



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arizona Strip Field Office
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In Reply Refer To:
AZ-010: 1610

February 2008

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to announce that after five years of hard work and collaborative effort, the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Resource Management Plan (Approved Plan) is complete. This document represents the first management plan for the Monument and will provide guidance for the management of 279,566 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered lands in northern Arizona. These lands are within the Arizona Strip District in Coconino County, Arizona.

The attached Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Plan have been prepared in accordance with the Federal Land Policy Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The ROD/Approved Plan 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 Approved Plan 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 Proposed Plan.

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

Route designations are described and mapped as part of the travel management decisions included in the ROD/Approved Plan. 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 Approved Plan.

Copies of the ROD and Approved Plan 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 phone at (435) 688-3200.

We greatly appreciate all who contributed to the completion of this Approved Plan, including other Federal agencies, Tribal governments, and 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 Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, 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 process and we hope you will continue to work with us as we implement the decisions in this Approved Plan. If you need information or have questions, please contact us at (435) 688-3200.

Sincerely,



Linda Price
Monument Manager



Lorraine M. Christian
Arizona Strip Field Manager