



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arizona Strip Field Office
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790
www.az.blm.gov

In Reply Refer To:
AZ-100: 1610

February 2008

Dear Reader:

I am pleased to announce that after five years of hard work and collaborative effort, the revision of the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) is complete. This document provides guidance for the management of 1,679,896 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered lands in northern Arizona. These lands are within the Arizona Strip District, in Mohave and Coconino counties, Arizona.

The attached Record of Decision (ROD) and RMP have been prepared in accordance with the Federal Land Policy Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The ROD/RMP was sent to members of the public who requested a copy and to pertinent local, State, Federal, and Tribal governments. The ROD finalizes the proposed decisions presented in the Arizona Strip Proposed Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that was released on March 2, 2007 and subject to a 30-day protest period that ended on April 2, 2007. Seven protest letters were received and reviewed by the BLM Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning in Washington, D.C. After careful consideration of all points raised in the protest letters, the Assistant Director concluded that the planning team and responsible decision makers followed all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and pertinent resource considerations in developing the Proposed Plan in the FEIS. Minor adjustments or points of clarification incorporated into the RMP in response to issues raised during the protest process and final BLM review are discussed in the ROD under the sections entitled Modifications and Clarifications. The protest review did not result in any significant changes to the RMP.

This ROD serves as the final decision for the land use planning decisions described in the attached RMP. Now that the ROD is signed, we look forward to your assistance and participation as we implement the decisions contained in this RMP.

Route designations for the Ferry Swale area that were described and mapped as part of the travel management decisions are included in the ROD/RMP. Route designations are implementation level decisions. Therefore, an appeal opportunity under the Department of Interior's appeal regulations at 43 CFR Part 4 is being provided at this time for the route designations proposed within the RMP.

Copies of the ROD and RMP can be obtained on the web at https://www.blm.gov/az/LUP/strip/strip_plan.htm. Additional printed or CD copies may be obtained at the address above or requested by email at Arizona_Strip@blm.gov or by telephone at (435) 688-3200.

We greatly appreciate all who contributed to the completion of this RMP, including other Federal agencies, Tribal governments, State and local governments. This includes the ten Cooperating Agencies that worked with us over the years (Mohave and Coconino counties in Arizona, Washington and Kane counties in Utah, the Kaibab Paiute Tribe, the towns of Fredonia and Colorado City, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration). We also appreciate the extensive public involvement during this time by groups, organizations, and individuals. Public input informed and improved the planning documents and we hope you will continue to work with us as we implement the decisions in this RMP. If you need information or have questions, please contact us at (435) 688-3200.

Sincerely,

Lorraine M. Christian

Lorraine M. Christian
Arizona Strip Field Manager