

Public Participation & Scoping  
for the  
Proposed Sun Valley to Morgan  
Transmission Line Project  
Arizona Public Service (APS)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  
and Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment

Hassayampa Field Office

April 2011



Proposed Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project

# Meeting Administration

- Rest rooms? Meeting breaks?
- Pagers and cell phones
- You're not glued to your seat!!!
- Critique ideas, not people... show respect for the views of others
- Avoid side conversations
- Listen with an open mind – many different perspectives

# Meeting Administration

- Focus on functional, constructive controversy
- Speak for yourself...own your words
- Thirty second soapbox? 
- Communicate effectively by actively listening
- Enjoy our time together 

# Meeting Objectives

- Provide information on the proposed project and the process
- Provide opportunities for participant comments or questions related to the proposed project
- Identify transmission line alternative routes for consideration
- Explain the next steps for the process and how to provide further comments



# Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Resource Management Plan Amendment Request
- Proposed Project – APS
- Next Steps for the Process – BLM
- Participant Comments and Identification of Transmission Line Route Alternatives – Participants
- Adjourn to Open House



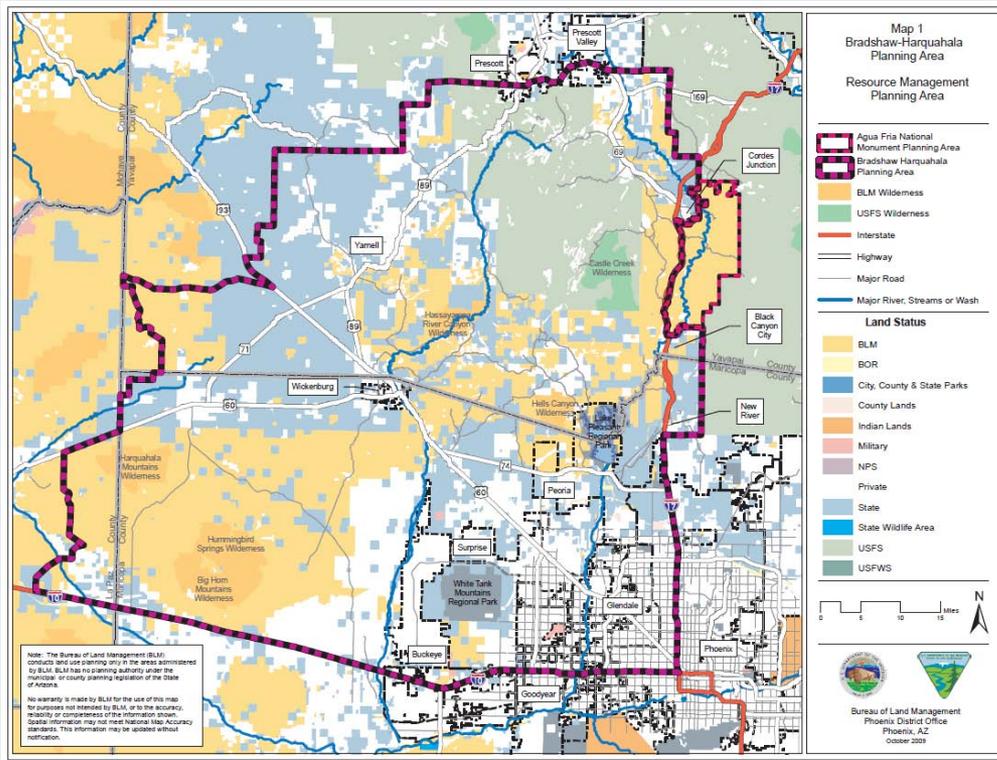
# The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arizona Hassayampa Field Office

**Steven Cohn**  
**Field Manager**

971,490 surface acres

Management Decisions  
Subject to April 2010 Land  
Use Plan:

*“Bradshaw-Harquahala  
Resource Management Plan  
(RMP)”*



# The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mission



To sustain the health, diversity,  
and productivity of the  
public lands for the use and  
enjoyment of present and  
future generations



# Hassayampa Field Office – Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan (RMP)

## Heritage Resources

### Desert Resources

- Species (tortoise)
- Habitat
- Open space
- Wilderness
- Visual



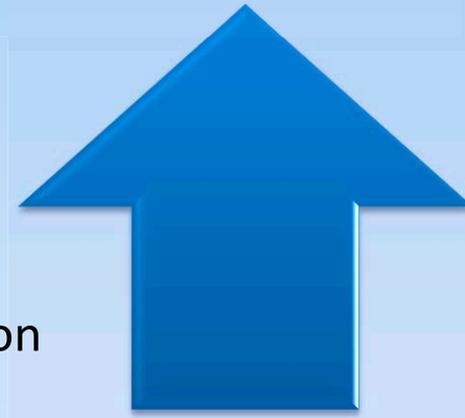
## Recreation

### Grazing

### Energy & Minerals

-Transmission and Production

### Transportation



# Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

## **11 Years - Public Participation**

1999-2002

**30 Presentations**

Partners, Cooperators, Citizens

2002-2006

**10 Public Meetings**

5000+ comments received

2006

**Draft RMP Released**

8 Public Meetings

3731 comments received

2010

**Final RMP Released**



# Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

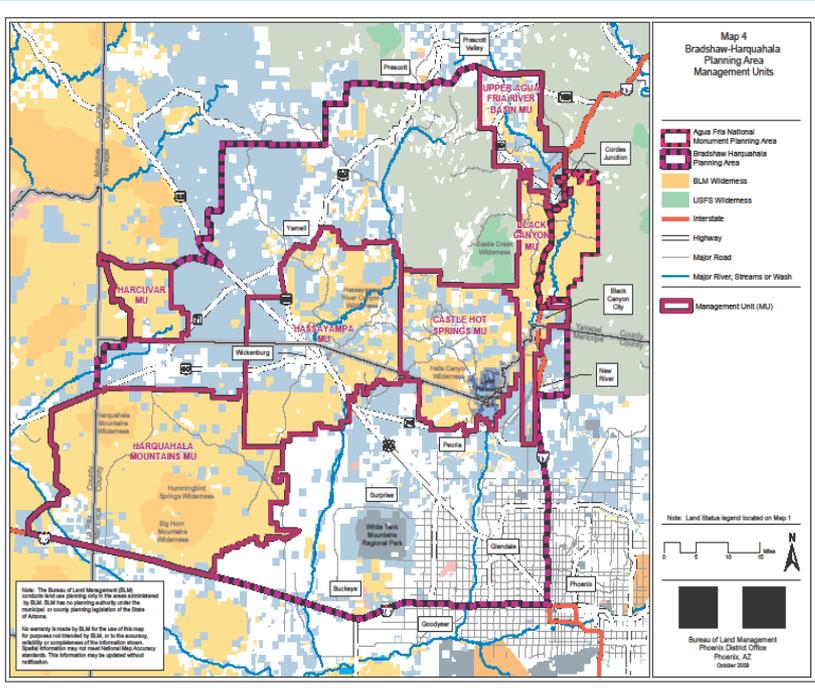
## Who Participated

- Citizens and Organizations
- Arizona Public Service
- City of Peoria
- City of Phoenix
- Yavapai County
- Maricopa County
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona Department of Transportation
- Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
- Indian tribes
- U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Prescott & Tonto National Forests
- Luke Air Force Base



# Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

## Critical Decisions Made

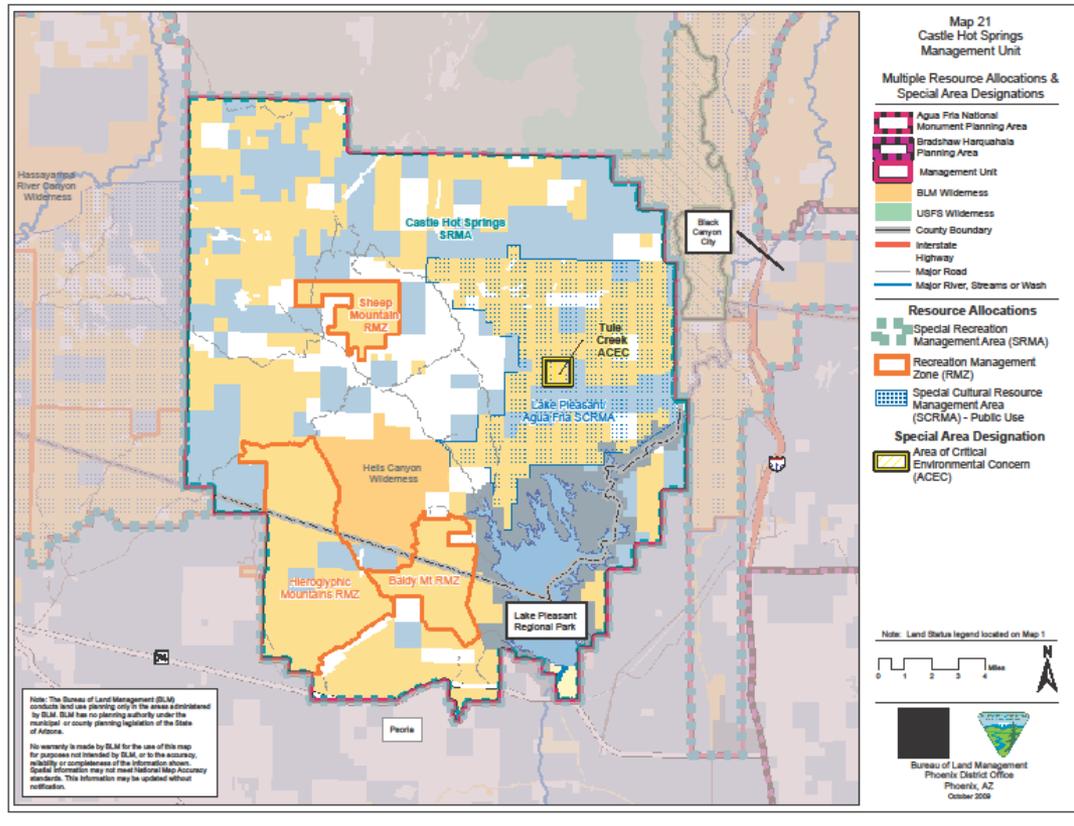


- 6 Management Units
  - Community Vision Statements
- Recreation
- Wildlife (Tortoise)
- Visual Resource Management
- Transportation Corridors
- Utility Corridors

# Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

## Critical Decisions

### Castle Hot Springs Management Unit (112,000 acres)

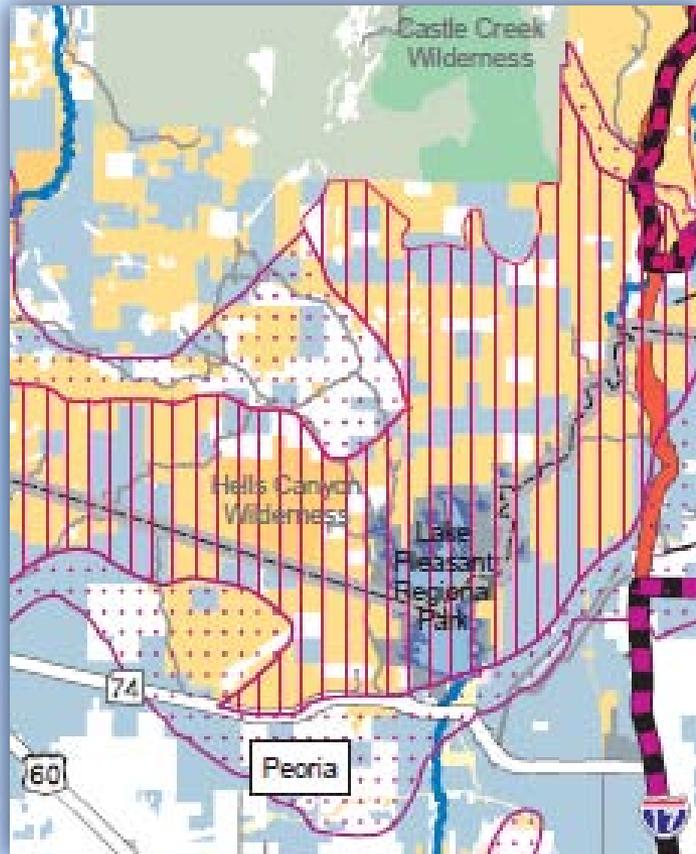


## Recreation

- Unit bounded by State Highway 74 on the south
- **Entire area designated as Special Recreation Management Area**
- **Emphasize preserving open space to retain scenic & visual qualities**
- 3 Recreation Management Zones, Hells Canyon Wilderness, & Lake Pleasant Park

# Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

## Critical Decisions – Wildlife Habitat (Tortoise)



### Tortoise Habitat

-  Category 1
-  Category 2
-  Category 3

**Category 2:** Maintain stable, viable populations and halt further declines in tortoise habitat values

**Category 3:** Limit tortoise habitat and population declines to the extent possible through mitigation

# Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

## Critical Decisions – Visual Resources



### Class II:

**Objective** - retain existing landscape character

**Level of change** - low

**Management actions** - seen, but not attract attention

**Changes** - repeat basic elements of natural features

### Class III:

**Objective** - partially retain existing landscape character

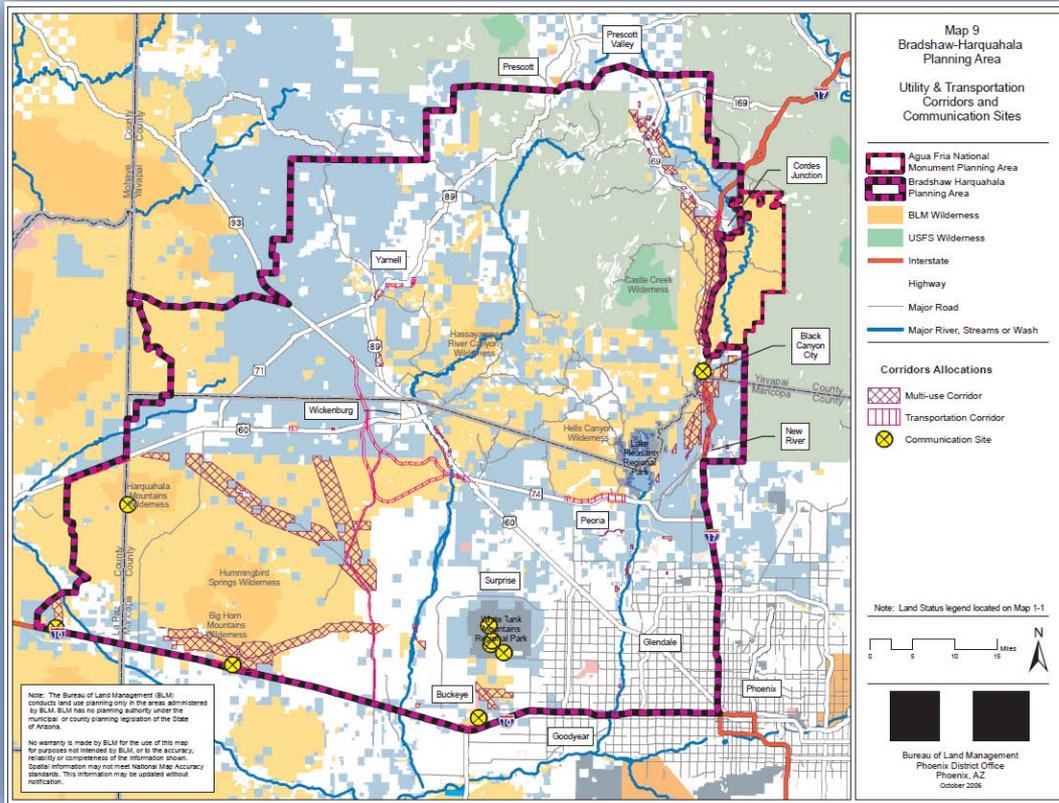
**Level of change** - moderate

**Management actions** - may attract attention, but not dominate the view of the casual observer

**Changes** - repeat basic elements of natural features

# Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

## Critical Decisions – Transportation & Utility Corridors



### Transportation Corridors:

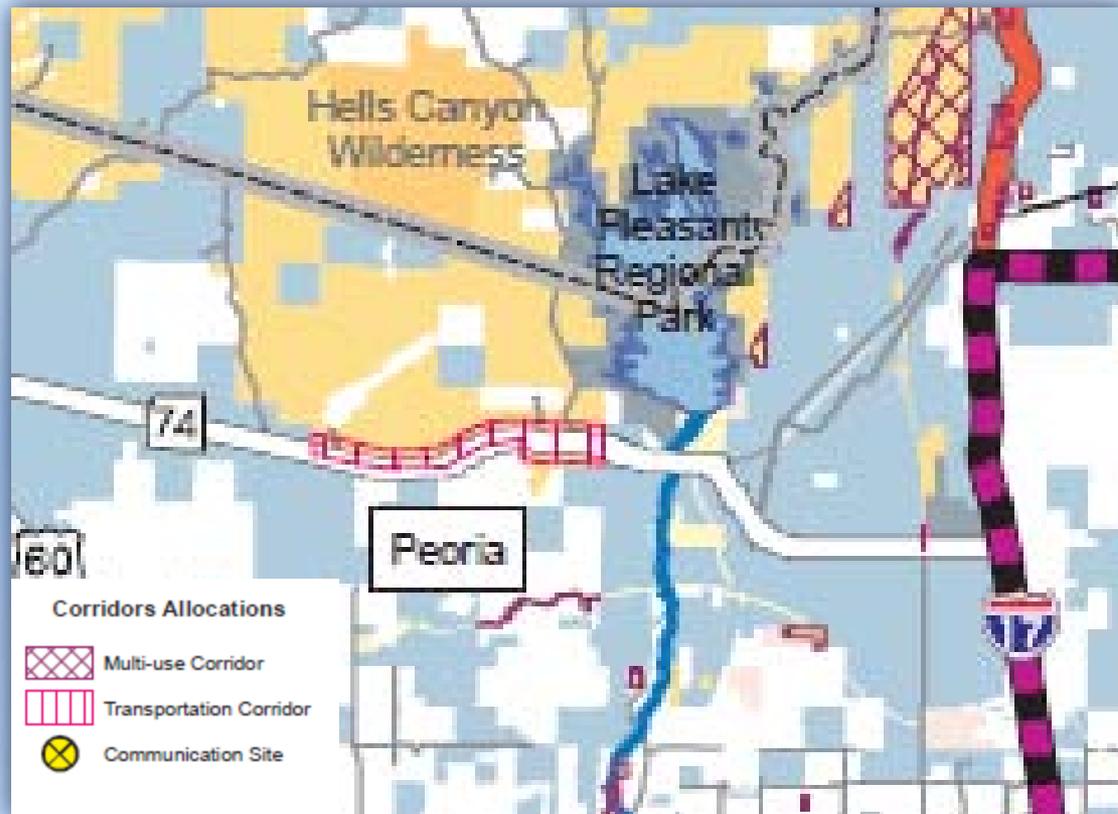
- Accommodate future highway needs
- Exclude non-compatible uses

### Utility Corridors:

- Multi-Use - Transportation + Utility
- Exclude non-compatible uses
- Required for major utilities, including:
  - Transmission > 115kV
  - Pipelines > 10" diameter
  - Significant canals

# Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

## Critical Decisions – Castle Hot Springs Management Unit



- **No new utility corridors** are designated within this Management Unit (north of State Route 74)
  - Closest utility corridor is located near the CAP canal
- **State Route 74 designated a 1-mile wide transportation corridor** (1/2 mile either side of highway centerline)
  - Transportation Corridor designated Visual Resource Management Class III

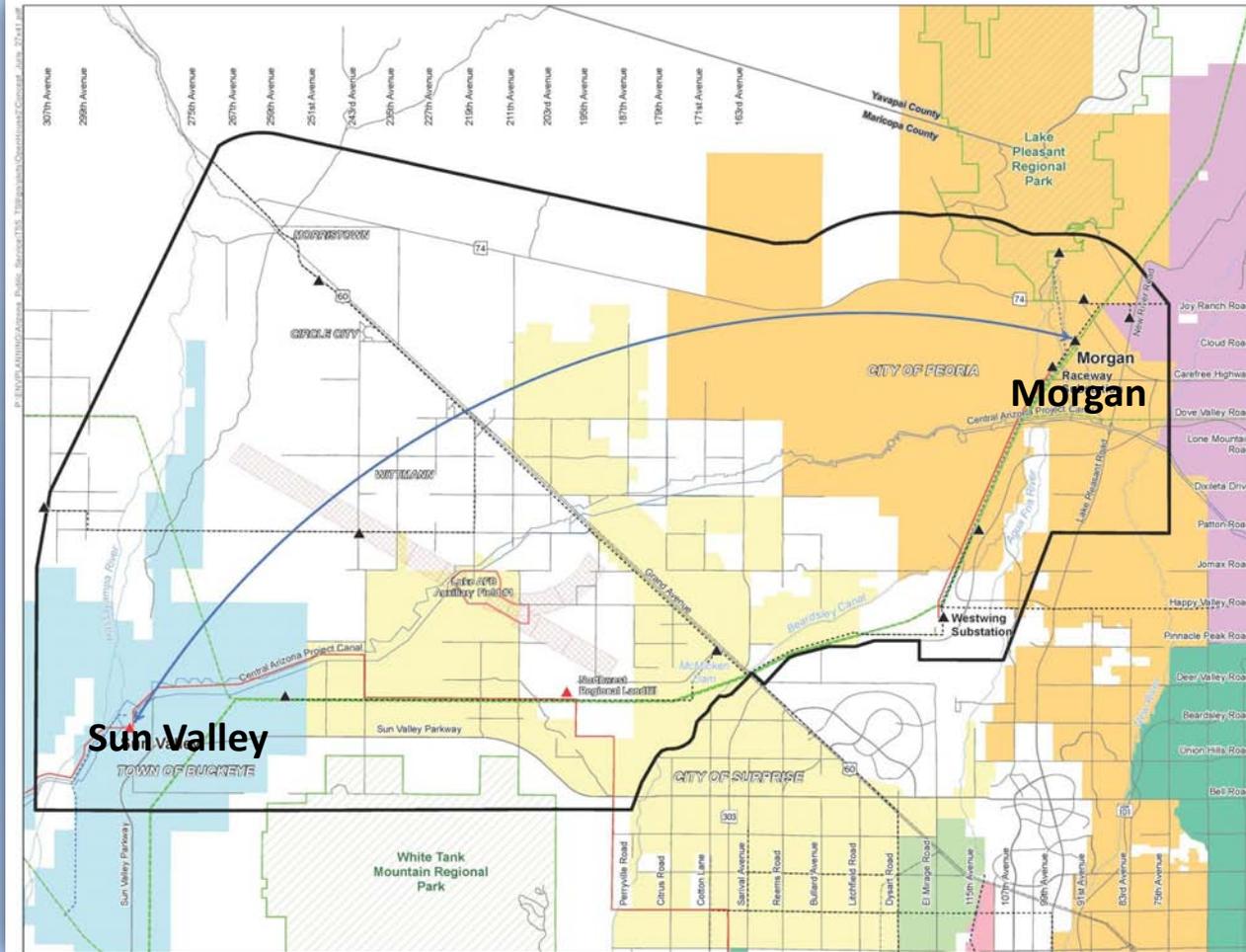
# Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

**Decisions Were Made –  
So Why Are We Here Tonight?**

**Arizona Public Service (APS) Application**

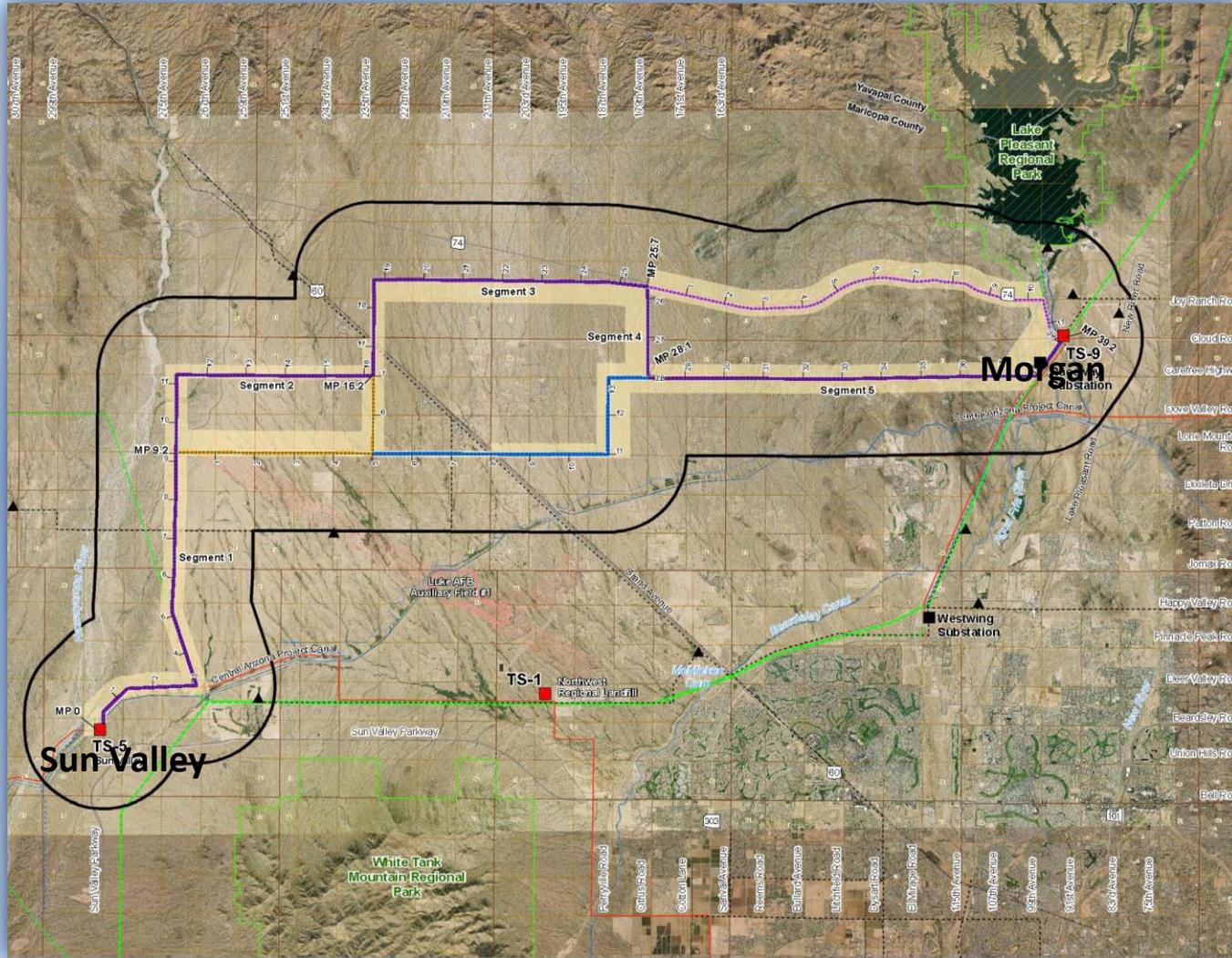


# Arizona Public Service Application



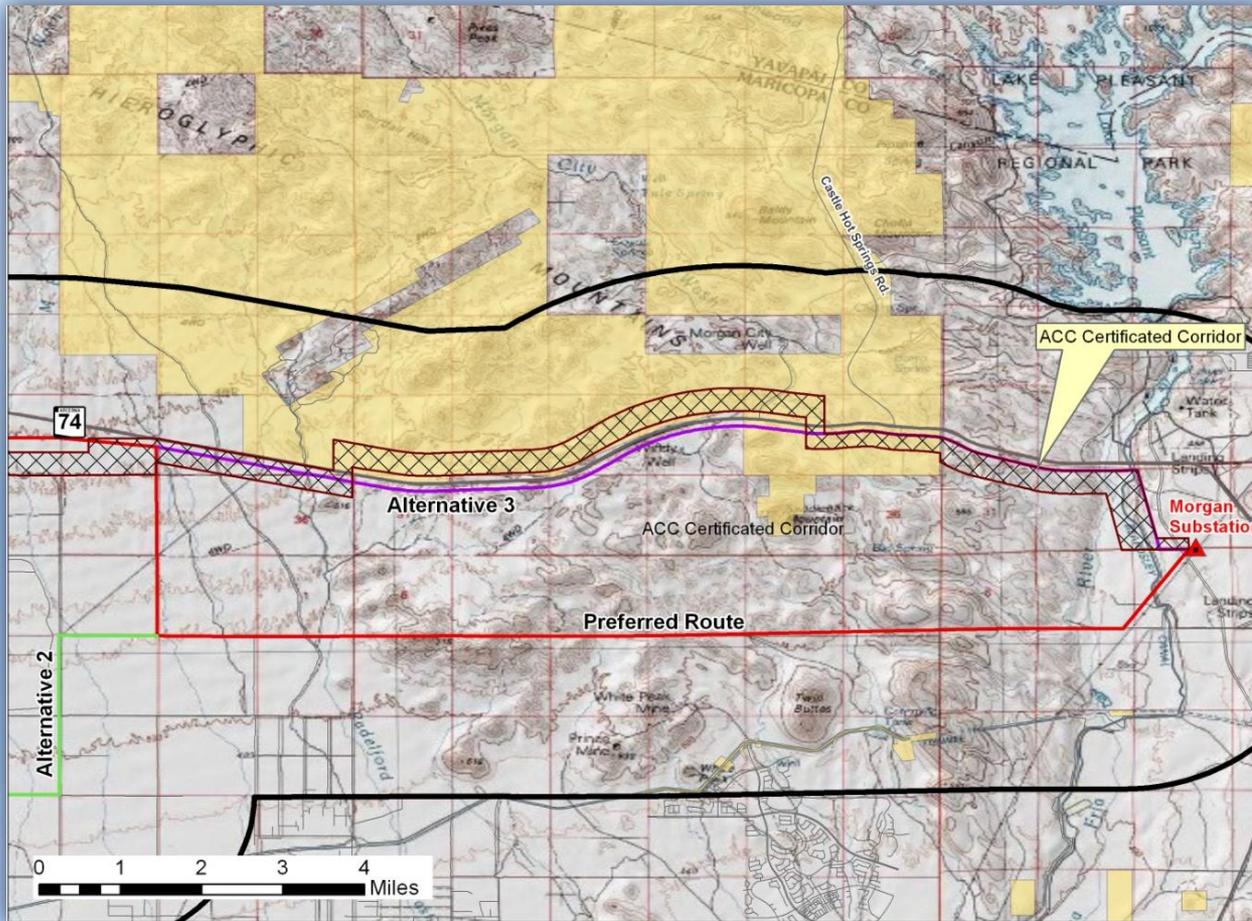
- APS Applied for 500kV to Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC)
- Approximately 38-mile line from Sun Valley to Morgan

# ACC Alternative Routes



- Modified Application for 500kV & 230kV
- APS Identified a Preferred Route

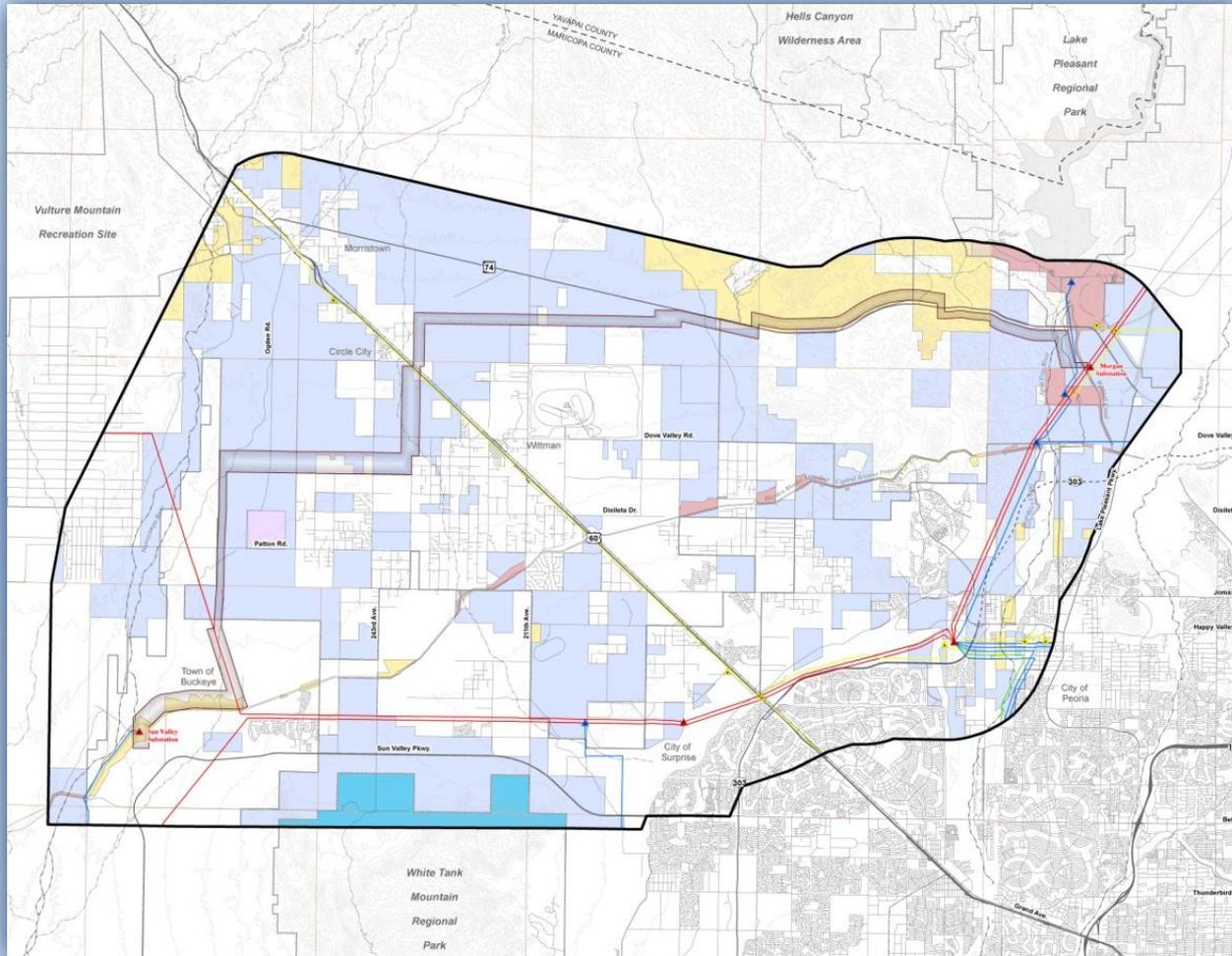
# Arizona Public Service (APS) Application



## ACC Process

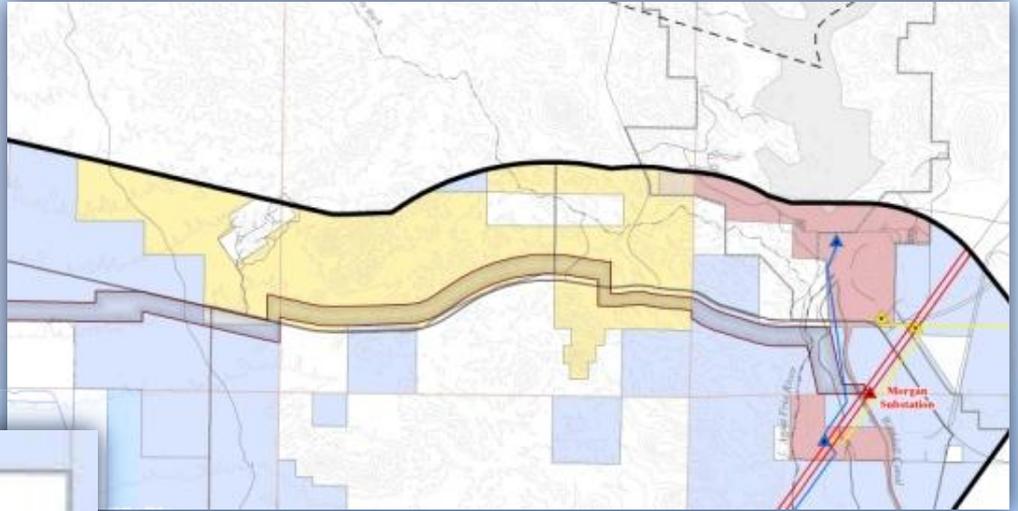
- Line Siting Committee & Public Hearings
- Line Siting Committee Recommends Public and State Land Line
- ACC Certified Corridor on Public Lands Adjacent to SR 74

# Arizona Public Service (APS) Files Application With BLM



1. APS Applied for Utility Right-of-Way
2. BLM Rejected Application – Non-Conformance

# Arizona Public Service (APS) Files Application With BLM



## Crosses BLM Lands in Two Locations

- Buckeye (Sun Valley)
  - Conforms with RMP
- Peoria (Morgan)
  - Does not conform with RMP
  - No Utility Corridor

# BLM Process for APS Application

**APS requests that BLM amend land use plan (RMP)  
to consider adding Utility Corridor along SR 74**



# Hassayampa Field Office - Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan (RMP)

## APS Presentation



# **Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project (Formerly Called TS-5 to TS-9)**

Richard Stuhan  
Senior Siting Consultant



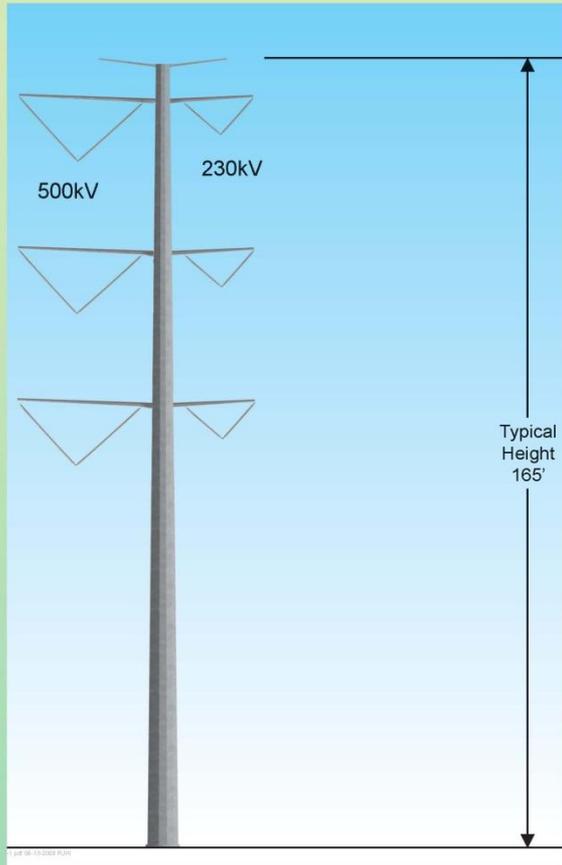
# Rationale for the Project

- Increases reliability
- Helps relieve transmission congestion
- Increases ability to move electricity
- Included in the APS Renewable Transmission Action Plan
- Provides for future growth
- Co-location of the 230kV line with 500kV line on same structures provides a savings of approximately \$100 million
- Co-location reduces environmental impacts while eliminating future 230kV line siting efforts
- APS transmission system requires a mid-2016 in service date for the 500kV circuit

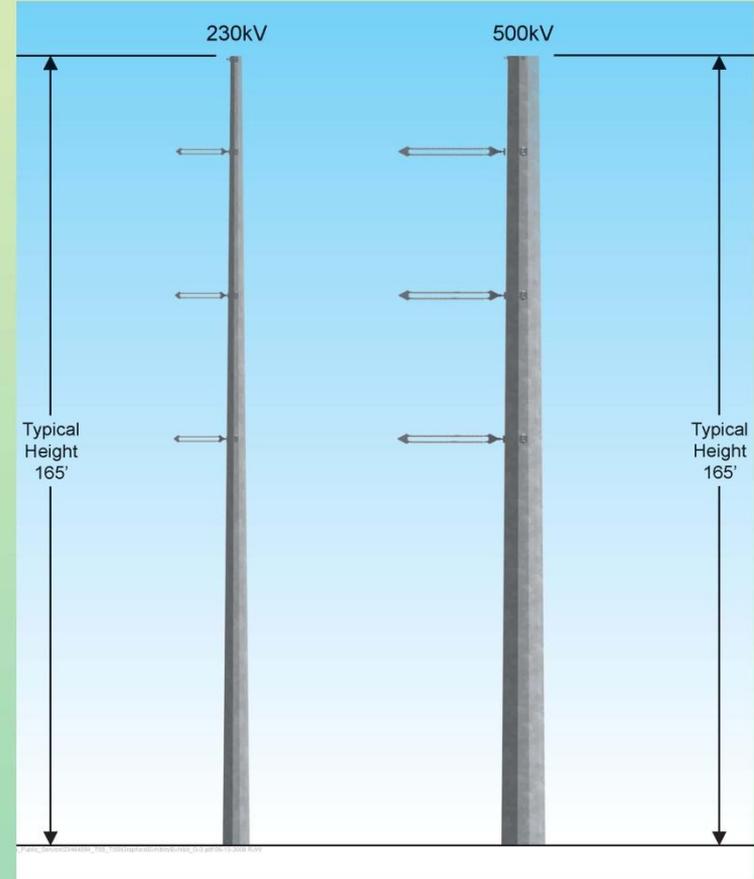
# Project Description

- Approximately 40 miles in length
- Single circuit 500kV and 230kV overhead transmission line
- Tubular steel mono-pole or steel lattice between 135 to 195 feet in height
- Typical span between structures of 800 to 1,400 feet
- Right-of-way of 200 feet wide

# Representative Structures



Typical 500kV/230kV Tangent Pole (Galvanized)



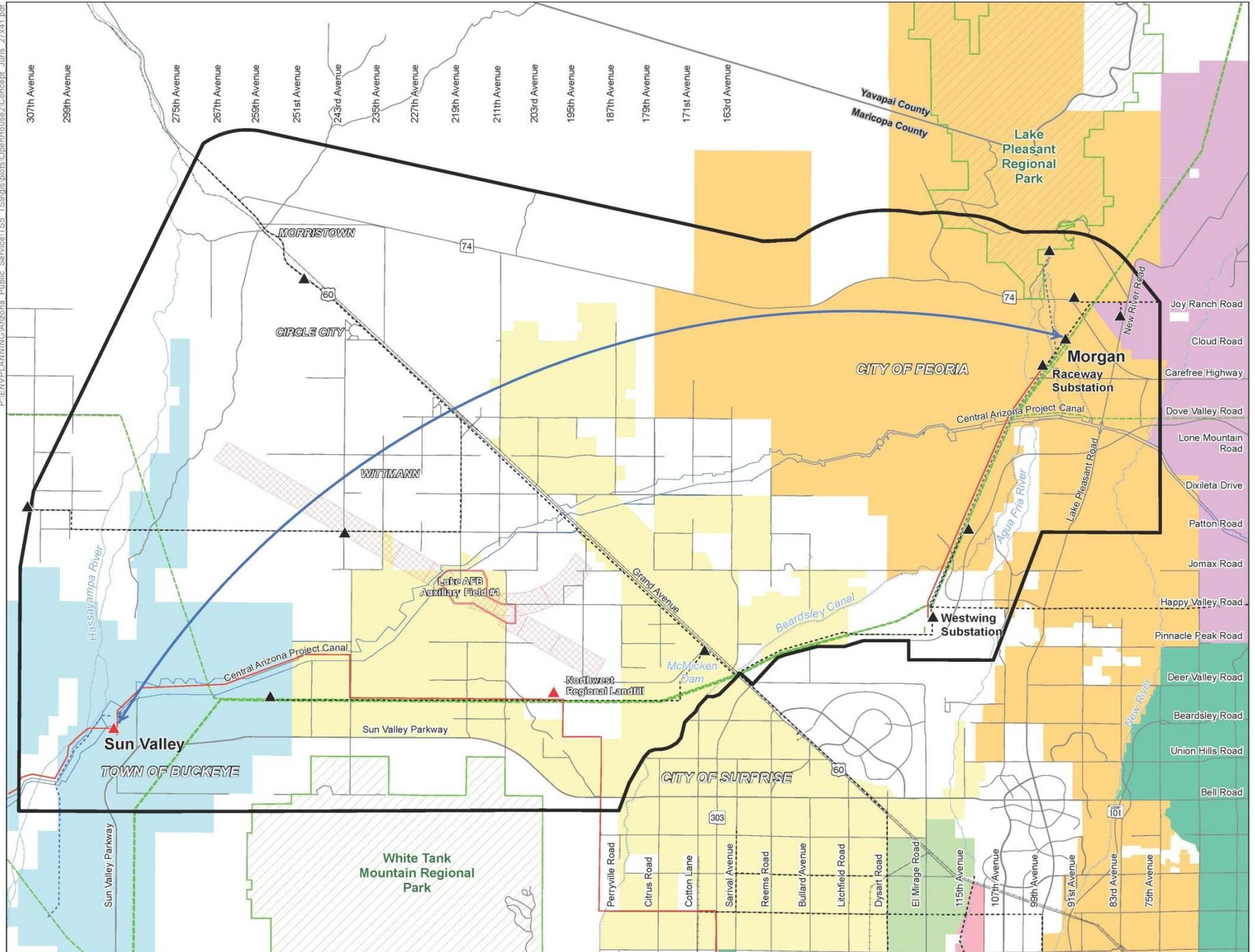
Typical 230kV and 500kV Line Angle Poles (Galvanized)

# APS Project Milestones

- In 2003, the 500kV circuit was first identified in APS' Ten Year Plan. The 230kV circuit was identified in the 2008 plan.
- In 2007-2008, APS conducted studies and extensive public involvement.
- APS filed an application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) in July 2008.
- The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) approved a corridor in March 2009 which traversed BLM lands.
- APS filed an application for a right-of-way with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on April 29, 2009.

# APS Project Milestones

- In April 2010, the BLM rejected the APS right-of-way application based on nonconformance with the Bradshaw-Harquahala plan that was finalized in April 2010.
- **In May 2010, APS appealed BLM's rejection of the right-of-way application.**
- APS and other stakeholders participated in discussions with BLM between October and December 2010.
- In December 2010, BLM agreed to process the right-of-way application and associated plan amendment.
- Notice of Intent published on April 11, 2011.



# Siting Study

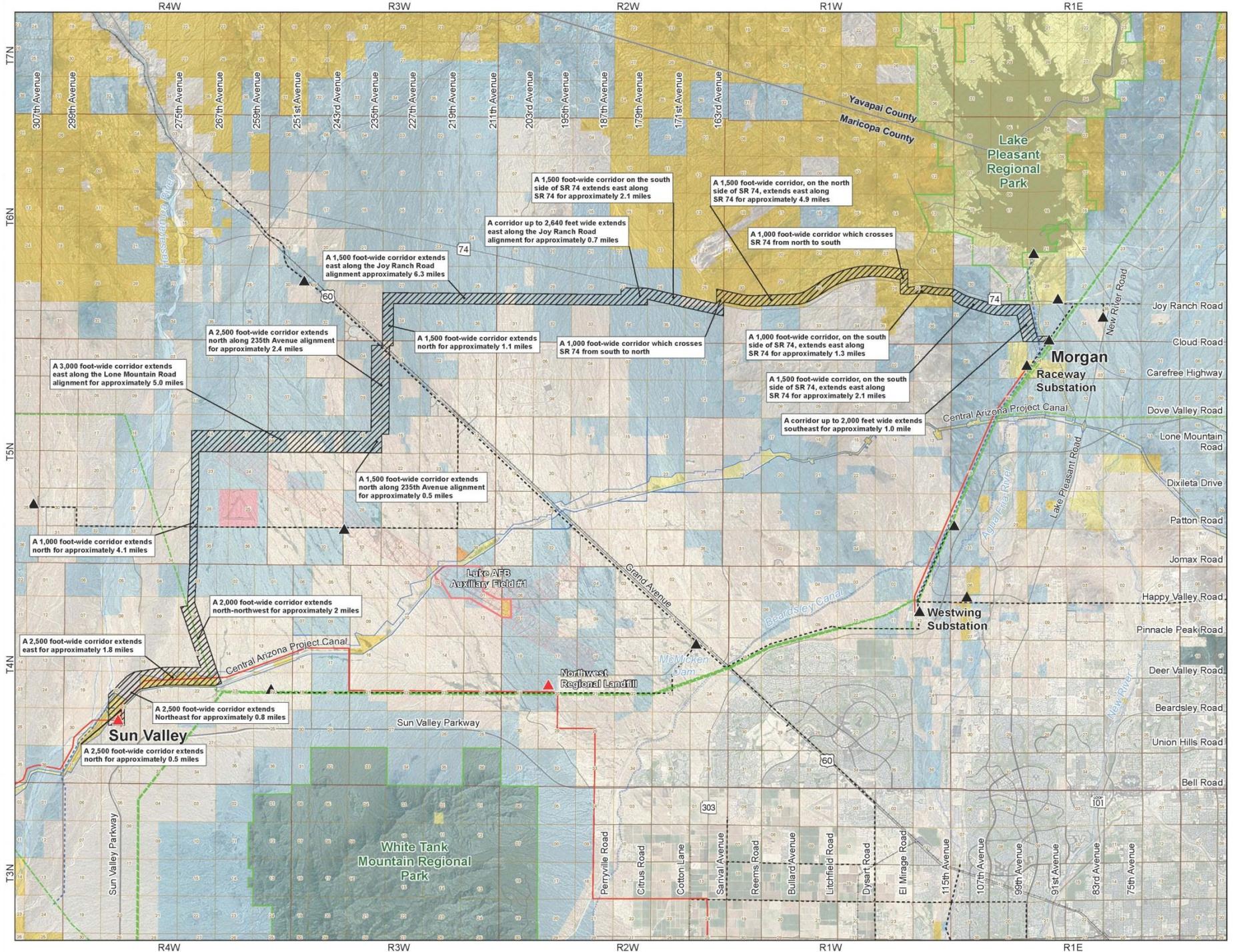
- Study area of approximately 400 square miles identified
- Study area includes four municipal jurisdictions along with unincorporated areas of Maricopa County
- Study area includes lands managed by several federal and state agencies, and private land owners
- Almost 300 miles of alternative connections were identified for evaluation
- One preferred route and three alternatives were selected and included in the CEC application

# Public Involvement

- Four newsletters sent to approximately 37,000 residences or land owners
- Agency and stakeholder meetings
- Multi-Jurisdictional meetings
- Six public open house meetings  
(September 2007 and May 2008)
- Media relations program
- Two informational Project DVDs
- Project website

# State Hearing Summary

- An application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC) was filed in July 2008.
- 16 days of public hearings were conducted before the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee.
- 17 interveners were present representing agencies, cities, developers, and homeowner associations.
- APS appeared before the Arizona Corporation Commission for 2 days of open meetings and public comment.
- The CEC was approved on March 4, 2009.



**11 Years - Public Participation  
Now – We're Back to Seek Input Again**

**Federal Law requires the BLM to consider the RMP  
Amendment request subject to  
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).**



# Bradshaw-Harquahala Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment

**BLM needs to determine if the RMP should be amended to add Utility Corridor along SR 74**

**NEPA requires an assessment of alternatives**





## Group Mapping Activity

### We would like your help:

- How do you use the public lands near SR 74?
- What are the values inherent in these lands?
- How do we balance these values with the need to provide electricity?
- What alternatives should BLM consider?

### Alternatives

- Alternatives can consider different routes
- Alternatives can consider changes in size or design
- Alternatives can include separating the 500kV from the 230kV line. May expand routing options.

# Next Steps- Schedules

- **Public Meetings**
- **Economic Workshop(s)**
- **Comments received through May 27, 2011**
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**
- **Come back to public with Draft (EIS)**



# Hassayampa Field Office - Bradshaw-Harquahala Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment

- Join the group session following the presentations to participate in the discussion!
- Provide substantive comments on the Comment Sheet tonight
- Mail, fax or email your comments
- Sign up for the mailing list to be included in future opportunities to participate
- All written comments need to be received by Friday, May 27, 2011

You may comment in several ways -

- Tonight with the comment form
- US Mail - Attention:  
Joe Incardine/Kathleen Depukat  
BLM Phoenix District Office  
Hassayampa Field Office  
21605 North 7th Avenue,  
Phoenix, Arizona 85027
- Email - [SunValley-Morgan@blm.gov](mailto:SunValley-Morgan@blm.gov)
- Fax – (623) 580-5500

**Please include “APS” in the title and subject line  
of all correspondence.**

Comment submittals are completely voluntary, and any identifying information provided will become part of the public record, and as such may be released to any individual upon request. Requests to withhold comments and associated personal identifying information from public review cannot be guaranteed.



Proposed Sun Valley to Morgan Transmission Line Project