

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



## Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mission

Working with its partners at the local, state, and national levels, the BLM will meet its mission of sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



BLM Arizona administers 12.2 million surface acres of public lands, and another 17.5 million subsurface acres within the state.

BLM Arizona has 9 field offices throughout the state providing on-the-ground field management. BLM balances recreational, commercial, scientific and cultural interests. BLM strives for long-term protection of renewable and nonrenewable resources, including range, timber, minerals, recreation, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, wild horses and burros, and natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.

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### Phoenix District Office

Scott Cooke  
Acting District Manager

### Hassayampa Field Office

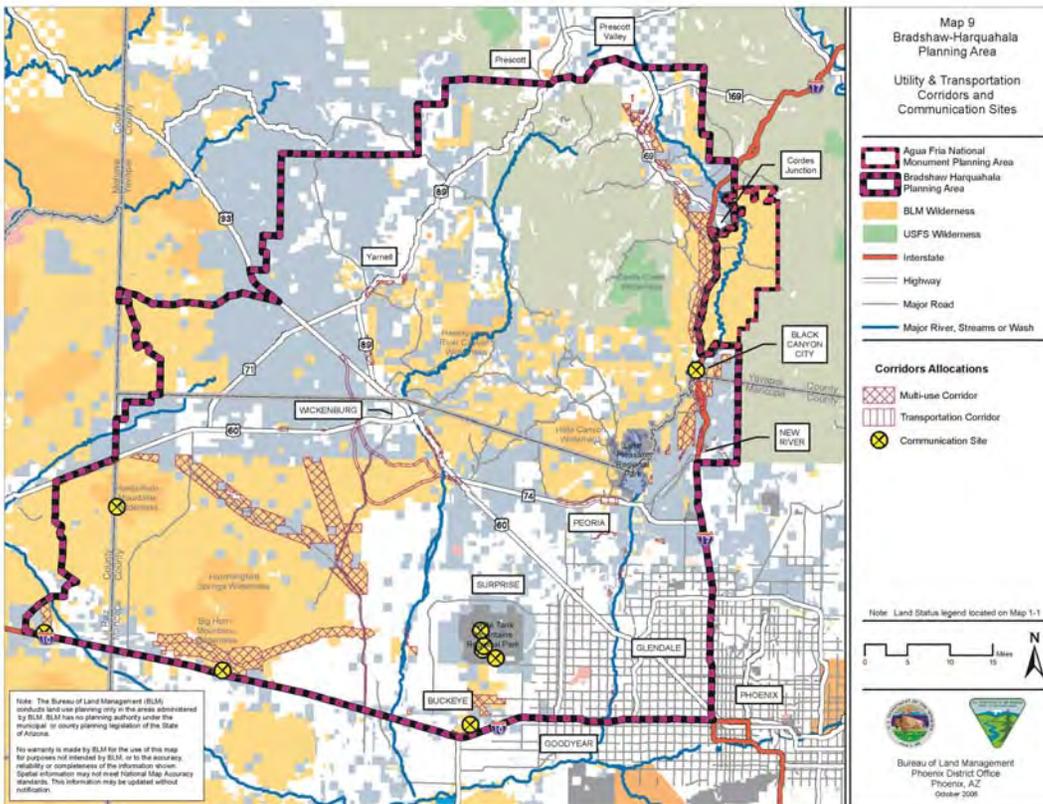
Rem Hawes  
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## BLM Involvement

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



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See Section 2.10 of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

## The BLM Hassayampa Field Office

prepared the Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan (RMP) to provide comprehensive current and future management of the public lands administered by the Hassayampa Field Office. The RMP was approved in April 2010.

- The RMP indicates that all major utilities will be routed through designated utility corridors (see LR-15, page 32 in the RMP).
- The RMP does not allow for a utility corridor on public lands along SR 74.

## Under the Agency Preferred Alternative, the BLM would amend the RMP to:

- Designate a 200-foot-wide single-use utility corridor on public lands managed by the BLM north of SR 74;
- Designate a multiuse utility corridor on 1,013 acres of public lands managed by the BLM south of SR 74 to address potential future BLM management considerations; and
- Change the existing VRM class designations of 2,362 acres north of SR 74 and 1,013 acres south of SR 74 from Class III to Class IV to allow for the newly established utility corridors.

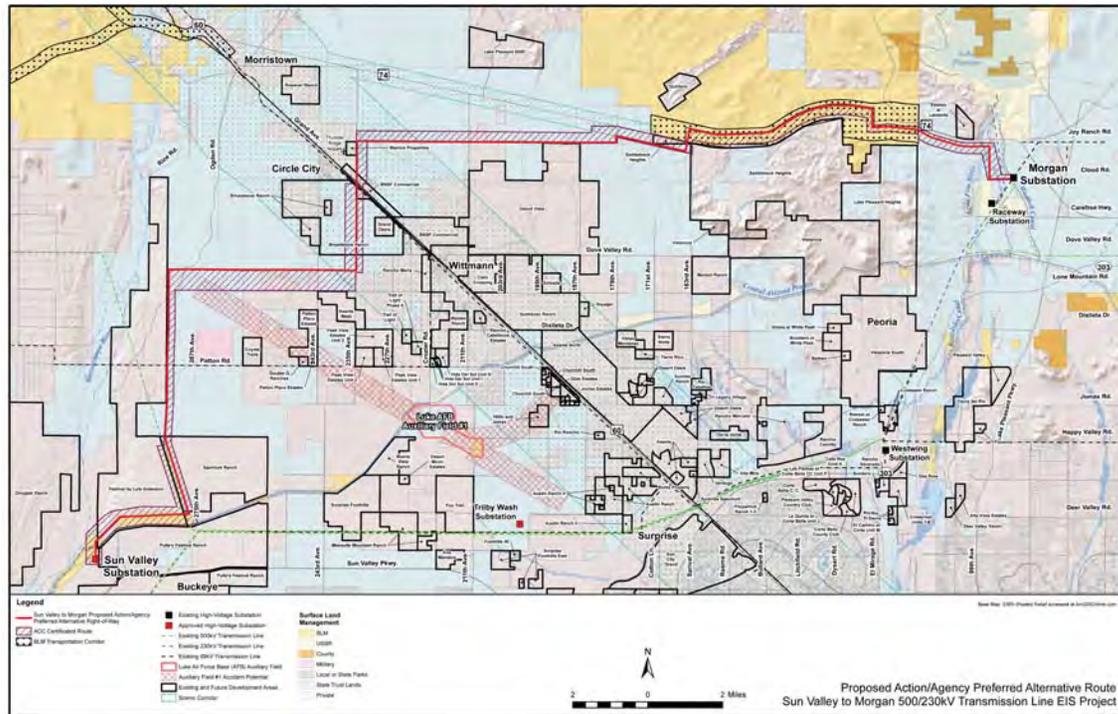
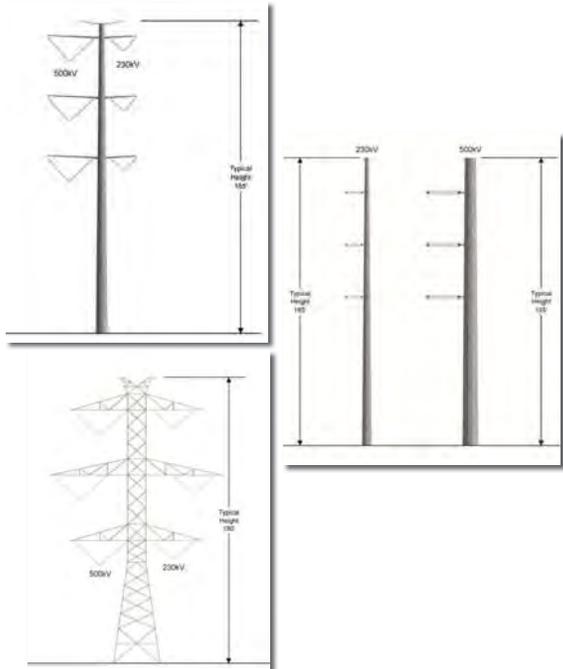
## Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan Amendment

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



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- 38 miles of transmission line connecting the Sun Valley Substation to the Morgan Substation
- 200-foot-wide right-of-way requested
- Single tubular pole structures or lattice structures will contain both 500kV and 230kV transmission lines
- Poles would be 135 to 195 feet tall and placed every 800 to 1,400 feet



## APS Proposed Route

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



## What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS is a document prepared to comply with the requirements of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An EIS is prepared to analyze and disclose the effects of proposed activities on the environment.

### Bureau of Land Management

Lead Agency responsible for managing the NEPA process and drafting the EIS.

### Cooperating Agencies

Responsible for participating in the NEPA process by attending meetings, providing information, reviewing documents, and providing input on decisions to be made.

### BLM's Decision To Be Made

- Determine whether or not to approve an amendment to the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP.
- Determine whether or not to grant a right-of-way (ROW) application for construction.

## What is NEPA?

## BLM's Purpose

Specifically, the BLM's purposes are as follows:

- To implement the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP by providing consistent land-management decisions based on the standards set forth by both authorities.
- To meet public needs for use authorizations such as ROWs, permits, leases, and easements, while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values and locating the uses in conformance with land-use plans.
- To process the ROW application submitted by APS to connect a 500kV/230kV transmission line from the Sun Valley to Morgan Substations in an expeditious manner.

## BLM's Need

The need for the BLM action is established by the BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to respond to a request for a ROW grant while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values and locating the uses in conformance with land-use plans. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act also requires that the BLM "develop, maintain, and when appropriate, revise land-use plans."

*See Section 1.3 of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA*

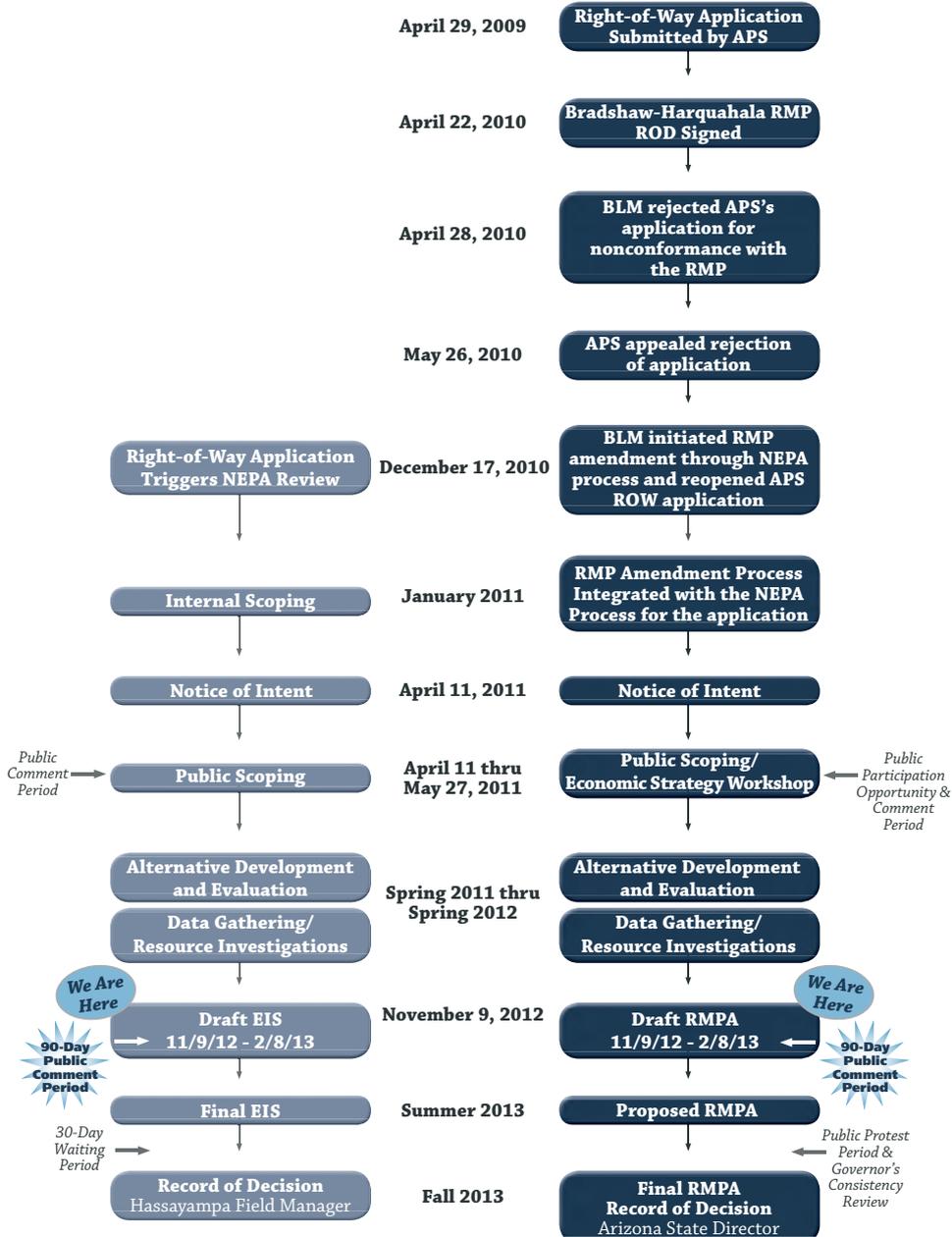
## What is BLM's Purpose and Need?

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



## RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION PROCESS

## RMP AMENDMENT PROCESS



## NEPA Process and Timeline

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



## Issues and Concerns

- Visual Resources Adjacent to SR 74, Recreation, Nearby Dwellings
  - Health and Safety – Homeowners, Aviation, Recreation, EMF
    - Socioeconomic Issues – Property Values and Recreational Impacts



- Recreation – Open Space – Conservation – Wildlife
  - Public Land Access – Commercial and Private
    - Process and Need for Proposed Project

## What We Heard in Scoping

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



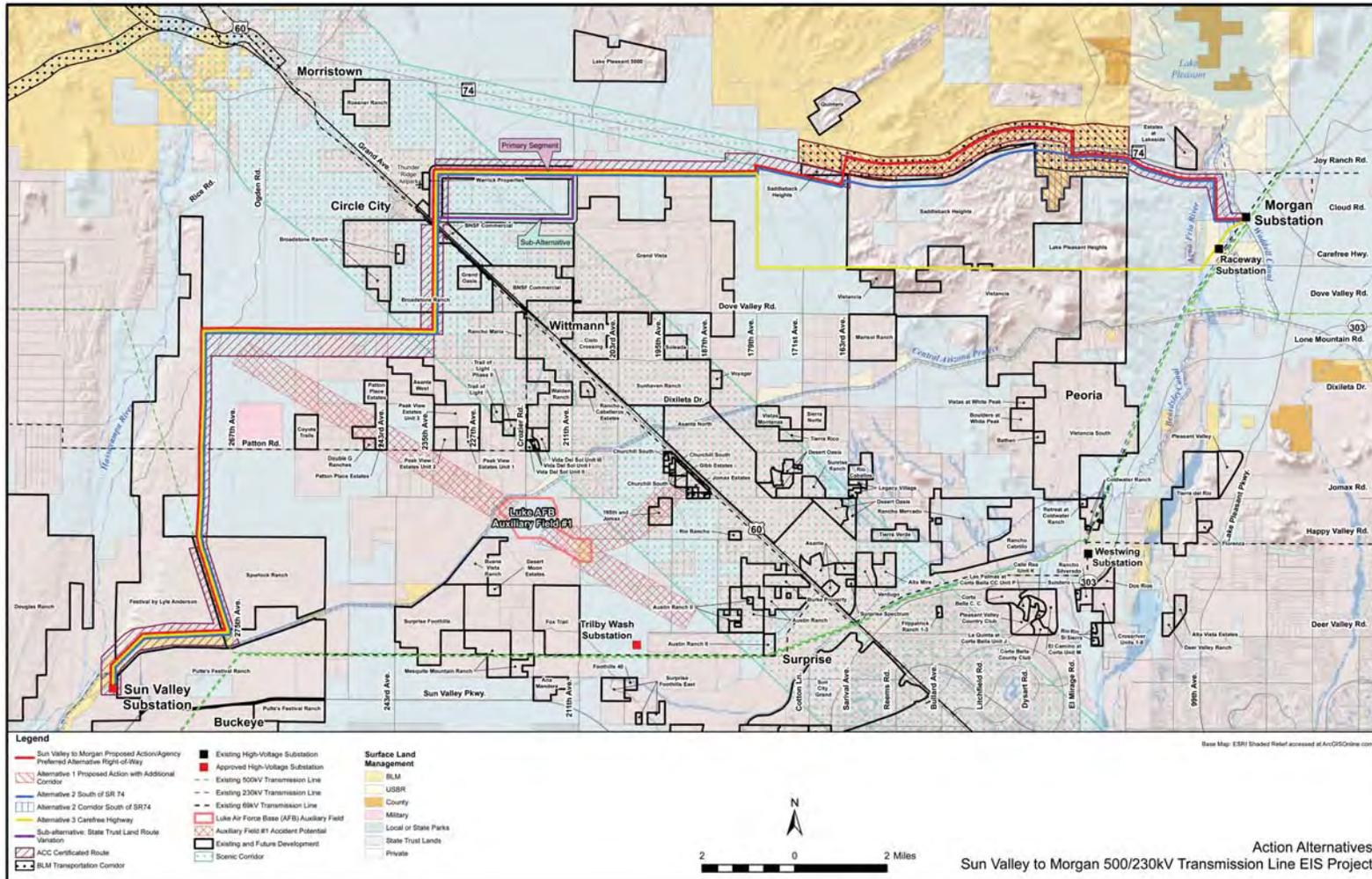
Proposed Action	Alternative 1: Proposed Action with Additional Corridor	Alternative 2: ROW South of SR 74	Alternative 3: Carefree Highway Route	Sub-alternative: State Trust Land Route Variation	No Action Alternative
200-foot-wide ROW and single-use BLM corridor within the ACC-certificated route	200-foot-wide ROW within a BLM multiuse corridor (1/2 mile wide) immediately north of SR 74, includes the entire block of BLM land south of SR 74	200-foot-wide ROW within a BLM multiuse corridor immediately on the south side of SR 74; includes entire block of BLM land south of SR 74	200-foot-wide ROW parallel to Carefree Highway Alignment	200-foot-wide ROW along 4 mile segment paralleling Cloud Road and 211th Avenue	BLM would not approve the ROW grant and the RMP would not be amended
BLM RMP amendment required	BLM RMP amendment required	BLM RMP amendment required	No BLM RMP amendment required	No BLM RMP amendment required	No BLM RMP amendment required
No additional ACC action would be needed by proponent	No additional ACC action would be needed by proponent	Further ACC action would be needed by proponent	Further ACC action would be needed by proponent	Further ACC action would be needed by proponent	Further ACC action would be needed by proponent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the ACC-certificated route</li> <li>Impacts visual and recreational values prescribed in BLM RMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows the ACC-certificated route</li> <li>Allows BLM consideration of additional future utility development</li> <li>Allows for alternate placement of the eastern-most crossing of SR 74</li> <li>Impacts visual and recreational values prescribed in BLM RMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminates two proposed crossings of SR 74</li> <li>Responds to public comments to avoid impacts to BLM lands north of SR 74</li> <li>Allows BLM consideration of additional future utility development</li> <li>Preserves visual and recreational values prescribed in BLM RMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminates need for RMP amendment</li> <li>Reduces amount of potentially impacted BLM lands</li> <li>APS's originally proposed route in their ACC certification process</li> <li>Preserves visual and recreational values prescribed in BLM RMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoids dividing block of State Trust Lands between SR 74 and Cloud Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Action would not be adopted</li> <li>Does not satisfy APS's 10-year plan. The 500/230kV transmission line would still be needed</li> <li>Preserves visual and recreational values prescribed in BLM RMP</li> </ul>

## Project Alternatives

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



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## Project Alternatives Map

See Figure 2.5-1a of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



## This Sub-Alternative

- Was developed in response to a request made to the BLM by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD), the governmental agency responsible for administration of State Trust land along the Proposed Action route.
- Would replace a four-mile section of the Proposed Action route common to all action alternatives.
- Could be combined with any of the action alternatives.
- Would not change the overall acreage of disturbance, as both the Sub-alternative route and the primary segment of the Proposed Action route would cross State Trust lands exclusively.
- Is being analyzed and presented only for environmental analysis purposes as requested by ASLD.
- Does not affect the BLM's decision-making process as it would not require the BLM issuance of a right-of-way or an RMP amendment.



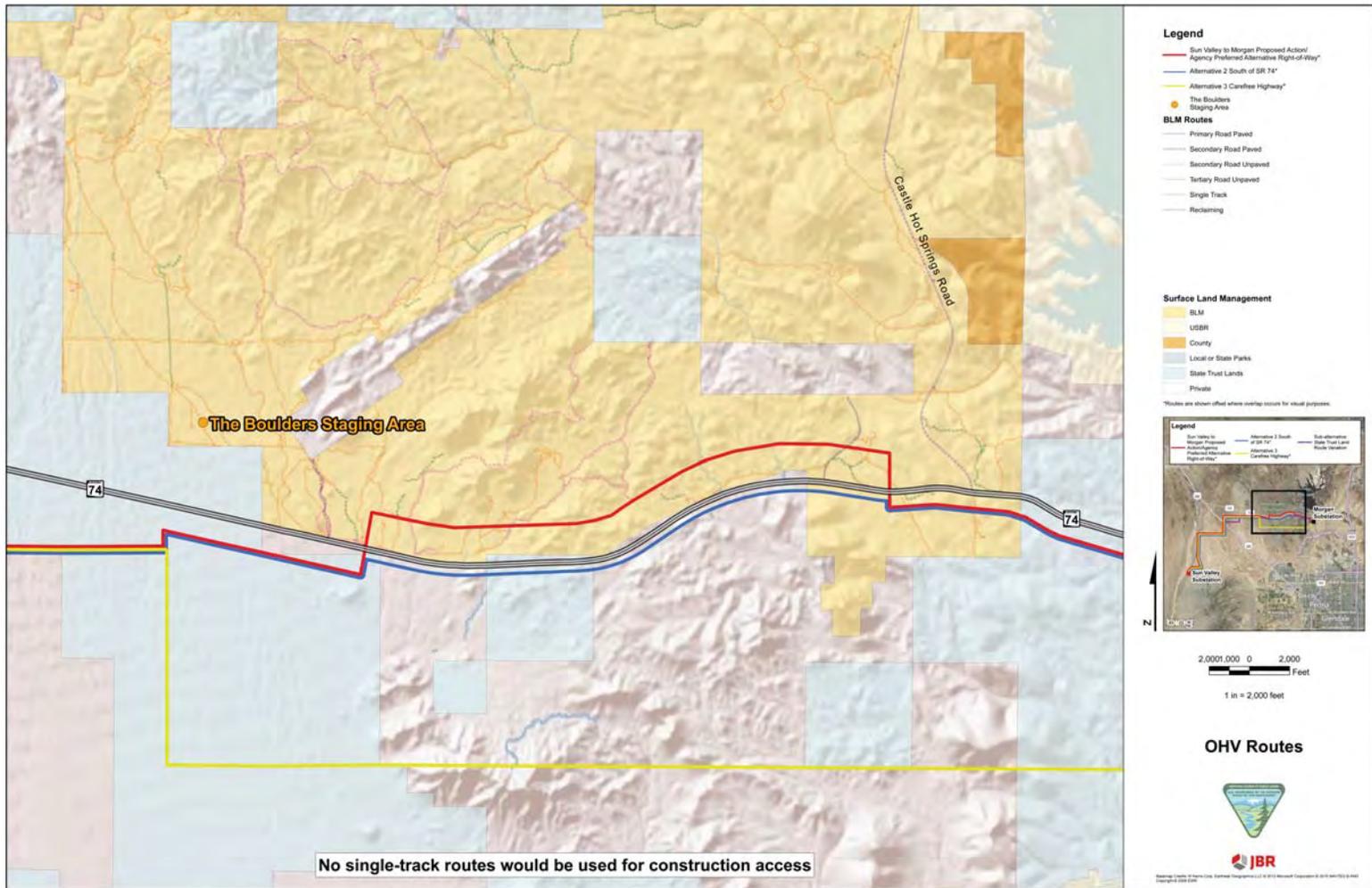
See Section 2.5.4 Figure 2.5-1a of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

## Arizona State Land Sub-Alternative

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



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## OHV Routes and Construction Access

See Section 3.9.4.1 Figure 3.9-3 for OHV Routes and Section 4.12 Figure 1.12-1 for Construction Access of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



	Houses within 200 Feet of the Right-of-Way and Economic Impacts	Impacts to Undeveloped Land Values	Changes in Natural and Recreational Environment Resulting in Economic Effects	Electromagnetic Fields and Health Concerns
<b>Proposed Action/</b> Agency Preferred Alternative	None	Total of 160 Acres within 6 developments potentially reduced by up to 5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts of unknown magnitude</li> <li>• Adverse effects to non-market recreation values, natural amenities including Cat II desert tortoise habitat; and quality of life</li> </ul>	Potential health risks of exposure to electromagnetic fields remains a concern and affects interest in properties near transmission lines
<b>Alternative 1:</b> Proposed Action with Additional Corridor	Same as Proposed Action			
<b>Alternative 2:</b> Right-of-Way South of SR 74	None	Total of 262 acres within 6 developments potentially reduced by up to 5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less BLM land involved than Proposed Action and less intensively used for recreation</li> <li>• Less potential economic and non-market value effects to recreation, natural amenities; and quality of life</li> <li>• Cat II desert tortoise habitat not impacted</li> </ul>	
<b>Alternative 3:</b> Carefree Highway Route	None	Total of 306 acres within 8 developments potentially reduced by up to 5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas heavily used for recreation not impacted</li> <li>• Less potential economic and non-market value effects to recreation, natural amenities, and quality of life</li> <li>• Cat II desert tortoise habitat not impacted</li> </ul>	
<b>Sub-alternative:</b> State Trust Land Route Variation	3 houses Value potentially reduced 2.8 – 29%	Total of 4 acres potentially reduced by up to 5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Trust lands not managed for recreation; no economic effects</li> <li>• Quality of life of existing residences reduced in conjunction with reduced property value</li> </ul>	

☞ See Table 2.8-1 and Section 4.10 of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

## What is the Difference in Socioeconomic Impacts Between Alternatives?

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



	Meet BLM VRM Objectives without an RMP Amendment?	SR 74 – Road KOP	Castle Hot Springs SRMA and Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ	Other Lands	Complies with City of Peoria General Plan?
<b>Proposed Action/ Agency Preferred Alternative</b>	No	Major Impacts	Minor to Moderate Impacts	Minor	Yes
<b>Alternative 1: Proposed Action with Additional Corridor</b>	Same as Proposed Action				
<b>Alternative 2: Right-of-Way South of SR 74</b>	No	Major Impacts	Minor to Moderate Impacts	Moderate	No
<b>Alternative 3: Carefree Highway Route</b>	N/A	Minor Impacts	Minor Impacts	Negligible	No
<b>Sub-alternative: State Trust Land Route Variation</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Moderate	N/A

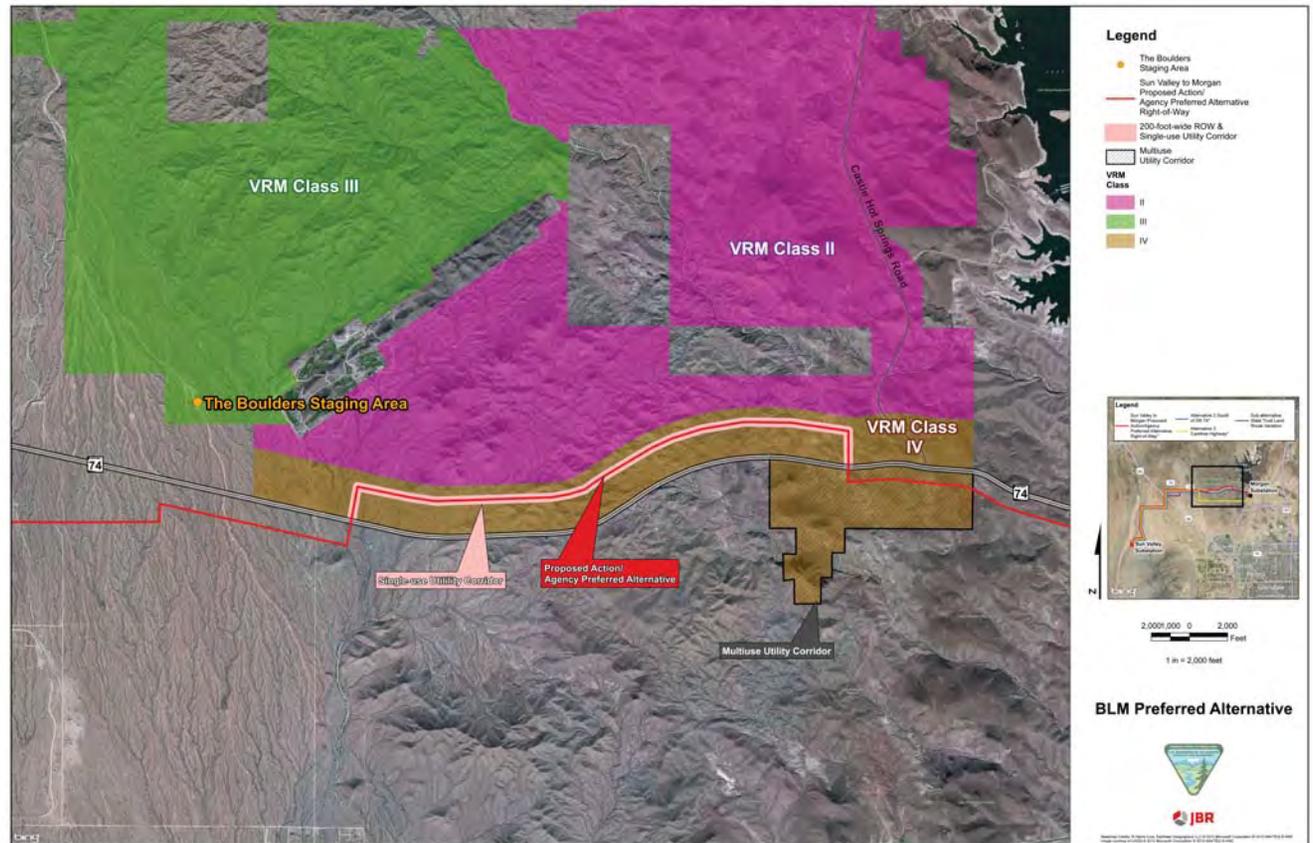
☞ See Table 2.8-1 and Section 4.14 of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

## What is the Difference in Visual Resource Impacts Between Alternatives?

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



- Amend the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP to designate a single-use 200-foot-wide utility corridor on public lands managed by the BLM north of SR 74.
- Amend the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP to designate a multiuse utility corridor on 1,013 acres of public lands managed by the BLM south of SR 74.
- Amend the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP to change the existing VRM Class designations of 2,362 acres north of SR 74 and 1,013 acres south of SR 74 from VRM Class III to VRM Class IV to allow for the newly established utility corridors\*.
- Approve a 200-foot-wide ROW within the existing designated utility corridor northeast of the Sun Valley Substation.



\*See Section 2.10 of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

## BLM Preferred Alternative

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



*The following are highlights of the project-specific proposed mitigation measures.*

## Visual Resources:

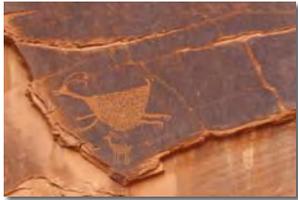
- The transmission line would be designed to minimize visual impacts through micro-siting, and selecting the most suitable structures (lattice or monopole) and finish colors.
- On lands other than BLM, the final decision regarding design and infrastructure type would be between the landowner and APS.



See Figure 4.14-7b of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

## Socioeconomic:

- The Agency Preferred Alternative minimizes socioeconomic impacts to the majority of private land owners.



## Cultural Resources:

- Historic properties would be marked and avoided during construction, spanned where possible, or the right-of-way would be slightly re-routed to avoid properties.
- Scientific data recovery may be implemented to mitigate impacts to historic properties that cannot be avoided.

## Recreation:

- BLM would not approve the use of any single-track OHV routes for construction access.
- BLM would require that all four-wheel OHV access points be gated with associated fencing to a natural barrier to prevent four-wheel OHV access to the centerline access.
- The centerline access route would be monitored for unauthorized recreational use, and should it occur, steps would be taken to prohibit access and mitigate for adverse impacts.

## Vegetation:

- Species protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law would be relocated and transplanted.

## Wildlife:

- Preconstruction surveys would be implemented, ground-clearing/disturbance activities would be monitored, and all personnel working on site would complete a mandatory Environmental Awareness Program.

## Sonoran Desert Tortoise:

- APS would compensate for habitat loss.
- The right-of-way would be surveyed for tortoise prior to ground disturbance.
- Desert tortoise training would be provided to all construction personnel.
- Vehicle speeds would not exceed 20 mph on all access roads in desert tortoise habitat.



## Environmental Justice:

- At least one public meeting on the DEIS would be held easily accessible to the identified environmental justice community (Wittmann).
- Minimize direct impacts to the environmental justice community by crossing public land (state or federal) to the extent possible.

See Pages 2-84 of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

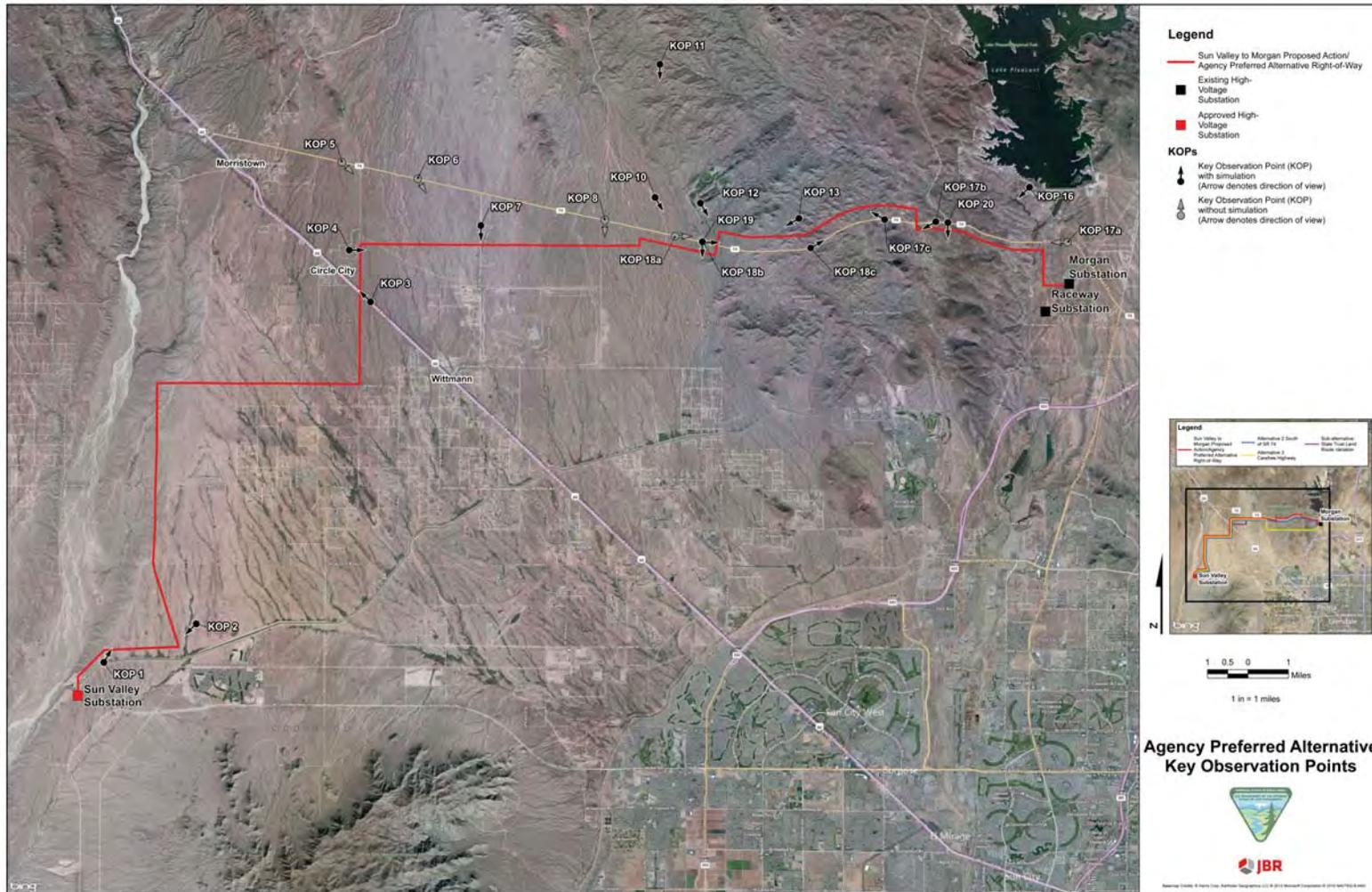
## Mitigation



# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



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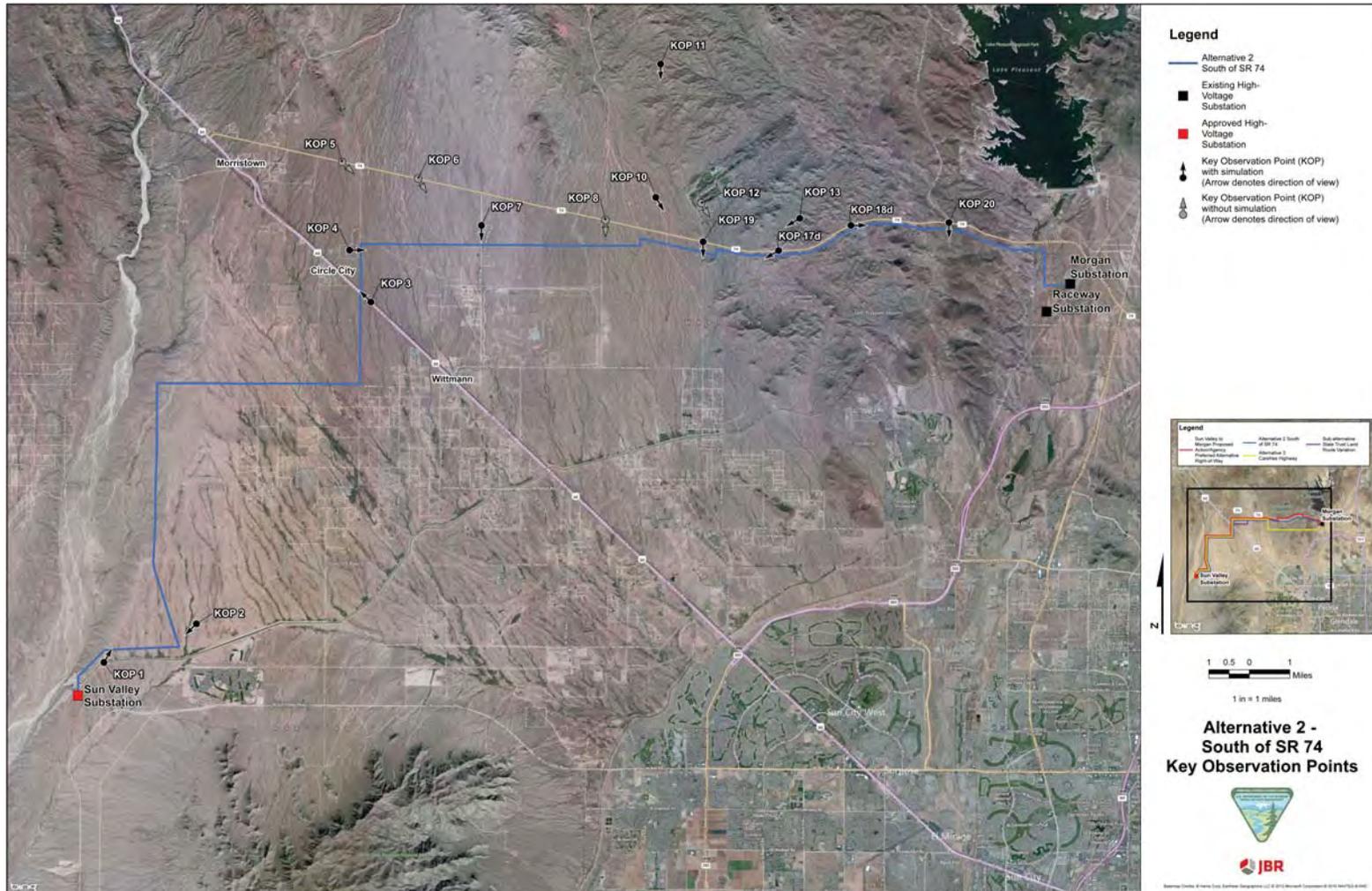
## BLM Preferred Alternative Key Observation Points

See Figure 3.14-4 of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



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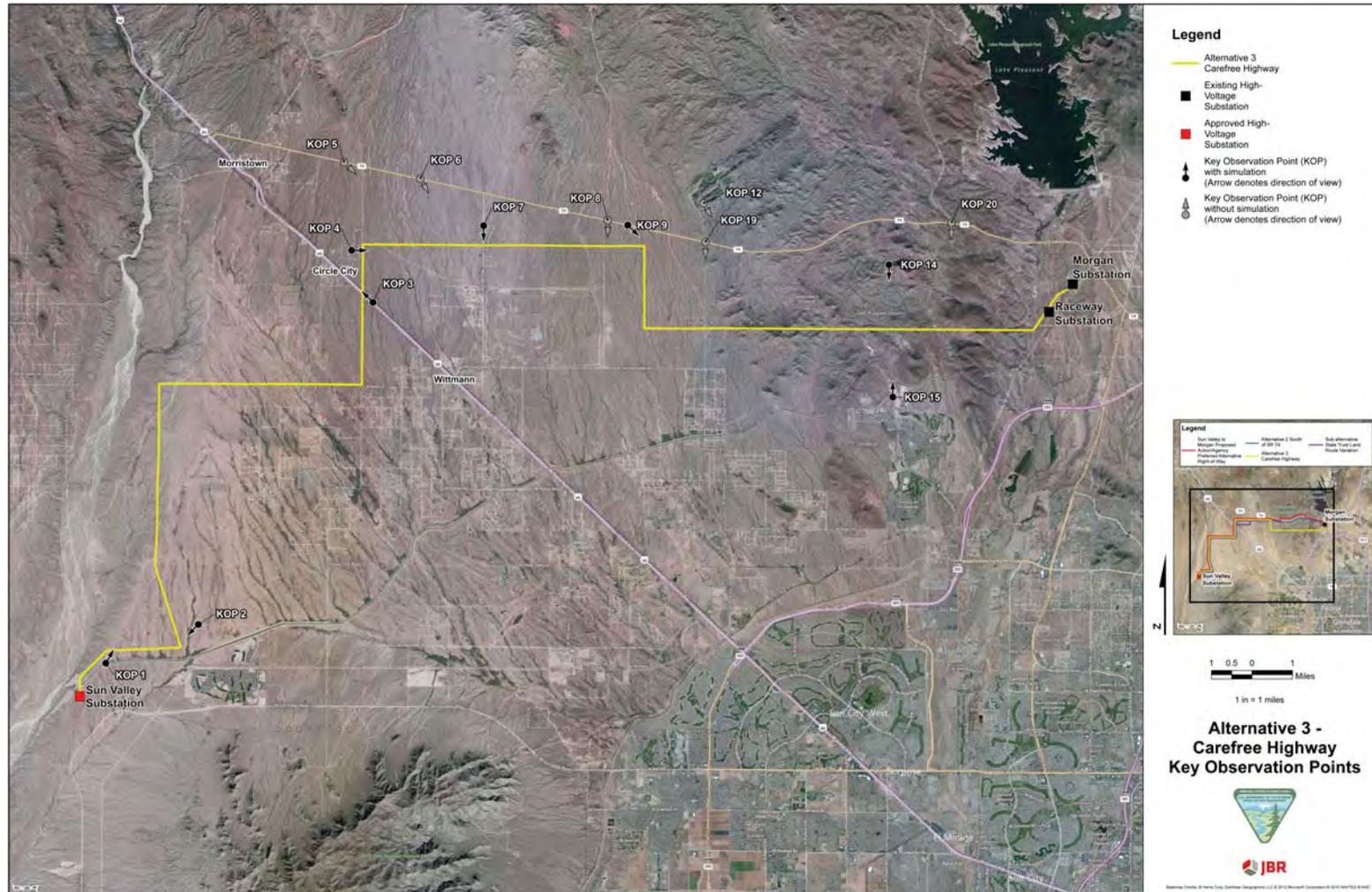
## Alternative 2 Key Observation Points

See Figure 3.14-4 of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



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## Alternative 3 Key Observation Points

See Figure 3.14-4 of the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project Draft EIS and Draft RMPA

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



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# Virtual Tour Station

SR 74 Virtual Tour Station



# **Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project**



**BLM**

# **Welcome**

**Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan  
500/230kV Transmission Line Project  
and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment EIS**

**DEIS Public Hearings**

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



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## Public Hearing / Open House Agenda

**5:30 - 6:00 Sign In & Open House**

**6:00 - 6:10 Welcome & Introductions**

**6:10 - 6:30 BLM Presentation**

**6:30 - 7:45 Participant Comments & Thoughts**

**7:45 Continue Open House**



Hearing Agenda

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project



## Public Hearing Speaker Registration



- The public hearings will include a facilitator and a court reporter.
- The court reporter will be recording oral comments made during the comment portion of the hearing.
- Speakers will be asked to sign up before the hearing begins and a time limit will be set for each speaker based on the number of requests to speak.
- If the allotted speaker time is not sufficient to share your comments, you may submit them in writing this evening or after the hearing.
- The public hearings ensure that your comments are heard and recorded.
- If you are from a group or agency, you may wish to designate a speaker.
- Anyone may also submit written comments to be considered for the Final EIS until **February 8, 2013**.

## Speaker Registration

# Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project

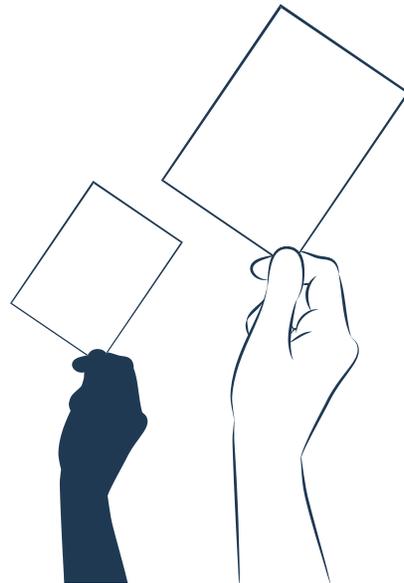


## Comments

### Tips for Providing an Effective Comment:

Effective Comments address one or more of the following:

- the accuracy of information in the EIS;
- the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis;
- new information relevant to the analysis;
- reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EIS; and/or
- changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives.



## Submit Your Comments

### Ways to Provide a Comment

#### At the hearing:

- Give oral comments at the public hearing.
- Fill out a comment form and submit it in the comment box.

#### After the hearing:

**E-mail:** SunValley-Morgan@blm.gov

**Mail:** Sun Valley to Morgan Project  
Attn: Joe Incardine/ Kathleen Depukat  
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Phoenix, Arizona 85027-2929

#### For more information or if you have further questions contact:

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jincardi@blm.gov

#### For Project Updates:

Information Line - 1-800-578-4133

Project Website:

[www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/aps-sunvalley.html](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/energy/aps-sunvalley.html)