

## **Arizona Working Landscapes Strategy** 1.20.11

The Bureau of Land Management has a long history of managing working landscapes that support a variety of uses of these public lands. Livestock grazing, mining and rights-of-ways for public utilities have been traditional uses. Changes in western demographics and increased emphasis on recreation and scenic values have changed the public dialogue. The BLM Arizona seeks to effectively manage for multiple uses, welcoming new values as well as honoring traditional uses in an environmentally sustainable manner.

### **Geographic-based Analysis**

Create a system for geographically based research, assessment and development of best management practices related to land use authorizations on public lands.

- In conjunction with other Federal and State agencies, special interest groups and industry, identify critical issues and questions associated with permitted land uses including grazing, mineral extraction, right of way and special recreation use permits.
- In coordination with other agencies, NGOs and Universities establish a series of research ranches within the major eco-systems in the state to serve as a living laboratory for development of practices and processes.
- Identify opportunities within each of the major land use authorization categories for to conduct research, develop and test best management practices

### **Data and Process Integration**

Integrate interagency data and establish GIS capacity for analysis and processing of land use authorizations

- Assess and integrate existing data collections held by federal, State, local agencies, NGOs and Universities
- Assess land use authorization processes across agencies for common issues and opportunity for coordinated action and mitigation.
- Conduct gap analysis for data needs specific to land use authorizations
- Engage academia and NGOs in assessment of GIS data and gap analysis.

### **Collaborative Action**

Engage partner agencies, NGOs and industry in application of best management practices

- Utilize collaborative groups such as the OHV Ambassadors, U of A Cooperative Extension, and Arizona Site Stewards to assist in implementation and monitoring of best management practices.

- Participate in industry gatherings such as the Annual Arizona Cattlegrowers Meeting and the Arizona Rock Products Convention to showcase and encourage use of best management practices
- Engage communities in promoting best management practices through presentations to city governments, and civic organizations

### **Evaluate Effectiveness**

Establish process for periodically assessing the effectiveness of our actions and develop adaptation strategies as needed.

- Engage partners in academia, communities, agencies and industry to assist in development of monitoring protocols for assessing success of best management practices
- Focus research on questions arising from monitoring of projects and practices.