maricopa. The combined planning area for the two proposed RMPs covers more than 8.8 million acres. However, these plans are applicable only to the BLM-administered public lands, which include approximately 1.42 million surface acres of public lands and 1.7 million acres of federal subsurface mineral estate. The decision area for the Phoenix South RMP includes approximately 932,000 surface acres and 1.24 million subsurface acres. The decision area for the SDNM RMP includes approximately 486,600 surface acres and 460,800 subsurface acres. A number of other federal agencies, Indian Nations, state and local governments, and private parties hold either surface management responsibilities or ownership for almost 89 percent of the land surface within the Phoenix South Planning Area (Table 1-2).

² BLM land use planning regulations set forth procedures for preparing land use plans and making planning decisions in accordance with FLPMA. Land use plans and planning decisions are the basis for every on-the-ground action the BLM undertakes.

³ NEPA sets forth the basic national charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means for carrying out the policy. Section 102(2) of NEPA contains "action-forcing" provisions to make sure that federal agencies act according to the letter and spirit of the Act. CEQ regulations implement Section 102(2) and tell federal agencies what they must do to comply with the procedures and achieve the goals of the NEPA. CEQ regulations set forth the procedures that federal agencies must follow in the preparation of an EIS.

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TABLE 1-2. SURFACE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY/OWNERSHIP IN THE PHOENIX SOUTH AND SDNM PLANNING AREAS BY SURFACE AREA.		
Phoenix South Planning Area		
Surface Management Responsibility/Ownership	Surface Acres¹	Percentage of Planning Area
USDI BLM	931,000	11.13
USDI Bureau of Reclamation	7,000	0.08
US Department of Defense	1,027,000	12.27
USDA National Forest Service	602,000	7.19
USDI National Park Service	331,000	3.95
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	402,000	4.80
Indian Nations	3,236,000	38.66
State Trust Lands	372,000	4.44
State Wildlife Areas	8,000	0.10
State and County Parks	66,000	0.79
Other County	2,500	0.03
Municipal and Private	1,386,000	16.56
Total	8,371,000	100.00
SDNM Planning Area		
Surface Management Responsibility/Ownership	Surface Acres	Percentage of Planning Area
USDI BLM	486,600	98.06
State Trust Lands	3,900	0.77
Private	5,900	1.17
Total	496,400	100.00

¹ Data Source: BLM Phoenix Field Office 2003

The majority of the BLM-administered public lands within Phoenix South form relatively large, unbroken tracts located west of the Phoenix metropolitan area. Several relatively small blocks of State trust and private lands are found within these large blocks. There are additional small, isolated BLM-administered parcels located in the vicinities of these large western blocks. The considerable geographic extent of the western public land blocks encompasses a diverse mix of environments, resources, and resource uses and historically has been conducive to achieving a variety of management goals and objectives. In contrast, the public land tracts located east of the Phoenix metropolitan area are all relatively small and are widely scattered. The variety of resources present and uses that can be supported is much reduced from the opportunities found in the western portion of the Phoenix South Planning Area. The majority of land within the SDNM is BLM-administered and provides excellent opportunities for comprehensive land management. There are approximately 4,000 acres of private lands and approximately 6,000 acres of State trust lands, as well as approximately 24,000 acres of subsurface estate owned by the State within the Monument boundary.

The two planning areas include a diverse array of resources that the BLM is tasked to manage. The public lands include large tracts within the Sonoran Desert that are valued for their beauty, wide open spaces, and wildlife habitat. Such resources make the lands popular for recreation, particularly because of their proximity to the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas. Transportation and utility corridors on the public lands support the infrastructure of urban communities throughout the area. The historic and current mining claims speak to the value of the mineral resources. The area also has a long history of providing land for ranching and grazing. In addition to these examples of current and recent historical use, the lands are rich with prehistoric sites and artifacts from ancient times as well as the history from early explorers.

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In particular, the SDNM is an excellent example of a large landscape within the Sonoran Desert, one of the most biologically diverse deserts in North America. The Monument consists of three distinct mountain ranges separated by wide valleys, and includes large saguaro cactus forest communities that provide excellent habitat for a wide range of wildlife species. The Monument also contains three designated wilderness areas, many significant cultural and historic sites, and several important historic trails. Recreation and grazing are the primary uses of the monument.

Throughout this document, several geographically recognizable areas within the Phoenix South and SDNM decision areas are identified by commonly used names (Map 1-3). These names are used frequently as shorthand references to these geographic areas.

Vision and Goals for the Resource Management Plans

Phoenix South

Purpose

The purpose is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands and resources for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, with multiple uses being the primary emphasis of management. FLPMA also makes clear that the purpose of the public lands to:

- protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values
- preserve and protect certain public lands, where appropriate, in their natural condition
- provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals
- provide for outdoor recreation and human use
- recognize the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands

FLPMA further states that BLM should use and observe the principles of multiple use and sustained yield when managing the public lands.

Significance

The public lands provide a wide diversity of resources and opportunities. The public lands include wide open expanses of Sonoran desert landscapes, including some of the largest open areas in the vicinity of Phoenix and Tucson. The public lands provide important habitat to support the robust diversity of wildlife found in the Sonoran desert. In concert with other large landowners and managers in southwest Arizona, these lands provide large landscapes that help sustain healthy populations of wildlife for the long term. The public lands also contain a history and evidence of human use spanning more than 10,000 years, including villages, farms, rock art, ranches, and travel corridors.

The public lands provide some of the last opportunities for undeveloped and dispersed recreation in the area. These opportunities are particularly important because of the rapid urban growth in Phoenix and Tucson and the increasing number of people living near and recreating on the public lands. The public lands also attract visitors from all over the United States and many other countries.

The public lands provide important resources to the growing communities in southern Arizona. These include providing corridors across the public lands for transmission of utilities to new and growing communities and providing access to mineral materials. The public lands also provide opportunities for renewable energy and mineral development.

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Vision

The Phoenix South Planning Area will retain wide-open spaces and a healthy functioning Sonoran Desert ecosystem while providing opportunities for a multitude of public uses and benefits.

Overarching Goals

- Manage natural and cultural resources to ensure that these resources are maintained, enhanced, restored, or preserved in a healthy condition for use by current and future generations consistent with the concepts of multiple use and sustained yield.
- Manage commercial and industrial use of public lands to meet community needs, benefit the public, and obtain economic return consistent with other resource management responsibilities.
- Provide a diverse array of recreation settings, opportunities, and experiences to meet the needs of the public land users, consistent with resource protection goals.
- Promote compatibility between the management of public and adjacent lands.
- Encourage interagency and community partnerships to enhance effective management of public lands.
- Develop outreach and educational programs that build constituencies, expand understanding and appreciation of public lands and resources, and enable an enjoyable experience on the public lands.
- Manage public lands in a manner that considers public health and safety.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

Purpose

The purpose of the Sonoran Desert National Monument is to protect and manage the natural, geologic, and cultural resources for long-term conservation and to further our knowledge and understanding of those resources through scientific research and interpretation. The Sonoran Desert National Monument was designated to protect resources, specifically:

A large Sonoran desert landscape, that connects to other large natural areas.

The ecological diversity of the Sonoran desert, including a diversity of flora and fauna associated with rare woodlands assemblages, palo verde-mixed cacti, creosote-bursage, desert washes, and rare desert grasslands.

A cultural landscape that appears largely unchanged, with a rich history that spans at least 10,000 years, from the Archaic to modern day.

Significance

The monument includes natural resources that represent the amazing biological diversity of the Sonoran desert, including ecological communities found in both the Arizona uplands subdivision and the Lower Colorado River subdivision of the Sonoran Desert biome. The ecological communities include large, high-quality examples of common Sonoran desert communities such as creosote-bursage and palo verde-mixed cacti, which contain expansive saguaro cactus forests and provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including cactus ferruginous pygmy owls, Sonoran desert tortoise, lesser long-nosed bat, and

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desert bighorn sheep. Less common communities include rare woodland assemblages, typically found in wetter climates, and desert grasslands and other habitats that provide important habitat for foraging and nesting birds and amphibians. Cutting through these communities are desert washes that provide important wildlife cover, movement corridors, and forage, especially in hot summer months. This ecological diversity provides habitat for animals and plants to complete their life cycles and survive drought. There are also excellent opportunities for scientific research on many aspects of the Sonoran desert.

The monument encompasses a diverse cultural landscape that appears little changed from prehistoric to modern times. The monument provides a rare opportunity to protect, in one area, a wide diversity of sites, both in time and place. It contains sites representative of the time periods from the Archaic through the modern day, including villages, camps, ak-chin farming sites, rock art, lithic scatters, homesteads, and historic ranches, as well as economically important trade and travel routes. These and other sites are an important connection for contemporary tribal peoples and descendants of those who have traveled through and settled here. The monument provides significant opportunities to expand our knowledge and understanding of aboriginal peoples, Spanish explorers, and Euro-Americans within a landscape that encompassed all aspects of their daily lives.

The monument is a large area of Sonoran Desert that supports large-scale ecological processes. This largely undeveloped area provides important open space, wilderness opportunities, and a valuable visual landscape in the midst of a rapidly urbanizing area.

Vision

The Sonoran Desert National Monument protects a healthy and functioning ecosystem that includes the diversity of biological, cultural, geologic, and scientific resources found in the Sonoran Desert, while providing appropriate recreation and other public use opportunities.

Overarching Goals

- Assign the highest planning and management priority to the protection of the cultural, biological, physical, and scientific resources for which the Monument was created.
- Protect, restore, maintain, and manage the native biological diversity and associated values of the Monument within their broader ecosystem context with particular attention to retaining connectivity with other natural areas and conserving habitats for viable populations of a full range of native species.
- Protect and manage the cultural resources of the Monument paying particular attention to the cultural landscape and the relationship of individual sites to the larger landscape.
- Encourage scientific research that aims to expand understanding and improve management of Sonoran Desert resources.
- Manage natural, recreational, and social settings to protect the undeveloped and natural character of the Monument, while providing opportunities for compatible, sustainable public use and enjoyment.
- Develop outreach and educational programs and materials that build constituencies, expand understanding and appreciation of the Monument and its resources, and provide for an enjoyable experience at the Monument.
- Manage the Monument in a manner that considers public health and safety.

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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

Overview

The preliminary alternatives for both the Phoenix South and SDNM are set up similarly. Each major resource area (air quality, natural resources, recreation, etc.) is presented in a table. Each table includes four alternatives, described below. Within the SDNM, all the alternatives comply with the Proclamation and uses that are not permitted by the proclamation are not included in the alternatives.

ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION – Alternative A describes the continuation of the management of the SDNM and the Phoenix South planning area under the current RMPs. In the case of the SDNM, Alternative A also includes management as modified by the Proclamation and Interim Management Policy (BLM IM 2002-008) which provides temporary guidance until the RMP is completed. This alternative will remain in affect until the new RMP is approved.

ALTERNATIVE B – Alternative B generally places an emphasis on appropriate human use and influence and the widest array of visitor experiences. It identifies areas most appropriate for various public uses and emphasizes those uses, including recreation and mineral and energy development. It includes the most miles of open roads and trails and focuses on “hands-on” techniques for resource and use management. It places an emphasis on developed and motorized recreation opportunities and fewer remote settings and primitive recreation opportunities.

ALTERNATIVE C – Alternative C provides a mix of resource protection and human use and influence. In sensitive resource areas, it proposes a higher level of resource protection and less public use. In other areas, it proposes greater opportunities for public use. It proposes a combination of natural processes and “hands-on” techniques for resource and use management. It proposes a moderate amount of open roads and trails; developed and dispersed recreation; and a mix of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities.

ALTERNATIVE D – Alternative D generally places an emphasis on decreased human use and influence. It focuses on natural processes and other unobtrusive methods for resource and use management; providing connectivity between wildlife habitats; and protecting sensitive resources. It proposes the fewest miles of open roads and trails; increased opportunities for dispersed, non-motorized recreation; and fewer motorized and developed recreation opportunities.

For each resource table, we have first described the desired outcomes and then the allowable uses and management actions. Desired outcomes are described as goals and objectives. Goals and objectives are the same for all the Action Alternatives (Alternatives B-D) but differ from the No Action Alternative which includes goals and objectives from the current land use plans (Alternative A). Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes (resource conditions, use opportunities) that usually are not quantifiable. Objectives provide more specifics about the desired outcomes and when possible are quantifiable and measurable with established timeframes for completion. Allowable uses and management actions provide more detail and build on and help to meet the goals and objectives. Allowable uses and management actions usually vary by alternative. Allowable uses describe the uses or allocations that are allowed, restricted, or prohibited on the public lands and mineral estate. Management actions describe the actions needed to achieve the desired outcomes, including proactive decisions to manage the resources as well as decisions that guide day-to-day activities occurring on public lands.

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Management Units

A management unit is a distinct geographic area that is a subset of the larger planning area. The Sonoran Desert National Monument is a single management unit. The Phoenix South planning area is split into 4 management units, Ajo, Gila Bend, Buckeye-Stanfield, and East Valley.

The Ajo management unit consists of the BLM-administered public lands surrounding the community of Ajo. The landscape in this management unit varies from creosote-bursage flats to bajadas, and rugged mountains. These lands provide important habitat for the Sonoran pronghorn and cactus ferruginous pygmy owl, desert tortoise, and a wide diversity of other species. Recreation is a dominant use of the public lands, both by local residents and a large influx of winter visitors, many of whom camp on the public lands. Recreation opportunities range from intensively used areas, including a large campground, to remote, rarely used areas. The public lands also provide opportunities for mineral development, particularly copper, depending on economic conditions. The management opportunities in this area are largely influenced by the diversity of recreation activities, particularly in the winter, and by the presence of the Sonoran pronghorn and cactus ferruginous pygmy owl, both listed as Threatened and Endangered species.

The Gila Bend management unit includes the public lands south of Interstate 10, west of Route 85, north of the Barry Goldwater Range, and east of the Phoenix Field Office boundary. This management unit includes Saddle Mountain and Palo Verde Hills, Sentinel Plains, and the Gila Bend Mountains. This area is characterized by its large size and relatively remote nature. The landscape ranges from lava flows, to creosote-bursage flats, bajadas, and mountains. It provides a large area for the maintenance and protection of healthy, intact populations of wildlife. Saddle Mountain is the most intensively used area and is used primarily for recreation purposes. The rest of the unit provides opportunities for remote, undeveloped recreation and is more lightly used. The management opportunities in this area are diverse and focus on maintaining a healthy natural system and continuing to provide public use opportunities.

The Buckeye-Stanfield Management Unit includes the public lands that surround the SDNM, including lands along the west boundary of the monument, the Buckeye Hills, Rainbow Valley, and Stanfield. Much of this area is in close proximity to communities and urban development. The landscape includes creosote bursage and some smaller mountains. It provides important habitat connectivity between larger tracts of public lands for wildlife movement. The area provides recreational opportunities for local communities as well as a source for saleable materials. The management opportunities in this area are influenced by the proximity to local and growing communities, the opportunities for intensive recreation, and the Air Quality PM-10 (dust) non-attainment area that covers the northern portion of this unit.

The East Valley Management Unit includes the scattered parcels of public lands east of Stanfield and Maricopa stretching to the Phoenix Field Office boundary in Globe-Miami. These parcels are small and isolated, often surrounded by development or agriculture. Public access is often limited and management is reactive to problems that have been reported. The management opportunities for these parcels are limited by their small size and dispersed nature; they may provide good opportunities for local community parks or other public facilities.

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Preliminary Alternatives

Phoenix South

Air Quality

TABLE 2-1. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH AIR QUALITY			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for air quality are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Manage use and activities on public lands in accordance with local, state and federal air quality regulations and requirements. Goal 2: Work with state and local agencies and adjacent land managers to address off-site emissions that affect public lands.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: 1. Comply with Federal and State air quality standards (required by law; not an existing RMP decision). 2. Prescribed fire activities comply with Federal and State air quality regulations. 3. Prevent or reduce impacts to air quality through mitigation in NEPA compliance for proposed projects (PRMP only).</p>	<p>Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: Follow the development of new state regulations and designations of non-attainment to determine what public lands will be affected. Comment on the proposed regulations as necessary and appropriate. Objective 2: Ensure all use and activities on public lands comply with Federal and State requirements and the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (health standard). Objective 3: Address air quality impacts when planning and executing prescribed burns to comply with Federal and State Air Quality standards and adhere to Article 15 of the Arizona Administrative Code and State Implementation Plan provisions. Objective 4: Emphasize low polluting alternatives and fugitive dust mitigation measures for uses and activities within and near sensitive communities, wilderness areas, and PM₁₀ non-attainment or maintenance areas, especially as they pertain to unpaved roads that traverse public lands. Objective 5: Develop and implement monitoring plans related to Air Quality concerns, as needed.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Compliance with law and regulation</i>	<i>Compliance with law and regulation</i>	<i>Compliance with law and regulation</i>	<i>Compliance with law and regulation</i>
1. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 1 under No-Action Alternative A.	1. Take action when an air quality agency identifies an air quality compliance issue, including fugitive dust, on public lands.	1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.	1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.
<i>Coordination with other agencies</i>	<i>Coordination with other agencies</i>	<i>Coordination with other agencies</i>	<i>Coordination with other agencies</i>
2. Participate in the Interagency Smoke Program.	2. Same as the No-Action Alternative A, Element 2.	2. Same as the No-Action Alternative A, Element 2.	2. Same as the No-Action Alternative A, Element 2.
3. No existing decisions specifically address this action, However as a matter of policy, review and comment on proposed permit activities for all major sources within 50 kilometers of a wilderness area for	3. Participate and comment on proposed projects identified as requiring Prevention of Significant Deterioration/New Source Review permits for their effects on air quality and affected resources within 100 km	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.

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possible effects on the wilderness area.	of wilderness areas . Request that location-specific pre -application monitoring is conducted to support the permit review process when appropriate.		
4. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 4 under No-Action Alternative A.	4. Review projects requiring non-major permits within 10 km of wilderness areas to determine their effects on air quality and affected resources, and provide comments to the appropriate regulatory agency.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.
5. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 5 under No-Action Alternative A.	5. Work with adjoining land managers and users to mitigate air quality effects on public lands.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.
<i>Manage public uses</i>	<i>Manage public uses</i>	<i>Manage public uses</i>	<i>Manage public uses</i>
6. [In the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels,] control excessive fugitive dust at construction sites and recreation activity parcels.	6. Manage excessive fugitive dust generation from unpaved roads, construction sites, and recreation activity areas on public lands to ensure that public use and other activities do not cause emissions that violate air quality standards.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.
7. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.	7. Control fugitive dust emissions from unpaved roads by using appropriate control methods such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lowering speed limits by creating 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. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 7.	7. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 7.
8. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 8 under No-Action Alternative A.	8. Coordinate with county or municipal authorities to encourage control of fugitive dust emissions from unpaved roads that affect attainment of air quality standards.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.
<i>Monitoring and Research</i>	<i>Monitoring and Research</i>	<i>Monitoring and Research</i>	<i>Monitoring and Research</i>
9. [In the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels,] monitor air quality trends.	9. Work with federal, state and local agencies to monitor air quality on public lands, particularly in	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.

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	wilderness and other special areas. Air quality monitoring should include visibility, ozone, acid deposition or other relevant air quality indicators.		
10. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 10 under No-Action Alternative A.	10. Work with federal, state, and local agencies to gather meteorological data, including installing meteorological stations on the public lands, as needed and appropriate.	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.
11. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 11 under No-Action Alternative A.	11. Encourage research of air quality related issues.	11. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 11.	11. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 11.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Land Health Standards

**TABLE 2-2-1. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH
LAND HEALTH STANDARDS**

Desired Outcomes: Management Goals

Alternative Goals (Common to No Action and all Action Alternatives)

Land Health Standard 1: Upland Sites: Upland soils exhibit infiltration, permeability, and erosion rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and landform (ecological site).

Criteria for meeting Standard 1:

- Soil conditions support proper functioning of hydrologic, energy, and nutrient cycles. Many factors interact to maintain stable soils and healthy soil conditions, including appropriate amounts of vegetative cover, litter, and soil porosity and organic matter. Under proper functioning conditions, rates of soil loss and infiltration are consistent with the potential of the site.
- Ground cover in the form of plants, litter or rock is present in pattern, kind, and amount sufficient to prevent accelerated erosion for the ecological site; or ground cover is increasing as determined by monitoring over an established period of time.
- Signs of accelerated erosion are minimal or diminishing for the ecological site as determined by monitoring over an established period of time.

As indicated by such factors as:

- Ground Cover
 - a. litter
 - b. live vegetation, amount and type (e.g., grass, shrubs, trees, etc.)
 - c. rock
- Signs of erosion
 - a. flow pattern
 - b. gullies
 - c. rills
 - d. plant pedestaling

Land Health Standard 2: Riparian-Wetland Sites: Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.

Criteria for meeting Standard 2:

- Stream channel morphology and functions are appropriate for proper functioning condition for existing climate, landform, and channel reach characteristics. Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, land form, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows.
- Riparian-wetland functioning condition assessments are based on examination of hydrologic, vegetative, soil and erosion-deposition factors. BLM has developed a standard checklist to address these factors and make functional assessments. Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly as indicated by the results of the application of the appropriate checklist.
- The checklist for riparian areas is in Technical Reference 1737-9 "Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition." The checklist for wetlands is in Technical Reference 1737-11 "Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas."

As indicated by such factors as:

- Gradient
- Width/depth ratio
- Channel roughness and sinuosity of stream channel

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- Bank stabilization
- Reduced erosion
- Captured sediment
- Ground-water recharge
- Dissipation of energy by vegetation

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable):

- Dirt tanks, wells, and other water facilities constructed or placed at a location for the purpose of providing water for livestock and/or wildlife and which have not been determined through local planning efforts to provide for riparian or wetland habitat are exempt.
- Water impoundments permitted for construction, mining, or other similar activities are exempt.

Land Health Standard 3: Desired Resource Condition: Productive and diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.

Criteria for meeting Standard 3:

- Upland and riparian-wetland plant communities meet desired plant community objectives. Plant community objectives are determined with consideration for all multiple uses. Objectives also address native species, and the requirements of the Taylor Grazing Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and appropriate laws, regulations, and policies.
- Desired plant community objectives will be developed to assure that soil conditions and ecosystem function described in Standards 1 and 2 are met. They detail a site-specific plant community, which when obtained, will assure rangeland health, State water quality standards, and habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Thus, desired plant community objectives will be used as an indicator of ecosystem function and rangeland health.

As indicated by such factors as:

- Composition
- Structure
- Distribution

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable):

- Ecological sites or stream reaches on which a change in existing vegetation is physically, biologically, or economically impractical.

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Natural Resources

TABLE 2 -2-2. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES – ECOLOGICAL, BIOLOGICAL, WATERSHED	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals	
No-Action Alternative Goals	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)
<p><u>Goal 1 (Watershed Management):</u> Comply with the Clean Water Act.</p>	<p><u>Goal 1 (Ecosystem Management):</u> Maintain or restore overall ecosystem health. Ecological processes, such as hydrologic cycling, nutrient and energy flows, predator-prey or parasitic relationships, species migrations, and competitive effects, are functioning at the landscape scale.</p> <p><u>Goal 2 (Biological Management):</u> Conserve, restore, or enhance the diversity and distribution of native vegetation communities and healthy, flourishing, and sustainable native wildlife populations, consistent with Land Health Standards.</p> <p><u>Goal 3 (Biological Management):</u> Maintain or restore natural communities across the landscape at the individual, species, community, and ecosystem scales, such that complex and robust native natural communities are sustainable and resilient. Some components may be somewhat disrupted or less than site potential. Characteristics of such communities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic diversity in individual species populations • Numbers of vegetation species present provide adequate wildlife habitat to meet wildlife population goals • Plant community components, densities, and structural diversity provide a diversity of habitats • Expected mosaic and distribution of natural communities appears across the landscape • Invasive species may occur and affect ecological processes but are not dominant at the landscape scale. • Habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors are maintained and habitat fragmentation is limited considering habitat patch size requirements and wildlife movement capabilities. <p><u>Goal 4 (Biological Management):</u> Conserve and recover threatened and endangered species and their habitats and manage to prevent the listing of additional species.</p> <p><u>Goal 5 (Watershed Management):</u> Watersheds are in properly functioning condition, consistent with Land Health Standards. Watershed characteristics include: :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water flow and channels are stable and in balance with the landscape. b. Erosion and sediment deposition are appropriate for the ecological site. c. Infiltration of surface water in soils is sufficient to support existing or desired plant communities. d. Flood frequencies, durations, and magnitudes are appropriate for the landscape. <p><u>Goal 6 (Watershed Management):</u> Conserve sensitive soils such as desert pavement and cryptogamic crusts.</p> <p><u>Goal 7 (Watershed Management):</u> Manage surface and groundwater resources to protect, maintain, and improve water quality in accordance with water quality standards.</p> <p><u>Goal 8 (Watershed Management):</u> Surface and ground water is available and provides for the needs of natural resources and multiple-use resources.</p>

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**TABLE 2 -2-3. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH
NATURAL RESOURCES – ECOSYSTEM AND BIOLOGICAL**

Desired Outcomes: Management Objectives

No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives:

1. [In Phoenix RMP area] Maintain and improve habitat and viable wildlife populations.
2. Implement an integrated vegetation treatment program for BLM administered public lands. The vegetation management priorities are as follows:
 - Priority 1 – Take actions to prevent or minimize the need for vegetation control when and where feasible considering the management objectives for the site;
 - Priority 2 – Use effective non-chemical methods of vegetation control when and where feasible;
 - Priority 3 – Use herbicides after considering the effectiveness of all potential methods or in combination with other methods of control. Chemicals could be used where the benefits would meet or exceed those of other control methods. The application of chemicals shall meet or exceed BLM and label requirements.

- Objective 1 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat):** Maintain the existing natural mosaic of native plant community distributions across the landscape. Use the best available data (currently the GAP vegetation community map) as the benchmark for determining the existing distributions of native plant communities.
- Objective 2 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat):** In consideration of the natural pace of ecological transitions in the Sonoran Desert, the long-term (generally greater than 50 years) objective is to maintain or restore the overall landscape. Within the lifetime of this plan, the objective is to maintain condition on sites meeting the desired resource conditions and to achieve a stable or upward trend in condition on sites not meeting the desired resource conditions. Vegetation condition is characterized by:
- all expected community components and life forms present (grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees as appropriate for the site)
 - species composition & density provide adequate wildlife habitat
 - structural diversity provides adequate wildlife habitat
 - community composition meets the Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat objectives listed below.
- Objective 3 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat):** Manage land use to support multiple uses that are consistent with sustaining the natural ecological processes necessary to restore and/or conserve functioning natural plant communities. The total combined surface area footprint of land uses, such as roads, mines, or livestock developments, that do not support natural ecological processes may experience a net increase in Phoenix South but these uses must be compatible in aggregate with sustaining overall natural plant community conditions within the landscape. Land use within Phoenix South is also consistent with the RMP vision of retaining the wide-open spaces of the area.
- Objective 4 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat):** Implement wildlife habitat management through the use of Wildlife Habitat Management Plans, developed in cooperation with AGFD, to meet the Sikes Act requirements and address site-specific habitat management objectives, consistent with other natural resource objectives.
- Objective 5 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat):** Develop a specific drought policy, or adopt area-wide the policy developed for Ajo, to address continued impacts on vegetation and wildlife habitat values during drought. This policy will address livestock grazing and other uses that may impact wildlife, wildlife habitat, or vegetation communities during drought, including the need for timely response in reducing/removing uses, sufficient vegetative recovery periods, indicators of drought recovery, and appropriate management actions.
- Objective 6 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat):** *Xeroriparian*—Maintain, enhance or protect vegetation along drainages, ensuring diverse vegetative composition and structure remains intact and is appropriate for the site. Specific desired conditions of the xeroriparian community include:
- A multi-layered vegetative structure, as provided by perennial vegetation, such as grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees, should dominate the community. Size and growth form, such as overhanging branches, mid-story, and understory vegetation should be representative of the species and cover should be of moderate density (= 50%), where site potential exists.
 - Sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve or restore desert wash (xeroriparian) functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge and bank stability, thus promoting channel morphology and functions appropriate to climate and landform.
 - Tree species, such as ironwood, palo verde, catclaw, and mesquite, will attain sizes large enough (>6” diameter) to provide cavities, for those wildlife species requiring such habitat, and production of seed pods for forage. The size of the community will be of appropriate quantity and quality sufficient to support and allow for dispersal of such species as the cactus

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ferruginous pygmy-owl. Sufficient bank and floodplain vegetation, if applicable for the site, will be maintained or restored to ensure habitat elements are retained to stabilize the site, retain soil (if applicable) and support ground-dwelling species.

- The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, Sonoran pronghorn, Sonoran desert tortoise, Gila monster, lowland burrowing treefrog, western narrow-mouth toad, Sonoran green toad, desert mule deer, white-tailed deer, big horn sheep, javelina, mountain lion, California leaf-nosed bat, southern yellow bat, spotted bat, cave myotis, great horned owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, western screech owl, elf owl, northern harrier, loggerhead shrike, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, Gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, and Lucy's warbler.
- **Objective 7 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): Riparian**—To the extent practicable and with the participation of adjacent landowners, public lands along the Gila River, will be managed to maintain or promote a riparian plant community with a diverse composition of native woody obligate riparian species, such as cottonwood, and Goodding's willow, of various age and size classes, from seedlings and saplings to large mature trees with spreading canopies. Specific desired conditions of the riparian communities include: The size class distribution of native riparian obligate trees will be >15 percent seedlings, >15 percent mid-size, and >15 percent mature trees (dependent of the existing conditions and potential of the site). Size classes are defined as follows: seedlings are < one inch basal diameter, mid-sizes are one to six inches in basal diameter, and large sizes are > six inches in basal diameter. Bank vegetation would be comprised (> 50%) of native species (*Scirpus*, *Carex*, *Juncus*, and *Eleocharis*) capable of withstanding flood events to prevent soil loss and bank erosion.
- The river will support a variety of habitat types including back-waters, open water, and marsh-type (cattail and bulrush) habitat, essential for providing hiding cover, breeding, nesting, foraging and spawning habitat for migratory and resident native bird species, native amphibian and fish species.
- The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community includes: Yuma clapper rail, southwestern willow flycatcher, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, yellow-billed cuckoo, crissal thrasher, Bell's vireo, Lucy's warbler, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, great-horned owl, desert sucker, Sonora sucker, long-fin dace, mule deer, javelina, mountain lion, and Allen's (Mexican) big-eared bat.

Objective 8 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): Palo Verde-Mixed Cacti— Maintain or promote a palo verde-mixed cacti vegetation type that is comprised of the expected diversity in composition and size classes of vegetation, from small shrubs to large trees interspersed with a variety of cacti, such as mammalaria, prickly pear, cholla, barrel, hedgehog, and saguaro. Specific desired conditions of the palo verde-mixed cacti community include:

- a. Saguaro cactus is a prominent component of this vegetation type. All size and age classes of saguaro will be represented in amounts appropriate to ensure continuation of this community. Special considerations will be given to those areas supporting medium (>30 saguaros/acre) to high density numbers of saguaro (>40 saguaros/acre). Within the bounds of management, recruitment of saguaro will be equal to or greater than senescence, disease, forces of nature, vandalism or other activities that may impact the species.
- b. Tree species, such as ironwood, palo verde, and mesquite, will attain sizes large enough (>6" diameter) to provide cavities for those wildlife species requiring such habitat and production of seed pods for forage.
- c. Structural diversity of trees, midstory, and understory vegetation will be available in the proper quantities and quality for the site. Structural diversity is important in providing a variety of breeding areas, nesting sites, hiding cover, and foraging areas for both herbivorous, prey, and predatory species.

The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, lesser long-nosed bat, Sonoran desert tortoise, Gila monster, chuckwalla, rosy boa, red-backed whiptail, Sonoran green toad, Gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, Costa's hummingbird, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, great-horned owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, elf owl, loggerhead shrike, red-tailed hawk, Harris' hawk, crested caracara, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, golden eagle, barn owl, western screech owl, black vulture, desert mule deer,

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white-tailed deer, desert bighorn sheep, javelina, mountain lion, California leaf-nosed bat, spotted bat, greater western mastiff bat, red bat, and cave myotis.

Objective 9 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Creosotebush-bursage*—Maintain or restore intact creosotebush-bursage habitat in order to retain its functional connectivity, as movement corridors and foraging areas, between adjacent communities. Maintain or restore ground cover within this habitat type, with native or naturalized species, at the maximum appropriate for the site conditions in order to provide hiding cover and forage for both predator and prey species. Protect and maintain easily disturbed or sensitive soils, such as desert pavement, to prevent erosion and keep this substrate intact. The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, Sonoran pronghorn (Ajo area only), Sonoran desert tortoise, Gila monster, Sonoran green toad, great plains toad, desert mule deer, desert big horn sheep, mule deer, javelina, mountain lion, California leaf-nosed bat, spotted bat, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, Gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, LeConte's thrasher, great horned owl, burrowing owl, western screech owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, elf owl, American kestrel, loggerhead shrike, rough-legged hawk, red-tailed hawk, and Harris' hawk.

Objective 10 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Desert grassland*—Protect, enhance and maintain a diversity of perennial grass species, as appropriate for site conditions. Prevent encroachment of woody species, such as mesquite, to ensure continuity of grassland community. Maintain open site conditions for those wildlife species that utilize grasslands for some portion or all of their life cycle.

The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: ferruginous hawk, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, merlin, American kestrel, chestnut-collared longspur, western green toad, lowland burrowing treefrog, great plains toad.

Objective 11 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Sonoran desert mountain community*—Maintain a botanically diverse vegetative community that includes a combination of desert, chaparral, and semi-desert grassland species, in amounts appropriate for the site. Some areas may include relict populations of juniper, and elephant tree.

The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: desert mule deer, big horn sheep, javelina, white-tailed deer, California leaf-nosed bat, greater western mastiff bat, Harris' hawk, mourning dove, white-winged dove, elf owl, golden eagle, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, Gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, red-backed whiptail, Sonoran desert tortoise, western green toad, and Gila monster.

Objective 12 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Mesquite (bosque) woodlands*—Protect and maintain mesquite (bosque) woodlands as patches of various size and age classes of mesquite trees with an understory of native perennial grass and forb species.

The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: white-winged dove, mourning dove, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, Cooper's hawk, javelina, desert mule deer, Gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, elf owl, Lucy's warbler, lowland burrowing treefrog, Great Plains toad, western narrow-mouthed toad, and Sonoran green toad.

Objective 13 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Interior chaparral*—Maintain stands of chaparral species in which approximately 60-70% of the species are in the older age class (mature condition). The remaining vegetative community would be a mosaic of chaparral, native perennial grass and forb species conducive to the characteristics of the site. Chaparral species will consist of those that are appropriate to the site, based on the NRCS Ecological Site Guides. The use of prescribed fire or managed wild fire is appropriate to maintain this community.

The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: desert mule deer, white-tailed deer, big horn sheep, mountain lion, crissal thrasher, rufous-crowned sparrow, and black-chinned sparrow.

Objective 14 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Community inclusions*—Protect the tops and upper side slopes and

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drainages of andesitic and granitic hills where populations of acuna cactus are found. Protect raptor nesting areas, such as cliffs capable of supporting breeding, nesting, wintering, and resident raptor species.

Objective 15 (Habitat Connectivity): Maintain connectivity within intact habitats and restore or enhance connectivity between habitats. Focus in particular on the following key wildlife corridors that connect habitat on public lands:

- North Maricopa Mountains and Sierra Estrella Mountains
- Sierra Estrella Mountains to Table Top Mountains
- South Maricopa Mountains and Palo Verde Mountains
- Palo Verde Mountains and Table Top Mountains
- Sand Tank Mountains and Saucedo Mountains
- Saucedo Mountains and Batamote Hills
- North Maricopa Mountains and Buckeye Hills
- Buckeye Hills and Gila Bend Mountains
- Gila Bend Mountains and Eagletail Mountains
- Gila Bend Mountains and Saddle Mountain
- other wildlife corridors that may be identified

Objective 16 (Vegetation Restoration and Rehabilitation): Restore natural ecosystem function, including soils, complete vegetation communities, water flow, and associated wildlife, whenever and wherever possible. Return areas to as natural a condition as possible, including revegetation with native species, soil stabilization, and return of natural water flow, where comprehensive restoration cannot be achieved. Where areas are heavily degraded (e.g., mine sites) as a minimum, reclamation will include soil stabilization and revegetation, to the extent practicable, with native or non-native non-invasive species. Restoration activities will aim to meet or exceed the designated visual resource management class.

Objective 17 (Invasive Plant Species): Minimize the introduction and establishment, stop the spread, and reduce the presence of non-native and invasive species on public lands.

Objective 18 (Endangered, Threatened and Special Status Plants): Populations of protected plants are stable or increasing with adequate recruitment within a healthy plant community.

Objective 19 (Wildlife Management): Work in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to manage wildlife and wildlife habitat to achieve AGFD's wildlife population goals. Actions that BLM and AGFD may undertake include surveys, telemetry, transplants, water management, vegetation restoration and enhancement, invasive species control, research, and other wildlife or habitat management projects.

Objective 20 (Wildlife Management): Emphasize management of priority species and their habitats. A list of priority species and the desired resource conditions for their habitat needs are incorporated in the plant community and wildlife habitat objectives above. In addition, the following important areas where priority species management is emphasized have been identified:

ACECs, Wildlife Management Areas, Sonoran pronghorn area, desert tortoise habitat, wildlife movement corridors, bat roosts, springs, and cliffs. Categories of priority species include:

- T & E species
- Game species
- Special status species
- Birds of conservation concern
- Raptors

Certain priority species have specific desired resource conditions in addition to those found in the plant community and wildlife habitat objectives:

- Southwestern willow flycatcher - Protect those portions of the Gila River that can physically support (due to floodplain width

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and gradient) southwestern flycatcher habitats. Ensure the vegetation will attain the appropriate structure, plant species diversity, density, and canopy cover to constitute suitable habitat. Vegetation in these riparian areas will be sufficiently dense and structurally complex to protect flycatchers from predators and prevent cowbirds from preying on flycatcher nests. Livestock management facilities or other facilities that could attract cowbirds to suitable flycatcher habitat will be mitigated or removed.

- Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl - Maintain or improve current or potential habitat of sufficient quality and quantity in adequate patch sizes that could support cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls (CFPO). Sufficient habitat will be maintained between these patches to provide for an interconnected system of habitat. Quantity refers to the number and size of habitat patches in the planning areas and amount and juxtaposition of dispersal habitat. Quality refers to the density and structural makeup and species diversity of the vegetation that appears most suitable for CFPOs.
- Lesser long-nosed bats - Maintain populations of columnar cacti and agave within the planning areas, with sufficient representation in age-size classes for these plants to persist through the long term where science shows they are appropriate parts of the plant community. Natural downward fluctuations in density in some areas are expected to be countered by increases in other areas.
- Yuma clapper rail - Maintain or improve marsh habitat along the Gila River to provide breeding habitat and feeding areas for the species. Shallow water marshes containing dense emergent vegetation, such as cattail and bulrush, with adjacent mud flats available for feeding are important in sustaining and increasing Yuma clapper rail populations.
- Sonoran pronghorn - Maintain or improve a variety of habitat types and nutritious forage species that will encourage fawn recruitment, predator avoidance, and growth into adulthood. Specifically, the creosote-bursage community will provide sufficient nutritious forbs to sustain and increase pronghorn populations. Vegetation in xeroriparian areas will be of sufficient height and canopy cover to provide thermal cover for water conservation and hiding cover for protection from predators.
- Desert tortoise - Habitat requirements by habitat category are as follows:
 - Category I – Maintain stable, viable populations and protect existing tortoise habitat values and increase populations where possible:
 - Category II – Maintain stable, viable populations and halt further declines in tortoise habitat values; and
 - Category III – Limit tortoise habitat and populations declines to the extent possible through mitigation.
- Birds of conservation concern - Emphasize avoiding or minimizing impacts and restoring and enhancing habitat quality to implement Executive Order 13186. Through the permitting process, ensure the maintenance of habitat quantity and quality. Take of migratory birds from authorized activities will be minimized or avoided.

Objective 21 (Special Status Species - Desert Tortoise Habitat Management): Manage desert tortoise habitat to maintain the species and avoid the necessity of listing this species under the Endangered Species Act. Desert tortoise habitat conservation will be emphasized as a management priority within those public land areas currently designated as Category I, II, or III habitat. Tortoise habitat management categories and boundaries may be adjusted as new information becomes available. The criteria that would be used in revision of categories and boundaries are those contained in the 1988 Rangewide Plan. These criteria include:

- Category I tortoise habitat areas are (1) habitat areas are essential to maintenance of large, viable populations (2) conflicts are resolvable (3) populations are medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density and (4) populations are increasing, stable, or decreasing.
- Category II tortoise habitat areas are (1) habitat areas may be essential to maintenance of viable populations (2) most conflicts are resolvable (3) populations are medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density and (4) populations are stable, or decreasing.
- Category III tortoise habitat areas are (1) habitat areas are not essential to maintenance of viable populations (2) most conflicts are not resolvable (3) populations are low to medium density not contiguous with medium or high density and (4) populations

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are stable, or decreasing.

Objective 22 (Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Animals): Protect, manage and support recovery efforts for endangered or threatened wildlife species, including Sonoran pronghorn, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, and lesser long-nosed bat and their habitats, in accordance with recovery plans, coordination with Recovery Teams, and the terms and conditions of biological opinions (specific conservation measures may be developed in concert with USFWS). Current recovery actions for these species are listed below, but may be modified as more information becomes available and recovery plans are updated:

Sonoran Pronghorn

- Enhance present population of Sonoran pronghorn to reach recovery goal of 300 adults. Decrease factors that are potentially limiting population growth.
- Protect present range from disturbance, habitat modification, and impediments to movement to allow continued seasonal migrations.
- Minimize human disturbance
- Evaluate and monitor new, separate herds
- Evaluate and prioritize reintroduction sites in historic habitat.
- Continue monitoring the Sonoran pronghorn populations.

Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (CFPO) – (Draft Recovery Plan)

- Estimate the number and define the distribution of CFPOs in AZ (i.e., Survey areas not yet surveyed and resurvey areas where CFPOs have been found previously)
- Protect all currently known (since 1993) CFPOs in Arizona and the habitat they occupy. Identify and maintain an interconnected system of habitat extending from the northern portion of the historical range, south to areas potentially occupied by CFPO populations in Mexico.
- Continue to gather information essential to the management of CFPOs in Arizona, including habitat requirements, population demographics, dispersal capabilities and genetics.
- Initiate the process for augmenting existing imperiled CFPO population segments and establishing CFPOs in areas that appear suitable, but are presently unoccupied, or into areas that have been modified to enhance some habitat characteristic for CFPOs (e.g., establishing nest boxes).

Southwestern willow flycatcher

- Meet and maintain, at a minimum, the population levels and geographic distribution, specified under reclassification to threatened criteria set A – (increase known territories to 1950 equating to approximately 3900 individuals) in the proper geographic distribution and with minimum levels maintained for at least 5 years.
- Provide protection from threats and create secure sufficient habitat to assure maintenance of these populations and /or habitats over time. The sites containing flycatcher breeding groups, in sufficient numbers to warrant downlisting, must be protected in the foreseeable future through development and implementation of conservation management agreements (CMAs). CMAs must address the following:
 - a. Minimize major stressors to the flycatcher and its habitat (including, but not limited to watershed management, groundwater and surface water management and livestock management)
 - b. Ensure that natural ecological processes and/or active human manipulation needed to develop and maintain suitable habitat prevail in areas critical to achieving metapopulation stability; and
 - c. The amount of suitable breeding habitat available in each management unit is at least double the amount required to support the number of flycatchers described in threatened criteria set A.

Lesser Long-nosed Bats:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect roost sites • Protect foraging areas and food plants. Foraging areas consist of extensive populations of columnar cacti and paniculate agaves within a radius of 50 miles (81 km) around known roosts. • Protect food resources along migratory pathways. • Develop and conduct a public education and information campaign in AZ, on the beneficial aspects of bats in general, and the lesser long-nosed bat specifically. <p><u>Yuma Clapper Rail</u> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and maintain breeding habitat to support the populations of Yuma clapper rails in the U.S. • Preserve winter habitat of the Yuma Clapper Rail so that population survival is assured. • Carry out a program of public conservation education and planning advice directed towards preservation of rail habitat. <p>Objective 23 (Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Animals): Avoid actions that would jeopardize the continued existence of any species proposed for listing or that may result in adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.</p> <p>Objective 24 (Invasive Animal Species): Minimize the introduction and establishment, stop the spread, and reduce the presence of non-native and invasive species on public lands.</p>			
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Habitat Connectivity</i>	<i>Habitat Connectivity</i>	<i>Habitat Connectivity</i>	<i>Habitat Connectivity</i>
1. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	1. On the public lands, maintain and improve habitat connectivity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing uses on the public lands to minimize or mitigate avoidance barriers, where levels of use disrupt natural patterns of movement (e.g., dirt roads that are heavily used, utility corridors, communication sites, camping areas). • Implementing and developing proposed projects on the public lands to avoid, minimize, or mitigate habitat fragmentation and maintain opportunities for wildlife movement. • Modifying or mitigating existing physical barriers (fences, highways, railroads, canals, fences, etc.) on public lands to decrease affects on wildlife movements. 	1. Same as Action Alternative B.	1. Same as Action Alternative B.
2. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	2. On adjoining lands maintain and enhance habitat connectivity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the appropriate agencies responsible for existing physical barriers (highways, 	2. Same as Action Alternative B.	2. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	<p>railroads, canals) to provide for safe and effective wildlife movements across such barriers that are needed to maintain healthy populations and ecosystem functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the appropriate agencies for proposed projects adjoining or otherwise affecting public lands to either avoid the development of barriers to wildlife movement or mitigate the effects of such barriers by providing safe and effective areas to support wildlife movements needed to maintain healthy populations and ecosystem functions. • Working with adjoining land owners and managers to maintain natural habitat outside of public lands and restore or enhance connectivity between natural habitat areas on public lands. • Acquiring lands or interests in lands to restore or enhance connectivity between natural habitat areas. 		
Restoration and Rehabilitation	Restoration and Rehabilitation	Restoration and Rehabilitation	Restoration and Rehabilitation
<p>3. Emphasize passive restoration by natural processes; except use active methods on a limited case-by-case basis if necessary to reclaim heavily disturbed areas (e.g., mine sites) according to site-specific stipulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3. Emphasize passive restoration by natural processes to return sites to their desired resource conditions and/or hydrological functions; except use active restoration practices to stabilize and restore sites that are likely to be successfully restored using active management methods due to their ecological characteristics and are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • severely damaged, rapidly deteriorating, or rapidly expanding • placing adjacent resources at risk • prone to invasion by non-native species • heavily disturbed, such as mining 	<p>3. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>3. Emphasize passive restoration and a reliance on natural processes to restore sites to their desired resource conditions and/or hydrological functions; except use active restoration practices to stabilize sites that are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • severely damaged, rapidly deteriorating, or rapidly expanding • placing adjacent resources at risk • prone to invasion by non-native species • heavily disturbed, such as mining sites • capable of improving habitat for threatened or endangered species <p>Emphasize passive restoration by natural processes once sites are stabilized.</p>

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	<p>sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capable of improving habitat for threatened or endangered species • a management priority and require accelerated restoration to meet a selected management objective, such as obliterating a road to effectively implement a route closure or restoring an important habitat function • identified as having high visual resource values that are being affected 		
4. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	4. Use a variety of vegetation restoration methods, as appropriate, to restore and promote a natural range of native plant associations. Methods may include mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fires. The least intrusive method that achieves the goals of the project and is consistent with other management goals and objectives will be used.	4. Same as Action Alternative B.	4. Same as Action Alternative B.
5. Emphasize the use and perpetuation of native vegetation. (applies only to grazing)	5. Use native plants as the first priority for all restoration projects. Non-intrusive, non-native plants may be used in limited, emergency situations where they may be necessary to protect the resources or when taking no action will further degrade the resources. This use will be allowed to the extent that it complies with the vegetation objectives and other management goals and objectives. In these situations, short-lived species (i.e., nurse crop species) will be preferentially used and will be combined with native species to facilitate the establishment of native species.	5. Same as Action Alternative B.	6. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Invasive Species</i>	<i>Invasive Species</i>	<i>Invasive Species</i>	<i>Invasive Species</i>
6. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	6. Coordinate invasive species management control efforts with the appropriate federal, state, county,	6. Same as Action Alternative B.	6. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	<p>municipal, and tribal agencies, and other partners. Efforts will be coordinated through the Borderlands Cooperative Weed Management Area and other similar groups.</p>		
<p>7. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>7. Pursue an integrated weed management approach to control invasive species using methods including mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire. Biological control methods may be used to control invasive plant species, if appropriate safety measures are applied, and in coordination with appropriate federal, state, county, municipal and tribal agencies. The least intrusive method that achieves the goals of the project and is consistent with other management goals and objectives will be used.</p>	<p>7. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>7. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>8. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>8. Focus monitoring for invasive species on likely vectors of invasion, such as linear features (roads, canals, railroads, utility corridors, etc.), disturbed areas (construction or development areas), and areas where water is available or may pond (water control structures, etc.).</p>	<p>8. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>8. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>9. Target populations of noxious weeds that can be controlled or eliminated by approved methods.</p>	<p>9. Assign priority to the control of invasive species that have a substantial and apparent impact on native plant communities and wildlife. When infestations are identified they will be evaluated for their potential threat. Those species that are identified as aggressive invasive species will be prioritized for removal within one year. Other invasive species will be scheduled for action in coordination with partners.</p>	<p>9. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>9. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>10. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>10. Require proposed projects to use practices that avoid the invasion and spread of invasive species, including use of weed-free soils, seeds, and straw/hay, cleaning equipment prior to use, and</p>	<p>10. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>10. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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	other similar practices.		
11. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	11. Encourage the use of weed-free feed and other practices to decrease introduction and spread of invasive species by pack stock, equestrians, and other users.	11. Require special recreation permit equestrian and stock animal users to use weed-free feed and encourage all other users to provide weed-free feed for their animals.	11. Require equestrian users to provide weed-free feed for their animals and restrict them from allowing their stock to consume forage on public lands.
<i>Endangered, Threatened, and Special Status Plants</i>	<i>Endangered, Threatened, and Special Status Plants</i>	<i>Endangered, Threatened, and Special Status Plants</i>	<i>Endangered, Threatened, and Special Status Plants</i>
12. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	12. Avoid impacts to protected plants or their habitats by developing, modifying, redesigning, mitigating or abandoning projects.	12. Same as Action Alternative B.	12. Same as Action Alternative B.
13. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	13. Monitor existing populations and inventory for additional populations of the Acuna cactus.	13. Same as Action Alternative B.	13. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Harvesting of Vegetation, Including Wood Harvesting</i>	<i>Harvesting of Vegetation, Including Wood Harvesting</i>	<i>Harvesting of Vegetation, Including Wood Harvesting</i>	<i>Harvesting of Vegetation, Including Wood Harvesting</i>
14. Harvesting of living or dead native plant material, including flowers, leaves, fruit, seeds, nuts, cones and berries, for non-commercial, personal use is authorized on a case-by-case basis under BLM Special Use Permit when conducted in accordance with the State of Arizona Native Plant Law.	14. Collection of reasonable amounts of native plant material, including flowers, leaves, fruit, seeds, nuts, cones and berries, for non-commercial, personal use is allowed when conducted in accordance with the State of Arizona Native Plant Law.	14. Same as Action Alternative B.	14. Harvesting or removal of native vegetation for any purpose is prohibited.
15. Digging, cutting, removing or otherwise destroying any living tree, shrub, or cactus is prohibited, except that removal of native vegetation for personal use or commercial landscaping may be allowed under BLM Special Use Permit, and in accordance with the State of Arizona Native Plant Law, during salvage operations where vegetation is destined to be destroyed by authorized activities.	15. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 2.	15. Digging, cutting, removing or otherwise destroying any living tree, shrub, or cactus is prohibited.	15. Harvesting or removal of native vegetation for any purpose is prohibited.
16. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action.	16. Collection of native plant material for scientific purposes may be allowed under BLM Special Use Permit.	16. Collection of native plant material for scientific purposes may be allowed under BLM Special Use Permit.	16. Harvesting or removal of native vegetation for any purpose is prohibited.
17. Continue to issue woodcutting permits for the Lower Gila Resource Area on a case-by-case basis. Wood harvesting of up to 1 cord per year of	17. Wood harvesting of up to 1 cord per year, of dead, down, and detached wood (except ironwood) for non-commercial, personal use, is allowed in specified	17. Wood harvesting is not permitted within the planning area.	17. Same as Action Alternative C.

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<p>dead and down wood, (except ironwood) for non-commercial, personal use is allowed in specified zones within the planning area, when authorized under BLM Special Use Permit, from April 1 through December 31. Wood harvesting in the Ajo area may only occur from July 1 to December 31, with a BLM Special Use Permit. [In Sentinel Plains and Ajo Airport Parcels] Prohibit wood cutting and wood collection for commercial or domestic use. No wood cutting permits will be issued. No vegetative material is to be removed with the exception of specific cases deemed appropriate and properly permitted.</p>	<p>zones throughout the planning area, from September 16 through January 31, when authorized under BLM Special Use Permit.</p>		
<p>Wildlife – General</p>	<p>Wildlife – General</p>	<p>Wildlife – General</p>	<p>Wildlife – General</p>
<p>18. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>18. Carry out reintroductions, transplants and supplemental stockings of wildlife populations in current or historic range in collaboration with AGFD and/or the USFWS to: 1) maintain current populations, distributions and genetic diversity, 2) conserve or recover threatened or endangered species, 3) restore or enhance native wildlife diversity and distribution; 4) maintain isolated populations. Species that could be reintroduced, transplanted or augmented include, but are not limited to, Sonoran pronghorn, cactus ferruginous pygmy -owls, desert mule deer, white-tailed deer, bighorn sheep, javelina, birds of conservation concern, native fishes, native amphibians, and native reptiles, including desert tortoise.</p>	<p>18. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>18. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>19. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>19. Allow for the release of rehabilitated or displaced wildlife on public lands where appropriate for the species and compatible with other resource management and use objectives.</p>	<p>19. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>19. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>20. No existing LUP-level decisions</p>	<p>20. Utilize existing earthen livestock</p>	<p>20. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>20. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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specifically address the action	waters as refugia for native wildlife (including listed, proposed, or candidate species), such as fish, amphibians and aquatic reptiles, in areas where livestock are no longer permitted or in areas where conflicts with other uses can be mitigated.		
21. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	21. Evaluate the feasibility of breaching and/or draining those earthen livestock waters no longer used for livestock nor determined to be suitable for use by wildlife	21. Same as Action Alternative B.	21. Same as Action Alternative B.
22. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	22. Restrict or mitigate the placement of communication sites and facilities (roads or towers), utility rights-of-way, and fences to avoid conflict with bighorn sheep management and wildlife movement.	22. Same as Action Alternative B.	22. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Wildlife – Special Status Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Special Status Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Special Status Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Special Status Species</i>
23. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action, however, these decisions are consistent with the Desert Tortoise Range-wide Plan	23. Allow no net loss in the quality or quantity of desert tortoise habitat. Address and include mitigation measures in decision documents to offset the loss of quality or quantity of Category I, II, or III tortoise habitat. Evaluate all proposed activities, including but not limited to requests for rights-of-way, easements, withdrawals, other land tenure actions, range improvements, wildlife habitat projects, mineral material sales, and commercial and organized group special recreation permit applications for impacts to desert tortoise population or habitats on a case-by-case basis.	23. Same as Action Alternative B.	23. Same as Action Alternative B.
24. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	24. Prohibit competitive or speed events in Category I and II tortoise habitats between March 31 and October 15. Other motorized and non-motorized commercial and organized group events and other use requests between March 31 and October 15 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and may be denied or	24. Same as Action Alternative B.	24. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	changed to avoid conflict with tortoise activity and habitat. Mitigation for conflicts is permissible to achieve no net loss in quantity or quality of desert tortoise habitat.		
25. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	25. Assess all mining plans of operation for impacts to desert tortoise habitat on a case-by-case basis. Mitigate adverse impacts to desert tortoise consistent with no net loss of habitat policy to the extent allowable in the 3809 regulations.	25. Same as Action Alternative B.	25. Same as Action Alternative B.
26. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	26. Evaluate the need to and establish, if necessary, additional desert tortoise study plot(s), or other monitoring methods. Re-read plots at 5 year intervals, or as necessary, and as funding permits.	26. Same as Action Alternative B.	26. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Wildlife – Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species</i>
<i>General</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>General</i>
27. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action	27. Inventory for federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and state protected species. Implement monitoring programs on known populations of listed, proposed, candidate, and state-protected species to document population levels and status. Where monitoring finds threats to these populations, actions will be taken to protect the species and their habitats.	27. Same as Action Alternative B.	27. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Sonoran Pronghorn</i>	<i>Sonoran Pronghorn</i>	<i>Sonoran Pronghorn</i>	<i>Sonoran Pronghorn</i>
28. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action, however the decision in this section are drawn from existing conservation measures.	28. Assign management priority in the Sonoran pronghorn area of the Ajo Block to the protection and recovery of the Sonoran pronghorn. Goals, objectives and management actions have been incorporated into the RMP to meet Recovery Team goals. These measures are focused on protecting and enhancing Sonoran pronghorn habitat and mitigating affects of public uses, particularly related to grazing and recreation. Additional conservation	28. Same as Action Alternative B.	28. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	measures, if needed, will be developed in concert with the Recovery Team and the USFWS for inclusion in the preferred alternative.		
29. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action	29. Install, operate, and maintain forage enhancement plots, in cooperation and coordination with the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team, in at least two locations and as many as eight locations in pronghorn habitat. Design, site selection, prioritization and implementation will be subject to Recovery Team oversight and funding availability.	29. Same as Action Alternative B.	29. Same as Action Alternative B.
30. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action	30. Install, operate, and maintain ground-level drinking troughs and associated existing wells on the Cameron allotment area in cooperation and coordination with the Recovery Team. Design, site selection, prioritization and implementation will be subject to Recovery Team review, will fully comply with facility maintenance guidelines for the Sonoran Pronghorn, and funding availability.	30. Same as Action Alternative B.	30. Same as Action Alternative B.
31. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action	31. Modify existing dirt tanks, in cooperation and coordination with the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team and subject to a need evaluation and feasibility assessment, to minimize conditions conducive to biting midge propagation.	31. Same as Action Alternative B.	31. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl</i>	<i>Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl</i>	<i>Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl</i>	<i>Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl</i>

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<p>32. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action, however the decision in this section are drawn from existing conservation measures</p>	<p>32. Protect and recover Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl and proposed critical and suitable habitat for this species. Goals, Objectives, and Management actions have been incorporated into the RMP to meet recovery goals and focus on avoiding disturbance activities during breeding and dispersal season (February 1 to September 15) and maintaining or improving habitat condition. Additional conservation measures, if needed, will be developed in concert with the USFWS for inclusion in the preferred alternative.</p>	<p>32. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>32. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>33. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>33. Before approving or initiating projects, including major maintenance activities (i.e., cleaning dirt tanks) or any surface disturbing activity, in suitable pygmy-owl habitat require the project proponent to meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two years of pygmy -owl surveys must be conducted before any maintenance work is performed in suitable habitat, or • Major maintenance work, within ½ mile of suitable pygmy -owl habitat must be conducted outside of the pygmy -owl breeding season (February 1 to September 15) to avoid potential effects to breeding and dispersing pygmy -owls. 	<p>33. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>33. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>34. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>34. Close washes that include suitable cactus ferruginous pygmy owl habitat to vehicle use seasonally (February 1 to September 15) to avoid potential effects to breeding and dispersing pygmy owls.</p>	<p>34. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>34. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p><i>Invasive Animal Species</i></p>	<p><i>Invasive Animal Species</i></p>	<p><i>Invasive Animal Species</i></p>	<p><i>Invasive Animal Species</i></p>
<p>35. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>35. Coordinate with the AGFD to control invasive animal species.</p>	<p>35. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>35. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p><i>Natural Resource Allocations</i></p>	<p><i>Natural Resource Allocations</i></p>	<p><i>Natural Resource Allocations</i></p>	<p><i>Natural Resource Allocations</i></p>
<p><i>Saddle Mountain</i></p>	<p><i>Saddle Mountain</i></p>	<p><i>Saddle Mountain</i></p>	<p><i>Saddle Mountain</i></p>

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<p>36. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A; no natural resource allocation was made for Saddle Mountain.</p>	<p>36. No natural resource allocation is proposed in this alternative. The area will be managed to achieve desired conditions through the general management decisions for Action Alternative B for route designations, backcountry and passage allocations, ROS settings, VRM classifications, natural resources, and other resources.</p>	<p>36. Designate a Saddle Mountain Habitat Management Area of approximately 51,000 acres (to include the Palo Verde Hills) to protect geology, native vegetation and wildlife (including desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and raptor species), outstanding landscape features, and primitive recreation and solitude opportunities (see Map 2-2-C). Management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emphasize maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity to the Gila Bend Mountains area through land acquisition and vegetation management • develop select sites for interpretation and environmental education when resource values can be protected. • require vehicles to stay on designated routes or within existing camping areas or pull-outs • close, limit or mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with natural resource management, including maintenance of unfragmented wildlife habitat • concentrate intensive land uses, including developed recreation sites, in less sensitive resource areas and in areas already developed or disturbed • acquire from willing sellers, available private and state lands • change livestock use to ephemeral only Modify existing fences to be wildlife friendly 	<p>36. No natural resource allocation is proposed in this alternative; the area is managed under the Saddle Mountain Outstanding Natural Area ACEC. See Table 2-16 Resource Management Decision Alternatives for Special Area Designations.</p>
<p><i>Gila Bend Mountains</i> The existing land use plans contain no natural resource allocation for the Gila Bend Mountain area.</p>	<p><i>Gila Bend Mountains</i> 37. No natural resource allocation is proposed under Action Alternative B. The area will be managed to achieve desired conditions through the general management decisions for Action Alternative B for route designations,</p>	<p><i>Gila Bend Mountains</i> 37. Designate a Gila Bend Mountains Habitat Management Area of approximately 265,400 acres to protect geology, native vegetation and wildlife (including desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and raptor species), outstanding</p>	<p><i>Gila Bend Mountains</i> 37. Same as Action Alternative C, except the area is approximately 338,900 (see Map 2-2-D).</p>

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	<p>backcountry and passage allocations, ROS settings, VRM classifications, natural resources, and other resources.</p>	<p>landscape features, and primitive recreation and solitude opportunities (see Map 2-2-C). Management prescriptions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require vehicles to stay on designated routes or within existing camping areas or pull-outs • close, limit or mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with natural resource management, including maintenance of unfragmented wildlife habitat • concentrate intensive land uses, including developed recreation sites and utility facilities, in less sensitive resource areas and in areas already developed or disturbed • emphasize maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity between the Gila Bend Mountains and Saddle Mountain area, between Gila Bend Mountains and west Buckeye Hills, and between Gila Bend Mountains and Eagletail Mountains through land acquisition and vegetation management • acquire from willing sellers available private and state lands • change livestock use to ephemeral only. Modify existing fences to be wildlife friendly. 	
<p><i>Batamote Mountains Area</i></p>	<p><i>Batamote Mountains Area</i></p>	<p><i>Batamote Mountains Area</i></p>	<p><i>Batamote Mountains Area</i></p>
<p>38. The existing land use plans contain no natural resource allocation for the Batamote Mountain area. See Special Area Designations for decisions related to the Coffee Pot Botanical ACEC.</p>	<p>38. No Natural Resource Allocation is proposed for this alternative. Discontinue the Coffee Pot Botanical ACEC designation and manage the Batamote Mountains, including the current ACEC area, to achieve desired conditions through the general management decisions for Action Alternative B, including route designations, backcountry and passage</p>	<p>38. Designate a Batamote Wildlife Management Area of approximately 63,000 acres to protect the outstanding botanical diversity of the native plant communities, desert bighorn sheep and other diverse wildlife populations, outstanding landscape features, and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude (see Map 2-2-C). Management prescriptions include:</p>	<p>38. No Natural Resource Allocation is proposed for this alternative. Designate a Coffee Pot-Batamote-Sauceda ACEC in this alternative. See Table 2-16 Resource Management Decision Alternatives for Special Area Designations for the proposed ACEC management prescriptions.</p>

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	<p>allocations, ROS settings, VRM classifications, natural resource, and other resource decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require vehicles to stay on designated routes and within existing camping areas or pull-outs • close, limit or mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with natural resource management, including maintenance of unfragmented wildlife habitat • generally avoid recreational developments but, if developments are necessary to mitigate public use or provide for public safety, limit developments to small, previously disturbed areas, focused primarily on the pipeline road • emphasize maintaining ecological connectivity to the surrounding mountains • change livestock use to ephemeral only to protect the outstanding botanical resources and limit disturbance to wildlife species. • avoid placement of utility rights-of-way outside the existing corridor. 	
<i>Sonoran Pronghorn</i>	<i>Sonoran Pronghorn</i>	<i>Sonoran Pronghorn</i>	<i>Sonoran Pronghorn</i>
<p>39. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A; no natural resource allocation was made to manage Sonoran pronghorn, however, current Conservation Measures for Sonoran pronghorn apply.</p>	<p>39. No Sonoran pronghorn Management Area is allocated, however, the following management provisions apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. vehicle use within Sonoran pronghorn habitat in Ajo Block is limited to designated routes and existing disturbed areas. b. Sonoran pronghorn habitat is closed to public use during pronghorn fawning (approximately March 15 through July 15, or as directed by the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team) c. public use may be further limited to protect Sonoran pronghorn habitat from adverse impacts d. Cameron allotment is closed to livestock grazing 	<p>39. Designate a Sonoran Pronghorn Wildlife Management Area on public lands west of SR-85 and south of Ajo of approximately 60,900 acres to protect Sonoran pronghorn and cactus ferruginous pygmy owl habitat (see Map 2-2-C) Management provisions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. vehicle use is limited to a route system that minimizes wildlife habitat fragmentation and limits wildlife disturbance b. area is closed to public use during pronghorn fawning approximately March 15 through July 15 or as agreed to with the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team c. public use may be further limited to 	<p>39. A Sonoran pronghorn Area is proposed for an ACEC in this alternative. See Table 2-16 Resource Management Decision Alternatives for Special Area Designations for the proposed ACEC management prescriptions.</p>

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	<p>e. livestock waters in open allotments are open seasonally and are modified to decrease breeding activity of disease-causing vectors, if deemed necessary</p> <p>f. earthen livestock waters in the closed allotment will be evaluated for use by wildlife; if needed for wildlife use, they could be maintained and/or modified, and if unnecessary they could be breached or otherwise eliminated</p>	<p>protect Sonoran pronghorn and cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl habitat from adverse impacts</p> <p>d. Cameron allotment is closed to livestock grazing</p> <p>e. grazing classification of Coyote Flat, Why, and Childs allotments west of SR-85 is ephemeral use only</p> <p>f. livestock waters remain available to wildlife, but may be modified, if deemed necessary, to decrease breeding activity of disease-causing vectors.</p> <p>g. prohibit mineral material sales in washes considered suitable habitat for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl</p> <p>h. withdraw the area from mineral entry.</p>	
<i>Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt</i>	<i>Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt</i>	<i>Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt</i>	<i>Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt</i>
40. Retain the Fred G. Weiler Greenbelt. A management plan for the Fred J. Weiler Green Belt will be developed in cooperation with AGFD, the Service, and the BLM.	<p>40. Discontinue the greenbelt and manage the widely scattered public lands within the current designation area to achieve desired resource conditions through the general management prescriptions for Action Alternative B. because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current BLM land ownership is generally too sparse and fragmented to afford effective management • no management plan for the greenbelt has ever been prepared or implemented • no significant tracts of native riparian habitat remain and virtually none remains in BLM ownership • native riparian habitat could not be restored without massive changes in Gila River water management. 	40. Retain the greenbelt below Painted Rocks Dam to the Yuma Field Office boundary but discontinue the designation upstream of the dam. Adopt the management plan developed by Yuma Field Office for managing the greenbelt segment below Painted Rocks Dam to the extent that it is consistent with the Gila River Terraces and Southern Trails Cultural Management Area.	40. Incorporate the greenbelt into the Gila River Terraces and Trails Cultural ACEC (see Table 2-16). Management provisions would include working with partners to identify opportunities to protect and restore riparian habitat, which may be dominated by non-native species.
Implementation-Level Decisions			
<i>Wildlife Waters</i>	<i>Wildlife Waters</i>	<i>Wildlife Waters</i>	<i>Wildlife Waters</i>
1. Develop new wildlife waters on a case-by-case basis in coordination with	1. Maintain and redevelop existing and develop additional wildlife waters, in	1.. Allow maintenance of existing wildlife waters, in cooperation with	1. Prohibit new wildlife water developments. Remove all existing

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<p>AGFD. Maintain and redevelop existing wildlife waters on a case-by-case basis in coordination with AGFD.</p> <p><i>Other</i></p> <p>2. Administrative Action: Design fences to reduce adverse impacts to wildlife movement. Specifications in BLM Manual 1741 and in local BLM directives will be used. BLM will consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) on the design and location of new fences. Where existing fences in wildlife habitat do not meet BLM specifications, they will be modified according to BLM Manual 1741 when they are scheduled for replacement or major maintenance. Special consideration will be given to placement, type, and installation of fences in Category I and II desert tortoise habitat to facilitate desert tortoise movement, dispersal and protection.</p> <p>3. <i>Administrative Action</i>: Eliminate trespass grazing by cattle, sheep, goats, burros, and other non-native</p>	<p>cooperation with AGFD and consistent with Land Health Standards, to support, maintain or expand the distribution of wildlife populations consistent with the AGFD Strategic Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water development projects must emphasize the use of new technologies, products, and construction designs that provide for the lowest degree of maintenance while still providing for a visually obscure wildlife water development that is compatible with the surrounding terrain. • Place waters in locations that are consistent with achieving desired wildlife management objectives. <p><i>Other</i></p> <p>2. Same as No Action Alternative.</p> <p>3. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>AGFD, on a case-by-case basis provided that these projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid further development or redevelopment of tinajas, springs, and seeps, if it is determined that such actions will impact cultural resources or conflict with other natural resource management goals and objectives. • Utilize new technologies and products that require the lowest degree of maintenance when maintaining wildlife waters. Emphasize those technologies that minimize impacts on other resources to the extent that such an approach is consistent with achieving desired wildlife management objectives. <p><i>Other</i></p> <p>2. Same as No Action Alternative.</p> <p>3. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>developed wildlife waters.</p> <p><i>Other</i></p> <p>2. Same as No Action Alternative.</p> <p>3. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>
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<p>animals and construct wildlife-passable fences where trespass is a problem. 4. Administrative Action: Develop projects in such a way that opportunities for wildlife movement are maintained, particularly in wildlife movement corridors. If opportunities for wildlife movement cannot be adequately maintained, than mitigation to maintain isolated wildlife populations will be adopted.</p>	<p>4. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>4. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>4. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>
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**TABLE 2-2-4. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH
 NATURAL RESOURCES – WATERSHED**

Desired Outcomes: Management Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: 1. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve, or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge and stream bank stability, thus promoting stream channel morphology and functions appropriate to climate and landform.</p>	<p>Objective 1 (Watershed Management): Maintain or restore upland components, including both wash and riparian components of watersheds, that contribute to stable or improving watershed conditions by achieving desired resource conditions for vegetation. Total cover (vegetation and litter) and sedimentation rates are appropriate for the ecological site. Objective 2 (Watershed Management): Apply best management practices when authorizing vegetative or surface disturbances to limit soil loss and erosion and protect water quality. Objective 3 (Watershed Management): Apply best management practices when authorizing land uses that may effect water quality (e.g., mining, herbicides) to avoid point or non-point source water pollution. Objective 4 (Watershed Management): Maintain natural water flow and availability on the public lands, to the maximum extent possible.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Watershed (Soil) Management of Uses</i>	<i>Watershed (Soil) Management of Uses</i>	<i>Watershed (Soil) Management of Uses</i>	<i>Watershed (Soil) Management of Uses</i>
<p>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>1. Disturb surface resources as little as possible when constructing new developments or reconstructing existing facilities. Mitigation plans will be developed and disturbed surfaces will be restored and soils stabilized in accordance with restoration objectives.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>2. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-</p>	<p>2. Locate facilities and other ground disturbing activities away from areas of</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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Action Alternative A.	significant desert pavement, cryptogamic crust, other significant sensitive soils or fragile soils with high erosion potential, where practical. Where facilities can not be relocated, develop mitigation measures to minimize the affect on the resource.		
3. Assess the vulnerability of soils to disruption and subsequent wind and water erosion in the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels on a project-by-project basis.	3. Evaluate the vulnerability of soils to disruption and subsequent wind and water erosion on a project-by-project basis. Develop mitigation measures to minimize potential erosion.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.
Management for Resource Protection	Management for Resource Protection	Management for Resource Protection	Management for Resource Protection
4. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	4. Mitigate soil erosion at cultural resource and ecologically sensitive sites on a case-by-case basis if an irretrievable loss of resource is suspected.	4. Mitigate soil erosion at cultural resource sites and ecologically sensitive sites on a case-by-case basis if resource damage is occurring or suspected.	4. Same as Action Alternative C.
5. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	5. Conserve areas of significant biological soil crusts and desert pavement, where practical.	5. Identify and conserve areas of significant biological soil crusts and desert pavement.	5. Same as Action Alternative C.
6. [In Sentinel Plains and Ajo Airport Parcels] Assess as part of the NPEA evaluation process, the vulnerability of soils to disruption and subsequent wind and water erosion.	6. No action is proposed under Action Alternative B.	6. Identify and evaluate areas that may require special management to prevent soil loss, soil destruction, and excessive erosion. Develop an erosion hazards map, considering the likelihood of both wind and water erosion, which can be used to assess potential impacts to cultural sites and landscapes and ecologically sensitive areas.	6. Same as Action Alternative C.
7. [In Phoenix RMP area] Maintain and improve soil cover and productivity through erosion preventative measures and land treatments. Implement watershed improvement projects to increase ground cover to reduce erosion, sediment yield and salinity contributions.	7. This decision is not carried into Action Alternative B.	7. Same as Action Alternative B.	7. Same as Action Alternative B.
8. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action for under No-Action Alternative A.	8. No action is proposed under Action Alternative B.	8. Identify, evaluate, and assign priorities for restoring disturbed areas, considering the potential for soil erosion and loss, and effects on water quality and quantity.	8. Same as Action Alternative C.
Watershed (Water) Water Flow	Watershed (Water) Water Flow	Watershed (Water) Water Flow	Watershed (Water) Water Flow

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9. [In the Phoenix RMP area] Executive Order 11988 directs federal agencies to "avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative" (Floodplain Management Guidelines, 43 CFR 6030, 1978.	9. Construct new or redevelop facilities in a manner that avoids changing natural water flow and is consistent with other resource goals, except where necessary to meet the project goals.	9. Construct new or redevelop facilities in a manner that avoids changing natural water flow.	9. Same as Action Alternative C.
10. New facilities are located away from riparian-wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland function. Existing facilities are used in a way that does not conflict with riparian-wetland functions or are relocated or modified when incompatible with riparian-wetland functions.	10. Locate new facilities not related to water management outside of the 100-year floodplain and riparian areas of any wash or water way. Existing facilities may be relocated or modified if they are significantly affecting floodplain function.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.
11. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	11. No action is proposed under Action Alternative B.	11. Assess landscapes modified by water control structures and where adverse impacts are detected make adjustments, as feasible and appropriate; where facilities are necessary, maintain them in good condition.	11. Same as Action Alternative C.
<i>Watershed (Water) Water Use</i>	<i>Watershed (Water) Water Use</i>	<i>Watershed (Water) Water Use</i>	<i>Watershed (Water) Water Use</i>
12. Keep groundwater development and exploration in the existing Sentinel Plain SRMA, which is identified as a former BMGR environmentally sensitive area. The development of springs and seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect ecological functions and processes.	12. Approve proposed new water developments where the project proponent has a demonstrated need and the project is not in conflict with other resource management goals.	12. Approve new water developments only when the development will not dewater springs, streams, or seeps; decrease water availability at existing wells; nor conflict with other resource management goals.	12. Same as Action Alternative C.
13. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	13. Field activities relating to groundwater exploration and development will not be allowed in areas sensitive to ecological or cultural disturbance.	13. Same as Action Alternative B.	13. Same as Action Alternative B.
14. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-	14. Evaluate and mitigate the effects of proposed water use, on a project specific	14. Same as Action Alternative B.	14. Same as Action Alternative B.

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Action Alternative A.	basis, on the availability of water to support natural resource and multiple-use goals.		
15. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	15. Evaluate proposals for groundwater withdrawals on BLM-administered lands within an Active Management Area (AMA) in coordination with the Arizona Department of Water Resources and incorporate any restrictions or guidelines for the AMA.	15. Same as Action Alternative B.	15. Same as Action Alternative B.
16. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	16. Work with county, state, and federal agencies to monitor surface and ground water quantity on public lands.	16. Same as Action Alternative B.	16. Same as Action Alternative B.
17. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	17 Identify, quantify, and secure legal entitlement for existing and future water sources by acquiring water rights/well permits, when possible, to ensure water availability to meet the desired future conditions for natural resources and multiple-uses.	17. Same as Action Alternative B.	17. Same as Action Alternative B.
18. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	18. Evaluate proposed surface and groundwater diversions for their effects on maintaining adequate water on the public lands to meet the desired future conditions for natural resources and other multiple-uses.	18. Same as Action Alternative B.	18. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>Water Quality</i>
19. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	19. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Work with county, state, and federal agencies to monitor surface and ground water quality on public lands.	19. Same as Action Alternative B.	19. Same as Action Alternative B.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Fire and Fuels Management

TABLE 2-3. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH	
Fire and Fuels Management	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives	
<p>No-Action Alternative Desired Resource Conditions (goals and objectives)</p> <p>DRC 1: Fire is recognized as a natural process in fire-adapted ecosystems and is used to achieve objectives for other resources;</p> <p>DRC 2: Fuels in WUI areas are maintained at non-hazardous levels to provide for public and fire fighter safety;</p> <p>DRC 3: Each vegetation community is maintained within its natural range of variation in plant composition, structure, and function, and fuel loads are maintained below levels that are considered to be hazardous.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: The Sonoran desert ecosystem is generally fire intolerant. Fire adapted communities within the Sonoran Desert may allow for prescribed fire as a management tool to maintain and restore the community consistent with other natural resource objectives. Prescribed fire, if used, must be contained to the fire-adapted community and not allowed to spread into the desert ecosystem.</p> <p>Goal 2: In the Sonoran desert ecosystem, wildfire is suppressed in the shortest practical time and using minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST, Interagency Standards for Fire Operations, 2003).</p> <p>Goal 3: The Interior Chaparral ecosystem (occurs in the Globe-Miami area) is generally fire tolerant. Natural and prescribed fire may be used as a management tool to maintain and restore communities consistent with natural resource objectives.</p> <p>Goal 4: Fuel loads, particularly in wildland-urban interface areas, are maintained at non-hazardous levels to provide for public and fire fighter safety.</p>
	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Reduce the risk of wildfire and meet resource management goals by implementing appropriate fuels management treatments. Where fuel treatment is necessary, including (a) where non native plant species have encroached, (b) in the Wildland-Urban Interface where property and life may be threatened, or (c) where needed to meet resource management goals, treatment may be utilized to reduce wildfire intensity and meet resource objectives. When choosing a fuel treatment method, the least intrusive method that will achieve the goals of the project will be used. Methods may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical – The use of different types of equipment to suppress or reduce the cover of undesirable vegetation encouraging the growth of desirable plant species. • Manual – The use of hand operated power tools (i.e., chain saws) and hand tools are used to cut, clear, or prune herbaceous and woody species to meet various resource goals. • Biological – The use of living organisms to selectively suppress, inhibit, or control herbaceous and woody vegetation to meet resource goals. • Prescribed Burning – The use of planned application of fire to wildland fuels in their natural or modified state, under specific conditions of fuels, weather, and other predetermined factors, to achieve site-specific fire and resource management objectives. Prescribed fire, if used, must be contained to the fire-adapted community and not allowed to spread into the desert ecosystem. • Chemical – The use of chemical treatments to control unwanted vegetation in accordance with BLM procedures in Chemical Pest Control (BLM 1988c) <p>Objective 2: All fuels treatment actions will prioritize public and fire fighter safety</p>

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Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<u>Allocation to Wildland Fire Use</u>	<u>Allocation to Wildland Fire Use</u>	<u>Allocation to Wildland Fire Use</u>	<u>Allocation to Wildland Fire Use</u>
<p><u>1. Allocation 1 – Wildland Fire Use:</u> <u>Areas suitable for wildland fire use for resource management benefit.</u> Areas where wildland fire is desired, and there are few or no constraints for its use. Where conditions are suitable, unplanned and planned wildfire may be used to achieve desired objectives, such as to improve vegetation, wildlife habitat or watershed conditions, maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires and meet resource objectives. Where fuel loading is high but conditions are not initially suitable for wildland fire, fuel loads are reduced by mechanical, chemical or biological means to reduce hazardous fuels levels and meet resource objectives (includes WUI areas).</p>	<p><u>1. Allocation 1 – Wildland Fire Use:</u> <u>Areas suitable for wildland fire use for resource management benefit.</u> Areas where wildland fire is desired, and there are few or no constraints for its use. Where conditions are suitable, unplanned and planned wildfire may be used to achieve desired objectives, such as to improve vegetation, wildlife habitat or watershed conditions, maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires and meet resource objectives. Where fuel loading is high but conditions are not initially suitable for wildland fire, fuel loads are reduced by mechanical, chemical or biological means to reduce hazardous fuels levels and meet resource objectives (includes Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas).</p> <p>Within the Sonoran desert ecosystem, natural wildfire will generally be suppressed. Within fire-adapted communities, prescribed fire may be used under controlled circumstances to prevent the spread of fire into the adjoining fire-intolerant communities can be assured.</p> <p>Within the Gila River corridor unplanned and planned fire and other fuels management methods may be used to restore riparian habitat and protect public health and safety, where determined to be appropriate.</p> <p>Within the Interior chaparral ecosystem, decisions on whether to allow natural fire to burn or to initiate a prescribed fire</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>

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	will be coordinated with adjoining land owners due to the small and fragmented nature of the public lands. Natural or prescribed fire may be used under controlled circumstances when avoiding the spread of fire into the adjoining fire-intolerant communities can be assured.		
<p>2. Allocation 2 – Non Wildland Fire Use: Areas not suitable for wildland fire use for resource benefit. This allocation includes areas where mitigation and suppression are required to prevent direct threats to life or property. It includes areas where fire never played a large role, historically, in the development and maintenance of the ecosystem, and some areas where fire return intervals were very long. It also includes areas (including some WUI areas) where an unplanned ignition could have negative effects to the ecosystem unless some form of mitigation takes place. Mitigation may include mechanical, biological, chemical, or prescribed fire means to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires and meet resource objectives.</p>	2. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 2.	2. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 2.	2. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 2.
<p>3. In areas not suitable for fire, BLM will implement programs to reduce unwanted ignitions, and emphasize prevention, detection, and rapid suppression response techniques. In areas not suitable for fire where fuel loading is high, BLM will utilize biological, mechanical or chemical treatments, and some prescribed fire to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels and meet resource objectives.</p>	3. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 3.	3. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 3.	3. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 3.
4. In areas suitable for fire where fuel loading is high and current conditions	4. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 4.	4. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 4.	4. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 4.

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<p>constrain fire use, BLM will emphasize prevention and mitigation programs to reduce unwanted fire ignitions, and use mechanical, biological or chemical treatments to mitigate the fuel loadings and meet resource objectives.</p>			
<p>5. In areas suitable for fire where conditions allow, BLM will allow naturally ignited wildland fire, use prescribed fire and a combination of biological, mechanical and chemical treatments to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires and meet resource objectives.</p>	<p>5. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 5.</p>
<p>6. In areas suitable for fire, BLM will monitor existing air quality levels and weather conditions to determine which prescribed fires can be ignited and which, if any, must be delayed to ensure that air quality meets federal and state standards. If air quality approaches unhealthy levels BLM will delay igniting prescribed fires.</p>	<p>6. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 6.</p>	<p>6. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 6.</p>	<p>6. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 6.</p>
<p><i>Fire and Fuel Management Guidelines</i></p>	<p><i>Fire and Fuel Management Guidelines</i></p>	<p><i>Fire and Fuel Management Guidelines</i></p>	<p><i>Fire and Fuel Management Guidelines</i></p>
<p>7. The appropriate management response concept represents a range of available management responses to wildland fires. Responses range from full fire suppression to managing fires for resource benefits (fire use). Management responses applied to a fire will be identified in the Fire Management Plan and will be based on objectives derived from the land use allocations; relative risk to resources, the public and fire fighters; potential complexity; and the ability to defend management boundaries. Any wildland fire can be aggressively suppressed and any fire that occurs in an area designated for fire use can be managed for resource benefits if it meets the prescribed criteria</p>	<p>7. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 7.</p>	<p>7. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 7.</p>	<p>7. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 7.</p>

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from an approved fire management plan.			
8. No LUP-level decisions address this element..	8. In developing the appropriate management response, minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST, Interagency Standards for Fire Operations, 2003) are applied throughout the planning area, to the maximum extent possible.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.
9. The following constraints to fire suppression actions are common to all alternatives: All known cultural resources will be protected from disturbance.	9. Cultural resources will be protected from disturbance. Unavoidable effects, from actions required to protect health and safety or other important issues, will be minimized or mitigated.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.
10. In Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and areas being managed for wilderness characteristics according to LUPs, when suppression actions are required, minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST, Interagency Standards for Fire Operations, 2003) would be applied and coordinated with Wilderness Area management objectives and guidelines	10. Fire management activities in Wilderness Areas must be compatible with the applicable Wilderness Plan and will use minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST, Interagency Standards for Fire Operations, 2003).	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.
11. Fire management activities along National Historic Trails will be conducted to assure no adverse effects occur to those resources and values identified in the legislation designating the trail.	11. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 11.	11. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 11.	11. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 11.
12. Fire management efforts along river segments recommended as eligible for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act should utilize those measures that avoid adversely affecting the identified outstandingly remarkable values that qualify the rivers for designation.	12. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 12.	12. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 12.	12. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 12.
13. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Backcountry Byways are established in land use plans. The desired conditions and management prescriptions for these special areas will be considered in implementing fire management activities.	13. Fire management activities will be compatible with other resource and use management objectives, including those in special designation areas or special allocations.	13. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 13.	13. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 13.

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<i>Fuel Management Methods</i>	<i>Fuel Management Methods</i>	<i>Fuel Management Methods</i>	<i>Fuel Management Methods</i>
<p>14. There are several treatment methods and Standard Operating Procedures that would be used in a vegetation treatment program. BLM policies and guidance for public land treatments would be followed in implementing all treatment methods. Many guidelines are provided in manual Section 1740, BLM Arizona's Standards for Rangeland Health, Programmatic documents such as BLM's Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States (May 1991), and other general and specific program policy, procedures, and standards pertinent to implementation of renewable resource improvements.</p> <p>In Arizona, BLM manages designated Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and areas managed for wilderness characteristics that are identified in an approved land use plan. Guidelines and operating procedures for fire management activities in Wilderness Areas are provided in BLM Manual 8560, Management of Designated Wilderness Areas, and in Wilderness Management Plans, where completed for specific Wilderness Areas (Table 3.9).</p> <p>Fire management guidance for Wilderness Study Areas is provided in BLM Manual 8550, Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review. Approved land use plans specify fire management procedures for areas identified in the land use plan to be managed for wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>The manual, chemical, mechanical,</p>	<p>14. When applying fuels treatment methods, BLM policies, procedures, and plans will be followed. The manual, chemical, biological, and fire treatment methods that may be used are described in Appendix Vegetation Treatment.</p>	<p>14. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 14.</p>	<p>14. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 14.</p>

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<p>biological and fire treatment methods described in the Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels and Air Quality Management would be used.</p>			
<p><i>Safety</i></p>	<p><i>Safety</i></p>	<p><i>Safety</i></p>	<p><i>Safety</i></p>
<p>15. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources must be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and costs of protection (2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy). However, implementing the following Conservation Measures during fire suppression to the extent possible, and during the proposed fire management activities as required, would minimize or eliminate the effects to Federally protected species and habitats.</p>	<p>15. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be based on regulation, policy, and this plan, including the conservation measures, considering the values to be protected, human health and safety, and costs of protection (2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy).</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 15.</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 15.</p>
<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation</i></p>
<p>16. For all fire management activities (wildfire suppression, appropriately managed wildfire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical, chemical, and biological vegetation treatments), Conservation Measures will be implemented as part of the Proposed Action to provide statewide consistency in reducing the effects of fire management actions on Federally threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate (“Federally protected”) species. Conservation Measures noted as “Recommended” are discretionary for implementation, but are recommended to help minimize effects to Federally protected species. Procedures within the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire</p>	<p>16. For all fire management activities (wildfire suppression, appropriately managed wildfire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical, chemical, and biological vegetation treatments), Conservation Measures will be implemented to reduce the effects of fire management actions on Federally threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate (“Federally protected”) species, see Appendix CM. Procedures within the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2003, including future updates, relevant to fire operations that may affect Federally protected species or their habitat are incorporated here by reference.</p>	<p>16. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 16.</p>	<p>16. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 16.</p>

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<p>Aviation Operations 2003, including future updates, relevant to fire operations that may affect Federally protected species or their habitat are incorporated here by reference.</p>			
<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Fire Suppression</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Fire Suppression</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Fire Suppression</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Fire Suppression</i></p>
<p>17. During fire suppression actions, Resource Advisors may be designated to coordinate concerns regarding Federally protected species, and to serve as a liaison between the Field Office Manager and the Incident Commander/Incident Management Team. They will also serve as a field contact representative (FCR) responsible for coordination with the USFWS. The Resource Advisors will have the necessary information on Federally protected species and habitats in the area and the available Conservation Measures for the species. They will be briefed on the intended suppression actions for the fire, and will provide input on which Conservation Measures are appropriate, within the standard constraints of safety and operational procedures. The Incident Commander has the final decision-making authority on implementation of Conservation Measures during fire suppression operations.</p>	<p>17. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 17.</p>	<p>17. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 17.</p>	<p>17. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 17.</p>
<p>18. The following constraints to fire suppression actions are common to all alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppression tactics will be utilized that limit damage or disturbance to the habitat and landscape. No heavy equipment will be used (such as dozers) unless approved the Field Office Manager. • Use of fire retardants or chemicals adjacent to waterways will be 	<p>18. The following constraints to fire suppression actions will be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppression tactics will be utilized that limit damage or disturbance to the habitat and landscape. No heavy equipment will be used (such as dozers) unless approved the Field Office Manager. • Use of fire retardants or chemicals adjacent to waterways will be accomplished in accordance with 	<p>18. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 18.</p>	<p>18. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 18.</p>

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<p>accomplished in accordance to the “Environmental Guidelines For Delivery of Retardant or Foam Near Waterways (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations pages 8-13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All known cultural resources will be protected from disturbance. • In Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and areas being managed for wilderness characteristics according to LUPs, when suppression actions are required, minimum impact suppression tactics (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, 2003) would be utilized and coordinated with Wilderness Area management objectives and guidelines. • The general and species-specific Conservation Measures listed in Appendix D will be implemented to the extent possible to minimize adverse effects to federally listed, proposed, or candidate species occurring within the action area. • For fire suppression activities, a protocol for consultation has been developed as a part of the Biological Opinion. This programmatic consultation contains conservation measures and prescriptions for use in fire suppression activities. Emergency consultation should only be needed in the future if suppression actions fall outside of these prescriptions/measures. The BO will outline coordination needs for emergency response actions that may affect a listed/proposed species and/or critical habitat. The following protocol will apply: 	<p>policy, including, the “Environmental Guidelines for Delivery of Retardant or Foam Near Waterways” (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations pages 8-13).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general and species-specific Conservation Measures listed in Appendix CM will be implemented to the extent possible to minimize adverse effects to federally listed, proposed, or candidate species occurring within the action area. • For fire suppression activities, a protocol for consultation was been developed as a part of the Biological Opinion for the Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management. This RMP incorporates conservation measures and prescriptions for use in fire suppression activities, see Appendix CM. Emergency consultation should only be needed in the future if suppression actions fall outside of these prescriptions and measures. The BO will outline coordination needs for emergency response actions that may affect a listed or proposed species and/or critical habitat. The following protocol will apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BLM will contact the appropriate USFWS biologist as soon as practical once a wildfire starts and a determination is made that a federally protected species and/or its habitat could be affected by the fire and/or fire suppression activities. USFWS will work with BLM during the emergency response 		
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<p>o BLM will contact the appropriate USFWS biologist as soon as practical once a wildfire starts and a determination is made that a federally protected species and/or its habitat could be affected by the fire and/or fire suppression activities. USFWS will work with BLM during the emergency response to apply the appropriate Conservation Measures. If Conservation Measures cannot be applied during the suppression activities, BLM will need to consult after the fact on any suppression actions that may have affected the federally protected species or its habitat. If Conservation Measures are adhered to, then BLM will report on the actions taken and effects to the species and its habitat following the fire, but no further consultation on that incident will be required.</p>	<p>to apply the appropriate Conservation Measures. The Incident Commander has the final decision-making authority on implementation of Conservation Measures during fire suppression operations. If Conservation Measures cannot be applied during the suppression activities, BLM will need to consult after the fact on any suppression actions that may have affected the federally protected species or its habitat. If Conservation Measures are adhered to, then BLM will report on the actions taken and effects to the species and its habitat following the fire, but no further consultation on that incident will be required.</p>		
<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Other Fire Activities</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Other Fire Activities</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Other Fire Activities</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Other Fire Activities</i></p>
<p>19. Because of the number of species located within the action area for proposed Statewide LUP Amendment, combined with a variety of fire suppression and proposed fire management activities, conflicts may occur in attempting to implement all Conservation Measures for every species potentially affected by a particular activity. Implementing these Conservation Measures effectively would depend on the number of Federally protected species and their individual life history or habitat</p>	<p>19. For other fire management activities, Resource Advisors (in coordination with the USFWS), Fire Management Officers or Incident Commanders, and other resource specialists will coordinate to determine which Conservation Measures (see Appendix CM) are implemented during a particular activity. As needed, USFWS will be consulted during project planning to discuss the Conservation Measures to be applied. If Conservation Measures for a species cannot be implemented, based on conflicts between conservation</p>	<p>19. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 19.</p>	<p>19. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 19.</p>

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<p>requirements within a particular location that is being affected by either fire suppression or a proposed fire management activity. This would be particularly true for timing restrictions on fuels treatment activities, if the ranges of several species with differing restrictions overlap, making effective implementation of the activity unachievable. Resource Advisors (in coordination with the USFWS), Fire Management Officers or Incident Commanders, and other resource specialists would need to coordinate to determine which Conservation Measures would be implemented during a particular activity. If Conservation Measures for a species cannot be implemented, BLM would be required to initiate Section 7 consultation with the USFWS for that particular activity.</p>	<p>measures for different species, the proposed activity, resource concerns, or other reasons, BLM will initiate Section 7 consultation with the USFWS prior to project implementation.</p>		
<p><i>Implementation Plans</i></p>	<p><i>Implementation Plans</i></p>	<p><i>Implementation Plans</i></p>	<p><i>Implementation Plans</i></p>
<p>20. BLM will update their local Fire Management Plans to include site-specific actions for managing wildfire and fuels in accordance with the new Federal fire policies, based on guidance provided in the Decision Records for this Statewide LUP Amendment. These plans will be coordinated with the USFWS and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to address site-specific concerns for Federally protected species. These plans will incorporate the Conservation Measures included in this Statewide LUP Amendment for Federally protected species occurring within each Fire Management Zone. Consultation with the USFWS will occur with these project-level plans, as necessary.</p>	<p>20. BLM will update and maintain Fire Management Plans to include site-specific actions for managing wildfire and fuels in accordance with Federal fire policies and this plan. These plans will be coordinated with the USFWS and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to address site-specific concerns for Federally protected species. These plans will incorporate the Conservation Measures (see Appendix CM). Consultation with the USFWS will occur with these project-level plans, as necessary.</p>	<p>20. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 20.</p>	<p>20. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 20.</p>
<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>	<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>	<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>	<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>
<p>21. In addition to both allocations, to</p>	<p>21. BLM will undertake education,</p>	<p>21. Same as Action Alternative B,</p>	<p>21. Same as Action Alternative B,</p>

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<p>reduce human caused fires, BLM will undertake education, enforcement and administrative fire prevention mitigation measures. Education measures will include various media information including a signing program, information as to the natural role of fire within local ecosystems, participation in fairs, parades and public contacts. Enforcement will be accomplished by providing training opportunities for employees interested in fire cause determination. Administration includes expanded prevention and education programs with other cooperator agencies.</p>	<p>enforcement and administrative fire prevention mitigation measures to reduce human caused fires. Education measures may include various media information, including a signing program, information on the natural role of fire within local ecosystems, participation in fairs or parades and other public contacts. Enforcement will be accomplished by providing training opportunities for employees interested in fire cause determination. Administration includes expanded prevention and education programs with other cooperator agencies.</p>	<p>Element 21.</p>	<p>Element 21.</p>
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Cultural and Heritage Resources

TABLE 2-4. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH CULTURAL RESOURCES

Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives

<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Goals</p> <p>Goals: No LUP-level goals for cultural resources are provided in existing LUPs.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Protect and conserve cultural resources including all types of sites and ensure they are available for appropriate uses. Goal 2: Conserve, protect, and manage cultural landscapes, sites, and the historic or prehistoric context.</p>		
<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Objectives</p> <p>Objectives: The existing LUPs provide few objectives or management decisions for cultural resources. Cultural resources are managed in accordance with the BLM Cultural Resource Manual 8110 and in compliance with law and regulation.</p> <p>1. [In Lower Gila South] BLM will continue to manage cultural resources for their cultural values.</p> <p>2. [In Phoenix RMP area] manage cultural resources to protect the information potential or the public use values of properties or to manage them, when applicable, for conservation.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Allocate cultural resources to one of five use categories: (1) scientific use, (2) conservation for future use, (3) traditional use, (4) public use, (5) experimental use, or classify as discharged from management, according to the BLM Cultural Resource Manual 8110. Objective 2: Protect and preserve in place the variety of cultural resources on public lands in their historic and prehistoric context on the landscape. Objective 3: Develop and implement cultural resource management strategies for sites allocated to uses that warrant focused management, such as public use. Objective 4: Develop strategies to define limits of acceptable change, monitor changes, and implement adaptive management to address unacceptable changes to selected cultural resources, emphasizing areas accessible by roads and trails. Objective 5: Institute a more intensive and focused management approach on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Objective 6: Protect the viewsheds of high values resources whose setting is an important character defining value, such as the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, through visual resource management techniques and requirements and other available tools. Objective 7: Provide opportunities for research related to cultural resources. Objective 8: Provide educational opportunities to enhance public understanding and appreciation of cultural resources, focusing on themes such as (1) prehistoric adaptation to the Sonoran Desert, (2) historic mining, (3) historic ranching, and (4) historic transportation. Objective 9: Utilize the time and talents of volunteers to enhance selected elements of the cultural resource program.</p>		
<p align="center">Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations</p>			
<p align="center">Alternative A (No-Action)</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative B</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative C</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative D</p>
<p>1. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>1. Emphasize development of sites for public visitation</p> <p>Provide opportunities for scientific research and inventory at selected sites.</p>	<p>1. Emphasize and promote resource protection, scientific research including excavation, and inventory through agreements, partnerships, and volunteers.</p> <p>Develop selected sites for public use and interpretation, with a priority on resource protection.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>
<p>2. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>2. Sites will be allocated and re-allocated according to the BLM Cultural Resource Manual 8110 using the criteria pertinent to the specified use listed below and in response to changing resource</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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	conditions, public use, research opportunities, and other reasons.		
3. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	3. Restrict public information about the locations of sites that are not allocated to public use, as allowed by law and regulation.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Scientific Use</i>	<i>Scientific Use</i>	<i>Scientific Use</i>	<i>Scientific Use</i>
4 [In Saddle Mountain] allocate cultural resources identified through inventory for scientific uses.	4. Sites will be allocated to scientific use, based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significance and uniqueness of site • potential to contribute toward scientific understanding • capability of current available scientific methods to achieve research goals • appropriate research proposal that will further scientific understanding or resource management • existing threats to site, including vandalism, erosion processes, or other types of disturbance. 	4. Same as Action Alternative B.	4. Same as Action Alternative B.
5. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	5. The following general site classes will be allocated to scientific use. Individual sites can be re-allocated if applicable. Classes of prehistoric sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village sites, camp sites, agricultural sites, rock shelters or cave sites • Lithic scatters, artifact scatters • Groundstone manufacturing sites • Rock features and alignments • Food and other resource processing sites, roasting pits • Hunting blinds and ambush sites • Trail sites • Tinaja and spring sites • Petroglyph sites, Pictograph sites • Intaglio sites Classes of historic sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranches, homesteads, and associated features and components 	5. Same as Action Alternative B.	5. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • livestock raising related sites, agricultural features • mines and prospecting sites • settlements and camps • roads, trails, and driveways, railroads and associated features, stage stops and stations • public works sites, military camps and sites • rock features and walls • facilities used in commerce • wells and water developments, water control features • artifact scatters • historic aboriginal sites • graves and cemeteries • historic rock art • trash dumps 		
6. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	6. Permit scientific and historical studies, including excavation, by qualified researchers at selected sites allocated to scientific use. The highest priority for study will be assigned to sites that are threatened with damage from human activities or natural processes, areas of scientific interest, sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and areas where research may inform management actions. Historic contexts and research designs will provide guidance for scientific studies.	6. Same as Action Alternative B.	6. Same as Action Alternative B.
7. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	7. No decision is developed for this element.	7. Complete documentary research and oral histories to gain a better understanding of cultural resources from homesteading, mining, ranching, and other historical period activities.	7. Same as Action Alternative C.
8. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	8. Conduct inventory in areas vulnerable to damage by human use or natural processes and areas having high resource potential.	8. Conduct inventory, with a focus on increasing scientific understanding of the cultural resources.	8. Same as Action Alternative C.
9.No existing decisions specifically	9. Complete Class II (sample) and Class	9. Same as Action Alternative B.	9. Same as Action Alternative B.

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address the action under No-Action Alternative A	III (intensive) field inventories to identify cultural resources and evaluate the condition of sites, in accord with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Use the information obtained through these surveys to allocate sites to proper use categories, develop protection measures, and integrate survey results into research designs and interpretation efforts. Priorities for inventory will be determined based on resource use and protection priority areas and sites.		
10. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	10. Establish collaborative research partnerships with academic institutions, professional and nonprofit organizations, and vocational organizations.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.
11. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	11. Provide opportunities for and encourage tribal participation in research.	11. Same as Action Alternative B.	11. Same as Action Alternative B.
Public Use	Public Use	Public Use	Public Use
12. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	<p>12. Consider the following criteria in selecting sites suitable for public use and interpretation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presence of aboveground features, such as structures or rock art, landscape characteristics, or other features that are of interest to the public and are amenable to interpretive development; • the condition of the site and the feasibility of treating or stabilizing selected areas to withstand visitation; • accessibility to travel routes; • visitor safety • compatibility of other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans; • feasibility of regular inspections by BLM staff and volunteers; and • partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects. 	12. Same as Action Alternative B, except the first priority is given to protection and scientific research.	12. Same as Action Alternative C.

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<p>13. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>13. Sites allocated to public use include a. Painted Rock Petroglyph Site since it is already developed as an interpretive site. This site is well-suited to its public use and will continue to be used for interpretation and educational purposes. b. Sundad Site is allocated to public use as well as scientific use. It has the potential to relate to stories about mining and settlement of the area. c. Segments of the Butterfield Stage Overland Route will be allocated to public use and have been addressed in an interpretive master plan written in 1995. The potential for education and interpretation of the stories related to historic travel and transportation is great. Other routes on the Southern Trail may also be considered for public use.</p> <p>Other sites may be allocated to public use based on the criteria specified above.</p>	<p>13. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>13. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>14. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>14. Develop interpretive materials and facilities for selected sites. Provide educational opportunities to the public, stressing recreational aspects, education, and stewardship.</p>	<p>14. Develop interpretive materials and facilities for selected sites in the front country recreation management zone. Provide educational opportunities to the public, stressing protection, appreciation, education, and stewardship.</p>	<p>14. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>
<p>15. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>15. Map and document sites before interpretive development for public use, to the extent needed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve archaeological data, • Plan for interpretive facilities, and • Provide a baseline condition assessment for monitoring changes resulting from visitor use. • Complete interpretive plans for sites allocated to public use through interpretive development. 	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>16. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>16. Provide opportunities for tribal participation in interpretation.</p>	<p>16. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>16. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>17. No existing decisions specifically</p>	<p>17. Implement procedures for</p>	<p>17. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>17. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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address the action under No-Action Alternative A	systematic monitoring of all sites developed or authorized for public visitation.		
18. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	18. Restrict visitor access or group tours as needed to prevent any damage from visitor use. The following guidelines apply to group use: a. Limit group tours to those sites that have been evaluated and it is determined the site can support the proposed use. Prohibit tours or group permits at any cultural resource that is sensitive and fragile. b. Include stipulations in special recreation permits to ensure that resources are not damaged. c. Generally limit group size to 25 people per site at a time. Permit larger groups on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that adverse impacts can be avoided. d. Ensure that commercial tour operators receive Arizona Site Steward training and provide appropriate educational information on archaeological site etiquette and resource conservation to their customers if cultural sites are included on the tour. Require tour operators to report any vandalism or damage to sites.	18. Same as Action Alternative B.	18. Same as Action Alternative B.
19. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	19. Promote heritage tourism at selected sites. Cooperate with tribes, other agencies, and organizations on heritage tourism projects that benefit local economies.	19. Allow heritage tourism at selected sites to the extent that such use is compatible with protecting the cultural resources.	19. Same as Action Alternative C.
<i>Traditional Use</i>	<i>Traditional Use</i>	<i>Traditional Use</i>	<i>Traditional Use</i>
20. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	20. Sites allocated to the traditional use category are known or are perceived by a specified social and/or cultural group as important in maintaining the cultural identity, heritage, or well-being of the group. Cultural properties assigned to	20. Same as Action Alternative B.	20. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	<p>this category will be managed in ways that recognize the importance ascribed to them and seek to accommodate their continuing traditional use.</p>		
<p>21. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>21. Sites allocated to traditional use include those listed below:</p> <p>The Darby Wells Village Site is of vital importance to the Hia ‘Ced O’odham. This site is still used for gatherings and special events for well-being of the people and their lifeways.</p> <p>The Florence Cemetery is important to the Tohono O’odham for the family and group connections and use for the people and their lifeways. Events, gatherings, and visitation ongoing.</p> <p>Sites in San Tan Park are very important to the Gila River Indian Community. These sites are used and visited, and are important to the people and their lifeways. The San Tan Park Master Plan has defined certain areas where trails and infrastructure will not be built.</p> <p>Additional sites may be allocated to traditional use based on consultation with affiliated Indian tribes and consideration of other public uses.</p>	<p>21. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>21. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>22. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>22. Continue to consult with Indian tribes to identify places of traditional importance and associated access needs. Develop measures for managing and protecting places that might be identified by tribes during the life of the plan.</p> <p>Honor tribal requests to protect the confidentiality of sensitive information, to the extent permitted by law.</p>	<p>22. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>22. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p><i>Other Uses</i></p>	<p><i>Other Uses</i></p>	<p><i>Other Uses</i></p>	<p><i>Other Uses</i></p>
<p>23. [In Lower Gila South] certain</p>	<p>23. Sites allocated to the conservation</p>	<p>23. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>23. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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<p>significant sites or areas may be protected and preserved for future use as funds become available.</p> <p>[In Saddle Mountain] Conserve a representative sample of site types in the planning area for future use. Provide immediate and long-term in-place preservation and protection of selected cultural resources that are threatened or deteriorating.</p>	<p>for future use category will be sites that are significant and unusual. This use category will be available for any site that exhibits singular historic importance, architectural interest, cultural importance, or comparable reasons. Sites allocated to this category would not be available for consideration as the subject of scientific or historical study that would result in its physical alteration. A cultural property included in this category is deemed worthy of segregation from all other land or resource uses, including cultural resource uses that would threaten the maintenance of its present condition or setting. Sites placed in this category will remain in this use status until specified provisions are met in the future. Provisions for reallocation from this category could include situations such as the discovery of new information about the site, new scientific techniques that would provide significant information about the site, or damage to the site's integrity due to vandalism or natural processes. No sites are known at this time that will be allocated to this category. It is possible that certain pictograph sites may be suitable for this category, however. These sites are often very sensitive to use due to very friable paints and rock surfaces often found on these sites. Another example of a type of site that may be suitable for this category might be a cave site with very deep, intact cultural deposits. A site of this kind would have national significance and would be considered quite rare.</p>		
<p>24. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>24. Sites allocated to the experimental use category are the subject of a controlled experimental study conducted</p>	<p>24. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>24. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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	<p>by BLM or its appointed agents that would result in better management of cultural properties. Some examples of studies that would be considered include, testing and measuring the rate of natural or human-caused deterioration, testing the effectiveness of certain protection measures, and testing the effects of fire.</p> <p>Experimental study should aim toward understanding deterioration or developing new research or interpretation methods and similar kinds of practical management information. Experimental study should not be applied to cultural properties with strong research potential, traditional cultural importance, or good public use potential, if it would significantly diminish those uses. Justifications will be made in terms of weighing the benefits of specific information to be gained versus the loss of cultural attributes or data that may occur during the experiment or study.</p>		
<p>25. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>25. Sites allocated to discharged use will be only those sites that have no remaining identifiable use. Cultural sites discharged from management remain in the inventory, but they can be removed from further management attention and do not constrain other land uses. Most of the time, this use will only be applied to those sites that are clearly small surface artifact scatters that have been thoroughly documented. Larger, more complex sites may be discharged from management if they are destroyed by human activities or any natural event.</p>	<p>25. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>25. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p><i>Managing Uses and Sites</i></p>	<p><i>Managing Uses and Sites</i></p>	<p><i>Managing Uses and Sites</i></p>	<p><i>Managing Uses and Sites</i></p>
<p>26. [In Saddle Mountain] reduce or eliminate indirect impacts of land uses on cultural resources as identified</p>	<p>26. Develop a monitoring scheme to evaluate the condition of cultural resources. Where adverse affects are</p>	<p>26. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>26. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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<p>through study plots. Identify and evaluate areas and properties with socio-cultural values to reduce potential impacts of other land uses on these resources.</p>	<p>occurring, implement protection measures to stop, limit, or repair damage to sites. A variety of protection measures, described in BLM Manual 8140, may be used to protect the integrity of sites at risk such as signing, fencing or barriers, trash removal, target shooting closures, erosion control, backfilling, repairing, shoring up, or stabilizing structures, restricting uses and access, and closures.</p>		
<p>27. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>27. Structural and material stabilization techniques may use chemical, mechanical, or structural elements to retard deterioration of cultural resources.</p>	<p>27. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>27. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>28. [In Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels] Conduct a cultural resource inventory 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. Provide special protection for significant cultural sites that are being impacted or threatened by the public. Minimize impacts on cultural resources by avoiding cultural property locations whenever feasible and using previously disturbed areas as the preferred locations for ground-disturbing activities when practical.</p>	<p>28. Ensure that all proposed undertakings and authorizations are reviewed and conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and other applicable laws.</p>	<p>28. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>28. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>29. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>29. Evaluate project designs and proposed activities and mitigate or adjust activities to avoid disturbing or removing Native American human remains and associated items, to the extent possible and practicable. Avoid directing site visitors toward areas where these items would be observed or disturbed, to the extent possible and practicable.</p>	<p>29. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>29. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>30. No existing decisions specifically</p>	<p>30. Design and maintain facilities to</p>	<p>30. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>30. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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address the action under No-Action Alternative A	preserve the visual integrity of cultural resources, settings, and cultural landscapes consistent with VRM objectives established in the RMP.		
31. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	31. Continue the use of Site Stewards, BLM staff, cooperating organizations, and agencies in the site monitoring effort.	31. Promote and increase patrol and monitoring of sites by Site Stewards, BLM staff, cooperating organizations, and agencies, to the extent possible and practicable.	31. Same as Action Alternative C.
32. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	32. No decision is developed for this element.	32. Promote use of volunteers to enhance cultural resource values, including site documentation, research, protection, and educational projects.	32. Same as Action Alternative C.
33. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	33. Continue to participate in Arizona Archaeology Awareness Month events and other educational outreach, to highlight the values of cultural heritage resources and the need to protect these resources.	33. Same as Action Alternative B.	33. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Management of Priority Areas and Cultural Resource Allocations</i>	<i>Management of Priority Areas and Cultural Resource Allocations</i>	<i>Management of Priority Areas and Cultural Resource Allocations</i>	<i>Management of Priority Areas and Cultural Resource Allocations</i>
34. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	34. Some areas stand out as being part of the historic landscape or exhibit a denser pattern of public use. These areas will be prioritized for focused management. General management approaches for these areas include: a. Protection of sensitive areas and sites within the priority area b. Acquisition of lands, easements, and access to assure long-term use and protection of sites. c. Development of interpretive materials if the area is amenable to public use. d. Conducting inventory to gather critical information and completing site documentation e. Increased monitoring by Arizona Site Stewards and other organizations and individuals f. Management of public uses to protect the area and sites. g. An emphasis will be placed on	34. Same as Action Alternative B, except: g. An emphasis will be placed on protecting resources and providing opportunities for scientific research. Development of sites for public visitation is a secondary priority.	34. Same as Action Alternative C.

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	<p>identifying and developing appropriate sites for public visitation and interpretation.</p> <p>Specific management of priority areas will be developed based on areas-specific issues and concerns as the priority areas are identified.</p>		
<p><i>Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Corridor</i> 35. No existing LUP decisions address cultural resource allocations.</p>	<p><i>Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Corridor</i> 35. No Cultural Resource Allocation is proposed in this alternative, the area is managed under a Special Recreation Management Area allocation, see the Recreation section.</p> <p>Manage the area within the Southern Trail SRMA to achieve cultural resource goals through route designations, backcountry and passage allocations, recreation management zones, VRM classifications, and limits-of-acceptable-change monitoring.</p>	<p><i>Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Corridor</i> 35. Allocate a Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Cultural Management Area to prioritize the management of important cultural resources around the Gila River and terraces, Gila Trail, Butterfield Overland Stage Route, Anza National Historic Trail, Southern Overland Trail, Mormon Battalion Trail, the Oatman Massacre Site, the Painted Rock Mountains, and associated areas to protect the cultural and natural resources and provide opportunities for recreation and interpretation, approximately 94,500 acres (see Map 2-2-C).</p> <p><u>Resource Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the rich cultural resources particularly on Gila River terraces • Develop a strategy and encourage scientific research to enhance understanding of resources • Develop a priority for inventory and evaluation of the cultural resources • Protect the historic landscape and visual values to provide the visitor with an opportunity to appreciate the historic character of the area. • Rehabilitate and restore the integrity of areas of vegetation loss in selected areas to restore or maintain the historic integrity of the landscape. • Inventory trail segments and 	<p><i>Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Corridor</i> 35. Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Corridor is proposed for an ACEC in this alternative. See the Special Designations Section for management prescriptions.</p>

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		<p>associated sites and mark to trail standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and nominate appropriate trails and sites to the National Register of Historic Places. • Work with partners to identify opportunities to protect and restore riparian habitat, which may be dominated by non-native species. <p><u>Resource Uses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop select sites for interpretation and environmental education • Develop recreational opportunities with an emphasis on cultural resource interpretation, environmental education, and undeveloped recreation. • Develop limited recreation facilities to protect resource values, provide for visitor safety, and support selected use opportunities. • Develop a route system that provides recreational opportunities consistent with the natural and cultural resources and interpretive opportunities. • Route designation will be completed within 3 years of completion of this plan. • Develop trails for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking, as appropriate. • Work with Maricopa County and other partners to identify non-motorized trail opportunities and interpretation, consistent with the Maricopa County Trail Plan • Pursue opportunities to acquire private and state lands from willing sellers. • Remove, mitigate, or otherwise 	
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		<p>manage incompatible developments so that the overall disturbance area decreases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and mitigate surface disturbing activities to ensure the natural and cultural resource characteristics are maintained. 	
<p>Saddle Mountain 36. No existing LUP decisions address a cultural resource allocation.</p>	<p>Saddle Mountain 36. No Cultural Resource Allocation is proposed in this alternative, the area is managed under a Special Recreation Management Area allocation, see the Recreation section.</p> <p>Manage the area within the Saddle Mountain SRMA to achieve cultural resource goals through route designations, backcountry and passage allocations, recreation management zones, VRM classifications, and limits-of-acceptable-change monitoring.</p>	<p>Saddle Mountain 36. Allocate a Saddle Mountain Cultural Management Area (to include the Palo Verde Hills) to protect the cultural resources, outstanding landscape features, and interpretive opportunities, approximately 51,000 acres (see Map 2-2-C). Management prescriptions would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a priority for inventory, research, and evaluation of the cultural resources • Develop select sites for interpretation and environmental education when research opportunities and resource values can be protected. • Require vehicles to stay on designated routes or within existing camping areas or pull-outs • Close, limit or mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with protecting cultural resources • Concentrate development in less sensitive resource areas and in areas already developed or disturbed • Acquire from willing sellers, available private and state lands that contain cultural resources associated with the Saddle Mountain/Palo Verde Hills area. 	<p>Saddle Mountain 36. No Saddle Mountain Cultural Management Area will be designated. Instead, cultural resource management prescriptions are included in the Saddle Mountain Outstanding Natural Area ACEC</p>
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Paleontology

TABLE 2-5. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for paleontological resources are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Protect and conserve significant paleontological resources as they are discovered on public lands.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for paleontological resources are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: No specific objectives for paleontological resources are developed. If paleontological resources are discovered, specific objectives and management actions for the site will be developed.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i>
1 & 2. No LUP-level decisions for managing paleontological resources were provided in existing land use plans. However, manage paleontological resources for their scientific, educational, and recreational values according to agency-wide BLM guidelines.	1. Evaluate paleontological resources, as they are discovered, including consideration of scientific, educational and recreational values. 2. Protect and manage vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils discovered on the public lands for scientific, educational, or recreational values and identify appropriate objectives, management actions, allowable uses, and allocations for the resource or site.	1. Same as Action Alternative B. 2. Same as Action Alternative B.	1. Same as Action Alternative B. 2. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i>
3. Restrict collection of all vertebrate fossils to legitimate scientific uses and only when officially authorized by permit.	3. Restrict collection of all vertebrate fossils, and on a case-by-case basis invertebrate or plant fossils if they are determined to be noteworthy, to legitimate scientific or educational uses, or if the resource can not be protected on-site, and only when officially authorized by permit.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.
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 43 CFR 3620.	4. Same as No action is proposed for Element 4.	4. Same as No action is proposed for Element 4.	4. Same as No action is proposed for Element 4.

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<i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i>
5. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action for Element 5 under No-Action Alternative A.	5. Establish agreements and partnerships with interested organizations, such as museums, scientific organizations, agencies, or universities to support survey, evaluation, recordation, mitigation, protection, and management of paleontological resources. Assign survey priorities to those areas that are most likely to include significant paleontological resources, relatively accessible to the public, and/or vulnerable to damage or loss from land use activities.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.
<i>Categorizing Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Categorizing Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Categorizing Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Categorizing Paleontological Resources</i>
6. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action for Element 6 under No-Action Alternative A.	6. Areas will be classified based on their to potential to contain vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils: Class 1 (Low sensitivity) - Igneous and metamorphic geologic units and sedimentary geologic units where vertebrate fossils or uncommon non-vertebrate fossils are unlikely to occur. Class 2 (Moderate sensitivity) - Sedimentary geologic units that are known to contain or have unknown potential to contain fossils that vary in significance, abundance, and predictable occurrence. Class 3 (Moderate sensitivity) – Areas where geologic units are known to contain fossils but have little or no risk of human-caused adverse impacts and/or low risk of natural degradation. Class 4 (High sensitivity) - Areas where geologic units regularly and predictably contain vertebrate fossils and/or uncommon non-vertebrate fossils, and are at risk of natural degradation and/or human-caused adverse impacts.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.
7. No existing LUP decisions	7. In Class 4 areas, a records search and	7. Same as Action Alternative B,	7. Same as Action Alternative B,

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specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.	paleontological survey and/or monitoring is required prior to authorizing land uses that could impact vertebrate fossils and/or uncommon invertebrate fossils.	Element 7.	Element 7.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Geology and Caves

TABLE 2 -6-1. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH GEOLOGIC RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for geologic resources are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Protect and conserve unique geologic resources.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for geologic resources are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: Manage the existing Sentinel Plain Lava Flow in a manner that is consistent with the protection of its unusual and regionally rare low aspect lava cones.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Unique Geologic Resources</i>	<i>Unique Geologic Resources</i>	<i>Unique Geologic Resources</i>	<i>Unique Geologic Resources</i>
<p>1. Manage Sentinel Plain as a unique geologic resource in accordance with the current SRMA designation.</p> <p>2. Manage other geological resources on a case-by-case basis</p>	<p>1. See the recreation section for management prescriptions related to SRMA designation for Alternative B.</p> <p>2. If unique geologic resources are discovered, identify appropriate objectives, management actions, allowable uses, and allocations for the resource or site.</p>	<p>1. See the recreation section for management prescriptions related to SRMA designation for Alternative C.</p> <p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>	<p>1. See the recreation section for management prescriptions related to SRMA designation for Alternative D.</p> <p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>
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TABLE 2 -6-2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH CAVES AND CAVE RESOURCES	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives	
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for caves and cave resources are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal: Protect and conserve caves and cave resources as they are discovered on public lands.</p>
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for caves and cave resources are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objectives: No specific objectives for caves and cave resources are developed. If cave or cave resources are discovered, specific objectives and management actions for the site will be developed.</p>

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Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Cave Protection and Management</i>	<i>Cave Protection and Management</i>	<i>Cave Protection and Management</i>	<i>Cave Protection and Management</i>
1 & 2. No LUP-level decisions relating to caves exist, however, 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.	1. Evaluate caves and cave resources, as they are discovered, to determine if the cave is significant according to law and regulation, including consideration of cultural, scientific, biological, geological, hydrological, educational and recreational values. 2. Protect significant caves and cave resources for cultural, scientific, biological, geological, hydrological, educational, or recreational values and identify appropriate objectives, management actions, allowable uses, and allocations related to the primary cave value(s).	1. Same as Alternative B for Element 1. 2. Same as Alternative B for Element 2.	1. Same as Alternative B for Element 1. 2. Same as Alternative B for Element 2.
<i>Cave Inventory</i>	<i>Cave Inventory</i>	<i>Cave Inventory</i>	<i>Cave Inventory</i>
3. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 3 under No-Action Alternative A.	3. Establish agreements and partnerships with interested organizations, such as local scientific museums or scientific organizations, agencies, or universities to support survey, evaluation, recordation, mitigation, protection, and management of caves and cave resources.	3. Same as Alternative B for Element 3.	3. Same as Alternative B for Element 3.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Visual and Scenic Resources

TABLE 2-7. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH VISUAL RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goal: No LUP-level goals for visual resources are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Conserve visual and aesthetic integrity and diversity consistent with other resource objectives. Goal 2: Manage public lands to protect scenic quality, especially to maintain predominantly natural landscapes and visibility of mountain views. Goal 3: Maintain night sky conditions that are affected primarily by natural light sources.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objective 1: [In Saddle Mountain] recognize areas proposed as Class III VRM areas as those in which contrasts may be evident and begin to attract attention. No other LUP-level objectives for visual resources are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Manage Visual Resources consistently with the designated VRM Classes. Objective 2: Assess proposed activity on public lands based on the visual resource contrast rating system (BLM Handbook H-8431-1) and develop projects pursuant to the Visual Resource Management (VRM) system (BLM Manual 8400) and implemented VRM classifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRM Class I Objective: The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention. • VRM Class II Objective: The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. • VRM Class III Objective: The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. • VRM Class IV Objectives: The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements. <p>Objective 3: Maintain or enhance opportunities to view natural landscapes from important viewing areas and other local and regional attractions consistent with VRM Classes and recreation zones established in the RMP. Objective 4: Limit or mitigate actions on public lands that would contribute to light or air pollution and work with surrounding land managers, owners, and communities to minimize non-transient sources of light and air pollution.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Visual Resource Management Classes</i>	<i>Visual Resource Management Classes</i>	<i>Visual Resource Management Classes</i>	<i>Visual Resource Management Classes</i>
1. Manage visual resources in accordance with VRM Classes established in existing LUPs or according to policy as follows (see	1. Protect visual and scenic resources in areas where other land uses and management priorities are not in conflict. Designate BLM-	1. Place a priority on protecting high-value visual and scenic resources. Designate BLM-administered lands to VRM classes (see Map 2-7-C):	Place a priority on protecting visual and scenic resources. Designate BLM-administered lands to VRM classes (see Map 2-7-D):

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<p>Map 2-7-A):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) VRM Class I: 91,700 acres in designated wilderness areas (b) VRM Class II: approximately 25,000 acres in the portion of Sentinel Plain that was previously part of the Goldwater Range (c) VRM Class III: all other public lands, approximately 804,300 acres 	<p>administered lands to VRM classes (see Map 2-7-B):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) VRM Class I: 91,700 acres in designated wilderness (b) VRM Class II: 231,800 acres, including the core of Saddle Mountain, Batamote-Coffee Pot Mountains, and the interior of Gila Bend Mountains (c) VRM Class III: 487,340 acres, including most other public lands (d) VRM Class IV: 110,600 acres, including potential high or moderate value mineral areas and other high use areas on the north side of Gila Bend Mountains and much of the Buckeye Hills -Stanfield area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) VRM Class I: 91,700 acres in designated wilderness and 57,160 acres other scenic areas including Batamote-Coffee Pots Mountains and Saddle Mountain for a total of 148,860 acres (b) VRM Class II: 411,180 acres, including scenic areas in the back country recreation zone (c) VRM Class III: 365,620 acres, including the front country recreation zone, utility corridors, scattered parcels, and some backcountry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) VRM Class I: 91,700 acres in designated wilderness and 205,800 acres other scenic areas including Batamote-Coffee Pots Mountains, Saddle Mountain, and scenic areas in the Gila Bend Mountains for a total of 297,480 acres (b) VRM Class II: 419,020 acres, including the back country recreation zone (c) VRM Class III: 203,260 acres, including most of the front country recreation zone, utility corridors scattered parcels, and some backcountry
<p>Scenic Views</p>	<p>Scenic Views</p>	<p>Scenic Views</p>	<p>Scenic Views</p>
<p>2. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 2 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>2. Same as No Action Alternative A, Element 2.</p>	<p>2. Manage the viewshed of the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT, and Painted Rock/Agua Caliente Route, and Ajo Loop Road to protect scenic values. Apply VRM and scenic management prescriptions for their preservation and enhancement.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 2.</p>
<p>3. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 3 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>3. Increase the number of developed trailheads, trails, and interpretive areas to take advantage of views of scenic and historic landscapes.</p>	<p>3. Develop user facilities (trailheads, trails, campgrounds, roads, utilities, etc.) in such a way that visual quality is protected.</p>	<p>3. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 3.</p>
<p>4. Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning. These evaluations would consider the significance of a proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations are to be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for visual resources. [In Sentinel Plains] protect mountain vistas from visual intrusions by developing, during site or project specific activity</p>	<p>4. Manage projects, uses, and activities, including utility corridors and rights-of-way and other developed areas, to maintain visual quality and designated class.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>

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planning, visual resource management prescriptions needed to maintain appropriate visual resource management objectives. [In Saddle Mountain] manage visual resources using existing utility corridors.			
5. [In Sentinel Plains] protect the visual resource quality on lands adjacent to the highways (Interstate 8) by establishing portions of these roads as Scenic Byways in cooperation with Arizona Department of Transportation, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Marine Corps; and 2) using the VRM process during activity planning to maintain appropriate VRM objectives established for these byways.	5. No Scenic Byway is proposed for I-8, Element 5 in Action Alternative B.	5. Same as Action Alternative B. element 5.	5. Same as Action Alternative B. element 5.
<i>Scenic Quality</i>	<i>Scenic Quality</i>	<i>Scenic Quality</i>	<i>Scenic Quality</i>
6. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 4 under No-Action Alternative A.	6. Manage uses that are likely to affect visual quality within high value scenic areas to minimize the adverse effect to scenic and visual values consistent with Visual Resource Contrast Rating Manual H-8431-1.	6. Direct uses that are likely to affect visual quality of an area to or adjacent to previously disturbed areas and manage uses within high value scenic areas to protect the scenic and visual values consistent with Visual Resource Contrast Rating Manual H-8431-1.	6. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 6.
7. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.	7. Restore abandoned or closed areas of disturbance or man-made modifications: (a) in a manner consistent with the natural resource restoration objectives (b) to meet the designated VRM class	7. Restore abandoned or closed areas of disturbance or man-made modifications: (a) in a manner consistent with the natural resource restoration objectives (b) to enhance scenic quality to meet or exceed the designated VRM class	7. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 7.
8. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 6 under No-Action Alternative A.	8. Emphasize the use of dark-sky-friendly technology in VRM Classes I and II when placing facilities on public lands whenever feasible.	8. Require development on public lands to use dark-sky-friendly technologies in VRM classes I and II and in Sentinel Plain Lava Flow SRMA to provide opportunities for star gazers and amateur astronomers. Emphasize the use of dark-sky friendly technology in VRM class III.	8. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 8.
<i>Cooperative Management</i>	<i>Cooperative Management</i>	<i>Cooperative Management</i>	<i>Cooperative Management</i>

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<p>9. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>9. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Participate in regional planning initiatives and proposals to encourage future development on adjacent non-Federal lands are compatible with VRM designations and protection of dark night skies on adjacent public lands.</p>	<p>9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.</p>	<p>9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.</p>
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Wilderness Characteristics

TABLE 2-8. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for wilderness characteristics are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goals apply only to Alternatives C & D</p> <p>Goal 1: Maintain the wilderness characteristics (naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation) of areas identified to be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Goal 2: Allow uses, in areas identified to be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, to the extent that they are compatible with maintaining the wilderness characteristics.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for wilderness characteristics are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objectives apply only to Alternatives C & D</p> <p>Objective 1: Maintain the natural, cultural, and visual values of the area, consistent with the resource management decisions.</p> <p>Objective 2: Manage recreation consistent with the underlying recreation management zone, with an emphasis on maintaining primitive recreation opportunities and solitude.</p> <p>Objective 3: Manage other proposed uses to maintain the wilderness characteristics of the area.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<p>1. No existing LUP decisions address the action for Element 1 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>1. No areas will be managed primarily for wilderness characteristics under Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>	<p>1. Manage 134,220 acres primarily to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, see Map 2-8-C.</p>	<p>1. Manage 290,480 acres primarily to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, see Map 2-8-D.</p>
<p>2. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action for Element 2 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>2. No action is proposed for Element 2 under Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>2. Implement the following management actions, allowable uses, and use allocations in areas to be managed primarily to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Redevelop former vehicle ways to mechanized (bicycle) trails, as appropriate. b. Develop hiking and equestrian trails, as appropriate. c. Develop and maintain recreation facilities only when compatible with maintaining wilderness characteristics or when needed to protect resources or provide for public safety. d. Redevelop existing facilities to decrease effects on wilderness characteristics, to the extent possible and practical. e. Remove facilities that are no longer 	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 2.</p>

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		<p>used.</p> <p>f. Evaluate and rehabilitate existing, unused, disturbed areas to a natural condition consistent with natural resource restoration objectives.</p> <p>g. Avoid granting new rights-of-way, communication sites, and other land uses, in areas managed for wilderness characteristics to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>h. Acquire private or state in-holdings from willing sellers.</p> <p>i. Evaluate proposed uses on a case-by-case basis, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long-term effect on naturalness • ability to restore the use area after the project is completed to its previous natural state • compatibility with the specified visual resource management zone • loss of opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation • potential for use to be accommodated outside of area. 	
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Wild Horse and Burros

TABLE 2-9. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH WILD HORSE AND BURROS			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for wild horse and burros are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Maintain the Painted Rocks Herd Area burro herd at zero animals, consistent with the Painted Rock Herd Area suitability evaluation. No Herd Management Area is allocated.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for wild horse and burros are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objectives: No objectives for wild horse and burros.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<p>1. BLM will prepare a burro capture plan in consultation with appropriate government agencies and interest groups. All burros would be removed from the Painted Rock Reservoir area. Details for the burro capture program would be outlined in a Herd Management Area Plan.</p>	<p>1. Remove burros from Painted Rocks Herd Area as needed.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Hazards and Public Safety

TABLE 2-10-1. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND SOLID WASTES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Goals</p> <p>Goals: No LUP-level goals for hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, and solid wastes are provided by the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Remediate areas, including abandoned mine lands, known to have hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, or solid wastes.</p> <p>Goal 2: Minimize or eliminate the potential for intentional or accidental releases of hazardous materials or wastes and solid waste onto public lands.</p>		
<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Objectives</p> <p>Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, and solid wastes are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Monitor public lands for the presence of solid waste sites and wildcat dump sites. Remove solid waste and remediate, and if appropriate, restore sites.</p> <p>Objective 2: Identify and monitor hazardous materials found on public lands to protect the environment and public land users. Remove hazardous materials and remediate, and if appropriate, restore sites.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Management Responses</i>	<i>Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Management Responses</i>	<i>Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Management Responses</i>	<i>Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Management Responses</i>
<p>1. Investigate reported hazardous materials, hazardous waste sites, and solid wastes sites.</p>	<p>1. Investigate reported hazardous materials, hazardous waste sites, and solid wastes sites. Establish a reporting system and encourage other agencies and citizens to report suspected spill and dump sites or suspected dumping activities.</p> <p>Establish an inventory of known historic and active mining sites and other spill or release areas on public lands where hazardous materials and wastes or solid wastes are known or suspected to be present.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>
<p>2. 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.</p>	<p>2. Establish priorities for investigating releases and planning/implementing responses and revise annually or as needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluate the extent/severity of the known or potential hazardous materials/solid wastes problem, the intensity and proximity of public use, and the public and environmental 	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>

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	<p>health threat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the probable scope of needed containment and cleanup efforts • rank all sites for active treatment planning and action. Priorities to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. high levels of heavy metals in waste b. ground or surface water quality degradation c. ongoing and active resource damage d. safety hazards near established recreation areas or other areas frequented by public land users e. other site specific factors. 		
<p>3. Identify and prioritize abandoned mines (as funding allows) for containment and/or cleanup responses, in part, based on the potential for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high levels of heavy metals in waste rock or tailings • ground or surface water quality degradation • physical safety hazards near established recreation areas or other areas frequented by public land users 	<p>3. Same as No Action Alternative for Element 3.</p>	<p>3. Same as No Action Alternative for Element 3.</p>	<p>3. Same as No Action Alternative for Element 3.</p>
<p>4. Plan necessary containment and/or cleanup responses on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>4. Implement treatment planning, containment, cleanup, remediation and restoration if appropriate and consistent with the natural resource objectives, and any required monitoring at hazardous materials/solid waste sites based on the inventory and annual priorities. Track the occurrence and resolution of incidents to assist in both preventing and cleaning up future releases.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>
<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>	<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>	<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>	<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>
<p>No LUP-level decisions related to environmental education were provided in existing land use plans.</p>	<p>5. Provide educational material for the public regarding the definitions of hazardous materials and solid wastes and</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5</p>

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	regulations controlling the use and disposal of hazardous materials and solid wastes on public lands. Methods may include brochures at recreation sites, signs at known or likely dumping sites, and direct contact with visitors.		
<i>Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i>	<i>Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i>	<i>Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i>	<i>Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i>
6. Identify and pursue potentially responsible parties based on readily available information.	6. Conduct active investigations to identify potentially responsible parties and recover planning, containment, cleanup, monitoring, investigation, and enforcement costs associated with spill/release responses.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

TABLE 2-10-2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
No-Action Alternative Goals <u>Goals:</u> No LUP-level goals for public health and safety are presented in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) <u>Goal 1:</u> Identify naturally-occurring or manmade hazards on public lands and manage these hazards and/or public use to protect public health and safety. <u>Goal 2:</u> Identify security conditions on public lands that may affect public safety and address these conditions through appropriate intergovernmental law enforcement and emergency services and public safety awareness education.		
No-Action Alternative Objectives <u>Objectives:</u> No LUP-level objectives for public health and safety are provided in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) <u>Objective 1:</u> Enhance communications, coordination, and, where applicable, mutual support or enforcement agreements among federal, tribal, state, county, and municipal agencies, as well as volunteer organizations, with law enforcement and/or public safety missions, including emergency services and search and rescue, to promote/protect public health and safety on public lands. <u>Objective 2:</u> Evaluate concerns or situations that affect or could affect public health or safety; estimate the severity or criticality of the concerns or situations; and develop and implement corrective actions. <u>Objective 3:</u> Manage public uses, including recreation, that may create hazards and public safety risks to other users.		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
Public Safety Issues and Management Response	Public Safety Issues and Management Response	Public Safety Issues and Management Response	Public Safety Issues and Management Response
1. Maintain the existing inventory of abandoned mine sites and update this inventory as these sites are discovered and reported.	1. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 1.	1. Develop an inventory of known safety hazards, including abandoned mines and wells, construction sites, unsafe vehicle routes, unexploded ordnance, known natural hazards, and other potential hazards. Also develop a tracking system	1. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 1.

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		for recording management actions taken to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate known hazardous conditions. Encourage other agencies and the public to report known hazards for inclusion in the inventory.	
<i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i>	<i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i>	<i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i>	<i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i>
2. Provide public safety information through BLM visitor use brochures, web sites, and various types of direct contact with members of the public.	2. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 2.	2. Provide public safety information through BLM visitor use brochures, web sites, and various types of direct contact with members of the public. Include information on hazards associated with abandoned mines, recreational shooting, unexploded ordnance, smuggler and UDA traffic, other criminal activities, natural resource conditions, or other conditions.	2. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 2.
3. Post signs in the field to identify certain hazardous situations when warranted to protect public safety.	3. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 3.	3. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 3.	3. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 3.
4. To reduce human caused fires, BLM will undertake education, enforcement and administrative fire prevention mitigation measures. Education measures will include various media information including a signing program, information as to the natural role of fire within local ecosystems, participation in fairs, parades and public contacts. Enforcement will be accomplished by providing training opportunities for employees interested in fire cause determination. Administration includes expanded prevention and education programs with other cooperator agencies.	4. BLM will undertake education, enforcement and administrative fire prevention mitigation measures to reduce human caused fires. Education measures may include a signing program, information on the natural role of fire within local ecosystems, participation in fairs or parades and other public contacts. Enforcement will be accomplished by providing training opportunities for employees interested in fire cause determination. Administration includes expanded prevention and education programs with other cooperator agencies.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.
5. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address action for Element 5 under No-Action Alternative A.	5. Emphasize visitor acceptance of the risks of entering public lands and responsibility for their own safety.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.	5. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 5.
<i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i>	<i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i>	<i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i>	<i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i>
6. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address action for Element 6 under No-Action Alternative A.	6. No action is proposed for Element 6 under Action Alternative B.	6. Prioritize known public hazards for resolution, and revise annually or as needed.	6. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 6.
7. No existing LUP-level decisions	7. No action is proposed for Element 7	7. Manage hazards to public safety by	7. Same as Action Alternative C,

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specifically address action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.	under Action Alternative B.	resolving the condition and/or adjusting public use, options considered may include barring entry to hazardous mines, wells, or other dangerous areas; limiting public access to areas with known hazards, providing appropriate warning information to visitors, managing potentially hazardous recreation activities such as recreational shooting to decrease risk to other visitors, resolving recreation conflicts, removing unexploded ordnance, and resolving other hazardous conditions in accordance with identified annual priorities.	Element 7.
8. The portion of the Sentinel Plain that was formerly part of BMGR is restricted to entry by permit only. (includes only that part of Sentinel Plain formerly part of BMGR)	8. The Sentinel Plain Lava Flow Special Recreation Management Area is restricted to entry by permit only to protect public safety from possible munitions (includes all areas within SRMA boundary proposed in alternatives, see special designation section).	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.
9. Maintain official law enforcement/public safety patrols and improve search and rescue coordination and cooperation in wilderness areas.	9. Maintain current and develop new, as needed, law enforcement/public safety patrol, fire suppression, and search and rescue programs.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Livestock Grazing

**TABLE 2-11. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH
GRAZING ADMINISTRATION**

Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives

<p>No-Action Alternative Goal Goal 1: Manage livestock grazing in accordance with the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. Goal 2: [In the Phoenix RMP area] promote sustained yield and multiple use. The grazing program in the area is managed under provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, FLPMA, and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Manage livestock grazing consistent with maintaining healthy ecosystems, meeting natural resource objectives, and achieving desired resource conditions, implementing the concepts of multiple use and sustained yield and the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.</p>
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objective 1: No objectives are provided in the existing LUPs.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Public lands that remain open to grazing will be managed for vegetation and ecological processes consistent with natural resource objectives, in accordance with the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, and to meet desired resource conditions. Objective 2: Grazing levels are appropriate to allow allotments to be in a stable or improving condition consistent with achieving the desired resource conditions.</p>

Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations

Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Availability of Lands for Grazing and Allotment classifications</i>	<i>Availability of Lands for Grazing and Allotment classification</i>	<i>Availability of Lands for Grazing and Allotment classification</i>	<i>Availability of Lands for Grazing and Allotment classification</i>
1. The public lands are open for grazing in existing allotments, except for the Cameron Allotment, which is closed for grazing (see Map 2-11-A).	1. Maintain allotments that are currently open to grazing as open to grazing and keep the Cameron allotment and other lands unallocated to grazing closed.	1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.	1. Close all allotments that are currently open to grazing when current permits expire and keep the Cameron allotment closed.
2. Continue current grazing practices and approvals for individual existing allotments. Allotments are classified as perennial-ephemeral and ephemeral. Categorize perennial/ephemeral allotments as to the categories of Maintain, Custodial, and Improve.	2. Classify all allotments that are currently open to grazing for perennial use only.	2. Classify all allotments that are currently open to grazing for ephemeral use only.	2. No action is proposed for Element 2 under Action Alternative D.
3. Local monitoring plans will provide guidance on types of studies, data needs, and collection schedules for allotments	3. Allotments are evaluated on an ongoing basis using Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health evaluation process	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.	3. No action is proposed for Element 3 under Action Alternative D

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<p>in the plan area. Changes in allocation of livestock forage and livestock use adjustments by agreement or decision are governed by regulations in 43 CFR 4100.</p> <p>[In Lower Gila South] conduct Rangeland Monitoring According to the detailed monitoring plans developed for each allotment described in allotment files at the Lower Gila Resource Area Office.</p> <p>[In the Phoenix RMP area] Grazing is authorized at the levels presented in the Rangeland Program Summary. Long-term target Animal Unit Month figures (from increased vegetation production through revision of grazing systems already implemented, additional grazing systems and various land treatments) would be distributed on the basis of 40 percent to livestock and 60 percent to non-consumptive uses</p>	<p>and/or other monitoring. If monitoring or other data indicate a change is appropriate, allotments may be reclassified as perennial, ephemeral or closed or other classification as appropriate through the Standards and Guidelines process, a RMP amendment will not be required. The following criteria will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changing allotment conditions that indicate a management change is appropriate • potential to achieve desired resource conditions or ongoing declining allotment conditions that cannot be addressed within the existing classification • conflict or incompatibility with other uses and resource values that cannot be mitigated within the existing classification • adverse effects on threatened or endangered species that cannot be mitigated • conformance with the Ephemeral Rule cannot be otherwise achieved <p>The following criteria will be considered when allocating an ephemeral allotment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the area is within the hot desert biome; • annual precipitation is less than 8 inches; • the land produces less than 25 lbs/acre of desirable perennial forage plants; • the land contains less than 5% composition of desirable perennial forage plants; • the area is below 3,500 feet in elevation; • the total forage production is highly 		
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	<p>unpredictable and forage availability is usually of short duration;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the growth of forage is dependent upon abundant moisture and other favorable climatic conditions; and • the area lacks potential to improve the current ecological conditions and produce a dependable supply of forage by applying intensive rangeland management practices. 		
4. [In the Phoenix RMP area] land that is presently unleased for livestock use would remain unleased, with vegetation reserved for wildlife and nonconsumptive use.	4. Land that is presently not allocated for livestock use will remain unallocated for this use and its forage and other vegetation will be reserved for wildlife and non-consumptive uses. Should a livestock grazing permit be relinquished, the allotment and associated resources, and other resources and public uses will be evaluated to determine the allocation of available forage.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.
<i>Grazing Management</i>	<i>Grazing Management</i>	<i>Grazing Management</i>	<i>Grazing Management</i>
5. [In Phoenix RMP area] Grazing management systems -including rest rotation, deferred rotation, deferred, seasonal, short duration or others which are various combinations of these-would be implemented where needs are identified through monitoring (maintain and improve categorized allotments). On custodial allotments, grazing systems or season of use would be coordinated with the private landowners, State Land Department, or Soil Conservation Service	5. Rest rotation, deferred rotation, seasonal or short-duration use, or other management systems may be implemented where needs are identified through the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health evaluation process and/or monitoring. Monitoring will be used to assess the effectiveness of changes brought about by the new management practices.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.	5. No action is proposed for Element 5 under Action Alternative D.
6. [In the Lower Gila South] improvement and maintenance of the rangeland will be accomplished through the construction of new rangeland developments (see Table 1 in Decision Source) and through livestock adjustments if needed. [In Saddle Mountain] construct reservoirs, wells, and develop springs in	6. Identify and complete range improvements necessary for proper management of the grazing program. This may include repair and/or installation of fences, cattleguards, water developments and roads necessary to access improvement sites. These improvements may be constructed using a variety of mechanical equipment.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.	6. No action is proposed for Element 6 under Action Alternative D.

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areas of low forage production. [In Phoenix RMP area] Monitoring and surveys would determine if there were any need to develop new water sources to ensure better livestock distribution and improve wildlife habitat.			
7. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	7. Existing range improvements in areas not to be grazed may be removed if not necessary for management of other resources.	7. Same as Action Alternative B.	7. Same as Action Alternative B.
8. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	8. Domestic goats or sheep will not be permitted on public lands within nine miles of suitable bighorn sheep habitat or within allotments that contain suitable bighorn sheep habitat.	8. Same as Action Alternative B.	8. No action is proposed under Action Alternative D
9. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	9. Within the range of the endangered lesser long-nosed bat or the endangered cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, livestock grazing allowable use will conform to the guidelines described in the “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” section of Guidance Criteria for Determinations of Effects of Grazing Permit Issuance and Renewal on Threatened and Endangered Species (Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona and New Mexico, 1999), or any subsequent agreed upon amendment to these guidelines. Livestock grazing permits will be updated, as needed, to conform to this guidance.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.	9. No action is proposed under Action Alternative D
10. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	10. Develop a drought policy to address impacts on vegetation and wildlife habitat during drought. This policy will address livestock grazing and other uses that may impact wildlife, wildlife habitat, or vegetation communities during drought, including the need for timely response in reducing/removing uses, sufficient vegetative recovery periods, indicators of drought recovery, and appropriate management actions.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.
11. The following guidelines apply to	11. Same as No Action Alternative A.	11. Same as No Action Alternative A.	11. Same as No Action Alternative A.

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<p>grazing administration for upland sites:</p> <p>1. Management activities will maintain or promote ground cover that will provide for infiltration, permeability, soil moisture storage, and soil stability appropriate for the ecological sites within management units. The ground cover should maintain soil organisms and plants and animals to support the hydrologic and nutrient cycles, and energy flow. Ground cover and signs of erosion are surrogate measures for hydrologic and nutrient cycles and energy flow.</p> <p>2. When grazing practices alone are not likely to restore areas of low infiltration or permeability, land management treatments may be designed and implemented to attain improvement.</p>			
<p>12. The following guidelines apply to grazing administration for riparian-wetland sites:</p> <p>1. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge and stream bank stability, thus promoting stream channel morphology (e.g., gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions appropriate to climate and landform.</p> <p>2. New facilities are located away from riparian-wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland function. Existing facilities are used in a way that does not conflict with riparian-wetland functions or are relocated or modified when incompatible with riparian-wetland functions.</p> <p>3. The development of springs and seeps or other projects affecting water</p>	<p>12. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>12. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>12. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>

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<p>and associated resources shall be designed to protect ecological functions and processes.</p>			
<p>13. The following guidelines apply to grazing administration for desired resource conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use and perpetuation of native species will be emphasized. However, when restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands, non-intrusive, non-native plant species are appropriate for use where native species (a) are not available, (b) are not economically feasible, (c) cannot achieve ecological objectives as well as non-native species, and/or (d) cannot compete with already established non-native species. 2. Conservation of Federal threatened or endangered, proposed, candidate, and other special status species is promoted by the maintenance or restoration of their habitats. 3. Management practices maintain, restore, or enhance water quality in conformance with State or Federal standards. 4. Intensity, season and frequency of use, and distribution of grazing use should provide for growth and reproduction of those plant species needed to reach desired plant community objectives. 5. Grazing on designated ephemeral (annual and perennial) rangeland may be authorized if the following conditions are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ephemeral vegetation is present in draws, washes, and under shrubs and has grown to useable levels at the time grazing begins; • sufficient surface and subsurface soil moisture exists for continued 	<p>13. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>13. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>13. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>

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<p>plant growth;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serviceable waters are capable of providing for proper grazing distribution; • sufficient annual vegetation will remain on site to satisfy other resource concerns, (i.e., watershed, wildlife, wild horses and burros); and • monitoring is conducted during grazing to determine if objectives are being met. <p>6. Management practices will target those populations of noxious weeds which can be controlled or eliminated by approved methods.</p> <p>7. Management practices to achieve desired plant communities will consider protection and conservation of known cultural resources, including historical sites, and prehistoric sites and plants of significance to Native American peoples.</p>			
Implementation-Level Decisions			
<p>1. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 1 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>1. Exclude livestock from allotments/areas that are closed to grazing through fencing or other appropriate means and remove range developments that will not be converted to another purpose (e.g., wildlife waters or recreation uses).</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>
<p>2. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 2 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>2. Livestock waters will provide safe, usable water for wildlife, where possible. As funding and opportunities permit, existing facilities will be modified for safe wildlife use.</p> <p>Construction of new livestock waters in Category I and Category II desert tortoise habitat and in bighorn sheep habitat will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>

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<p>3. {In Saddle Mountain] As Allotment Management Plans are written for allotments containing crucial desert tortoise habitat, the recommendation to rest tortoise habitat from livestock use between February and July will be incorporated into the grazing systems. Allotments, which do not receive intensive management, will be monitored as to livestock use. Adjustments in use will be made by changing seasons of use or number of livestock. Fencing out entire tortoise populations may be done, but only after contact with interested user groups.</p>	<p>3. This decision is superseded. Desert Tortoise Management is according to the range-wide plan, see Natural Resources section for proposed decisions.</p>	<p>3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.</p>	<p>3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.</p>
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Recreation

TABLE 2-12-1. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH RECREATION	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives	
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for recreation are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Provide a diverse array of recreation settings, opportunities and experiences to meet the needs of the public land users, consistent with resource protection goals and protection of public safety.</p> <p>Goal 2: Enhance recreation quality and reduce conflicts among various users.</p> <p>Goal 3: Maintain primitive recreation opportunities and experiences.</p> <p>Goal 4: Provide recreational opportunities for use and enjoyment by people with disabilities.</p>
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for recreation are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Public use is directed to areas that provide the desired recreation setting, opportunity and experience.</p> <p>Objective 2: Commercial, competitive, organized or large groups/events and intensive recreation use is directed to areas that provide appropriate recreation setting, opportunity and experience. Where such use is allowed,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General stipulations are established for the issuance of and conditions tied to special recreation permits for commercial and organized events or activities as appropriate for recreation management areas and zones and use intensity level. • Policies and procedures are established for managing large-group activities and uses. <p>Objective 3: Enhance and expand visitor services, including interpretation, information and education.</p> <p>Objective 4: Manage recreation areas and zones established in the RMP by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining the desired recreational resource, social and management settings • Maintaining consistency with wilderness designations and approved plans • Developing an adaptive management process that includes the following six items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a Limits of Acceptable Change system to (i) monitor key environmental and social indicators and (ii) guide associated management responses to maintain desired recreation settings and resource conditions (b) mechanisms for identifying and responding to emerging recreation uses (c) parameters for periodic monitoring and reporting at an intensity level commensurate with use (d) a schedule for the reassessment of current conditions, trends and forecasts in recreational use of public lands (e) compatibility with national, State and local recreation plans and policies (f) evaluation of recreation opportunities on the public lands in the context of their relative scarcity in the surrounding area <p>Objective 5: Implement management actions and programs for recreation sites and facilities that: Incorporate adaptive recreation management as needed for resource protection, public safety and consistency with recreation management areas and zones. Include policies and procedures for managing designated camp sites/areas. Include visitor education to encourage responsible public land use. Evaluate the recreation sites and facilities for opportunities and access for the physically challenged; apply management measures consistent with recreation management areas and zone to provide adequate access and develop a program to communicate the physically challenged program to the public. Address public safety considerations including those related to public uses such as recreational target shooting and those related to onsite hazards such as historic mine sites.</p>

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Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>General Management Strategy</i>	<i>General Management Strategy</i>	<i>General Management Strategy</i>	<i>General Management Strategy</i>
1. Manage recreation use on a case-by-case basis.	1. Manage to maximize recreation opportunities, with an emphasis on motorized and trail based recreation, to the extent that such use remains sustainable relative to other management goals.	1. Manage for a balance of motorized and non-motorized uses, while minimizing or mitigating impacts on sensitive natural and cultural resources .	1. Manage for sustainable and compatible levels of motorized and non-motorized recreation uses and enhanced non-motorized recreation settings, while emphasizing conserving and protecting natural and cultural resources.
<i>Recreation Allocations</i>	<i>Recreation Allocations</i>	<i>Recreation Allocations</i>	<i>Recreation Allocations</i>
2. Special Recreation Management Areas are managed according to the specific decisions for the SRMA in the existing LUP. Extensive Recreation Management Areas are managed according to general recreation decisions in the existing LUP.	2. Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) - An activity level plan for each SRMA will be produced by BLM and other recreation collaborators consistent with land use plan provisions. The SRMA plans would focus on each identified marketing niche served by the SRMA, along with its declared management objectives and prescribed physical, social and administrative character setting. Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA) – All lands not included in a SRMA will be allocated to ERMA. An activity level plan for each ERMA will not be done. Management of the ERMA would depend on the management zone (Front Country, Back Country, Passage or Community Interface, see Table 2-12-2). ERMA management would focus on taking care of the land and its associated recreation-tourism niche, and not to provide structured recreation opportunities except where needed to protect the health of the land, protect natural and cultural resources, address visitor health and safety, and meeting recreation management zone objectives. The ERMAs will have prescribed management objectives and identified	2. Same as Action Alternative B.	2. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	physical, social and administrative character setting conditions.		
<i>Special Recreation Management Areas</i>	<i>Special Recreation Management Areas</i>	<i>Special Recreation Management Areas</i>	<i>Special Recreation Management Areas</i>
<p>3. <i>Gila Trail SRMA</i> Retain the Gila Trail SRMA designation assuming the Lower Gila amendment is finalized otherwise no existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>3. <i>Southern Trails SRMA</i> Allocate a SRMA of 54,500 acres to protect and interpret pre-historic and historic resources, and to maintain recreation opportunities, consistent with the recreation zones (see Table 2-12-2), associated with the Gila Trail, the Butterfield Overland Stage Route, the Southern Overland Trail, the Anza National Historic Trail, the Mormon Battalion Trail (see Map 2-12-B).</p> <p>The SRMA’s Marketing Niche is Destination Recreation-Tourism.</p> <p>Management prescriptions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote the Auto Route for the Anza National Historic Trail. b. Promote the Anza National Historic Trail and other southern trails through heritage tourism organizations. c. Identify and develop cultural sites that are appropriate for public use and interpretation. d. Mark selected trail segments to trail standards. e. Authorize facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities in the appropriate recreation management zones. Develop single use and multiple use trails to meet the demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking. f. Work with Maricopa County and other partners to identify non-motorized trail and interpretation opportunities, consistent with the 	<p>3. <i>Southern Trails SRMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B (see Map 2-12-C).</p>	<p>3. <i>Southern Trails SRMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B (see Map 2-12-D)</p>

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	<p>Maricopa County Trail Plan</p> <p>g. Develop a route system that provides recreational opportunities consistent with the natural and cultural resources and interpretive opportunities.</p> <p>h. Complete route designation within 3 years of completion of this plan. Mitigate surface disturbing activities within ¼ mile of historic and prehistoric trail segments to ensure the trail characteristics are maintained.</p> <p>i. Encourage public use of the Painted Rocks Campground and continue it as a fee site.</p>		
<p><i>4. Saddle Mountain SRMA</i> Retain the Saddle Mountain SRMA designation assuming the Lower Gila amendment is finalized otherwise no existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p><i>4. Saddle Mountain SRMA</i> Manage the Saddle Mountain SRMA of approximately 47,400 acres (Map 2-12-B), including Saddle Mountain and Palo Verde Hills, to emphasize the provision of geologic, cultural, and wildlife interpretive sites; protection of the area’s scenic landscapes and vistas; and promotion of recreational opportunities consistent with the recreation zones (see Table 2-12-2).</p> <p>The SRMA’s Marketing Niche is Community Recreation Tourism</p> <p>Management prescriptions include:</p> <p>(a) Focus facilities and maintenance to protect resource values and improve visitor safety and recreational opportunities in front country in the northern portions of the area.</p> <p>(b) Maintain the southern and western portions of the area as primarily remote and undeveloped.</p> <p>(c) Develop interpretive sites and facilities for public understanding and appreciation of natural and</p>	<p><i>4. Saddle Mountain SRMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B, except that the area is approximately 48,500 acres (see Map 2-12-C) except:</p> <p>Management prescriptions include:</p> <p>(a) - (e) Same as Action Alternative B</p> <p>(f) redevelop previous vehicle routes and develop new trails for use as mountain bike trails with an emphasis on front country areas, as appropriate and compatible with protecting the resource values.</p> <p>(g) develop hiking and equestrian trails as appropriate and compatible with protecting the resource values.</p>	<p><i>4. Saddle Mountain SRMA</i> No SRMA would be designated in Action Alternative D; recreation uses would be managed to be compatible with the Saddle Mountain Outstanding Natural Area ACEC, see Table 2-16, Special Designations.</p>

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	<p>cultural resources.</p> <p>(d) Provide signing, regulations, and brochures as needed.</p> <p>(e) Develop single and multiple use trails to meet demand for hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking.</p>		
<p><i>5. Sentinel Plain Lava Flow SRMA</i> [In the Sentinel Plain parcel that was formerly part of the Goldwater Range] establish the Sentinel Plain SRMA and implement appropriate management actions to facilitate compatible recreation use of these areas.</p>	<p><i>5. Sentinel Plain Lava Flow SRMA</i> Retain the existing Sentinel Plain Lava Flow SRMA designation of approximately 28,300 acres (see Map 2-12-B). Manage the area with the primary purpose of protecting public safety and consistent with the recreation zones. (see Table 2-12-2).</p> <p>The SRMA’s Marketing Niche is Destination Recreation Tourism</p> <p>Management prescriptions include:</p> <p>(a) designate a route system of the existing and accessible routes</p> <p>(b) require vehicles to stay on designated routes or within existing camping areas or pull-outs</p> <p>(c) manage public use of the area under a mandatory entry permit system, using the existing Goldwater Range permit system, to protect public safety related to hazards associated with air-to-ground weapons training on the Goldwater Range.</p> <p>(d) if developments are necessary locate developments in already disturbed areas</p>	<p><i>5. Sentinel Plain Lava Flow SRMA</i> Designate a Sentinel Plain Lava Flow SRMA of approximately 53,300 acres, to include all of the public lands between Interstate 8 and the BMGR that lies between Interstate 8 Exits 78 and 102 in order to protect geologic and cultural resources, historic Sonoran pronghorn habitat, protect public safety and consistent with the recreation zones (see Table 2-12-2). (see Map 2-12-C).</p> <p>The SRMA’s Marketing Niche is Destination Recreation Tourism</p> <p>Management prescriptions include:</p> <p>(a) Designate a route system of reduced scope and close the SRMA to new route construction</p> <p>(b) Require vehicles to stay on designated routes or within existing camping areas or pull-outs</p> <p>(c) Manage public use of the area under a mandatory entry permit system, using the existing Goldwater Range permit system, to protect public safety related to hazards associated with air-to-ground weapons training on the Goldwater Range.</p> <p>(d) Generally avoid developments but, if developments are necessary to mitigate public use or protect public safety, limit developments to small, already disturbed areas</p> <p>(e) Emphasize resource protection particularly with regards to the Sonoran pronghorn, public use of</p>	<p><i>5. Sentinel Plain Lava Flow SRMA</i> Same as Action Alternative C to designate a Sentinel Plain Lava Flow SRMA (see Map 2-12-D) except</p> <p>Management prescriptions include:</p> <p>(a) - (f) same as Action Alternative C</p> <p>(g) close the SRMA to all forms of mineral entry</p>

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		<p>the area would be managed to protect the natural and cultural resources in accordance with monitoring</p> <p>(f) Manage the area and use current technologies to maintain the “dark skies” for use by star-gazers and amateur astronomers. Protect the visual values and scenery of the area through visual resource management classes</p>	
<p>6. Ajo SRMA Retain the existing Ajo SRMA, assuming the Lower Gila amendment is finalized otherwise no existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>6. Ajo Trails SRMA Generally manage the Ajo Trail SRMA of approximately 109,500 acres to provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, consistent with the recreation zones (see Table 2-12-2), including motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized, non-mechanized (see Map 2-12-B).</p> <p>The SRMA’S Marketing Niche is Community Recreation Tourism</p> <p>Management prescriptions include:</p> <p>(a) an emphasis on motorized recreational opportunities.</p> <p>(b) day use community access, dispersed use, and as needed intensive use areas</p> <p>(c) short and long distance trail and route experiences for motorized vehicles, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking.</p> <p>(d) access from neighborhoods to the trail and route system.</p> <p>(e) additional route or trail development, especially connector routes or creation of loops with consideration given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proximity to private property • Sonoran Pronghorn habitat area • Desert Tortoise Class I and II 	<p>6. Ajo Trails SRMA Same as Action Alternative B (see Map 2-12-C); except:</p> <p>Management prescriptions include</p> <p>(a) a mix of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities</p> <p>(b)- (d) Same as Action Alternative B</p> <p>(e) additional route or trail development, particularly in front country and especially connector routes or creation of loops with consideration given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proximity to private property • Sonoran Pronghorn habitat area • Desert Tortoise Class I and II • Air Quality PM-10 non-attainment area and fugitive dust • ACEC and Wildlife Management Area objectives 	<p>6. Ajo Trails SRMA Generally manage the Ajo Trail Area of approximately 45,500 acres to provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, consistent with the recreation zones (see Table 2-12-2), including motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized, non-mechanized (see Map 2-12-D).</p> <p>The SRMA’S Marketing Niche is Community Recreation Tourism</p> <p>Management prescriptions include:</p> <p>(a) an emphasis on recreation opportunities that are compatible with protecting the natural and cultural resources and allocations of the area.</p> <p>(b) day use community access focus</p> <p>(c) short and long distance trail and route experiences for motorized vehicles, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking.</p> <p>(d) access from neighborhoods to the trail and route system.</p> <p>(e) limited route or trail development, with an emphasis on non-motorized recreation opportunities with consideration given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proximity to private property • Sonoran Pronghorn habitat area • Desert Tortoise Class I and II • Air Quality PM-10 non-attainment

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality PM-10 non-attainment area and fugitive dust 		<p align="center">area and fugitive dust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACEC management objectives
<p><i>7. Buckeye Hills Trails SRMA Area</i> No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p><i>7. Buckeye Hills Trails SRMA</i> Generally manage the Buckeye Hills Trail Area of approximately 26,300 acres to provide a diversity of recreational opportunities consistent with the recreation zones (see Table 2-12-2), including motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized, non-mechanized (see Map 2-12-B).</p> <p>The SRMA’s Marketing Niche is Destination Recreation Tourism</p> <p>The SRMA will provide:</p> <p>(a) an emphasis on motorized recreational opportunities.</p> <p>(b) day use community access, dispersed use, and as needed intensive use areas</p> <p>(c) capability of supporting large group events, including competitive and speed events</p> <p>(d) access from neighborhoods to the trail and route system.</p> <p>(e) a diversity of route experiences for motorized vehicles, with some trail opportunities for equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking.</p> <p>(f) additional route or trail development, especially connector routes or creation of loops with consideration given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proximity to private property • Desert Tortoise Class I and II • Air Quality PM-10 (dust) non-attainment area • Wildlife Corridors <p>(g) connection to Maricopa County Trail System and nearby County Parks</p>	<p><i>7. Buckeye Hills Trails SRMA</i> Generally manage the Buckeye Hills Trail Area of approximately 26,300 acres to provide a diversity of recreational opportunities consistent with the recreation zones (see Table 2-12-2), including motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized, non-mechanized (see Map 2-12-C).</p> <p>The SRMA’s Marketing Niche is Destination Recreation Tourism</p> <p>The SRMA will provide:</p> <p>(a) a mix of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities</p> <p>(b) same as Action Alternative B</p> <p>(c) capability of supporting large group events</p> <p>(d) same as Action Alternative B</p> <p>(e) trail and route experiences for motorized vehicles, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking.</p> <p>(f) additional route or trail development for a diversity of users, especially connector routes or creation of loops with consideration given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proximity to private property • Desert Tortoise Class I and II • Air Quality PM-10 (dust) non-attainment area • Wildlife Corridors <p>(g) connection to Maricopa County Trail System and nearby County Parks</p>	<p><i>7. Buckeye Hills Trails SRMA</i> Generally manage the Buckeye Hills Trail Area of approximately 20,200 acres to provide a diversity of recreational opportunities consistent with the recreation zones (see Table 2-12-2), including motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized, non-mechanized (see Map 2-12-D).</p> <p>The SRMA’s Marketing Niche is Destination Recreation Tourism</p> <p>The SRMA will provide:</p> <p>(a) an emphasis on non-motorized opportunities that are compatible with protecting the natural and cultural resources of the area.</p> <p>(b) day use community access</p> <p>(c) capability of supporting large group events, primarily for non-motorized users</p> <p>(d) access from neighborhoods to the trail and route system.</p> <p>(e) trail and route experiences for motorized vehicles, equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking, with an emphasis on non-motorized experiences.</p> <p>(f) limited route or trail development, with an emphasis on non-motorized recreation opportunities with consideration given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proximity to private property • Desert Tortoise Class I and II • Air Quality PM-10 (dust) non-attainment area • Wildlife corridors <p>(g) connection to Maricopa County Trail System and nearby County Parks</p>

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<p>8. <i>Painted Rocks Mountain Trails SRMA</i> No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>8. <i>Painted Rocks Mountain Trails SRMA</i> Generally manage the Painted Rocks Mountain Trails SRMA, approximately 30,000 acres, consistent with recreation management zones (see Table 2-12-2). See Map 2-12-B.</p> <p>The SRMA's Marketing Niche is Destination Recreation Tourism.</p> <p>In addition, through the development of a recreation activity level plan to determine if a location within the SRMA in the general area shown on Map 2-12-B can be identified to provide opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a diversity of recreational opportunities, including motorized, mechanized, and non-mechanized, with an emphasis on motorized recreational opportunities • multi-day excursions • vehicle-based camping and staging • large group events • a wide diversity of route experiences and difficulty for a diversity of motorized vehicle types. • additional route or trail development and associated trail heads and staging areas, especially connector routes or creation of loops • areas of adequate size to create a recreation site for hands-on training and environmental education related to motorized recreation <p>Consider the following in the activity plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a specific boundary and management prescriptions 	<p>8. <i>Painted Rocks Mountain Trails SRMA</i> No SRMA is allocated in Action Alternative C.</p>	<p>8. <i>Painted Rocks Mountain Trails SRMA</i> Same as Action Alternative C.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proximity to private property • proximity to Painted Rocks Petroglyph Site and Campground, Gila River Terraces, and Anza National Historic Trail • biological and cultural resource effects • capability of soils and geologic features to support proposed uses • demand for proposed uses • commitment of partners to develop and manage proposed area • other pertinent factors 		
<p>9. <i>San Tan Mountains Regional Park Cooperative Recreation Management Area (CRMA)</i> Maintain the current CRMA agreement with Maricopa County Parks and Recreation.</p>	<p>9. <i>San Tan Mountains Regional Park SRMA</i> Maintain the current CRMA agreement with Maricopa County Parks and Recreation and manage the park, approximately 10,000 acres, according to the San Tan Mountains Regional Park Master Plan.</p> <p>The SRMA’s Marketing Niche is Destination Recreation-Tourism.</p>	<p>9. <i>San Tan Mountains Regional Park SRMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>9. <i>San Tan Mountains Regional Park SRMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<i>Extensive Recreation Management Areas</i>	<i>Extensive Recreation Management Areas</i>	<i>Extensive Recreation Management Areas</i>	<i>Extensive Recreation Management Areas</i>
<p>10. Extensive Recreation Management Area. Manage all areas and acreage not delineated as SRMAs as an ERMA. ERMAs will be managed to custodial standards to protect the health of the land and promote public safety. ERMAs will be managed under guidance provided by the existing land use plans and plan amendments.</p> <p>The following sites are within the ERMA:</p>	<p>10. Extensive Recreation Management Area. Manage all public land areas and acreage not delineated as SRMAs under the ERMA allocation, approximately 625,400 acres, (see Map 2-12-B).</p> <p>ERMAs will be managed to custodial standards to protect the health of the land, protect natural and cultural resources, reduce user conflicts, and promote public safety. Recreation management guidance will be provided by the land use plan in conformance with the appropriate recreation zones (see Table 2-12-2) applied under each</p>	<p>10. Extensive Recreation Management Area. Same as Action Alternative B, approximately 629,300 acres (see Map 2-12-C).</p> <p>The following ERMAs and associated sites are identified:</p>	<p>10. Extensive Recreation Management Area. Same as Action Alternative B, approximately 747,900 acres (see Map 2-12-D).</p> <p>The following ERMAs and associated sites are identified:</p>

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<p>as a scenic drive in No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>of the cultural sites.</p> <p>Allocate Agua Caliente Road as a scenic drive. Manage the public lands in the vicinity of the scenic drives to protect the visual resource and natural character of the viewshed as follows:</p> <p>(a) mitigate proposed projects within the viewshed to decrease the affect on the scenic views.</p> <p>(b) during redevelopment of existing projects, use techniques and methods to decrease the effect of the project on the scenic views, to the extent practical.</p> <p>(c) develop recreation sites and interpretive opportunities as needed to promote recreational opportunities consistent with the recreation management zone and resource objectives of the area.</p> <p><i>c. Metropolitan Area Small Tracts ERMA</i> Generally includes small tracts in the metropolitan area</p> <p><i>d. Rainbow Valley/Stanfield ERMA</i> Lands in Rainbow Valley and East of the SDNM.</p> <p><i>e. East Valley/Globe Small Tracts ERMA</i> Small east valley and Globe area tracts.</p>	<p>Allocate Agua Caliente Road as a scenic drive. Management is same as Action Alternative B.</p> <p><i>c. Metropolitan Area Small Tracts ERMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B</p> <p><i>d. Rainbow Valley/ Stanfield ERMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B</p> <p><i>e. East Valley/Globe Small Tracts ERMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B</p>	<p>Do not allocate Agua Caliente Road as a scenic drive.</p> <p><i>c. Metropolitan Area Small Tracts ERMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B</p> <p><i>d. Rainbow Valley/ Stanfield ERMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B</p> <p><i>e. East Valley/Globe Small Tracts ERMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B</p>
<p>Recreation Services and Use Supervision</p>	<p>Recreation Services and Use Supervision</p>	<p>Recreation Services and Use Supervision</p>	<p>Recreation Services and Use Supervision</p>
<p>11. Authorize Special Recreation Permits as outlined in 43 CFR 2930.5.</p>	<p>11. Authorize Special Recreation Permits as outlined in 43 CFR 2930.5 and consistent with recreation management areas and zones, and other management objectives. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require natural/cultural resource protection training, such as Leave 	<p>11. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>11. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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	<p>No Trace or Tread Lightly, for all SRP holders; if the SRP area includes known cultural sites, require site steward training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize terms and conditions for large-group camp site Special Recreation Permits that define allowable levels of uses in an equitable, safe, and enjoyable manner while minimizing adverse resource impacts and user conflicts. • In Category I and II tortoise habitats, do not authorize competitive or speed events between March 31 and October 15. Review other motorized and non-motorized commercial and organized group events and other use requests between March 31 and October 15 on a case-by-case basis (requests may be denied or changed to avoid conflict with tortoise activity and habitat; mitigation for conflicts is permissible to achieve no net loss in quantity or quality of desert tortoise habitat.) • In washes where Cactus ferruginous pygmy owls are located, no group events will be authorized between February 1 and September 15. In washes containing suitable Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl habitat, group events will be authorized on a case-by-case basis between February 1 and September 15. 		
12. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	12. Propose additional recreation fee sites when necessary to meet demand or specific recreation site need.	12. Same as Action Alternative B.	12. Same as Action Alternative B.
Camping	Camping	Camping	Camping
13. Allow camping on all lands open to	13. Establish additional developed	13. Same as Action Alternative B.	13. Avoid establishing additional

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<p>the public in accordance with standard operating procedures. [In Sentinel Plains and Ajo Airport Parcels] Allow camping on all lands open to the public in accordance with standard operating procedures for camping on public lands, permit self-contained or vehicle-based camping within 50 feet of designated or established roads.</p>	<p>campgrounds and large group camp sites as needed to support recreation demand in appropriate areas.</p> <p>Manage camping according to the recreation management zones</p>		<p>developed campgrounds unless such facilities are needed to protect natural or cultural resources.</p> <p>Establish large group camp sites in already disturbed areas where such use is compatible with natural and cultural resource management.</p> <p>Manage camping according to the recreation management zones</p>
<i>Rockhounding</i>	<i>Rockhounding</i>	<i>Rockhounding</i>	<i>Rockhounding</i>
<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. Close areas to rockhounding as needed by issuance of orders to close or restrict use of designated public lands to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources (43 CFR 8364.1).</p>	<p>14. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>14. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>14. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>
<i>Recreational Target Shooting</i>	<i>Recreational Target Shooting</i>	<i>Recreational Target Shooting</i>	<i>Recreational Target Shooting</i>
<p>15. Allow recreational target shooting outside of developed areas in accordance with 43 CFR 8365</p>	<p>15. Manage recreational target shooting to provide for safety and an enjoyable experience. Recreational target shooting is prohibited in developed recreation sites in accordance with 43 CFR 8365 and is otherwise managed consistent with the recreation management zones. The following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require all brass, targets and other materials to be removed. • Allow use of paper targets only. 	<p>15. Manage recreational target shooting to provide for safety and an enjoyable experience. Recreational target shooting is prohibited in developed recreation sites in accordance with 43 CFR 8365 and is otherwise managed consistent with the recreation management zones. The following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit fully automatic weapons. • Require all brass, targets and other materials to be removed. <p>Allow use of paper targets only.</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>
<i>Equestrian Use</i>	<i>Equestrian Use</i>	<i>Equestrian Use</i>	<i>Equestrian Use</i>
<p>16. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>16. Encourage equestrian and stock animal users to provide weed-free feed for their animals.</p>	<p>16. Require special recreation permit equestrian and stock animal users to use weed-free feed and encourage all other users to provide weed-free feed for their animals.</p>	<p>16. 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>

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<i>Emerging Recreation Uses</i>	<i>Emerging Recreation Uses</i>	<i>Emerging Recreation Uses</i>	<i>Emerging Recreation Uses</i>
17. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A. (See Element 21 under No-Action Alternative A.)	17. Prohibit paintball activities in the following areas: a. Developed recreation sites b. National Historic Trails c. Cultural sites d. Wilderness areas e. Other areas with sensitive resources on a case-by-case basis. Manage paintball activities elsewhere through the appropriate permitting process. If the intensity of use indicates the need, identify appropriate paintball areas and permit through the land use permit process.	17. Same as Same as Action Alternative B.	17. Same as Same as Action Alternative B.
18. No existing RMP decisions address this topic, however, per Instruction Memorandum 2003-182, do not require a SRP if a geocaching activity complies with casual use conditions.	18. Prohibit geocache sites on cultural resource sites.	18. Same as Action Alternative B.	18. Prohibit geocaching sites in the following areas: a. Developed recreation sites b. National Historic Trails c. Cultural sites d. Wilderness areas e. Other areas with sensitive resources on a case-by-case basis. Require geocache sites to be registered with the BLM prior to placement to confirm proposed area does not contain sensitive resources.
19. No existing RMP decision addresses this topic, however, by regulation and policy, manage emerging or unforeseen recreation uses, for which no specific policies have been identified, in accordance with existing regulatory authority.	19. Monitor for new emerging or unforeseen recreational uses and evaluate their effects on resources. Where needed, apply an adaptive management process to manage the use and associated effects.	19. Same as Action Alternative B.	19. Same as Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Monitoring and adaptive management</i>	<i>Monitoring and adaptive management</i>	<i>Monitoring and adaptive management</i>	<i>Monitoring and adaptive management</i>
20. [In Sentinel Plains and Ajo Airport parcel] Adopt and implement the Limits of Acceptable Change System. No formal limits-of-acceptable change monitoring and adaptive management response system has been incorporated into existing LUPs	20. For all public uses on the public land, develop and implement a monitoring and adaptive management response system as a means of measuring and managing recreation impacts on natural and cultural resources and recreation use conflicts. The following parameters would apply,	20. Same as Action Alternative B	20. Same as Action Alternative B

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	<p>additional parameters may be developed as needed:</p> <p><u>General:</u> Monitor existing uses and new emerging uses. When an emerging use is detected evaluate its compatibility with the overall objectives of the area. Where monitoring shows resource damage is occurring to sensitive natural or cultural resources, use a variety of methods to protect the resource such as : education and outreach, including etiquette signs; restrictions to limit access to sensitive resource areas, including barriers; limits on the number of users; use of special recreation or land use permits; closure of sensitive resource area, or other methods.</p> <p><u>Camping and vehicle-based parking:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where monitoring shows that dispersed camping and vehicle-based roadside parking or camping are causing damage to sensitive resources, creating de-facto campgrounds, or are otherwise changing the character and desired setting of the area, a variety of management options will be considered: (1) existing vehicle parking and camping areas; (2) designated areas only; (3) permit only; (4) day use only.• Limits on the length of stay for dispersed camping (currently limited to at least no more than a period of 14 days within any period of 28 consecutive days and, after the 14th day of occupation, require the camper to move outside of at least 25-mile radius of the previous location until the 29th day since initial occupation)		
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	<p>may be imposed if public use exceeds capacity (e.g., all available camp sites are regularly in use) – limit changes may include a shortened length of stay (e.g., 7 days) and/or farther distance moved from previous location (e.g., 50 mile radius)</p> <p><u>Large Groups:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group size limits and use areas may be adjusted based on monitoring to maintain desired setting, manage resources, and accommodate changing uses. <p><u>Recreational target shooting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If resource damage is seen from recreational target shooting (where it is permitted) areas may be closed. <p><u>Cross-country non-motorized, non-mechanized use:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If cross-country hiking and equestrian use begins to establish permanent trails, cross-country travel may be prohibited and such use limited to designated trails. <p><u>Wood collection and campfires:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor collection of wood for campfires; move from 1-3 based on resource effects: (1) allow collection of dead, down, detached wood for campfires, (2) require that wood for camp fires be brought from offsite, (3) prohibit campfires, allow stoves only. 		
Implementation-Level Decisions			
<p>1. No administrative actions have been identified for this element under the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>1. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Encourage partners and adjoining or nearby land owners/managers to develop regional shooting ranges to support concentrated</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B. 2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B. 2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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<p>2. No administrative actions have been identified for this element under the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>recreational target shooting activities.</p> <p>2. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Develop a recreational target shooting safety management plan in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.</p>		
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TABLE 2 -12-2. Description of Recreation Management Zone Prescriptions* for Phoenix South				
	Community Interface	Front Country	Passage	Back Country
<p>Desired Resource Setting</p>	<p>Somewhat natural environment with moderate to high evidence of human changes, including primary public motorized travel routes.</p> <p>Visitor impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year-to-year, typically in areas of moderate to high use, such as camping areas, group sites and pullouts.</p>	<p>Mostly natural environment with low to high evidence of human changes, including primary public motorized travel routes.</p> <p>Some visitor impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year-to-year, typically in areas of moderate use, such as designated camping areas, group sites and pullouts.</p>	<p>Mostly natural with low to moderate evidence of human changes along secondary and tertiary public motorized route corridors (200-foot wide, 100 feet each side of the centerline) within predominantly natural areas.</p> <p>Some visitor impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year-to-year. Resource changes are evident but harmonious with the natural environment.</p>	<p>Predominantly natural environment of moderate to large size. Human modifications occasionally evident, but not intrusive.</p> <p>Most visitor impacts to soil and vegetation recover yearly or are small areas, typically in areas of light and dispersed use such as desirable camping areas and trails.</p>
<p>Desired Social Setting</p>	<p>Opportunities for solitude low to moderate, degree of challenge and risk low to moderate. Moderate to high level of interaction among users.</p>	<p>Opportunities for solitude low to moderate, degree of challenge and risk low to moderate. Moderate to high level of interaction among users.</p>	<p>Opportunities for solitude low to moderate, degree of challenge and risk low to moderate. Moderate level of interaction among visitors.</p>	<p>Opportunities for solitude moderate to excellent, degree of challenge and risk moderate to high. Low level of interaction among visitors, but may encounter some evidence of other users.</p>
<p>Desired Managerial Setting</p>	<p>Moderate to high management presence regularly provides users security/ convenience. Emphasis placed on developing partnerships with local communities and organized groups to assist in management.</p> <p>Rustic to sophisticated urban facilities are provided for visitor education and user convenience as well as for public safety and resource protection.</p> <p>Commonly used by day users and local community members. Focal point for motorized and non-</p>	<p>Moderate to high management presence occasionally to often provides users security/convenience.</p> <p>Rustic to sophisticated facilities are provided for visitor education and user convenience as well as for public safety and resource protection.</p> <p>Focal point for both motorized and non-motorized visitation, concentrating public access,</p>	<p>Low to moderate management presence rarely to occasionally provides users security/ convenience.</p> <p>Basic rural facilities as necessary to protect resources, educate visitors, or for public safety.</p> <p>Management primarily driven by compatibility with adjacent predominantly natural areas.</p>	<p>Low management presence that rarely to occasionally provides users security/ convenience.</p> <p>Only minimal and simple facilities essential for resource protection.</p> <p>Emphasis on preservation of natural, undeveloped landscapes and primitive, self-directed visitor experience.</p>

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	motorized visitation and intensive recreation uses, concentrating public access, recreation activities (regularly including group activities), development along major travel routes and recreation destinations. Intensity of use may require separation of types of use to avoid conflict.	recreation activities (sometimes including group activities), development along major travel routes and recreation destinations.		
Degree of user facilities developed	moderate to high	low to high	low to moderate	very low to none
Possible types of user facilities	kiosks, signs, parking areas, vault toilets, designated/developed camping areas/sites, picnic tables, ramadas, open OHV areas; paintball, other impacting uses	kiosks, signs, parking areas, vault toilets, designated/developed camping areas/sites, picnic tables, ramadas, open OHV areas; paintball, other impacting uses	kiosks, signs, parking areas, vault toilets, designated camping sites/pullouts	minimum facilities for resource protection or public safety (signs)
Visitor information	Visitor contact stations typically located off-site in neighboring communities but may be located in this zone.	Visitor contact stations typically located off-site in neighboring communities but may be located in this zone.	informal & low to moderate (kiosks, signs)	informal & low (signs, kiosks)
Dispersed, undeveloped camping and parking	Day use is primary use, some areas may be closed to dispersed camping where conflicts may occur with recreation uses. vehicle-based parking and camping must occur within existing vehicle parking and camping areas and within 100 feet of road certain areas may be closed for resource protection restricted to designated sites only in specified areas (see designated campsites)	vehicle-based parking and camping must occur within existing vehicle parking and camping areas and within 100 feet of road certain areas may be closed for resource protection restricted to designated sites only in specified areas (see designated campsites)	vehicle-based parking and camping must occur within existing vehicle parking and camping areas and within 100 feet of road certain areas may be closed for resource protection restricted to designated sites only in specified areas (see designated campsites)	no vehicle-based camping; dispersed non-vehicle camping permitted certain areas may be closed for resource protection restricted to designated sites only in specified areas (see designated campsites)
Designated camping areas	established in areas with high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations moderate to high on-site controls, rustic facilities at camping areas	established in areas with high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations low to high on-site controls, rustic facilities at camping areas	established in areas with high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations subtle on-site controls, rudimentary facilities at camping areas	designated camping areas or single-party campsites established when needed to maintain recreation setting or for resource protection. minimum on-site controls, typically no facilities

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	may expand outer limits of camping areas as needed to meet demand	may expand outer limits of camping areas as needed to meet demand		
Developed campgrounds	established in areas with demand for facilities or services, high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations	established in areas with demand for facilities or services, high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations	Rustic or primitive sites may be developed for resource protection or public safety purposes. The number of campsites installed will be limited to the minimum needed to achieve resource protection and public safety goals.	no developed campgrounds
Group use – day & overnight (noncommercial & noncompetitive)	up to 50 people, stock animals, vehicles in existing vehicle parking and camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area large group events are generally appropriate and larger groups will be authorized under SRP on case-by-case basis	up to 50 people, stock animals, vehicles in existing vehicle parking and camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area larger groups authorized under SRP on case-by-case basis	up to 50 people, stock animals, vehicles in existing vehicle parking and camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area larger groups authorized under SRP on case-by-case basis	up to 20 people and no more than 5 stock animals larger groups authorized under SRP on case-by-case basis
Commercial, competitive, vendor use (in addition to SRP requirements)	Commercial, competitive, and vendor use are generally appropriate in this zone and will be authorized on a case-by-case basis. Permit users must use designated portals to public lands. commercial permits issued on case-by-case basis commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits required to remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel) competitive permits issued on a case-by-case basis vendor permits issued on a case-by-case basis	commercial permits issued on case-by-case basis Permit users must use designated portals to public lands. commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits required to remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel) competitive permits issued on a case-by-case basis vendor permits issued on a case-by-case basis	commercial permits issued on case-by-case basis Permit users must use designated portals to public lands. commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits required to remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel) competitive permits issued on a case-by-case basis vendor permits issued on a case-by-case basis	commercial nonmotorized permits issued on case-by-case basis. Motorized uses not allowed. Permit users must use designated portals to public lands. commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits must remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel) no competitive or vendor permits issued

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<p>Firewood collection (dead, down, & detached only)</p>	<p>Firewood collection is prohibited. Campfires are allowed if wood is brought from off-site, unless otherwise prohibited.</p>	<p>Firewood collection is prohibited. Campfires are allowed if wood is brought from off-site, unless otherwise prohibited.</p>	<p>Firewood collection is prohibited. Campfires are allowed if wood is brought from off-site, unless otherwise prohibited. Collection may occur in adjoining back country, unless otherwise prohibited.</p>	<p>Collection of dead, down, and detached wood for campfire use is allowed, unless otherwise prohibited.</p>
<p>Recreational target shooting</p>	<p>Permitted except where otherwise prohibited. Recreational target shooters should ensure they are using safe backstops and other practices and avoid shooting in or across areas where people congregate, including vehicle routes, designated trails and trailheads, developed camp areas/sites, interpretive sites, kiosks, and other high use areas. Additional areas may be closed based on public safety and resource protection concerns.</p>	<p>Permitted except where otherwise prohibited. Recreational target shooters should ensure they are using safe backstops and other practices and avoid shooting in or across areas where people congregate, including vehicle routes, designated trails and trailheads, developed camp areas/sites, interpretive sites, kiosks, and other high use areas. Additional areas may be closed based on public safety and resource protection concerns.</p>	<p>Permitted except where otherwise prohibited. Recreational target shooters should ensure they are using safe backstops and other practices and avoid shooting in or across areas where people congregate, including vehicle routes, designated trails and trailheads, developed camp areas/sites, interpretive sites, kiosks, and other high use areas. Additional areas may be closed based on public safety and resource protection concerns.</p>	<p>Areas where shooting is intensive and repeated and litter and resource damage is readily apparent are prohibited and will be closed as they are identified. Dispersed shooting allowed. Recreational target shooters should ensure they are using safe backstops and other practices and avoid shooting in or across areas where people congregate, including vehicle routes, designated trails and trailheads, developed camp areas/sites, interpretive sites, kiosks, and other high use areas. Additional areas may be closed based on public safety and resource protection concerns.</p>
<p>Routes and Trails</p>	<p>Motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized, non-mechanized routes and trails will be established based on recreation demand.</p> <p>Designated portals must be used to access the public lands.</p>	<p>Trails will be established as needed based on recreation demand</p> <p>Designated portals must be used to access the public lands.</p>	<p>Trailheads to trails in backcountry established. Existing trails maintained; additional trails established where they meet the desired recreational setting.</p> <p>Designated portals must be used to access the public lands.</p>	<p>Existing trails maintained; additional trails established where they meet the desired recreational setting.</p> <p>Designated portals must be used to access the public lands.</p>

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Transportation and Access

TABLE 2-13. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives

No-Action Alternative Goals	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)
<p>Goals: No RMP-level goals for transportation and access are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Goal 1: Develop and maintain a transportation and travel system to support administrative, public, and commercial access and activities.</p> <p>Goal 2: Develop and maintain legal access to public lands for administrative and public use.</p> <p>Goal 3: Manage access as necessary to protect and conserve sensitive resources or enhance/address public safety.</p> <p>Goal 4: Coordinate transportation system with adjoining land managers and owners to manage public access and safety.</p>
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives</p> <p>Objective 1: Establish guidelines for the management of public and agency vehicle activities [within the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels]. Establish policies ensuring vehicle use of [these parcels] is managed and directed to protect resources, promote the safety of all users, and minimize conflicts among the various uses of [these parcels].</p> <p>Objective 2: Develop a transportation plan for the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels in order to facilitate effective management of an appropriate road system and network for government agency and public use. Major provisions of this plan would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan all road development in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), applicable environmental resource protection laws and regulations, and BLM and U.S. Air Force standards, including BLM Manual Section 9113 • reduce new road construction to a minimum by coordinating access needs and avoiding conflicts and replication in road use, development, 	<p>Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Prepare and implement a Travel and Transportation System Management Plan for the long-term monitoring, maintenance, and regulation of the designated route system. This plan will define:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical requirements, design criteria, condition categories and maintenance levels for routes and access points • maintenance levels for routes that reflect resource management and use needs, including recreation management zones and VRM classifications, for the affected segments • methods for monitoring the conditions and use of the route and access point system • policies and procedures for regulating route and access point use including possible adjustments to route designations • steps to promote ongoing public involvement in managing current and future routes and access points <p>Objective 2: Complete route inventories and transportation planning within five years of final Phoenix South resource management plan approval for the Gila Bend Mountains and other applicable areas.</p> <p>Objective 3: Develop and maintain a monitoring system to support implementation and management of motorized and non-motorized use of the public lands, including routes and access points. The monitoring system would provide reliable, up-to-date information for entry into FAMS and to support implementation of the Travel and Transportation System Management Plan in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • periodic review of designated and unauthorized routes and associated access points • condition assessment of designated and unauthorized routes and associated access points relative to the standards prescribed by Travel and Transportation System Management Plan • route use patterns including the types, frequency, intensity, and distribution of authorized and unauthorized travel and transportation activities • compliance of route and access users with Leave-No-Trace principles, Tread Lightly principles, desired resource conditions, and other applicable management prescriptions • public safety issues related to the designated route and access point system. <p>Objective 4: Implement route and access point designations, within two years of final route designation. Implementation will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publishing a map of the approved Phoenix South travel and transportation system that depicts routes and associated access points for public motorized and/or non-motorized use • signing routes and associated access points as needed to manage use • publishing policies and procedures for administrative, public, and commercial use of the Phoenix South travel and transportation route network. <p>Objective 5: Secure legal and safe physical access for both motorized and non-motorized entry to Phoenix South. Where</p>

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<p>and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> close roads and trails not meeting clearly identified land management, public, or military access needs and restoring these routes to a natural appearance either through natural or mechanical rehabilitation <p>develop and maintain a comprehensive road and trail inventory which includes mileages, locations, and classifications</p>	<p>appropriate, use easements or reciprocal rights-of-way to achieve legal access to Phoenix South. Consider the need for public access when granting or acquiring access routes.</p> <p>Objective 6: Prioritize route or access point maintenance, restoration, reclamation, or other corrective actions within two years of the detection of conditions that are deficient relative to the route or access point standards prescribed by Travel and Transportation System Management Plan or that are inconsistent with the protection of sensitive resources within the Phoenix South Resource Area. Initiate corrective action based on prioritized list.</p> <p>Objective 7: Post or otherwise physically close unauthorized routes or access points to public use within six months of detection and, as needed and appropriate, initiate restoration, reclamation, or other corrective actions to repair damage to these routes or access points.</p> <p>Objective 8: Give priority to establishing, maintaining, or improving designated routes or access points within the Phoenix South Resource Area where such projects are necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect sensitive resources protect public safety access developed areas access areas that can accept greater levels of use maintain or enhance public access to Phoenix South. <p>Objective 9: Coordinate management of the Phoenix South Travel and Transportation System with state, tribal, and local transportation agencies, military departments, land management agencies, homeland security initiatives, and landowners. The objectives of management coordination would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support regional transportation needs while protecting Phoenix South resources by influencing transportation planning early enough to promote outcomes that are compatible with the management goals for Phoenix South protect Phoenix South from unauthorized and uncontrolled access points ensure continued legal and safe physical access to Phoenix South at approved locations <p>Objective 10: Coordinate with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> civilian airspace planners/users to align low-level (i.e., below 2,000 feet above ground level) overflight routes, where needed and practicable, along the most environmentally acceptable corridors military airspace planners/users to align overflight routes, where needed and practicable, along the most environmentally acceptable corridors, to the extent that such alignments meet the military need the Federal Aviation Administration and civilian airspace users, if necessary, to encourage air tourism to be conducted at altitudes and over areas that are the most environmentally acceptable for such activities 		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>
1. Wilderness Areas were not yet designated when the existing RMPs were finalized. However, law and regulation specify requirements for the wilderness areas. Maintain designated wildernesses, approximately 91,700 acres, as closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use	1. Maintain designated wildernesses areas, approximately 91,700 acres, as closed to motorized and non-motorized vehicle use areas except where vehicle use is permitted for specific purposes prescribed by existing wilderness management plans.	1. Maintain designated wildernesses areas, approximately 91,700 acres, as closed to motorized and non-motorized vehicle use areas except where vehicle use is permitted for specific purposes prescribed by existing wilderness management plans.	1. Maintain designated wildernesses areas, approximately 91,700 acres, as closed to motorized and non-motorized vehicle use areas except where vehicle use is permitted for specific purposes prescribed by existing wilderness management plans.

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<p>except where vehicle use is permitted for specific purposes prescribed by existing wilderness management plans.</p> <p>Coffee Pot Botanical ACEC, approximately 14,000 acres, is closed to motorized vehicle use.</p> <p>The portion of Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels that were previously part of the Goldwater range, approximately 30,200 acres, are designated as limited motorized vehicle use areas, with all vehicles restricted to designated or established roads as stipulated by U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, and BLM regulations. Accordingly, all vehicle use [in the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels] will be allowed on existing primary, secondary, tertiary, patrol, and unimproved roads.</p> <p>Saddle Mountain and Palo Verde Hills area, approximately 47,400 acres, is undesignated for vehicle use.</p> <p>All other lands in the planning area, approximately 748,400 acres, are vehicles limited to existing and/or designated vehicle routes. Additional areas, outside of existing designated wildernesses and the Coffee Pot Botanical ACEC, may be closed to motorized vehicle use in areas where motorized vehicle use is determined to be causing irreparable harm to existing resources.</p> <p>Open area designations will be made as circumstances warrant except that no open or unrestricted motorized vehicle use areas or competitive motorized vehicle use or events will be permitted</p>	<p>Designate approximately 40 acres in the Ajo Trails SRMA as limited motorized and mechanized vehicle use area where vehicle types are limited to ATV and motorcycles.</p> <p>Designate all other areas, approximately 840,300 acres, as limited motorized and mechanized vehicle use areas, where vehicles are limited to routes designated as available, or open, for vehicle use.</p> <p>See Map 2-13-B</p>	<p>Designate approximately 40 acres in the Ajo Trails SRMA as limited motorized and mechanized vehicle use area where vehicle types are limited to ATV and motorcycles.</p> <p>Designate all other areas, approximately 706,100 acres, as limited motorized and mechanized vehicle use areas, where vehicles are limited to routes designated as available, or open, for vehicle use.</p> <p>See Map 2-13-C</p>	<p>Lands to be managed to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, approximately 313,500 acres, are designated as closed motorized vehicle use areas and as limited mechanized, non-motorized vehicle use areas, where mechanized, non-motorized vehicle use is limited to routes designated as available for mechanized, non-motorized vehicles.</p> <p>Designate approximately 40 acres in the Ajo Trails SRMA as limited motorized and mechanized vehicle use area where vehicle types are limited to ATV and motorcycles.</p> <p>Designate all other areas, approximately 526,800 acres, as limited motorized and mechanized vehicle use areas, where vehicles are limited to routes designated as available, or open, for vehicle use.</p> <p>see Map 2-13-D</p>
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<p>within the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels. Motorized vehicle use has not been limited to designated or existing routes in the Saddle Mountain and Palo Verde Hills Area. See Map 2-13-A</p>			
<p>2. Use of wheeled game carriers is prohibited in Wilderness Areas.</p>	<p>2. Use of non-motorized, hand-powered wheeled game carriers is prohibited in Wilderness Areas. Non-motorized, hand-powered wheeled game carriers are permitted to travel cross-country for the purpose of retrieving downed game on other public lands.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>
<p>3. Prohibit public off-road or cross-country vehicle travel [within the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels]. Random off-road travel resulting in the creation of new trails or the widening or extension of existing trails will not be permitted.</p>	<p>3. In areas designated as vehicle use limited to routes, use of motorized or mechanized vehicles off of designated or existing routes is prohibited except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using the vehicle route shoulder or immediate route side is permitted for emergency stopping or to allow a vehicle to pass • vehicles may pull into existing parking areas within 100 feet of the vehicle route to park, unless otherwise specified. See also limits of acceptable change decisions in the recreation section • vehicle use within a designated recreation site will be according to the decisions for the specific recreation site. 	<p>3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.</p>	<p>3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.</p>
<p>4. [In Lower Gila South] Cross-country vehicle travel will be permitted only when a specific authorized task requires such use and only in areas where such use would not cause unnecessary or undue resource damage. Random off-road travel that results in the creation of new trails or the widening or extension of existing trails is not permitted. As a general practice, new roads will not be bladed for use in fence construction. Vehicles will travel overland, or fences</p>	<p>4. Administrative uses and authorized users may be allowed through prior agreement or permit to travel cross-country on a case-by-case basis when a specific authorized task requires such use and only in areas where such use would not cause unnecessary or undue resource damage. Cross-country travel for one-time or occasional uses will be preferred over the construction of new routes. Cross-country travel and associated restoration actions will be</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>

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<p>will be built by hand. During construction of rangeland developments, vehicles will use existing roads and trails wherever possible for access to sites. Where feasible or where no roads exist, vehicles will travel cross-country to avoid the need for road building. Where new roads must be built, roadbeds will be no wider than needed for reliable access; BLM specifications will also be used to reduce erosion and gullyng.</p> <p>Prohibit agency off-road use [within the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels] as per BLM and USAF regulations except in designated USAF/USMC activity areas, in emergency or law enforcement situations, and for permitted or authorized resource management tasks where off-road travel will not cause significant or irreplaceable harm to natural resources. All authorized off-road use on the BGR must meet all NEPA and other environmental and resource protection laws. Encourage the use of existing roads whenever possible to retrieve downed aircraft and errant target darts. When requested by the military, assist USAF and USMC planners in route selection and associated recovery efforts in order to provide maximum protection to vegetation, soils, recreation, scenic, visual, wildlife, and cultural resources.</p>	<p>planned prior to the approval of the action. Administrative users include BLM and other agencies with management responsibilities.</p> <p>Law enforcement and emergency services may travel off-route in emergency situations when required. Such actions should be reported to the appropriate official so the area can be assessed for restoration as needed.</p>		
<p>5. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 5 under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>5. Route designations for all areas which are classified as vehicles limited to designated routes will be completed within 5 years. Adjustments to route designations, including adding, removing, and redeveloping routes and access, will be considered on a case-by-case basis as needed. Criteria for route designations and adjustments to the route network may include:</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>

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	consideration of the overall goals and objectives of an area, resource values and condition, public use demand and future potential, amount and type of use, legal access opportunities, existing rights-of-way, and administrative uses. Specific criteria will be developed as part of implementation planning and designation of the route network.		
6. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	6. <i>Administrative Action</i> : Promote establishing additional areas open to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use outside of public lands if regional public demand for off-road motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle recreation would support such activities.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.
Implementation-Level Decisions			
<i>Designate Routes on Public Lands as Open (i.e., Always Available), Limited (i.e., Available on a Limited Basis), or Closed (i.e., No Longer Available at Any Time) for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Routes on Public Lands as Open (i.e., Always Available), Limited (i.e., Available on a Limited Basis), or Closed (i.e., No Longer Available at Any Time) for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Routes on Public Lands as Open (i.e., Always Available), Limited (i.e., Available on a Limited Basis), or Closed (i.e., No Longer Available at Any Time) for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Routes on Public Lands as Open (i.e., Always Available), Limited (i.e., Available on a Limited Basis), or Closed (i.e., No Longer Available at Any Time) for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Motorized vehicle use on the public lands is as described in element 1. 	<p>7. Designate routes, within the portions of Phoenix South for which a BLM inventory has been completed and designated as a limited vehicle use area (Ajo Block), as (1) available for public motorized and non-motorized vehicle use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as open), (2) available for public use on a seasonal or otherwise restricted basis (i.e., designated as limited), or (3) closed to public use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as closed) as shown on Map 2-13-B:</p> <p>Routes Closed: 37 miles Routes Open Seasonally: 189 miles Routes Open: 236 miles</p> <p><i>Criteria for identifying the route system under Action Alternative B include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate the existing routes as open 	<p>7. Designate routes, within the portions of Phoenix South for which a BLM inventory has been completed and designated as a limited vehicle use area (Ajo Block), as (1) available for public motorized and non-motorized vehicle use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as open), (2) available for public use on a seasonal or otherwise restricted basis (i.e., designated as limited), or (3) closed to public use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as closed) as shown on Map 2-13-C:</p> <p>Routes Closed: 110 miles Routes Open Seasonally: 147 miles Routes Open: 203 miles</p> <p><i>Criteria for identifying the route system under Action Alternative C include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate the existing routes as open 	<p>7. Designate routes, within the portions of Phoenix South for which a BLM inventory has been completed and designated as a limited vehicle use area (Ajo Block), as (1) available for public motorized and non-motorized vehicle use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as open), (2) available for public use on a seasonal or otherwise restricted basis (i.e., designated as limited), or (3) closed to public use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as closed) as shown on Map 2-13-D:</p> <p>Routes Closed: 281 miles Routes Open Seasonally: 63 miles Routes Open: 119 miles</p> <p><i>Criteria for identifying the route system under Alternative D include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate the existing routes as open

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	<p>or limited for public motorized and mechanized vehicle use except route segments that provide redundant traffic circulation but no meaningful increase in access, may compromise public safety, conflict directly with specific resource management objectives, and/or are or may contribute to adverse resource degradation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify new routes open for motorized and non-motorized vehicle use where needed to (1) improve travel circulation and access to destination points and (2) provide new and improved recreation opportunities • designate existing connector routes within existing ACECs as open for motorized and non-motorized vehicle use • develop a variety of single-track, motorcycle routes and designate these routes as open for motorized and non-motorized vehicle use • designate existing and develop additional short, spur routes as open for motorized and non-motorized vehicle use in order to enhance motorized recreational access and camping locations away from the traffic on through routes • motorized vehicle travel in washes is limited to routes designated for such use • maintain existing motorized vehicle routes that support existing valid rights-of-way held by public or private parties 	<p>or limited for public motorized and mechanized vehicle use except:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. close routes to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use in locations that are to be managed to protect and/or restore sensitive resources b. close routes to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use that are incompatible with the designated recreation setting and other resource or use objectives c. close routes that provide redundant access or traffic circulation, but no meaningful increase in access, may compromise public safety, conflict directly with specific resource management objectives, and/or are or may contribute to adverse resource degradation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generally maintain existing short spur routes to provide motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle access to camping locations and other recreation sites that are away from through traffic routes • new route segments will be considered to maintain legal public access to public lands or provide motorized vehicle access to a non-federal land inholding or other locations specified in a valid existing right, meet other resource management needs, provide recreation opportunities in areas where recreation management is emphasized, or provide vehicle access for other approved uses • motorized vehicle travel in washes is limited to routes designated for such use 	<p>or limited for public motorized and mechanized vehicle use except:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. close routes not meeting clearly identified land management or permitted needs or where public uses are compatible with the resource objectives of the area b. close routes to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use in locations that are to be managed to protect and/or restore sensitive resources c. close routes to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use that are incompatible with the designated recreation setting and other resource or use objectives d. close routes that provide redundant internal access or traffic circulation, but no meaningful increase in access, may compromise public safety, conflict directly with specific resource management objectives, and/or are or may contribute to adverse resource degradation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide some short spur routes to provide motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle access to camping locations and other recreation sites that are away from through traffic routes • do not incorporate new route segments unless a new segment is needed to maintain legal public access to public lands or provide motorized vehicle access to a non-federal land inholding or other locations specified in a valid existing right or meet other resource management needs • limit motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle travel in washes to no more than those segments of the existing routes included in the current BLM
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain existing motorized vehicle routes that support existing valid rights-of-way held by public or private parties 	<p>inventory that incorporate washes as part of the route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain existing motorized vehicle routes that support existing valid rights-of-way held by public or private parties
8. Limit motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use in the Gila Bend Mountains, Buckeye Hills (west of SR 85) existing routes	8. Limit motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use in the Gila Bend Mountains, Buckeye Hills (west of SR 85), and other scattered BLM parcels in the planning area to existing routes, as generally represented in the ALRIS or according to the BLM route inventory as it is completed, until the routes in these areas can be fully inventoried and designated as open, limited, or closed for motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use. Complete the inventory of routes in these areas within the first four years following the implementation of the Phoenix South RMP and designate the routes within five years.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.
9. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 9 under No-Action Alternative A.	9. Mechanized non-motorized vehicle access and travel may occur (a) on routes designated as open or limited unless otherwise specified or (b) on designated routes limited to mechanized travel activities. Pedestrian and equestrian access to and travel on public lands may occur (a) on routes designated as open or limited to motorized or mechanized travel unless otherwise specified, (b) on trails specified for non-motorized, non-mechanized use only and (c) cross-country, consistent with recreation management zones. Certain areas may be closed to pedestrian or equestrian cross-country travel if warranted by changing resource conditions or management. See also limits of acceptable change decisions in the	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9, except that pedestrian and equestrian entry to public lands from external areas will be limited to designated access points and routes and equestrian users will not be allowed to depart designated routes within 0.5 miles of entering public lands.	9. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 9.

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	recreation section. All travel in designated wildernesses would continue to be restricted to non-motorized and non-mechanized means in accordance with the wilderness management plans.		
<i>Establish, Maintain, and Enhance Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i>	<i>Establish, Maintain, and Enhance Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i>	<i>Establish, Maintain, and Enhance Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i>	<i>Establish, Maintain, and Enhance Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i>
10. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 8 under No-Action Alternative A.	10. Develop legal public access to public lands for motorized and non-motorized travel where necessary to maintain existing physical access or to expand legal access to under-served areas consistent with the designated route network, resource management priorities, and public safety.	10. Develop legal public access to public lands for motorized and non-motorized travel where necessary to maintain existing physical access and consistent with the designated route network, resource management priorities, or public safety.	10. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 10.
11. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 11 under No-Action Alternative A.	11. Develop legal public access for the designated route network as needed to: (1) enter/exit public lands from or to public highways that traverse public lands or (2) cross highways, railroads, or other right-of-way barriers that traverse public lands.	11. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 11.	11. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 11.
12. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 12 under No-Action Alternative A.	12. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Support development and implementation of regional or municipal transportation plans that protect or promote appropriate legal access to public lands and are consistent with resource and use objectives.	12. Administrative Action: Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.	12. Administrative Action: Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.
<i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i>	<i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i>	<i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i>	<i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i>
13. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 13 under No-Action Alternative A.	13. Changes or additions to the designated access point and route network outside of designated closed areas will be considered when consistent with resource management objectives of the area and other multiple uses.	13. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 13.	13. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 13.
14. No existing implementation	14. Existing routes will be maintained	14: Same as Action Alternative B,	14. Same as Action Alternative B,

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<p>decisions specifically address the action for Element 14 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>when necessary to preserve passable and safe driving conditions consistent with the identified maintenance level of the routes.</p>	<p>Element 14.</p>	<p>Element 14.</p>
<p>15. In Sentinel Plan and Ajo Airport Parcels: Install appropriate fencing, signing, and gates at principal entry points to improve public access management, address public safety concerns, and eliminate off-road vehicle use at entrance points. Identify and post, where appropriate, roads and trails open and closed to public use, using procedures compatible with existing USFWS and BLM signing standards. Install appropriate fencing, signing, and gates at principal BGR entry points to improve public access management, address public safety concerns, and eliminate off-road vehicle use at entrance points. Prepare and provide public visitor use materials, maps, and information clearly communicating road and vehicle use rules to all users, including the closure of the to off-road travel and prohibition of all-terrain vehicles that are not street legal. Adopt USAF General Vehicle Operating Rules. These rules include: (a) all vehicles and operators must be licensed for highway driving under State of Arizona laws and regulations; (b) vehicles may not be operated in a reckless, careless, or negligent manner; and (c) vehicles may not be operated in a manner likely to cause damage to natural or cultural resources.</p>	<p>15. <i>Administrative Action:</i> As part of the Transportation and Travel plan and implementation, develop fencing, signing, gates, and other methods to improve public access management, address public safety concerns, and eliminate use of vehicles off of designated routes.</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 15.</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 15.</p>

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Lands and Realty

TABLE 2-14. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH LANDS AND REALTY	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives	
<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Goals</p> <p>Goals: No LUP-level goals for lands and realty are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1 (Land Tenure): Consolidate landholdings by retaining, acquiring, and disposing of public land or interest in land (surface and subsurface estate) to further resource goals and meet community needs.</p> <p>Goal 2 (Land Uses): Support allowable public uses through land use authorizations and rights-of-way.</p> <p>Goal 3 (Renewable Energy): Support development of renewable energy resources.</p> <p>Goal 4 (Utility Corridors): Manage utility corridors to support industry demand and community growth.</p> <p>Goal 5 (Utility Corridors): Encourage placement of major utility rights-of-way within designated corridors.</p>
<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Objectives</p> <p>Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for lands and realty are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1 (Land Tenure): Acquire lands or interests in lands (i.e., surface or subsurface estate) for acquisition based on resource values and uses, risk of land conversion to other uses, location and size of parcel. Lands would be acquired through appropriate authorized legal methods. Criteria for evaluating high priority acquisitions on a case-by-case basis include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of threatened, endangered and candidate species habitat • High-value wildlife habitat, including wildlife corridors and other major linkage areas that provide for wildlife movement and lands that improve manageability of existing wildlife habitat • Protection of riparian areas and watersheds of important riparian areas • Rare plant communities • Protection of Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Corridor • Significant cultural properties • Protection of other sensitive resources at risk • Areas with high visual quality • High-value for dispersed recreation opportunities • Presence of well sites or other water sources • Lands that will maintain or provide legal access to public lands • Inholdings • Larger parcel size (e.g., greater than 40 acres) • presence of a willing seller <p>Objective 2 (Land Tenure): Acquire mineral estate when acquiring surface estate to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>Objective 3 (Land Tenure): Acquire mineral estate underlying BLM managed surface estate/ownership that has been identified for retention in public ownership, as necessary for resource protection.</p> <p>Objective 4 (Land Tenure): Public lands identified in the RMP as potentially available for disposal may be disposed of through a variety of methods including, but not necessarily limited to, sale, exchange, or transfer under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Lands found to be potentially suitable for disposal in this land use plan meet the criteria in Sections 203 and 206 of the FLPMA of 1976, and other laws and regulations. Public land parcels identified in the RMP as potentially available for disposal must be individually evaluated on a case-by-case basis under applicable law to determine the specific consequences of disposal relative to natural and cultural resource management, protection, and mitigation requirements before final approval for disposal can be authorized. Lands containing significant cultural resources would be excluded from leases granted under the</p>

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	<p>Recreation and Public Purposes Act unless these resources are at least 0.5 miles from proposed developed facilities and are in areas to be managed as undeveloped park land or open space under protective lease conditions. In accordance with BLM Handbook H-8120, leases may be used to allow other entities to protect and develop cultural properties for public use, when it is impractical for the BLM to do so. Wildlife management criteria for evaluating proposed disposals on a case-by-case basis include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must not include parcels supporting a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species if the disposal would likely affect the recovery of the listed or proposed species • must not include or encumber designated or proposed critical habitat for a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species • must not include land supporting the habitat needs of a federal candidate species if the disposal of the parcel would contribute to the need to list the species as threatened or endangered • must not result in a net qualitative or quantitative loss of desert tortoise habitat and the proposed disposal must not extirpate this species from a geographic area • must not be within 2 kilometers of existing or proposed wildlife waters, adversely encumber wildlife access to water, include bighorn sheep lambing areas, or adversely encumber wildlife movement corridors • exceptions to the aforementioned wildlife management criteria could occur if the land recipient would provide for long-term land use and management that would protect threatened, endangered, or candidate species or other species of concern at least equally well as retention of these lands under BLM administration. <p>Objective 5 (Land Uses): Applications for rights-of-way and other land use authorizations will be evaluated for need and purpose and compatibility with other management decisions.</p> <p>Objective 6 (Utility Corridors): Within designated corridors, rights-of-way authorizations will be evaluated for potential effects on resources.</p> <p>Objective 7 (Utility Corridors): Proposed rights-of-way will comply with visual and aesthetic requirements, reclamation and restoration requirements, and other management decisions in the RMP.</p> <p>Objective 8 (Utility Corridors): Authorize utility rights-of-way in locations that utilize designated corridors efficiently. For example, place parallel transmission lines and/or pipelines as close together as possible, while accounting for safety requirements/standards.</p> <p>Objective 9 (Renewable Energy): Make public land available for the efficient development of renewable energy.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Realty (Land Tenure)</i>	<i>Realty (Land Tenure)</i>	<i>Realty (Land Tenure)</i>	<i>Realty (Land Tenure)</i>
<p>1. Lands identified for disposal by exchange or sale and acquisition in the Lower Gila South RMP are listed in its appendices (3-5, 7-8 of the Decision Source) (see Map 2-14-A).</p> <p>Acquire approximately 112,160 acres of state and private mineral estate underlying federal surface estate and dispose of approximately 23,645 acres of federal minerals that underlie state or privately owned surface estates. The</p>	<p>1. Make available for disposal lands generally shown on Map 2-14-B. Specific public land parcels would be disposed of on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the environmental review and disposal criteria listed in Objective 4. Public lands not proposed for disposal at this time are proposed for retention except that these lands could be made available for disposal to a qualified entity under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act if the proposed</p>	<p>1. Make available for disposal lands generally shown on Map 2-14-C. Specific public land parcels would be disposed of on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the environmental review and disposal criteria listed in Objective 4. Public lands not proposed for disposal at this time are proposed for retention except that these lands could be made available for disposal to a qualified entity under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act if the proposed</p>	<p>1. Make available for disposal lands generally shown on Map 2-14-D. Specific public land parcels would be disposed of on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the environmental review and disposal criteria listed in Objective 4. Public lands not proposed for disposal at this time are proposed for retention except that these lands could be made available for disposal to a qualified entity under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act if the proposed</p>

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<p>mineral estate to be acquired is shown in the Decision Source EIS Appendix 9; mineral estate to be disposed of is shown in the Decision Source EIS Appendix 10; and Decision Source EIS Appendix 7 lists surface and minerals to be acquired for wilderness (LGS).</p> <p>The main methods of disposal will be through sales or exchanges or both. Other forms of disposal such as Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) are also appropriate forms of disposal. In addition, all public lands (with the exception of public lands that are withdrawn, classified, under wilderness study, or designated as wilderness) will be available for disposal or exchange to accommodate the following actions: state exchanges, state in-lieu selections, and special legislation that calls for disposition of public lands. In all three types of actions it must be determined that the action is in the public's interest. All lands not identified for disposal will be retained unless they are needed to accommodate these three actions (LGS).</p> <p>Recommend lands for disposal (LGN); public lands within the planning area not identified in this list will be considered for disposal to accommodate the following lands actions only: 1. State selections and exchanges, 2. Mineral estate exchanges, and 3. Special legislation (LGNA)</p> <p>Retain 6,880 acres in the San Tan Mountains, outside the Resource Conservation Areas (RCAs), as a Cooperative Recreation Management Area with state or local agencies (PRMP).</p>	<p>recreation or other public use for the affected parcels is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Phoenix South RMP. All remaining public lands are retained.</p> <p>2. Specific land parcels within the resource acquisition boundary, see Map 2-14-B, would be acquired on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the acquisition criteria listed in Objective 1.</p>	<p>recreation or other public use for the affected parcels is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Phoenix South RMP. All remaining public lands are retained.</p> <p>2. Specific land parcels within the resource acquisition boundary, see Map 2-14-C, would be acquired on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the acquisition criteria listed in Objective 1.</p>	<p>recreation or other public use for the affected parcels is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Phoenix South RMP. All remaining public lands are retained.</p> <p>2. Specific land parcels within the resource acquisition boundary, see Map 2-14-D, would be acquired on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the acquisition criteria listed in Objective 1.</p>
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<p>Acquire 480 acres of state land in the San Tan Mountains Cooperative Recreation Management Area (PRMP). Designate 391,803 (remainder thereof) acres of federal surface outside the seven RCAs as suitable for disposal through state indemnity selection, R&PPA patent, or state or private exchange (PRMP).</p> <p>Designate 45,000 (remainder thereof) acres of federal surface outside the seven RCAs as suitable for disposal through state indemnity selection, state or private exchange or sale (PRMP).</p> <p>Identify for disposal all subsurface mineral estate underlying federal surface designated for disposal outside the seven RCAs, Cooperative Recreation Management Areas and R&PPA lands (PRMP).</p> <p>Transfer 1,140 acres in the Goldfield Area to the City of Apache Junction for park development under the R&PPA (PRMP).</p>			
<p><i>Corridors and Utility Rights-of-Way</i></p> <p>3. Designate 10 corridors each one mile wide, corresponding to the existing rights-of-way, except as noted (see Map 2-14-A):</p> <p><u>El Paso Natural Gas</u>: Along the northern boundary of the SDNM, where the southernmost gasoline right-of-way forms the monument boundary, the corridor is defined as extending one mile to the north and northeast of the south and southwest boundary of the southernmost gasoline right of way generally located in T. 2 S., R. 3 W.; T. 2 S., R. 2 W.; T. 3</p>	<p><i>Corridors and Utility Rights-of-Way</i></p> <p>3. Designate 13 Corridors (see Map 2-14-B). In these corridors, all compatible utility uses (including transportation, pipelines, and electrical transmission lines) will be allowed unless otherwise specified:</p> <p><u>El Paso Natural Gas, North</u> – One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way, except along north boundary of SDNM, where the corridor’s south boundary is the north boundary of the SDNM and the corridor extends one-mile north.</p>	<p><i>Corridors and Utility Rights-of-Way</i></p> <p>3. Designate 13 Corridors (see Map 2-14-C). In these corridors, all compatible utility uses (including transportation, pipelines, and electrical transmission lines) will be allowed unless otherwise specified:</p> <p><u>El Paso Natural Gas, North</u>: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way, except along north boundary of SDNM, where the corridor’s south boundary is the north boundary of the SDNM and the corridor extends one-mile north.</p>	<p><i>Corridors and Utility Rights-of-Way</i></p> <p>3. Designate 12 Corridors (see Map 2-14-D). In these corridors, all compatible utility uses (including transportation, pipelines, and electrical transmission lines) will be allowed consistent with utility corridor allocation unless otherwise specified:</p> <p><u>El Paso Natural Gas, North</u>: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way, except along north boundary of SDNM, where the corridor’s south boundary is the north boundary of the SDNM and the corridor extends one-</p>

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S., R. 2 W.; T. 3 S., R. 1 W.; and T. 4 S., R. 1 W.

Palo Verde Devers

San Diego G&E Interconnect

Palo Verde-Kyrene: Where the right-of-way corresponds to the El Paso Natural Gas corridor in T. 2 S., R. 3 W., Sec. 30, the south and southwest boundary of the corridor is as described in the El Paso Natural Gas Corridor above.

Liberty – Gila Bend: Along the western boundary of the SDNM, where the powerline right-of-way forms the monument boundary, the corridor is extending up to one mile (depending on the presence of public land) to the west of the east boundary of the powerline right-of-way generally located in T. 4 S., R. 4 W.; T. 3 S., R. 4 W.; and T. 2 S., R. 4 W.

Gila Bend – Ajo

Santa Rosa – Gila Bend: The proposed Santa Rosa to Gila Bend utility right-of-way as described in BLM Serial Number AZA 10834 right-of-way application (March 17, 1978) constitutes the centerline of the Santa Rosa-Gila Bend corridor. The south boundary of the corridor is reduced in width by the surveyed South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness boundary generally located in T. 5 S., R. 2 W.

Tucson Electric Power: Where the Tucson Electric Power right of way crosses public land, including lands along the Maricopa-Pinal County line and in T. 7 S., R. 3 E., near the Table Top Wilderness, it constitutes the centerline of the corridor. The west boundary of the Tucson Electric Power corridor is reduced in width by the surveyed Table Top Wilderness boundary generally located in T. 7 S., R.

El Paso Natural Gas, Ajo: One mile wide, centered on the existing pipeline right-of-way.

Palo Verde Devers: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way.

San Diego G&E Interconnect: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way

Palo Verde-Kyrene: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way, except along north boundary of SDNM, where the corridor's south boundary is the north boundary of the SDNM and the corridor extends one-mile north.

Liberty-Gila Bend: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way, except along the west boundary of the SDNM, the corridor's east boundary is the west boundary of the SDNM and the corridor extends one-mile west.

Gila Bend – Ajo: One mile wide, centered on Route 85 extended to the Organ Pipe National Monument Boundary.

Santa Rosa- Gila Bend: One mile wide, centered on Maricopa Road/Route 238.

Gila Bend-Santa Rosa alternate: One mile wide, from the eastern edge of SDNM, extending directly north along and outside the SDNM boundary to the El Paso Natural Gas-North Corridor and continuing east to the Tucson Electric Power-North corridor.

Tucson Electric Power, North: Two miles wide, east of the existing right-of-way.

Tucson Electric Power, Ajo: One mile wide, centered on Route 86 from Tohono O'odham Nation boundary to route 85 intersection.

Interstate 8: Two miles wide and extending north from the existing I-8 corridor from Gila Bend west to the field

El Paso Natural Gas, Ajo: One mile wide, centered on the existing pipeline right-of-way.

Palo Verde Devers: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way.

San Diego G&E Interconnect: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way

Palo Verde-Kyrene: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way, except along north boundary of SDNM, where the corridor's south boundary is the north boundary of the SDNM and the corridor extends one-mile north.

Liberty-Gila Bend: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way, except along the west boundary of the SDNM, the corridor's east boundary is the west boundary of the SDNM and the corridor extends one-mile west.

Gila Bend – Ajo: One mile wide, centered on Route 85.

Santa Rosa- Gila Bend: One mile wide, centered on Maricopa Road/Route 238.

Gila Bend-Santa Rosa alternate: One mile wide, from the eastern edge of SDNM, extending directly north along and outside the SDNM boundary to the El Paso Natural Gas-North Corridor and continuing east to the Tucson Electric Power-North corridor.

Tucson Electric Power, North: One mile wide, east of the existing right-of-way.

Tucson Electric Power, Ajo: One mile wide, centered on Route 86 from Tohono O'odham Nation boundary to route 85 intersection.

Interstate 8: Two miles wide and extending north from the existing I-8 corridor from Gila Bend west to the field office boundary and two miles wide and centered on I-8 from the Maricopa/Pinal County line east to the field office

mile north.

El Paso Natural Gas, Ajo: One mile wide, underground facilities only, except for above ground ancillary facilities, centered on existing pipeline right-of-way.

Palo Verde Devers: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way.

San Diego G&E Interconnect – One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way

Palo Verde-Kyrene: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way, except along north boundary of SDNM, where the corridor's south boundary is the north boundary of the SDNM and the corridor extends one-mile north.

Liberty-Gila Bend: One mile wide, centered on the existing right-of-way, except along the west boundary of the SDNM, the corridor's east boundary is the west boundary of the SDNM and the corridor extends one-mile west.

Gila Bend – Ajo: One mile wide, centered on Route 85.

Santa Rosa- Gila Bend: One mile wide, centered on Maricopa Road/Route 238.

Tucson Electric Power, North: One mile wide, east of the existing right-of-way.

Tucson Electric Power, Ajo: One mile wide, centered on Route 86 from Tohono O'odham Nation boundary to route 85 intersection.

Interstate 8: One mile wide, centered on I-8.

Interstate 10: One mile wide centered on I-10.

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<p>3 E. <u>Interstate 8</u>: The north boundary of the Interstate 8 corridor is reduced in width by the surveyed South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness boundary generally located in T. 7 S., R. 1 W.; T. 6 S., R. 1 W.; and T. 6 S., R. 2 W. <u>Interstate 10</u></p> <p>Establish seven multiple-use utility corridors along existing rights-of-way in Lower Gila North. In these corridors, all utility uses (including transportation, pipelines, and electrical transmission lines) will be allowed when the uses are compatible (LGN).</p>	<p>office boundary and two miles wide and centered on I-8 from the Maricopa/Pinal County line east to the field office boundary. <u>Interstate 10</u>: One mile wide centered on I-10.</p>	<p>boundary. <u>Interstate 10</u>: One mile wide centered on I-10.</p>	
<p>4. Restrict construction of overhead transmission lines to paralleling the existing Gila Bend to Ajo 69kV transmission line. Underground facilities must be constructed on the west side of the Tucson Cornelia and Gila Bend railroad. All rights-of-way are subject to U.S. Air Force concurrence (LGSA).</p>	<p>4. No action is proposed for this Element under Action Alternative B, because BLM no longer has management authority within the BMGR.</p>	<p>4. No action is proposed for this Element under Action Alternative C.</p>	<p>4. No action is proposed for this Element under Action Alternative D.</p>
<p>5. [In the Phoenix RMP area] all major utilities are routed through designated corridors. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 5 under No-Action Alternative A for the rest of the planning area.</p>	<p>5. Requests for major utilities (greater than 115kV) outside of designated corridors will be considered on a case-by-case basis considering the resources and management decisions in the proposed project area and only if access cannot be reasonably accommodated in existing corridors.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>
<p>6. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 6 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>6. Utility lines 115kV and smaller will preferentially be located in the corridors, but will be evaluated in other proposed locations on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.</p>	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.</p>
<p>7. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>7. Pipeline rights-of-way will preferentially be located in the corridors, but will be evaluated in other proposed locations on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>7. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 7.</p>	<p>7. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 7.</p>
<p>8. Continue to allow small utility distribution systems to be developed on an "as needed" basis throughout the</p>	<p>8. Requests for development of small utility distribution systems will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.</p>	<p>8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.</p>

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<p>Lower Gila North planning area. These small distribution systems will include all uses such as electrical lines, gas and water pipelines, and roads. These distribution systems will be authorized when consistent with environmental and land use considerations (LGN).</p> <p>No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A for the rest of the Phoenix South Planning Area.</p>			
<p>9. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 9 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>9. No action is proposed in Action Alternative B for Element 9.</p>	<p>9. Wildlife Management Areas, Cultural Resource Management Areas, and lands managed primarily to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are avoidance areas for utility rights-of-way unless they are compatible with the natural, cultural, recreation, and visual objectives of the areas.</p>	<p>9. ACECs are exclusion areas for utility rights-of-way. Lands managed primarily to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics are avoidance areas for utility rights-of-way unless they are compatible with the natural, cultural, recreation, and visual objectives of the areas.</p>
<i>Communication Sites</i>	<i>Communication Sites</i>	<i>Communication Sites</i>	<i>Communication Sites</i>
<p>10. New communication sites will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis (PRMP).</p>	<p>10. Allow expansion of existing communication facilities and evaluate new communication facilities on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Restrict placement of communication facilities to locations that will not conflict with bighorn sheep management and wildlife movement.</p>	<p>10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.</p>	<p>10. Prohibit new communication facilities on public lands except within designated communication sites and corridors approved for above-ground facilities.</p> <p>Restrict placement of communication facilities to locations that will not conflict with bighorn sheep management and wildlife movement.</p>
<p>11. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 11 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>11. Designate Oatman Mountain communication site (see Map 2-14-B).</p>	<p>11. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 11.</p>	<p>11. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 11.</p>
<i>Other Land Use Authorizations</i>	<i>Other Land Use Authorizations</i>	<i>Other Land Use Authorizations</i>	<i>Other Land Use Authorizations</i>
<p>12. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 12 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>12. Requests for land use authorizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>12. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.</p>	<p>12. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.</p>
<i>Renewable Energy</i>	<i>Renewable Energy</i>	<i>Renewable Energy</i>	<i>Renewable Energy</i>
<p>13. No decisions in the existing LUPs address renewable energy, but in accordance with law and policy,</p>	<p>13. Work with industry to designate areas where renewable energy development will be a priority.</p>	<p>13. Evaluate renewable energy sites on a case-by-case basis and authorize them if the project is consistent with other</p>	<p>13. Evaluate renewable energy sites on a case-by-case basis and authorize them where resource values can be protected.</p>

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authorize renewable energy sites on public land on a case-by-case basis. (No acreage limits are in effect).	Authorize renewable energy sites on public land on a case-by-case basis.	management objectives for the area. Renewable energy sites are excluded in ACECs and sensitive natural and cultural resource areas (see Maps 2-2-C and 2-16-C): Coffee Pot ACEC and Sonoran Pronghorn Wildlife Management Area	Renewable energy sites are excluded in ACECs and sensitive natural and cultural resource areas (see Map 2-2-D and Map 2-16-D): Coffee Pot-Batamote-Sauceda ACEC, Sonoran Pronghorn ACEC, Saddle Mountain ACEC, Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail ACEC, Gila Bend Mountains Wildlife Management Area
Implementation-Level Decisions			
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>
14. (Administrative Action) Communicate promptly to the public and other agencies, as necessary, new designations for land use, resource protection, safety and security. (LGSA).	14. Same as No Action Alternative A.	14. Same as No Action Alternative A.	14. Same as No Action Alternative A.

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Minerals

TABLE 2-15. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH MINERAL RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for minerals are provided in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Provide opportunities for exploration and development of energy and mineral resources.		
No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: 1. Mineral resources are made available in accordance with the objectives of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act where not withdrawn by law. Exploration and development in the Lower Gila South RMP/EIS area will continue to be administered in accordance with existing surface and mineral management regulations (43 CFR 3809 and 3802).	Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: Support mineral exploration and development on public lands in keeping with BLM’s multiple use mandate. Unless otherwise restricted, all federal mineral estates administered by BLM within Phoenix South will be available for orderly and efficient development of mineral resources. Objective 2: Require exploration and development of all mineral resources, including on split estate, to be conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Restrictions and stipulations will be applied on a case-by-case basis as needed to protect other resources and meet Arizona Land Health Standards. Overall guidance on the management of mineral resources can be found in the Mining and <i>Minerals Policy Act of 1970</i> , Sec. 102(a)(12) of FLPMA, <i>National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980</i> and BLM’s <i>Mineral Resources Policy of May 29, 1984</i> .		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
Leasable Minerals	Leasable Minerals	Leasable Minerals	Leasable Minerals
1. All lands are open for mineral leasing and exploration except those lands with existing segregations or withdrawals (see Map 2-15-A). [In the Saddle Mountain area], restrict any actions or withdrawal in the planning area that would “segregate” leasable minerals unless there is strong evidence that the area is not conducive to mineralization.	1. All lands are open for mineral leasing and exploration except those lands with existing segregations or withdrawals (see Map 2-15-A).	1. All lands are open for mineral leasing and exploration except the following lands are closed to mineral leasing (see Map 2-15-C): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands with existing segregations or withdrawals. • Sonoran Pronghorn Wildlife Management Area. 	1. All lands are open for mineral leasing and exploration except the following lands are closed to mineral leasing (see Map 2-15-D): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands with existing segregations or withdrawals. • Sentinel Plain Special Recreation Management Area • Sonoran Pronghorn ACEC • Saddle Mountain ACEC • Batamote-Coffee Pot ACEC
2. Leasable minerals will be administered in accordance with existing regulations. Lease applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be issued with needed restrictions to protect resources.	2. Same as No Action Alternative for Element 2.	2. Same as No Action Alternative for Element 2.	2. Same as No Action Alternative for Element 2.

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<i>Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)</i>	<i>Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)</i>	<i>Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)</i>	<i>Saleable Minerals (Mineral Materials)</i>
<p>3. 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. (see Map 2-15-A)</p>	<p>3. All public lands within the planning area are open to discretionary mineral material disposal through sales or free use permits on a case-by-case basis, considering resource management objectives and other uses, except the following lands are closed (see Map 2-15-A):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislatively withdrawn areas and other withdrawn and segregated areas • Desert tortoise habitat unless no net loss of habitat can be ensured. 	<p>3. All public lands within the planning area are open to discretionary mineral material disposal through sales or free use permits on a case-by-case basis, considering resource management objectives and other uses, except the following lands are closed (see Map 2-15-C):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislatively withdrawn areas and other withdrawn and segregated areas • Desert tortoise habitat unless no net loss of habitat can be ensured • Washes deemed suitable to support the endangered cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl • Sonoran Pronghorn Wildlife Management Area <p>Within other ACECs, Wildlife Management Areas, and Cultural Management Areas, mineral material disposals will be approved only if the resources for which the special designation or allocation was made can be maintained.</p>	<p>3. All public lands within the planning area are open to discretionary mineral material disposal through sales or free use permits on a case-by-case basis, considering resource management objectives and other uses, except the following lands are closed (see Map 2-15-D):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislatively withdrawn areas and other withdrawn and segregated areas • Desert tortoise habitat unless no net loss of habitat can be ensured • Washes deemed suitable to support the endangered cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl • Sentinel Plain Special Recreation Management Area • Sonoran Pronghorn ACEC • Saddle Mountain ACEC • Batamote-Coffee Pot ACEC <p>Within Wildlife Management Areas and Cultural Management Areas, mineral material disposals will be approved only if the resources for which the allocation was made can be maintained.</p>
<p>4. Saleable minerals are managed under existing law and regulation.</p>	<p>4. Discretionary mineral development will not be approved on split estate lands, where the subsurface is managed by BLM and the surface is in private ownership, without surface owner approval unless not developing the underlying mineral potential would be detrimental to the public interest.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, element 4.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, element 4.</p>
<i>Locatable Minerals</i>	<i>Locatable Minerals</i>	<i>Locatable Minerals</i>	<i>Locatable Minerals</i>
<p>5. All lands are open to entry and location under the mining laws, except those withdrawn and segregated areas (see Map 2-15-A). Exploration and development will be administered in</p>	<p>5. All lands are open to entry and location under the mining laws, except those withdrawn and segregated areas (see Map 2-15-A). Exploration and development will be administered in</p>	<p>5. All lands are open to entry and location under the mining laws, except the following lands are closed (see Map 2-15-C):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislatively withdrawn areas and 	<p>5. All lands are open to entry and location under the mining laws, except the following lands are closed (see Map 2-15-D):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislatively withdrawn areas and

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<p>accordance with existing regulations.</p>	<p>accordance with existing regulations.</p>	<p>other withdrawn and segregated areas remain closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonoran Pronghorn Wildlife Management Area. <p>Exploration and development will be administered in accordance with existing regulations.</p>	<p>other withdrawn and segregated areas remain closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentinel Plain Special Recreation Management Area • proposed Sonoran Pronghorn ACEC • Saddle Mountain ACEC • Batamote-Coffee Pot ACEC. <p>Exploration and development will be administered in accordance with existing regulations.</p>
<p>6. No existing RMP-level decisions specifically address the action for Element 6 under No-Action Alternative A. However this action is implemented through regulatory authority.</p>	<p>6. In accordance with 43 CFR 3809, a plan of operation must be completed in the following situations:</p> <p>a. Before beginning operations greater than casual use, except as described in Sec. 3809.21. Also see Sec. Sec. 3809.31 and 3809.400 through 3809.434.</p> <p>b. For any bulk sampling in which you will remove 1,000 tons or more of presumed ore for testing.</p> <p>c. For any operations causing surface disturbance greater than casual use in the following special status areas that occur in the planning area:</p> <p>(1) Wilderness Areas (see Map 2-16-A);</p> <p>(2) Any lands or waters known to contain Federally proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or their proposed or designated critical habitat, unless BLM allows for other action under a formal land-use plan or threatened or endangered species recovery plan.</p>	<p>6. In accordance with 43 CFR 3809, a plan of operation must be completed in the following situations:</p> <p>a. Before beginning operations greater than casual use, except as described in Sec. 3809.21. Also see Sec. 3809.31 and 3809.400 through 3809.434.</p> <p>b. For any bulk sampling in which you will remove 1,000 tons or more of presumed ore for testing.</p> <p>c. For any operations causing surface disturbance greater than casual use in the following special status areas that occur in the planning area:</p> <p>(1) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (see Map 2-16-C);</p> <p>(2) Wilderness Areas (see Map 2-16-C);</p> <p>(3) Any lands or waters known to contain Federally proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or their proposed or designated critical habitat, unless BLM allows for other action under a formal land-use plan or threatened or endangered species recovery plan.</p>	<p>6. In accordance with 43 CFR 3809, a plan of operation must be completed in the following situations:</p> <p>a. Before beginning operations greater than casual use, except as described in Sec. 3809.21. Also see Sec. 3809.31 and 3809.400 through 3809.434.</p> <p>b. For any bulk sampling in which you will remove 1,000 tons or more of presumed ore for testing.</p> <p>c. For any operations causing surface disturbance greater than casual use in the following special status areas that occur in the planning area:</p> <p>(1) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (see Map 2-16-D);</p> <p>(2) Wilderness Areas (see Map 2-16-D);</p> <p>(3) Areas designated as closed to off-road vehicle use (see Map 2-13-D);</p> <p>(4) Any lands or waters known to contain Federally proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or their proposed or designated critical habitat, unless BLM allows for other action under a formal land-use plan or threatened or endangered species recovery plan.</p>
<p><i>All Minerals</i></p>	<p><i>All Minerals</i></p>	<p><i>All Minerals</i></p>	<p><i>All Minerals</i></p>
<p>7. No existing RMP-level decisions specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative</p>	<p>7. Develop stipulations on a case-by-case basis and reclaim and restore disturbance caused by mineral exploration,</p>	<p>7. Same as Action Alternative B, element 7.</p>	<p>7. Same as Action Alternative B, element 7.</p>

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A.	development and extraction consistent with the natural resource restoration decisions.		
8. No existing RMP-level decisions specifically address the action for Element 8 under No-Action Alternative A.	8. On lands identified for disposal, evaluate proposed discretionary actions on a case-by-case basis to consider whether the proposed action will enhance or detract from the ability to dispose of the parcel. If the action will detract from the ability to dispose of the parcel, approve the action only when the public interest is better met by retaining the parcel for the proposed action.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, element 8.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, element 8.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Special Area Designations

TABLE 2-16. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR PHOENIX SOUTH SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATIONS			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goal: No LUP-level goals for special area designations are provided in the existing land use plans. After the LUPs were developed the Sierra Estrella, Woolsey Peak, and Signal Mountain Wilderness Areas were Congressionally designated. These areas are managed under the Maricopa Complex Wilderness Management Plan and the Woolsey Peak Wilderness and Signal Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Sierra Estrella Wilderness Area will continue to be managed under the Maricopa Complex Wilderness Management Plan and the Woolsey Peak and Signal Mountain Wilderness Areas will continue to be managed under the Woolsey Peak Wilderness and Signal Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.</p> <p>Goal 2: Management goals and objectives for each special area designation are described in the action alternatives.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objective 1: No LUP-level objectives for special area designations are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Management goals and objectives for each special area designation are described in the action alternatives.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Saddle Mountain</i>	<i>Saddle Mountain</i>	<i>Saddle Mountain</i>	<i>Saddle Mountain Outstanding Natural Area ACEC</i>
1. No special area designation exists on Saddle Mountain in the existing LUP.	1. No Special Area Designation is proposed in this alternative. Instead, see the pertinent resource areas for management prescriptions and allocations.	1. No Special Area Designation is proposed in this alternative. Instead, see the pertinent resource areas for management prescriptions and allocations.	1. Designate a Saddle Mountain Outstanding Natural Area ACEC (to include the Palo Verde Hills) of approximately 49,140 acres to protect geology, native vegetation and wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and raptor species and outstanding landscape features (see Map 2-16-D). Other significant values include the cultural resources, scenic views, and opportunities for primitive, undeveloped recreation. Provide opportunities for recreation, with an emphasis on primitive recreation, to the extent that such use is compatible with

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			<p>protecting the natural and cultural resources. Management prescriptions would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity to the Gila Bend Mountains area through land acquisition and vegetation management • Develop a priority for inventory, research, and evaluation of the cultural resources • Manage the area to protect the natural landscape and visual values to provide the visitor with an opportunity to appreciate the character of the area. • Develop select sites for interpretation and environmental education when research opportunities and resource values can be protected. • Require vehicles to stay on designated routes or within designated camping areas or pull-outs • Close single-track, washes and reclaiming vehicle routes as needed to decrease habitat fragmentation, limit disturbance in important habitat areas, and protect desert tortoise habitat. Close, limit or mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of wildlife habitat and cultural resource protection • Limit recreational development to the minimum required to protect resources and provide for public safety • Prohibit competitive events • Manage primarily for non-motorized recreation consistent with recreation management zones and manage the core area for primitive recreation opportunities and experiences • Manage the visual and scenic values of the area to maintain the natural
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			<p>character, including designating appropriate VRM Classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdraw from all forms of mineral entry including mineral material sales. • Close to livestock grazing. Remove fencing and facilities related to the grazing operation. • Acquire from willing sellers, available private and state lands
<i>Coffee Pot Botanical ACEC</i>	<i>Coffee Pot Botanical ACEC</i>	<i>Coffee Pot Botanical ACEC</i>	<i>Coffee Pot-Batamote-Sauceda Outstanding Natural Area ACEC</i>
<p>2. Retain the Coffee Pot Botanical ACEC designation of approximately 9,600 acres (see Map 2-16-A). Management prescriptions established in existing land use plans are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute grazing management practices which would insure perpetuation of botanical diversity with the area. • Livestock facilities will not be developed where that development would serve to increase livestock use within the area • Close the ACEC to ORV use. • Mitigate mining practices which adversely impact unique botanical habitat 	<p>2. Remove the ACEC designation. See the resource sections for general management prescriptions and allocations.</p>	<p>2. Designate the Coffee Pot Botanical ACEC with an adjusted boundary of approximately 14,350 acres, to protect the outstanding botanical diversity of the native plant communities, desert bighorn sheep and other diverse wildlife populations, and outstanding landscape and scenic features. (see Map 2-16-C). Provide opportunities for recreation, with an emphasis on dispersed, non-intensive recreation. Management prescriptions would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Designate a route system that limits wildlife habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, and vegetation damage and close area to new route construction except for resource protection purposes b. Require vehicles to stay on designated routes and within existing camping areas or pull-outs c. Close, limit, or mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of wildlife habitat. d. Generally avoid recreational developments but, if developments are necessary to mitigate public use or provide for public safety, limit developments to small, previously disturbed areas, focused primarily on the pipeline road e. Manage and, as needed, adjust public 	<p>2. Designate a Coffee Pot, Batamote, and Sauceda Outstanding Natural Area ACEC of approximately 80,880 acres, to protect the outstanding botanical diversity of the native plant communities, desert bighorn sheep and other diverse wildlife populations, and outstanding landscape and scenic features (see Map 2-16-D). Provide opportunities for recreation, with an emphasis on primitive recreation, to the extent that such use is compatible with protecting the natural resources. Management prescriptions would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Designate a route system that decreases wildlife habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, and vegetation damage and close the ACEC to new route construction except for resource protection purposes b. Require vehicles to stay on designated routes and within existing camping areas or pull-outs c. Close single-track, washes and reclaiming vehicle routes as needed to decrease habitat fragmentation, limit disturbance in important habitat areas, and protect cactus ferruginous pygmy owl and desert tortoise habitat. Close, limit or mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of wildlife habitat d. Prohibit construction of recreational

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		<p>use to protect the area</p> <p>f. Manage the visual and scenic values of the area to maintain the natural character, including designating appropriate VRM Classes.</p> <p>g. Emphasize maintaining ecological connectivity to the surrounding mountains</p> <p>h. Livestock use will not be allowed to increase from current levels and will be managed to protect the botanical resources. Livestock facilities will not be developed where that development would serve to increase livestock use within the area.</p> <p>i. Avoid placement of utility rights-of-way outside of the utility corridor.</p>	<p>facilities except to protect resources or for public safety</p> <p>e. Prohibit competitive events</p> <p>f. Modify or curtail public use of the area as required to protect the ACEC</p> <p>g. Manage the visual and scenic values of the area to maintain the natural character, including designating appropriate VRM Classes.</p> <p>h. Emphasize maintaining ecological connectivity to the surrounding mountains</p> <p>i. Close the ACEC to livestock grazing to protect the outstanding botanical resources. Remove fencing and facilities (i.e., corrals, etc) related to the grazing operation.</p> <p>j. Withdraw the ACEC from all forms of mineral entry</p> <p>k. Require utilities to be installed underground within the existing ROW (pipeline road) to retain the unencumbered viewshed and exclude utility rights-of-way from the remaining area.</p>
<i>Sonoran Pronghorn</i>	<i>Sonoran Pronghorn Area</i>	<i>Sonoran Pronghorn Area</i>	<i>Sonoran Pronghorn ACEC</i>
<p>3. No special area designation is in effect for Sonoran pronghorn in the existing LUP; however, management of the Sonoran pronghorn is consistent with the Sonoran pronghorn Recovery Plan.</p>	<p>3. No Special Area Designation is proposed in this alternative. Instead, see the Natural Resources and other resources sections for management prescriptions and allocations.</p>	<p>3. No Special Area Designation is proposed in this alternative. Instead, see the Natural Resources and other sections for management prescriptions and allocations.</p>	<p>3. Designate a Sonoran Pronghorn ACEC on public lands west of SR-85 and south of Ajo of approximately 60,920 acres, to protect the endangered Sonoran pronghorn as well as protect habitat for other wildlife species, including the Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl and to protect cultural resources (see Map 2-16-D). Management features would include:</p> <p>a. Limit vehicle use to a route system and existing disturbed areas that decreases habitat fragmentation and disturbance in important habitat areas</p> <p>b. Close ACEC to public use during pronghorn fawning, approximately March 15 – July 15 or as agreed to with the Sonoran pronghorn recovery team</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Close washes in the ACEC to public use during the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl breeding and dispersal season (approximately February 1 – September 15). d. Close tertiary, single-track, washes and reclaiming vehicle routes that fragment habitat, provide access to important habitat areas, or are causing resource damage. Close, limit or mitigate motorized vehicle routes that conflict with maintenance of wildlife habitat e. Further limit public use as needed to protect Sonoran pronghorn and cactus ferruginous pygmy -owl habitat from adverse impacts f. Prohibit construction of recreational facilities within the ACEC g. Prohibit competitive events h. Cameron allotment remains closed to livestock grazing. i. Coyote Flat, Why, and Childs allotments, west of SR 85, are closed to livestock grazing. Fencing and facilities related to the grazing operation will be removed. j. Evaluate livestock waters in the closed allotments for use by wildlife. If determined to be unnecessary, they will be modified, breached or eliminated. k. Close the ACEC to all forms of mineral entry
<i>Southern Trails</i>	<i>Southern Trails</i>	<i>Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Cultural Resource Area</i>	<i>Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Cultural Resource ACEC</i>
4. No special area designations are in effect for the Southern Trails in the existing LUP, except the Anza NHT, see below.	4. No Special Area Designation is proposed in this alternative. Instead, see the Cultural Resources and Recreation sections for management prescriptions and allocations.	4. No Special Area Designation is proposed in this alternative. Instead, see the Cultural Resources section for management prescriptions and allocations.	4. Designate the Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Cultural Resources ACEC of approximately 94,460 acres, to manage the public lands around the Gila River and terraces, Gila Trail, Butterfield Overland Stage Route, Anza National Historic Trail, Southern Overland Trail, Mormon Battalion Trail, the Oatman Massacre Site, the Painted Rock Mountains, and

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			<p>associated areas to protect the cultural resources (see Map 2-16-D). These trails are part of important stories about prehistoric and historic history and the development of the nation. The trails were used prehistorically as important trade and travel routes for Native Americans. In historic times, these trails were used by explorers and during the settlement of the west. Other important resources include the natural resources, and particularly the riparian corridor along the Gila River.</p> <p>Resource Protection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the Trail plan and in cooperation with the National Park Service. b. Protect the rich cultural resources particularly on Gila River terraces. c. Develop a strategy and encourage scientific research to enhance understanding of resources d. Develop a priority for inventory and evaluation of the cultural resources e. Protect the historic landscape and visual values to provide the visitor with an opportunity to appreciate the historic character of the area. f. Rehabilitate and restore the integrity of areas of vegetation loss in selected areas to restore or maintain the historic integrity of the landscape. g. Inventory trail segments and associated sites and mark to National trail standards. h. Evaluate and nominate appropriate trails and sites to the National Register of Historic Places. i. Work with partners to identify opportunities to protect and restore riparian habitat, which may be dominated by non-native species.
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			<p>Resource Uses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop select sites for interpretation and environmental education when research opportunities and resource values can be protected. b. Develop limited recreation facilities to protect resource values and provide for visitor safety. c. Develop a route system of that protects the cultural resources from damage and disturbance. d. Route designation will be completed within 3 years of completion of this plan. e. Pursue opportunities to acquire private and state lands from willing sellers. f. Withdraw from all forms of mineral entry and mineral sales. g. Remove incompatible developments so that the overall disturbance area decreases, to the extent practicable. h. Surface disturbing activities will be evaluated and mitigated to ensure the natural and cultural resource characteristics are maintained.
<i>Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail</i>	<i>Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail</i>	<i>Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail</i>	<i>Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail</i>
<p>5. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (NHT) is a special Area designation. No specific management prescriptions for the Anza NHT are included in the existing LUP.</p>	<p>5. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (NHT) will be managed in concert with the Southern Trail SRMA. The following additional prescriptions apply to the Anza NHT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the National Park Service (NPS) management plan and in cooperation with the NPS, to the extent practicable and with a priority in public use and interpretive opportunities. • Promote the Auto Route for the 	<p>5. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (NHT) will be managed in concert with the Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail Cultural Resource Area. The following additional prescriptions apply to the Anza NHT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the National Park Service (NPS) management plan and in cooperation with the NPS, to the extent practicable. • Rehabilitate and restore the integrity of areas of vegetation loss in selected areas. • Inventory additional trail segments 	<p>5. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (NHT) will be managed in concert with the Gila River Terraces and Southern Trail ACEC. The following additional prescriptions apply to the Anza NHT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the National Park Service (NPS) management plan and in cooperation with the NPS. • Rehabilitate and restore the integrity of areas of vegetation loss in selected areas. • Inventory additional trail segments and associated sites and mark to

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	<p>Anza National Historic Trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Anza National Historic Trail through heritage tourism organizations. • Identify and develop cultural sites that are appropriate for public use and interpretation. • Mark selected trail segments to National trail standards. 	<p>and associated sites and mark to National trail standards.</p>	<p>National trail standards.</p>
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Sonoran Desert National Monument

Air Quality

TABLE 2-1. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT			
AIR QUALITY			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goal: No LUP-level goals for air quality are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Goal 1: Manage use and activities on public lands in accordance with local, state and federal air quality regulations and requirements. Goal 2: Work with state and local agencies and adjacent land managers to address off-site emissions that affect SDNM.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objective 1: 1. Comply with Federal and State air quality standards (required by law; not an existing RMP decision). 2. Prescribed fire activities comply with Federal and State air quality regulations.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Follow the development of new state regulations and designations of non-attainment to determine what public lands will be affected. Comment on the proposed regulations as necessary and appropriate. Objective 2: Ensure uses and activities on the SDNM comply with Federal and State requirements and the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (health standard). Objective 3: Address air quality impacts when planning and executing prescribed burns to comply with Federal and State Air Quality standards and adhere to Article 15 of the Arizona Administrative Code and State Implementation Plan provisions. Objective 4: Emphasize low polluting alternatives and fugitive dust mitigation measures for activities and uses, especially as they pertain to unpaved roads that traverse SDNM. Objective 5: Develop and implement monitoring plans related to Air Quality concerns, as needed.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Compliance with law and regulation</i>	<i>Compliance with law and regulation</i>	<i>Compliance with law and regulation</i>	<i>Compliance with law and regulation</i>
1. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 1 under No-Action Alternative A.	1. Take action when an air quality agency identifies an air quality compliance issue, including fugitive dust, on SDNM.	1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.	1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.
<i>Coordination with other agencies</i>	<i>Coordination with other agencies</i>	<i>Coordination with other agencies</i>	<i>Coordination with other agencies</i>
2. Participate in the Interagency Smoke Program.	2. Same as the No-Action Alternative A, Element 2.	2. Same as the No-Action Alternative A, Element 2.	2. Same as the No-Action Alternative A, Element 2.
3. No existing decisions specifically address this action, However as a matter of policy, 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.	3. Participate and comment on proposed projects identified as requiring Prevention of Significant Deterioration/New Source Review permits for their effects on air quality and affected resources within 100 km of the SDNM. Request that location specific pre-application monitoring is conducted to support the permit review process when appropriate.	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.

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4. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 4 under No-Action Alternative A.	4. Review projects requiring non-major permits within 10 km of SDNM to determine their effects on air quality and affected resources, and provide comments to the appropriate regulatory agency.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.
5. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 5 under No-Action Alternative A.	5. Work with adjoining land managers and users and county or municipal authorities to mitigate air quality effects on SDNM. Control of fugitive dust emissions from unpaved roads, construction sites, or other activity areas within 10 kilometers of SDNM would be a priority of this effort.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.
<i>Manage public uses</i>	<i>Manage public uses</i>	<i>Manage public uses</i>	<i>Manage public uses</i>
6. [In the Sand Tank Mountain parcels,] control excessive fugitive dust at construction sites and recreation activity parcels.	6. Manage excessive fugitive dust generation from unpaved roads, construction sites, and recreation activity areas in SDNM to ensure that public use and other activities do not cause emissions that violate air quality standards.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.
7. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.	7. Control fugitive dust emissions from unpaved roads by using appropriate control methods, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lowering speed limits by creating 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. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 7.	7. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 7.
8. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.	8. Coordinate with county or municipal authorities to encourage control of fugitive dust emissions from unpaved roads that affect attainment of air quality standards in SDNM.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.
<i>Monitoring, Research, Outreach</i>	<i>Monitor Air Quality</i>	<i>Monitor Air Quality</i>	<i>Monitor Air Quality</i>
9. [In the Sand Tank Mountain parcel,] monitor air quality trends.	9. Work with federal, state and local agencies to monitor air quality in the SDNM. Air quality monitoring	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

	should include visibility, ozone, acid deposition, or other relevant air quality indicators		
10. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 10 under No-Action Alternative A.	10. Work with federal, state and local agencies to gather meteorological data.	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.
11. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 11 under No-Action Alternative A.	11. Promote the study of air quality conditions at the SDNM including the effects of ozone, acid deposition and other related pollutants on plants and the supporting ecosystems. Cooperate and promote such activity with academic institutions and other interested parties.	11. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 11.	11. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 11.
12. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 12 under No-Action Alternative A.	12. Increase public awareness and appreciation of air quality resources and visibility through interpretative displays as part of the public outreach program and visitor facilities planning for the SDNM.	12. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.	12. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

PRELIMINARY DRAFT MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Land Health Standards

TABLE 2-2-1. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT LAND HEALTH STANDARDS
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals
<p style="text-align: center;">Alternative Goals (Common to No Action and all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Land Health Standard 1: Upland Sites: Upland soils exhibit infiltration, permeability, and erosion rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and landform (ecological site).</p> <p>Criteria for meeting Standard 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soil conditions support proper functioning of hydrologic, energy, and nutrient cycles. Many factors interact to maintain stable soils and healthy soil conditions, including appropriate amounts of vegetative cover, litter, and soil porosity and organic matter. Under proper functioning conditions, rates of soil loss and infiltration are consistent with the potential of the site.• Ground cover in the form of plants, litter or rock is present in pattern, kind, and amount sufficient to prevent accelerated erosion for the ecological site; or ground cover is increasing as determined by monitoring over an established period of time.• Signs of accelerated erosion are minimal or diminishing for the ecological site as determined by monitoring over an established period of time. <p>As indicated by such factors as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ground Cover<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. litterb. live vegetation, amount and type (e.g., grass, shrubs, trees, etc.)c. rock• Signs of erosion<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. flow patternb. gulliesc. rillsd. plant pedestaling <p>Land Health Standard 2: Riparian-Wetland Sites: Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.</p> <p>Criteria for meeting Standard 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stream channel morphology and functions are appropriate for proper functioning condition for existing climate, landform, and channel reach characteristics. Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, land form, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows.• Riparian-wetland functioning condition assessments are based on examination of hydrologic, vegetative, soil and erosion-deposition factors. BLM has developed a standard checklist to address these factors and make functional assessments. Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly as indicated by the results of the application of the appropriate checklist.• The checklist for riparian areas is in Technical Reference 1737-9 "Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition." The checklist for wetlands is in Technical Reference 1737-11 "Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas." <p>As indicated by such factors as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gradient• Width/depth ratio• Channel roughness and sinuosity of stream channel

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- Bank stabilization
- Reduced erosion
- Captured sediment
- Ground-water recharge
- Dissipation of energy by vegetation

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable):

- Dirt tanks, wells, and other water facilities constructed or placed at a location for the purpose of providing water for livestock and/or wildlife and which have not been determined through local planning efforts to provide for riparian or wetland habitat are exempt.
- Water impoundments permitted for construction, mining, or other similar activities are exempt.

Land Health Standard 3: Desired Resource Condition: Productive and diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.

Criteria for meeting Standard 3:

- Upland and riparian-wetland plant communities meet desired plant community objectives. Plant community objectives are determined with consideration for all multiple uses. Objectives also address native species, and the requirements of the Taylor Grazing Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and appropriate laws, regulations, and policies.
- Desired plant community objectives will be developed to assure that soil conditions and ecosystem function described in Standards 1 and 2 are met. They detail a site-specific plant community, which when obtained, will assure rangeland health, State water quality standards, and habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Thus, desired plant community objectives will be used as an indicator of ecosystem function and rangeland health.

As indicated by such factors as:

- Composition
- Structure
- Distribution

Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable):

- Ecological sites or stream reaches on which a change in existing vegetation is physically, biologically, or economically impractical.

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Natural Resources

TABLE 2--2-2. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT NATURAL RESOURCES – ECOLOGICAL, BIOLOGICAL WATERSHED	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals	
No-Action Alternative Goals	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)
<p>Goal 1 (Watershed Management): Comply with the Clean Water Act.</p>	<p>Goal 1 (Ecosystem Management): Maintain or restore ecosystem health. Ecological processes, such as hydrologic cycling, nutrient and energy flows, predator-prey or parasitic relationships, species migrations, and competitive effects, are functioning at the landscape scale.</p> <p>Goal 2 (Biological Management): Conserve, restore, or enhance the natural diversity and distribution of native vegetation communities and healthy, flourishing, and sustainable native wildlife populations within SDNM, consistent with Land Health Standards.</p> <p>Goal 3 (Biological Management): Maintain or restore natural communities within SDNM across the landscape at the individual, species, community, and ecosystem scales, such that complex and robust native natural communities are at or near their ecological potential and are resilient and sustainable. Characteristics of such communities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Biological diversity is at or near the site potential for each ecological site, represented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic diversity in individual species populations • Numbers of species present (i.e., species richness) • Plant community components, densities, and structural diversity • Expected mosaic and distribution of natural communities appears across the landscape. b. Introduction or establishment of invasive species is avoided. Invasive species, if present, do not disrupt natural ecological processes, support wildfires, prevent other species from growing, nor cause other problems. c. Habitat connectivity is maintained, habitat fragmentation is limited, and wildlife corridors are maintained, restored or enhanced, considering habitat patch size requirements and wildlife movement capabilities. <p>Goal 4 (Biological Management): Conserve and recover threatened and endangered species and their habitats and manage to prevent the listing of additional species.</p> <p>Goal 5 (Watershed Management): Watersheds are in properly functioning condition, consistent with Land Health Standards. Watershed characteristics include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water flow and channels are stable and in balance with the landscape b. Erosion and sediment deposition are appropriate for the ecological site c. Infiltration of surface water in soils is sufficient to support existing or desired plant communities d. Flood frequencies, durations, and magnitudes are appropriate for the landscape. <p>Goal 6 (Watershed Management): Conserve sensitive soils such as desert pavement and cryptogamic crusts.</p> <p>Goal 7 (Watershed Management): Manage surface and groundwater resources to protect, maintain, and improve water quality in accordance with water quality standards.</p> <p>Goal 8 (Watershed Management): Surface and ground water is available to provide for the needs of natural resources.</p>

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**TABLE 2 -2-3. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES – ECOSYSTEM AND BIOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES**

Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives

No-Action Alternative Objectives	Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)
<p>Objectives: 1. Implement an integrated vegetation treatment program for BLM administered public lands. The vegetation management priorities are as follows: Priority 1 – Take actions to prevent or minimize the need for vegetation control when and where feasible considering the management objectives for the site; Priority 2 – Use effective non-chemical methods of vegetation control when and where feasible; Priority 3 – Use herbicides after considering the effectiveness of all potential methods or in combination with other methods of control. Chemicals could be used where the benefits would meet or exceed those of other control methods. The application of chemicals shall meet or exceed BLM and label requirements.</p>	<p>Objective 1 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat): Maintain the existing natural mosaic of native plant community distributions across the landscape. Use the best available data (currently the 2003 vegetation community map produced by PBI) as the benchmark for determining the existing distributions of native plant communities.</p> <p>Objective 2 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat): In consideration of the natural pace of ecological transitions in the Sonoran Desert, the long-term (generally greater than 50 years) objective is to maintain or restore the SDNM landscape to the desired resource conditions. Within the lifetime of this plan, the objective is to maintain or restore 80 percent of the ecological sites within the SDNM to the desired resource conditions. All remaining sites will be stable or exhibiting an upward trend in condition. Vegetation condition is characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all expected community components and life forms are present in the expected proportions for the ecological site (grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees as appropriate for the site) • species richness, density, & diversity is appropriate for the ecological site • individual and community structural diversity is appropriate for the ecological site • community composition meets the Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat objectives listed below. <p>Objective 3 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat): Manage land use and discretionary actions, to the maximum extent practicable and considering valid existing rights, to prevent expansion of the proportion of SDNM committed to uses that are incompatible with directly supporting natural ecological processes. The aggregate surface area footprint that currently supports non-ecological uses is less than 1 percent of SDNM, including roads, livestock/ranching developments, utility structures, mining sites, intensive recreation use sites, or other heavily impacted sites. Over the lifetime of the plan the footprint for discretionary actions and projects will not exceed 2 percent of SDNM.</p> <p>Objective 4 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat): Implement wildlife habitat management through the use of Wildlife Habitat Management Plans, developed in cooperation with AGFD, to meet the Sikes Act requirements and address site-specific habitat management objectives, consistent with other natural resource objectives.</p> <p>Objective 5 (Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat): Develop a specific drought policy for the SDNM to address continued impacts on vegetation and wildlife habitat values during drought. This policy will address livestock grazing and other uses that may impact wildlife, wildlife habitat, or vegetation communities during drought, including the need for timely response in reducing/removing uses, sufficient vegetative recovery periods, indicators of drought recovery, and appropriate management actions.</p> <p>Objective 6 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): <i>Xeroriparian</i>—Maintain, enhance or protect vegetation along drainages, ensuring diverse vegetative composition and structure remains intact and is appropriate for the site. Specific desired conditions of the xeroriparian community include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-layered vegetative structure, as provided by perennial vegetation, such as grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees, should dominate the community. Size and growth form, such as overhanging branches, mid-story, and understory vegetation should be representative of the species and understory cover should be of moderate to high density (75-100%), where site potential exists. • Sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve or restore desert wash (xeroriparian) functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge and bank stability, thus promoting channel morphology and functions appropriate to climate and landform.

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- Tree species, such as ironwood, palo verde, catclaw, and mesquite, will attain sizes large enough (>6" in diameter) to provide cavities, for those wildlife species requiring such habitat, and production of seed pods for forage. The size of the community will be of appropriate quantity and quality to support and allow for dispersal of such species as the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl. Bank and floodplain vegetation, if applicable for the site, will be maintained or restored to ensure habitat elements are retained to stabilize the site, retain soil (if present) and support ground-dwelling species.
- The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, Sonoran desert tortoise, desert mule deer, white-tailed deer, javelina, mountain lion, southern yellow bat, California leaf-nosed bat, cave myotis, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, great horned owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, elf owl, loggerhead shrike, Lucy's warbler, Gila monster, Sonoran green toad, lowland burrowing treefrog, and great plains toad.

Objective 7 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Palo Verde-Mixed Cacti*—Maintain or promote a palo verde-mixed cacti vegetation type that is comprised of the expected diversity in composition and size classes of vegetation, from small shrubs to large trees interspersed with a variety of cacti, such as mammalaria, prickly pear, cholla, barrel, hedgehog, and saguaro. Specific desired conditions of the palo verde-mixed cacti community include:

- Saguaro cactus is a prominent component of this vegetation type. All size and age classes of saguaro will be represented in amounts appropriate to ensure continuation of this community. Within the bounds of management, recruitment of saguaro will be equal to or greater than senescence, disease, forces of nature, vandalism or other species impacting activities.
- Tree species, such as ironwood, palo verde, and mesquite, will attain sizes large enough (>6" diameter) to provide cavities for those wildlife species requiring such habitat and production of seed pods for wildlife forage.
- Structural diversity of trees, mid-story and understory vegetation will be available in the appropriate quality and quantity for the site to provide nesting and hiding cover, breeding areas and foraging areas for both herbivorous species and prey species.
- The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, lesser long-nosed bat, Sonoran desert tortoise, Gila monster, chuckwalla, rosy boa, red-backed whiptail, Sonoran green toad, Gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, Costa's hummingbird, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, loggerhead shrike, great-horned owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, elf owl, barn owl, western screech owl, red-tailed hawk, Harris' hawk, crested caracara, black vulture, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, golden eagle, desert mule deer, white-tailed deer, desert big horn sheep, javelina, mountain lion, California leaf-nosed bat, spotted bat, greater mastiff bat, red bat, and cave myotis.

Objective 8 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Creosotebush-bursage*—Maintain or restore intact creosotebush-bursage habitat in order to retain its functional connectivity, as movement corridors and foraging areas, between adjacent communities. Maintain or restore ground cover, within this habitat type at the maximum appropriate for the site conditions, to provide hiding cover and forage for both predator and prey species. Protect and maintain easily disturbed or sensitive soils, such as desert pavement to prevent erosion and keep this substrate intact.

The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, Sonoran desert tortoise, Gila monster, Sonoran green toad, great plains toad, western narrow-mouthed toad, lowland burrowing treefrog, Gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, LeConte's thrasher, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, great-horned owl, burrowing owl, western screech owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, elf owl, American kestrel, red-tailed hawk, Harris' hawk, rough-legged hawk, desert mule deer, desert big horn sheep, javelina, mountain lion, California leaf-nosed bat and spotted bat.

Objective 9 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Desert grassland*—Protect, enhance and maintain a diversity of perennial grass species, as appropriate for site conditions. Prevent encroachment of woody species, such as mesquite, to ensure continuity of grassland community. Maintain open site conditions for those wildlife species that utilize grasslands for some portion or all of their life cycle.

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The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: ferruginous hawk, great-horned owl, red-tailed hawk, Gambel's quail, mourning dove, white-winged dove, chestnut-collared longspur, merlin, American kestrel, rough-legged hawk, red-tailed hawk, western green toad, lowland burrowing treefrog, great plains toad.

Objective 10 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Sonoran desert mountain community*—Maintain a botanically diverse vegetative community that includes a combination of desert, chaparral, and semi-desert grassland species, in amounts appropriate for the site. Some areas may contain relict populations of crucifixion thorn, juniper and elephant tree.

The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: desert mule deer, javelina, white-tailed deer, bighorn sheep, California leaf-nosed bat, greater western mastiff bat, Harris' hawk, white-winged dove, elf owl, golden eagle, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, Gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, mourning dove, Gila monster, red-backed whiptail, Sonoran desert tortoise, western green toad, Kofa mountain barberry.

Objective 11 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Mesquite (bosque) woodlands*—Protect and maintain mesquite (bosque) woodlands as patches of various size and age classes of mesquite trees with an understory of native perennial grass and forb species.

The community will support a diversity of wildlife populations. Priority species that may be found in this community include: cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, white-winged dove, mourning dove, Cooper's hawk, javelina, desert mule deer, Gila woodpecker, gilded flicker, long-eared owl, elf owl, Lucy's warbler, lowland burrowing treefrog, Great Plains toad, western narrow-mouthed toad, green toad, Sonoran green toad.

Objective 12 (Plant Community and Wildlife Habitat): *Community inclusions*—Protect the tops and upper side slopes and drainages of andesitic and granitic hills where populations of acuna cactus are found. Protect raptor nesting areas, such as cliffs capable of supporting breeding, nesting, wintering, and resident raptor species.

Objective 13 (Habitat Connectivity): Maintain connectivity within habitats and restore or enhance connectivity between habitats. Focus in particular on the following key wildlife corridors that connect habitat on public lands:

- North Maricopa Mountains and Sierra Estrella
- South Maricopa Mountains and Palo Verde Mountains
- South Maricopa Mountains and Sand Tank Mountains
- Palo Verde Mountains and Table Top Mountains
- Table Top Mountains and Sand Tank Mountains
- Sand Tank Mountains and Saucedas Mountains
- North Maricopa Mountains and Buckeye Hills
- other wildlife corridors that may be identified

Objective 14 (Vegetation Restoration and Rehabilitation): Restore natural ecosystem function, including soils, complete vegetation communities, water flow, and associated wildlife, whenever and wherever possible. Where an area cannot be fully restored, as a minimum the soil will be stabilized, the area revegetated with native species, and the hydrology will be restored to the maximum extent possible to prevent any further degradation.

Objective 15 (Invasive Plant Species): Minimize the introduction and establishment, stop the spread, and reduce the presence of non-native and invasive species on SDNM.

Objective 16 (Endangered, Threatened and Special Status Plants): Populations of protected plants are stable or increasing with adequate recruitment within a healthy plant community.

Objective 17 (Wildlife Management): Work in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to manage wildlife and wildlife habitat to achieve AGFD's wildlife population goals. Actions that BLM and AGFD may undertake include surveys, telemetry, transplants, water management, vegetation restoration and enhancement, invasive species control, research,

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and other wildlife or habitat management projects.

Objective 18 (Wildlife Management): Emphasize management of priority species and their habitats. A list of priority species and the desired resource conditions for their habitat needs are incorporated in the plant community and wildlife habitat objectives above. In addition, the following important areas where priority species management is emphasized have been identified: ACECs, Wildlife Management Areas, Sonoran pronghorn area, desert tortoise habitat, wildlife movement corridors, bat roosts, springs, and cliffs. Categories of priority species include:

- T & E species
- Game species
- Special status species
- Birds of conservation concern
- Raptors

Certain priority species have specific desired resource conditions in addition to those found in the plant community and wildlife habitat objectives:

- Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl - Maintain or improve current or potential habitat of sufficient quality and quantity in adequate patch sizes that could support cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls (CFPO). Sufficient habitat will be maintained between these patches to provide for an interconnected system of habitat. Quantity refers to the number and size of habitat patches in the planning areas and amount and juxtaposition of dispersal habitat. Quality refers to the density and structural makeup and species diversity of the vegetation that appears most suitable for CFPOs.
- Lesser long-nosed bats - Maintain populations of columnar cacti and agave within the planning areas, with sufficient representation in age-size classes for these plants to persist through the long term where science shows they are appropriate parts of the plant community. Natural downward fluctuations in density in some areas are expected to be countered by increases in other areas.
- Desert tortoise - Habitat requirements by habitat category are as follows:
- Category I – Maintain stable, viable populations and protect existing tortoise habitat values and increase populations where possible:
- Category II – Maintain stable, viable populations and halt further declines in tortoise habitat values; and
- Category III – Limit tortoise habitat and populations declines to the extent possible through mitigation.
- Birds of conservation concern - Emphasize avoiding or minimizing impacts and restoring and enhancing habitat quality to implement Executive Order 13186. Through the permitting process, ensure the maintenance of habitat quantity and quality. Take of migratory birds from authorized activities will be minimized or avoided.

Objective 19 (Special Status Species - Desert Tortoise Habitat Management): Manage desert tortoise habitat to maintain the species and avoid the necessity of listing this species under the Endangered Species Act. Desert tortoise habitat conservation will be emphasized as a management priority within those public land areas currently designated as Category I, II, or III habitat. Tortoise habitat management categories and boundaries may be adjusted as new information becomes available. These criteria that would be used in revision of categories and boundaries are those contained in the 1988 Rangewide Plan. The criteria include:

- Category I tortoise habitat areas are (1) habitat areas are essential to maintenance of large, viable populations (2) conflicts are resolvable (3) populations are medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density and (4) populations are increasing, stable, or decreasing.
- Category II tortoise habitat areas are (1) habitat areas may be essential to maintenance of viable populations (2) most conflicts are resolvable (3) populations are medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density and (4) populations are stable, or decreasing.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category III tortoise habitat areas are (1) habitat areas are not essential to maintenance of viable populations (2) most conflicts are not resolvable (3) populations are low to medium density not contiguous with medium or high density and (4) populations are stable, or decreasing. <p>Objective 20 (Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Animals): Protect, manage, and support recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, and candidate wildlife species—including cactus ferruginous pygmy -owl and lesser long-nosed bat—and their habitats in accordance with recovery plans and the terms and conditions of biological opinions (specific conservation measures may be developed in concert with USFWS). Current recovery actions for these species are listed below, but may be modified as more information becomes available and recovery plans are updated:</p> <p><u>Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy -Owl (CFPO) (Draft Recovery Plan)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate the number and define the distribution of CFPOs in AZ (i.e., Survey areas not yet surveyed and resurvey areas where CFPOs have been found previously) • Protect all currently known (since 1993) CFPOs in Arizona and the habitat they occupy. Identify and maintain an interconnected system of habitat extending from the northern portion of the historical range, south to areas potentially occupied by CFPO populations in Mexico. • Continue to gather information essential to the management of CFPOs in Arizona, including habitat requirements, population demographics, dispersal capabilities and genetics. • Initiate the process for augmenting existing imperiled CFPO population segments and establishing CFPOs in areas that appear suitable, but are presently unoccupied, or into areas that have been modified to enhance some habitat characteristic for CFPOs (e.g., establishing nest boxes). <p><u>Lesser Long-nosed Bats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect roost sites • Protect foraging areas and food plants. Foraging areas consist of extensive populations of columnar cacti and paniculate agaves within a radius of 50 miles (81 km) around known roosts. • Protect food resources along migratory pathways. • Develop and conduct a public education and information campaign in AZ, on the beneficial aspects of bats in general, and the lesser long-nosed bat specifically. <p>Objective 21 (Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Animals): Avoid actions that would jeopardize the continued existence of any species proposed for listing or that may result in adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.</p> <p>Objective 22 (Invasive Animal Species): Minimize the introduction and establishment, stop the spread, and reduce the presence of non-native and invasive species on SDNM.</p>			
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Habitat Connectivity</i>	<i>Habitat Connectivity</i>	<i>Habitat Connectivity</i>	<i>Habitat Connectivity</i>
1. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	1. On SDNM, maintain and improve habitat connectivity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing uses on the public lands to minimize or mitigate avoidance barriers, where levels of use disrupt natural patterns of movement (e.g., dirt roads that are heavily used, utility corridors, communication sites, camping areas). 	1. Same as Action Alternative B.	1. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing and developing proposed projects on the public lands to avoid, minimize, or mitigate habitat fragmentation and maintain opportunities for wildlife movement. • Modifying or mitigating existing physical barriers (fences, highways, railroads, canals, fences, etc.) on public lands to decrease effects on wildlife movements. 		
<p>2. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>2. On lands adjoining SDNM maintain and enhance habitat connectivity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the appropriate agencies responsible for existing physical barriers (highways, railroads, canals) to provide for safe and effective wildlife movements across such barriers that are needed to maintain healthy populations and ecosystem functions. • Working with the appropriate agencies for proposed projects adjoining or otherwise affecting public lands to either avoid the development of barriers to wildlife movement or mitigate the effects of such barriers by providing safe and effective areas to support wildlife movements needed to maintain healthy populations and ecosystem functions. • Working with adjoining land owners and managers to maintain natural habitat outside of SDNM and restore or enhance connectivity between natural habitat areas on public lands. • Acquiring lands or interests in lands to restore or enhance connectivity between natural habitat areas. 	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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<i>Restoration and Rehabilitation</i>	<i>Restoration and Rehabilitation</i>	<i>Restoration and Rehabilitation</i>	<i>Restoration and Rehabilitation</i>
3. No LUP-level decisions were enacted in existing land use plans. However, the current management approach is to emphasize passive restoration by natural processes; except use active methods on a limited case-by-case basis.	<p>3. Emphasize passive restoration by natural processes to return sites to their desired resource conditions and hydrological functions; except use active restoration practices to stabilize and restore sites that are likely to be successfully restored using active management methods due to their ecological characteristics and are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • severely damaged, rapidly deteriorating, or rapidly expanding • placing adjacent resources at risk • prone to invasion by non-native species • heavily disturbed, such as mining sites • capable of improving habitat for threatened or endangered species • a management priority and require accelerated restoration to meet a selected management objective, such as obliterating a road to effectively implement a route closure or restoring an important habitat function • identified as having high visual resource values that are being affected. 	3. Same as Action Alternative B.	<p>3. Emphasize passive restoration and a reliance on natural processes to restore sites to their desired resource conditions and/or hydrological functions; except use active restoration practices to stabilize sites where passive restoration is not likely to be successful because of the ecological characteristics of the site and that are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • severely damaged, rapidly deteriorating, or rapidly expanding • placing adjacent resources at risk • prone to invasion by non-native species • heavily disturbed, such as mining sites • capable of improving habitat for threatened or endangered species <p>Emphasize passive restoration by natural processes once sites are stabilized.</p>
4. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	4. Use a variety of vegetation restoration methods, as appropriate, to restore and promote a natural range of native plant associations. Methods may include mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fires. The least intrusive method that achieves the goals of the project and is consistent with other management goals and objectives will be used.	4. Same as Action Alternative B.	4. Same as Action Alternative B.
5. Emphasize the use and perpetuation of native vegetation. (applies only to grazing)	5. Use native plants as the first priority for all restoration projects. Non-intrusive, non-native plants may be used	5. Same as Action Alternative B.	6. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	in limited, emergency situations where they may be necessary to protect the resources or when taking no action will further degrade the resources. This use will be allowed to the extent that it complies with the vegetation objectives and other management goals and objectives. In these situations, short-lived species (i.e., nurse crop species) will be preferentially used and will be combined with native species to facilitate the establishment of native species.		
<i>Invasive Species</i>	<i>Invasive Species</i>	<i>Invasive Species</i>	<i>Invasive Species</i>
6. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	6. Coordinate invasive species management control efforts with the appropriate federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal agencies, and other partners. Efforts will be coordinated through the Borderlands Cooperative Weed Management Area and other similar groups.	6. Same as Action Alternative B.	6. Same as Action Alternative B.
7. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	7. Pursue an integrated weed management approach to control invasive species using methods including mechanical, chemical, biological, and prescribed fire. Biological control methods may be used to control invasive plant species, if appropriate safety measures are applied, and in coordination with appropriate federal, state, county, municipal and tribal agencies. The least intrusive method that achieves the goals of the project and is consistent with other management goals and objectives will be used.	7. Same as Action Alternative B.	7. Same as Action Alternative B.
8. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	8. Focus monitoring for invasive species on likely vectors of invasion, such as linear features (roads, canals, railroads, utility corridors, etc.), disturbed areas (construction or development areas), and areas where water is available or may	8. Same as Action Alternative B.	8. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	pond (water control structures, etc.).		
9. Target populations of noxious weeds that can be controlled or eliminated by approved methods.	9. Assign priority to the control of invasive species that have a substantial and apparent impact on native plant communities and wildlife. When infestations are identified they will be evaluated for their potential threat. Those species that are identified as aggressive invasive species will be prioritized for removal within one year. Other invasive species will be scheduled for action in coordination with partners.	9. Same as Action Alternative B.	9. Same as Action Alternative B.
10. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	10. Require proposed projects to use practices that avoid the invasion and spread of invasive species, including use of weed-free soils, seeds, and straw/hay, cleaning equipment prior to use, and other similar practices.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.
11. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	11. Encourage the use of weed-free feed and other practices to decrease introduction and spread of invasive species by pack stock, equestrians, and other users.	11. Require special recreation permit equestrian and stock animal users to use weed-free feed and encourage all other users to provide weed-free feed for their animals.	11. Require equestrian users to provide weed-free feed for their animals and restrict them from allowing their stock to consume forage on public lands..
<i>Endangered, Threatened, and Special Status Plants</i>	<i>Endangered, Threatened, and Special Status Plants</i>	<i>Endangered, Threatened, and Special Status Plants</i>	<i>Endangered, Threatened, and Special Status Plants</i>
12. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	12. Avoid impacts to protected plants or their habitats by developing, modifying, redesigning, mitigating or abandoning projects.	12. Same as Action Alternative B.	12. Same as Action Alternative B.
13. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	13. Monitor existing populations and inventory for additional populations of the Acuna cactus.	13. Same as Action Alternative B.	13. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Harvesting of Vegetation, Including Wood Harvesting</i>	<i>Harvesting of Vegetation, Including Wood Harvesting</i>	<i>Harvesting of Vegetation, Including Wood Harvesting</i>	<i>Harvesting of Vegetation, Including Wood Harvesting</i>
14. Unauthorized removal of living or dead native plant material is prohibited by the SDNM Proclamation. Existing RMP decisions areas follows: Harvesting of living or dead native plant material, including flowers, leaves, fruit, seeds, nuts, cones and berries, for non-commercial, personal use is authorized	14. Harvesting living or dead native vegetation, including wood harvesting and removal, is prohibited in SDNM with the following exceptions: a. removing a living tree, shrub, or cactus may be allowed under BLM Special Use Permit, and in accordance with the State of Arizona Native Plant Law, during salvage operations where	14. Harvesting living or dead native vegetation, including wood harvesting and removal, is prohibited in SDNM with the following exceptions: a. collection of living or dead native plant material for scientific purposes may be allowed under BLM Special Use Permit b. collection of a reasonable amount of	14. Removal of living or dead native plant material is prohibited.

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<p>on a case-by-case basis under BLM Special Use Permit when conducted in accordance with the State of Arizona Native Plant Law.</p> <p>Digging, cutting, removing or otherwise destroying any living tree, shrub, or cactus is prohibited, except that removal of native vegetation for personal use or commercial landscaping may be allowed under BLM Special Use Permit, and in accordance with the State of Arizona Native Plant Law, during salvage operations where vegetation is destined to be destroyed by authorized activities.</p> <p>Continue to issue woodcutting permits for the Lower Gila Resource Area on a case-by-case basis .</p> <p>[In Sand Tank Mountains] Prohibit wood cutting and wood collection for commercial or domestic use. No wood cutting permits will be issued. No vegetative material is to be removed with the exception of specific cases deemed appropriate and properly permitted.</p>	<p>vegetation is destined to be destroyed by authorized activities</p> <p>b. collection of living or dead native plant material for scientific purposes may be allowed under BLM Special Use Permit</p> <p>c. collection of a reasonable amount of living or dead native plant material for non-commercial traditional cultural purposes may be allowed under BLM Special Use Permit or other agreement.</p> <p>d. removal of native vegetation may be authorized for other purposes on a case-by-case basis under BLM Special Use Permit</p>	<p>living or dead native plant material for non-commercial traditional cultural purposes may be allowed under BLM Special Use Permit or other agreement.</p>	
<p><i>Wildlife – General</i></p>	<p><i>Wildlife – General</i></p>	<p><i>Wildlife – General</i></p>	<p><i>Wildlife – General</i></p>
<p>15. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>15. Carry out reintroductions, transplants and supplemental stockings of wildlife populations in current or historic range in collaboration with AGFD and/or the USFWS to: 1) maintain current populations, distributions and genetic diversity, 2) conserve or recover threatened or endangered species, 3) restore or enhance native wildlife diversity and distribution; 4) maintain isolated populations. Species that could be reintroduced, transplanted or augmented include, but are not limited to, Sonoran pronghorn, cactus ferruginous pygmy -owls, desert mule</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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	deer, white-tailed deer, bighorn sheep, javelina, birds of conservation concern, native fishes, native amphibians, and native reptiles, including desert tortoise.		
16. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	16. Allow for the release of rehabilitated or displaced wildlife native to the area on public lands where appropriate for the species and compatible with other resource management and use objectives.	16. Same as Action Alternative B.	16. Same as Action Alternative B.
17. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	17. Utilize existing earthen livestock waters as refugia for wildlife native to the area (including listed, proposed, or candidate species), such as fish, amphibians and aquatic reptiles, in areas where livestock are no longer permitted or in areas where conflicts with other uses can be mitigated.	17. Same as Action Alternative B.	17. Same as Action Alternative B.
18. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	18. Evaluate the feasibility of breaching and/or draining those earthen livestock waters no longer used for livestock nor determined to be suitable for use by wildlife	18. Same as Action Alternative B.	18. Same as Action Alternative B.
19. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	19. Restrict or mitigate the placement of communication sites and facilities (roads or towers), utility rights-of-way, and fences to avoid conflict with bighorn sheep habitat and wildlife movement.	19. Same as Action Alternative B.	19. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Wildlife – Special Status Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Special Status Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Special Status Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Special Status Species</i>
20. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action, however, these decisions are consistent with the Desert Tortoise Range-wide Plan.	20. Allow no net loss in the quality or quantity of desert tortoise habitat. Address and include mitigation measures in decision documents to offset the loss of quality or quantity of Category I, II, or III tortoise habitat. Evaluate all proposed activities, including but not limited to requests for rights-of-way, easements, withdrawals, other land tenure actions, range improvements, wildlife habitat projects, mineral material sales, and commercial and organized group special recreation permit applications for impacts to desert	20. Same as Action Alternative B.	20. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	tortoise population or habitats on a case-by-case basis.		
21. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	21. Prohibit competitive or speed events in Category I and II tortoise habitats between March 31 and October 15. Other motorized and non-motorized commercial and organized group events and other use requests between March 31 and October 15 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and may be denied or changed to avoid conflict with tortoise activity and habitat. Mitigation for conflicts is permissible to achieve no net loss in quantity or quality of desert tortoise habitat.	21. Same as Action Alternative B.	21. Same as Action Alternative B.
22. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	22. Assess all mining plans of operation for impacts to desert tortoise habitat on a case-by-case basis. Mitigate adverse impacts to desert tortoise consistent with the no net loss of habitat policy to the extent allowable in the 3809 regulations.	22. Same as Action Alternative B.	22. Same as Action Alternative B.
23. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action	23. Evaluate the need to and establish, if necessary, additional desert tortoise study plot(s), or other monitoring methods. Re-read plots at 5 year intervals, or as necessary, and as funding permits.	23. Same as Action Alternative B.	23. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Wildlife – Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species</i>	<i>Wildlife – Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species</i>
<i>General</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>General</i>
24. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action	24. Inventory for federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and state protected species. Implement monitoring programs on known populations of listed, proposed, candidate, and state-protected species to document population levels and status. Where monitoring finds threats to these populations, actions will be taken to protect the species and their habitats.	24. Same as Action Alternative B.	24. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl</i>	<i>Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl</i>	<i>Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl</i>	<i>Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl</i>

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<p>25. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action, however the decision in this section are drawn from existing conservation measures</p>	<p>25. Protect and recover Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl and proposed critical and suitable habitat for this species. Goals, Objectives, and Management actions have been incorporated into the RMP to meet recovery goals and focus on avoiding disturbance activities during breeding and dispersal season (February 1 to September 15) and maintaining or improving habitat condition. Additional conservation measures, if needed, will be developed in concert with the USFWS for inclusion in the preferred alternative.</p>	<p>25. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>25. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>26. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>26. Before approving or initiating projects, including major maintenance activities (i.e., cleaning dirt tanks) or any surface disturbing activity, in suitable pygmy-owl habitat, require the project proponent to meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two years of pygmy -owl surveys must be conducted before any maintenance work is performed in suitable habitat, or • Major maintenance work, within ½ mile of suitable pygmy -owl habitat must be conducted outside of the pygmy -owl breeding season (February 1 to September 15) to avoid potential effects to breeding and dispersing pygmy -owls. 	<p>26. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>26. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>27. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>27. Close washes that include suitable cactus ferruginous pygmy owl habitat to vehicle use seasonally (February 1 to September 15) to avoid potential effects to breeding and dispersing pygmy owls.</p>	<p>27. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>27. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p><i>Invasive Animal Species</i></p>	<p><i>Invasive Animal Species</i></p>	<p><i>Invasive Animal Species</i></p>	<p><i>Invasive Animal Species</i></p>
<p>28. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action</p>	<p>28. Coordinate with the AGFD to control invasive animal species.</p>	<p>28. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>28. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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Implementation-Level Decisions			
<i>Wildlife Waters</i>	<i>Wildlife Waters</i>	<i>Wildlife Waters</i>	<i>Wildlife Waters</i>
<p>1. Develop new wildlife waters on a case-by-case basis in coordination with AGFD. Maintain and redevelop existing wildlife waters on a case-by-case basis in coordination with AGFD.</p>	<p>1. Maintain and redevelop existing and develop additional wildlife waters, in cooperation with AGFD and consistent with Land Health Standards, to support, maintain, or expand the distribution of wildlife populations consistent with the AGFD Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Water development and redevelopment projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emphasize the use of new technologies, products, and construction designs that provide for the lowest degree of maintenance while still providing for a visually obscure wildlife water development that is compatible with the surrounding terrain place waters in locations that are consistent with achieving desired wildlife management objectives. <p>Avoid further development or redevelopment of tinajas, springs, and seeps, as wildlife waters, if it is determined that such actions will impact cultural resources or conflict with other natural resource management objectives.</p>	<p>1. Allow maintenance of existing wildlife waters, in cooperation with AGFD, on a case-by-case basis provided that these projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> avoid further development or redevelopment of tinajas, springs, and seeps, if it is determined that such actions will impact cultural resources or conflict with other natural resource management objectives utilize new technologies and products that require the lowest degree of maintenance when maintaining wildlife waters. Emphasize those technologies that minimize impacts on other resources to the extent that such an approach is consistent with achieving desired wildlife management objectives <p>Remove existing wildlife waters that are ineffective for achieving targeted wildlife management objectives and in conflict with other wildlife or natural resource management objectives.</p>	<p>1. Prohibit new wildlife water developments. Remove all existing developed wildlife waters.</p>
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>
<p>2. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Design fences to reduce adverse impacts to wildlife movement. Specifications in BLM Manual 1741 and in local BLM directives will be used. BLM will consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) on the design and location of new fences. Where existing fences in wildlife habitat do not meet BLM specifications, they will be modified according to BLM</p>	<p>2. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>2. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>2. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>

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<p>Manual 1741 when they are scheduled for replacement or major maintenance. Special consideration will be given to placement, type, and installation of fences in Category I and II desert tortoise habitat to facilitate desert tortoise movement, dispersal and protection.</p>			
<p>3. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Eliminate trespass grazing by cattle, sheep, goats, burros, and other non-native animals and construct wildlife-passable fences where trespass is a problem.</p>	<p>3. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>3. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>3. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>
<p>4. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Develop projects in such a way that opportunities for wildlife movement are maintained, particularly in wildlife movement corridors. If opportunities for wildlife movement cannot be adequately maintained, than mitigation to maintain isolated wildlife populations will be adopted.</p>	<p>4. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>4. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>4. Same as No Action Alternative.</p>

<p align="center">TABLE 2-2-4. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT NATURAL RESOURCES - WATERSHED</p>	
<p align="center">Desired Outcomes: Management Objectives</p>	
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: 1. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve, or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge and stream bank stability, thus promoting stream channel morphology and functions appropriate to climate and landform.</p>	<p>Objective 1 (Watershed Management): Maintain or restore upland components, including washes, that contribute to stable or improving watershed conditions by achieving desired resource conditions for vegetation. Total cover (vegetation and litter) and sedimentation rates are appropriate for the ecological site. Objective 2 (Watershed Management): Apply best management practices when authorizing vegetative or surface disturbances to limit soil loss and erosion and protect water quality. Objective 3 (Watershed Management): Apply best management practices when authorizing land uses that may affect water quality (e.g., herbicides) to avoid point or non-point source water pollution. Objective 4 (Watershed Management): Maintain natural water flow and availability on the public lands, to the maximum extent possible.</p>

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Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Watershed (Soil) Management of Uses</i>	<i>Watershed (Soil) Management of Uses</i>	<i>Watershed (Soil) Management of Uses</i>	<i>Watershed (Soil) 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.	1. Disturb surface resources as little as possible when constructing new developments or reconstructing existing facilities. Mitigation plans will be developed and disturbed surfaces will be restored and soils stabilized in accordance with restoration objectives.	1. Same as Action Alternative B.	1. Same as Action Alternative.
2. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	2. Locate facilities and other ground disturbing activities away from areas of significant desert pavement, cryptogamic crust, other significant sensitive soils, or fragile soils with high erosion potential, where practical. Where facilities can not be relocated, develop mitigation measures to minimize the effect on the resource.	2. Locate facilities and other ground disturbing activities away from areas of significant desert pavement, cryptogamic crust, other significant sensitive soils, or fragile soils with high erosion potential, to the maximum extent possible. Where facilities can not be relocated, develop mitigation measures to minimize the effect on the resource.	2. Same as Action Alternative C.
3. Assess, on a project basis, the vulnerability of soils to disruption and subsequent wind and water erosion in the Sand Tanks Mountains Area (formerly Area A).	3. Evaluate, the vulnerability of soils to disruption and subsequent wind and water erosion on a project basis. Develop mitigation measures to minimize potential erosion.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Management for Resource Protection</i>	<i>Management for Resource Protection</i>	<i>Management for Resource Protection</i>	<i>Management for Resource Protection</i>
4. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	4. Mitigate soil erosion at cultural resource sites and ecologically sensitive sites on a case-by-case basis if resource damage is occurring or suspected.	4. Same as Action Alternative B.	4. Same as Action Alternative B.
5. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	5. Conserve areas of significant biological soil crusts and desert pavement, where practical.	5. Identify and conserve areas of significant biological soil crusts and desert pavement.	5. Same as Action Alternative C.
6. [In Sand Tank Mountains] Assess as part of the NEPA evaluation process, the vulnerability of soils to disruption and subsequent wind and water erosion.	6. No action is proposed under Action Alternative B.	6. Identify and evaluate areas that may require special management to prevent soil loss, soil destruction, and excessive erosion. Develop an erosion hazards map, considering the likelihood of both wind and water erosion, which can be used to assess potential impacts to cultural sites and landscapes and ecologically sensitive areas.	6. Same as Action Alternative C.
7. No existing LUP decisions	7. No action is proposed under Action	7. Identify, evaluate, and assign priorities	7. Same as Action Alternative C.

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specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	Alternative B.	for restoring disturbed areas, considering the potential for soil erosion and loss, and effects on water quality and quantity.	
<i>Watershed (Water) Water Flow</i>	<i>Watershed (Water) Water Flow</i>	<i>Watershed (Water) Water Flow</i>	<i>Watershed (Water) Water Flow</i>
8. Repair and maintain the existing watershed dike system and associated watershed fence in upper Vekol Valley.	8. Assess landscapes modified by water control structures and where adverse impacts are detected make adjustments, including removal, as feasible and appropriate; where structures are necessary, maintain them in good condition.	8. Same as Action Alternative B.	8. Same as Action Alternative B.
9. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A. However, Executive Order 11988 directs federal agencies to "avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative" (Floodplain Management Guidelines, 43 CFR 6030, 1978.	9. Construct new or redevelop facilities in a manner that avoids changing natural water flow, to the extent practicable and consistent with other resource goals.	9. Construct new or redevelop facilities in a manner that avoids changing natural water flow.	9. Same as Action Alternative C.
10. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	10. Locate new facilities not related to water management outside of the 100-year floodplain of any wash or water way. Existing facilities may be relocated or modified if they are significantly affecting floodplain function.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Watershed (Water) Water Use</i>	<i>Watershed (Water) Water Use</i>	<i>Watershed (Water) Water Use</i>	<i>Watershed (Water) Water Use</i>
11. In Sand Tanks (formerly Area A) keep groundwater development and exploration to a minimum in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), other management areas, and other environmentally sensitive areas.	11. Approve proposed surface and ground water resource development for use within SDNM, provided that the new development will not dewater spring, streams, or seeps; decrease water availability at existing wells; damage cultural resources; nor conflict with other resource management goals; and is necessary to achieve natural resource goals.	11. Same as Action Alternative B.	11. Same as Action Alternative B.
12. No existing LUP decisions	12. In general, discourage any proposed	12. Same as Action Alternative B.	12. Same as Action Alternative B.

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specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	new surface and groundwater diversions out of the SDNM. Consider such diversions only if the applicant demonstrates that the diversion will not damage existing water resources, including dewater spring, streams, or seeps or affect existing wells; damage cultural resources; conflict with other resource management goals or the desired future conditions for natural resources; and no other viable options are available to the project proponent. Diversions will not be permitted if these conditions are not met.		
13. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	13. Restrict field activities relating to groundwater exploration and development from areas sensitive to ecological or cultural disturbance.	13. Same as Action Alternative B.	13. Same as Action Alternative B.
14. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	14. Evaluate proposals for groundwater withdrawals within an Active Management Area (AMA) in coordination with the Arizona Department of Water Resources and incorporate any restrictions or guidelines for the AMA.	14. Same as Action Alternative B.	14. Same as Action Alternative B.
15. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	15. Identify, quantify, and secure legal entitlement for existing and future water sources by acquiring water rights/well permits, when possible, to ensure water availability to meet the desired future conditions for natural resources.	15. Same as Action Alternative B.	15. Same as Action Alternative B.
16. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	16. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Work with county, state, and federal agencies and other partners to evaluate the quantity of groundwater available and predict the affect of water withdrawal outside SDNM on the ability to provide adequate water availability for natural resource and multiple use goals within the Monument.	16. Same as Action Alternative B	16. Same as Action Alternative B
17. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	17. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Begin a dialogue with appropriate State of Arizona policy, legal, and water	17. Same as Action Alternative B	17. Same as Action Alternative B

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	resources staff on the development of a cooperative agreement on the protection of water resources on the SDNM.		
<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>Water Quality</i>
18. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	18. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Work with county, state, and federal agencies to monitor surface and ground water quality on public lands.	18. Same as Action Alternative B.	18 Same as Action Alternative B.
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Fire and Fuels Management

TABLE 2-3. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR THE SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT	
Fire and Fuels Management	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives	
<p>No-Action Alternative Desired Resource Conditions (goals and objectives) DRC 1: Fire is recognized as a natural process in fire-adapted ecosystems and is used to achieve objectives for other resources; DRC 2: Fuels in WUI areas are maintained at non-hazardous levels to provide for public and fire fighter safety; DRC 3: Each vegetation community is maintained within its natural range of variation in plant composition, structure, and function, and fuel loads are maintained below levels that are considered to be hazardous.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: The Sonoran desert ecosystem is generally fire intolerant. Fire adapted communities within the Sonoran Desert may allow for prescribed fire as a management tool to maintain and restore the community consistent with other natural resource objectives. Prescribed fire, if used, must be contained to the fire-adapted community and not allowed to spread into the desert ecosystem.</p> <p>Goal 2: Wildfire is suppressed in the shortest practical time and using minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST, Interagency Standards for Fire Operations, 2003).</p> <p>Goal 3: Fuel loads, particularly in wildland-urban interface areas, are maintained at non-hazardous levels to provide for public and fire fighter safety.</p>
	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Reduce the risk of wildfire and meet resource management goals by implementing appropriate fuels management treatments. Where fuel treatment is necessary, including (a) where non native plant species have encroached, (b) in the Wildland-Urban Interface where property and life may be threatened, or (c) where needed to meet resource management goals, treatment may be utilized to reduce wildfire intensity and meet resource objectives. When choosing a fuel treatment method, the least intrusive method that will achieve the goals of the project will be used. Methods may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical – The use of different types of equipment to suppress or reduce the cover of undesirable vegetation encouraging the growth of desirable plant species. • Manual – The use of hand operated power tools (i.e., chain saws) and hand tools are used to cut, clear, or prune herbaceous and woody species to meet various resource goals. • Biological – The use of living organisms to selectively suppress, inhibit, or control herbaceous and woody vegetation to meet resource goals. • Prescribed Burning – The use of planned application of fire to wildland fuels in their natural or modified state, under specific conditions of fuels, weather, and other predetermined factors, to achieve site-specific fire and resource management objectives. Prescribed fire, if used, must be contained to the fire-adapted community and not allowed to spread into the desert ecosystem. • Chemical – The use of chemical treatments to control unwanted vegetation in accordance with BLM procedures in Chemical Pest Control (BLM 1988c) <p>Objective 2: All fuels treatment actions will prioritize public and fire fighter safety</p>

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Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<u>Allocation to Wildland Fire Use</u>	<u>Allocation to Wildland Fire Use</u>	<u>Allocation to Wildland Fire Use</u>	<u>Allocation to Wildland Fire Use</u>
<p>1. Allocation 1 – Wildland Fire Use: <u>Areas suitable for wildland fire use for resource management benefit.</u> Areas where wildland fire is desired, and there are few or no constraints for its use. Where conditions are suitable, unplanned and planned wildfire may be used to achieve desired objectives, such as to improve vegetation, wildlife habitat or watershed conditions, maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires and meet resource objectives. Where fuel loading is high but conditions are not initially suitable for wildland fire, fuel loads are reduced by mechanical, chemical or biological means to reduce hazardous fuels levels and meet resource objectives (includes WUI areas).</p>	<p>1. Allocation 1 – Wildland Fire Use: <u>Areas suitable for wildland fire use for resource management benefit.</u> Areas where wildland fire is desired, and there are few or no constraints for its use. Where conditions are suitable, planned wildfire may be used to achieve desired objectives, such as to improve vegetation, wildlife habitat or watershed conditions, maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires and meet resource objectives. Where fuel loading is high but conditions are not initially suitable for wildland fire, fuel loads are reduced by mechanical, chemical or biological means to reduce hazardous fuels levels and meet resource objectives (includes Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas).</p> <p>Within the Monument, natural wildfire will be suppressed. Within fire-adapted communities, prescribed fire may be used under controlled circumstances, when avoiding the spread of fire into the adjoining fire-intolerant communities can be assured. In addition, the use of prescribed fire within the Vekol Valley Grassland will be coordinated with the Tohono O’odham Nation.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>
<p>2. Allocation 2 – Non Wildland Fire Use: <u>Areas not suitable for wildland fire use for resource benefit.</u> This allocation includes areas where mitigation and suppression are required to prevent direct threats to life or property. It includes areas where fire never played a large role, historically, in</p>	<p>2. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 2.</p>	<p>2. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 2.</p>	<p>2. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 2.</p>

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<p>the development and maintenance of the ecosystem, and some areas where fire return intervals were very long. It also includes areas (including some WUI areas) where an unplanned ignition could have negative effects to the ecosystem unless some form of mitigation takes place. Mitigation may include mechanical, biological, chemical, or prescribed fire means to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires and meet resource objectives.</p>			
<p>3. In areas not suitable for fire, BLM will implement programs to reduce unwanted ignitions, and emphasize prevention, detection, and rapid suppression response techniques. In areas not suitable for fire where fuel loading is high, BLM will utilize biological, mechanical or chemical treatments, and some prescribed fire to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels and meet resource objectives.</p>	<p>3. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 3.</p>	<p>3. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 3.</p>	<p>3. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 3.</p>
<p>4. In areas suitable for fire where fuel loading is high and current conditions constrain fire use, BLM will emphasize prevention and mitigation programs to reduce unwanted fire ignitions, and use mechanical, biological or chemical treatments to mitigate the fuel loadings and meet resource objectives.</p>	<p>4. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 4.</p>	<p>4. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 4.</p>	<p>4. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 4.</p>
<p>5. In areas suitable for fire where conditions allow, BLM will allow naturally ignited wildland fire, use prescribed fire and a combination of biological, mechanical and chemical treatments to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires and meet resource objectives.</p>	<p>In areas suitable for fire where conditions allow, BLM will use prescribed fire and a combination of biological, mechanical and chemical treatments to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires and meet resource objectives.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>
<p>6. In areas suitable for fire, BLM will</p>	<p>6. Same as No Action Alternative,</p>	<p>6. Same as No Action Alternative,</p>	<p>6. Same as No Action Alternative,</p>

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monitor existing air quality levels and weather conditions to determine which prescribed fires can be ignited and which, if any, must be delayed to ensure that air quality meets federal and state standards. If air quality approaches unhealthy levels BLM will delay igniting prescribed fires.	Element 6.	Element 6.	Element 6.
<i>Fire and Fuel Management Guidelines</i>	<i>Fire and Fuel Management Guidelines</i>	<i>Fire and Fuel Management Guidelines</i>	<i>Fire and Fuel Management Guidelines</i>
7. The appropriate management response concept represents a range of available management responses to wildland fires. Responses range from full fire suppression to managing fires for resource benefits (fire use). Management responses applied to a fire will be identified in the FMP's and will be based on objectives derived from the land use allocations; relative risk to resources, the public and fire fighters; potential complexity; and the ability to defend management boundaries. Any wildland fire can be aggressively suppressed and any fire that occurs in an area designated for fire use can be managed for resource benefits if it meets the prescribed criteria from an approved fire management plan.	7. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 7.	7. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 7.	7. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 7.
8. No LUP-level decisions address this element..	8. In developing the appropriate management response, minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST, Interagency Standards for Fire Operations, 2003) are applied throughout the planning area, to the maximum extent possible.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.
9. The following constraints to fire suppression actions are common to all alternatives: All known cultural resources will be protected from disturbance.	9. Cultural resources will be protected from disturbance. Unavoidable effects, from actions required to protect health and safety or other important issues, will be minimized or mitigated.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.
10. In Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and areas being managed for wilderness characteristics according to LUPs, when suppression actions are	10. Fire management activities in Wilderness Areas must be compatible with the applicable Wilderness Plan and will use minimum impact suppression	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.

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required, minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST, Interagency Standards for Fire Operations, 2003) would be applied and coordinated with Wilderness Area management objectives and guidelines	tactics (MIST, Interagency Standards for Fire Operations, 2003).		
11. Fire management activities along National Historic Trails will be conducted to assure no adverse effects occur to those resources and values identified in the legislation designating the trail.	11. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 11.	11. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 11.	11. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 11.
12. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Backcountry Byways are established in land use plans. The desired conditions and management prescriptions for these special areas will be considered in implementing fire management activities.	12. Fire management activities will be compatible with other resource and use management objectives.	12. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.	12. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.
<i>Fuel Management Methods</i>	<i>Fuel Management Methods</i>	<i>Fuel Management Methods</i>	<i>Fuel Management Methods</i>
13. There are several treatment methods and Standard Operating Procedures that would be used in a vegetation treatment program. BLM policies and guidance for public land treatments would be followed in implementing all treatment methods. Many guidelines are provided in manual Section 1740, BLM Arizona's Standards for Rangeland Health, Programmatic documents such as BLM's Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States (May 1991), and other general and specific program policy, procedures, and standards pertinent to implementation of renewable resource improvements. In Arizona, BLM manages designated Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and areas managed for wilderness characteristics that are identified in an approved land use plan. Guidelines and	13. When applying fuels treatment methods, BLM policies, procedures, and plans will be followed. The manual, chemical, biological, and fire treatment methods that may be used are described in Appendix Vegetation Treatment.	13. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 13.	13. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 13.

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<p>operating procedures for fire management activities in Wilderness Areas are provided in BLM Manual 8560, Management of Designated Wilderness Areas, and in Wilderness Management Plans, where completed for specific Wilderness Areas (Table 3.9).</p> <p>Fire management guidance for Wilderness Study Areas is provided in BLM Manual 8550, Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review. Approved land use plans specify fire management procedures for areas identified in the land use plan to be managed for wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>The manual, chemical, mechanical, biological and fire treatment methods described in the Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels and Air Quality Management would be used.</p>			
<p>Safety</p>	<p>Safety</p>	<p>Safety</p>	<p>Safety</p>
<p>14. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources must be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and costs of protection (2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy). However, implementing the following Conservation Measures during fire suppression to the extent possible, and during the proposed fire management activities as required, would minimize or eliminate the effects to Federally protected species and habitats.</p>	<p>14. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be based on regulation, policy, and this plan, including the conservation measures, considering the values to be protected, human health and safety, and costs of protection (2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy).</p>	<p>14. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 14.</p>	<p>14. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 14.</p>
<p>Conservation Measures and</p>	<p>Conservation Measures and</p>	<p>Conservation Measures and</p>	<p>Conservation Measures and</p>

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<i>Consultation</i>	<i>Consultation</i>	<i>Consultation</i>	<i>Consultation</i>
<p>15. For all fire management activities (wildfire suppression, appropriately managed wildfire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical, chemical, and biological vegetation treatments), Conservation Measures will be implemented as part of the Proposed Action to provide statewide consistency in reducing the effects of fire management actions on Federally threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate (“Federally protected”) species. Conservation Measures noted as “Recommended” are discretionary for implementation, but are recommended to help minimize effects to Federally protected species. Procedures within the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2003, including future updates, relevant to fire operations that may affect Federally protected species or their habitat are incorporated here by reference.</p>	<p>15. For all fire management activities (wildfire suppression, appropriately managed wildfire use, prescribed fire, and mechanical, chemical, and biological vegetation treatments), Conservation Measures will be implemented to reduce the effects of fire management actions on Federally threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate (“Federally protected”) species, see Appendix CM. Procedures within the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2003, including future updates, relevant to fire operations that may affect Federally protected species or their habitat are incorporated here by reference.</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 15.</p>	<p>15. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 15.</p>
<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Fire Suppression</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Fire Suppression</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Fire Suppression</i></p>	<p><i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Fire Suppression</i></p>
<p>16. During fire suppression actions, Resource Advisors may be designated to coordinate concerns regarding Federally protected species, and to serve as a liaison between the Field Office Manager and the Incident Commander/Incident Management Team. They will also serve as a field contact representative (FCR) responsible for coordination with the USFWS. The Resource Advisors will have the necessary information on Federally protected species and habitats in the area and the available Conservation Measures for the species. They will be briefed on the intended suppression actions for the fire, and will provide input on which</p>	<p>16. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 16.</p>	<p>16. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 16.</p>	<p>16. Same as No Action Alternative, Element 16.</p>

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<p>Conservation Measures are appropriate, within the standard constraints of safety and operational procedures. The Incident Commander has the final decision-making authority on implementation of Conservation Measures during fire suppression operations.</p>			
<p>17. The following constraints to fire suppression actions are common to all alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppression tactics will be utilized that limit damage or disturbance to the habitat and landscape. No heavy equipment will be used (such as dozers) unless approved the Field Office Manager. • Use of fire retardants or chemicals adjacent to waterways will be accomplished in accordance to the “Environmental Guidelines For Delivery of Retardant or Foam Near Waterways (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations pages 8-13) • All known cultural resources will be protected from disturbance. • In Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and areas being managed for wilderness characteristics according to LUPs, when suppression actions are required, minimum impact suppression tactics (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, 2003) would be utilized and coordinated with Wilderness Area management objectives and guidelines. • The general and species-specific Conservation Measures listed in Appendix D will be implemented to the extent possible to minimize 	<p>17. The following constraints to fire suppression actions will be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppression tactics will be utilized that limit damage or disturbance to the habitat and landscape. No heavy equipment will be used (such as dozers) unless approved the Field Office Manager. • Use of fire retardants or chemicals adjacent to waterways will be accomplished in accordance with policy, including, the “Environmental Guidelines for Delivery of Retardant or Foam Near Waterways” (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations pages 8-13). • The general and species-specific Conservation Measures listed in Appendix CM will be implemented to the extent possible to minimize adverse effects to Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species occurring within the action area. • For fire suppression activities, a protocol for consultation was been developed as a part of the Biological Opinion for the Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Management. This RMP incorporates conservation measures and prescriptions for use in fire suppression activities, see Appendix CM. Emergency 	<p>17. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 17.</p>	<p>17. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 17.</p>

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<p>adverse effects to Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species occurring within the action area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For fire suppression activities, a protocol for consultation has been developed as a part of the Biological Opinion. This programmatic consultation contains conservation measures and prescriptions for use in fire suppression activities. Emergency consultation should only be needed in the future if suppression actions fall outside of these prescriptions/measures. The BO will outline coordination needs for emergency response actions that may affect a listed/proposed species and/or critical habitat. The following protocol will apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BLM will contact the appropriate USFWS biologist as soon as practical once a wildfire starts and a determination is made that a Federally protected species and/or its habitat could be affected by the fire and/or fire suppression activities. USFWS will work with BLM during the emergency response to apply the appropriate Conservation Measures. If Conservation Measures cannot be applied during the suppression activities, BLM will need to consult after the fact on any suppression actions that may have affected the Federally protected species or its habitat. If Conservation Measures are adhered to, then BLM will report on the actions taken and effects to the species and its 	<p>consultation should only be needed in the future if suppression actions fall outside of these prescriptions and measures. The BO will outline coordination needs for emergency response actions that may affect a listed or proposed species and/or critical habitat. The following protocol will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BLM will contact the appropriate USFWS biologist as soon as practical once a wildfire starts and a determination is made that a Federally protected species and/or its habitat could be affected by the fire and/or fire suppression activities. USFWS will work with BLM during the emergency response to apply the appropriate Conservation Measures. The Incident Commander has the final decision-making authority on implementation of Conservation Measures during fire suppression operations. If Conservation Measures cannot be applied during the suppression activities, BLM will need to consult after the fact on any suppression actions that may have affected the Federally protected species or its habitat. If Conservation Measures are adhered to, then BLM will report on the actions taken and effects to the species and its habitat following the fire, but no further consultation on that incident will be required. 		
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habitat following the fire, but no further consultation on that incident will be required.			
<i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Other Fire Activities</i>	<i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Other Fire Activities</i>	<i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Other Fire Activities</i>	<i>Conservation Measures and Consultation for Other Fire Activities</i>
18. Because of the number of species located within the action area for proposed Statewide LUP Amendment, combined with a variety of fire suppression and proposed fire management activities, conflicts may occur in attempting to implement all Conservation Measures for every species potentially affected by a particular activity. Implementing these Conservation Measures effectively would depend on the number of Federally protected species and their individual life history or habitat requirements within a particular location that is being affected by either fire suppression or a proposed fire management activity. This would be particularly true for timing restrictions on fuels treatment activities, if the ranges of several species with differing restrictions overlap, making effective implementation of the activity unachievable. Resource Advisors (in coordination with the USFWS), Fire Management Officers or Incident Commanders, and other resource specialists would need to coordinate to determine which Conservation Measures would be implemented during a particular activity. If Conservation Measures for a species cannot be implemented, BLM would be required to initiate Section 7 consultation with the USFWS for that particular activity.	18. For other fire management activities, Resource Advisors (in coordination with the USFWS), Fire Management Officers or Incident Commanders, and other resource specialists will coordinate to determine which Conservation Measures (see Appendix CM) are implemented during a particular activity. As needed, USFWS will be consulted during project planning to discuss the Conservation Measures to be applied. If Conservation Measures for a species cannot be implemented, based on conflicts between conservation measures for different species, the proposed activity, resource concerns, or other reasons, BLM will initiate Section 7 consultation with the USFWS prior to project implementation.	18. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 18.	18. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 18.
<i>Implementation Plans</i>	<i>Implementation Plans</i>	<i>Implementation Plans</i>	<i>Implementation Plans</i>
19. BLM will update their local Fire Management Plans to include site-	19. BLM will update and maintain Fire Management Plans to include site-	19. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 19.	19. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 19.

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<p>specific actions for managing wildfire and fuels in accordance with the new Federal fire policies, based on guidance provided in the Decision Records for this Statewide LUP Amendment. These plans will be coordinated with the USFWS and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to address site-specific concerns for Federally protected species. These plans will incorporate the Conservation Measures included in this Statewide LUP Amendment for Federally protected species occurring within each Fire Management Zone. Consultation with the USFWS will occur with these project-level plans, as necessary.</p>	<p>specific actions for managing wildfire and fuels in accordance with Federal fire policies and this plan. These plans will be coordinated with the USFWS and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to address site-specific concerns for Federally protected species. These plans will incorporate the Conservation Measures (see Appendix CM). Consultation with the USFWS will occur with these project-level plans, as necessary.</p>		
<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>	<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>	<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>	<p><i>Environmental Education</i></p>
<p>20. In addition to both allocations, to reduce human caused fires, BLM will undertake education, enforcement and administrative fire prevention mitigation measures. Education measures will include various media information including a signing program, information as to the natural role of fire within local ecosystems, participation in fairs, parades and public contacts. Enforcement will be accomplished by providing training opportunities for employees interested in fire cause determination. Administration includes expanded prevention and education programs with other cooperator agencies.</p>	<p>20. BLM will undertake education, enforcement and administrative fire prevention mitigation measures to reduce human caused fires. Education measures may include various media information, including a signing program, information on the natural role of fire within local ecosystems, participation in fairs or parades and other public contacts. Enforcement will be accomplished by providing training opportunities for employees interested in fire cause determination. Administration includes expanded prevention and education programs with other cooperator agencies.</p>	<p>20. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 20.</p>	<p>20. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 20.</p>
<p>Implementation-Level Decisions</p>			

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Cultural and Heritage Resources

TABLE 2-4. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT			
CULTURAL RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
No-Action Alternative Goal Goal: No LUP-level goals for cultural resources are provided in existing LUPs.	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Protect and conserve cultural resources and ensure they are available for appropriate uses. Goal 2: Conserve, protect, and manage cultural landscapes, sites, and the historic or prehistoric context.		
No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: The existing LUPs provide few objectives or management decisions for cultural resources. Cultural resources are managed in accordance with the BLM Cultural Resource Manual 8110 and in compliance with law and regulation. 1. BLM will continue to manage cultural resources for their cultural values.	Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: Allocate cultural resources to one of five use categories: (1) scientific use, (2) conservation for future use, (3) traditional use, (4) public use, (5) experimental use, or classify as discharged from management, according to the BLM Cultural Resource Manual 8110. Objective 2: Protect and preserve in place the variety of cultural resources on public lands in their historic and prehistoric context on the landscape. Objective 3: Develop and implement cultural resource management strategies for sites allocated to uses that warrant focused management, such as public use. Objective 4: Develop strategies to define limits of acceptable change, monitor changes, and implement adaptive management to address unacceptable changes to selected cultural resources, emphasizing areas accessible by roads and trails. Objective 5: Institute an intensive and focused management approach for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Objective 6: Protect the viewsheds of high value resources whose setting is an important character defining value, such as the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, through visual resource management techniques and requirements and other available tools. Objective 7: Provide opportunities for research related to cultural resources on the Monument. Objective 8: Provide educational opportunities to enhance public understanding and appreciation of cultural resources on the Monument, focusing on themes such as (1) prehistoric adaptation to the Sonoran Desert, (2) historic mining, (3) historic ranching, and (4) historic transportation. Objective 9: Utilize the time and talents of volunteers to enhance selected elements of the cultural resource program.		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
1. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	1. Emphasize development of sites for public visitation. Provide opportunities for scientific research and inventory at selected sites.	1. Emphasize and promote resource protection, scientific research including excavation, and inventory through agreements, partnerships, and volunteers. Develop selected sites for public use and interpretation, with a priority on resource protection.	1. Same as Action Alternative C.
2. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	2. Sites will be allocated and re-allocated according to the BLM Cultural Resource Manual 8110 using the criteria pertinent to the specified use listed below and in response to changing resource	2. Same as Action Alternative B.	2. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	conditions, public use, research opportunities, and other reasons.		
3. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	3. Restrict public information about the locations of sites that are not allocated to public use, as allowed by law and regulation.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.	3. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Scientific Use</i>	<i>Scientific Use</i>	<i>Scientific Use</i>	<i>Scientific Use</i>
4. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	4. Sites will be allocated to scientific use, based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significance and uniqueness of site • potential to contribute toward scientific understanding • capability of current available scientific methods to achieve research goals • appropriate research proposal that will further scientific understanding or resource management • existing threats to site, including vandalism, erosion processes, or other types of disturbance. 	4. Same as Action Alternative B.	4. Same as Action Alternative B.
5. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	5. The following general site classes will be allocated to scientific use. Individual sites can be re-allocated if applicable. Classes of prehistoric sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village sites, camp sites, agricultural sites, rock shelters or cave sites • Lithic scatters, artifact scatters • Groundstone manufacturing sites • Rock features and alignments • Food and other resource processing sites, roasting pits • Hunting blinds and ambush sites • Trail sites • Tinaja and spring sites • Petroglyph sites, Pictograph sites • Intaglio sites Classes of historic sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranches, homesteads, and associated features and components 	5. Same as Action Alternative B.	5. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • livestock raising related sites, agricultural features • mines and prospecting sites • settlements and camps • roads, trails, and driveways, railroads and associated features, stage stops and stations • public works sites, military camps and sites • rock features and walls • facilities used in commerce • wells and water developments, water control features • artifact scatters • historic aboriginal sites • graves and cemeteries • historic rock art • trash dumps 		
<p>6. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>6. Permit scientific and historical studies, including excavation, by qualified researchers at selected sites allocated to scientific use. The highest priority for study will be assigned to sites that are threatened with damage from human activities or natural processes, areas of scientific interest, sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and areas where research may inform management actions or otherwise benefit SDNM management and resources. Historic contexts and research designs will provide guidance for scientific studies.</p>	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>7. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>7. No decision is developed for this element.</p>	<p>7. Complete documentary research and oral histories to gain a better understanding of cultural resources from homesteading, mining, ranching, and other historical period activities.</p>	<p>7. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>
<p>8. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>8. Conduct inventory in areas vulnerable to damage by human use or natural processes and areas having high resource potential.</p>	<p>8. Conduct inventory, with a focus on increasing scientific understanding of the cultural resources.</p>	<p>8. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>

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<p>9.No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>9. Complete Class II (sample) and Class III (intensive) field inventories to identify cultural resources and evaluate the condition of sites, in accord with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Use the information obtained through these surveys to allocate sites to proper use categories, develop protection measures, and integrate survey results into research designs and interpretation efforts. Priorities for inventory will be determined based on resource use and protection priority areas and sites.</p>	<p>9. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>9. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>10. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>10. Establish collaborative research partnerships with academic institutions, professional and nonprofit organizations, and vocational organizations.</p>	<p>10. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>10. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>11. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>11. Provide opportunities for and encourage tribal participation in research.</p>	<p>11. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>11. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>Public Use</p>	<p>Public Use</p>	<p>Public Use</p>	<p>Public Use</p>
<p>12. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>12. Consider the following criteria in selecting sites suitable for public use and interpretation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability of the site to support public use while protecting Monument resources; • presence of aboveground features, such as structures or rock art, landscape characteristics, or other features that are of interest to the public and are amenable to interpretive development; • the condition of the site and the feasibility of treating or stabilizing selected areas to withstand visitation; • accessibility to travel routes; • visitor safety • compatibility of other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by 	<p>12. Same as Action Alternative B, except the first priority is given to protection and scientific research.</p>	<p>12. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>

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	<p>Native Americans;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feasibility of regular inspections by BLM staff and volunteers; and • partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects. 		
13. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	<p>13. Sites allocated to public use include</p> <p>a. Big Horn Station will be allocated to public use. Interpretive materials could be developed to tell many stories related to travel and transportation, ranching, and early commerce themes.</p> <p>c. Segments of the Butterfield Stage Overland Route will be allocated to public use and have been addressed in an interpretive master plan written in 1995. The potential for education and interpretation of the stories related to historic travel and transportation is great. Other routes on the Southern Trail may also be considered for public use.</p> <p>Other sites may be allocated to public use based on the criteria specified above.</p>	13. Same as Action Alternative B, except Big Horn Station will only be allocated to public use if public access is available.	13. Same as Action Alternative C.
14. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	14. Develop interpretive materials and facilities for selected sites. Provide educational opportunities to the public, stressing recreational aspects, education, and stewardship.	14. Develop interpretive materials and facilities for selected sites in the front country recreation management zone. Provide educational opportunities to the public, stressing protection, appreciation, education, and stewardship.	14. Same as Action Alternative C.
15. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	<p>15. Map and document sites before interpretive development for public use, to the extent needed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve archaeological data, • Plan for interpretive facilities, and • Provide a baseline condition assessment for monitoring changes resulting from visitor use. • Complete interpretive plans for sites allocated to public use through interpretive development. 	15. Same as Action Alternative B.	15. Same as Action Alternative B.
16. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action	16. Provide opportunities for tribal participation in interpretation.	16. Same as Action Alternative B.	16. Same as Action Alternative B.

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Alternative A			
17. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	17. Implement procedures for systematic monitoring of all sites developed or authorized for public visitation.	17. Same as Action Alternative B.	17. Same as Action Alternative B.
18. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	18. Restrict visitor access or group tours as needed to prevent any damage from visitor use. The following guidelines apply to group use: a. Limit group tours to those sites that have been evaluated and it is determined the site can support the proposed use. Prohibit tours or group permits at any cultural resource that is sensitive and fragile. b. Include stipulations in special recreation permits to ensure that resources are not damaged. c. Generally limit group size to 25 people per site at a time. Permit larger groups on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that adverse impacts can be avoided. d. Ensure that commercial tour operators receive Arizona Site Steward training and provide appropriate educational information on archaeological site etiquette and resource conservation to their customers if cultural sites are included on the tour. Require tour operators to report any vandalism or damage to sites.	18. Same as Action Alternative B.	18. Same as Action Alternative B.
19. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	19. Promote heritage tourism at selected sites. Cooperate with tribes, other agencies, and organizations on heritage tourism projects that benefit local economies.	19. Allow heritage tourism at selected sites to the extent that such use is compatible with protecting the cultural resources.	19. Same as Action Alternative C.
<i>Traditional Use</i>	<i>Traditional Use</i>	<i>Traditional Use</i>	<i>Traditional Use</i>
20. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	20. Sites allocated to the traditional use category are known or are perceived by a specified social and/or cultural group as important in maintaining the cultural	20. Same as Action Alternative B.	20. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	identity, heritage, or well-being of the group. Cultural properties assigned to this category will be managed in ways that recognize the importance ascribed to them and seek to accommodate their continuing traditional use.		
21. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	21. Sites may be allocated to traditional use based on consultation with affiliated Indian tribes and consideration of other public uses.	21. Same as Action Alternative B.	21. Same as Action Alternative B.
22. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	22. Continue to consult with Indian tribes to identify places of traditional importance and associated access needs. Develop measures for managing and protecting places that might be identified by tribes during the life of the plan. Honor tribal requests to protect the confidentiality of sensitive information, to the extent permitted by law.	22. Same as Action Alternative B.	22. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Other Uses</i>	<i>Other Uses</i>	<i>Other Uses</i>	<i>Other Uses</i>
23. Certain significant sites or areas may be protected and preserved for future use as funds become available.	23. Sites allocated to the conservation for future use category will be sites that are significant and unusual. This use category will be available for any site that exhibits singular historic importance, architectural interest, cultural importance, or comparable reasons. Sites allocated to this category would not be available for consideration as the subject of scientific or historical study that would result in its physical alteration. A cultural property included in this category is deemed worthy of segregation from all other land or resource uses, including cultural resource uses that would threaten the maintenance of its present condition or setting. Sites placed in this category will remain in this use status until specified provisions are met in the future. Provisions for reallocation from this category could include situations such as	23. Same as Action Alternative B.	23. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	<p>the discovery of new information about the site, new scientific techniques that would provide significant information about the site, or damage to the site's integrity due to vandalism or natural processes. No sites are known at this time that will be allocated to this category. It is possible that certain pictograph sites may be suitable for this category, however. These sites are often very sensitive to use due to very friable paints and rock surfaces often found on these sites. Another example of a type of site that may be suitable for this category might be a cave site with very deep, intact cultural deposits. A site of this kind would have national significance and would be considered quite rare.</p>		
<p>24. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>24. Sites allocated to the experimental use category are the subject of a controlled experimental study conducted by BLM or its appointed agents that would result in better management of cultural properties. Some examples of studies that would be considered include, testing and measuring the rate of natural or human-caused deterioration, testing the effectiveness of certain protection measures, and testing the effects of fire.</p> <p>Experimental study should aim toward understanding deterioration or developing new research or interpretation methods and similar kinds of practical management information. Experimental study should not be applied to cultural properties with strong research potential, traditional cultural importance, or good public use potential, if it would significantly diminish those uses. Justifications will be made in terms</p>	<p>24. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>24. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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	of weighing the benefits of specific information to be gained versus the loss of cultural attributes or data that may occur during the experiment or study.		
25. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	25. Sites allocated to discharged use will be only those sites that have no remaining identifiable use. Sites will be classified as discharged from management only when all other options to protect the site have been exhausted and it is determined to be in the interest of conserving SDNM resources. Cultural sites discharged from management remain in the inventory, but they can be removed from further management attention and do not constrain other land uses. Most of the time, this use will only be applied to those sites that are clearly small surface artifact scatters that have been thoroughly documented. Larger, more complex sites may be discharged from management if they are destroyed by human activities or any natural event.	25. Same as Action Alternative B.	25. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Managing Uses and Sites</i>	<i>Managing Uses and Sites</i>	<i>Managing Uses and Sites</i>	<i>Managing Uses and Sites</i>
26. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	26. Develop a monitoring scheme to evaluate the condition of cultural resources. Where adverse affects are occurring, implement protection measures to stop, limit, or repair damage to sites. A variety of protection measures, described in BLM Manual 8140, may be used to protect the integrity of sites at risk such as signing, fencing or barriers, trash removal, target shooting closures, erosion control, backfilling, repairing, shoring up, or stabilizing structures, restricting uses and access, and closures.	26. Same as Action Alternative B.	26. Same as Action Alternative B.
27. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	27. Structural and material stabilization techniques may use chemical, mechanical, or structural elements to retard deterioration of cultural resources.	27. Same as Action Alternative B.	27. Same as Action Alternative B.
28. [In Sand Tank Mountains] Conduct a	28. Ensure that all proposed	28. Same as Action Alternative B.	28. Same as Action Alternative B.

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<p>cultural resource inventory 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. Provide special protection for significant cultural sites that are being impacted or threatened by the public. Minimize impacts on cultural resources by avoiding cultural property locations whenever feasible and using previously disturbed areas as the preferred locations for ground-disturbing activities when practical.</p>	<p>undertakings and authorizations are reviewed and conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and other applicable laws.</p>		
<p>29. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>29. Evaluate project designs and proposed activities and mitigate or adjust activities to avoid disturbing or removing Native American human remains and associated items, to the extent possible and practicable. Avoid directing site visitors toward areas where these items would be observed or disturbed, to the extent possible and practicable.</p>	<p>29. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>29. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>30. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>30. Design and maintain facilities to preserve the visual integrity of cultural resources, settings, and cultural landscapes consistent with VRM objectives established in the RMP.</p>	<p>30. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>30. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>
<p>31. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>31. Continue the use of Site Stewards, BLM staff, cooperating organizations, and agencies in the site monitoring effort.</p>	<p>31. Promote and increase patrol and monitoring of sites by Site Stewards, BLM staff, cooperating organizations, and agencies, to the extent possible and practicable.</p>	<p>31. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>
<p>32. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>32. No decision is developed for this element.</p>	<p>32. Promote use of volunteers to enhance cultural resource values, including site documentation, research, protection, and educational projects.</p>	<p>32. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>
<p>33. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>33. Continue to participate in Arizona Archaeology Awareness Month events and other educational outreach, to highlight the values of cultural heritage</p>	<p>33. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>33. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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	resources and the need to protect these resources.		
<i>Management of Priority Areas and Cultural Resource Allocations</i>	<i>Management of Priority Areas and Cultural Resource Allocations</i>	<i>Management of Priority Areas and Cultural Resource Allocations</i>	<i>Management of Priority Areas and Cultural Resource Allocations</i>
34. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	<p>34. Some areas stand out as being part of the historic landscape or exhibit a denser pattern of public use. These areas will be prioritized for focused management. General management approaches for these areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Protection of sensitive areas and sites within the priority area b. Acquisition of lands, easements, and access to assure long-term use and protection of sites. c. Development of interpretive materials if the area is amenable to public use. d. Conducting inventory to gather critical information and completing site documentation e. Increased monitoring by Arizona Site Stewards and other organizations and individuals f. Management of public uses to protect the area and sites g. An emphasis will be placed on identifying and developing appropriate sites for public visitation and interpretation. <p>Specific management of priority areas will be developed based on areas-specific issues and concerns as the priority areas are identified.</p>	<p>34. Same as Action Alternative B, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. An emphasis will be placed on protecting resources and providing opportunities for scientific research. Development of sites for public visitation is a secondary priority. 	<p>34. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>
<i>Southern Trails Area</i> 35. See the Special Designations section for management of the Anza National Historic Trail. No existing decisions specifically address the other trails under No-Action Alternative A	<i>Southern Trails Area</i> 35. A number of historic trails, including the Gila Trail, Butterfield Overland Stage Route, Southern Overland Trail, and Mormon Battalion Trail, occur in the same general corridor as the Anza National Historic Trail. These trails will not be allocated as a cultural management area but will be managed	<i>Southern Trails Area</i> 35. A number of historic trails, including the Gila Trail, Butterfield Overland Stage Route, Southern Overland Trail, and Mormon Battalion Trail, occur in the same general corridor as the Anza National Historic Trail. These trails will not be allocated as a cultural management area but will be managed	<i>Southern Trails Area</i> 35. A number of historic trails, including the Gila Trail, Butterfield Overland Stage Route, Southern Overland Trail, and Mormon Battalion Trail, occur in the same general corridor as the Anza National Historic Trail. These trails will not be allocated as a cultural management area but will be managed

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	<p>consistently with the Anza NHT to protect the cultural and natural resources and provide enhanced opportunities for public use and interpretation.</p> <p>Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the Trail plan and in cooperation with the National Park Service, to the extent practicable and with an emphasis in public use and interpretive opportunities. • Provide opportunities for research and inventory. • Protect the historic landscape and visual values to provide the visitor with an opportunity to appreciate the historic character of the area. <p>Resource Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Auto Route for the Anza National Historic Trail. • Promote the Anza National Historic Trail and other historic trails through heritage tourism organizations. • Identify and develop cultural sites that are appropriate for public use and interpretation. • Develop recreational opportunities with an emphasis on cultural resource interpretation, environmental education, and undeveloped recreation. • Develop limited recreation facilities to protect resource values, provide for visitor safety, and support selected use opportunities. • Mark selected trail segments to National trail standards. <p>Additional management prescriptions for the Anza NHT are described in the</p>	<p>consistently with the Anza NHT to protect the cultural and natural resources.</p> <p>Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the Trail plan and in cooperation with the National Park Service, to the extent practicable. • Develop a strategy and encourage scientific research to enhance understanding of resources • Develop a priority for inventory and evaluation of the cultural resources • Protect the historic landscape and visual values to retain the historic integrity of the trail corridor and provide the visitor with an opportunity to appreciate the historic character of the area. • Rehabilitate and restore the integrity of areas of vegetation loss in selected areas to restore or maintain the historic integrity of the landscape. • Inventory trail segments and associated sites and mark to National trail standards. • Evaluate and nominate appropriate trails and sites to the National Register of Historic Places. <p>Resource Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop select sites for interpretation and environmental education. • Develop recreational opportunities with an emphasis on cultural resource interpretation, environmental education, and undeveloped recreation. • Develop limited recreation facilities to protect resource values, provide for 	<p>consistently with the Anza NHT to protect the cultural and natural resources.</p> <p>Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the Trail plan and in cooperation with the National Park Service • Make the Anza National Historic Trail non-motorized in the North Maricopa Mountains Butterfield Pass. • Develop a strategy and encourage scientific research to enhance understanding of resources • Develop a priority for inventory and evaluation of the cultural resources • Protect the historic landscape and visual values to retain the historic integrity of the trail corridor and provide the visitor with an opportunity to appreciate the historic character of the area, particularly in the Butterfield Pass area which has been identified as the most historically intact area along the trail corridor. • Rehabilitate and restore the integrity of areas of vegetation loss in selected areas to restore or maintain the historic integrity of the landscape. • Inventory trail segments and associated sites and mark to National trail standards. • Evaluate and nominate appropriate trails and sites to the National Register of Historic Places. <p>Resource Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop select sites for interpretation and environmental education when research opportunities and resource
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	special designations section.	<p>visitor safety, and support selected use opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and remove, rehabilitate or mitigate any existing developments or disturbed areas that are damaging the trail integrity or are incompatible with the trail. <p>Additional management prescriptions for the Anza NHT are described in the special designations section.</p>	<p>values can be protected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop limited recreation facilities to protect resource values and provide for visitor safety. Evaluate and remove, rehabilitate or mitigate any existing developments or disturbed areas that are damaging the trail integrity or are incompatible with the trail. Develop facilities in the trail corridor only to the extent that they are compatible with protecting the integrity of the trail. <p>Additional management prescriptions for the Anza NHT are described in the special designations section.</p>
<i>Vekol Valley and Sand Tank Mountains</i> 36. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	<i>Vekol Valley and Sand Tank Mountains</i> 36. Vekol Valley and Sand Tank Mountains are areas of scientific interest. The areas contain a wide variety of cultural sites. In these areas a priority is placed on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting inventory to gather information on significant sites Documenting known but unrecorded sites Monitoring sensitive sites using BLM staff, Site Stewards, and other volunteers and organizations 	<i>Vekol Valley and Sand Tank Mountains</i> 36. Same as Action Alternative B.	<i>Vekol Valley and Sand Tank Mountains</i> 36. Same as Action Alternative B.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Paleontology

TABLE 2-5. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for paleontological resources are provided in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Protect and conserve significant paleontological resources as they are discovered on SDNM.		
No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for paleontological resources are provided in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: No specific objectives for paleontological resources are developed. If paleontological resources are discovered, specific objectives and management actions for the site will be developed.		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Managing Paleontological Resources</i>
1 & 2. No LUP-level decisions for managing paleontological resources were provided in existing land use plans. However, manage paleontological resources for their scientific, educational, and recreational values according to agency-wide BLM guidelines.	1. Evaluate paleontological resources, as they are discovered, including consideration of scientific, educational and recreational values. 2. Protect and manage paleontological resources discovered on the SDNM for scientific, educational, or recreational values and identify appropriate objectives, management actions, allowable uses, and allocations for the resource or site.	1. Same as Action Alternative B. 2. Same as Action Alternative B.	1. Same as Action Alternative B. 2. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Collecting Paleontological Resources</i>
3. Restrict collection of all vertebrate and invertebrate fossils and other paleontological resources to legitimate scientific uses, in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397, and only when officially authorized by permit.	3. Collection of paleontological resources is prohibited, except collection of reasonable amounts of vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant fossils and other paleontological resources may be allowed for legitimate scientific or educational uses, or if the resource cannot be adequately protected on-site, and only when officially authorized by permit.	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.
<i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i>	<i>Inventory Paleontological Resources</i>
4. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action for	4. Establish agreements and partnerships with interested organizations, such as	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.

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<p>Element 4 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>museums, scientific organizations, agencies, or universities to support survey, evaluation, recordation, mitigation, protection, and management of paleontological resources. Assign survey priorities to those areas that are most likely to include significant paleontological resources, relatively accessible to the public, and/or vulnerable to damage or loss from land use activities.</p>		
<p><i>Categorizing Paleontological Resources</i></p>	<p><i>Categorizing Paleontological Resources</i></p>	<p><i>Categorizing Paleontological Resources</i></p>	<p><i>Categorizing Paleontological Resources</i></p>
<p>5. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action for Element 5 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>5. Areas will be classified based on their potential to contain vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils: Class 1 (Low sensitivity) - Igneous and metamorphic geologic units and sedimentary geologic units where vertebrate fossils or uncommon non-vertebrate fossils are unlikely to occur. Class 2 (Moderate sensitivity) - Sedimentary geologic units that are known to contain or have unknown potential to contain fossils that vary in significance, abundance, and predictable occurrence. Class 3 (Moderate sensitivity) – Areas where geologic units are known to contain fossils but have little or no risk of human-caused adverse impacts and/or low risk of natural degradation. Class 4 (High sensitivity) - Areas where geologic units regularly and predictably contain vertebrate fossils and/or uncommon non-vertebrate fossils, and are at risk of natural degradation and/or human-caused adverse impacts.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>
<p>6. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action for Element 6 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>6. In Class 4 areas, a records search and paleontological survey and/or monitoring is required prior to authorizing land uses that could impact vertebrate fossils and/or uncommon</p>	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.</p>	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.</p>

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	invertebrate fossils.		
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Geology and Caves

TABLE 2-6-1. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT GEOLOGIC RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for geologic resources are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Protect and conserve geologic resources.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for geologic resources are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: No specific objectives for geological resources are developed. If unique or unusual geological resources are discovered, specific objectives and management actions for the site will be developed.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
1. Protect geological resources in SDNM in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397.	1. If geologic resources are discovered that warrant special management, identify appropriate objectives, management actions, allowable uses, and allocations for the resource or site.	1. Same as Action Alternative B.	1. Same as Action Alternative B.
2. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	2. Establish agreements and partnerships with interested organizations, such as local scientific museums or scientific organizations, agencies, or universities to support survey, evaluation, recordation, mitigation, protection, and management of geologic resources.	2. Same as Alternative B for Element 2.	2. Same as Alternative B for Element 2.
3. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	3. Collection of geological resources is prohibited, except collection and removal of a reasonable amount of geological resources for legitimate scientific research or educational uses may be allowed when officially authorized by permit.	3. Same as Alternative B for Element 3.	3. Same as Alternative B for Element 3.
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TABLE 2-6-2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT CAVES AND CAVE RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for caves and cave resources are provided in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal: Protect and conserve caves and cave resources.		
No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for caves and cave resources are provided in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objectives: No specific objectives for caves and cave resources are developed. If cave or cave resources are discovered, specific objectives and management actions for the site will be developed.		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Cave Protection and Management</i>	<i>Cave Protection and Management</i>	<i>Cave Protection and Management</i>	<i>Cave Protection and Management</i>
1 & 2. No LUP-level decisions relating to caves exist, however, 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.	1. Evaluate caves and cave resources, as they are discovered, to determine if the cave is significant according to law and regulation, including consideration of cultural, scientific, biological, geological, hydrological, educational and recreational values. 2. Protect significant caves and cave resources for cultural, scientific, biological, geological, hydrological, educational, or recreational values and identify appropriate objectives, management actions, allowable uses, and allocations related to the primary cave value(s), with a priority placed on protecting the resource.	1. Same as Alternative B for Element 1. 2. Same as Alternative B for Element 2.	1. Same as Alternative B for Element 1. 2. Same as Alternative B for Element 2.
<i>Cave Inventory</i>	<i>Cave Inventory</i>	<i>Cave Inventory</i>	<i>Cave Inventory</i>
3. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action for Element 3 under No-Action Alternative A.	3. Establish agreements and partnerships with interested organizations, such as local scientific museums or scientific organizations, agencies, or universities to support survey, evaluation, recordation, mitigation, protection, and management of caves and cave resources.	3. Same as Alternative B for Element 3.	3. Same as Alternative B for Element 3.
4. No existing LUP-level decisions	4. Collection of cave resources is	4. Same as Alternative B for Element 4.	4. Same as Alternative B for Element 4.

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specifically address the action for Element 4 under No-Action Alternative A.	prohibited, except collection and removal of a reasonable amount of cave resources for legitimate scientific research or educational uses may be allowed when officially authorized by permit.		
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Visual and Scenic Resources

TABLE 2-7. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT			
VISUAL RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goal: No LUP-level goals for visual resources are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Conserve visual and aesthetic integrity and diversity. Goal 2: Manage the Monument to protect scenic quality, especially to maintain predominantly natural landscapes and visibility of mountain views. Goal 3: Maintain night sky conditions that are affected primarily by natural light sources.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objective 1: No LUP-level objectives for visual resources are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Manage Visual Resources consistently with the designated VRM Classes. Objective 2: Assess proposed activity on public lands based on the visual resource contrast rating system (BLM Handbook H-8431-1) and develop projects pursuant to the Visual Resource Management (VRM) system (BLM Manual 8400) and implemented VRM classifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRM Class I Objective: The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention. • VRM Class II Objective: The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. • VRM Class III Objective: The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. • VRM Class IV Objectives: The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements. <p>Objective 3: Maintain or enhance opportunities to view natural Sonoran Desert landscapes from important viewing areas and other local and regional attractions consistent with VRM Classes and recreation zones established in the RMP. Objective 4: Avoid actions on public lands within the Monument that would contribute to light or air pollution and work with surrounding land managers, owners, and communities to minimize non-transient sources of light and air pollution.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Visual Resource Management Classes</i>	<i>Visual Resource Management Classes</i>	<i>Visual Resource Management Classes</i>	<i>Visual Resource Management Classes</i>
2. Manage visual resources in accordance with VRM Classes established in existing LUPs or according to policy as follows (see	1. Protect visual and scenic resources while accommodating certain other land uses. Designate VRM Classes (see Map 2-7-B):	1. Prioritize the protection of high-value visual and scenic resources. Designate VRM Classes (see Map 2-7-C):	1. Prioritize the protection of visual and scenic resources. Designate VRM Classes. (see Map 2-7-D): (a) VRM Class I: 157,700 acres in

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<p>Map 2-7-A): (a) VRM Class I: 157,700 acres in designated wilderness areas (b) VRM Class II: approximately 25,000 acres in special recreation management areas, mountain ranges, and recreation travel corridors in the Sand Tank Mountain parcel (c) VRM Class III: all other public lands in the Monument, approximately 403,000 acres</p>	<p>(a) VRM Class I: 157,700 acres in designated wilderness (b) VRM Class II: 244,000 acres includes backcountry recreation zone, and some front country (c) VRM Class III: 85,000 acres, includes Rte 238 utility corridor and more intensively used front country</p>	<p>(a) VRM Class I: 157,700 acres in designated wilderness and 139,000 acres in other scenic areas including Anza National Historic Trail, and back country recreation zone for a total of 296,700 acres (b) VRM Class II: 190,000 acres in front country</p>	<p>designated wilderness and 322,000 acres in other areas, encompassing most of SDNM for a total of 479,700 acres (b) VRM Class II: 7,000 acres in some front country</p>
<i>Scenic Views</i>	<i>Scenic Views</i>	<i>Scenic Views</i>	<i>Scenic Views</i>
<p>2. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 2 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>2. Protect the viewshed of the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT. Apply VRM and scenic management prescriptions for its preservation and enhancement.</p>	<p>2. Protect the viewshed of I-8 and the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT. Apply VRM and scenic management prescriptions for their preservation and enhancement.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 2.</p>
<p>3. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 3 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>3. Locate trailheads, trails, and interpretive areas to take advantage of views of scenic and historic landscapes while meeting resources and VRM objectives</p>	<p>3. Develop facilities, including trailheads, trails, campgrounds, roads, and utilities only to the extent that visual quality is protected.</p>	<p>3. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 3.</p>
<p>4. Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning. These evaluations would consider the significance of a proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations are to be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for visual resources. [In Sand Tank Mountains] protect mountain vistas from visual intrusions by developing, during site or project specific activity planning, visual resource management prescriptions needed to maintain appropriate visual resource management objectives.</p>	<p>4. Manage projects, uses, and activities, including utility corridors and rights-of-way and other developed areas, to maintain visual quality and designated class.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>
<i>Scenic Quality</i>	<i>Scenic Quality</i>	<i>Scenic Quality</i>	<i>Scenic Quality</i>
<p>5. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 5</p>	<p>5. Direct uses that are likely to effect visual quality in an area to or</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>

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under No-Action Alternative A.	adjacent to previously disturbed areas and manage uses to protect scenic and visual values compatible with Visual Resource Contrast Rating Manual H-8431-1.		
6. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 6 under No-Action Alternative A.	6. Restore abandoned or closed areas of disturbance or man-made modifications: (a) in a manner consistent with the natural resource restoration objectives (b) to meet the designated VRM class	6. Restore abandoned or closed areas of disturbance or man-made modifications: (a) in a manner consistent with the natural resource restoration objectives (b) to enhance scenic quality to meet or exceed the designated VRM class	6. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 6.
7. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.	7. Require development on public lands to use dark-sky-friendly technologies in VRM Classes I and II. Emphasize the use of dark-sky friendly technology in VRM Class III.	7. Require development on public lands to use dark-sky-friendly technologies.	7. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 7.
<i>Cooperative Management</i>	<i>Cooperative Management</i>	<i>Cooperative Management</i>	<i>Cooperative Management</i>
8. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 8 under No-Action Alternative A.	8. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Participate in regional planning initiatives and proposals to encourage future development on adjacent non-Federal lands are compatible with VRM designations and protection of dark night skies on adjacent public lands.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.
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Wilderness Characteristics

TABLE 2-8. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goal Goals: No LUP-level goals for wilderness characteristics are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Maintain the wilderness characteristics (naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation) of the area identified to be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics. Goal 2: Allow uses, in areas identified to be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, to the extent that they are compatible with maintaining the wilderness characteristics.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for wilderness characteristics are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: Maintain the natural, cultural, and visual values of the area, consistent with the resource management decisions. Objective 2: Manage recreation consistent with the underlying recreation management zone, with an emphasis on maintaining primitive recreation opportunities and solitude. Objective 3: Other uses will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with a priority on maintaining the wilderness characteristics of the area and protecting SDNM resources.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<p>1. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action for Element 1 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>1. Manage 83,400 acres of SDNM primarily to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, see Map 2-8-B.</p>	<p>1. Manage 114,400 acres of SDNM primarily to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, see Map 2-8-C.</p>	<p>1. Manage 151,770 acres of SDNM primarily to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, see Map 2-8-D.</p>
<p>2. No existing LUP decisions specifically address the action for Element 2 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>2. Implement the following management actions, allowable uses, and use allocations in areas to be managed primarily to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Redevelop former vehicle ways to mechanized (bicycle) trails, as appropriate. b. Develop hiking and equestrian trails, as appropriate. c. Develop and maintain recreation facilities only when compatible with maintaining wilderness characteristics or when needed to protect resources or provide for public safety. d. Redevelop existing facilities to decrease effects on wilderness characteristics, to the extent possible and practical. 	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>

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	<p>e. Remove facilities that are no longer used.</p> <p>f. Evaluate and rehabilitate existing, unused, disturbed areas to a natural condition consistent with natural resource restoration objectives.</p> <p>g. Acquire private or state in-holdings from willing sellers.</p> <p>h. Evaluate proposed uses on a case-by-case basis, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need for project to protect Monument resources or provide for public safety • long-term effect on naturalness and Monument resources • ability to restore the use area after the project is completed to its previous natural state • compatibility with the specified visual resource management zone • loss of opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation • potential for use to be accommodated outside of area. 		
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Hazards and Public Safety

TABLE 2-10-1. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND SOLID WASTES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, and solid wastes are provided by the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Remediate areas, including abandoned mine lands, within SDNM known to have hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, or solid wastes. Goal 2: Minimize or eliminate the potential for intentional or accidental releases of hazardous materials or wastes and solid waste in SDNM.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, and solid wastes are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p>Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: Monitor public lands for the presence of solid waste sites and wildcat dump sites. Remove solid waste and remediate, and if appropriate, restore sites. Objective 2: Identify and monitor hazardous materials found on public lands to protect the environment and public land users. Remove hazardous materials and remediate, and if appropriate, restore sites.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Management Responses</i>	<i>Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Management Responses</i>	<i>Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Management Responses</i>	<i>Hazardous Materials/Solid Wastes Sites and Management Responses</i>
<p>1. Investigate reported hazardous materials, hazardous waste sites, and solid wastes sites.</p>	<p>1. Investigate reported hazardous materials, hazardous waste sites, and solid wastes sites. Establish a reporting system and encourage other agencies and citizens to report suspected spill and dump sites or suspected dumping activities.</p> <p>Establish an inventory of known historic and active mining sites and other spill or release areas on public lands where hazardous materials and wastes or solid wastes are known or suspected to be present.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p>
<p>2. 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.</p>	<p>2. Establish priorities for investigating releases and planning/implementing responses and revise annually or as needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluate the extent/severity of the known or potential hazardous materials/solid wastes problem, the intensity and proximity of public use, and the public and environmental 	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>

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	<p>health threat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the probable scope of needed containment and cleanup efforts • rank all sites as to their relative priority for active treatment planning and action. Priorities to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. high levels of heavy metals in waste b. ground or surface water quality degradation c. ongoing and active resource damage d. safety hazards near established recreation areas or other areas frequented by public land users e. other site specific factors. 		
3. Identify and prioritize abandoned mines (as funding allows) for containment and/or cleanup responses, in part, based on the potential for: high levels of heavy metals in waste rock or tailings ground or surface water quality degradation physical safety hazards near established recreation areas or other areas frequented by public land users.	3. Same as No Action Alternative for Element 3.	3. Same as No Action Alternative for Element 3.	3. Same as No Action Alternative for Element 3.
4. Plan necessary containment and/or cleanup responses on a case-by-case basis.	4. Implement treatment planning, containment, cleanup, remediation and restoration if appropriate and consistent with the natural resource objectives, and any required monitoring at hazardous materials/solid waste sites based on the inventory and annual priorities. Track the occurrence and resolution of incidents to assist in both preventing and cleaning up future releases.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.
<i>Environmental Education</i>	<i>Environmental Education</i>	<i>Environmental Education</i>	<i>Environmental Education</i>
No LUP-level decisions related to environmental education were provided in existing land use plans.	5. Provide educational material for the public regarding the definitions of hazardous materials and solid wastes and regulations controlling the use and	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5

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	disposal of hazardous materials and solid wastes on public lands. Methods may include brochures at recreation sites, signs at known or likely dumping sites, and direct contact with visitors.		
<i>Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i>	<i>Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i>	<i>Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i>	<i>Spill Investigation and Response Costs</i>
6. Identify and pursue potentially responsible parties based on readily available information.	6. Conduct active investigations to identify potentially responsible parties and recover planning, containment, cleanup, monitoring, investigation, and enforcement costs associated with spill/release responses.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.	6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.
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TABLE 2-10-2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for public health and safety are presented in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Identify naturally-occurring or manmade hazards in SDNM and manage these hazards and/or public use to protect public health and safety. Goal 2: Identify security conditions within SDNM that may affect public safety and address these conditions through appropriate intergovernmental law enforcement and emergency services and public safety awareness education.		
No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for public health and safety are provided in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: Enhance communications, coordination, and, where applicable, mutual support or enforcement agreements among federal, tribal, state, county, and municipal agencies, as well as volunteer organizations, with law enforcement and/or public safety missions, including emergency services and search and rescue, to promote/protect public health and safety on public lands. Objective 2: Evaluate concerns or situations that affect or could affect public health or safety; estimate the severity or criticality of the concerns or situations; and develop and implement corrective actions. Objective 3: Manage public uses, including recreation, that may create hazards and public safety risks to other users.		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
Public Safety Issues and Management Response	Public Safety Issues and Management Response	Public Safety Issues and Management Response	Public Safety Issues and Management Response
1. Maintain the existing inventory of abandoned mine sites and update this inventory as these sites are discovered and reported.	1. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 1.	1. Develop an inventory of known safety hazards, including abandoned mines and wells, construction sites, unsafe vehicle routes, unexploded ordnance, known natural hazards, and other potential hazards. Also develop a tracking system for recording management actions taken	1. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 1.

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		to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate known hazardous conditions. Encourage other agencies and the public to report known hazards for inclusion in the inventory.	
<i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i>	<i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i>	<i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i>	<i>Promote Public Safety Awareness</i>
2. Provide public safety information through BLM visitor use brochures, web sites, BMGR/Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge/Sand Tank Mountains (SDNM) visitor entry permit system, and various types of direct contact with members of the public.	2. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 2.	2. Provide public safety information through BLM visitor use brochures, web sites, BMGR/Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge/Sand Tank Mountains (SDNM) visitor entry permit system, and various types of direct contact with members of the public. Include information on hazards associated with abandoned mines, recreational shooting, unexploded ordnance, smuggler and UDA traffic, other criminal activities, natural resource conditions, or other conditions.	2. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 2.
3. Post signs in the field to identify certain hazardous situations when warranted to protect public safety.	3. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 3.	3. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 3.	3. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 3.
4. To reduce human caused fires, BLM will undertake education, enforcement and administrative fire prevention mitigation measures. Education measures will include various media information including a signing program, information as to the natural role of fire within local ecosystems, participation in fairs, parades and public contacts. Enforcement will be accomplished by providing training opportunities for employees interested in fire cause determination. Administration includes expanded prevention and education programs with other cooperator agencies.	4. BLM will undertake education, enforcement and administrative fire prevention mitigation measures to reduce human caused fires. Education measures may include a signing program, information on the natural role of fire within local ecosystems, participation in fairs or parades and other public contacts. Enforcement will be accomplished by providing training opportunities for employees interested in fire cause determination. Administration includes expanded prevention and education programs with other cooperator agencies.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.
5. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address action for Element 8 under No-Action Alternative A.	5. Emphasize visitor acceptance of the risks of entering public lands and responsibility for their own safety.	5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.	5. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 5.
<i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i>	<i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i>	<i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i>	<i>Eliminate, Reduce, or Otherwise Manage Public Safety Hazards</i>
6. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address action for Element 6	6. No action is proposed for Element 6 under Action Alternative B.	6. Prioritize known public hazards for resolution, and revise annually or as	6. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 6.

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under No-Action Alternative A.		needed.	
7. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address action for Element 7 under No-Action Alternative A.	7. No action is proposed for Element 7 under Action Alternative B.	7. Manage hazards to public safety by resolving the condition and/or adjusting public use, options considered may include barring entry to hazardous mines, wells, or other dangerous areas; limiting public access to areas with known hazards, providing appropriate warning information to visitors, managing potentially hazardous recreation activities such as recreational shooting to decrease risk to other visitors, resolving recreation conflicts, removing unexploded ordnance, and resolving other hazardous conditions in accordance with identified annual priorities.	7. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 7.
8. Require that visitors obtain the BMGR/Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge/Sand Tank Mountains visitor permit to protect public safety prior to entering the Sand Tank Mountains area of SDNM.	8. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 8.	8. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 8.	8. Same as No-Action Alternative A, Element 8.
9. Maintain official law enforcement/public safety patrols and improve search and rescue coordination and cooperation in wilderness areas.	9. Maintain current and develop new, as needed, law enforcement/public safety patrol, fire suppression, and search and rescue programs.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Livestock Grazing

TABLE 2-11. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT GRAZING ADMINISTRATION	
Implications of Presidential Proclamation 7397 Which Effect All Grazing Alternatives (No-Action and Action)	
<p>Implication 1: Grazing within SDNM south of I-8 will be administered in accordance with two sets of existing decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the grazing administration decisions of the current RMPs for the lands within SDNM that are south of I-8 until current grazing permits expire. Open allotments where continued grazing is authorized under current permits include all of the South Vekol, Vekol, and Table Top allotments, the portion of Big Horn allotment that is south of I-8 and within SDNM, and the portion of Santa Rosa that is within the SDNM. The Big Horn, Vekol, South Vekol, and Table Top allotments are currently classified as perennial-ephemeral and the Santa Rosa Allotment is classified as ephemeral. These allotments will not be reclassified as long as they remain open unless reclassification is found to be necessary in order to maintain healthy ecosystems in accordance with the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines (S&G) for Grazing Administration. The Sand Tank Mountains Area (formerly Area A) is currently closed to livestock grazing and will remain so. In accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397, which provides that grazing be terminated within SDNM south of I-8 when the current permits expire, all of the aforementioned allotments will be permanently closed upon expiration of the permits. The management goals and objectives for grazing administration provided below are applicable to the allotments south of I-8 until they are closed at the expiration of the current permits. No new alternative management actions, allowable uses, and use allocations for grazing administration during the short period remaining on the current leases are proposed. <p>Implication 2: Grazing within SDNM north of I-8 also will be administered in accordance with two sets of existing decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397, grazing may continue north of I-8 if BLM determines that grazing is compatible with the paramount purpose of protecting the monument resources. Grazing in SDNM currently occurs within the Big Horn, Hazen, Lower Vekol, Arnold, Conley, and Belloat allotments. A determination that continued grazing is incompatible with the purposes of the monument would require closure of the current allotments. A determination that grazing is compatible with the purposes of the monument would allow this use to continue under the administration of the SDNM RMP. Proposed action alternatives for the continued administration of grazing within SDNM north of I-8 are provided below. 	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives	
<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Goal</p> <p>Goal 1: Manage livestock grazing in accordance with the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goal (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Manage livestock grazing in SDNM, on allotments open for this use, consistent with natural resource objectives to maintain healthy ecosystems, achieve desired resource conditions and protect monument resources, and implementing the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.</p>
<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Objectives</p> <p>Objective 1: No objectives are provided in the existing LUPs.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Until existing permits expire, livestock grazing south of Interstate 8 will be managed in accordance with the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, current rules and regulations, and applicable lease conditions and terms and consistent with protecting monument resources. In accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397, the monument lands south of Interstate 8 will be closed to livestock grazing when the current livestock grazing permits expire.</p> <p>Objective 2: Public lands in SDNM north of Interstate 8 that remain open to grazing will be managed for vegetation and ecological processes to meet the desired resource conditions and natural resource objectives and to protect monument resources and in accordance with the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.</p> <p>Objective 3: Grazing levels are appropriate to allow allotments to be in a stable or improving condition consistent with achieving the desired resource condition.</p>

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Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Availability of Lands for Grazing and Allotment classifications</i>	<i>Availability of Lands for Grazing and Allotment classification</i>	<i>Availability of Lands for Grazing and Allotment classification</i>	<i>Availability of Lands for Grazing and Allotment classification</i>
<p>1. The allotments south of I-8 and within the SDNM are currently open for grazing. In accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7397, grazing in SDNM south of I-8 will be permanently terminated at the expiration of the current permits (see Map 2-11-A).</p> <p>2. In the current RMP, lands within the SDNM and south of I-8 are classified as follows: Big Horn, Vekol, South Vekol, and Table Top are perennial-ephemeral. Santa Rosa is ephemeral. Categorize perennial/ephemeral allotments as to the categories of Maintain, Custodial, and Improve. Intensively manage livestock grazing within the Vekol Valley ACEC grassland area by providing adequate rest periods to insure that the health and vigor of the tobosa grassland would be maintained and the amphibian habitat protected; livestock grazing will be controlled via the existing pasture fence</p>	<p>1. Close all lands south of Interstate 8 and within the SDNM to livestock grazing when current permits expire. This decision affects the South Vekol, Vekol, and Table Top allotments, the portion of Big Horn allotment that is south of I-8 and within SDNM, and the portion of Santa Rosa that is within the SDNM. The grazing administration decisions of the current LUPs would be cancelled.</p> <p>2. All lands south of Interstate 8 and within SDNM will continue to be managed under their existing classification until current permits expire and the area is closed to grazing: Big Horn, Vekol, South Vekol, and Table Top are perennial-ephemeral. Santa Rosa is ephemeral.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p> <p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p> <p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>
<p>3. Administer grazing within SDNM north of I-8 in accordance with the current RMPs and provisions of the S&G.</p>	<p>3. Terminate grazing within SDNM north of I-8, if this use is determined to be incompatible with the paramount purpose of protecting the monument resources, in accordance with existing regulations.</p>	<p>3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.</p>	<p>3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.</p>
<p>4. Allotments north of I-8 are open for grazing. Administer grazing within SDNM north of I-8 in accordance with the current RMPs and provisions of the S&G provided that continued grazing is determined to be compatible with the</p>	<p>4. All lands north of Interstate 8 and within SDNM are open to livestock grazing, if BLM determines that grazing is compatible with the paramount purpose of protecting the monument resources.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>	<p>4. All lands north of Interstate 8 and within SDNM are closed to livestock grazing.</p>

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<p>paramount purpose of protecting the monument resources (see Map 2-11-A).</p>			
<p>5. In the current RMP, lands within the SDNM and north of I-8 are classified as follows: Big Horn, Hazen, Lower Vekol, Conley, and Beloat are perennial-ephemeral. Arnold is ephemeral. Categorize perennial/ephemeral allotments as to the categories of Maintain, Custodial, and Improve.</p>	<p>5. Classify allotments within the SDNM and north of Interstate 8 for perennial use only. This includes those portions of Big Horn, Lower Vekol Conley, Arnold, and Beloat that are within the SDNM.</p>	<p>5. Classify all allotments within the SDNM and north of Interstate 8 for ephemeral use only. This includes those portions of Big Horn, Lower Vekol Conley, and Beloat that are within the SDNM. Arnold allotment will remain classified as ephemeral.</p>	<p>5. No action is proposed for Element 5 under Action Alternative D.</p>
<p>6. Local monitoring plans will provide guidance on types of studies, data needs, and collection schedules for allotments in the plan area. Changes in allocation of livestock forage and livestock use adjustments by agreement or decision are governed by regulations in 43 CFR 4100.</p> <p>Conduct Rangeland Monitoring According to the detailed monitoring plans developed for each allotment described in allotment files at the Lower Gila Resource Area Office.</p>	<p>6. Where livestock grazing is permitted, allotments north of Interstate 8 and within the SDNM will be evaluated on an ongoing basis using the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health evaluation process and/or other monitoring. If monitoring or other data indicate a change in grazing management is appropriate, allotments may be reclassified through the Standards and Guidelines process and a RMP amendment is not required. Allotment may be reclassified as perennial, ephemeral, or closed or other classification. The following criteria will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential to achieve desired resource conditions or ongoing declining allotment conditions that cannot be addressed within the existing classification • compatibility with protecting monument resources that cannot be achieved within the existing classification • conflict or incompatibility with other uses and resource values that cannot be mitigated within the existing classification • conformance with the Ephemeral Rule cannot be otherwise achieved • other resource and use factors 	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 6.</p>	<p>6. No action is proposed for Element 6 under Action Alternative D.</p>

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	<p>The following criteria will be considered when allocating an ephemeral allotment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the area is within the hot desert biome; • annual precipitation is less than 8 inches; • the land produces less than 25 lbs/acre of desirable perennial forage plants; • the land contains less than 5% composition of desirable perennial forage plants; • the area is below 3,500 feet in elevation; • the total forage production is highly unpredictable and forage availability is usually of short duration; • the growth of forage is dependent upon abundant moisture and other favorable climatic conditions; • the area lacks potential to improve the current ecological conditions and produce a dependable supply of forage by applying intensive rangeland management practices. 		
7. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A	7. Land that is presently not allocated for livestock use will remain unallocated for this use and its forage and other vegetation will be reserved for wildlife and non-consumptive uses. Should a livestock grazing permit be relinquished, the allotment and associated resources, and other resources and public uses will be evaluated to determine the allocation of available forage, with a priority given to protecting monument resources.	7. Same as Action Alternative B.	7. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Grazing Management</i>	<i>Grazing Management</i>	<i>Grazing Management</i>	<i>Grazing Management</i>
8. Improvement and maintenance of the rangeland will be accomplished through the construction of new rangeland developments and through livestock adjustments if needed.	8. Where livestock grazing is permitted, identify and complete range improvements necessary for proper management of the grazing program. This may include repair and/or installation of	8. Same as Action Alternative B.	8. No action is proposed under Action Alternative D

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Livestock facilities will not be developed in Table Top area where that development would serve to increase livestock use within the area proposed for [wilderness] designation	fences, cattleguards, water developments and roads necessary to access improvement sites. Required access and activities will be located and implemented to minimize additional disturbance to resources.		
9. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	9. Existing Range Improvements in areas not to be grazed may be removed if not necessary for management of other resources.	9. Same as Action Alternative B.	9. Same as Action Alternative B.
10. Domestic sheep grazing will not be allowed on allotments containing bighorn sheep habitats to avoid transmittal of disease.	10. Domestic goats or domestic sheep grazing is not permitted on SDNM.	10. Same as Action Alternative B.	10. No action is proposed under Action Alternative D
11. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	11. Within the range of endangered lesser long-nosed bat or endangered cactus ferruginous pygmy -owl livestock grazing allowable use will conform to the guidelines described in the “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” section of Guidance Criteria for Determinations of Effects of Grazing Permit Issuance and Renewal on Threatened and Endangered Species (Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona and New Mexico, 1999), or any subsequent agreed upon amendment to these guidelines. Livestock grazing permits will be updated, as needed, to conform to this guidance.	11. Same as Action Alternative B.	11. No action is proposed under Action Alternative D
12. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	12. Develop a policy to address impacts on vegetation and wildlife habitat during drought. This drought policy will address livestock grazing and other uses that may impact wildlife, wildlife habitat, or vegetation communities during drought, including the need for timely response in reducing/removing uses, sufficient vegetative recovery periods, indicators of drought recovery, and appropriate management actions.	12. Same as Action Alternative B.	12. Same as Action Alternative B.
13. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action under No-	13. Implement a monitoring plan on the SDNM to determine and track ecological	13. Same as Action Alternative B.	13. Same as Action Alternative B.

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<p>Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>condition and trend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish monitoring sites in allotments to be grazed. Location of sites should be established based on key areas identified during allotment evaluations. Data would be used to support grazing management decisions. • Establish monitoring sites in the allotments not to be grazed. Location of sites should be established based on resource management goals. Data would be used for comparison to grazed areas and historical data to track resource responses to management changes. • Monitoring should be conducted on a yearly basis, if feasible, because of the priority of protecting the resources in the monument. 		
<p>14. The following guidelines apply to grazing administration for upland sites: 1. Management activities will maintain or promote ground cover that will provide for infiltration, permeability, soil moisture storage, and soil stability appropriate for the ecological sites within management units. The ground cover should maintain soil organisms and plants and animals to support the hydrologic and nutrient cycles, and energy flow. Ground cover and signs of erosion are surrogate measures for hydrologic and nutrient cycles and energy flow. 2. When grazing practices alone are not likely to restore areas of low infiltration or permeability, land management treatments may be designed and implemented to attain improvement.</p>	<p>14. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>14. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>14. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>
<p>15. The following guidelines apply to grazing administration for riparian-wetland sites:</p>	<p>15. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>15. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>15. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>

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<p>1. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge and stream bank stability, thus promoting stream channel morphology (e.g., gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions appropriate to climate and landform.</p> <p>2. New facilities are located away from riparian-wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland function. Existing facilities are used in a way that does not conflict with riparian-wetland functions or are relocated or modified when incompatible with riparian-wetland functions.</p> <p>3. The development of springs and seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect ecological functions and processes.</p>			
<p>16. The following guidelines apply to grazing administration for desired resource conditions:</p> <p>1. The use and perpetuation of native species will be emphasized. However, when restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands, non-intrusive, non-native plant species are appropriate for use where native species (a) are not available, (b) are not economically feasible, (c) cannot achieve ecological objectives as well as non-native species, and/or (d) cannot compete with already established non-native species.</p> <p>2. Conservation of Federal threatened or endangered, proposed, candidate, and other special status species is promoted by the maintenance or restoration of</p>	<p>16. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>16. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>16. Same as No Action Alternative A.</p>

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<p>their habitats.</p> <p>3. Management practices maintain, restore, or enhance water quality in conformance with State or Federal standards.</p> <p>4. Intensity, season and frequency of use, and distribution of grazing use should provide for growth and reproduction of those plant species needed to reach desired plant community objectives.</p> <p>5. Grazing on designated ephemeral (annual and perennial) rangeland may be authorized if the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ephemeral vegetation is present in draws, washes, and under shrubs and has grown to useable levels at the time grazing begins; • sufficient surface and subsurface soil moisture exists for continued plant growth; • serviceable waters are capable of providing for proper grazing distribution; • sufficient annual vegetation will remain on site to satisfy other resource concerns, (i.e., watershed, wildlife, wild horses and burros); and • monitoring is conducted during grazing to determine if objectives are being met. <p>6. Management practices will target those populations of noxious weeds which can be controlled or eliminated by approved methods.</p> <p>7. Management practices to achieve desired plant communities will consider protection and conservation of known cultural resources, including historical sites, and prehistoric sites and plants of significance to Native American</p>			
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peoples.			
Implementation-Level Decisions			
1. No existing LUP-level decisions specifically address the action for Element 1 under No-Action Alternative A.	1. Exclude livestock from allotments/areas that are closed to grazing through fencing or other appropriate means and remove range developments that will not be converted to another purpose (e.g., wildlife waters or recreation uses).	1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.	1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.
2. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 2 under No-Action Alternative A.	2. Livestock waters will provide safe, usable water for wildlife, where possible. As funding and opportunities permit, existing facilities will be modified for safe wildlife use. Construction of new livestock waters in Category I and Category II desert tortoise habitat and in bighorn sheep habitat will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.	2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.	2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.

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Recreation

TABLE 2-12-1. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT RECREATION	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives	
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for recreation are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Provide a diverse array of recreation settings, opportunities and experiences to meet the needs of the public land users, consistent with resource protection goals and the Monument proclamation and protection of public safety.</p> <p>Goal 2: Manage recreation activities and settings that are consistent with the natural and cultural resource goals.</p> <p>Goal 3: Enhance recreation quality and reduce conflicts among various users.</p> <p>Goal 4: Maintain primitive recreation opportunities and experiences.</p> <p>Goal 5: Provide recreational opportunities for use and enjoyment by people with disabilities.</p>
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for recreation are provided in the existing land use plans</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Public use is directed to areas that provide the desired recreation setting, opportunity and experience.</p> <p>Objective 2: Commercial, organized or large groups/events and intensive recreation use is directed to areas that provide appropriate recreation setting, opportunity and experience. Where such use is allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General stipulations are established for the issuance of and conditions tied to special recreation permits for commercial and organized events or activities (including geocaching and paintball) as appropriate for the protection of the Monument, recreation management areas and zones, and use intensity level. <p>Policies and procedures are established for managing large-group activities and uses .</p> <p>Objective 3: Enhance some visitor services within the monument, including interpretation, information and education, while encouraging visitor contact and information facilities to be provided in local communities or at the periphery of the Monument.</p> <p>Objective 4: Manage recreation areas and zones established in the RMP by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining consistency with the Monument proclamation and wilderness designations and approved plans • Maintaining the desired recreational resource, social and management settings • Developing an adaptive management process that includes the following six items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a Limits of Acceptable Change system to (i) monitor key environmental and social indicators and (ii) guide associated management responses to maintain desired recreation settings and resource conditions (b) mechanisms for identifying and responding to emerging recreation uses (c) parameters for periodic monitoring and reporting at an intensity level commensurate with use (d) a schedule for the reassessment of current conditions, trends and forecasts in recreational use of public lands (e) compatibility with national, State and local recreation plans and policies (f) evaluation of recreation opportunities within SDNM in the context of their relative scarcity in the surrounding area <p>Objective 5: Implement management actions and programs for recreation sites and facilities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate adaptive recreation management, including use restrictions, as needed for resource protection, public safety and consistency with recreation management areas and zones. • Include policies and procedures for managing designated camp sites/areas. • Include visitor education to encourage responsible public land use of the Monument. • Evaluate the recreation sites and facilities for recreation opportunities and access for the physically challenged; apply management measures consistent with recreation management areas and zones to provide adequate access and develop a program to communicate the physically challenged program for the Monument to the public. • Address public safety considerations including those related to public uses such as recreational target shooting and onsite

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	hazards such as historic mine sites		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
General Management Strategy	General Management Strategy	General Management Strategy	General Management Strategy
1. Manage recreation use on a case-by-case basis.	1. Manage and selective allow an increase in recreation opportunities that are compatible with protecting SDNM resources.	1. Manage recreation opportunities that are compatible with emphasizing conservation and protecting SDNM resources.	1. Manage to allow limited recreation uses and access, with the emphasis on primitive, non-motorized opportunities, to maximize SDNM resource protection.
Recreation Allocations	Recreation Allocations	Recreation Allocations	Recreation Allocations
<p>2. Manage for multiple, dispersed use outside designated wildernesses and ACECs.</p> <p>Establish [the Sand Tank Mountain parcel] as an Extensive Recreation Management Area and implement appropriate management actions to facilitate compatible recreation use of the area.</p> <p>Retain the Gila Trail Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) designation assuming the Lower Gila amendment is finalized; otherwise no existing decisions create a SRMA under the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>All other lands are managed as Extensive Recreation Management Areas according to general recreation decisions in the existing LUP.</p>	<p>2. <i>Sonoran Desert National Monument SRMA</i> The Sonoran Desert National Monument is established as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), approximately 486,600 acres. Management of recreation is primarily according to the recreation management zones described in Table 2-12-2 (see Map 2-12-B):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front country includes 83,900 acres • Backcountry includes 402,300 acres • Passage includes a 200 foot corridor centered on designated routes <p>The SRMA’s Marketing Niche is Undeveloped Recreation Tourism.</p> <p>An activity level plan for the SRMA will be produced by BLM and other recreation collaborators consistent with conservation of SDNM resources and land use plan provisions. The SRMA plan would focus on the identified marketing niche served by the SDNM SRMA, along with its declared management objectives and prescribed physical, social and administrative settings.</p> <p>The Gila Trail SRMA is not retained.</p>	<p>2. <i>Sonoran Desert National Monument SRMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B, except recreation management zones are (see Map 2-12-C):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front country includes 58,200 acres • Backcountry includes 428,100 acres • Passage includes a 200 foot corridor centered on designated routes 	<p>2. <i>Sonoran Desert National Monument SRMA</i> Same as Action Alternative B, except recreation management zones are (see Map 2-12-D):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front country includes 21,700 acres • Backcountry includes 464,600 acres • Passage includes a 200 foot corridor centered on designated routes
Recreation Services and Use	Recreation Services and Use	Recreation Services and Use	Recreation Services and Use

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<i>Supervision</i>	<i>Supervision</i>	<i>Supervision</i>	<i>Supervision</i>
3. A visitor permit is required for entry into the Sand Tank Mountains area of the SDNM to protect public safety. The Goldwater Range permit system is used.	3. Same as No -Action Alternative A.	3. Same as No-Action Alternative A.	3. Same as No-Action Alternative A.
4. Authorize Special Recreation Permits as outlined in 43 CFR 2930.5.	4. Issue commercial and group permits, but do not issue vending or competitive permits. Authorize Special Recreation Permits as outlined in 43 CFR 2930.5 and consistent with recreation management areas and zones, and other management objectives. In addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require natural/cultural resource protection training, such as Leave No Trace or Tread Lightly, for all SRP holders; if the SRP area includes known cultural sites, require site steward training • Standardize terms and conditions for large-group camp site Special Recreation Permits that define allowable levels of uses in an equitable, safe, and enjoyable manner while minimizing adverse resource impacts and user conflicts. • In Category I and II tortoise habitats, do not authorize competitive or speed events between March 31 and October 15. Review other motorized and non-motorized commercial and organized group events and other use requests between March 31 and October 15 on a case-by-case basis (requests may be denied or changed to avoid conflict with tortoise activity and habitat; mitigation for conflicts is permissible to achieve no net loss in quantity or quality of desert tortoise habitat.) • In washes where Cactus ferruginous pygmy owls are located, do not authorize group events between February 1 and September 15. In 	4. Same as Action Alternative B.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, except do not issue commercial, competitive, or vending recreation permits.

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	washes containing suitable Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl habitat, authorize group events on a case-by-case basis between February 1 and September 15.		
5. No restrictions on recreation use by vehicle type; except in the Sand Tank Mountains parcel (previously Area A), where vehicles must be street legal.	5. No restrictions on vehicle type.	5. Same as Action Alternative B.	5. Prohibit ATVs, RVs, trail bikes, motorcycles and new vehicle technologies. Evaluate new vehicle technologies as they are identified for compatibility with protecting monument resources and allow if found compatible.
<i>Camping</i>	<i>Camping</i>	<i>Camping</i>	<i>Camping</i>
6. Allow camping on all lands open to the public in accordance with standard operating procedures. [In Sand Tank Mountains] Allow camping on all lands open to the public in accordance with standard operating procedures for camping on public lands, permit self-contained or vehicle-based camping within 50 feet of designated or established roads.	6. Establish campgrounds and allow camping consistent with the recreation management zones.	6. Same as Action Alternative B.	6. Same as Action Alternative B.
<i>Wood Collection and Campfires</i>	<i>Wood Collection and Campfires</i>	<i>Wood Collection and Campfires</i>	<i>Wood Collection and Campfires</i>
7. Allow campfires using dead and down wood except in wilderness areas.	7. Wood collection and campfires are managed according to the recreation management zone.	7. Same as Action Alternative B.	7. The SDNM is closed to wood collection. Campfires are allowed if wood is brought from off-site, unless otherwise prohibited. Campfires are prohibited in Wilderness Areas. Allow the use of camp stoves.
<i>Rockhounding</i>	<i>Rockhounding</i>	<i>Rockhounding</i>	<i>Rockhounding</i>
8. The existing LUP decision is as follows, however, consistent with the SDNM proclamation, collection of objects is prohibited. 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 or motorized devices. Close areas to rockhounding as	8. Rockhounding is prohibited on the SDNM.	8. Same as Action Alternative B.	8. Same as Action Alternative B.

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<p>needed by issuance of orders to close or restrict use of designated public lands to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources (43 CFR 8364.1).</p>			
<p><i>Recreational Target Shooting</i></p>	<p><i>Recreational Target Shooting</i></p>	<p><i>Recreational Target Shooting</i></p>	<p><i>Recreational Target Shooting</i></p>
<p>9. Allow recreational target shooting within the monument outside of developed areas in accordance with 43 CFR 8365</p>	<p>9. Where recreational shooting is allowed, manage recreational target shooting to provide for safety and an enjoyable experience. Recreational target shooting is prohibited in developed recreation sites in accordance with 43 CFR 8365 and is otherwise managed consistent with the recreation management zones. Dispersed recreational target shooting is allowed in back country. Recreational target shooting is prohibited in front country and passage. The following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require all brass, targets and other materials to be removed. • Allow use of paper targets only. 	<p>9. Where recreational shooting is allowed, manage recreational target shooting to provide for safety and an enjoyable experience. Recreational target shooting is prohibited in developed recreation sites in accordance with 43 CFR 8365 and is otherwise managed consistent with the recreation management zones. Dispersed recreational target shooting is allowed in back country. Recreational target shooting is prohibited in front country and passage. The following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit fully automatic weapons. • Require all brass, targets and other materials to be removed. • Allow use of paper targets only. 	<p>9. Eliminate recreational shooting in the SDNM to protect natural resources and public safety.</p>
<p><i>Equestrian Use</i></p>	<p><i>Equestrian Use</i></p>	<p><i>Equestrian Use</i></p>	<p><i>Equestrian Use</i></p>
<p>10. No existing decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>10. Encourage equestrian and stock animal users to provide weed-free feed for their animals.</p>	<p>10. Require special recreation permit equestrian and stock animal users to use weed-free feed and encourage all other users to provide weed-free feed for their animals.</p>	<p>10. Require equestrian and stock animal 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></p>	<p><i>Emerging Recreation Uses</i></p>	<p><i>Emerging Recreation Uses</i></p>	<p><i>Emerging Recreation Uses</i></p>
<p>11. Manage emerging or unforeseen recreation uses, for which no specific policies have been identified, in accordance with existing regulatory authority.</p>	<p>11. Prohibit paintball activities in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Developed recreation sites b. National Historic Trails c. Cultural sites d. Wilderness areas e. Other areas with sensitive resources on a case-by-case basis. <p>Manage paintball activities elsewhere through the appropriate permitting process. Require a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for paintball groups with</p>	<p>11. Prohibit paintball activities.</p>	<p>11. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>

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	more than 10 participants; establish standardized SRP terms and conditions for these SRPs to define allowable use levels that minimize resource impacts and user conflicts.		
12. Per Instruction Memorandum 2003-182, do not require a SRP if a geocaching activity complies with casual use conditions.	12. Prohibit geocache sites and activities in the following areas: a. Developed recreation sites b. National Historic Trails c. Cultural sites d. Wilderness areas e. Other areas with sensitive resources on a case-by-case basis.	12. Same as Action Alternative B, except also: Require geocache sites to be registered with the BLM prior to placement to confirm proposed area does not contain sensitive resources.	12. Prohibit geocache sites and activities.
13. Manage emerging or unforeseen recreation uses, for which no specific policies have been identified, in accordance with existing regulatory authority.	13. Monitor for new emerging or unforeseen recreational uses and evaluate their effects on resources. Where needed, apply an adaptive management process to manage the use and associated effects. Use the SRP program and other management tools to manage emerging or unforeseen recreation uses where needed to address issues of demand, user conflict, safety, or resource impact	13. Same as Action Alternative B.	13. Same as Action Alternative B, except: Generally prohibit uses that are not natural or cultural resource dependent and may be destructive to resources.
<i>Monitoring and adaptive management</i>	<i>Monitoring and adaptive management</i>	<i>Monitoring and adaptive management</i>	<i>Monitoring and adaptive management</i>
14. [In Sand Tank Mountains] Adopt and implement the Limits of Acceptable Change System. No formal limits-of-acceptable change monitoring and adaptive management response system has been incorporated into existing LUPs	14. Develop and implement a monitoring and adaptive management response system as a means of measuring and managing recreation impacts on natural and cultural resources and recreation use conflicts. The following parameters would apply, additional parameters may be developed as needed: <u>General:</u> Monitor existing uses and new emerging uses. When an emerging use is detected evaluate its compatibility with Monument resources. Where monitoring shows resource damage is occurring to	14. Same as Action Alternative B.	14. Same as Action Alternative B.

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	<p>natural or cultural resources, use a variety of methods to protect the resource: education and outreach, including etiquette signs; restrictions to limit access to sensitive resource areas, including barriers; limits on the number of users; use of special recreation or land use permits; closure of sensitive resource area, or other methods.</p> <p><u>Camping and parking:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where monitoring shows that dispersed camping and vehicle-based roadside parking or camping are causing damage to resources, creating de-facto campgrounds, or are otherwise changing the character and desired setting of the area, a variety of management options will be considered: (1) existing vehicle parking and camping areas; (2) designated areas only; (3) permit only; (4) day use only. • Limits on the length of stay for dispersed camping (currently limited to at least no more than a period of 14 days within any period of 28 consecutive days and, after the 14th day of occupation, require the camper to move outside of at least 25-mile radius of the previous location until the 29th day since initial occupation) may be imposed if public use exceeds capacity (e.g., all available camp sites are regularly in use) – limit changes may include a shortened length of stay (e.g., 7 days) and/or farther distance moved from previous location (e.g., 50 mile radius) <p><u>Large groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group size limits and use areas may 		
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	<p>be adjusted based on monitoring to maintain desired setting, protect resources, and manage changing uses.</p> <p><u>Recreation target shooting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If resource damage is seen from recreational target shooting (where it is permitted) areas may be closed <p><u>Non-motorized, non-mechanized use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If cross-country hiking and equestrian use begins to establish permanent trails, cross-country travel may be prohibited and such use limited to designated trails only <p><u>Wood collection and campfires</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor collection of wood for campfires (where it is permitted); move from 1-3 based on resource effects: (1) allow collection of dead, down, detached wood for campfires, (2) require that wood for camp fires be brought in from outside the SDNM, (3) prohibit campfires, allow stoves only. 		
Implementation-Level Decisions			
<p>1. No administrative actions have been identified for this element under the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>2. No administrative actions have been identified for this element under the No Action Alternative.</p>	<p>1. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Encourage partners and adjoining or nearby land owners/managers to develop regional shooting ranges to support concentrated recreational target shooting activities.</p> <p>2. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Develop a recreational target shooting safety management plan in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B.</p> <p>2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B.</p> <p>2. Same as Action Alternative B.</p>

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TABLE 2-12-2. Description of Recreation Management Zone Prescriptions* for the SDNM			
	Front Country	Passage	Back Country
Desired Resource Setting	<p>Mostly natural environment with low to high evidence of human changes, including primary public motorized travel routes.</p> <p>Some visitor impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year-to-year, typically in areas of moderate use, such as designated camping areas, group sits and pullouts.</p>	<p>Mostly natural with low to moderate evidence of human changes along secondary and tertiary public motorized route corridors (200-foot wide, 100 feet each side of the centerline) within predominantly natural areas.</p> <p>Some visitor impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year-to-year. Resource changes are evident but harmonious with the natural environment.</p>	<p>Predominantly natural environment of moderate to large size. Human modifications occasionally evident, but not intrusive.</p> <p>Most visitor impacts to soil and vegetation recover yearly or are small areas, typically in areas of light and dispersed use such as desirable camping areas and trails.</p>
Desired Social Setting	<p>Opportunities for solitude low to moderate, degree of challenge and risk low to moderate. Moderate to high level of interaction among users.</p>	<p>Opportunities for solitude low to moderate, degree of challenge and risk low to moderate. Moderate level of interaction among visitors.</p>	<p>Opportunities for solitude moderate to excellent, degree of challenge and risk moderate to high. Low level of interaction among visitors, but may encounter some evidence of other users.</p>
Desired Managerial Setting	<p>Moderate to high management presence occasionally to often provides users security/convenience.</p> <p>Rustic facilities are provided for visitor education and user convenience as well as for public safety and resource protection.</p> <p>Focal point for both motorized and non-motorized visitation, concentrating public access, recreation activities (sometimes including group activities), development along major travel routes and recreation destinations.</p>	<p>Low to moderate management presence rarely to occasionally provides users security/convenience.</p> <p>Basic rural facilities as necessary to protect resources, educate visitors, or for public safety.</p> <p>Management primarily driven by compatibility with adjacent predominantly natural areas.</p>	<p>Low management presence that rarely to occasionally provides users security/convenience.</p> <p>Only minimal and simple facilities essential for resource protection.</p> <p>Emphasis on preservation of natural, undeveloped landscapes and primitive, self-directed visitor experience.</p>
Degree of user facilities developed	low to moderate	low	very low to none
Possible types of user facilities	kiosks, signs, parking areas, vault toilets, designated camping areas/sites, picnic tables, ramadas, interpretation	kiosks, signs, parking areas, vault toilets, designated camping sites/pullouts	minimal facilities required for resource protection and public safety
Visitor information	no major facilities located within SDNM; visitor contact and information facilities will be located in adjacent communities or at the periphery of the Monument. visitor information provided through informal and moderate means (kiosks, signs)	informal & low to moderate (kiosks, signs)	informal & low to moderate (kiosks, signs)
Dispersed, undeveloped camping and	vehicle-based camping and parking must occur within existing vehicle parking or camping areas that are within 50 feet of road	vehicle-based camping and parking must occur within existing vehicle parking or camping areas that are within 50 feet of road	no vehicle-based camping or parking; dispersed non-vehicle camping permitted

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parking	<p>certain areas may be closed for resource protection</p> <p>restricted to designated sites only in specified areas (see designated campsites)</p>	<p>certain areas may be closed for resource protection</p> <p>restricted to designated sites only in specified areas (see designated campsites)</p>	<p>certain areas may be closed for resource protection</p> <p>restricted to designated sites if needed for resource protection purposes</p>
Designated large group camping areas, camping areas, and single-party campsites	<p>established in areas with high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations</p> <p>low to moderate on-site controls, rustic facilities at large group camping areas</p> <p>Gap Well large group camping area established for large groups; maximum capacity to be determined through monitoring</p>	<p>established in areas with high levels of impacts and at recreation destinations. Number of sites determined based on character of adjoining land</p> <p>subtle on-site controls, basic rural facilities at large group camping areas</p>	<p>no designated large group camping areas, camping areas, or single-party campsites established</p>
Group use – day & overnight (noncommercial and noncompetitive)	<p>up to 25 people, stock animals, vehicles in existing vehicle parking or camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area</p> <p>larger groups (more than 25) authorized under Special Recreation Permits (SRP) on case-by-case basis</p>	<p>up to 25 people, stock animals, vehicles in existing vehicle parking or camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area</p> <p>larger groups (more than 25) authorized under SRP on case-by-case basis</p>	<p>up to 20 people and no more than 5 stock animals in areas large enough to accommodate the group without increase the footprint of the disturbance area</p> <p>larger groups authorized under SRP on case-by-case basis</p>
Commercial, competitive, vendor use (in addition to SRP requirements)	<p>except under Alternative D (which would prohibit commercial permits), commercial permits issued on a case-by-case basis</p> <p>except under Alternative D (which would prohibited commercial permits), commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits required to remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel) and use designated portals</p> <p>no competitive or vending permits issued</p>	<p>except under Alternative D (which would prohibit commercial permits), commercial permits issued on a case-by-case basis</p> <p>except under Alternative D (which would prohibited commercial permits), commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits required to remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel) and use designated portals</p> <p>no competitive or vendor permits issued</p>	<p>except under Alternative D (which would prohibit commercial permits), commercial non-motorized permits issued on case-by-case basis. Motorized uses not allowed.</p> <p>commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits must remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel) and use designated portals</p> <p>no competitive, or vendor permits issued</p>
Firewood collection	<p>Firewood collection is prohibited. Campfires are allowed if wood is brought from off-site, unless otherwise prohibited. Firewood collection and campfires are prohibited in wilderness areas.</p> <p>Camp stoves are allowed.</p>	<p>Firewood collection is prohibited. Campfires are allowed if wood is brought from off-site, unless otherwise prohibited. Firewood collection and campfires are prohibited in wilderness areas.</p> <p>Camp stoves are allowed.</p>	<p>Collection of dead, down, and detached wood for on-site campfire use only is allowed, unless otherwise prohibited, except under Alternative D (which prohibits firewood collection). Firewood collection and campfires are prohibited in wilderness areas.</p>

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			Camp stoves are allowed.
Recreational target shooting	Recreational target shooting is prohibited.	Recreational target shooting is prohibited.	<p>Dispersed recreational target shooting is allowed in accordance with 43 CFR 8365 and the following provisions except under Alternative D (which prohibits recreational target shooting).</p> <p>Recreational target shooters should ensure they are using safe backstops and other practices and avoid shooting in or across areas where people congregate, including vehicle routes, designated trails and trailheads, developed camp areas/sites, interpretive sites, kiosks, and other high use areas.</p> <p>Prohibit concentrated shooting sites where shooting is intensive and repeated and litter and resource damage are readily apparent.</p> <p>Additional areas may be closed based on public safety and resource protection concerns.</p>
Routes and Trails	<p>motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized routes and trails may be established if consistent with resource conservation and management objectives and desired recreation setting.</p> <p>Designated portals must be used to access the public lands.</p>	<p>motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized routes and trails may be established if consistent with resource conservation and management objectives and desired recreation setting.</p> <p>Designated portals must be used to access the public lands.</p>	<p>non-motorized routes and trails may be established if consistent with resource conservation and management objectives and desired recreation setting.</p> <p>Designated portals must be used to access the public lands.</p>

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Transportation and Access

TABLE 2-13. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS	
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives	
<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Goals</p> <p>Goals: No RMP-level goals for transportation and access are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: Maintain a transportation and travel system consistent with the natural and cultural resource goals and that supports administrative, public, and commercial access.</p> <p>Goal 2: Manage motorized and mechanized vehicle use to be consistent with the natural and cultural resource goals, and to promote safety and reduce conflicts among users.</p> <p>Goal 3: Develop and maintain legal access to the SDNM for administrative and public use.</p> <p>Goal 4: Coordinate transportation system with adjoining land managers and owners to manage public access and safety.</p>
<p align="center">No-Action Alternative Objectives</p> <p>Objective 1: Establish guidelines for the management of public and agency vehicle activities [within the Sand Tank Mountain parcel]. Establish policies ensuring vehicle use of [this parcel] is managed and directed to protect resources, promote the safety of all users, and minimize conflicts among the various uses of [this parcel].</p> <p>Objective 2: Develop a transportation plan for the Sand Tanks Mountains in order to facilitate effective management of an appropriate road system and network for government agency and public use. Major provisions of this plan would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan all road development in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), applicable environmental resource protection laws and regulations, and BLM and U.S. Air Force standards, including BLM Manual Section 9113 • reduce new road construction to a minimum by coordinating access needs and avoiding conflicts and replication in road use, development, 	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Prepare and implement a Travel and Transportation System Management Plan for the long-term monitoring, maintenance, and regulation of the SDNM designated route system. This plan will define:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical requirements, design criteria, condition categories and maintenance levels for routes and access points • maintenance levels for routes that reflect designated recreation management zones and VRM classifications for the affected segments • methods for monitoring the conditions and use of the route and access point system • policies and procedures for regulating route and access point use including possible adjustments to route designations • steps to promote ongoing public involvement in managing current and future routes and access points <p>Objective 2: Develop and maintain a monitoring system to support implementation and management of motorized and non-motorized use of the SDNM, including routes and access points. The monitoring system would provide reliable, up-to-date information for entry into FAMS and to support implementation of the Travel and Transportation System Management Plan in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • periodic review of designated and unauthorized routes and associated access points • condition assessment of designated and unauthorized routes and associated access points relative to the standards prescribed by Travel and Transportation System Management Plan • route use patterns including the types, frequency, intensity, and distribution of authorized and unauthorized travel and transportation activities • compliance of route and access users with Leave-No-Trace principles, Tread Lightly principles, desired resource conditions, and other applicable management prescriptions • public safety issues related to the designated route and access point system. <p>Objective 3: Implement the route and access points designations within two years of final route designation. Implementation will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publishing a map of the approved SDNM travel and transportation system that depicts routes and associated access points for public motorized and/or non-motorized use • signing routes and associated access points as needed to manage use and protect SDNM resources • publishing policies and procedures for administrative, public, and commercial use of the SDNM travel and transportation route network. <p>Objective 4: Secure legal and safe physical access, appropriate for achieving and maintaining Monument management objectives, for both motorized and non-motorized entry to the SDNM. Where appropriate and in accordance with the purposes of</p>

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<p>and management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> close roads and trails not meeting clearly identified land management, public, or military access needs and restoring these routes to a natural appearance either through natural or mechanical rehabilitation <p>develop and maintain a comprehensive road and trail inventory which includes mileages, locations, and classifications</p>	<p>the Monument, use easements or reciprocal rights-of-way to achieve legal access to SDNM or contiguous public lands. Consider the need for public access when granting or acquiring access routes.</p> <p>Objective 5: Prioritize route or access point maintenance, restoration, reclamation, or other corrective actions within one year of the detection of conditions that are deficient relative to the route or access point standards prescribed by Travel and Transportation System Management Plan or that are inconsistent with the protection of SDNM resources. Initiate corrective action based on the prioritized list</p> <p>Objective 6: Post or otherwise physically close unauthorized routes in or access points to SDNM to public use within six months of detection and, as needed, initiate restoration, reclamation, or other corrective actions to repair damage to the Monument from these routes or access points.</p> <p>Objective 7: Give priority to retaining, maintaining, and improving designated routes or access points within SDNM where such projects are necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect Monument resources protect public safety maintain access to developed areas maintain access to areas that can accept greater levels of use without resource degradation maintain or enhance public access to the Monument consistent with the protection of Monument resources <p>Establish new designated routes or access points within SDNM only where such projects further overall protection of Monument resources.</p> <p>Objective 8: Coordinate management of the SDNM Travel and Transportation System with state, tribal, and local transportation agencies, military departments, land management agencies, homeland security initiatives, and landowners. The objectives of management coordination would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support regional transportation needs while protecting SDNM by influencing transportation planning early enough to promote outcomes that are compatible with the purposes of the Monument protect SDNM from unauthorized and uncontrolled access points ensure continued legal and safe physical access to SDNM at approved locations <p>Objective 9: Coordinate with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> civilian airspace planners/users to align low-level (i.e., below 2,000 feet above ground level) overflight routes, where needed and practicable, along the most environmentally acceptable corridors military airspace planners/users to align overflight routes, where needed and practicable, along the most environmentally acceptable corridors, to the extent that such alignments meet the military need. the Federal Aviation Administration and civilian airspace users, if necessary, to encourage air tourism to be conducted at altitudes and over areas that are the most environmentally acceptable for such activities
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Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations

Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Public Lands as Open, Limited, or Closed for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>
1. Wilderness Areas were not yet designated when the existing RMPs were finalized. However, law and regulation specify requirements for wilderness areas. Maintain the designated	1. Maintain designated wilderness areas, approximately 157,700 acres, as closed to motorized and non-motorized vehicle use areas except where vehicle use is permitted for specific purposes	1. Maintain designated wilderness areas, approximately 157,700 acres, as closed to motorized and non-motorized vehicle use areas except where vehicle use is permitted for specific purposes	1. Maintain designated wilderness areas, approximately 157,700 acres, as closed to motorized and non-motorized vehicle use areas except where vehicle use is permitted for specific purposes

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<p>wildernesses, approximately 157,700 acres as closed to motorized and non-motorized vehicle use except where vehicle use is permitted for specific purposes prescribed by existing wilderness or land use management plans.</p> <p>Vekol Valley ACEC, approximately 2,500 acres, is closed to motorized vehicle use.</p> <p>Designate the Sand Tank Mountain parcel, which was relinquished from the BMGR, approximately 78,000 acres, as a limited motorized vehicle use area, with all vehicles restricted to designated or established roads as stipulated by U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, and BLM regulations. Accordingly, all vehicle use will be allowed on existing primary, secondary, tertiary, patrol, and unimproved roads. Additional areas of the Sand Tank Mountain parcel may be closed to motorized vehicle use in areas where motorized vehicle use is determined to be causing irreparable harm to existing resources.</p> <p>All other lands in SDNM, approximately 248,400 acres, area limited motorized vehicle use area in which motorized vehicle use is limited to existing and/or designated routes. Additional areas may be closed to motorized vehicle use in areas where motorized vehicle use is determined to be causing irreparable harm to existing resources. See Map 2-13-A</p>	<p>prescribed by existing wilderness management plans.</p> <p>Designate all other areas, approximately 328,900 acres, as limited motorized and mechanized vehicle use areas, where vehicles are limited to routes designated as available, or open, for vehicle use.</p> <p>See Map 2-13-B.</p>	<p>prescribed by existing wilderness management plans.</p> <p>Lands to be managed to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, approximately 114,400 acres, are designated as closed to motorized vehicle use areas and as limited mechanized, non-motorized vehicle use areas, where mechanized, non-motorized vehicle use is limited to routes designated as available for mechanized, non-motorized vehicles.</p> <p>Designate all other areas, approximately 214,500 acres, as limited motorized and mechanized vehicle use areas, where vehicles would be limited to routes designated as available, or open, for vehicle use. See Map 2-13-C.</p>	<p>prescribed by existing wilderness management plans.</p> <p>Lands to be managed to maintain or enhance wilderness characteristics, approximately 151,800 acres, are designated as closed to motorized vehicle use areas and as limited mechanized, non-motorized vehicle use areas, where mechanized, non-motorized vehicle use is limited to routes designated as available for mechanized, non-motorized vehicles.</p> <p>Designate all other areas, approximately 177,100 acres, as limited motorized and mechanized vehicle use areas, where vehicles would be limited to routes designated as available, or open, for vehicle use. See Map 2-13-D.</p>
<p>2. Use of wheeled game carriers is prohibited in Wilderness Areas.</p>	<p>2. Use of non-motorized, hand-powered wheeled game carriers is prohibited in Wilderness Areas. Non-motorized, hand-powered wheeled game carriers are</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>	<p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>

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	permitted to travel cross-country for the purpose of retrieving downed game on other parts of SDNM.		
3. Prohibit public off-road or cross-country vehicle travel [within the Sand Tank Mountains]. Random off-road travel resulting in the creation of new trails or the widening or extension of existing trails will not be permitted.	<p>3. In areas designated as vehicle use limited to routes, use of motorized or mechanized vehicles off of designated routes is prohibited except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using the vehicle route shoulder or immediate route side is permitted for emergency stopping or to allow a vehicle to pass • vehicles may pull into existing parking areas within 50 feet of the vehicle route to park, unless otherwise specified. See also limits of acceptable change decisions in the recreation section • vehicle use within a designated recreation site will be according to the decisions for the specific recreation site. 	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.
4. Cross-country vehicle travel will be permitted only when a specific authorized task requires such use and only in areas where such use would not cause unnecessary or undue resource damage. Random off-road travel that results in the creation of new trails or the widening or extension of existing trails is not permitted. As a general practice, new roads will not be bladed for use in fence construction. Vehicles will travel overland, or fences will be built by hand. During construction of rangeland developments, vehicles will use existing roads and trails wherever possible for access to sites. Where feasible or where no roads exist, vehicles will travel cross-country to avoid the need for road building. Where new roads must be built, roadbeds will be no wider than needed for reliable access; BLM specifications will also be used to reduce erosion and	<p>4. Administrative uses and authorized users may be allowed through prior agreement or permit to travel cross-country on a case-by-case basis when a specific authorized task requires such use and only in areas where such use would not cause unnecessary or undue resource damage. Cross-country travel for one-time or occasional uses will be preferred over the construction of new routes. Cross-country travel and associated restoration actions will be planned prior to the approval of the action. Administrative users include BLM and other agencies with management responsibilities.</p> <p>Law enforcement and emergency services may travel off-route in emergency situations when required. Such actions should be reported to the appropriate official so the area can be</p>	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.

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<p>gullying.</p> <p>Prohibit agency off-road use [within the Sand Tank Mountains] as per BLM and USAF regulations except in designated USAF/USMC activity areas, in emergency or law enforcement situations, and for permitted or authorized resource management tasks where off-road travel will not cause significant or irreplaceable harm to natural resources. All authorized off-road use on the BGR must meet all NEPA and other environmental and resource protection laws. Encourage the use of existing roads whenever possible to retrieve downed aircraft and errant target darts. When requested by the military, assist USAF and USMC planners in route selection and associated recovery efforts in order to provide maximum protection to vegetation, soils, recreation, scenic, visual, wildlife, and cultural resources.</p>	<p>assessed for restoration as needed.</p>		
<p>5. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 5 under No-Action Alternative A</p>	<p>5. Adjustments to route designations, including adding, removing, and redeveloping routes and access, will be considered on a case-by-case basis as needed. Criteria for route designations and adjustments to the route network may include: consideration of SDNM resources, goals, and objectives, resource values and condition, public use demand and future potential, amount and type of use, legal access opportunities, existing rights-of-way, and administrative uses. Specific criteria will be developed as part of implementation planning and designation of the route network.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>
<p>6. No existing RMP decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A but this action could be pursued administratively</p>	<p>6. <i>Administrative Action:</i> Promote establishing additional areas open to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use outside of public lands if regional</p>	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative B Element 6.</p>	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative B Element 6.</p>

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without RMP guidance.	public demand for off-road motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle recreation would support such activities.		
Implementation-Level Decisions			
<i>Designate Routes on Public Lands as Open (i.e., Always Available), Limited (i.e., Available on a Limited Basis), or Closed (i.e., No Longer Available at Any Time) for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Routes on Public Lands as Open (i.e., Always Available), Limited (i.e., Available on a Limited Basis), or Closed (i.e., No Longer Available at Any Time) for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Routes on Public Lands as Open (i.e., Always Available), Limited (i.e., Available on a Limited Basis), or Closed (i.e., No Longer Available at Any Time) for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>	<i>Designate Routes on Public Lands as Open (i.e., Always Available), Limited (i.e., Available on a Limited Basis), or Closed (i.e., No Longer Available at Any Time) for Motorized and/or Non-Motorized Vehicle Use</i>
<p>7. Motorized vehicle use within SDNM is limited to the existing route network as represented in the current BLM inventory.</p>	<p>7. Designate routes within areas designated as limited vehicle use areas as either available for public motorized and non-motorized vehicle use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as open), available for public use on a seasonal or otherwise restricted basis (i.e., designated as limited), or closed to public use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as closed) as shown in Map 2-13-B: Routes Closed: 74 miles Routes Open Seasonally: 84 miles Routes Open: 450 miles</p> <p><i>Criteria for identifying the route system under Action Alternative B include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate the existing routes as open for public motorized and mechanized vehicle use except limit use on or close route segments that provide redundant traffic circulation but no meaningful increase in access, may compromise public safety, conflict directly with specific resource protection objectives, and/or are contributing or may contribute to adverse resource degradation new route segments will be added to the designated route network only when a new segment is needed to (a) maintain legal public access to SDNM, (b) provide access to a non-federal land inholding, (c) provide access to other 	<p>7. Designate routes within areas designated as limited vehicle use areas as either available for public motorized and non-motorized vehicle use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as open), available for public use on a seasonal or otherwise restricted basis (i.e., designated as limited), or closed to public use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as closed) as shown in Map 2-13-C: Routes Closed: 158 miles Routes Open Seasonally: 118 miles Routes Open: 332 miles</p> <p><i>Criteria for identifying the route system under Action Alternative C include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate a route system open for public motorized and non-motorized vehicle use consistent with the resource protection and use objectives for Alternative C. Close routes to motorized vehicle use that provide redundant traffic circulation, may compromise public safety, conflict with resource management and use objectives, and/or are contributing or may contribute to resource degradation new route segments will be added to the designated route network only when a new segment is needed to (a) maintain legal public access to SDNM, (b) provide access to a non-federal land 	<p>7. Designate routes within areas designated as limited vehicle use areas as either available for public motorized and non-motorized vehicle use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as open), available for public use on a seasonal or otherwise restricted basis (i.e., designated as limited), or closed to public use on a full-time basis (i.e., designated as closed) as shown in Map 2-13-D: Routes Closed: 301 miles Routes Open Seasonally: 50 miles Routes Open: 257 miles</p> <p><i>Criteria for identifying the route system under Action Alternative D include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> designate a route system open for public motorized and non-motorized vehicle use consistent with the resource protection and use objectives for Alternative D. Close routes that provide redundant traffic circulation), don't meet a specified use need, may compromise public safety, conflict with resource management and use objectives, may fragment wildlife habitat, and/or are contributing or may contribute to resource degradation new route segments will be added to the designated route network only when a new segment is needed to (a) maintain legal public access to SDNM, (b)

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	<p>locations specified in a valid existing right, (d) to meet resource management objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designate existing short spur routes as open for motorized and non-motorized vehicle use in order to enhance motorized recreational access and camping locations away from the traffic on through routes unless a spur route may compromise public safety, conflicts directly with specific resource protection objectives, and/or is contributing or may contribute to adverse resource degradation • limit motorized vehicle travel in washes to routes designated for such use and routes that incorporate washes as route segments • maintain existing motorized vehicle routes that support existing valid rights-of-way held by public or private parties 	<p>inholding, (c) provide access to other locations specified in a valid existing right, (d) to protect SDNM resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • close routes to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use that are in locations to be managed to protect and/or restore sensitive resources • close routes to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use that are incompatible with the designated recreation setting and other resource or use objectives • designate existing short spur routes to provide motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle access to camping locations and other recreation sites that are away from through traffic routes to the extent that the spur routes are consistent with the protection of the objects of the Monument • limit motorized vehicle travel in washes to routes designated for such use and that incorporate washes as route segments • maintain existing motorized vehicle routes that support existing valid rights-of-way held by public or private parties 	<p>provide access to a non-federal land inholding, (c) provide access to other locations specified in a valid existing right, (d) to protect SDNM resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • close routes not meeting clearly identified land management or permitted needs or where public uses are incompatible with the resource objectives of the area • close routes to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use that are in locations to be managed to protect and/or restore sensitive resources • close routes to motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle use that are incompatible with the designated recreation setting and other resource or use objectives • designate existing short spur routes to provide motorized and/or non-motorized vehicle access to camping locations and other recreation sites that are away from through traffic routes to the extent that the spur routes are consistent with the protection of the objects of the Monument • close washes to motorized vehicle travel except where routes incorporate washes as route segments • maintain existing motorized vehicle routes that support existing valid rights-of-way held by public or private parties
<p>8. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>8. Mechanized non-motorized vehicle access and travel may occur (a) on routes designated as open or limited unless otherwise specified or (b) on designated routes limited to mechanized travel activities. Pedestrian and equestrian access may occur (a) on routes designated as open or limited to motorized or mechanized</p>	<p>8. Same as Action Alternative B, except that pedestrian and equestrian entry to SDNM from external areas will be limited to access points and designated routes and equestrian users will not be allowed to depart designated routes within 0.5 miles of entering SDNM.</p>	<p>8. Same as Action Alternative C.</p>

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	<p>travel unless otherwise specified, (b) on trails specified for non-motorized, non-mechanized use only and (c) cross-country, consistent with recreation management zones. Certain areas may be closed to pedestrian or equestrian cross-country travel if needed to protect SDNM resources. See also limits of acceptable change decisions in the recreation section.</p> <p>All travel in designated wildernesses would continue to be restricted to non-motorized and non-mechanized means in accordance with the wilderness management plans.</p>		
<i>Establish, Maintain, and Enhance Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i>	<i>Establish, Maintain, and Enhance Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i>	<i>Establish, Maintain, and Enhance Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i>	<i>Establish, Maintain, and Enhance Legal Motorized and Non-Motorized Access to Public Lands</i>
9. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 9 under No-Action Alternative A.	9. Develop legal public access to SDNM for motorized and non-motorized travel where it is necessary to maintain existing physical access, enter/exit public lands from or to public highways that traverse public lands, or cross highways, railroads, or other right-of-way barriers that traverse public lands, consistent with the designated route system, protection of SDNM resources, management objectives, and public safety.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.	9. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 9.
10. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action under No-Action Alternative A.	10. <i>Administrative Action</i> : Support development and implementation of regional or municipal transportation plans that protect or provide appropriate legal access to SDNM and protect SDNM resources and management objectives.	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.	10. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 10.
<i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i>	<i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i>	<i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i>	<i>Manage the Ongoing Conditions, Use, and Status of the Designated Public Lands Access and Route Network</i>
11. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for	11. Development of alternative access points and/or routes , outside of	11. Development of alternative access points and/or routes , outside of	11. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 11.

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<p>Element 11 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>designated closed areas, will be considered, consistent with meeting resource protection and use objectives, for public safety or resource protection and management purposes, or to compensate for the loss of system components, but a net increase in the overall SDNM route system will be avoided.</p>	<p>designated closed areas, will be considered, consistent with meeting resource protection and use objectives, for public safety or resource protection and management purposes, but a net increase in the overall SDNM route system will be avoided.</p>	
<p>12. No existing implementation decisions specifically address the action for Element 12 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>12. Designated routes will be maintained when necessary to preserve passable and safe driving conditions consistent with the identified maintenance level of the routes.</p>	<p>12: Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.</p>	<p>12. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 12.</p>
<p>13. Install appropriate fencing, signing, and gates at principal entry points [in Sand Tank Mountains] to improve public access management, address public safety concerns, and eliminate off-road vehicle use at entrance points.</p> <p>Identify and post, where appropriate, roads and trails [in Sand Tank Mountains] open and closed to public use, using procedures compatible with existing USFWS and BLM signing standards. Install appropriate fencing, signing, and gates at principal BGR entry points to improve public access management, address public safety concerns, and eliminate off-road vehicle use at entrance points. Prepare and provide public visitor use materials, maps, and information clearly communicating road and vehicle use rules to all users [of the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels], including the closure of the [Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels] to off-road travel and prohibition of all-terrain vehicles that are not street legal. Adopt USAF General Vehicle Operating Rules [for the Sentinel Plain and Ajo Airport parcels].</p>	<p>13. <i>Administrative Action:</i> As part of the Transportation and Travel plan and implementation, develop fencing, signing, gates, and other methods to improve public access management, address public safety concerns, and eliminate use of vehicles off of designated routes.</p>	<p>13. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 13.</p>	<p>13. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 13.</p>

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<p>These rules include: (a) all vehicles and operators must be licensed for highway driving under State of Arizona laws and regulations; (b) vehicles may not be operated in a reckless, careless, or negligent manner; and (c) vehicles may not be operated in a manner likely to cause damage to natural or cultural resources.</p>			
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PRELIMINARY DRAFT MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Lands and Realty

TABLE 2-14. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT			
LANDS AND REALTY			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for lands and realty are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1 (Land Tenure): Retain all public lands or interests in public lands (surface and subsurface estate) within SDNM other than exchanging land or interest in land to further the protective purposes of the Monument.</p> <p>Goal 2 (Land Tenure): Consolidate public lands within SDNM by acquiring all surface and subsurface in-holdings.</p> <p>Goal 3 (Land Use): Place a high priority on the protection purposes of the SDNM when considering applications for land use authorizations and rights-of-way</p> <p>Goal 4 (Utility Corridors): Manage utility corridors within SDNM to support industry demand and community growth consistent with resource goals.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for lands and realty are presented in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1 (Land Tenure): Acquire non-federal lands and subsurface estate, preferentially in fee-simple but use other methods (e.g., easements) as necessary. Lands will be acquired as they become available, with a particular focus on lands at risk of development.</p> <p>Objective 2 (Land Tenure): Consider land tenure (ownership) adjustment requests on a case-by-case basis and approve only when it is determined that the potential adjustment would further the purposes of the Monument.</p> <p>Objective 3 (Land Tenure): Acquire mineral estate when acquiring surface estate, to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>Objective 4 (Land Tenure): Acquire mineral estate underlying BLM managed surface estate/ownership.</p> <p>Objective 5 (Land Tenure): Secure easements where land or interests in land (surface or subsurface estate) are not acquired.</p> <p>Objective 6 (Land Uses): Evaluate each permit and right-of-way application for its need and purpose and its potential effects on resources.</p> <p>Objective 7 (Utility Corridors): Evaluate the potential effects of right-of-way applications, which would be limited to designated corridors, on resources.</p> <p>Objective 8 (Utility Corridors and Land Uses): Require proposed rights-of-way and land uses to comply with visual and aesthetic requirements, reclamation and restoration requirements, and other management decisions in the RMP.</p> <p>Objective 9 (Utility Corridors): If corridors are designated, authorize construction of utilities in locations that utilize designated corridors efficiently. For example, place parallel transmission lines and/or pipelines as close together as possible, while accounting for safety requirements/standards.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
Realty (Land Tenure)	Realty (Land Tenure)	Realty (Land Tenure)	Realty (Land Tenure)
<p>1. Acquire approximately 112,160 acres of state and private mineral estate underlying federal surface estate and dispose of approximately 23,645 acres of federal minerals that underlie state or privately owned surface estates (see Map 2-14-A). The mineral estate to be acquired is shown in the Decision</p>	<p>1. All public lands within SDNM will be retained unless a proposed adjustment will further the purposes of the SDNM (see Map 2-14-B).</p> <p>2. Acquire all inholdings (surface and subsurface) within SDNM.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p> <p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>	<p>1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.</p> <p>2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.</p>

PRELIMINARY DRAFT MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

<p>Source EIS Appendix 9; mineral estate to be disposed of is shown in the Decision Source EIS Appendix 10; and Decision Source EIS Appendix 7 lists surface and minerals to be acquired for wilderness (LGS).</p> <p>In accord with the Proclamation, all federal lands have been appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, including but not limited to withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument. All lands in SDNM will be retained. The Proclamation goes on to state that no one is to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this Monument or locate or settle upon any of the lands.</p> <p><i>Corridors and Utility Rights-of-Way</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Corridors and Utility Rights-of-Way</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Corridors and Utility Rights-of-Way</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Corridors and Utility Rights-of-Way</i></p>
<p>3. Designate 10 corridors within the Lower Gila South planning area each one-mile-wide (see Map 2-14-A). The following 3 corridors occur partially within SDNM:</p> <p><u>Santa Rosa – Gila Bend</u>: The proposed Santa Rosa to Gila Bend utility right-of-way as described in BLM Serial Number AZA 10834 right-of-way application (March 17, 1978) constitutes the centerline of the Santa Rosa-Gila Bend corridor. The south boundary of the corridor is reduced in width by the surveyed South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness boundary generally located in T. 5 S., R. 2 W.</p> <p><u>Tucson Electric Power</u>: Where the Tucson Electric Power right of way</p>	<p>3. Designate 1 corridor in the SDNM (see Map 2-14-B). In the corridor, all compatible utility uses (including transportation, pipelines, and electrical transmission lines) will be allowed unless otherwise specified:</p> <p>Santa Rosa – Gila Bend – One mile wide, centered on Maricopa Road and Route 238, except the south boundary of the corridor is reduced in width by the surveyed South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness boundary generally located in T. 5 S., R. 2 W.</p>	<p>3. Designate 1 corridor in the SDNM (see Map 2-14-C). In the corridor, only transportation and underground utility uses and ancillary above ground facilities will be allowed when the uses are compatible:</p> <p>Santa Rosa – Gila Bend – One mile wide, centered on Maricopa Road and Route 238, except the south boundary of the corridor is reduced in width by the surveyed South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness boundary generally located in T. 5 S., R. 2 W.</p>	<p>3. No utility corridors are designated within the SDNM.</p>

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<p>crosses public land, including lands along the Maricopa-Pinal County line and in T. 7 S., R. 3 E., near the Table Top Wilderness, it constitutes the centerline of the corridor. The west boundary of the Tucson Electric Power corridor is reduced in width by the surveyed Table Top Wilderness boundary generally located in T. 7 S., R. 3 E.</p> <p><u>Interstate 8:</u> The north boundary of the Interstate 8 corridor is reduced in width by the surveyed South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness boundary generally located in T. 7 S., R. 1 W.; T. 6 S., R. 1 W.; and T. 6 S., R. 2 W.</p>			
<p>4. No existing decisions specifically address Element 4 for the No-Action Alternative.</p>	<p>4. Utility Transmission Rights-of-Way, including distribution power lines, pipelines, and fiber optic/cable lines are limited to designated corridors and excluded from all other areas of the SDNM.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>	<p>4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.</p>
<p>5. No existing decisions specifically address Element 5 for the No-Action Alternative.</p>	<p>5. Approve requests to develop small utility distribution systems to serve private inholdings within SDNM on a case-by-case basis when no reasonable alternative is available that would avoid construction within the SDNM and use the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use most resource protective route and construction methods, • minimize resource disturbance to the maximum extent practicable, • meet restoration goals and objectives for rehabilitation. 	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>	<p>5. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 5.</p>
<p><i>Communication Sites</i></p>	<p><i>Communication Sites</i></p>	<p><i>Communication Sites</i></p>	<p><i>Communication Sites</i></p>
<p>6. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 6 under No-Action Alternative A.</p>	<p>6. No communication sites are designated. Communication facilities will be considered within the Santa Rosa – Gila Bend Corridor on a case-by-case basis. Communication facilities are excluded elsewhere. Restrict placement of communication facilities to locations</p>	<p>6. No communication sites are designated. Prohibit development of new communication facilities within SDNM.</p>	<p>6. Same as Action Alternative C, Element 6.</p>

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	that will not conflict with bighorn sheep management and wildlife movement.		
<i>Other Land Use Authorizations</i>	<i>Other Land Use Authorizations</i>	<i>Other Land Use Authorizations</i>	<i>Other Land Use Authorizations</i>
7. Land use authorizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis where monument resources can be protected.	7. Consider requests for land use authorizations within SDNM on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long-term dedication of resources on a large area (greater than 1 acre) would not be approved • the requested use cannot be accommodated outside of SDNM • the requested use is compatible with protecting and enhancing SDNM resources An exception to the first two criteria may be granted if the requested use would serve a critical public health and safety function.	7. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 7.	7. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 7.
<i>Renewable Energy</i>	<i>Renewable Energy</i>	<i>Renewable Energy</i>	<i>Renewable Energy</i>
8. No decisions in the existing LUPs address renewable energy, but consistent with the Monument proclamation, do not authorize new renewable energy sites in SDNM but valid existing rights will be respected.	8. Prohibit renewable energy sites.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.	8. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 8.
<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>
9. Respect valid existing rights.	9. Same as No-Action Alternative A for Element 9.	9. Same as No-Action Alternative A for Element 9.	9. Same as No-Action Alternative A for Element 9.
10. Approve activities to maintain existing facilities if SDNM resources can be protected.	10. Same as No-Action Alternative A for Element 10.	10. Same as No-Action Alternative A for Element 10.	10. Same as No-Action Alternative A for Element 10.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Minerals

TABLE 2-15. DESCRIPTION OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT MINERAL RESOURCES			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
No-Action Alternative Goals Goals: No LUP-level goals for minerals are provided in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives) Goal 1: Manage existing valid mineral rights within SDNM in a manner that is protective of Monument resources, to the greatest extent possible.		
No-Action Alternative Objectives Objectives: No LUP-level objectives for minerals are provided in the existing land use plans.	Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives) Objective 1: Recognize the superior right to explore for and mine mineral resources on those split estate lands were the BLM manages the surface and the mineral estate is owned by the state of Arizona. Develop a MOU with the state to establish procedures to protect SDNM resources from the effects of exploration and mining on the monument to the greatest extent possible. Objective 2: Work with the claimant of a mining claim for which validity has been established to develop procedures that will protect SDNM resources from the effects of exploration and mining on the monument to the greatest extent possible. Exploration and development of all mineral resources will be conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Restrictions and stipulations will be applied on a case-by-case basis as needed to protect monument resources and meet Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health. Overall guidance on the management of mineral resources can be found in the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, Sec. 102(a)(12) of FLPMA, <i>National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980</i> and BLM's <i>Mineral Resources Policy of May 29, 1984</i> .		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
1. The current RMP decision specifies that lands are open to mineral entry. However, Presidential Proclamation 7397 closed the SDNM to 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 (see Map 2-15-A).	1. The SDNM and any subsurface estate within the SDNM that is subsequently acquired is closed to all forms of mineral entry. Valid existing rights are respected (see Map 2-15-A).	1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.	1. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 1.
2. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 2 under No-Action Alternative A.	2. Limit mining activity on those lands within SDNM encumbered by mining claims to casual use, as defined in the 43 CFR 3809 regulations, until a determination of valid existing rights is completed. Valid existing rights will be determined through a validity exam. In most cases validity exams will be	2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.	2. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.

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	triggered by the filing of a notice or plan of operations, pursuant to 43 CFR 3809.		
3. No existing decisions specifically address the action for Element 3 under No-Action Alternative A. However this action is implemented through regulatory authority.	3. In accordance with 43 CFR 3809, a plan of operation must be completed for any operations causing surface disturbance greater than casual use in the SDNM.	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.	3. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 3.
4. Develop stipulations on a case-by-case basis.	4. Develop stipulations on a case-by-case basis as needed to protect monument resources and reclaim and restore disturbance caused by mineral exploration, development and extraction consistent with the natural resource restoration decisions.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.	4. Same as Action Alternative B, Element 4.
Implementation-Level Decisions			

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Special Area Designations

TABLE 2-16. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT			
SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATIONS			
Desired Outcomes: Management Goals and Objectives			
<p>No-Action Alternative Goals Goal: No LUP-level goals for special area designations are provided in the existing land use plans. After the LUPs were developed the North Maricopa Mountain, South Maricopa Mountain, and Table Top Mountain Wilderness Areas were Congressionally designated. These areas are managed under the Maricopa Complex Wilderness Management Plan.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Goals (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Goal 1: North Maricopa Mountain, South Maricopa Mountain, and Table Top Mountain Wilderness Areas will continue to be managed under the Maricopa Complex Wilderness Management Plan to comply with the Wilderness Act. Goal 2: Management goals and objectives for other special area designation are described in the action alternatives.</p>		
<p>No-Action Alternative Objectives Objective 1: No LUP-level objectives for special area designations are provided in the existing land use plans.</p>	<p align="center">Action Alternative Objectives (Common to all Action Alternatives)</p> <p>Objective 1: Management goals and objectives for each special area designation are described in the action alternatives.</p>		
Decisions for Management Actions, Allowable Uses, and Use Allocations			
Alternative A (No-Action)	Action Alternative B	Action Alternative C	Action Alternative D
<i>Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail</i>	<i>Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail</i>	<i>Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail</i>	<i>Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail</i>
<p>1. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (NHT) is a special area designation. No specific management prescriptions for the Anza NHT are included in the existing LUPs.</p>	<p>1. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (NHT) will be managed in concert with the Southern Trail Area within the Monument. The following additional prescriptions apply to the Anza NHT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the National Park Service (NPS) management plan and in cooperation with the NPS, to the extent practicable and with a priority in public use and interpretive opportunities. • Promote the Auto Route for the Anza National Historic Trail. • Promote the Anza National Historic Trail through heritage tourism organizations. • Identify and develop cultural sites 	<p>1. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (NHT) will be managed in concert with the Southern Trail Area within the Monument. The following additional prescriptions apply to the Anza NHT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the National Park Service (NPS) management plan and in cooperation with the NPS, to the extent practicable. • Rehabilitate and restore the integrity of areas of vegetation loss in selected areas. • Inventory additional trail segments and associated sites and mark to National trail standards. 	<p>1. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (NHT) will be managed in concert with the Southern Trail Area within the Monument. The following additional prescriptions apply to the Anza NHT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the Anza National Historic Trail consistently with the National Park Service (NPS) management plan and in cooperation with the NPS. • Designate the Anza National Historic Trail non-motorized in the North Maricopa Mountains Butterfield Pass. • Rehabilitate and restore the integrity of areas of vegetation loss in selected areas. • Inventory additional trail segments

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	<p>that are appropriate for public use and interpretation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark selected trail segments to National trail standards. 		and associated sites and mark to National trail standards.
<i>Vekol Valley Grasslands ACEC</i>	<i>Vekol Valley Grasslands ACEC</i>	<i>Vekol Valley Grasslands ACEC</i>	<i>Vekol Valley Grasslands ACEC</i>
<p>2. Vekol Valley grassland is designated as an ACEC (see Map 2-16-A). The purpose is to provide more intensive management and protection for existing and potential resource values. Management plans, which will identify specific resource management practices, will be prepared for each ACEC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining practices that adversely impact unique botanical and animal habitat in Vekol Valley Grasslands ACEC are to be mitigated. • Rangeland trends are to be intensively monitored and livestock grazing is to be adjusted as necessary in order to maintain present grassland conditions in the Vekol Valley Grasslands ACEC. • The Vekol Valley Grasslands ACEC is to be inventoried for the likely presence of rose tumamoc (<i>Tumamoca macedougalii</i>), an endangered plant species • Gully plugs, waterbars, or other erosion control structures are to be installed to prevent excessive erosion on existing roads in the Vekol Valley ACEC. 	<p>2. The Vekol Valley Grasslands ACEC is removed. The monument designation provide adequate protection for the resources of the grassland and most of the concerns have been removed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monument is closed to new mining claims and mitigation to minimize affects of mining on valid claims is monument-wide. • The monument will be closed to livestock grazing in this area when current permits expire • Rose Tumamoc (<i>Tumamoca macedougalii</i>) is no longer listed as an endangered species. • Maintenance of vehicle routes to control erosion and other problems are monument-wide. 	Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.	Same as Action Alternative B, Element 2.
Implementation-Level Decisions			