APPENDIX C

ARIZONA GUIDELINES FOR GRAZING ADMINISTRATION

The Arizona Guidelines for Grazing Administration are a series of management practices used to ensure that grazing activities meet the Land Health Standards. These guidelines apply to management of all public lands, and are therefore common to all alternatives presented in this document.

1-1. 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.

1-2. 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.

2-1. 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.

2-2. 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.

2-3. The development of springs and seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect ecological functions and processes.

3-1. The use and perpetuation of native species will be emphasized. However, when restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands, non-intrusive, nonnative 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 nonnative species, and/or (d) cannot compete with already established nonnative species.

3-2. Conservation of Federal threatened or endangered, proposed, candidate, and other special status species is promoted by the maintenance or restoration of their habitats.

3-3. Management practices maintain, restore, or enhance water quality in conformance with State or Federal standards.

3-4. 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.

3-5. Grazing on designated ephemeral (annual and perennial) rangeland may be authorized if the following conditions are met:

- 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.

3-6. Management practices will target those populations of noxious weeds which can be controlled or eliminated by approved methods.

3-7. 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.