

CHAPTER 2.0

MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The land use planning decisions established by the Approved RMP are presented in Chapter 2. The chapter is organized by resource, the presence or abundance of which may vary from location to location within the planning area.

According to the BLM *Land Use Planning Handbook*, LUP decisions are broad-scale decisions which guide future land management actions and subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. LUP decisions identify specific areas of public land or mineral resources where certain uses or management actions are allowed, are excluded, or may be restricted in order to achieve a desired future condition or to protect certain resource values. LUP decisions fall into two categories: Desired Future Conditions (Goals and Objectives) and Management Actions (Allowable Uses) to achieve outcomes. They are described as follows.

- Desired Future Conditions (Goals and Objectives) provide overarching direction for BLM actions in meeting the agency's legal, regulatory, policy, and strategic requirements. Goals and objectives initially were identified during the first workshop and refined through subsequent collaboration with cooperating agencies. Goals are broad statements of desired outcome, but generally are not measurable. Objectives are more specific statements of a desired condition that may include a measurable component. Desired Future Conditions represent land or resource conditions that are expected to result if planning goals and objectives are fully achieved.
- Management Actions (Allowable Uses) are anticipated to achieve the desired future conditions. Management Actions identify where land uses are allowed, restricted, or prohibited on all BLM-administered surface lands and Federal mineral estate in the planning area. The Approved RMP includes specific land use restrictions to meet desired future conditions and excludes certain land uses to protect resource values. Because the Approved RMP identifies whether particular land uses are allowed, restricted, or prohibited, Management Actions often include a spatial (e.g., map) component.

For each resource in the chapter, additional guidance is presented in the form of Administrative Actions. At the back of the chapter, BMPs are described by resource for implementation decisions which may take place throughout the life of the plan. Administrative Actions and Implementation Decisions are described as follows.

- Administrative Actions are not RMP-level decisions. However, they are day-to-day activities conducted by BLM often required by FLPMA that to be accomplished do not require a

NEPA analysis or a decision by a responsible official. Examples of Administrative Actions include mapping, surveying, inventorying, monitoring, collecting needed information such as research and studies, and completing project-specific or implementation-level plans.

Administrative Actions are included in this Approved RMP, because they guide future programs and budget planning.

- Implementation Decisions generally constitute the BLM's final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed. Included at the end of the chapter are BMPs which provide a framework for implementation decisions. These types of decisions require site-specific planning and NEPA analysis. They may be incorporated into implementation plans (activity or project plans) or may exist as stand-alone decisions. At this time YFO has not identified specific implementation-level decisions within this Approved RMP.

Through adaptive management, monitoring ensures that Land Use Allocations and Management Actions achieve Desired Future Conditions. The content of the decisions remains as contained in the Proposed RMP, except as described in the Modifications and Clarifications sections of the ROD.

Data used in development of the Approved RMP are dynamic. The data and maps used throughout the Approved RMP are for land use planning purposes and will be refined as site-specific planning and on-the-ground implementation occur. Updating data is considered plan maintenance that will occur over time as the Approved RMP is implemented (see Section 1.9—Plan Implementation). Please note that all acreages presented in the Approved RMP are estimations, even when presented to the nearest acre.

2.1.1 DECISION LETTERING

The management decisions (Desired Future Conditions and Management Actions) under the Approved RMP are numbered and arranged by specific resources and resource uses. Each decision as well as Administrative Actions are assigned one of the following codes:

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| AA | Administrative Actions |
| CL | Cultural Resource Management |
| CM | Coordinated Management Areas |
| FM | Wildland Fire Management |
| GM | Livestock Grazing Management |
| HB | Wild Horse and Burro Management |
| HM | Public Health and Safety |
| LH | Land Health Standards |
| LR | Lands and Realty Management |
| MI | Mineral Resource Management |
| PL | Paleontological Resource Management |

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| RR | Recreation Management |
| SM | Special Designations Management |
| TE | Special Status Species Management |
| TM | Travel Management |
| VM | Vegetation Management |
| VR | Visual Resource Management |
| WC | Wilderness Characteristics Management |
| WF | Fish and Wildlife Management |
| WS | Air, Water, and Soil Management |

Area and length calculations throughout this document are based on the best available GIS data at the time of publication. The GIS is based on the Universal Transverse Mercator Zone 12 projection referencing the North American Datum of 1983. Analysis and calculation have been made on various GIS layers, which may or may not correspond to each other. Differences in area or length correlations between the various calculations in this document are due to minor discrepancies between GIS layers.

2.2 LAND HEALTH STANDARDS

The *Standards and Guidelines* were developed to identify the characteristics of healthy ecosystems on public lands and the management actions that promote them. When approved in 1997, the *Standards and Guidelines* became Arizona BLM policy, guiding the planning for and management of BLM-administered lands. The *Standards and Guidelines*, therefore, have been incorporated into this Approved RMP. The following Arizona BLM Standards for Rangeland Health describe the conditions necessary to encourage proper functioning of ecological processes and are adopted as Land Health Standards that are applicable to all resource programs in Arizona BLM. The Guidelines for Grazing Administration are a series of management practices used to ensure that grazing activities meet the Standards. These Guidelines are incorporated into the Approved RMP in Section 2.9, Livestock Grazing Management.

2.2.1 STANDARD 1 FOR UPLAND SITES

Desired Future Conditions

- LH-001: Upland soils exhibit infiltration, permeability, and erosion rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and landform (ecological site). Criteria for meeting Standard 1:
 - Soil conditions support proper functioning of hydrologic, energy, and nutrient cycles. Many factors interact to maintain stable soils and healthy soil conditions, including appropriate amounts of vegetative cover, litter, and soil porosity and organic matter.

Under proper functioning conditions, rates of soil loss and infiltration are consistent with the potential of the site.

- Ground cover in the form of plants, litter, or rock is present in pattern, kind, and amount sufficient to prevent accelerated erosion for the ecological site; or ground cover is increasing as determined by monitoring over an established period of time.
- Signs of accelerated erosion, as indicated by the factors below, are minimal or diminishing for the ecological site as determined by monitoring over an established period of time.
 - Ground cover
 - Litter
 - Live vegetation, amount and type (e.g., grass, shrubs, trees)
 - Rock
 - Signs of erosion
 - Flow pattern
 - Gullies
 - Rills
 - Plant pedestaling
- Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable): None.

2.2.2 STANDARD 2 FOR RIPARIAN–WETLAND SITES

Desired Future Conditions

- LH-002: Riparian–wetland areas are in properly functioning condition. Criteria for meeting Standard 2:
 - Stream channel morphology and functions are appropriate for proper functioning condition for existing climate, landform, and channel reach characteristics. Riparian–wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows.
 - Riparian–wetland functioning condition assessments are based on examination of hydrologic, vegetative, soil and erosion-deposition factors. BLM has developed a standard checklist to address these factors and make functional assessments. Riparian–wetland areas are functioning properly as indicated by the results of the application of the appropriate checklist.
 - The checklist for riparian areas is in Technical Reference 1737-9 “Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition.” The checklist for wetlands is in Technical Reference 1737-11 “Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Lentic Riparian–Wetland Areas.” The checklists include the factors listed below.
 - Gradient
 - Width/depth ratio
 - Channel roughness and sinuosity of stream channel

- Bank stabilization
- Reduced erosion
- Captured sediment
- Ground water recharge
- Dissipation of energy by vegetation
- Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable):
 - Dirt tanks, wells, and other water facilities constructed or placed at a location for the purpose of providing water for livestock and/or wildlife and which have not been determined through local planning efforts to provide for riparian or wetland habitat are exempt, and
 - Water impoundments permitted for construction, mining, or other similar activities are exempt.

2.2.3 STANDARD 3 FOR DESIRED RESOURCE CONDITIONS

Desired Future Conditions

- LH-003: Productive and diverse upland and riparian–wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained. Criteria for Meeting Standard 3:
 - Upland and riparian–wetland plant communities meet desired plant community objectives. Plant community objectives are determined with consideration for all multiple uses. Objectives also address native species, and the requirements of the Taylor Grazing Act, FLPMA, ESA, CWA, and appropriate laws, regulations, and policies.
 - Desired plant community objectives would be developed to assure that soil conditions and ecosystem function described in Standards 1 and 2 are met. They detail a site-specific plant community, which when obtained, would assure rangeland health, State water quality standards, and habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Thus, desired plant community objectives, as listed below, would be used as indicators of ecosystem function and rangeland health.
 - Composition
 - Structure
 - Distribution
 - Exceptions and exemptions (where applicable)
 - Ecological sites or stream reaches on which a change in existing vegetation is physically, biologically, or economically impractical.

2.3 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS MANAGEMENT

Special designations in BLM land use planning include designated Wilderness, National Historic Trails (NHTs), National Recreation Trails (NRTs), National Byways, and ACECs (Map 2-1). The planning area's Approved RMP special designations are shown below in Table 2-1.

**Table 2-1
Approved RMP Special Designations**

| Special Designation | Approved RMP Acres/Miles |
|--|--|
| Designated Wilderness (BLM acres) | |
| Big Maria Mountains (CA) | 1,600 |
| Eagletail Mountains (AZ) | 98,600 |
| Little Picacho (CA) | 2,900 |
| Muggins Mountains (AZ) | 7,700 |
| New Water Mountains (AZ) | 24,700 |
| Palo Verde Mountains (CA) | 800 |
| Riverside Mountains (CA) | 1,100 |
| Trigo Mountains (AZ) | 30,400 |
| Total Wilderness Acres | 167,800 |
| National Historic Trail (total miles) | |
| Juan Bautista de Anza | 111 miles within planning area; 21 miles on BLM lands |
| National Recreation Trail (total miles) | |
| Betty's Kitchen | 0.5 |
| National Byways (total miles) | |
| Agua Caliente Back Country Byway | 11 |
| Plomosa Back Country Byway | 10 |
| Highway 95 Scenic Byway | 64 |
| Total Byway Miles | 85 |
| Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (total acres) | |
| Big Marias | 4,500 |
| Dripping Springs | 11,700 |
| Sears Point | 28,500 |
| Total ACEC Acres | 44,700 |

BLM = Bureau of Land Management; CA = California; AZ = Arizona

2.3.1 NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

In June 2000, the BLM responded to growing concern over the loss of open space by creating the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). Components of the NLCS include National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, Wilderness, WSAs, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Historic and Scenic Trails. Wilderness and one NHT are the only components of the NLCS present within the YFO.

A. DESIGNATED WILDERNESS

The BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service (NPS), and USFWS all manage Congressionally-designated Wilderness as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. There are 167,800 acres of designated Wilderness in the planning area (see Map 2-1). Wilderness in the YFO planning area was designated by the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 and California Desert Protection Act of 1994.

YFO manages Wilderness in Arizona and shares management with the BLM California Desert District on Wilderness in California. The Little Picacho Wilderness and Palo Verde Mountains Wilderness are managed with the El Centro Field Office; Big Maria Mountains Wilderness and Riverside Mountains Wilderness are managed with the Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office.

Desired Future Conditions

- SM-001: Provide for the long-term protection and preservation of the designated area's wilderness character under the principle of non-degradation. The naturalness and untrammled condition, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and any ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value will be managed so that they remain unimpaired.
- SM-002: Manage uses permitted by the Wilderness Act's special provisions and subsequent laws in a manner that will prevent undue degradation of the area's wilderness character. In managing these uses, emphasis will be placed on maintaining wilderness character.
- CL-005: Within Wilderness, YFO accommodates traditional or sacred uses identified by Native American tribes who traditionally used the area.

Management Actions

- SM-003: Continue management of 167,800 acres of Congressionally designated Wilderness.
- SM-004: Continue implementing decisions from the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness Management Plan, Kofa and New Water Mountains Wilderness Interagency Management Plan, and Muggins Mountains Wilderness Management Plan. Implement decisions from future Wilderness Management Plans once completed.
- FM-014: In Wilderness, when wildland fire suppression occurs, minimum impact suppression tactics identified in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations will be applied.
- RR-005: Limit equestrian use authorized by SRPs to pre-selected trails within Wilderness on a case-by-case basis.
- RR-019: Delineate base camps and install the appropriate facilities adjacent to Wilderness boundaries to accommodate equestrian use and hunting groups.
- TM-014: Prohibit the use of non-motorized wheeled game carriers to retrieve game kills within Congressionally-designated Wilderness.
- TM-061: Within the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness, prohibit recreational equestrian use within one quarter mile of Indian Springs to prevent impacts to wildlife habitat and cultural resource values. At equestrian trailheads, promote low-impact hitching methods that the public can use prior to entering the Indian Springs area.
- VR-008: BLM will designate all Wilderness as VRM Class I.

Administrative Actions

- AA-001: Coordinate with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to consider using horses or other non-invasive means of travel if patrols are needed within Wilderness.
- AA-002: Complete a Minimum Requirements Decision Guide analysis prior to all non-emergency actions within Wilderness.
- AA-003: Arizona BLM will continue to coordinate with the BLM California Desert District on the portions of the Big Maria Mountains Wilderness, Little Picacho Wilderness, Palo Verde Mountains Wilderness, and Riverside Mountains Wilderness that are administered by YFO.
- AA-004: Monitor Wilderness annually for preservation of wilderness values (i.e., naturalness, opportunities for solitude, and unconfined recreation) and the condition of special features found within the area. Baseline conditions for each area will be referenced to analyze change, if any. Existing and future Wilderness Management Plans have focused/will focus on monitoring and management actions through the development of “Limits of Acceptable Change” standards and indicators.

B. NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Juan Bautista de Anza NHT (Anza Trail) extends from Mexico to California for a total length of approximately 1,200 miles in the U.S. (see Map 2-1). Congress designated this trail through Public Law 101-365 in 1990 under the authority of the National Trail System Act of 1968. The *Final Environmental Impact Statement Comprehensive Management and Use Plan - Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, Arizona and California* (1996) authorizes the NPS to provide oversight for coordinated management of the trail. The Anza Trail is currently defined as a one-mile-wide corridor. Approximately 111 miles of the trail corridor are within the planning area and approximately 21 miles of the trail corridor are located on BLM-administered land.

Desired Future Conditions

- SM-005: The Anza Trail provides contiguous recreational connectivity through the planning area between the BLM El Centro and Lower Sonoran field offices.
- SM-006: The Anza Trail accommodates increased recreational use while providing for resource protection and public education regarding the route’s cultural, historical, and natural resource values.
- SM-007: Management activities along Anza Trail are conducted to assure that no adverse impacts occur to those resources and values identified in the legislation designating the trail.
- SM-008: A multiple-use recreational Anza Trail provides adjacent communities with convenient opportunities to exercise and improve their physical fitness.
- SM-009: The Anza Trail corridor inside the Sears Point ACEC is managed for public use while providing protection and preservation for cultural and natural resources.

- SM-010: Public land visitors are provided with recreational connectivity from the Anza Trail to other recreational trails and other points of interest within the Gila River Valley and Greater Yuma Travel Management Areas (TMAs).
- CL-004: Historic trails, including the Anza Trail, Butterfield Overland Mail Route, Gila Trail, and Mormon Battalion Trail, are managed to realize their educational, recreational, and scientific values.

Management Actions

- VM-064: Reduce hazardous fuels and non-native invasive species along the Anza Trail.
- FM-015: Conduct fire management activities along the Anza Trail in a manner that will avoid or minimize adverse impacts to existing resources and values identified in the legislative designation of the trail.
- RR-009: Install NHT signs and interpretive materials in conformance with the NPS Anza Trail Management Plan.
- TM-013: Upon designation of motorized portions of the Anza Trail, use of motor vehicles will be limited to the designated NHT only and will not be allowed to drive 100 feet from the centerline of the route. Motorized use will remain within the route with reasonable use of the shoulder and immediate roadside for vehicle passage, parking/overnight camping, and emergency stopping.
- TM-045: Designate portions of the Anza Trail through BLM-administered lands for motorized and non-motorized recreation as appropriate.
- LR-028: To the extent possible, new transportation ROWs will avoid the Anza Trail. Appropriate mitigation will be required when avoidance is not possible.
- LR-052: Surface occupancy of renewable energy facilities will not be allowed on BLM-administered lands within the Anza Trail corridor.

Administrative Actions

- AA-005: Support the development of an MOU and/or cooperative agreements with interested stakeholders to develop, manage, maintain, and monitor the Anza Trail and its associated facilities within the YFO.
- AA-006: Manage the Anza Trail consistently with the NPS Anza Trail Management Plan and in cooperation with the NPS to the extent practicable.
- AA-007: Work with interested stakeholders to identify the appropriate locations of a recreational Anza Trail and its associated trailheads and campsites.
- AA-008: Work with interested stakeholders to secure legal public access to the Anza Trail and its associated trailheads.
- AA-009: Monitor the Anza Trail corridor to estimate visitor use levels, determine the effectiveness of interpretive materials, identify maintenance requirements for BLM and/or NPS facilities, assess the presence of hazardous fuels and riparian habitat resource values, and to protect at-risk cultural resources.

- AA-010: Nominate the designated Anza Trail for inclusion in the Arizona State Parks Trail System.

2.3.2 NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

The existing one-half mile Betty's Kitchen NRT (see Map 2-1) is managed by YFO and will continue to be managed under the Approved RMP.

Desired Future Conditions

- SM-011: The Betty's Kitchen NRT provides universal accessibility to recreational opportunities.

Management Actions

- RR-004: Continue management of the existing 0.5-mile Betty's Kitchen NRT in accordance with the current YFO Recreation and Visitor Services Business Plan.
- RR-009: Install and maintain interpretive signs along the existing Betty's Kitchen NRT, as needed.
- LR-052: Surface occupancy of renewable energy facilities will not be allowed in the Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Viewing Area and NRT.

Administrative Actions

- AA-011: Continue to provide environmental education and interpretation opportunities related to recreation and wildlife at the Betty's Kitchen NRT.
- AA-012: Monitor Betty's Kitchen NRT and its associated facilities to document visitor use levels, visitor compliance with recreation fee site regulations, facility maintenance, hazardous fuels, and riparian habitat resource values.

2.3.3 NATIONAL BYWAYS

The National Byways program was established by the USDOT/FHWA. To be eligible for designation, a road must meet criteria for at least one of six intrinsic qualities which are considered unique, irreplaceable, or distinctly characteristic of an area: scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, and/or natural qualities. The BLM Back Country Byway system is a component of the National Byway System. BLM can nominate National Scenic Byways, but the nominations must be submitted and approved by State government before they are eligible for consideration by the Secretary of Transportation. BLM Back Country and Scenic Byway designations are approved by the State Director within the parameters established for the State byway program. The Approved RMP identifies one National Scenic Byway and two Back Country Byways (see Map 2-1). Additional details of National Scenic Byway and Back Country Byways are shown in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2
Approved RMP National Scenic and Back Country Byway Nominations

| Name | Outstanding Resources or Destination | Byway Length (total miles) | Type |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------|
| National Scenic Byway | | | |
| Highway 95 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views of the Castle Dome, Kofa, Chocolate, Dome Rock, Laguna, Gila, and New Water mountain ranges • Information on the differing missions of BLM, Kofa NWR, and YPG along the route • Connectivity of major winter visitor destinations • Wild horse and burro viewing | 64 | Paved road |
| National Back Country Byways | | | |
| Agua Caliente | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife viewing • Views of Gila Bend Mountains • Geologic features such as lava flows and cinder cones • Prehistoric and historic sites • Potential connectivity to the BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office's Back Country Byway nomination | 11 | Type II |
| Plomosa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent public use cultural site • Views of Plomosa Mountains • Connectivity to the BLM Lake Havasu Field Office's Back Country Byway nomination | 10 | Type I |

BLM = Bureau of Land Management; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; YPG = Yuma Proving Ground; Type I = Accommodate normal touring cars; Type II = Require high-clearance vehicles

Desired Future Conditions

- SM-012: Byways expose visitors to local recreation opportunities and various multiple-use management programs, and interpret natural, cultural, geological, and scenic features.
- SM-013: Byways provide interconnectivity between local communities and a working partnership for regional development of eco- and recreational tourism.
- SM-014: Byways promote sustainable outdoor ethics to educate OHV users on how to reduce potential impacts to natural and cultural resources.
- SM-015: Byways are managed through partnerships that address the public demand for OHV experiences in a sustainable manner.
- SM-016: Byway plans will strive to minimize impacts to wildlife and will provide appropriate wildlife viewing opportunities.
- VR-005: The long-term scenic quality of BLM-administered lands within the viewsheds of National Byways is maintained through the application of the BLM VRM system.

Management Actions

- SM-017: Nominate 64 miles of Highway 95 between Quartzsite and Yuma, Arizona, as a National Scenic Byway.
- SM-018: Nominate 10 miles of Plomosa Road from Highway 95 to Bouse, Arizona, as a National Back Country Byway in coordination with the BLM LHFO.
- SM-019: Nominate 11 miles of Agua Caliente Road as a National Back Country Byway in coordination with the BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office.
- FM-015: Conduct fire management activities along National Byways in a manner that will avoid or minimize adverse impacts to existing resources and values identified in the legislative designation of the trail.
- LR-052: Surface occupancy of renewable energy facilities will not be allowed within National Byway corridors.

Administrative Actions

- AA-013: Prior to the final designation of Back Country Byways, complete locale-specific visitor use and potential resource impact studies to determine if byway designation is appropriate.
- AA-014: Follow the nomination and designation process for byways outlined within BLM Handbook H-8357-1 by partnering with interested agencies and organizations.
- AA-015: Develop a management plan for each National Byway with cooperating partners to finalize the byway nomination and designation process. Ensure that the following issues are addressed in the byway management plans:
 - Install speed limit, directional, vehicle safety, and interpretive signs to enhance public use, enjoyment, and stewardship of byways;
 - Install byway facilities outside of allocated WHAs;
 - Manage byways for compatibility between minerals and energy development including ROWs, leases, permits, and other resource uses;
 - Coordinate with byway partners to ensure legal public access to and along proposed routes;
 - Maintain road conditions along byways in a manner to protect and maintain air quality;
 - Restore recreational surface disturbances adjacent to byways to deter route proliferation;
 - Coordinate with the AGFD to implement temporary byway closures within WHAs through adaptive management in order to reduce the potential impacts to sensitive wildlife species;
 - If high visitor use along byways is adversely impacting wildlife or other resources, byway use may be limited through issuing permits or other means; and
 - Identification of cultural resources that might be affected by byways will be conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and the guidelines specified in BLM AZ IM-2006-043, Section 106 Compliance for Designating Off-Highway Vehicle Routes and Areas in Land Use Plans.

- AA-016: Manage byways for compatibility with the prescribed recreation settings, mining, and other resource uses.
- AA-017: Develop maps and brochures of the byways.
- AA-018: Continuously coordinate with the AGFD to develop limits of acceptable change for resources and road conditions within byway corridors. Monitor for increases in byway width, sensitive cultural resources, and threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat, and negative effects to wildlife populations adjacent to byway corridors. If impacts exceed limits of acceptable change, Management Actions will be implemented to reduce resource impacts accordingly. This could include reducing or eliminating use of the byway, until a historic treatment plan is developed and implemented.
- AA-019: For the Plomosa and Agua Caliente byways, the BLM Lake Havasu and Lower Sonoran field offices, respectively, will lead the byway nomination, designation, management, and partnerships-building processes. Additional monitoring requirements for the Plomosa and Agua Caliente byways will be addressed by the Lake Havasu and Lower Sonoran field offices, respectively, during the development of byway management plans.

2.3.4 AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

The guidance for ACEC management is included in FLPMA and states that Federal agencies are directed to protect and conserve ecosystems in need of “special management attention” by designating them as ACECs in their land use planning process. ACECs must meet the relevance and importance criteria in 43 CFR 1610.7-2(b) and must require special management to:

- Protect the area and prevent irreparable damage to resources or natural systems, or
- Protect life and promote safety in areas where natural hazards exist.

Areas qualifying for consideration as ACECs must have substantial significance and value including qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern. The values for which ACECs are designated are considered the highest and best use for those lands, and protection of those values would take precedence over multiple uses.

The Approved RMP designates three ACECs within the planning area. An ACEC Evaluation Report can be found in Appendix D which clarifies special management attention needed for each designated ACEC under the Approved RMP.

Desired Future Conditions Common to All ACECs

- SM-020: Provide protection for relevant and important resource values within designated ACECs, including special status species, wildlife, scenic, riparian, and significant cultural resources.
- VM-001: Vegetation diversity within designated ACECs will be maintained in accordance with ecological site description guides (USDA NRCS 2005).

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- TM-010: OHV access within designated ACECs will be managed in a manner which does not damage important cultural resources and wildlife habitat.
- VR-006: The viewsheds and landscape character of ACECs is maintained to the extent practicable through the BLM's VRM system.

Management Actions Common to All ACECs

- SM-021: New land use authorizations within designated ACECs will be discouraged and only authorized when it is necessary for resource protection and/or when no reasonable alternative exists.
- SM-022: Prohibit new routes within designated ACECs except as needed to manage and interpret resources or as required by law, such as access to valid mining claims or private property.
- VM-062: Treatment for hazardous fuels reduction and non-native invasive species will be allowed within designated ACECs. These treatments will be carried out in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to important resources.
- FM-015 Conduct fire management activities within ACECs in a manner that will avoid or minimize adverse impacts to existing resources and values identified in the legislative designation of the trail.
- GM-016: Grazing for commercial purposes will not be allowed within designated ACECs.
- RR-005: Issue SRPs for public use of designated ACECs on a case-by-case basis, when it is determined that adverse impacts can be avoided.
- RR-009: Install interpretation within designated ACECs to increase public awareness of resource sensitivity, promote public stewardship, and reduce inadvertent damage to important resources.
- RR-016: Install and maintain traffic counters at main points of access and interest in ACECs.
- TM-013: OHV travel will be limited to existing inventoried routes, until future route evaluation and designation is complete within the ACEC. Upon designation of motorized routes within ACECs, use of motor vehicles will be limited to the designated routes only and will not be allowed to drive 100 feet from the centerline of the route. Motorized use shall remain within the route with reasonable use of the shoulder and immediate roadside for vehicle passage, parking/overnight camping, and emergency stopping.
- TM-020: Limit equestrian use to existing inventoried routes within designated ACECs until the route designation process is complete. If determined necessary, designate equestrian trails and install equestrian trailhead facilities to reduce user and resource conflicts. Limit equestrian use to these trails once they have been designated.
- TM-057: Designate hiking trails within the ACECs to control access to the ACEC and prevent damage to cultural and natural resources. Allow construction, maintenance, and improvement of hiking trails and associated facilities within ACECs as necessary. Once the trails are established, require visitors to stay on designated hiking trails within the Sears Point ACEC interpretive area, Blythe Intaglios Complex, and in the vicinity of the spring at the Dripping Springs ACEC.

- CL-006: Implement protection measures to stop, limit, or repair damage to cultural resource sites. A variety of protection measures described in BLM Manual 8140 may be used to protect the integrity of sites at risk such as signs, fencing or barriers, trash removal, target shooting closures, erosion control, backfilling, repairing, shoring up, or stabilizing structures, restricting uses and access, and closures.
- CL-007: Inventory, document, monitor, and protect cultural resources of importance and relevant features within designated ACECs prior to developing interpretation programs, in order to preserve the future integrity of the resource values prior to public use.
- LR-028: To the extent possible, new transportation ROWs will avoid ACECs. Appropriate mitigation will be required when avoidance is not possible.
- LR-052: Surface occupancy of renewable energy facilities will not be allowed in ACECs.
- LR-063: The YFO will retain Federal lands within ACECs.
- LR-068: Seek to acquire non-Federal lands and interests within or adjacent to lands within the ACECs from willing sellers by purchase, exchange, donation, or other means. Acquisitions will include surface and subsurface rights, and water rights whenever possible. Future acquisitions of inholdings and edgeholdings will be managed in accordance with the designated ACEC.
- MI-008: Protection of resource values within designated ACECs will take precedence over leasable/locatable materials. If an area is not withdrawn from mineral entry, special mitigation will be required to avoid impacts to resources. All locatable mineral actions will require an approved Mining Plan of Operations in accordance with BLM Manual 3809 regulations. Leasable mineral exploration and development will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- MI-023: New salable mineral materials disposal sites will not be authorized within designated ACECs. Existing material sites within designated ACECs will be evaluated and closed, if found to be impacting significant resources.

Administrative Actions Common to All ACECs

- AA-020: Work collaboratively with stakeholders for coordinated management purposes in designated ACECs.
- AA-021: Provide opportunities for participation in ACEC interpretation by Native Americans and other interested entities.
- AA-022: Establish Supplementary Rules to enforce any restrictions within designated ACECs according to the guidelines set forth in 43 CFR 8365.1-6.
- AA-023: Horseback riders within designated ACECs will be encouraged to use weed-free hay and use feed buckets. (Refer to Management Actions in Section 2.5.5 Vegetation Management, Invasive Species).
- AA-024: Ensure that commercial tour operators authorized to work within designated ACECs provide appropriate educational information on archaeological site etiquette and resource conservation to their customers. Tour operators will be required to report any vandalism or damage to resources.

- AA-025: Monitor relevant and important resource values within designated ACECs to detect change and prevent future deterioration. This monitoring will be accomplished primarily under guidance provided from the cultural and biological sections of this document. Monitoring plans associated with future ACEC management plans will be implemented.
- AA-026: Monitor and maintain designated recreational trails to reduce trail use, proliferation, and damage to resources within designated ACECs.

A. BIG MARIAS ACEC

The Big Marias ACEC, located about 12 miles north of Blythe, California, was designated in the 1987 Yuma District RMP (Map 2-1-1). The relevance and importance for this ACEC includes a high concentration of nationally significant intaglio features; a density of other prehistoric archaeological features including petroglyphs, pictographs, trail networks, campsites, and artifact scatters; the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed Blythe Intaglios site; and the presence of sensitive plant species.

Desired Future Conditions

- SM-023: Important cultural resource sites contained within the Big Marias ACEC, including the many rare intaglio features that are situated on the desert pavement covered terraces above the Colorado River, are protected and conserved.
- RR-031: The Blythe Intaglios Complex is promoted as a heritage tourism destination to enhance public understanding and appreciation of relevant and important resource values. Interpretation design and protection measures at the Blythe Intaglios Complex are improved in coordination with interested partners.

Management Actions

- SM-024: Continue management of the existing 4,500-acre Big Marias ACEC.
- VM-073: Prohibit collection of dead, downed, and detached firewood within 2,900 acres of the Big Marias ACEC (see Map 2-1-1).
- VM-078: Close the Big Marias ACEC to all vegetative product sales.
- RR-009: Install and maintain interpretive materials at main points of access and interest within the non-Wilderness portions of the Big Marias ACEC (see Map 2-1-1). Interpretive locations include but are not limited to parking areas, hiking trails, and cultural resource sites.
- RR-013: Limit 2,900 acres of the Big Marias ACEC to day-use only (see Map 2-1-1).
- TM-041: Limit parking within the Blythe Intaglios Complex to designated areas.
- TM-043: Allow construction, maintenance, and improvement of existing or new hiking trails, barriers, and signs in the Big Marias ACEC as necessary.

- LR-004: In the event that Reclamation relinquishes their second form withdrawal in the Big Marias ACEC, YFO will propose to withdraw an additional 2,900 acres of Federal land within the Big Marias ACEC from mineral entry.
- LR-038: Restrict utilities within the Big Marias ACEC, to the extent practical, to the Highway 95 ROW corridor.
- LR-046: Restrict any additional communications facilities in the Big Marias ACEC to the currently authorized Big Maria Communications Site boundaries.
- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within the Big Marias ACEC to protect cultural resources.

Administrative Actions

- AA-027: Develop an interpretive plan for the Blythe Intaglios Complex in coordination with interested partners. Consider constructing platforms for visitors to view fenced intaglio areas at the Blythe Intaglios Complex that are allocated to public use.
- AA-028: Develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Big Marias ACEC that addresses appropriate monitoring and protection measures for each known intaglio feature.
- AA-029: Coordinate any modifications or amendments to designated routes in the Big Marias ACEC with the California Desert District.

B. DRIPPING SPRINGS ACEC

The relevance and importance of the Dripping Springs ACEC includes a perennial water source, desert bighorn sheep habitat, an important petroglyph site, and the remains of several historic stone structures (Map 2-1-2). A 640-acre area around the spring will be a core area for management purposes described below.

Desired Future Conditions

- SM-025: Public use and interpretation of the Dripping Springs ACEC are balanced with the conservation of the many relevant and important resource values of the area.

Management Actions

- SM-026: Designate the 11,700-acre Dripping Springs ACEC.
- SM-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals and ROW facilities, will not be authorized inside the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area. Discretionary actions within the ACEC, but outside of the core area, will be avoided to the extent practicable. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage ACEC resource values will be allowed within the entire ACEC, including the core area.

2.0 Management Decisions

- VM-073: Prohibit collection of dead, downed, and detached firewood within 11,700 acres of the Dripping Springs ACEC (see Map 2-1-2).
- VM-078: Close the Dripping Springs ACEC to all vegetative product sales.
- RR-009: Install and maintain interpretive materials at main points of access and interest within the Dripping Springs ACEC. Interpretive locations include, but are not limited to parking areas, hiking trails, the spring, historic structures, and petroglyph concentrations.
- RR-013: Limit the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area to day-use only (see Map 2-1-2).
- TM-007: Designate a Closed OHV Management Area within 440 acres of the Dripping Springs ACEC core area (see Map 2-1-2).
- TM-056: Establish a parking area at both the north and south sides of the Dripping Springs ACEC. Install post-and-cable or other barriers as needed to manage access.
- TM-057: Close the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area around the spring to public use during extreme or severe drought conditions to protect desert bighorn sheep populations, as recommended by AGFD.
- LR-003: Pursue the withdrawal of the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area (see Map 2-1-2).
- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area (see Map 2-1-2).

Administrative Actions

- AA-030: Create a detailed map of the Dripping Springs ACEC interpretive area that shows locations of interpretive and informational signage, protection measures, and the interpretive hiking trail in relation to the natural and cultural resource features.
- AA-031: Develop a Dripping Springs ACEC interpretive plan for the area around the spring in coordination with interested partners.

C. SEARS POINT ACEC

The designation of the Sears Point ACEC in the Approved RMP supersedes previous planning decisions written for the Gila River Cultural Area in 1990 when it was located in the BLM Lower Gila South Planning Area (Phoenix District). The relevance and importance of the Sears Point ACEC includes an NRHP-listed archaeological district with extensive petroglyph displays, prominent basalt mesas, historic trail corridors, and important riparian vegetation including a mesquite bosque and the Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt (Map 2-1-3).

Desired Future Conditions

- SM-009: The Anza Trail corridor inside the Sears Point ACEC is managed for public use while providing protection and preservation for cultural and natural resources.

- SM-010: Public land visitors are provided with recreational connectivity from the Anza Trail to other recreational trails and other points of interest within the Sears Point ACEC.
- SM-028: Visitor impacts to Sears Point ACEC values are reduced by enhancing public understanding and appreciation of the cultural resources.
- SM-029: On lands where the Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt Vegetation Habitat Management Area (VHA) and Sears Point ACEC overlap, land use planning decisions for the ACEC would take precedence.

Management Actions

- SM-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals and ROW facilities, will not be authorized inside the Sears Point ACEC 3,700-acre core area. Discretionary actions within the ACEC, but outside of the core area, will be avoided to the extent practicable. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage ACEC resource values will be allowed within the entire ACEC, including the core area.
- SM-030: Expand the Sears Point ACEC to encompass 28,500 acres (see Map 2-1-3).
- VM-073: Prohibit collection of dead, downed, and detached firewood within 3,700 acres of the Sears Point ACEC core area (see Map 2-1-3).
- RR-007: Construct recreational facilities in the Sears Point ACEC as needed, including:
 - A visitor host site to monitor sensitive resources and maintain a presence in the area.
 - Facilities necessary for public health and safety.
- RR-009: Install interpretive exhibit panels at the central mesas and at main points of access and interest within the Sears Point ACEC.
- RR-013: Limit the Sears Point ACEC 3,700-acre core area to day-use only (see Map 2-1-3).
- TM-007: Designate a Closed OHV Management Area within 1,400 acres of the Sears Point ACEC core area (see Map 2-1-3).
- TM-046: Establish a parking area and install barriers as needed at the Sears Point ACEC interpretive area to control access and prevent damage to cultural and natural resources. Determine an appropriate location for the parking area in coordination with stakeholders and Native American tribes.
- LR-003: Pursue the withdrawal of an additional 4,900 acres of Federal land within the Sears Point ACEC (see Map 2-1-3).
- LR-005: All non-Federal lands acquired within the Gila River Cultural ACEC (i.e., Sears Point ACEC core area) boundary established and withdrawn by Public Land Order 7212 (September 5, 1996) will be managed under the current existing withdrawal (see Map 2-1-3). Continue to acquire from willing sellers those non-Federal lands within the current boundary of the Gila River Cultural ACEC withdrawn by Public Land Order 7212.
- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within the Sears Point ACEC 3,700-acre core area (see Map 2-1-3).

Administrative Actions

- AA-032: The existing Gila River Cultural Area ACEC will be renamed as the Sears Point ACEC.
- AA-033: Develop a Sears Point ACEC plan in coordination with interested partners that includes additional management prescriptions for balancing increasing public visitation with protection of natural and cultural resources. Until the Sears Point ACEC management plan is approved, the ACEC will be managed according to the Management Actions listed in the Approved RMP.
- AA-034: Throughout the life of the Approved RMP, determine the public demand for overnight camping opportunities within the Sears Point ACEC outside of the core area. If structured overnight camping opportunities are needed to reduce impacts to natural and cultural resources, designate a campground within the proposed ACEC expansion area at a reasonable distance away from sensitive resources.
- AA-035: Inventory and monitor mesquite trees along the Gila River within the Sears Point ACEC to determine age, structure, and health. Develop protection measures if necessary.
- AA-036: Provide reliable, safe, and legal administrative access to the Sears Point ACEC from Interstate 8.

2.4 COORDINATED MANAGEMENT AREAS

There are three areas within the planning area that are managed in close coordination with other agencies (Table 2-3). These are Fortuna Pond (30 acres), the “Limitrophe” division of the lower Colorado River (4,500 acres), and the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area (3,800 acres) (Maps 2-2 through 2-4). CMAs are technically not BLM land use planning allocations under the *Land Use Planning Handbook* or FLPMA. However, these CMAs are being recognized in the Approved RMP to identify the specific management prescriptions and partnership efforts needed for the sustainable management of these lands. All three CMAs are located on Reclamation project lands, and DM 613 assigns the BLM with recreation and wildlife habitat management responsibilities on Reclamation project lands identified in the Lower Colorado River LUP.

**Table 2-3
Approved RMP Coordinated Management Areas**

| Coordinated Management Area | Approved RMP Total Acres |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fortuna Pond | 30 |
| Limitrophe | 4,500 |
| Mittry Lake Wildlife Area | 3,800 |
| Total CMA Acres | 8,330 |

CMA = Coordinated Management Area

2.4.1 FORTUNA POND CMA

Fortuna Pond is a mitigation requirement to replace lost fishing opportunities on the lower Colorado River as a result of the Colorado River Salinity Control Project. The 30-acre Fortuna Pond CMA continues the existing cooperative management approach to the pond between the BLM, AGFD, and Reclamation (see Map 2-2). Reclamation and AGFD also have responsibilities for managing the pond and public use of the pond under their individual authorities.

Desired Future Conditions

- RR-054: Fortuna Pond continues to provide recreational fishing opportunities as mitigation under the Title I contract for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Project.

Management Actions

- RR-007: Provide adequate facilities at Fortuna Pond to accommodate visitor use.

Administrative Actions

- AA-037: Achieve consensus with Reclamation, AGFD, and resource stakeholders to cooperatively manage Fortuna Pond for recreation and fishing opportunities.
- AA-038: Finalize and implement the *Fortuna Pond Management Plan*, which will guide management of the area. Until the document is finalized and implemented by the three agencies, the *Draft Fortuna Pond Management Plan* will serve as guidance.
- AA-039: Identify the responsibilities of each agency having management authority at Fortuna Pond.
- AA-040: The BLM and AGFD will regularly monitor visitor use at Fortuna Pond in accordance with their respective missions to ensure compliance with applicable recreational laws and regulations, including length-stay-limits, fire restrictions, and fishing regulations. The YFO will continue to monitor visitor use and associated resource damage at Fortuna Pond to determine the need for recreational facilities, such as garbage cans, restrooms, and/or a volunteer host site. If monitoring determines that such facilities are needed to fulfill BLM resource protection mandates, a proposal to include Fortuna Pond as a recreation fee site may be made in the publicly-reviewed YFO Recreation and Visitor Services Business Plan and the Federal Register.

2.4.2 LIMITROPHE CMA

The Limitrophe CMA encompasses the 4,500 acres of land along the International Boundary with Mexico (see Map 2-3). There are numerous jurisdictions managing varying aspects of the resources, along with a variety of stakeholders with interests in the Limitrophe. The intent of the Limitrophe CMA is to unite the mandates, activities, and responsibilities of multiple jurisdictions and stakeholders while providing a level of protection to the riparian, cultural, and traditional resource values of the area.

Desired Future Conditions

- CM-001: Riparian habitat and marsh vegetation in the Limitrophe are protected and maintained to retain biological diversity and enhance potential habitat to support neotropical migratory birds, special status species, and other wildlife.
- CM-002: The characteristics of the Limitrophe area that have been identified by Native American tribes and groups as important for traditional use are protected and maintained.
- CM-003: A group would constitute the guiding body for the U.S. side of the Limitrophe area to share information for the future of the Limitrophe, and will not be controlled by any single agency.
- CM-004: Ensure that each resource value or issue identified by the stakeholders is addressed in the planning and management of the Limitrophe area.
- CM-005: Each agency or sovereign nation with land management jurisdiction in the Limitrophe will make decisions independently of the stakeholder group, using information and facts from group meetings and the MOU. A charter will not be needed, because the group will not have voting capability for actions where decisions are required by agencies.

Management Actions

- VM-008: Where and when practicable, develop new riparian habitat or restore damaged, degraded, and salt cedar habitats within the Limitrophe for the protection and enhancement of riparian or floodplain associated species. Install facilities to protect restoration sites as needed.
- VM-011: Conduct and/or authorize vegetation treatments in selected locations along the International Boundary to allow visibility and reduce cover for clandestine activity. Such treatments will be conducted in a way that considers impacts to Native American religious concerns.
- VM-012: Require mitigation for vegetation treatments to offset impacts to riparian habitat and recreation values along the International Boundary.
- FM-029: Resolve public health and safety issues by clearing hazardous fuels along the International Boundary under the fire management program, where appropriate.
- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within the Limitrophe CMA.
- MI-023: Allow no salable mineral materials within the Limitrophe area.
- HM-009: Place signs regarding border safety, where appropriate.

Administrative Actions

- AA-041: Develop an MOU and promote cooperation between its signers to create a partnership for the future of the Limitrophe.
- AA-042: Participate in working groups, meetings, and task force settings to collaborate with interested stakeholders on the Limitrophe.

- AA-043: Invite public as well as agencies and organizations to participate in the Limitrophe CMA management plan.
- AA-044: Prepare a Limitrophe CMA management plan in cooperation with stakeholders using facts and information from the group. Develop coordinated goals and objectives for management based on input from all stakeholders. The Limitrophe CMA management plan will:
 - Define roles, jurisdictions, and working relationships of each agency, non-government stakeholders, private landowners, and other partners.
 - Identify goals and objectives to maintain important riparian habitat values in the Limitrophe within the constraints of differing agency jurisdictions in the area.
 - Contain goals and objectives to protect and maintain the characteristics of the Limitrophe area that have been identified by Native American tribes and groups as important for traditional use.
 - Contain goals and objectives to provide for use of, and access to, sacred sites and other places of traditional cultural importance by Native American tribes, when such places are identified within the Limitrophe area through government-to-government consultation.
 - Balance International Border public health and safety issues with resource protection in the Limitrophe.
 - Incorporate decisions which apply to the Limitrophe area from other sections of this RMP to clarify BLM roles and sideboards to the group.
 - Address the following BLM issues in the Limitrophe: recreational uses of the area; dead, downed, and detached firewood collection; fire management; invasive non-native species; endangered species and conservation measures to protect them, cultural resources; traditional use; habitat integrity; access; habitat restoration; water sources; and public health and safety.

2.4.3 MITTRY LAKE WILDLIFE AREA

The 3,800-acre Mittry Lake Wildlife Area CMA (see Map 2-4) is cooperatively managed by AGFD, BLM, and Reclamation under a lease, cooperative agreement, contract agreement, and wildlife area management plan to provide for wildlife-related recreation.

Desired Future Conditions

- CM-006: The Mittry Lake Wildlife Area CMA provides wildlife habitat and compatible wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and in accordance with the area's existing lease, cooperative agreement, contract agreement, and wildlife area management plan.

Administrative Actions

- AA-045: Each agency will coordinate activities within the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area on a regular basis under guidance of the contract agreement.

- AA-046: The BLM and its partners will regularly monitor visitor use at the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area under the authority of their respective missions to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including length-of-stay-limits, fire restrictions, and fishing and hunting licenses. Cooperative monitoring of public land resource conditions, including riparian vegetation, wetlands, hazardous fuels, non-native invasive species, and wildlife will also occur on an annual basis within the CMA. The YFO and AGFD will also continue to monitor visitor use and associated resource damage at the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area to determine the need for additional wildlife-based recreational facilities.

2.5 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Vegetation management on BLM-administered lands follows guidance from the BLM *Land Use Planning Handbook*. The guidance instructs the BLM to identify the desired mix of vegetation types, vegetation management areas, sensitive plant species, priority plant species, management for invasive non-native plants, and vegetative use authorizations.

Desired Future Conditions

The following Desired Future Conditions are consistent with the Arizona Land Health Standards listed in Section 2.2 and will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- VM-001: Vegetation diversity within designated ACECs will be maintained in accordance with ecological site description guides (USDA NRCS 2005).
- VM-002: Restoration and vegetation maintenance actions benefit special status and priority plant and animal species and their habitats (Appendix E lists special status and priority plants and animals).
- VM-003: Upland and riparian–wetland areas exhibit a mosaic of native plant communities.
- VM-004: Riparian–wetland areas achieve or are moving towards properly functioning condition. Riparian, floodplain, and wetland areas enhance water quality, improve water storage, increase groundwater recharge, and provide quality fish and wildlife values.
- VM-005: Forage on rangelands continues to support wildlife and grazing in a manner consistent with other resource management objectives or uses.
- VM-006: Special status species and VHAs are protected from ground-disturbing activities, such as OHV use.
- VM-007: Vegetation communities will be maintained to stabilize soils and reduce erosion and air quality degradation.

Management Actions

The following Management Actions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- VM-008: Where and when practicable, develop new riparian habitat or restore damaged, degraded, and salt cedar habitats along the lower Colorado River and Gila River for the

protection and enhancement of riparian or floodplain associated species. Install facilities to protect restoration sites as needed.

- VM-009: Protect or restore native species in upland and riparian communities through an integrated weed management approach emphasizing prevention, containment, and early detection of invasive weeds.
- VM-010: Restore unproductive or non-functioning upland and riparian–wetland sites to desired plant communities based on ecological site and capability potential.
- VM-011: Conduct and/or authorize vegetation treatments in selected locations along the International Boundary to allow visibility and reduce cover for clandestine activity. Such treatments will be conducted in a way that considers impacts to Native American religious concerns.
- VM-012: Require mitigation for vegetation treatments to offset impacts to riparian habitat and recreation values along the International Boundary.
- VM-013: Manage for large, contiguous blocks of native riparian habitat (>30 acres) for yellow-billed cuckoo in conjunction with removal of competing exotic species (such as salt cedar).
- VM-014: Plant trees in suitable areas to provide perch sites and enhance foraging habitat for raptors.
- VM-015: Promote regeneration of native vegetation in riparian areas for yellow-billed cuckoo by minimizing impacts from land/resource uses such as livestock grazing, water diversion, inundation, wood cutting, and OHV travel.

Administrative Actions

The following Administrative Actions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- AA-047: Assess rehabilitation of burned areas on a case-by-case basis. Preference will be given to VHAs, riparian areas with habitat for special status species, ACECs, and WHAs.
- AA-048: Restore reaches of riparian habitat by encouraging private/public partnerships for habitat restoration and associated fencing through Federal, State, and non-government programs.
- AA-049: Monitoring for vegetation communities will focus on achieving the Desired Future Conditions listed in Section 2.2 for Land Health Standards through the Land Health Assessment and Proper Functioning Condition Assessment processes.
 - Upland Sites: Land Health Assessments will determine upland conditions and trend as a part of all grazing allotment assessments and TMPs. These will serve as a baseline measure for any further monitoring required to measure management success in that area. This will include route restoration efforts to assure achievement of desired plant communities, and revegetation prescriptions associated with utility and transportation corridor work.
 - Riparian-Wetland Sites: Proper Functioning Condition Assessments will be performed in combination with plan implementation on at least a 10-year revolving schedule, with all

riparian resources receiving an initial assessment by 2012. More detailed measures will occur in cooperation with partners and in association with restoration projects. A desired plant community will be prescribed and monitored for implementation success in all waterside recreation or concession leases with condition reports to the Field Office Manager included with all five-year implementation plan reports.

2.5.1 DESIRED PLANT COMMUNITIES

In accordance with Standard 3 of the *Standards and Guidelines*, objectives for seven different desired plant communities within the planning area have been identified in the Approved RMP.

Management Actions Common to all Desired Plant Communities

- VM-016: Require mitigation where plants and parts of plants will be destroyed from an unavoidable impact as a result of development, disturbance, or disposal. For BLM-authorized surface disturbing activities within desired plant communities, impacts to vegetation will be mitigated through:
 - Avoidance;
 - Use of minimum reasonable and practical tools and equipment (such as trimming trees instead of removal where appropriate, use of existing routes and ROWs instead of creation of new ones, crushing vegetation instead of blading it);
 - Soil stabilization and vegetative rehabilitation;
 - Replacement, which will follow an approved protocol and use of previously disturbed sites;
 - Transplanting of plant species (e.g., beavertail cactus, cholla, barrel cactus, pincushion cactus) directly on site or onto neighboring public lands where feasible using approved protocol will be encouraged; and
 - Salvage of plants and plant parts. Salvage will be authorized and encouraged on a case-by-case basis pursuant to applicable Federal and State laws and regulations governing the sale, disposal, and transportation of plants. Plants salvaged will be limited to those allowable under the Arizona Native Plant Law. Plants and parts of plants will be replanted on public lands or salvaged for public, private, commercial, educational, research, or other appropriate purposes. Special consideration will be given to educational facilities, botanic gardens, and public institutions.
- VM-017: Avoid desert wash woodlands to the greatest extent possible during BLM-authorized surface disturbing activities.
- VM-018: Require use of native plant materials for landscaping at developed recreation sites within public lands.
- VM-019: Require concessions to get BLM approval for landscaping plans. Require the use of native plants and drought adapted vegetation.
- LR-030: Require all ROW construction activities to follow stipulated rehabilitation measures in support of the planning area's desired plant communities. Stipulations may include imprinting, contouring, debris and brush replacement, and invasive plant treatment. Avoid

blading new routes to the greatest extent possible. Where access is needed to accomplish objectives, crush vegetation instead of blading and denuding the ground surface.

A. MIXED RIPARIAN HABITAT AND WETLANDS

- VM-020: Riparian habitats contain a diversity of native trees and herbaceous plants adapted to hydric soils. Lands along the Colorado and Gila rivers exhibit strong species diversity and are composed of native riparian obligate trees (such as cottonwood [*Populus* spp.] and willow [*Salix* spp.]) of various age and size classes from seedlings and saplings to large mature trees with spreading canopies.
- VM-021: Bank vegetation is composed of native species capable of withstanding flood events to reduce soil loss and bank erosion.
- VM-022: River corridor (including floodplains) and riparian-wetland associated habitat types covered in the LCR MSCP provide a variety of habitat types for resident or migratory aquatic and terrestrial species. These habitat types include riparian areas, open water, backwaters, and marshes.

B. MESQUITE BOSQUES/WOODLANDS

- VM-023: Mesquite bosques/woodland communities contain trees of various size and age classes, with an understory of native perennial grasses, forbs, and shrub species.
- VM-024: Mesquite bosque communities are identified and protected.

C. DESERT WASH WOODLANDS

- VM-025: Multi-layered desert wash woodlands (xeroriparian scrub) are dominated by perennial vegetation including trees, grasses, shrubs and forbs which provide for hydrologic connectivity and geomorphic integrity (i.e., sediment capture and storage, energy dissipation, bank stability).
- VM-026: Diverse vegetative composition and structure within desert wash woodlands include such species as foothills paloverde (*Cercidium microphyllum*), blue paloverde (*Cercidium floridum*), desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.), smoke tree (*Psoralea spinosus*), and catclaw acacia (*Acacia greggii*). Size and growth form, such as overhanging branches, mid-story and under-story vegetation are represented by naturally occurring species of moderate density.
- VM-027: Sufficient bank and floodplain vegetation (including along braided channel floodplains) provide landscape habitat connectivity and physical stability which, in turn, support ground- and stem-dwelling species.

D. PALOVERDE–MIXED CACTI ON BAJADAS AND ROCKY SLOPES

- VM-028: Paloverde–mixed cacti communities have diverse vegetative composition and structure, from small shrubs to large trees (such as ironwood, paloverde, and mesquite) interspersed with a variety of cacti, such as mammalaria (*Mammalaria* spp.), prickly pear (*Opuntia* spp.), cholla (*Opuntia* spp.), barrel cactus (*Ferocactus wislizenii*), hedgehog (*Echinocereus* spp.), and saguaro (*Cereus giganteus*). Where potential exists, saguaro forests support medium-to-high densities of saguaro, with all age classes represented.

E. CREOSOTE–BURSAGE

- VM-029: Unfragmented creosote-bursage habitats that function as landscape connectivity corridors (i.e., movement corridors and foraging areas) between adjacent plant communities are maintained.
- VM-030: Ground cover in creosote-bursage plant communities are maintained with native or naturalized species at the maximum amount appropriate for the site conditions to provide hiding cover and forage for wildlife species.

F. MOUNTAIN UPLANDS

- VM-031: Botanically diverse vegetative communities in mountain uplands include a combination of desert, chaparral, and semi-desert grassland species in amounts appropriate to site conditions. Some areas may include relict populations of oak and elephant tree (Weinstein et al. 2003).

G. DUNE COMPLEXES

- VM-032: Dunes support a diverse mix of native species composed of shrubs, grasses and annual forbs.
- VM-033: The location of intact dune complexes are identified throughout the planning area.
- VM-034: Sensitive or rare species endemic to dunes are found in all size classes (i.e., scaly sand plant [*Pholisma arenarium*] in the north of La Posa Plain).
- VM-035: Non-native invasive species (e.g., Russian thistle [*Salsola kali*] and Sahara mustard) that threaten dune complexes are reduced in the Dunes WHA.

2.5.2 VEGETATION HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS

VHAs contain populations of priority plant species (Appendix E) and native plant assemblages. The VHAs are areas of ecological importance that are recognized for significant factors such as density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, or age. The Approved RMP allocates three VHAs as presented in Map 2-5 and Table 2-4.

Table 2-4
Approved RMP Vegetation Habitat Management Areas

| Vegetation Habitat Management Areas | Approved RMP Total Acres |
|---|--------------------------|
| Elephant Tree community (<i>Bursera microphylla</i>) | 10,000 |
| Blue Sand Lily community (<i>Triteleiopsis palmeri</i>) | 500 |
| Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt | 12,400 |
| Total VHA Acres | 22,900 |

VHA=Vegetation Habitat Management Area

Desired Future Conditions

- VM-036: Ensure that plant species-populations within VHAs are stable or increasing with recruitment over all age classes with no net loss of habitat or fragmentation of plant communities.
- VM-037: Ensure the Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt is managed for habitat values, specifically to benefit dove, quail, and thrasher populations.
- SM-029: On lands where the Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt VHA and Sears Point ACEC overlap, land use planning decisions for the ACEC would take precedence.

Management Actions

- VM-038: Allocate the 12,400-acre Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt as a VHA. The Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt includes portions of Gila River riparian habitat located in the planning area and has been designated as a VHA to perpetuate a previous land designation. The greenbelt was originally segregated as a Resource Conservation Area in 1970 to set aside the riparian habitat for game birds for hunting along the Gila River. The VHA will emphasize the original values of the Resource Conservation Area, such as “nesting areas for white-winged dove, mourning dove, and songbirds, public recreation, historic significance, flood and erosion control and water conservation” (*Federal Register* Vol. 32, No. 178, September 14, 1967).
- VM-039: Allocate the 10,000-acre Elephant Tree Community as a VHA. The Elephant Tree VHA will protect a proposed priority plant, *Bursera microphylla*, which is a shrub with subtropical affinities. The trunk and lower branches are thickened, the bark exfoliates in sheets, the plant exudes resin, and the leaves are aromatic. It is found in isolated populations of the Sonoran Desert on mountains. The population in the Gila Mountains is one of the most well represented stands in the U.S.
- VM-040: Allocate the 500-acre Blue Sand Lily Community as a VHA. The Blue Sand Lily VHA will protect the *Triteleiopsis palmeri*, a flowering plant listed as an Arizona BLM sensitive species. This rare plant grows from bulblets and only flowers in wet years. The VHA is located on stabilized sand dunes of the Gila River Mesa and is the northernmost known population in the U.S. It is also found in Baja California and the Gran Desierto in Sonora, Mexico.

- VM-041: Increase or decrease the acreages of VHAs as necessary based upon new information through an RMP amendment.
- VM-042: Minimize BLM-authorized ground-disturbing activities in VHAs to protect focal plant species-populations. Land use authorizations for activities such as mineral extraction and livestock grazing would generally not be approved.
- VM-043: Treat non-native invasive species within the VHAs.
- FM-022: Install fire breaks and complete hazardous fuels reduction activities within the Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt VHA to protect mesquite bosques and native woodlands.
- LR-028: To the extent possible, new transportation ROWs will avoid VHAs. Appropriate mitigation will be required when avoidance is not possible.

Administrative Actions

- AA-050: Inventory and map the focal plant communities in VHAs. Monitor ground-disturbing activities by OHV use and other sources of disturbance or habitat alterations to assess the conditions and trends of plant species-populations.
- AA-051: Develop a management plan for the Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt VHA in cooperation with AGFD and USFWS.
- AA-052: Assess the potential threats to blue sand lily populations within the Blue Sand Lily VHA. These focal plant species-populations are potentially threatened by OHV and invasive, non-native species such as Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*).
- AA-053: Identify additional plant populations which meet VHA criteria.

2.5.3 BLM SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES

BLM sensitive species are taxa that are not already included as BLM special status species under (1) federally listed, proposed, or candidate species; or (2) State of Arizona/State of California listed species (see Appendix E). BLM policy is to provide these species with the same level of protection as is provided for candidate species to ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out do not contribute to the need for the species to become listed. The sensitive species designation is normally used for species that occur on BLM-administered lands for which BLM has the capability to significantly affect the conservation status of the species through management.

Desired Future Conditions

- VM-044: Sensitive plant species and associated habitats are protected to prevent them from becoming listed under the ESA. Sensitive plant species and other species at risk, where the quantity and quality of habitat to support population persistence is a concern, are conserved.
- VM-045: Unique habitats (e.g., unique assemblages of rare plant species) are maintained or restored throughout the planning area in order to support plant biodiversity and to meet ecological integrity and social needs.

- VM-046: Sensitive plant species and relict populations that are vulnerable to habitat disturbance are protected. Minimize potential threat of imperiled status as a result of land and resource uses-related disturbances on BLM-administered lands.
- VM-047: Stable or increasing populations of sensitive plant species are achieved over time with adequate pollination, nurse plants, recruitment, and survivorship. Desired habitat conditions are maintained and/or degraded habitats are restored to promote pollinator success and survival.
- VM-048: Public understanding of the importance of maintaining rare and culturally important plants is enhanced through educational programs regarding native plant conservation, biodiversity, and invasive non-native plant species.

Management Actions

- VM-049: Implement protection and restoration measures, such as fencing, seeding by using native species, and native plant seed collection, for sensitive plant species.
- VM-050: Reduce or eradicate populations of non-native plants in occupied and potential rare plant habitat. Aggressively treat non-native invasive species where appropriate to protect sensitive plant species.
- VM-051: Collect seeds of native sensitive plant species to be used in rehabilitation and restoration activities. Seeds must be collected in accordance with seed zones or breeding zones for native plants.
- LR-068: Acquire lands from willing landowners for conservation banking of natural communities with sensitive plant species, especially if loss of essential habitat is anticipated.

Administrative Actions

- AA-054: Continue to survey and map locations of suitable habitat occupied by sensitive plant species. Also, identify and map areas of non-native plant invasions within rare plant habitats.
- AA-055: Monitor and evaluate the status and trends of rare and endemic plant species with emphasis on sensitive plant species. Monitor the rare plant populations according to BLM botanical standards and *Rare Plants 2000 Strategy*.
- AA-056: Collaborate with academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (i.e., Arizona and/or California Native Plant Society, Arizona or California Natural Heritage Program) for research and monitoring of sensitive plant species. Support research efforts for sensitive plants to determine species distribution, phenology, pollination ecology, habitat dynamics, and susceptibility to disturbances during key life stages.
- AA-057: During site/project-level analysis, inventory occupied and potential sensitive plant habitats and prioritize opportunities for protection and/or restoration.
- AA-058: Continue to identify potential botanical special interest areas (i.e., areas with unique habitat features, rare plant communities; or areas with high-quality cryptogamic soil crusts with lichens, bryophytes, and fungi) and recommend them for protection.

2.5.4 PRIORITY PLANT SPECIES

Priority plant species are rare, unusual, or key species that are not BLM sensitive or listed as threatened and endangered. These species are considered priority species due to ecological importance, rarity, and human interest. They are worthy of special treatment and indicate ecological health, biological diversity, and unique habitats. Identification of priority plant species will help prevent the avoidable loss of these plants due to development and implementation of other multiple use objectives.

Desired Future Conditions

- VM-052: Priority plant species-populations are stable or increasing, with adequate recruitment given the ecological conditions and dynamics associated with the Sonoran Desert. No net loss of habitat or fragmentation of plant communities.
- VM-053: Landscape-scale conservation measures of priority plant species protect or restore botanical resources of concern and ensure consistent management across jurisdictional boundaries.
- VM-054: Priority plant species and relict populations that are vulnerable to habitat disturbance are protected. The potential threat of imperiled status as a result of land- and resource-uses-related disturbances on BLM-administered lands is minimized.

Management Actions

- VM-055: Implement protection and restoration measures, such as fencing, seeding by using native species, invasive weeds treatment, and native plant seed collection, for priority plant species.
- VM-056: Reduce or eradicate populations of non-native plants in occupied and potential rare plant habitat. Aggressively treat non-native invasive species where appropriate to protect priority plant species.
- LR-068: Acquire lands from willing landowners for conservation banking of natural communities with priority plant species, especially if loss of essential habitat is anticipated.

Administrative Actions

- AA-059: Survey, map, and monitor natural plant communities with special emphasis on priority plant species.
- AA-060: Follow and implement the BLM *Rare Plants 2000 Strategy* (USDOI BLM 2000) for rare plants and natural plant communities to maintain biological diversity through the conservation of natural plant communities and rare plant species.
- AA-061: Identify status of rare and endemic plant species or communities through collaborative efforts between BLM and other governmental and non-governmental agencies (i.e., USFWS, AGFD, CDFG, Arizona and California Natural Heritage Programs, Arizona and California Native Plant Societies, The Nature Conservancy, and others).

- AA-062: Survey the presence of invasive, non-native species within the scrub oak relict populations at three sites in the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness and at Dripping Springs.
- AA-063: Use regional databases such as Southwest Environmental Information Network (<http://seinet.asu.edu/>) to further understand species status.
- AA-064: Regularly update the priority plant species list (Appendix E) to reflect new information and survey data.

2.5.5 INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS

Non-native, invasive and State and federally listed noxious weed species collectively constitute a major threat to the biodiversity on BLM-administered lands. Non-native invasive species often degrade aesthetic vegetation values, tourism opportunities, or degrade recreational value of public lands. Native species in upland and riparian ecosystems are competitively reduced and the ecological process altered when non-native plants (both noxious and invasive weeds) become established and flourish. Two critical components of managing these species are (1) identifying and assessing those species that threaten biodiversity and other ecological functions and values and (2) prioritizing species for management efforts, which must be based, at least in part, on the ecological impacts imparted by these invaders (see Appendix C).

Desired Future Conditions

- VM-057: The introduction or spread of non-native, invasive and State and federally listed noxious weed species is prevented.
- VM-058: Non-native invasive species management is enhanced through a collaborative approach with fire management.

Management Actions

- VM-035: Non-native invasive species (e.g., Russian thistle [*Salsola kali*] and Sahara mustard) that threaten dune complexes are reduced in the Dunes WHA.
- VM-059: Use an integrated pest management approach to ensure that the best methods available are implemented to prevent the introduction and control the spread of non-native plants, invasive plants, and noxious weeds. Treat invasive, non-native plant species using a combination of chemical, mechanical, manual, and biological methods.
- VM-060: Conduct vegetation treatments of riparian areas dominated by salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima/chinensis*) along the lower Colorado River and Gila River corridors where ecological enhancement is possible. Where salt cedar is removed for the purposes of replanting with native species and restoration of a site, BLM will assess the likelihood of success on a case-by-case basis prior to implementation. Factors to consider include salinity, depth to groundwater, and soil structure. Salt cedar may also be removed to create permanent fire breaks, decrease hazard fuel load, protect existing native vegetation pockets, and allow for public health and safety as well as homeland security.
- VM-061: Treat giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and other invasive, non-native species in aquatic ecosystems along the lower Colorado River.

- VM-062: Treatment for hazardous fuels reduction and non-native invasive species will be allowed within designated ACECs. These treatments will be carried out in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to important resources.
- VM-063: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, allow vegetative manipulation to control noxious, exotic, or invasive plant species, when there is no effective alternative and when the control is necessary to maintain the natural ecological balances within the area. Control may include manual, chemical, and biological treatment, provided it will not cause adverse impacts to the wilderness characteristics.
- VM-064: Reduce hazardous fuels and non-native invasive species along the Anza Trail.
- FM-020: Treat non-native invasive species that constitute significant fuel load and fire threat directly by using integrated pest management or managed through fire breaks and other tactics.

Administrative Actions

- AA-065: Conduct risk assessments and formulate BMPs to control infestations and spread of noxious or invasive weeds. The integrated pest management approach will include (1) early detection and rapid response (early treatment of newly invading species); (2) containment and treatment (control of established widespread infestations); (3) inventory, monitoring, and evaluation; and (4) public awareness, education, and outreach.
- AA-066: Promote coordinated partnership for landscape-scale weed management across jurisdictional boundaries to achieve the desired conditions in a cost-efficient manner. Establish or update cooperative agreements and participate in local councils (i.e., Lower Colorado River Giant Salvinia Task Force and Steering Committee, Sonoran Desert Invasive Species Council, and King of Arizona Cooperative Weed Management Area) to maximize coordination and implement an integrative framework for weed management.
- AA-067: Implement public outreach and interpretive programs to enhance public awareness regarding noxious or invasive weeds and associated impacts on biodiversity.
- AA-068: Collaborate with State efforts of both California and Arizona for noxious and invasive weeds (e.g., Arizona Invasive Species Council).
- AA-069: Encourage equestrian groups to use weed-free hay.
- AA-070: Require BLM contractors and employees to clean vehicles after traveling in areas with high noxious or invasive weed infestations.

2.5.6 VEGETATIVE USE AUTHORIZATION

BLM manages vegetation for habitat, multiple use, and sustained yield. This section describes firewood collection allocations, permitted uses, and non-permitted uses of vegetation resources.

Desired Future Conditions

The following Desired Future Conditions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- VM-065: Vegetation resources are used at a sustainable level.
- VM-066: Appropriate levels of dead, downed, and detached wood remain on the ground to provide wildlife habitat and reduce soil erosion.

Management Actions

The following Management Actions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- VM-067: Wood Cutting (Commercial). Issue permits for commercial wood cutting on a case-by-case basis.
- VM-068: Wood Cutting (Personal). Prohibit wood cutting of native species for household fuel wood use.
- VM-069: Plant and Seed Collection. Issue permits for commercial seed collection on BLM-administered lands on a case-by-case basis and ensure permit holders follow permit stipulations.
- VM-070: Plant Salvage. Allow plant salvage within the planning area on a case-by-case basis. Plant salvage will require prior written authorization from BLM as well as a permit from the Arizona Department of Agriculture as required by the Arizona Native Plant Law.
- VM-071: Scientific Plant Collection. Allow the scientific collection of vegetative materials, including seeds, where appropriate through an annual letter of permission by the Arizona BLM State Office.
- VM-072: Native American Traditional Use. Fees will not apply on BLM lands to Native Americans for the collection of non-commercial, personal use quantities of herbals, medicines, traditional use items, or items necessary for traditional, religious, or ceremonial purposes. Collection of federally listed threatened and endangered species will not be authorized (see Appendix C).
- VM-073: Firewood Collection. Close a total of 153,000 acres to firewood collection, including portions of the La Posa Plain, Imperial Dam LTVA, Big Marias ACEC, and Dripping Springs ACEC as listed in Table 2-5 and shown on Map 2-5. New firewood collection closures will be implemented through the establishment of supplementary rules, as outlined in 43 CFR 8365.1-6, if assessments indicate potential resource degradation.
- VM-074: On Site Firewood Collection. Allow the public to collect dead, downed, and detached wood for personal campfire use while camping on BLM-administered lands not closed to firewood collection. Prohibit the collection of standing dead plant material throughout the entire planning area, including removal by any mechanical means.
- VM-075: Other Vegetative Collection. Allow the public to collect small amounts of commonly available renewable resources such as flowers, berries, nuts, seed, cones, and leaves for non-commercial purposes without written authorization; the collection of these resources is prohibited within the Sears Point ACEC core area, Big Marias ACEC, and Dripping Springs ACEC.

- VM-076: Saguaro Skeleton Collection. Prohibit the collection of saguaro cacti skeletons for personal use or campfire burning throughout the entire planning area, as such use is not sustainable for this product.
- VM-077: Ironwood Collection. Limit the collection and possession of dead, downed, and detached ironwood at any one time to three pieces, with an approximate weight not to exceed 10 pounds; the collection of dead, down, and detached ironwood is prohibited within the Sears Point ACEC core area, Big Marias ACEC, and Dripping Springs ACEC.
- VM-078: Vegetative Product Sales. Close the Big Marias and Dripping Springs ACECs to all vegetative product sales.

**Table 2-5
Approved RMP Firewood Collection Closures**

| Firewood Collection Closure Area | Approved RMP Total Acres |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| La Posa Plain Planning Area | 131,500 |
| Imperial Dam LTVA | 3,200 |
| Big Marias ACEC | 2,900 |
| Sears Point ACEC (core area) | 3,700 |
| Dripping Springs ACEC | 11,700 |
| Remaining Field Office | 0 |
| Total Acres Closed | 153,000 |

LTVA = Long-term Visitor Area; ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Administrative Actions

- AA-071: Work and coordinate with Native American tribes to select harvesting areas and allow noncommercial (personal use) collection of medicinal herbs, ceremonial herbs, other vegetation, and/or minerals for traditional or ceremonial use.

2.6 WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

YFO coordinates with other agencies to manage fire in accordance with the nationwide BLM fire policy and the National Fire Plan. This integrates fire and fuels management with other land and resource management activities to benefit natural resources and implement multiple-use on BLM-administered lands within Arizona and the portion of California that falls within the planning area.

The Lower Colorado River subdivision of the Sonoran Desert is the predominant vegetation community within the planning area. This vegetation community is not considered to be fire adapted or dependent. The invasion of non-native species has created areas that are now prone to high intensity fires with high rates of spread. The non-fire use management includes areas where mitigation and suppression are required to prevent direct threats to life or property. It includes areas where fire never played a large role, historically, in the development and maintenance of the ecosystem, and some areas where fire return intervals were very long. It also includes areas

(including some Wildland Urban Interface [WUI] areas) where an unplanned ignition could have adverse effects to the ecosystem unless some form of mitigation takes place. Mitigation may include mechanical, biological, chemical, or prescribed fire to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires, and to meet resource objectives.

Desired Future Conditions

- FM-001: Human life (both firefighters and public) and communities, property, and the natural resources on which they depend are protected. Firefighter and public safety are the highest priority in all fire management activities.
- FM-002: Public awareness of the role of fire in ecosystem restoration, wildfire risk and mitigation strategies, and wildfire safe community, preparedness, and response planning is improved.
- FM-003: Interagency and community interactions and cooperation develop effective and integrated wildland fire and fuel management strategies across administrative boundaries to meet landscape-scale resource condition objectives.
- FM-004: Hazardous fuels around communities at risk within the WUI are reduced using mechanical treatment and prescribed fire, where applicable.
- FM-005: Appropriate Management Response (AMR) for resource benefits will be full suppression.

Management Actions

- FM-006: The entire planning area is managed as non-fire use.
- FM-007: Implement the WUI fuels reduction program, with wildland fuels decreased and maintained at a manageable level, creating conditions conducive to safe, efficient, and effective firefighting.
- FM-008: Utilize prescribed and wildland fire techniques to protect the values-at-risk (life and property) and to maintain or enhance the ecosystem health.
- FM-009: Implement fire and fuels management strategies that include fire suppression, prescribed fire, and non-fire treatments (manual, chemical, mechanical, or biological treatments).
- FM-010: Identify areas where prescribed fire use will be appropriate to maintain or restore desirable plant communities.
- FM-011: Identify, prioritize, and implement an estimated annual average of 1,000 acres per year of fuel management over the life of the plan. Fuel treatments to reduce wildland fire risk will focus on the WUI areas and shrublands characterized as Fire Regime Condition Class II and III.
- FM-012: Identify and implement post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation actions in burned areas to restore a functional landscape to meet the natural resource management objectives.
- FM-013: Include wildfire hazard mitigation strategies in the Fire Management Plan for the planning area by identifying appropriate areas for prescribed fire use and mechanical,

biological, or chemical treatments to reduce hazardous fuels to minimize the adverse effects of uncharacteristic wildland fires and meet resource objectives. The plan will also identify areas for exclusion from fire (through fire suppression), chemical, mechanical, and/or biological treatments.

- FM-014: In Wilderness, when wildland fire suppression occurs, minimum impact suppression tactics identified in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations will be applied.
- FM-015: Conduct fire management activities within ACECs and along the Anza Trail and National Byways in a manner that will avoid or minimize adverse impacts to existing resources and values identified in the legislative designation of the trail.
- FM-016: Wildland fire suppression activities will utilize methods with lesser ground disturbance to minimize potential adverse impacts on existing species and habitats. No heavy equipment (such as bulldozers) will be used unless approved by the YFO Manager.
- FM-017: Use of fire retardants or chemicals adjacent to waterways will be in accordance with the Environmental Guidelines for Delivery of Retardant or Foam near Waterways, in accordance with the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations (National Interagency Fire Center 2007).
- FM-018: Protect all known cultural resources from fire management activities-related disturbance through consultation with cultural resource specialists.
- FM-019: For fire suppression activities, a protocol for consultation has been developed as a part of the BO. This programmatic consultation contains conservation measures and prescriptions for use in fire suppression activities. Emergency consultation should only be needed in the future, if suppression actions fall outside of these prescriptions/measures. The BO will outline coordination needs for emergency response actions that may affect a federally listed/proposed species and/or critical habitat. The following protocol will apply: YFO will contact the appropriate USFWS biologist as soon as practical once a wildfire starts and a determination is made that a federally protected species and/or its habitat could be affected by the fire and/or fire suppression activities. USFWS will work with YFO during the emergency response to apply the appropriate Conservation Measures. When Conservation Measures cannot be applied during the suppression activities, YFO will, after the fact, need to consult on any suppression actions that may have affected the federally protected species or its habitat. If Conservation Measures are adhered to, YFO will report on the actions taken and effects to the species and its habitat following the fire, but no further consultation on that incident will be required.
- FM-020: Treat non-native invasive species that constitute significant fuel load and fire threat directly by using integrated pest management or managed through fire breaks and other tactics.
- FM-021: When AMR allows, use minimum impact suppression tactics during fire suppression operations within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.
- FM-022: Install fire breaks and complete hazardous fuels reduction activities within the Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt VHA to protect mesquite bosques and native woodlands.

- FM-023: Integrate fire management into upland and riparian habitat restoration actions for non-game bird species.
- FM-024: Use prescribed fire, chemical, and mechanical treatments in Sonoran pronghorn habitat to reduce shrub and tree components. Prescribed fire can be used to supplement natural grassland renewal, especially to increase forbs and reduce shrubs.
- FM-025: Avoid hazardous fuel thinning projects that reduce the quality or quantity of southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) habitat and instead install fire breaks to protect habitat from wildfires.
- FM-026: Burn decadent marsh vegetation without risking the rarer and more valuable cottonwood-willow habitat, if research concludes that burning decadent marsh vegetation benefits Yuma clapper rail population.
- FM-027: Limit fuel treatments in watersheds with occupied reaches or sites of Gila topminnow, bonytail chub, and desert pupfish to no more than half of the watershed area in any two-year period.
- FM-028: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, allow prescribed fires in conformity with a fire management plan so long as it is consistent in improving or maintaining the area's wilderness characteristics.
- FM-029: Resolve public health and safety issues by clearing hazardous fuels along the International Boundary under the fire management program, where appropriate.
- FM-030: Reduce and or remove hazardous fuels in recreation sites to improve public safety in coordination with the BLM Fire Management program.
- VM-062: Treatment for hazardous fuels reduction and non-native invasive species will be allowed within designated ACECs. These treatments will be carried out in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to important resources.
- VM-064: Reduce hazardous fuels and non-native invasive species along the Anza Trail.
- TE-005: To the extent possible, implement the fire management activities-related conservation measures presented in Appendix C to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts on federally protected species and habitats. Of the adopted conservation measures, some are mandatory and others are recommended. If the mandatory conservation measures for federally protected species and habitats cannot be implemented during wildland fire management activities (i.e., suppression, rehabilitation and restoration, and hazardous fuels reduction), YFO will be required to initiate ESA Section 7 consultation with the USFWS for the specific projects.

Administrative Actions

- AA-072: Establish an approved burn plan and follow the environmental prescriptions identified in the plan for fuels treatment using prescribed fire.
- AA-073: Identify, prioritize, and plan fuels reduction projects using a uniform system for determining wildland fire risk in WUI (e.g., risk assessment and mitigation strategy).

2.0 Management Decisions

- AA-074: Identify AMR-related goals, objectives, and constraints for each fire management unit.
- AA-075: Comply with Federal and State standards for smoke and air quality management for fuel treatment using prescribed fire.
- AA-076: Collaborate with communities at risk within the WUI to develop strategies for wildfire hazard mitigations.
- AA-077: Coordinate implementation of fuel reduction treatments with landowners, agencies, and Native American tribes.
- AA-078: Establish or update cooperative agreements to maximize coordination with BLM's cooperators.
- AA-079: Undertake education, enforcement, and administrative activities as measures to minimize human-caused wildfires. Education measures will include dissemination of information through various media on the natural role of fire within terrestrial ecosystems, interpretive sign program, and participation in fairs, parades, and other public outreach or contacts.
- AA-080: Accomplish enforcement by providing training opportunities for BLM employees interested in fire-cause determination.
- AA-081: Include expanded fire prevention media outreach and stakeholder/cooperating agencies involvement in administrative activities.
- AA-082: Monitor to determine whether fire management strategies, practices, and activities are meeting resource management objectives and concerns. Fire management plans and policies will be updated as needed to keep current with national and State fire management direction. Scheduled program reviews (post-season fire review) will be conducted to evaluate fire management effectiveness in meeting goals and to reassess program direction. In the case of wildfire rehabilitation, monitoring will be specific to resource objectives.

2.7 FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The Sikes Act of 1974 authorized the USDOJ in cooperation with State agencies responsible for the administration of fish and wildlife laws to plan, develop, maintain and coordinate programs for the conservation and rehabilitation of fish and wildlife (both game and non-game) on public lands within its jurisdiction.

The LCR MSCP is a multi-stakeholder Federal and non-Federal partnership, with Reclamation as the lead Federal agency, responding to the need to balance the use of lower Colorado River water resources and the conservation of native species and their habitats in compliance with the ESA and other environmental laws. BLM supports and participates in achieving the conservation goals identified within the LCR MSCP.

The State of Arizona manages wildlife, while the BLM manages wildlife habitat. BLM will consider the goals and objectives of the AGFD's *Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy*

(AGFD 2006), *Wildlife Management Program Strategic Plan* (AGFD 2007), and subsequent *State Wildlife Action and Strategic Plans* when implementing management actions. Such plans identify wildlife species and habitats, assess threats to their survival, and identify long-term conservation actions. The Arizona BLM's *Five-Year Strategy for the Wildlife, Fisheries, Botany, and Threatened and Endangered Species Programs* (USDOI BLM 2004b) will guide management actions.

Desired Future Conditions

The following Desired Future Conditions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- WF-001: Priority habitats (i.e., mountain ranges, riparian areas, desert washes, sand dunes, abandoned mines and natural caves) and associated wildlife assemblages for terrestrial ecosystem management will remain in their present quality and quantity, at a minimum.
- WF-002: High-quality, connected, and sustainable fish and wildlife habitat is retained.
- WF-003: Fish and wildlife habitats capable of sustaining healthy populations will meet conservation, socio-economic (e.g., hunting, fishing, watchable wildlife), and Tribal needs.
- WF-004: Suitable habitats and habitat linkages will remain available in both quality and quantity to promote genetic integrity for priority fish and wildlife species when planning terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem restoration.
- WF-005: The planning area contains suitable habitat for relocating and releasing individual animals and release of rehabilitated wildlife. These types of wildlife releases are not intended to establish new populations but are appropriate in areas of suitable habitat. Wildlife species that could be released include mountain lion (*Puma concolor*); burrowing owl; and other raptor, reptile, and game species.
- WF-006: All livestock waters will provide safe, usable water for wildlife.
- WF-007: Natural wildlife waters, such as unmodified tinajas and Dripping Springs, will remain in their natural state. Such waters are essential for ecological integrity and promote biological diversity. Any modifications to unmodified tinajas will be minimal to allow trapped animals to escape (e.g., stairs or escape ramps), and will be analyzed through site-specific NEPA.
- WF-008: The distribution and abundance of invasive plants and animals are limited to current levels and the impacts of invasive species on native ecosystems through active management are reduced from current levels.
- WF-009: The undesirable effects to fish and wildlife populations resulting from human activities are minimized, especially during critical life stages, through mitigation of potential impacts.
- WF-010: Native species habitat distribution and occurrence (especially for priority species) is restored, biological diversity is conserved, genetic integrity and exchange is maintained, and availability of suitable habitats and habitat linkages is improved.

Management Actions

The following Management Actions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- WF-011: Construct, maintain, restore, redevelop, or enhance wildlife waters to provide perennial water sources for native wildlife species-populations. Water developments will include design features to ensure safety and accessibility to water by wildlife.
- WF-012: Establish ground-level wildlife water developments at livestock waters where feasible. An enclosure of three to seven acres containing the water source, storage, and related riparian habitat will be built to exclude livestock. Where terrain permits, livestock water will be provided at least 0.5 mile outside of the fenced enclosures.
- WF-013: Modify existing livestock water facilities for safe wildlife use as funding and opportunities permit. The following standards apply to the design and modification of livestock waters.
 - The above-ground height of livestock troughs and tanks will not exceed 20 inches.
 - YFO will install wildlife escape ladders in each facility and provide ramps for small bird and mammal access in cooperation with AGFD and CDFG.
 - Storage tanks will have either a metal or floating vinyl cover to reduce evaporation and prevent wildlife from drowning.
- WF-014: Initiate restoration activities in priority habitats to move toward desired habitat conditions and provide functional landscapes to sustain the fish and wildlife species-populations. Wildlife habitat improvement projects for the planning area will be implemented in coordination with AGFD, CDFG, and/or USFWS, as necessary.
- WF-015: Support reintroductions, transplants, and supplemental stockings (augmentations) of wildlife populations (as defined in BLM Manual 1745) in current or historic ranges in collaboration with AGFD, CDFG, and/or the USFWS and other agencies where such reintroductions are within areas deemed suitable through BLM policy and procedure to (1) maintain populations, distributions and genetic diversity; (2) conserve or recover threatened or endangered species; (3) restore or enhance native wildlife diversity and distribution; and (4) maintain isolated populations. Species that could be reintroduced, transplanted or augmented include but are not limited to Sonoran pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana sonoriensis*), cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (CFPO; *Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*), desert mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis mexicana*), javelina (*Pecari tajacu*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), lowland leopard frog (*Rana yavapaiensis*), Gila topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis occidentalis*), desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*), bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*), flannel mouth sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*), roundtail chub (*Gila robusta*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*), and Aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*).
- WF-016: Manage non-native species identified as pests in accordance with applicable BLM, AGFD, and CDFG management policies depending on administrative area.
- WF-017: Design and implement vegetation, fire and fuels, and watershed resource management-related projects that will promote enhancement of existing habitat conditions or

restoration of degraded habitat conditions for the selected fish and wildlife species of emphasis. Vegetation and fuels management for wildlife habitat improvement should consider the following habitat conditions or features: (1) amount, quality, and distribution of suitable habitats; (2) juxtaposition and connectivity to other habitat areas; (3) influence of roads-related degradation; and (4) ecosystem disturbance processes that develop and modify habitats.

Administrative Actions

The following Administrative Actions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- AA-083: Develop landscape-specific habitat management plans through collaborative partnership with appropriate agencies.
- AA-084: Enhance public awareness of fish and wildlife management through conservation education and interpretive programs.
- AA-085: Coordinate animal damage control with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and AGFD and CDFG.
- AA-086: Cooperate with AGFD and CDFG to conduct wildlife surveys, research, and other management actions.

2.7.1 PRIORITY SPECIES

Potential priority species for the planning area include bats, big game mammals, non-game migratory birds, raptors, and game birds. A list of priority species that occur or may occur in the planning area is found in Appendix E.

Desired Future Conditions Common to All Priority Species

The following Desired Future Conditions apply throughout the entire planning area where habitat for priority species exists.

- WF-018: Well-distributed habitat and connectivity corridors are provided that are capable of supporting self-sustaining populations of interacting groups of priority species for biodiversity, socio-economic, and Tribal needs.
- WF-019: Suitable habitat is provided that is capable of maintaining stable or increasing trends in abundance to help keep species from becoming federally listed.
- WF-020: Human-caused disturbances to habitats that result in animal mortalities or undesirable effects to populations of priority species are prevented during critical stages where and when possible.
- WF-021: Adverse effects to big game habitat from project-related disturbances are minimized, particularly during lambing and fawning seasons. Lambing and fawning areas and periods should be determined during site/project-level planning to address big game exposure to stress during critical periods.

A. BATS

Desired Future Conditions

- WF-022: Suitability of existing bat roost sites is maintained and accessibility to key open watering sites are maintained or enhanced.

Management Actions

- WF-023: Install bat gates at abandoned mine sites that do or could support bat roosts.

Administrative Actions

- AA-087: Inventory and monitor caves, mines, and other natural and artificial roosts and habitats that support, or once supported, the most important bat colonies and populations.
- AA-088: Identify key open watering sites for bats.
- AA-089: Prioritize natural and manmade roosts for protection, especially those containing large populations of a single species or diverse collections of species.
- AA-090: Monitor the potential effects of land management and resource use, and other natural or human-caused disturbances on bat habitat.
- AA-091: Evaluate the effectiveness of conservation measures or management actions implemented, including bat gates, manmade roosts, and other habitat protection and restoration actions.
- AA-092: Educate the public on bat conservation through collaborative partnership with Bat Conservation International, a non-governmental organization, and by integrating education materials into other successful programs.

B. BIG GAME SPECIES

Management Actions

- GM-015: Prohibit domestic sheep and goat grazing within nine miles of desert bighorn sheep habitat to avoid disease transmission according to BLM guidelines, including IM 98-140 *Revised Guidelines for Management of Domestic Sheep and Goats in Native Wild Sheep Habitat*.
- TM-017: Roads traversing bighorn sheep habitat may be closed, limited, or rerouted during the lambing season in specific areas consistent with safety and maintenance requirements of authorized uses in corporation with AGFD and CDFG.

Administrative Actions

- AA-093: Coordinate with AGFD and CDFG regarding their management objectives for big game species when YFO management actions may affect those objectives (including development of water catchments).

- AA-094: In cooperation with AGFD and CDFG, identify existing and potential areas where big game mortality from vehicles may be a concern. Implement temporary, seasonal, or permanent area and transportation route closures or reroutes, if necessary, to address big game vulnerability to mortality. Any changes will consider public access needs and the prior existing rights of potentially affected parties. Coordinate any changes with the appropriate Federal, State, county, and Tribal governments, and all potentially affected parties.

C. NON-GAME MIGRATORY BIRDS

Desired Future Conditions

- WF-024: YFO actions promote programs and recommendations of comprehensive migratory bird planning efforts such as Partners-in-Flight, U.S. National Shorebird Plan, North American Waterfowl Management Plan (2004), North American Colonial Waterbird Plan, and other planning efforts, as well as guidance from other sources.
- WF-025: The conservation intent of the conventions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are supported by integrating bird conservation principles, measures, and practices into YFO activities and by avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts on migratory bird resources when conducting BLM actions.
- WF-026: The pollution or detrimental alteration of the environment is prevented or abated for the benefit of migratory birds, as practicable.

Management Actions

- WF-027: Restore degraded habitats (both upland and riparian) to ecological conditions consistent with non-game migratory bird habitat management objectives, emphasizing maintenance and/or enhancement of natural biological diversity.
- VM-008: Where and when practicable, develop new riparian habitat or restore damaged, degraded, and salt cedar habitats along the lower Colorado River and Gila River for the protection and enhancement of migratory birds. Install facilities to protect restoration sites as needed.
- FM-023: Integrate fire management into upland and riparian habitat restoration actions for non-game bird species.
- LR-068: Consolidate areas with high actual or potential value for non-game migratory bird habitat through land exchange or acquisition.

Administrative Actions

- AA-095: Prioritize breeding and migratory stopover bird habitat for protection or mitigation.
- AA-096: Identify major habitat modifications and other threats that may have significant negative effects on the survival of migratory bird species-populations.
- AA-097: Provide notice to the USFWS in advance of conducting an action that is intended to “take” (see glossary) migratory birds or annually report to the USFWS on the number of individuals of each species of migratory birds intentionally taken during the conduct of any

BLM action including but not limited to banding or marking, scientific collecting, taxidermy, and depredation control.

- AA-098: Identify where unintentional take reasonably attributable to BLM actions is having, or is likely to have, a measurable negative effect on migratory bird populations, focusing first on species of concern, priority habitats, and key risk factors. With respect to those actions so identified, the YFO shall develop and use principles, standards, and practices that would lessen the amount of unintentional take, developing any such conservation efforts in cooperation with the USFWS. These principles, standards, and practices shall be regularly evaluated and revised to ensure that they are effective in lessening the detrimental effect of YFO actions on migratory bird populations. The YFO also shall inventory and monitor bird habitat and populations within the BLM's capabilities and authorities to the extent feasible to facilitate decisions about the need for and effectiveness of conservation efforts.
- AA-099: Within the scope of statutorily designated authorities, control the import, export, and establishment in the wild of live exotic animals and plants that may be harmful to migratory bird resources. Collaborate with AGFD on the control of exotic animals.
- AA-100: Identify possible mitigation measures through project-specific NEPA analysis. Avoid or minimize adverse impacts on non-game bird habitats.
- AA-101: Develop a broad awareness and understanding of the importance of non-game bird species and their value to our natural heritage through public outreach and education. Develop interpretive displays for use at professional meetings, county fairs, and other outreach opportunities.
- AA-102: Promote recreational opportunities for bird watching and photography. Recognize and promote economic and recreational values of birds, as appropriate.
- AA-103: Provide training and information to appropriate employees on methods and means of avoiding or minimizing the take of migratory birds and conserving and restoring migratory bird habitat.
- AA-104: Promote migratory bird conservation in international activities and with other countries and international partners, in consultation with the Department of State, as appropriate or relevant to the BLM's authorities.
- AA-105: Develop partnerships with non-Federal entities to further bird conservation.
- AA-106: Promote research and information exchange related to the conservation of migratory bird resources, including coordinated inventorying and monitoring, and the collection and assessment of information on environmental contaminants and other physical or biological stressors having potential relevance to migratory bird conservation. Where such information is collected in the course of BLM actions or supported through Federal financial assistance, reasonable efforts shall be made to share such information with the USFWS, the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, and other appropriate repositories of such data (e.g., the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology).
- AA-107: Design migratory bird habitat and population conservation principles, measures, and practices into BLM plans and planning processes (natural resource, land management, and environmental quality planning including but not limited to forest and rangeland

planning, coastal management planning, watershed planning) as practicable, and coordinate with other agencies and non-Federal partners in planning efforts.

- AA-108: Ensure that environmental analyses of Federal actions required by NEPA or other established environmental review processes evaluate the effects of actions and BLM plans on migratory birds, with emphasis on species of concern.

D. RAPTORS

Desired Future Conditions

- WF-028: Raptor populations are maintained, restored, or enhanced through proper habitat management.

Management Actions

- VM-014: Plant trees in suitable areas to provide perch sites and enhance foraging habitat for raptors.
- LR-068: Pursue all land acquisition options, including but not limited to purchase, exchange, donation, and easement, from willing landowners to consolidate important raptor habitats that are located on State or privately-owned lands within Key Raptor Areas (i.e., Mittry Lake Wildlife Area and the Colorado River corridor) (USDOI BLM 1992).

Administrative Actions

- AA-109: Identify important parcels for land tenure adjustments within the Key Raptor Areas. Allocate funding for appraisals, cadastral surveys, and other lands and realty-related actions necessary to process the land acquisition options.
- AA-110: Ensure that all new power lines are safe for raptors. Inventory power lines to ensure that they meet established standards as described in BLM Manual 2800 and in the 2006 Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006). Inventories of power lines within areas of known high raptor use should be completed first.
- AA-111: Assess the adverse and beneficial effects of fire and fuels management on raptor habitats and the opportunities for integrating fire as a restorative action for raptor habitat management.
- AA-112: Participate in cooperative research initiatives for raptors with other Federal and State agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations.
- AA-113: Identify major habitat modifications and other threats that may have significant negative effects on the survival of raptor species-populations.

E. GAME BIRDS

Management Actions

- WF-029: Create or maintain habitat for dove and quail at suitable sites such as riparian restoration areas or retired agricultural leases.

Administrative Actions

- AA-114: Coordinate with AGFD to provide hunting opportunities for dove and quail.
- AA-115: Monitor the potential effects of land management and resource use, and other natural or human-caused disturbances on game bird habitat.
- AA-116: The future management plan for the Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt VHA incorporates Approved RMP's management prescriptions for game birds.

2.7.2 WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREAS

Priority Wildlife Habitats were designated as wildlife-related special interest areas under the 1987 Yuma District RMP. Five WHAs are designated in the Approved RMP. These management areas are as follows: Colorado and Gila River Riparian, Desert Mountains, Dunes, Palomas Plain, and Wildlife Movement Corridors. WHA designations are presented in Map 2-6 and Table 2-6 below.

Desired Future Conditions Common to All WHAs

- WF-030: WHAs promote healthy terrestrial, aquatic, and riparian ecosystems for biological diversity, ecological integrity and sustainability, and social and cultural needs.
- WF-031: Fragmentation of land cover by land use is reduced within WHAs to sustain ecosystem composition, structure, functions, and processes.
- WF-032: Conservation measures for special status species, priority species, and other at-risk species are emphasized within WHAs while balancing the multiple uses of public lands.
- WF-033: WHAs provide well-distributed habitats and connective corridors for a functional landscape to maintain self-sustaining, complex interacting groups of species or wildlife assemblages.
- WF-034: Additional human-caused disturbance and land-cover changes that may cause adverse effects on native and desired non-native fish and wildlife species habitats are limited within WHAs.

Management Actions Common to All WHAs

- WF-035: When impacts within WHAs are unavoidable, allow no net loss or no net impact to occur so that the ecosystem composition, structure, functions, and processes are maintained.

Table 2-6
Approved RMP Wildlife Habitat Management Areas

| Wildlife Habitat Management Areas | Approved RMP Total Acres |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Colorado River and Gila River Riparian | 38,900 |
| Desert Mountains | 664,000 |
| Dunes | 57,500 |
| Palomas Plain | 627,700 |
| Wildlife Movement Corridors | 138,100 |

Note: The total WHA acres are greater than the total YFO administered lands due to overlap between WHA areas.

- WF-036: Additional uses in WHAs will be limited to compatible activities and those actions whose impacts could be mitigated to preserve or enhance wildlife values.
- WF-037: Limit developments (i.e., livestock facilities, roads, lands actions, mining and minerals) on WHAs to those that are compatible with wildlife habitat.
- LR-028: To the extent possible, new transportation ROWs will avoid WHAs. Appropriate mitigation will be required when avoidance is not possible.
- LR-038: Transmission class ROWs within WHAs will be confined to designated ROW Corridors whenever practicable.
- LR-068: Acquire non-Federal lands in WHAs from willing landowners through purchase or exchange.

A. COLORADO AND GILA RIVER RIPARIAN WHA

Desired Future Conditions

- WF-038: The Colorado and Gila River Riparian WHA provides suitable habitat for aquatic and riparian species.
- WF-039: Opportunities are provided for the restoration of native fish habitat in the lower Colorado River.
- WF-040: The desired watershed conditions in the Colorado and Gila River Riparian WHA are enhanced through maintenance of hydrologic integrity, reduction of accelerated soil erosion and sedimentation, and protection of water quality from point- and non-point-source pollutants.
- WF-041: Riparian-wetland and floodplain areas are in proper functioning condition within the Colorado and Gila River Riparian WHA.
- CM-001: Riparian habitat and marsh vegetation in the Limitrophe are protected and maintained to retain biological diversity and enhance potential habitat to support neotropical migratory birds, special status species, and other wildlife.

Management Actions

- WF-042: Allocate 38,900 acres to the Colorado and Gila River Riparian WHA. This WHA includes the riparian areas along the Colorado and Gila rivers. Although riparian areas make up less than three percent of the public lands, they are one of the most productive and important areas, providing for an even greater diversity of wildlife species. In the planning area, more than 400 species are either directly dependent on riparian areas or use them more than other habitats (USDOI BLM 1987b). Many riparian-obligate wildlife species, as well as many native fish species, are either federally listed or are considered special status species by the Federal government (USFWS and BLM) or State wildlife agencies in Arizona and California. Much of the native riparian habitats on public lands within the planning area have been severely fragmented, degraded, or otherwise substantially altered from a variety of causes, thereby affecting the wildlife populations and species that inhabit them. Large areas of riparian habitats have been invaded by the exotic (invasive) and less desirable salt cedar.
- WF-043: Implement management prescriptions for aquatic and riparian ecosystems described in the LCR MSCP to conserve or recover special status species and at-risk priority species in the Colorado and Gila River WHA.
- VM-008: Where and when practicable, develop new riparian habitat or restore damaged, degraded, and salt cedar habitats within the Colorado and Gila River WHA for the protection and enhancement of riparian or floodplain associated species. Install facilities to protect restoration sites as needed.
- VM-011: Conduct and/or authorize vegetation treatments in selected locations along the International Boundary to allow visibility and reduce cover for clandestine activity. Such treatments will be conducted in a way that considers impacts to Native American religious concerns.
- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within the Colorado and Gila River Riparian WHA.
- MI-023: No salable mineral materials permits will be issued within the Colorado and Gila River Riparian WHA.

B. DESERT MOUNTAINS WHA

Desired Future Conditions

- WF-044: The Desert Mountains WHA maintains well-distributed habitats and connective corridors to support self-sustaining populations of native wildlife species (i.e., desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise [Sonoran and Mojave populations], CFPO, raptors, and bats).
- WF-045: The Desert Mountains WHA promotes stable or increasing population trends in the Desert Mountains-associated priority species.

Management Actions

- WF-046: Allocate 664,000 acres to the Desert Mountains WHA. This WHA includes the overlapping habitat areas of desert bighorn sheep and desert tortoise. The Desert Mountains provide important habitat for desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise and other wildlife species

that could not survive on the arid plains of lower elevations. Mountain ranges provide some of the best remaining bighorn sheep habitat in the southwest, with stable populations in several areas.

- TM-017: Roads traversing bighorn sheep habitat may be closed, limited, or rerouted during the lambing season in specific areas consistent with safety and maintenance requirements of authorized uses in corporation with AGFD and CDFG.
- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within the Desert Mountains WHA where AGFD has identified sensitive desert bighorn sheep habitat.
- MI-025: Limit salable mineral materials permits within the Desert Mountains WHA by making appropriate use of community pits.

Administrative Actions

- AA-117: Monitor OHV usage to ensure that vehicles are staying on designated routes and within existing camping areas and pull-outs within the Desert Mountains WHA.

C. DUNES WHA

Desired Future Conditions

- WF-047: Sand dune habitats are maintained in the Dunes WHA to support native wildlife and plant species that include but are not limited to Cowle's fringe-toed lizard (*Uma notata rufopunctata*), scaly sand plant, flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL) (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), and sand food (*Pholisma sonora*).

Management Actions

- WF-048: Allocate 57,500 acres to the Dunes WHA. This WHA includes four areas of dune habitat. Dunes are a sensitive and unusual habitat in the low deserts and host a variety of plants and wildlife, many of which occur in no other habitat. The principle of managing this WHA will be that the amount of human disruption should decrease in proportion to the significance of the sand dune features, with more intensive use directed to sand dune areas of lesser significance or sensitivity.
- VM-035: Non-native invasive species (e.g., Russian thistle [*Salsola kali*] and Sahara mustard) that threaten dune complexes are reduced in the Dunes WHA.
- TM-004: Within the Dunes WHA, dune areas which support sensitive, special status, and/or priority species will not be available for future Open OHV Management Area designations.
- LR-014: Lands authorizations within the Dunes WHA will avoid to the extent practicable, minimize, or mitigate impacts to dunes with sensitive species.

Administrative Actions

- AA-118: Identify areas of high ecological sensitivity in the Dunes WHA.

D. PALOMAS PLAIN WHA

Desired Future Conditions

- WF-049: The Palomas Plain WHA promotes landscape juxtaposition and connectivity with adjacent planning areas.
- WF-050: The Palomas Plain WHA maintains unfragmented, functional landscapes with well-distributed habitat and connective corridors to support native wildlife populations (including Sonoran pronghorn, mule deer, desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and raptor species).

Management Actions

- WF-051: Allocate 627,700 acres to the Palomas Plain WHA. This WHA is the largest unfragmented habitat in southwest Arizona for a myriad of wildlife, including bighorn sheep and mule deer. It contains braided channel floodplains and mixed cacti paloverde communities on rocky slopes and *bajadas*. The large, contiguous, unfragmented habitat is significant to the hunting community. This area is a potential reintroduction area for the endangered Sonoran pronghorn.
- WF-052: Concentrate developments such as utility facilities in areas already developed or disturbed in the Palomas Plain WHA.

Administrative Actions

- AA-119: Monitor OHV usage to ensure that vehicles are staying on designated routes and within existing camping areas and pull-outs within the Palomas Plain WHA.
- AA-120: Monitor and evaluate habitat use by native wildlife populations (including mule deer, desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and raptor species) in the Palomas Plain WHA.
- AA-121: In cooperation with AGFD and other agencies, determine the feasibility of reintroduction of Sonoran pronghorn to its historic range in the Palomas Plain WHA.

E. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT CORRIDORS WHA

Desired Future Conditions

- WF-053: Within the Wildlife Movement Corridors WHA, maintain functional habitats through landscape connectivity and reduced habitat fragmentation to support terrestrial wildlife species and provide big game species-related movement corridors between and within mountain ranges.

Management Actions

- WF-054: Allocate 131,800 acres to the Wildlife Movement Corridors WHA. This WHA includes areas identified by AGFD and the Arizona Wildlife Linkages Group as being used by wildlife to move between habitats. Migration corridors are traditional movement paths between adjacent mountain ranges.

- WF-055: Minimize new developments or improvements (i.e., roads, fences, canals, quarries, developed campgrounds) within the Wildlife Movement Corridors WHA which will impede or inhibit wildlife movement within a corridor to the maximum extent practicable. Where new developments or improvements cannot be avoided within a wildlife movement corridor, appropriate mitigation to provide for wildlife movement must be included.

Administrative Actions

- AA-122: Coordinate with ADOT to reduce wildlife highway fatalities in problem areas within the Wildlife Movement Corridors WHA.

2.8 SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Special status species are fish, wildlife, and plants that require specific conservation measures or management directions due to species-population or species-habitat concerns. In the Approved RMP, special status plants are addressed in Section 2.5 Vegetation Management. Special management measures within BLM-administered lands are necessary to reduce or eliminate potential adverse impacts to species or habitats, particularly measures to reduce the likelihood of adverse effects to species listed under the ESA. Special status species land use planning falls under the following broad categories: (1) Federally Listed Species: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate Species (and Designated or Proposed Critical Habitat); (2) State Listed (Arizona's draft list of Wildlife of Special Concern or California ESA) Species; and (3) BLM Sensitive Species. Appendix E contains a list of special status species in the planning area.

YFO carries out management for the conservation of State listed plants and animals. State laws protecting these species apply to all BLM programs and actions to the extent that they are consistent with FLPMA and other Federal laws. The protection provided by the policy for candidate species shall be used as the minimum level of protection for BLM sensitive species.

In addition to the ESA, decisions in the Approved RMP are consistent with objectives and recommended actions in approved recovery plans, conservation agreements and strategies, MOUs, and applicable BOs for threatened or endangered species.

Desired Future Conditions

The following Desired Future Conditions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- TE-001: Terrestrial and aquatic habitats for the survival and recovery of species listed under the ESA are maintained, enhanced, and restored, and help keep proposed or candidate species from becoming listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA. Management actions included in the Approved RMP either contribute to or do not prevent recovery or delisting of species listed under the ESA.
- TE-002: Applicable species- or habitat-specific goals and objectives addressed in established and approved recovery plans, conservation strategies and agreements, and MOUs (including the LCR MSCP) are achieved within the planning area.

- TE-003: Habitat historically or currently supporting special status species and existing habitat capable of supporting special status species in the future are maintained, enhanced, and restored. Ecological restoration actions will address long-term threats to special status species and the short-term need to protect special status species and their habitats.
- TE-004: There is no net loss or fragmentation of habitat for major life history requirements (i.e., breeding, feeding, or resting cover) for special status species.

Management Actions

The following Management Actions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- TE-005: Adopt and implement the conservation measures developed with the USFWS through the ESA Section 7 consultation process (Appendix C) to protect and enhance known habitat for threatened and endangered species and assist in the recovery of listed species to maintain biological diversity within the planning area.
- TE-006: Evaluate proposals authorized, funded, or carried out on public lands to ensure they do not contribute to the need to list special status species as threatened or endangered. No activities or projects that will jeopardize the continued existence of special status species will be permitted on BLM-administered lands.
- TE-007: Avoid or minimize negative behavioral impacts to special status species resulting from human caused disturbances by either prohibiting or constraining human activities during breeding or migratory seasons, on a case-by-case basis.
- TE-008: Require projects and land-use authorizations to minimize adverse impacts to special status species through mitigation.
- TE-009: Avoid or minimize the following situations for special status species and associated habitat management on BLM-administered public lands: (1) species becoming endangered in or extirpated from a State, or within a significant portion of its distribution; (2) species undergoing significant current or predicted downward trend in habitat capability that will reduce a species' existing distribution; and (3) species undergoing significant current or predicted downward trend in population or density.
- TE-010: Minimize or avoid human-caused habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation to protect special status species. Habitat modifications from land and resource uses will be at levels that do not threaten the persistence of threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species populations.
- LR-063: BLM follows three criteria for land disposals regarding threatened and endangered species:
 - BLM will not transfer out of Federal ownership designated or proposed critical habitat for a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
 - BLM will not transfer out of Federal ownership lands supporting listed or proposed threatened or endangered species if such transfer will be inconsistent with recovery needs and objectives or will likely affect the recovery of the listed or proposed species.

- BLM will not transfer out of Federal ownership lands supporting Federal candidate species if such action will contribute to the need to list the species as threatened or endangered.

Exceptions to the above could occur if the recipient of the lands will protect the species or critical habitat equally well under the ESA, such as disposal to a non-Federal governmental agency or private organization if conservation purposes for the species will still be achieved and ensured.

Administrative Actions

The following Administrative Actions will be applied throughout the entire planning area.

- AA-123: During site/project-level analysis, identify practices or facilities that will adversely affect special status species or their habitats, and prioritize opportunities to mitigate, through avoidance or minimization, the adverse effects to the species or their habitats.
- AA-124: Design and implement Management Actions to provide suitable ecological conditions that constitute well-distributed habitats and connective corridors to support reproductive needs and free-flow movements of special status species for population persistence.
- AA-125: Cooperate with USFWS, AGFD, and CDFG for management of species listed under the ESA, and with the AGFD and CDFG for species of special concern or State-listed species.
- AA-126: Enhance scientific knowledge and public awareness on special status species through research, and interpretive and outreach programs.

2.8.1 FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES AND DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT

A. CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN (ENDANGERED)

The planning area does not contain any habitat or populations of the California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*). All birds that incidentally occur in the planning area are considered vagrants.

Administrative Actions

- AA-127: Provide public education, outreach, and interpretive programs for California brown pelican.
- AA-128: Enforce existing State and Federal regulations for protection of the California brown pelican.
- AA-129: Continue to assist USFWS in retrieving weakened, transient California brown pelicans for rehabilitation.

B. BALD EAGLE (SONORAN DESERT POPULATION) (THREATENED)

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-011: Riparian areas along the Gila River that are capable of providing special habitat components for nesting and wintering bald eagles are protected.

Management Actions

- TE-012: Adopt and implement the *Bald Eagle (Southwestern Population) Recovery Plan* (USDOI USFWS 1982), and any future plan revisions for this species.
- TE-013: Protect, maintain, or enhance the existing known occupied sites for bald eagles.

Administrative Actions

- AA-130: Monitor land use/cover changes within currently occupied and potential bald eagle habitats and evaluate bald eagle responses to changed site conditions and disturbance factors.
- AA-131: Locate, map, and evaluate non-nesting habitats by the transient bald eagle population.
- AA-132: Enhance public outreach designed to gain support for the protection of bald eagles.

C. GILA TOPMINNOW, BONYTAIL CHUB, AND DESERT PUPFISH (ENDANGERED)

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-014: Protection of Gila topminnow, bonytail chub, and desert pupfish populations in currently occupied habitat is the highest management priority, followed by reintroductions into suitable habitat within their historic ranges.
- TE-015: Suitable perennial waters capable of supporting self-sustaining populations of Gila topminnow, bonytail chub, and desert pupfish, are provided as appropriate. Sufficient shoreline vegetation is retained to reduce soil erosion and protect spawning habitat along shorelines of perennial waters from excess siltation above natural or background levels.
- TE-016: In cooperation with the AGFD and the USFWS, Gila topminnow, bonytail chub, and desert pupfish populations are reestablished into currently or potentially suitable habitat areas within the planning area.

Management Actions

- TE-017: Adopt and implement the *Gila Topminnow Revised Recovery Plan* (USDOI USFWS 1998a), and any future plan revisions for this species.
- TE-018: Adopt and implement the *Bonytail Chub Recovery Goals* (USDOI USFWS 2002a), and any future plan revisions for this species.

- TE-019: Adopt and implement the *Desert Pupfish Recovery Plan* (USDOJ USFWS 1993), and any future plan revisions for this species.
- FM-027: Limit fuel treatments in watersheds with occupied reaches or sites of Gila topminnow, bonytail chub, and desert pupfish to no more than half of the watershed area in any two-year period.
- GM-025: Limit domestic livestock utilization of native riparian trees along stream reaches occupied by Gila topminnow, bonytail chub, and desert pupfish to 30 percent of the apical stems per growing season.
- RR-021: Limit streambank vegetation alteration due to recreation activities in riparian areas along stream reaches occupied by Gila topminnow, bonytail chub, and desert pupfish.

D. MOJAVE DESERT TORTOISE (THREATENED)

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-020: Category I Mojave desert tortoise habitat maintains stable and viable populations, retains natural shelter sites, protects existing tortoise habitat values, and increases populations where possible.
- TE-021: Category II Mojave desert tortoise habitat maintains stable and viable populations, retains natural shelter sites, and halts further declines in tortoise habitat values.
- TE-022: Category III Mojave desert tortoise habitat limits tortoise habitat and population declines to the extent possible through mitigation.
- TE-023: To the extent practicable, no net loss in the quality or quantity of Category I and II Mojave desert tortoise habitats occurs.
- TE-024: Take of Mojave desert tortoises during project activities is reduced through the removal of tortoises to undisturbed areas out of harm's way.
- TE-025: Wild horse and burro abundance is in ecological balance with existing Mojave desert tortoise and other wildlife populations.

Management Actions

The following management actions will apply to all Mojave desert tortoise habitat within the planning area.

- TE-026: Adopt and implement the *Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Recovery Plan* (USDOJ USFWS 1994), and any future plan revisions for this species.
- TE-027: When possible, prohibit activities that will fragment or further isolate existing populations of Mojave desert tortoises (i.e., canals, highways).
- TE-028: Review land use requests in Mojave desert tortoise habitat during the March 1 through October 15 critical period on a case-by-case basis. Requests may be denied and/or mitigated to achieve Desired Future Conditions (e.g., no net loss of Category I and II habitat).

- TE-029: Compensate for residual project impacts in accordance with the Compensation for the Desert Tortoise Report (Desert Tortoise Compensation Team 1991). Compensation for loss of desert tortoise habitat is required according to BLM policy.
- TE-030: Reduce the attraction of predators, such as the common raven, to project areas within Mojave desert tortoise habitat to the maximum extent possible.
- TE-031: Reduce take of Mojave desert tortoises by injury or death due to the straying of construction and maintenance equipment beyond project areas through establishment of clearly defined work areas.
- TE-032: Modify activities to avoid injury or harm if a Mojave desert tortoise is found in a project area.
- TE-033: Confine the period of leasable mineral exploration and major construction work from November 1 to March 1 within Mojave desert tortoise habitat. Minimize surface disturbance associated with authorized activities. Perform complete preconstruction inspections of areas to be developed and mitigate for actions to protect desert tortoises and their habitat, including reclamation and bonding, if appropriate. After project completion, measures will be taken to facilitate restoration of the disturbed site.
- TE-034: Fence new paved roads and highways or major modifications of existing roads through Mojave desert tortoise habitat with tortoise barrier fencing. Culverts, to allow safe passage of tortoises, shall be constructed approximately every mile of new paved roads and railroads. Require erection of tortoise barriers around projects that will be sources of mortality (such as canals, heavily used roads, steep-walled reservoirs), and promote methods that allow safe movement across project areas.
- TE-035: Minimize blading of new access or work areas within Mojave desert tortoise habitat. Disturbance to shrub cover will be avoided if possible. If shrubs cannot be avoided during equipment operation or vehicle use, they should be crushed wherever possible rather than excavated or bladed and removed.
- TE-036: Cover or modify project features that might trap or entangle Mojave desert tortoises, such as open trenches, pits, pipes, and others, to prevent entrapment during the active season or when an on-site biologist is not available. After completion, these features will be filled in, covered, or otherwise modified so they are no longer a hazard to desert tortoises.
- TE-037: To the extent practicable, all BLM-authorized surface-disturbing projects will be located in previously disturbed areas or outside of Mojave desert tortoise habitat. When at all possible, avoid habitat, otherwise mitigate. If a desert tortoise is found in a project area, activities should be modified to avoid injuring or harming it.
- TE-038: Enclose an entire site with a tortoise-proof fence where project activities are to extend over 90 days in Mojave desert tortoise habitat. For project activities that are to occur in fewer than 90 days, a temporary fence will be erected around the area of activity.
- TE-039: Limit seismic exploration, new construction, road maintenance, vehicle use, or other BLM-authorized surface-disturbing activities to existing ROW Corridor areas within Mojave Desert tortoise habitat.

- TM-018: Within Mojave Desert tortoise habitat, limit vehicular travel and non-motorized competitive events to designated routes; and close and rehabilitate existing roads where no public or administrative need exists.
- MI-023: No salable mineral materials permits will be authorized in Category I and II Mojave desert tortoise habitat.

Administrative Actions

- AA-133: Implement worker education programs and well-defined operational procedures to avoid the “take” of Mojave desert tortoises and their habitat.

E. RAZORBACK SUCKER (ENDANGERED)

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-040: Known threats to razorback sucker are minimized, including habitat modification, competition with and predation by non-native fish species, and pesticides and pollutants.
- TE-041: Critical razorback sucker habitat is protected from further degradation of habitat conditions and water quality and habitats are restored to meet established recovery goals for razorback sucker.

Management Actions

- TE-042: Adopt and implement the *Razorback Sucker Recovery Goals* (USDOI USFWS 2002b) of the *Razorback Sucker Recovery Plan* (USDOI USFWS 1998b), and any future plan revisions for this species.
- TE-043: Develop, enhance, and maintain suitable habitats (riverine habitats including oxbows, depressions, and bottomlands) required for all life stages for self-sustaining populations of razorback sucker in all recovery units.
- RR-020: Post signs at fishing access points and at tackle shops clearly advising anglers of the potential to take razorback suckers and how to report and release captured fish. Signs should contain a clear photograph of a razorback sucker that can be used by anglers to identify the species.

Administrative Actions

- AA-134: Evaluate razorback sucker habitat on BLM-administered lands and develop a strategy to eliminate or reduce adverse effects from BLM-authorized development to the habitat along shorelines.
- AA-135: Enhance public awareness through educational programs and posting of informational bulletins of the importance of razorback sucker and potential threat to the species and habitat from recreation use and developments in the floodplain along the Colorado River.

- AA-136: Support efforts to control non-native fishes, where feasible, to minimize the threat of hybridization or negative interactions between non-native fishes and razorback sucker with proper coordination with and authorization from AGFD and CDFG.

F. SONORAN PRONGHORN (ENDANGERED)

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-044: Unfragmented habitat is provided in the planning area that is capable of contributing to the potential reintroduction of Sonoran pronghorn as a step toward recovery of the species within the historic range.
- TE-045: Plant species richness in Sonoran pronghorn habitat is maximized. Prescribed fire and livestock herd management could be utilized to improve plant species richness.
- TE-046: Sonoran pronghorn habitat is managed to minimize shrub and tree encroachment following evaluation of potential reintroduction sites in accordance with the recovery plan.

Management Actions

- TE-047: Adopt and implement the *Final Revised Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Plan* (USDOI USFWS 1998c) and *Recovery Criteria and Estimates of Time for Recovery Actions for the Sonoran Pronghorn* (USDOI USFWS 2002c), and any future plan revisions for this species.
- FM-024: Use prescribed fire, chemical, and mechanical treatments in Sonoran pronghorn habitat to reduce shrub and tree components. Prescribed fire can be used to supplement natural grassland renewal, especially to increase forbs and reduce shrubs.
- GM-017: Design livestock fences or modify existing fences to facilitate pronghorn movement. Traditional livestock fencing can impede or prevent pronghorn movement and create habitat fragmentation. Habitat fragmentation can result in genetic isolation, herd extirpation, and periodic winter kills.

Administrative Actions

- AA-137: Support the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team's efforts to transplant or reintroduce species to BLM-administered lands.
- AA-138: Investigate, evaluate, and prioritize potential future pronghorn reintroduction sites within the historic range.
- AA-139: Map native vegetation in potential pronghorn reintroduction areas.

G. SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER (ENDANGERED)

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-048: The planning area provides suitable habitat capable of maintaining stable or increasing population trends of SWFL (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) in the Lower Colorado

Recovery Unit.

- TE-049: Activities that will promote or encourage attractants of scavengers, predators, and brown-headed cowbirds are minimized to protect existing populations of SWFL (e.g., livestock grazing, bird feeders, forest thinning).
- TE-050: Recreational activities are minimized where potentially suitable SWFL habitat has been identified to allow the area to recover vegetative features needed by the species.
- TE-051: Existing SWFL habitats are protected by reducing fire risk to habitat.

Management Actions

- TE-052: Adopt and implement the *Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Final Recovery Plan* (USDOI USFWS 2002d), and any future plan revisions for this species.
- TE-053: After sufficient baseline data shows cowbird parasitism to be a significant threat to particular SWFL populations, initiate cowbird control measures in coordination with AGFD to protect these populations.
- VM-008: Where and when practicable, develop new riparian habitat or restore damaged, degraded, and salt cedar habitats along the lower Colorado River and Gila River for the survival and recovery of SWFL. Install facilities to protect restoration sites as needed.
- FM-025: Avoid hazardous fuel thinning projects that reduce the quality or quantity of SWFL habitat and instead install fire breaks to protect habitat from wildfires.
- TM-019: Use fencing or physical barriers to protect riparian SWFL habitat from unauthorized OHV use.

Administrative Actions

- AA-140: Acquire suitable SWFL habitat and protect known occupied sites through land acquisition and easements from willing landowners to compensate for loss of historical SWFL habitat.
- AA-141: Reduce potential impacts to SWFL from recreation activities by promoting public outreach and education.

H. YUMA CLAPPER RAIL (ENDANGERED)

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-054: There is sufficient habitat in the U.S. and Mexico with sufficient breeding and wintering habitat capable of supporting a population of 700-1,000 breeding Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) in the U.S.
- TE-055: No net loss or fragmentation of marshlike habitat for major life history requirements (i.e., breeding, feeding or resting cover) of Yuma clapper rail occurs and natural bird behavior is maintained by minimizing indirect effects resulting from human-caused disturbances.

- TE-056: Riparian areas are maintained that form an integrated mosaic with wet sloughs and marshes designed to support the Yuma clapper rail and other marsh and aquatic wildlife.

Management Actions

- TE-057: Adopt and implement the *Yuma Clapper Rail Recovery Plan* (USDOI USFWS 1983), and any future plan revisions for this species.
- TE-058: Restrict or prohibit human caused disturbances to Yuma clapper rail habitat or individuals in occupied territories during the breeding and molting seasons (March 15–September 1).
- FM-026: Burn decadent marsh vegetation without risking the rarer and more valuable cottonwood-willow habitat, if research concludes that burning decadent marsh vegetation benefits Yuma clapper rail population.

Administrative Actions

- AA-142: Support research to study the biological requirements of Yuma clapper rail.
- AA-143: Complete survey and monitoring of Yuma clapper rail populations and breeding areas on BLM-administered lands.
- AA-144: Initiate public outreach with education and interpretive programs to promote Yuma clapper rail species–habitat recovery.

2.8.2 FEDERAL CANDIDATE SPECIES

Candidate species are those species for which USFWS has sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposals to list them as endangered or threatened under the ESA. The yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) is a candidate for listing under the ESA. No recovery plans or objectives have been developed for this species.

A. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-059: Yellow-billed cuckoo habitats and the ecosystems of which they are components are conserved to maintain or improve the status of the species in the wild and reduce the need to list the species as endangered or threatened.
- TE-060: Connective riparian corridors within and between known yellow-billed cuckoo breeding areas are maintained along the lower Colorado River and Gila River.
- TE-061: Currently unprotected occupied or potential yellow-billed cuckoo habitat is protected through acquisition, easements, partnerships, and other means.
- TE-062: No net loss or fragmentation of breeding and migratory yellow-billed cuckoo habitats occurs, and natural bird behavior is maintained by minimizing indirect effects resulting from human-caused disturbances.

Management Actions

- TE-063: Evaluate all projects and activities occurring on public lands within the planning area to ensure they will not contribute to the need to list the yellow-billed cuckoo as threatened or endangered under the ESA.
- VM-008: Where and when practicable, develop new riparian habitat and restore damaged or degraded areas along the lower Colorado River and Gila River for the protection of yellow-billed cuckoo and other riparian or floodplain associated species. Install facilities to protect restoration sites as needed.
- VM-013: Manage for large, contiguous blocks of native riparian habitat (>30 acres) for yellow-billed cuckoo in conjunction with removal of competing exotic species (such as salt cedar).
- VM-015: Promote regeneration of native vegetation in riparian areas for yellow-billed cuckoo by minimizing impacts from land/resource uses such as livestock grazing, water diversion, inundation, wood cutting, and OHV travel.

Administrative Actions

- AA-145: Collaborate with Federal and State agencies, and private organizations conducting research, survey, and monitoring of yellow-billed cuckoo to develop region-wide conservation strategies.
- AA-146: Restore reaches of riparian habitat by encouraging private/public partnerships for fencing and habitat restoration through Federal, State, and non-government programs.
- AA-147: Survey and monitor riparian vegetation areas that are currently regenerating to determine occupancy by yellow-billed cuckoo.

2.8.3 STATE-LISTED SPECIES

The species listed in this section are those with specific management guidelines applicable to the planning area. YFO carries out management for the conservation of animals listed by California and Arizona. State laws protecting these species apply to all BLM programs and actions to the extent that they are consistent with FLPMA and other Federal laws. These Approved RMP decisions aim to assist California and Arizona in achieving their management objectives for State-listed species.

A. BALD EAGLE

Management Actions

- TE-064: Adopt and implement the *National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines* (USDOI USFWS 2007) and the *Conservation Assessment and Strategy for the Bald Eagle in Arizona, Manager's Guide* (Driscoll et al. 2006), and any future plan revisions for this species.

B. BURROWING OWL

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-065: The planning area provides suitable habitats of sufficient quality and quantity with adequate patch sizes that could support burrowing owls.
- TE-066: Burrowing animals, which are essential to creating nest sites for burrowing owls, are conserved.
- TE-067: The planning area maintains large, contiguous areas of treeless, native grasslands for burrowing owls.

Management Actions

- TE-068: Adopt and implement conservation strategies outlined by the AGFD and CDFG for burrowing owls.
- TE-069: Place artificial nest boxes for burrowing owls no closer apart than 360 feet. Artificial burrows should not be placed 165 to 330 feet from the original burrow.
- TE-070: Reintroduce burrowing owls in areas that have approximately 55 percent (40–70 percent) bare ground and average shrub cover of <15 percent.
- TE-071: Restrict lethal burrowing mammal control when burrowing owls are not nesting or not choosing nest sites.
- TE-072: Prohibit the use of traps, poisoned meat, or poisoned grain for rodent control. Rather, burrows unoccupied by owls should be fumigated.
- TE-073: Pesticide should not be sprayed within 1,300–2,000 feet of burrowing owl nest sites during the breeding season.

Administrative Actions

- AA-148: Educate private landowners and the general public about the status of burrowing owls, including how domestic cats have a negative impact on burrowing owl abundance.

C. CACTUS FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-074: All currently known CFPOs (since 1993) and the integrity of their territories, including adequate dispersal habitat are protected. An interconnected system of habitat patches, extending from the northern portion of their historical range south to areas in Mexico, are identified and maintained. Threats or limiting factors to the persistence of CFPOs are reduced or eliminated.
- TE-075: The planning area provides well-distributed habitat capable of contributing to the survival and recovery of self-sustaining populations of CFPO. Habitat management for CFPO will consider the following features: (1) amount, quality, and distribution of habitat

patches; (2) juxtaposition and connectivity to dispersal habitat; and (3) influence of disturbance-related habitat degradation.

- TE-076: Manage key elements of CFPO habitat that include the following features:
 - Elevations below 4,000 feet within the biotic communities of Sonoran riparian deciduous woodlands; Sonoran riparian scrubland; mesquite bosques; xeroriparian communities; tree-lined drainages in semidesert, Sonoran savanna, and mesquite grasslands; and the Arizona Upland and lower Colorado River subdivisions of Sonoran desertscrub.
 - Nesting cavities located in trees including but not limited to cottonwood, willow, velvet ash (*Fraxinus velutina*), mesquite, paloverde, ironwood, and hackberry (*Celtis* spp.) with a trunk diameter of six inches or greater measured five feet from the ground, or large columnar cactus such as saguaro or organ pipe cacti (*Stenocereus thurberi*) greater than eight feet.
 - Multilayered vegetation (presence of canopy, midstory, and ground cover) provided by trees and cacti in association with shrubs such as acacia, prickly pear, desert hackberry (*C. pallida*), graythorn (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*) and ground cover such as triangle-leaf bursage (*Ambrosia deltoidea*), burweed (*Isocoma tenuisecta*), grasses, or annual plants.
 - Vegetation providing mid-story and canopy-level cover (this is provided primarily by trees greater than seven feet in height) in a configuration and density compatible with CFPO flight and dispersal behaviors. Within 49.21-foot-radius plots centered on nests and perch sites, AGFD has documented the mean number of trees and average height of trees per plot in Sonoran desertscrub and semidesert grassland areas. The mean number of trees per plot in Sonoran desertscrub was 12.5 with a mean height of 12.96 feet. The mean number of trees in semidesert grassland was 28.5 with a mean height of 26.57 feet. Habitat elements configured and human activity levels minimized so that unimpeded use, based on CFPO behavioral patterns (typical flight distances, activity level tolerance, etc.) can occur during dispersal and within home ranges (the total area used on an annual basis).

Management Actions

- TE-077: During prescribed fires, protect mesquite and other trees and shrubs along riparian and xeroriparian areas and all saguaros to provide potentially suitable habitat for CFPOs.
- TE-078: Consider restrictions on special use permits and special closure stipulations for public access, where appropriate to protect CFPOs. Activities such as intensive or frequent discharge of firearms (e.g., target practicing) should be restricted within 0.25 mile of active CFPO territories during critical periods of the breeding season (February 1–July 31).
- TE-079: Restrict or redirect activities which concentrate cattle or create other disturbances near active CFPO territories (site occupancy determined on an annual basis through surveys and monitoring) during the breeding season, if such activities show evidence as being detrimental to CFPOs.
- RR-005: Within 0.25 mile of active CFPO territories, restrict recreational activities permitted through SRPs which concentrate large numbers of people or vehicles (e.g., hike-a-thon, motor cross rally, four-wheel-drive or OHV rally, cross-country races, mountain bike races) during critical periods of the breeding season.

Administrative Actions

- AA-149: Support research to study the life history and habitat requirements of CFPO.
- AA-150: Complete survey and monitoring of CFPOs to understand population demographics, dispersal movement and habitats, and genetic diversity and isolation.
- AA-151: Use existing vegetation and soils maps, coupled with verification on the ground, to identify habitat areas potentially suitable for the CFPO. Once potential suitability has been identified, these areas should be systematically surveyed (using a multi-year survey approach) to determine occupancy by CFPOs.
- AA-152: Initiate a process for augmenting existing imperiled CFPO population segments and establishing CFPOs in areas that appear suitable, but are presently unoccupied, or into areas that have been modified by enhancing some habitat characteristics for CFPOs.
- AA-153: Provide public education and outreach to increase public awareness on the importance of survival and recovery of CFPOs.

D. FLAT-TAILED HORNED LIZARD

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-080: Self-sustaining populations of FTHL are maintained in perpetuity. Loss or degradation of FTHL habitat is minimized, and effective habitat corridors between naturally adjacent populations are maintained or established.

Management Actions

- TE-081: Adopt and implement the revised FTHL Rangewide Management Strategy (FTHL Interagency Coordinating Committee 2003), and any future plan revisions.
- TE-082: Limit the loss of habitat and effects on FTHL populations through the application of effective mitigation and compensation.
- LR-068: Using compensation or other funds, acquire currently unprotected or potential FTHL habitat within management areas in accordance with established priorities and/or criteria. Participate in land exchanges where opportunities arise to acquire key habitat within management areas.

Administrative Actions

- AA-154: Promote the purposes of the FTHL conservation strategy through law enforcement and public education.
- AA-155: Encourage and support research that would promote the conservation of FTHLs or desert ecosystems.
- AA-156: Conduct inventory and monitoring of FTHL populations and habitats.
- AA-157: Seek funding to acquire key land parcels to protect FTHL and suitable habitat in the management areas.

E. SONORAN DESERT TORTOISE

Desired Future Conditions

- TE-083: Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat retain all natural shelter sites (boulders, caliche caves, or similar features used by tortoises for sheltering), and maintain the land in an unfragmented state.
- TE-084: Sonoran desert tortoise habitat consists of at least five percent native perennial grasses, at least 10 percent native perennial forbs or subshrubs, at least 30 percent native shrubs, and at least 30 percent native trees and cacti, by dry weight, as limited by the capability of the ecological site.
- TE-085: No net loss in quantity or quality of Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat will occur (Table 2-7).

Table 2-7
Goals and Criteria for Categories I, II, and III of Sonoran Desert Tortoise Habitat Areas

| Item | Category I Habitat Areas | Category II Habitat Areas | Category III Habitat Areas |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| Category Goals | Maintain stable, viable populations and protect existing tortoise habitat values; increase populations, where possible. | Maintain stable, viable populations and halt further declines in tortoise habitat values. | Limit tortoise habitat and population declines to the extent possible by mitigating impacts. |
| Criterion 1 | Habitat area essential to maintenance of large, viable populations. | Habitat area may be essential to maintenance of viable populations. | Habitat area not essential to maintenance of viable populations. |
| Criterion 2 | Conflicts resolvable. | Most conflicts resolvable. | Most conflicts not resolvable. |
| Criterion 3 | Medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density. | Medium to high density or low density contiguous with medium or high density. | Low to medium density not contiguous with medium or high density. |
| Criterion 4 | Increasing, stable, or decreasing populations. | Stable or decreasing populations. | Stable or decreasing populations. |

Management Actions

- TE-086: Adopt and implement the Management Plan for the Sonoran Population of the Desert Tortoise in Arizona (Arizona Interagency Desert Tortoise Team 1996), and any future plan revisions.
- TE-087: Adopt and implement to the extent practicable actions from the pending State of Arizona conservation agreement for the Sonoran desert tortoise.
- TE-088: Limit the loss of suitable habitat and effects on Sonoran desert tortoise populations through the application of effective mitigation and compensation.
- TE-089: Compensate for residual project impacts in accordance with the Compensation for the Desert Tortoise Report (Desert Tortoise Compensation Team 1991). Compensation for loss of Sonoran desert tortoise habitat is required according to BLM policy.

2.0 Management Decisions

- TE-090: If adverse impacts to Sonoran desert tortoise habitat cannot be mitigated on site, compensation in the form of land or moneys deposited to a fund for the purpose of acquiring desert tortoise habitat will be pursued.
- GM-018: Locate new livestock waters at least two miles from Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat.
- GM-019: Exclude range improvement projects within Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat, including water developments, which will create conflicts with Sonoran desert tortoise populations.
- GM-020: Manage rangelands within Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat to increase distribution and density of native perennial grasses for Sonoran desert tortoise. Stock cattle only under the following criteria: 280 pounds/acre (dry weight) of succulent ephemeral forage present, consumption of forage never to result in reduction of the biomass of spring annuals to levels below 54 pounds/acre, and cattle densities not to exceed those traditionally specified to protect winter forage species for domestic grazers.
- GM-021: Within Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat, defer grazing (or rest pastures) from spring green-up, which is concurrent with desert tortoise emergence, through October, to include peak Sonoran desert tortoise activity (August–October) and emergence of young. Allow winter-spring ephemeral grazing only, if sufficient soil moisture is present, to produce and maintain a standing crop of forage plants adequate to support the number of livestock to be turned out as well as provide for other resource values (e.g., ground cover, wildlife forage, seed source) for the entire grazing period. After a fire exclude livestock grazing at least for one growing season.
- GM-022: Prohibit feeding of roughage, such as hay, hay cubes, or grain, to livestock within Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat.
- LR-063: Retain Sonoran desert tortoise habitat in public ownership, unless land disposal through an exchange provides greater benefits to desert tortoises.
- MI-018: Assess all mining plans of operations for potential impacts to Sonoran desert tortoise habitat on a case-by-case basis. Adverse impacts to desert tortoise will be mitigated to the extent allowable in BLM 3809 regulations.
- MI-023: No salable mineral materials permits will be authorized in Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat.

Administrative Actions

- AA-158: Update Sonoran desert tortoise categorization maps (Category I, II, and III habitat areas) based on new inventory information that meets the criteria in Table 2-7.
- AA-159: Monitor and evaluate vegetation use by large ungulates and trends in site conditions in designated Sonoran desert tortoise habitats.
- AA-160: Enhance public awareness of Sonoran desert tortoise habitat management and species conservation through educational and interpretive programs.
- AA-161: Support research and interagency collaboration that will promote the conservation of Sonoran desert tortoise or desert ecosystems.

2.9 LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

The YFO manages livestock grazing in both the YFO planning area and the LHFO Planning area. This Approved RMP identifies lands that are available and unavailable for grazing in the two planning areas. BLM-administered lands available for livestock grazing are presented in Table 2-8 and Map 2-7.

The Arizona Guidelines for Grazing Administration are a series of management practices used to ensure that grazing activities meet the Land Health Standards. The Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration apply to all allotments within the planning area.

Table 2-8
Approved RMP Livestock Grazing Availability

| Available/Unavailable for Livestock Grazing | Approved RMP BLM Acres |
|---|------------------------|
| Available YFO | 428,300 |
| Available LHFO | 215,200* |
| Unavailable YFO | 889,700 |

BLM = Bureau of Land Management; YFO = Yuma Field Office; LHFO = Lake Havasu Field Office

*215,200 acres available in LHFO, managed by YFO.

Desired Future Conditions

- GM-001: Arizona Guidelines for Grazing Administration to meet Land Health Standard 1
 - 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. 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.
- GM-002: Arizona Guidelines for Grazing Administration to meet Land Health Standard 2
 - 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.
- GM-003: Arizona Guidelines for Grazing Administration to meet Land Health Standard 3
 - 3-1. The use and perpetuation of native species will be emphasized. However, when restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands, non-intrusive, non-native 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 non-native species, and/or (d) cannot compete with already established non-native 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 horse and burro); and
 - Monitoring is conducted during grazing to determine if objectives are being met.
 - 3-6. Management practices will target those populations of noxious weeds that 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.
- GM-004: Forage is provided on a sustained yield basis for livestock consistent with meeting Land Health Standards and multiple use objectives.
- GM-005: Livestock use and associated management practices are conducted in a manner consistent with other multiple-use needs and objectives to ensure that the health of rangeland resources is preserved or improved so that they are productive for all rangeland values. Where needed, improve public rangeland ecosystems to meet objectives.
- GM-006: Healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems are maintained or improved to meet *Standards and Guidelines* (USDOI BLM 1997) and produce a wide range of public values such as wildlife habitat, livestock forage, recreation opportunities, clean water, and functional watersheds.

Management Actions

- GM-007: Make 428,300 acres available for livestock grazing in the YFO planning area.
- GM-008: Make 215,200 acres available for livestock grazing in the LHFO planning area.
- GM-009: Make 889,700 acres unavailable for livestock grazing by removing 12 inactive livestock grazing allotments encompassing 577,300 acres from availability and continuing to make 312,400 acres unavailable for livestock grazing.
- GM-010: Guidelines for grazing administration, as approved in the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, apply to all livestock grazing activities.
- GM-011: Authorize and maintain range improvement projects in accordance with grazing regulations and policies.
- GM-012: Allotments may be classified as ephemeral through Rangeland Health Assessments in accordance with the Special Ephemeral Rule published December 7, 1968 (Appendix F) when the following criteria are met:
 1. Rangelands are within the hot desert biome;
 2. Average annual precipitation is less than eight inches;
 3. Rangelands produce less than 25 pounds per acre of desirable forage grasses;
 4. The vegetative community is composed of less than five-percent desirable forage species;
 5. The rangelands are generally below 3,500 feet in elevation;
 6. Annual production is highly unpredictable and forage availability is of a short duration;
 7. Usable forage production depends on abundant moisture and other favorable climatic conditions; and
 8. Rangelands lack potential to improve existing ecological status and produce a dependable supply of forage through intensive rangeland management practices.
- GM-013: Continue to use the allotment management categorization process to define the level of management needed to properly administer livestock grazing according to management needs, resource conflicts, potential for improvement, and BLM funding/staffing constraints. The allotment categories are:
 - Custodial (C), custodial management to protect resource conditions and values,
 - Maintain (M), management to maintain current satisfactory resource conditions and active management to ensure that the conditions of resource values do not decline, and
 - Improve (I), active management to improve unsatisfactory resource conditions.
- GM-014: Change the category of grazing allotments as objectives are accomplished and/or conditions change.
- GM-015: Prohibit domestic sheep and goat grazing within nine miles of desert bighorn sheep habitat to avoid disease transmission according to BLM guidelines, including IM 98-140 Revised Guidelines for Management of Domestic Sheep and Goats in Native Wild Sheep Habitat.
- GM-016: Grazing for commercial purposes will not be allowed within designated ACECs.
- GM-017: Design livestock fences or modify existing fences to facilitate pronghorn movement. Traditional livestock fencing can impede or prevent pronghorn movement and

create habitat fragmentation. Habitat fragmentation can result in genetic isolation, herd extirpation, and periodic winter kills.

- GM-018: Locate new livestock waters at least two miles from Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat.
- GM-019: Exclude range improvement projects within Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat, including water developments, which will create conflicts with Sonoran desert tortoise populations.
- GM-020: Manage rangelands within Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat to increase distribution and density of native perennial grasses for Sonoran desert tortoise. Stock cattle only under the following criteria: 280 pounds/acre (dry weight) of succulent ephemeral forage present, consumption of forage never to result in reduction of the biomass of spring annuals to levels below 54 pounds/acre, and cattle densities not to exceed those traditionally specified to protect winter forage species for domestic grazers.
- GM-021: Within Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat, defer grazing (or rest pastures) from spring green-up, which is concurrent with desert tortoise emergence, through October, to include peak Sonoran desert tortoise activity (August–October) and emergence of young. Allow winter-spring ephemeral grazing only, if sufficient soil moisture is present, to produce and maintain a standing crop of forage plants adequate to support the number of livestock to be turned out as well as provide for other resource values (e.g., ground cover, wildlife forage, seed source) for the entire grazing period. After a fire exclude livestock grazing at least for one growing season.
- GM-022: Prohibit feeding of roughage, such as hay, hay cubes, or grain, to livestock within Category I and II Sonoran desert tortoise habitat.
- GM-023: Allow existing livestock grazing operations and support facilities to continue within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.
- GM-024: No grazing leases will be authorized within the 100-year floodplain of the Colorado or Gila rivers.
- GM-025: Limit domestic livestock utilization of native riparian trees along stream reaches occupied by Gila topminnow, bonytail chub, and desert pupfish to 30 percent of the apical stems per growing season.
- VM-042: Minimize BLM-authorized ground-disturbing activities in VHAs to protect focal plant species-populations. Land use authorizations for activities such as mineral extraction and livestock grazing would generally not be approved.
- TM-021: During the construction of rangeland developments, vehicles will use designated routes wherever possible for access to sites. Where no routes exist, vehicles will be authorized on a case-by-case basis to travel cross-country to avoid the need for road building. Where new roads must be built, roadbeds will be no wider than needed for reliable access. As a general practice, new roads will not be bladed for use in fence construction. Vehicles will travel cross-country or fences will be built without motorized access.

Administrative Actions

- AA-162: A majority of the perennial/ephemeral allotments have monitoring studies established at key areas. Monitoring data collected includes climatic information, actual use, utilization, and trend in condition. These studies will continue to be collected periodically, as necessary to ensure that current grazing management continues to meet or is making progress towards existing goals and objectives.
- AA-163: In accordance with established schedules, individual allotments will be evaluated for compliance with the *Standards and Guidelines*. The criteria for the Special Ephemeral Rule will be addressed during these evaluations.
- AA-164: All grazing allotments within the Approved RMP area will be assessed in accordance with the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health prior to October 1, 2009. If the assessment finds that an allotment does not meet or is not making significant progress to meet the Land Health Standards, management actions to correct the deficiency will be implemented in accordance with the grazing regulations at 43 CFR 4100. During assessments, each allotment will be analyzed in relation to the criteria for classifying allotments as ephemeral, as enumerated in the Approved RMP.

2.10 WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT

BLM is the managing agency responsible for protecting wild horses and burros and their habitat on BLM-administered public lands. The management of wild horses and burros on public lands is accomplished at the minimum level necessary to assure the herd's free-roaming character, health, and self-sustaining ability. BLM YFO manages one Herd Area (HA) and one HMA that share identical boundaries. In Arizona, the Cibola-Trigo HMA supports both wild horses and burros. In southwestern California, only the wild burro roams between the Colorado River and the Chocolate/Mules and Picacho HMAs. The Approved RMP HA and HMA boundary is shown in Table 2-9 and Map 2-8.

Table 2-9
Approved RMP Wild Horse and Burro Herd and Herd Management Areas

| Herd and Herd Management Areas | Approved RMP BLM Acres |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Herd Area (historic) | 263,700 |
| Cibola-Trigo HMA | 179,000 |

BLM=Bureau of Land Management; HMA = Herd Management Area

Desired Future Conditions

- HB-001: A viable and sustainable population of wild, free roaming horses and burros in the Cibola-Trigo HMA is maintained, while maintaining a thriving natural ecological balance with other resources and consistent with other management agencies objectives.
- HB-002: Wild horses and burros will be managed in areas adjacent to the NWRs on the Colorado River in accordance with mutual agreements established for resource protection to

meet the National Refuge management objectives. This includes agreed upon use levels for key forage species currently identified.

- TE-025: Wild horse and burro abundance is in ecological balance with existing Mojave desert tortoise and other wildlife populations.

Management Actions

- HB-003: The Appropriate Management Level (AML₂) for the Cibola-Trigo HMA will be 165 burros and 150 horses. Monitoring data, including climate, population, and vegetative data, will be collected and used to support removals and/or the revision of AML₂ for either wild horses, burros, or both.
- HB-004: Reduce the Cibola-Trigo HMA to 179,000 acres. The HMA boundary has been adjusted to only include those portions of the HA west of Highway 95 and south of I-10.
- HB-005: NWRs are not included within the boundaries of the Cibola-Trigo HMA. Imperial and Cibola NWRs currently allow burro use if impacts to xeroriparian vegetation are kept to a minimum by maintaining the AML₂.
- HB-006: YFO will mitigate loss of access to water along the Colorado River due to changing land use by either providing fenced access routes or developing new sources of water.
- HB-007: Identify objectives for herd composition, animal characteristics, and habitat development. The AML₂ may be adjusted based on monitoring data and subsequent evaluations.
- HB-008: Wild horses and burros utilizing the HA east of Highway 95 will be removed due to animal safety and health issues. Wild horses may be relocated into the HMA to the extent that they would not exceed the AML₂; all others will be offered for adoption through the Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program.

Administrative Actions

- AA-165: Conduct population status and rangeland condition assessments periodically for population trend monitoring and habitat condition evaluation. Collect relevant and essential background information using established protocol.
- AA-166: Review current herd management directions and rangeland conditions of the Cibola-Trigo HMA. Identify relevant changes in management directions to ensure multiple-use and ecological sustainability in the Cibola-Trigo HMA supporting the wild horses and burros.
- AA-167: Conduct herd monitoring annually in accordance with established protocol. Monitoring data will be used for periodic review of the AML₂ and guide animal removal decisions.

2.11 RECREATION MANAGEMENT

BLM's multiple-use mission is to serve the diverse outdoor recreation demands of visitors while helping maintain the sustainable conditions needed to conserve their lands and their recreation choices.

YFO currently manages seven developed recreation sites that charge amenity recreation fees under the authority of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). Federal regulations in place under the authority of FLPMA enable the BLM to collect SRP fees for organized groups, commercial uses, competitive events, and use of specially designated public lands, such as the planning area's two LTVAs.

Approved RMP decisions concerning OHV and other trail-based recreation activities are in Section 2.12 Travel Management. Approved RMP decisions involving concession leases are in Section 2.18 Lands and Realty Management.

2.11.1 PLANNING AREA-WIDE MANAGEMENT

Desired Future Conditions

- RR-001: Public understanding and appreciation of the planning area's natural and cultural history and sensitive resources are enhanced through educational outreach and heritage tourism opportunities.
- RR-002: Where appropriate, recreational facilities are constructed or modified so they are accessible to people with disabilities in accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and in conformance with relevant building standards, accessible outdoor program guidance, and program regulations.
- RR-003: Ample recreation opportunities are provided on BLM-administered lands within the 100-year floodplains of the lower Colorado and Gila rivers.
- CL-004: Historic trails, including the Anza Trail, Butterfield Overland Mail Route, Gila Trail, and Mormon Battalion Trail, are managed to realize their educational, recreational, and scientific values.

Management Actions

- RR-004: Collect amenity recreation fees at the Squaw Lake, Senator's Wash, North Shore, South Shore, Betty's Kitchen, Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area, and Ehrenberg Sandbowl recreation sites under the authority of FLREA and in accordance with the current YFO Recreation and Visitor Services Business Plan.
- RR-005: Authorize SRPs for competitive events, commercial activities, organized groups, and individual use of specially designated areas on a case-by-case basis or as determined appropriate in implementation-level management plans.

- Issue SRPs within ACECs, Public Use cultural resource sites, and special status species habitat if it is determined that adverse impacts can be avoided. Include stipulations in SRPs to protect sensitive resources.
- Limit equestrian use authorized by SRPs to pre-selected trails.
- Collect SRP fees for use of the La Posa and Imperial Dam LTVAs.
- RR-006: Continue implementing decisions from the La Posa Interdisciplinary Management Plan, the Ehrenberg–Cibola Recreation Area Management Plan, and the Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area Management Plan.
- RR-007: Construct recreational facilities throughout the planning area to protect public land resources, provide for public health and safety, and accommodate visitor use.
- RR-008: Where warranted by increased recreation demands and user and resource conflicts, expand the recreation fee program to additional BLM-administered lands. The development of new and expanded recreation fee sites will be contingent upon the completion of publicly reviewed recreation activity plans. Activity-level management plans must document the long-term compatibility of such proposals with the BLM’s multiple-use mission.
- RR-009: Install and maintain interpretive, informational, and educational materials and facilities at main points of access and interest throughout the planning area. Interpretive locations include, but are not limited to, recreation sites, parking areas, hiking trails, Public Use cultural resource sites, and Wilderness boundaries. Focus areas include the Blythe Intaglios Complex, non-Wilderness portions of the Big Marias ACEC, Sears Point ACEC core area, Dripping Springs ACEC core area, Betty’s Kitchen NRT, Anza Trail (see Map 2-1-1).
- RR-010: Limit the length of stay for overnight camping on BLM-administered lands to 14 days within any 28-day period. After 14 days, visitors must move to another campsite at least 25 miles away. This length of stay limit does not apply within recreation concession leases, public agency leases, LTVAs, and the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area.
- RR-011: Allow continuous overnight camping from September 15 to April 15 within the La Posa and Imperial Dam LTVAs.
- RR-012: Limit the length of stay for overnight camping at the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area to 10 days per calendar year.
- RR-013: Limit 106,000 acres of the La Posa Plain; 2,900 acres of the Big Marias ACEC (see Map 2-1-2); 640 acres of the Dripping Springs ACEC (see Map 2-1-1); and 3,700 acres of the Sears Point ACEC (see Map 2-1-3) to day-use only.
- RR-014: Expand the administrative boundary of the Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area as needed to benefit the recreational and/or riparian values of the lower Colorado River.
- RR-015: Identify a sufficient number of staging areas and base camps throughout the planning area for authorized SRP activities through collaboration with local agencies and organizations.
- RR-016: Install and maintain vehicle and pedestrian traffic counters on BLM-administered lands with high public use to improve the accuracy of visitor use monitoring data.

- RR-017: Protect at-risk cultural resources and special status plant and animal species from recreational damage as needed throughout the planning area. Protection measures could include, but are not limited, to fencing, signs, and trail realignments, restorations, and use limitations.
- RR-018: Implement appropriate developments necessary for protection and interpretation at Public Use cultural resource sites, including but not limited to installing registration boxes and interpretive signs; establishing non-motorized trails, including hardened walking trails within ¼ to ½ mile distance from sites; closing and converting to hiking trails or rehabilitating existing vehicle routes in close proximity to the site; and producing fact sheets or brochures.
- RR-019: Delineate base camps and install the appropriate facilities adjacent to Wilderness boundaries to accommodate equestrian use and hunting groups.
- RR-020: Post signs at fishing access points and at tackle shops clearly advising anglers of the potential to take razorback suckers and how to report and release captured fish. Signs should contain a clear photograph of a razorback sucker that can be used by anglers to identify the species.
- RR-021: Limit streambank vegetation alteration due to recreation activities in riparian areas along stream reaches occupied by Gila topminnow, bonytail chub, and desert pupfish.
- RR-022: Allow fishing, hunting, and trapping activities within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics. AGFD retains jurisdiction and responsibilities with respect to fish and wildlife management and establishes regulations and enforcement for these uses.
- RR-023: Allocate 167,500 acres of public land as ERMAs.
- VM-018: Require use of native plant materials for landscaping at developed recreation sites within public lands.
- FM-030: Reduce and or remove hazardous fuels in recreation sites to improve public safety in coordination with the BLM Fire Management program.
- WS-021: Allow only those permanent new facilities that can be flood proofed within the 100-year floodplain. Existing permanent structures will be allowed to remain in the 100-year floodplain until they are inundated, their useful life is gone, or the present leases expire.

Administrative Actions

- AA-168: Update publicly reviewed Recreation and Visitor Services' Business Plans as needed to propose changes in the recreation fee program.
- AA-169: Develop and enhance partnerships and the YFO volunteer program to improve recreational opportunities and promote community stewardship of the public lands.
- AA-170: Enhance and expand the YFO's interpretive and outreach programs for the purposes of public education and resource protection.
- AA-171: Within the lower Colorado River floodplain, coordinate with Reclamation to (1) ensure that recreation projects do not affect water delivery and storage or the integrity of the

floodway and (2) ensure that impacts to recreation are considered during river management activities.

- AA-172: Determine the need for facilities within the designated Ehrenberg Sandbowl Open OHV Management Area to address public safety and resource protection concerns.
- AA-173: Work with interested cooperators to develop a proposal for the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to change the names of Squaw Lake and the Squaw Lake Campground.
- AA-174: Promote recreational opportunities for bird watching and photography. Recognize and promote economic and recreational values of birds, as appropriate.
- AA-175: Map and document cultural properties before interpretive development for Public Use, to the extent necessary to preserve archaeological data, plan for interpretive facilities, provide a baseline condition assessment for monitoring changes resulting from visitor use, and complete interpretive plans.
- AA-176: The YFO will continue to monitor and document the number of recreation permits sold and issued within the planning area and report these results into the BLM's Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) for local, statewide, and national analysis. Detailed counts of visitor use for several non-fee public lands with 14-day limits that are closely monitored by BLM staff and volunteers will also continue to be input into RMIS. Organized groups, commercial uses, and competitive events authorized through the BLM SRP program will continue to be monitored for compliance and effectiveness on an as-needed basis. Annual data collected on recreational activities (e.g., visitation, SRPs, and conditions of facilities) will be reported into RMIS and the Facilities Maintenance Information System. The collection of this recreation-oriented data will be tracked and reported on a five-year basis through the plan evaluation schedule.
- AA-177: A major component in more accurately monitoring visitor use within the YFO includes improving visitor counting capabilities on non-developed public lands. A detailed monitoring plan for recreational visitor use within the planning area will be developed that includes the use of motorized vehicle and pedestrian traffic counters, visitor registers, and/or other methods used to estimate visitor use levels. Detailed monitoring plans for potential recreational impacts to public land resources will be addressed during each available implementation-level planning opportunity tiered to this Approved RMP. These planning opportunities could include, but are not limited to, recreation management plans for SRMAs or RMZs, TMPs, ACEC Management Plans, or Cultural Resource Management Plans. Resource monitoring obligations and protocols generated through development of the above plans will be progressively included into the YFO's monitoring schedules. Monitoring activities will be accomplished through a combination of BLM and interagency staff, partnerships, volunteers, and contracted labor as monitoring plans are developed and funding becomes available.

2.11.2 RECREATION MANAGEMENT ALLOCATIONS

The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook outlines specific recreation management allocations to be made in RMPs, including SRMAs, ERMAs, RMZs, and Prescribed Recreation Settings. The Approved RMP allocates five SRMAs containing a total of 22 RMZs within the YFO planning area. Approved RMP Recreation Management allocations are presented in Table 2-10 and Map 2-9.

Table 2-10
Approved RMP Recreation Management Allocations

| Recreation Management Area | Approved RMP BLM Acres | Recreation Management Zone |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Colorado River Corridor Destination SRMA | 149,000 | Blythe Intaglios Heritage RMZ |
| | | Ehrenberg–Cibola RMZ |
| | | Trigo Mountains Wilderness RMZ |
| Gila River Valley Undeveloped SRMA | 42,600 | Agua Caliente Access RMZ |
| | | Anza Trail RMZ |
| | | Sears Point Heritage RMZ |
| Greater Yuma Community SRMA | 122,700 | Anza Trail RMZ |
| | | Gila Mountains RMZ |
| | | Imperial Dam RMZ |
| | | Laguna Mountains RMZ |
| | | Limitrophe RMZ |
| | | Mitry Lake Wildlife Area RMZ |
| | | Southern Desert Communities RMZ |
| Urban Recreation Lands RMZ | | |
| La Posa Destination SRMA | 310,300 | Dripping Springs Heritage RMZ |
| | | Highway 95 RMZ |
| | | Intensive Camping RMZ |
| | | Intensive Day-use RMZ |
| | | Plomosa Road Access RMZ |
| | | New Water Mountains Wilderness RMZ |
| Yuma East Undeveloped SRMA | 526,900 | Dispersed Use RMZ |
| | | Eagletail Mountains Wilderness RMZ |
| ERMA | 166,500 | N/A |
| Total BLM Acres | 1,318,000 | |

BLM = Bureau of Land Management; ERMA = Extensive Recreation Management Area; RMZ = Recreation Management Zone; SRMA = Special Recreation Management Area

Desired Future Conditions for All SRMAs

Desired Future Conditions for all SRMAs and RMZs are described as six different Prescribed Recreation Settings, ranging from Primitive to Urban. Each Prescribed Recreation Setting describes a unique set of recreational experiences and opportunities the YFO would aim to provide within SRMAs and RMZs. Table 2-11 and Map 2-10 convey the acreages of the six different types of Prescribed Recreation Settings for which the YFO will manage.

**Table 2-11
Approved RMP Desired Future Conditions for Recreation Management**

| Prescribed Recreation Settings | Approved RMP BLM Acres |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Primitive | 166,500 |
| Semi-primitive | 146,600 |
| Rural Natural | 696,600 |
| Rural Developed | 124,400 |
| Suburban | 12,800 |
| Urban | 7,800 |

BLM=Bureau of Land Management

- RR-024: 166,500 acres of public land within the planning area provide Primitive recreation settings and opportunities. The primitive recreation setting provides extensive opportunities to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because development, human activity, and natural resource modifications are rare; opportunity to experience natural ecosystems with very little and no apparent human imprint is paramount; natural views, sounds, and smells dominate; a sense of solitude, tranquility, challenge, adventure, risk, orienteering, and self-reliance is important; a sense of freedom, tranquility, humility, relaxation, nature appreciation, wonderment, and stewardship is central and dominant; overnight visitors tent camp with no modern facilities; adventure travelers are often attracted to the undisturbed wild settings.
- RR-025: 146,600 acres of public land within the planning area provide Semi-primitive recreation settings and opportunities. The semi-primitive recreation setting provides widespread and very prevalent opportunities to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because development, human activity, and natural resource modifications are seldom encountered; opportunity to experience a natural ecosystem with little human imprint is important; a sense of challenge, adventure, risk, and self-reliance is important; solitude and lack of contact with other visitors, managers, and facilities is important; the recreation experiences tend to be more resource-based; a sense of independence, freedom, tranquility, relaxation, nature appreciation and wonderment, testing skills, and stewardship is typical; area provides opportunities for the more adventure-based enthusiasts. Overnight visits are typically car and tent camping far from modern conveniences and facilities. Knowledge of desert survival skills is critical to visitor safety. Topography, an absence of existing roads, or resource protection measures may limit motorized access.
- RR-026: 696,600 acres of public land within the planning area provide Rural Natural recreation settings and opportunities. The rural natural recreation setting provides prevalent opportunities to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because development, human activity, and natural resource modifications are occasional and infrequent; socialization with others is expected and tolerated; opportunity to relieve stress and to get away from built environment is important; a high sense of safety, security, comfort and convenience is not important nor expected; a sense of independence and freedom with a moderate level of management presence is important; moments of solitude, tranquility, and nature appreciation are important; experiences tend to be more resource-dependent, although may be diverse, ranging from relaxation and contemplation to socialization, to physical exertion and challenge; area is typically attractive to extended weekend visitors using recreation vehicles, tents, or rustic cabins.

- RR-027: 124,400 acres of public land within the planning area provide Rural Developed recreation settings and opportunities. The rural developed recreation setting provides occasional or periodic opportunities to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because of the common and frequent level of development, human activity, or natural resource modification; opportunity to experience brief periods of solitude and change from everyday sights and sounds is important; socialization within and outside one's group is typical and the presence of other visitors is expected; opportunity to relieve stress and to alter everyday routines is important; a moderate level of comfort and convenience is important; a sense of safety and security is important; the array of recreation activities may be diverse, ranging from relaxation and contemplation to physical exertion and challenge; area is typically attractive for day-use and weekend visits from regional metropolitan areas and smaller nearby communities.
- RR-028: 12,800 acres of public land within the planning area provide Suburban recreation settings and opportunities. The suburban recreation setting provides limited or little opportunity to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because of the widespread and very prevalent level of development, human activity, or natural resource modification; watching and meeting other visitors is expected and desired; opportunity to briefly relieve stress and to alter everyday routine is important; families are common; a high sense of safety, security, comfort, and convenience is central and dominant; the mix of recreation activities may be diverse, ranging from relaxation and contemplation to physical exertion, thrills, excitement, and challenge; learning about the natural and cultural history of the area is important to some; area is popular with local residents or long-term winter visitors.
- RR-029: 7,800 acres of public land within the planning area provide urban recreation settings and opportunities. The urban recreation setting provides very limited opportunities to see, hear, and smell the natural resources because of the extensive level of development, human activity, and natural resource modification. Watching and meeting other visitors is expected and desired; large group activities are popular; opportunity to briefly relieve stress and to alter everyday routines is important; socializing with family and friends is important; large groups and families are common; a high sense of safety, security, comfort, and convenience is central and dominant; the mix of recreation activities may be diverse, ranging from those of relaxation and contemplation to those of physical exertion, thrills, excitement and challenge. The setting is often attractive to short-term visitors, tours, and school groups; it may serve as a staging area for visitors traveling on to areas with non-urban recreation settings.

A. COLORADO RIVER DESTINATION SRMA AND RMZS

Desired Future Conditions

- RR-030: The primary recreation management strategy for the Colorado River Corridor SRMA will be to target the demonstrated regional destination tourism market. Public use of the SRMA varies by season. Family and groups from metropolitan centers in Arizona and California visit the SRMA primarily for water-based activities during the summer. During the winter, the SRMA is a destination for OHV riding, hunting, camping, horseback riding, cultural resource viewing, and fishing throughout the region.

- RR-031: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective of the Blythe Intaglios Heritage RMZ is to provide recreational opportunities that are compatible with the ACEC and Wilderness resource values. The Blythe Intaglios Complex is promoted as a heritage tourism destination to enhance public understanding and appreciation of relevant and important resource values. Interpretation design and protection measures at the Blythe Intaglios Complex are improved in coordination with interested partners. The continued integrity of identified relevant and important resource values provides the public with opportunities to learn about the area's natural and cultural history through effective interpretation. Rugged and natural landscapes within the Big Maria Mountains Wilderness and Riverside Mountains Wilderness remain untrammled and undeveloped for future generations to experience as they do today.
- RR-032: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective of the Ehrenberg–Cibola RMZ is to maintain the wide range of water-based and OHV-based recreational opportunities for the public's enjoyment. The facilities at the Ehrenberg Sandbowl and Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area are maintained and upgraded as needed to meet recreational demands and public health and safety requirements.
- RR-033: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective of the Trigo Mountains Wilderness RMZ is to ensure that recreational activities remain compatible with the natural, cultural, and Wilderness resource values within the RMZ. Rugged and natural landscapes within the RMZ remain untrammled and undeveloped for future generations to experience as they do today.

Management Actions

- RR-034: Allocate the 149,000-acre Colorado River Corridor Destination SRMA.
- RR-035: Allocate the Blythe Intaglios Heritage RMZ within the Colorado River Corridor Destination SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the Big Marias ACEC, Big Marias SCRMA, and portions of two Wildernesses. The Blythe Intaglios Complex within the Big Marias ACEC provides cultural resource viewing opportunities that have the potential to educate visitors about the rich prehistoric cultures that thrived along the lower Colorado River. The Big Maria Mountains and Riverside Mountains Wilderness provide primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands can be found in Sections 2.3.4 ACEC, 2.14.1 SCRMA, and 2.3.1-A Designated Wilderness.
- RR-036: Allocate the Ehrenberg–Cibola RMZ within the Colorado River Corridor Destination SRMA. This RMZ provides a wide range of water-based recreation opportunities on the lower Colorado River and trail-based recreation opportunities within the adjacent desert landscapes. A majority of the RMZ is undeveloped, providing some of the last remaining opportunities for isolated and unconfined recreation along the lower Colorado River.
- RR-037: Allocate the Trigo Mountains Wilderness RMZ within the Colorado River Corridor Destination SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the Trigo Mountains Wilderness. The RMZ's numerous desert woodland washes provide some of the best horseback riding opportunities within the YFO. Historic mining operations south of the Trigo Mountains provide outstanding heritage tourism and rock hounding opportunities. Challenging outdoor adventures to hike, camp, and hunt also exist throughout the RMZ's rugged terrain.

Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands can be found in Section 2.3.1-A Designated Wilderness.

Administrative Actions

- AA-178: Promote the following environmental education programs and topics to ensure that recreational activities remain sustainable within the Colorado River Corridor Destination SRMA: Tread Lightly!, Leave No Trace, wildland fire prevention and mitigation, Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!, invasive species prevention, archaeological ethics, natural and cultural history of the lower Colorado River, desert survival skills, and OHV safety.
- AA-179: Coordinate and form partnerships with the following agencies and groups for comprehensive and collaborative management of the Colorado River Corridor Destination SRMA: AGFD, Arizona State Lands Department, BLM El Centro Field Office, BLM Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office, CDFG, Arizona and California SHPOs, Cibola NWR, City of Blythe, Imperial County, Imperial NWR, La Paz County, Reclamation, Riverside County, Native American tribes and groups, Sonoran Desert Invasive Species Council, Southern Low Desert Resource Conservation and Development Council, Town of Cibola, Town of Ehrenberg, Town of Palo Verde, United Desert Gateway, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, and YPG.
- AA-180: Focus recreation management within the Blythe Intaglios Heritage RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for cultural resource viewing, natural landscape viewing, hiking, and hunting.
- AA-181: Focus recreation management within the Ehrenberg–Cibola RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for camping, fishing, boating, swimming, OHV riding, hunting, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing.
- AA-182: Focus recreation management within the Trigo Mountains Wilderness RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for horseback riding, hiking, camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, and rock hounding.

B. GILA RIVER VALLEY UNDEVELOPED SRMA AND RMZS

Desired Future Conditions

- RR-038: The primary recreation management strategy for the Gila River Valley SRMA will be to target the demonstrated undeveloped tourism market. Visitors come to this SRMA to enjoy dispersed hiking, hunting, fishing, and cultural resource viewing opportunities.
- RR-039: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective of the Agua Caliente Access RMZ is to engage interested partners to provide effective resource interpretation, promote sustainable OHV ethics, and identify vehicle safety requirements focused on protecting the area's resource values.
- RR-040: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective of the Anza Trail RMZ is to establish and maintain a recreational trail through collaborative partnerships that provides local residents with opportunities to learn about the natural and cultural history of the area and connect local communities to the public lands.

- RR-041: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective of the Sears Point Heritage RMZ is to ensure that heritage-based recreation activities remain compatible with the ACEC's resource values. Opportunities to learn about the area's natural and cultural history through effective interpretation ensure the continued integrity of identified relevant and important resource values.

Management Actions

- RR-042: Allocate the 42,600-acre Gila River Valley Undeveloped SRMA.
- RR-043: Allocate the Agua Caliente Access RMZ within the Gila River Valley Undeveloped SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the proposed Agua Caliente National Back Country Byway corridor. The Agua Caliente Access RMZ has been allocated to link with potential RMP decisions from the adjacent BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office. The Agua Caliente Access RMZ provides exemplary vehicle-based landscape viewing opportunities. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.3 National Byways.
- RR-044: Allocate the Anza Trail RMZ within the Gila River Valley Undeveloped SRMA. This RMZ represents portions of the Congressionally-designated Anza Trail corridor within the Gila River Valley Undeveloped SRMA. The trail corridor for this RMZ is also the location of the historic Gila Trail, Mormon Battalion Trail, and Butterfield Overland Stage Route, and also served as a prehistoric trade route between indigenous peoples of the Yuma and Phoenix areas. BLM supports the development of the Anza Trail for public recreational use; however, the YFO does not administer contiguous tracts of public land within this RMZ. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.1-B NHTs.
- RR-045: Allocate the Sears Point Heritage RMZ within the Gila River Valley Undeveloped SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the Sears Point ACEC. The prolific petroglyphs within the Sears Point ACEC were created by an unusually diverse group of different indigenous cultures and provide cultural resource viewing opportunities. The unique geologic and riparian landscapes within the ACEC also provide exemplary landscape and wildlife viewing opportunities. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.4 ACECs.

Administrative Actions

- AA-183: Promote the following environmental education programs and topics to ensure that recreational activities remain sustainable within the Gila River Valley Undeveloped SRMA: Tread Lightly!, Leave No Trace, archaeological ethics, invasive species prevention, wildland fire prevention and mitigation, Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!, desert survival skills, natural and cultural history of the area, and OHV safety.
- AA-184: Coordinate and form partnerships with the following agencies and groups for comprehensive and collaborative management of the Gila River Valley Undeveloped SRMA: Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, AGFD, Arizona State Parks, Arizona SHPO, BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office, Native American tribes and groups, NPS, Reclamation, Sonoran Desert Invasive Species Council, Town of Dateland, Town of Wellton, United Desert

Gateway, WMIDD, Yuma County, Yuma Historical Society, Yuma Trails, Inc., and private landowners.

- AA-185: Focus recreation management within the Agua Caliente Access RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for OHV-based landscape viewing, auto-based landscape viewing, photography, and wildlife viewing.
- AA-186: Focus recreation management within the Anza Trail RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, mountain biking, camping, wildlife viewing, fishing, and learning about the area's natural and cultural history.
- AA-187: Focus recreation management within the Sears Point Heritage RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for cultural resource viewing, hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing.

C. GREATER YUMA COMMUNITY SRMA AND RMZS

Desired Future Conditions

- RR-046: The primary recreation management strategy for the Greater Yuma SRMA will be to target the demonstrated community tourism market. Residents of local communities are the primary visitors of the SRMA, who come to hike, camp, boat, fish, hunt, mountain bike, and ride horses and OHVs.
- RR-047: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Anza Trail RMZ is to provide local residents with convenient opportunities to exercise, learn about Yuma's natural and cultural history through effective interpretation, and connect local communities to the public lands. The installation and maintenance of the recreational Anza Trail is accomplished through collaborative partnerships.
- RR-048: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Gila Mountains RMZ is to ensure that legal public access, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources of the RMZ are not compromised from encroaching urban development and increasing recreational demands. A wide range of personal and community benefits occur from sustainable open space management practices.
- RR-049: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Imperial Dam RMZ is to maintain and enhance the facilities at the Imperial Dam LTVA, South Shore, North Shore, Senator Wash Boat Launch, and Squaw Lake recreation sites as needed to meet recreational demands and comply with public health and safety requirements. These recreation sites, collectively known as the Imperial Dam Recreation Area, provide sustained economic benefits to surrounding communities from large numbers of regional, national, and international visitors.
- RR-050: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Laguna Mountains RMZ is to reduce user group conflicts and impacts to wildlife and cultural resources while ensuring that a wide variety of trail-based activities remain available. A wide range of personal and community benefits occur from sustainable open space management practices.
- RR-051: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Limitrophe RMZ is to ensure that traditional use opportunities remain available to local Native Americans so

they are able to maintain their cultural identities. Efforts to improve the Limitrophe's safety, vegetation management, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities sustain collaboration and cooperation between all interested stakeholders.

- RR-052: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area RMZ is to effectively collaborate with the co-managers of the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area to maintain and enhance wildlife-based recreation opportunities determined compatible with the purpose of the wildlife area. The wildlife area continues to provide local communities with convenient access to water and wildlife-based recreation opportunities and younger generations are provided with opportunities to develop boating, hunting, fishing, and outdoor skills.
- RR-053: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Southern Desert Communities RMZ is to ensure that recreational activities remain compatible with the natural, cultural, and Wilderness resource values within the RMZ. Rugged and natural landscapes within the planning area remain untrammled and undeveloped for future generations to experience as we do today, and OHV riding opportunities connect local communities to the public lands.
- RR-054: Allocate the Urban Recreation Lands RMZ within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. This RMZ represents isolated parcels of public lands within the urban Yuma environment not encompassed by other RMZs of the SRMA. While many of these parcels are small and isolated, they provide tremendous benefits to the community through the preservation of urban open spaces for daily activities such as dog walking, hiking, and wildflower viewing.
 - Fortuna Pond continues to provide recreational fishing opportunities as mitigation under the Title I contract for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Project.

Management Actions

- RR-055: Allocate the 122,700-acre Greater Yuma Community SRMA.
- RR-056: Allocate the Anza Trail RMZ within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. This RMZ represents the Congressionally-designated Anza Trail corridor within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. The trail corridor for this RMZ is also the location of the historic Gila Trail, Mormon Battalion Trail, and Butterfield Overland Stage Route, and also served as a prehistoric trade route between indigenous peoples of the Yuma and Phoenix areas. BLM supports the development of the Anza Trail for public recreational use; however, the YFO manages a very limited amount of land within this RMZ. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.1-B NHTs.
- RR-057: Allocate the Gila Mountains RMZ within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. The jagged peaks, rolling foothills, and stunning washes of the Gila Mountains provide the greater Yuma area with convenient hiking, OHV riding, and horseback riding opportunities.
- RR-058: Allocate the Imperial Dam RMZ within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. The boating, floating, fishing, and swimming opportunities on the lower Colorado River and its associated backwaters cool down local and regional visitors throughout the long southwestern summers. The BLM-administered lands adjacent to both of the rivers' shorelines provide weekend residents, campers, and day-use visitors with exemplary OHV-

riding opportunities. The Imperial Dam LTVA provides extended camping opportunities for winter visitors from September to April. Outstanding primitive recreation opportunities, such as hiking and wildlife viewing, are available in the Little Picacho Wilderness.

- RR-059: Allocate the Laguna Mountains RMZ within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. The rolling hills of the Laguna Mountains provide the greater Yuma area with convenient mountain biking opportunities. Numerous hiking, OHV, and equestrian trail opportunities are also available within the RMZ.
- RR-060: Allocate the Limitrophe RMZ within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the Limitrophe CMA. The riparian resources of this RMZ provide local Native Americans with some of the last remaining cultural and traditional use opportunities along the lower Colorado River in the greater Yuma area. There is also the potential to cultivate the fishing, dove hunting, and wildlife viewing opportunities within the RMZ once the criminal activities associated with the International Boundary are addressed. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.4 CMAs.
- RR-061: Allocate the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area RMZ within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area CMA. Sport fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing opportunities within this RMZ significantly contribute to Yuma's eco-tourism industry. The RMZ also provides exemplary camping opportunities along Mittry Lake and environmental education opportunities at Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Area and NRT. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.4 CMAs.
- RR-062: Allocate the Southern Desert Communities RMZ within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. Portions of this RMZ encompass the Muggins Mountains Wilderness and all public lands in the rapidly developing Dome Valley. Hunting, OHV riding, and hiking opportunities all exist within this RMZ. The Muggins Mountains Wilderness provides challenging, primitive recreation opportunities such as hiking. The RMZ also provides OHV riding opportunities to residents and winter visitors of the nearby local communities. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.1-A Designated Wilderness.
- RR-063: Allocate the Urban Recreation Lands RMZ within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA. This RMZ represents isolated parcels of public lands within the urban Yuma environment not encompassed by other RMZs of the SRMA. While many of these parcels are small and isolated, they provide tremendous benefits to the community through the preservation of urban open spaces for daily activities such as dog walking, hiking, and wildflower viewing.

Administrative Actions

- AA-188: Promote the following environmental education programs and topics to ensure that recreational activities remain sustainable within the Greater Yuma Community SRMA: Tread Lightly!, Leave No Trace, archaeological ethics, Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!, invasive species prevention, wildfire prevention and mitigation, natural history and cultural history of Yuma, International Boundary safety, desert survival skills, health benefits of regular exercise, and OHV safety.

2.0 Management Decisions

- AA-189: Coordinate and form partnerships with the following agencies and groups for comprehensive and collaborative management of the Greater Yuma Community SRMA: Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, AGFD, Arizona State Parks, Arizona State Lands Department, Arizona and California SHPOs, BMGR, BLM El Centro Field Office, CDFG, City of Yuma, Fisher's Landing, Hidden Shores recreation concession lease, Imperial County, Imperial NWR, Native American tribes and groups, LCR MSCP, MCAS-Yuma, Martinez Lake, Mexico, NPS, Reclamation, Sonoran Desert Invasive Species Council, United Desert Gateway, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. International Boundary and Waters Commission (USIBWC), WMIDD, Yuma County, Yuma Historical Society, YPG, Yuma Trails, Inc., private landowners, and local public health agencies.
- AA-190: Focus recreation management within the Anza Trail RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for hiking, jogging, horseback riding, OHV riding, picnicking, swimming, mountain bike riding, camping, wildlife viewing, fishing, and learning about the area's natural and cultural history.
- AA-191: Focus recreation management within the Gila Mountains RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for hiking, OHV riding, horseback riding, picnicking, wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and geocaching.
- AA-192: Focus recreation management within the Imperial Dam RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for long-term camping, short-term camping, boating, swimming, river floating, fishing, OHV riding, geocaching, hiking, and wildlife viewing.
- AA-193: Focus recreation management within the Laguna Mountains RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for mountain bike riding, hiking, OHV riding, and wildlife and landscape viewing.
- AA-194: Focus recreation management within the Limitrophe RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for Native American cultural and traditional uses, wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing.
- AA-195: Focus recreation management within the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for fishing, hunting, camping, boating, picnicking, hiking, environmental education, and wildlife viewing.
- AA-196: Focus recreation management within the Southern Desert Communities RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for OHV riding, hunting, hiking, picnicking, wildlife and wildflower viewing.
- AA-197: Focus recreation management within the Urban Recreation Lands RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for dog walking, fishing, wildflower viewing, wildlife viewing, and hiking.

D. LA POSA DESTINATION SRMA AND RMZS

Desired Future Conditions

- RR-064: The primary recreation management strategy for the La Posa SRMA will be to target the demonstrated destination tourism market. The SRMA is a national and international camping destination, with thousands of retirees migrating to the area every

winter in recreational vehicles (RVs). While camping, these visitors also participate in a variety of other activities on the public lands, such as hiking, OHV riding, geocaching, and cultural resource viewing.

- RR-065: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Dripping Springs Heritage RMZ is to ensure that heritage-based recreation does not negatively impact the natural and cultural resource values of the RMZ. The continued integrity of identified relevant and important resource values provides the public with opportunities to learn about the area's natural and cultural history through effective interpretation.
- RR-066: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Highway 95 RMZ is to effectively educate the public about the resource values and different agency missions along Highway 95 through collaborative partnerships. The journey from Yuma to Quartzsite continues to provide scenic vistas and natural resource-based viewing opportunities.
- RR-067: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Intensive Camping RMZ is to maintain and enhance the facilities within the La Posa LTVA and the Dome Rock, Plomosa Road, Hi Jolly, Scaddan Wash, and Road Runner 14-day camping areas as needed to meet recreational demands and public health and safety requirements. Sustainable long- and short-term camping facilities continue to provide the Town of Quartzsite with positive economic benefits.
- RR-068: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Intensive Day Use RMZ is to reduce the recreational impacts to the RMZ's natural, cultural, and historical resources through effective protection, interpretation, adaptive management, and environmental education. Public lands within the RMZ continue to provide the Town of Quartzsite with positive economic benefits, and resource protection measures address on-going recreational impacts.
- RR-069: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the New Water Mountains Wilderness RMZ is to ensure that recreational activities remain compatible with the Wilderness resource values of the RMZ. Rugged and natural landscapes within the RMZ remain untrammelled and undeveloped for future generations to experience as we do today.
- RR-070: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Plomosa Road Access RMZ is to support and coordinate with the BLM LHFO to effectively manage the Plomosa Road Access RMZ. In collaboration interested partners, the Plomosa Road Access RMZ provides effective resource interpretation, promotes sustainable OHV ethics, and identifies vehicle safety requirements in order to protect the area's resource values.

Management Actions

- RR-071: Allocate the 310,300-acre La Posa Destination SRMA.
- RR-072: Allocate the Dripping Springs Heritage RMZ within the La Posa Destination SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the Dripping Springs ACEC. Cultural resource viewing opportunities are available within this RMZ, along with exemplary opportunities to view native vegetation and wildlife. Outstanding visual resources provide an exquisite backdrop for all of these activities. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.4 ACECs.

- RR-073: Allocate the Highway 95 RMZ within the La Posa Destination SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the proposed Highway 95 National Scenic Byway corridor. Between Yuma and Quartzsite, Arizona, the ADOT-managed Highway 95 provides passing motorists with exceptionally scenic landscape viewing opportunities on BLM, Kofa NWR, and YPG-administered lands. Passing motorists will see the Castle Dome, Chocolate, Dome Rock, Gila, Laguna, and New Water mountain ranges; characteristic Sonoran Desert flora; and chances to see characteristic fauna, wild horse and burro populations, and wildflower blooms. Additional historic sites and points of interest can be interpreted to educate visitors about U.S. military training activities in the area, from the pre-World War II era to the present day. The public lands east of Highway 95 also provide OHV riding opportunities and access to the Kofa NWR. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.3 National Byways.
- RR-074: Allocate the Intensive Camping RMZ within the La Posa Destination SRMA. This RMZ represents the 15,500 acres of public land surrounding the Town of Quartzsite that were designated as the La Posa LTVA and five free 14-day camping areas. This RMZ primarily provides winter visitors with long- and short-term RV camping opportunities, which are major contributors to the Town of Quartzsite's tourism industry.
- RR-075: Allocate the Intensive Day-Use RMZ within the La Posa Destination SRMA. This RMZ is composed of public land surrounding the Town of Quartzsite, Arizona that has been closed to overnight camping. Both winter visitors and local residents participate in a variety of recreational activities throughout the undeveloped terrain of the RMZ.
- RR-076: Allocate the New Water Mountains Wilderness RMZ within the La Posa Destination SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the New Water Mountains Wilderness. Challenging outdoor adventures to hike, camp, and hunt exist throughout the RMZ's rugged mountain terrain. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.1-A Designated Wilderness.
- RR-077: Allocate the Plomosa Road Access RMZ within the La Posa Destination SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the proposed Plomosa Road National Back Country Byway corridor. The Plomosa Road Access RMZ has been allocated to link with LUP decisions made by the BLM LHFO. Plomosa Road connects Quartzsite and Bouse, Arizona, and provides exemplary landscape viewing opportunities with two-wheel drive vehicles. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.3 National Byways.

Administrative Actions

- AA-198: Promote the following environmental education programs and topics to ensure that recreational activities remain sustainable within the La Posa Destination SRMA: Tread Lightly!, Leave No Trace, archaeological ethics, invasive species prevention, wildland fire prevention and mitigation, natural and cultural history of the area, and OHV safety.
- AA-199: Coordinate and form partnerships with the following agencies and groups for comprehensive and collaborative management of the La Posa Destination SRMA: ADOT, AGFD, Arizona State Parks, Arizona SHPO, City of Yuma, Kofa NWR, La Paz County, Maricopa County, Native American tribes and groups, Sonoran Desert Invasive Species

Council, Town of Bouse, Town of Quartzsite, United Desert Gateway, Yuma County, and YPG.

- AA-200: Focus recreation management within the Dripping Springs Heritage RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for cultural resource viewing, wildlife and wildflower viewing, hiking, and hunting.
- AA-201: Focus recreation management within the Highway 95 RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for auto-based landscape touring, wildlife and wildflower viewing.
- AA-202: Focus recreation management within the Intensive Camping RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for long-term and short-term camping.
- AA-203: Focus recreation management within the Intensive Day Use RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for OHV riding, landscape viewing, photography, cultural resource viewing, historical site viewing, wildlife and wildflower viewing, hiking, rock hounding, geocaching, and model airplane flying.
- AA-204: Focus recreation management within the New Water Mountains Wilderness RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, and rock hounding.
- AA-205: Focus recreation management within the Plomosa Road Access RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for OHV-based landscape viewing, auto-based landscape viewing, photography, and wildlife viewing.

E. YUMA EAST UNDEVELOPED SRMA AND RMZS

Desired Future Conditions

- RR-078: The primary recreation management strategy for the identified Yuma East SRMA will be to target the demonstrated undeveloped tourism market. The area is a regional hunting destination, and this activity can only continue through the preservation of the SRMA's exemplary wildlife habitat.
- RR-079: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Dispersed Use RMZ is to ensure that the RMZ continues to provide undeveloped and wildlife-based recreation opportunities through motorized and non-motorized means. The RMZ's wildlife habitat and wildlife populations continue to provide local communities with access to natural resource-based recreation opportunities and younger generations are provided with opportunities to develop hunting, camping, and outdoor skills.
- RR-080: The Benefits-Based Recreation Management Objective for the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness RMZ is to ensure that recreational activities remain compatible with the Wilderness resource values of the RMZ. Rugged and natural landscapes within the planning area remain untrammled and undeveloped for future generations to experience as we do today.

Management Actions

- RR-081: Allocate the 526,900-acre Yuma East Undeveloped SRMA.

- RR-082: Allocate the Dispersed Use RMZ within the Yuma East Undeveloped SRMA. Outstanding hunting and dispersed camping opportunities exist throughout the RMZ which is part of AGFD Game Management Unit 41. The RMZ also provides exemplary OHV riding, hiking, and wildlife and wildflower viewing opportunities.
- RR-083: Allocate the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness RMZ within the Yuma East Undeveloped SRMA. This RMZ encompasses the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness. Challenging outdoor adventures to hike, camp, and hunt exist throughout the mountain range's rugged and undeveloped terrain. Additional Approved RMP decisions for these public lands are located in Section 2.3.1-A Designated Wilderness.

Administrative Actions

- AA-206: Promote the following environmental education programs and topics to ensure that recreational activities remain sustainable within the Yuma East Undeveloped SRMA: Tread Lightly!, Leave No Trace, archaeological ethics, invasive species prevention, wildland fire prevention and mitigation, natural and cultural history of the area, and OHV safety.
- AA-207: Coordinate and form partnerships with the following agencies and groups for comprehensive and collaborative management of the Yuma East Undeveloped SRMA: AGFD, Arizona State Parks, Arizona SHPO, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office, Kofa NWR, Maricopa County, Native American tribes and groups, Sierra Club, Sonoran Desert Invasive Species Council, United Desert Gateway, Yuma County, YPG, and Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club.
- AA-208: Focus recreation management within the Dispersed Use RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for hunting, camping, OHV riding, hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing.
- AA-209: Focus recreation management within the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness RMZ to provide sustainable opportunities for hiking, hunting, landscape viewing, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, wildflower viewing, and photography.

2.12 TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

The Approved RMP designates OHV Management Areas, establishes a preliminary YFO Transportation System, provides guidance for finalizing the YFO Transportation System, and delineates TMAs to provide more locale-specific planning guidance. For RMP provisions related to NHTs, NRTs, and National Byways refer to Section 2.3 Special Designations.

2.12.1 OHV MANAGEMENT AREAS

All BLM-administered lands must be designated as an Open, Closed, or Limited OHV Management Areas (43 CFR 8342.1). The BLM may institute additional closures or restrictions at any time to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources (43 CFR 8364). Acreages for OHV Management Area designations are listed in on Table 2-12 and Map2-11.

Table 2-12
Approved RMP OHV Management Area Designations

| Designation | Approved RMP BLM Acres |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Open Areas | |
| Ehrenberg Sandbowl | 400 |
| Total Acres Open | 400 |
| Closed Areas | |
| Designated Wilderness | 167,800 |
| Dripping Springs | 440 |
| Fortuna Wash (Section 33) | 100 |
| La Paz Valley | 1,000 |
| Muggins Mountains | 2,200 |
| Sears Point | 1,400 |
| Total Acres Closed | 172,940 |
| Limited Areas | |
| Total Acres Limited | 1,144,660 |
| Total Acres | 1,318,000 |

BLM=Bureau of Land Management

A. OPEN OHV MANAGEMENT AREAS

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-001: Open OHV Management Areas in the YFO provide public lands where all types of vehicle use are permitted at all times and visitors are not restricted to existing and designated roads and trails.

Management Actions

- TM-002: Maintain the 400-acre Ehrenberg Sandbowl Open OHV Management Area.
- TM-003: Open OHV Management Areas will be adequately signed to provide the public with clear boundaries of open areas. Fencing or other structures may be used to further delineate the boundaries of open areas.
- TM-004: Within the Dunes WHA, dune areas which support sensitive, special status, and/or priority species will not be available for future Open OHV Management Area designations.
- RR-007: Establish a volunteer host site at the Ehrenberg Sandbowl Open OHV Management Area. Install and maintain additional OHV trailhead facilities if needed to accommodate increased visitor use.

Administrative Actions

- AA-210: Re-evaluate and modify Open OHV Management Area designations as needed through an RMP amendment.

B. CLOSED OHV MANAGEMENT AREAS

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-005: No OHV use occurs within designated Closed OHV Management Areas.
- TM-006: The YFO designates additional Closed OHV Management Areas when they are necessary to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources where OHV use has been determined to be causing irreparable harm to the existing resources.

Management Actions

- TM-007: Designate a total of 172,940 acres of Closed OHV Management Areas (Map 2.12), including:
 - 167,800 acres of designated Wilderness. Congressionally designated Wildernesses Areas are statutorily closed to motorized and mechanized use, except for purposes specifically provided for by law.
 - 440 acres at the Dripping Springs ACEC core area
 - 1,000 acres in La Paz Valley
 - 100 acres at Fortuna Wash (Section 33)
 - 2,200 acres in the Muggins Mountains SCRMA
 - 1,400 acres at the Sears Point ACEC core area
- TM-008: Delineate the boundaries of Closed OHV Management Areas on the ground and install wildlife-compatible vehicle barriers on an as-needed basis.

Administrative Actions

- AA-211: Review requests for vehicular access to sacred areas not normally open to vehicles and consider authorizing such use on a case-by-case basis if Native American tribes identify such areas in the future.
- AA-212: Re-evaluate and modify Closed OHV Management Area designations as needed through an RMP amendment.

C. LIMITED OHV MANAGEMENT AREAS

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-009: The unauthorized proliferation of motorized and non-motorized recreation trails is reduced or halted.
- TM-010: OHV access within designated ACECs will be managed in a manner which does not damage important cultural resources and wildlife habitat.

Management Actions

- TM-011: Designate 1,144,660 acres of Limited OHV Management Areas.
- TM-012: Limit motorized use within Limited OHV Management Areas to existing inventoried routes appearing on the YFO route inventory maps (Maps TMA-1 to TMA-5). Motorized travel will not be allowed on roads, trails, and drivable washes that are not included on the YFO route inventory maps. After the YFO Transportation System is finalized, limit motorized use within Limited OHV Management Areas to designated routes only.
- TM-013: Allow motorized vehicles to pull off up to 100 feet from a designated route on either side of the centerline. This use will not be allowed along the Anza Trail or within ACECs and SCRMA. Within these stated areas, motorized use shall remain within the route with reasonable use of the shoulder and immediate roadside for vehicle passage, parking/overnight camping, and emergency stopping. Where pulling off a vehicle 100 feet from a route's centerline is allowed, impacts to natural and cultural resources shall be monitored on a continuing basis. If monitoring results show effects that exceed limits of acceptable change, motorized vehicles will not be allowed to pull off 100 feet from any designated route on either side of the centerline within the impacted area (IM No. AZ-2005-007).
- TM-014: Allow the use of non-motorized wheeled game carriers to retrieve game kills on all BLM-administered lands, except within Congressionally-designated Wilderness.
- TM-015: Unauthorized cross-country travel which results in the creation of new routes or the widening or extension of existing routes will not be permitted within Limited OHV Management Areas. Cross-country motorized travel will not be permitted for the retrieval of downed game within Limited OHV Management Areas. Cross-country vehicle travel may be permitted within Limited OHV Management Areas when a specific authorized task requires such use, and only where cross-country travel will not cause undue resource damage.
- TM-016: Cross-country travel for administrative purposes will be permitted only with prior approval by the authorized officer and following appropriate NEPA analysis. Any administrative action will be conducted in a manner that creates the least disturbance and reclaimed as soon as possible after the administrative need has ended.
- TM-017: Roads traversing bighorn sheep habitat may be closed, limited, or rerouted during the lambing season in specific areas consistent with safety and maintenance requirements of authorized uses in corporation with AGFD and CDFG.
- TM-018: Within Mojave Desert tortoise habitat, limit vehicular travel and non-motorized competitive events to designated routes; and close and rehabilitate existing roads where no public or administrative need exists.
- TM-019: Use fencing or physical barriers to protect riparian SWFL habitat from unauthorized OHV use.
- TM-020: Limit equestrian use to existing inventoried routes within designated ACECs until the route designation process is complete. If determined necessary, designate equestrian trails and install equestrian trailhead facilities to reduce user and resource conflicts. Limit equestrian use to these trails once they have been designated.

- TM-021: During the construction of rangeland developments, vehicles will use designated routes wherever possible for access to sites. Where no routes exist, vehicles will be authorized on a case-by-case basis to travel cross-country to avoid the need for road building. Where new roads must be built, roadbeds will be no wider than needed for reliable access. As a general practice, new roads will not be bladed for use in fence construction. Vehicles will travel cross-country or fences will be built without motorized access.
- TM-022: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, the use of motor vehicles and mechanical transport, and the construction of temporary roads, structures, and installations will be allowed for emergency purposes. Any emergency actions will be conducted in a manner that creates the least disturbance and will be reclaimed as soon as possible after the situation has ended.
- SM-022: Prohibit new routes within designated ACECs except as needed to manage and interpret resources or as required by law, such as access to valid mining claims or private property.
- RR-005: Limit equestrian use authorized by SRPs to pre-selected trails on a case-by-case basis.

Administrative Actions

- AA-213: Establish Supplementary Rules to enforce the Approved RMP's travel limitations according to the guidelines set forth in 43 CFR 8365.1-6.
- AA-214: Re-evaluate and modify Limited OHV Management Area designations as needed through an RMP amendment.

2.12.2 YFO TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The YFO Transportation System refers to the sum of the YFO's recognized inventory of roads, primitive roads, and trails formally recognized, approved, and designated for motorized and non-motorized travel. The YFO Transportation System will be established through subsequent implementation-level TMPs tiered to this RMP. The primary steps in BLM travel management planning include: (1) route inventory process, (2) route evaluation process, (3) route designation process, and (4) implementation of route designations. The first three steps in developing the YFO Transportation System must be completed within five years of the signing of the ROD.

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-023: The YFO Transportation System continues to provide essential motorized access to non-Federal lands, access across BLM-administered lands, access to private in-holdings surrounded by BLM-administered lands, and recognizes prior existing access rights.
- TM-024: The YFO Transportation System continues to provide adequate motorized access for the maintenance of wildlife water catchments and for dispersed recreation activities such as hunting.

- TM-025: The YFO Transportation System provides for a wide variety of trail-based recreational opportunities (i.e., hiking, mountain biking, OHV riding, horseback riding) in a manner that reduces existing user conflicts.
- TM-026: The YFO Transportation System minimizes impacts to identified sensitive resource values from routes that provide non-essential access.
- TM-027: The YFO Transportation System is signed and mapped for public use in a manner consistent with other Federal land management agencies.

A. ROUTE INVENTORY PROCESS

Maps TMA-1 through TMA-5 identify approximately 4,600 miles of routes and other transportation-related linear features located on BLM-administered lands within the planning area. Of these 4,600 miles, 3,200 miles have been inventoried on the ground and verified as routes by the BLM. The TMA maps also include 1,400 miles of transportation-related linear features that have not yet been verified on the ground by the BLM. These linear features include those identified by the public as routes during the DRMP/DEIS public review and comment period and those identified by the BLM from 2005 aerial photographs.

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-028: During the development of the YFO Transportation System, interested stakeholders are provided additional opportunities to update the route inventory by identifying existing roads, trails, and drivable desert washes that do not appear on Maps TMA-1 to TMA-5 and indicate those that should be considered for designation.

Management Actions

- TM-029: Identify the 4,600 miles of routes shown on Maps TMA-1 to TMA-5 as the planning area's preliminary Transportation System.

B. ROUTE EVALUATION PROCESS

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-030: Prior to beginning each individual TMP, interested stakeholders are provided with opportunities to submit written scoping comments, including recommendations as to how specific routes should be designated. Specific route designation recommendations should be accompanied with a rationale as to why the BLM should adopt the designation. Route designations that will be considered include, but are not limited to:
 - Open to Motorized Use,
 - Limited to Particular Types of Vehicles, such as all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, rock crawlers, etc.,
 - Limited to Authorized Users Only, such as mining claimants, grazing permittees, ROW holders, etc.,
 - Limited to Non-Motorized Uses, such as hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding,

- Limited seasonally, or
 - Closed.
- TM-031: Prior to approving each individual TMP, interested stakeholders are provided with opportunities to submit written comments, including recommendations as to how specific routes should be designated. Specific route designation recommendations should be accompanied with a rationale as to why the BLM should adopt the designation. Route designations that will be considered include, but are not limited to:
- Open to Motorized Use,
 - Limited to Particular Types of Vehicles, such as all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, rock crawlers, etc.,
 - Limited to Authorized Users Only, such as mining claimants, grazing permittees, ROW holders, etc.,
 - Limited to Non-Motorized Uses, such as hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding,
 - Limited seasonally, or
 - Closed.

Administrative Actions

- AA-215: The YFO route inventory will be brought forward into subsequent implementation-level TMPs for each of the five delineated TMAs. Each inventoried route within each TMA will be systematically evaluated, and the positive and negative impacts of each route to the various resource values of the public lands will be documented. Previously designated routes may be reevaluated, if it can be shown that the previous designation is causing resource damage or user conflicts. Routes within the planning area will be evaluated using the Route Evaluation Tree© process, which is described in detail in Appendix G.
- AA-216: Evaluate and document each inventoried route's impacts to the following resources and uses of the public lands:
- Sensitive resources, such as historic and cultural sites; special status wildlife and plant species; suitability for special status species reintroduction; wildlife movement corridors; wildlife habitat fragmentation; hydrology; geology; sensitive soils; and air quality (e.g. PM₁₀ non-attainment areas).
 - Public access needs, such as ROWs; easements; private property; highways, State and county roads providing access to the public lands; and route densities.
 - Commercial activities, such as mining; mineral/material operations; ranching; public utilities; railroads; apiaries; and economic impacts.
 - Administrative sites, such as wildlife monitoring sites; habitat restoration sites; weather stations; hazardous fuels treatment areas; wildlife water catchments; local community access; invasive vegetation treatment sites; wildland fire management; and other administrative access needs identified by cooperating agencies.
 - Recreation activities, such as trailheads and staging areas; designated recreation sites; designated interpretive sites dispersed recreational activities, such as hunting and camping; prescribed recreation settings; scenic overlooks, points of known photographic interest; areas providing educational or scientific research opportunities; hunting;

- rockhounding destinations; historic type of use on individual routes (e.g. motorized, hiking, equestrian, mountain biking); and other destinations or points of interest.
- Human interaction issues, such as user conflicts; documented trespasses; illegal dumping; and route proliferation.
- Hazards, such as unexploded ordinances (UXO); abandoned mines; International Boundary issues; and other identified safety concerns.
- AA-217: Consider additional route evaluation criteria in the future travel management planning processes in the event that conditions change and/or interested stakeholders request other factors to be considered.

C. ROUTE DESIGNATION PROCESS

The results of the route evaluation process provide the baseline data to be considered for the route designation process, where each inventoried route is designated as open, closed, or limited to public use.

Management Actions

- TM-032: Designate all inventoried routes within the YFO as open, closed, or limited to public use. Routes may be limited seasonally or to specific types of uses to prevent and reduce impacts to resource values and user conflicts. While lands within the Ehrenberg Sandbowl Open OHV Management Area will be exempt from the route evaluation/designation process, specific routes crossing these lands may be designated. No routes will be designated as open to motorized use within Closed OHV Management Areas. Routes within Closed OHV Management Areas may be designated to non-motorized modes of travel, such as hiking or horseback riding.
- TM-033: BLM may close or limit routes on the public lands at any time as public health and safety and resource protection needs arise (43 CFR 8342).

Administrative Actions

- AA-218: Provide interested stakeholders with opportunities to provide input and written comments throughout the designation process.
- AA-219: Consider a range of alternative route designations in future TMPs, including alternatives that consider closing a majority of non-essential routes that were created without authorization and a majority of non-essential drivable desert washes.
- AA-220: Identify individual route management needs, including, but not limited to, use specifications, signs, and vegetation management.
- AA-221: Identify individual route maintenance needs to improve public health and safety and reduce the need to create redundant routes that avoid existing hazards.
- AA-222: Identify individual route monitoring needs to detect and evaluate travel-related impacts to adjacent resources so that management changes can occur accordingly.

- AA-223: Identify easements and ROWs (to be issued by BLM or others) needed to maintain or provide legal and safe access to the public lands.
- AA-224: Coordinate with Reclamation to designate levee roads which provide essential access to local communities as open to public use.
- AA-225: Within ACECs and SCRMAAs, identify resource-compatible roadside pulloffs for overnight camping purposes.

D. IMPLEMENTATION OF ROUTE DESIGNATIONS

Following the approval of each individual TMP, individual route designation decisions are implemented and maintained on the ground.

Management Actions

- TM-034: Install and maintain the appropriate recreational trailhead facilities throughout the planning area once the YFO Transportation System has been established.
- TM-035: Sign designated routes throughout the planning area consistent with Federal land management agency standards.
- TM-036: YFO's strategy for restoring closed or unauthorized routes will be accomplished as rapidly as funding permits. Sensitive resources in immediate danger, or those that have been damaged by unauthorized use, will be a high priority for restoration. Typically, the restoration will be limited to that portion of the route of unauthorized use that is in line of sight from an open route. Each route will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and the most appropriate method of restoration will be used based on geography, topography, soils, hydrology, and vegetation. The methods of route restoration will include:
 - Not repairing washed-out routes,
 - Using natural barriers, such as large boulders,
 - Using rocks and dead and downed wood to obscure the route entryway,
 - Employing mulching, chipping, and raking to disguise evidence of routes,
 - Ripping up the route bed and reseeding with vegetation native to that area,
 - Utilizing fences or barriers,
 - Providing signs, including information to OHV users, on the need and value of resource protection,
 - Converting motorized two-track routes into non-motorized single track routes, and
 - Leaving the first 100 feet from the centerline of an open route unrestored to provide pullout areas or camping opportunities intended to discourage or prevent new ground disturbance elsewhere.
- TM-037: Require all activities permitted by the YFO to stay on designated routes (IM No. AZ-2005-007).

Administrative Actions

- AA-226: Establish a volunteer workforce to provide essential on the ground implementation of the signing, monitoring, and maintenance of the YFO Transportation System.

- AA-227: Expand and pursue partnerships and sources of funding for travel management, public education, and law enforcement.
- AA-228: In the event that Title V ROWs are issued or in the event of a legal decision on RS 2477 assertions, manage routes under the terms of these authorities.

2.12.3 TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Approved RMP establishes five TMAs within the planning area: the Ehrenberg–Cibola, Gila River Valley, Greater Yuma, La Posa, and Yuma East TMAs (Maps TMA-1 to TMA-5). These TMAs account for all acres of BLM-administered land within the planning area.

A. EHRENBURG–CIBOLA TMA

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-038: The future route designation process ensures that there is a wide variety of equestrian trail opportunities within the Ehrenberg–Cibola TMA.

Management Actions

- TM-020: Within the Big Marias ACEC and Big Maria Terraces SCRMA, limit equestrian use to existing inventoried routes until the route designation process is complete. If determined necessary, designate equestrian trails and install equestrian trailhead facilities to reduce user and resource conflicts. Limit equestrian use to these trails once they have been designated.
- TM-039: Identify the 152,300-acre Ehrenberg–Cibola TMA and its 650-mile route inventory as the planning area that will be addressed in the implementation-level Ehrenberg–Cibola TMP (Map TMA-1).
- TM-040: Designate hiking trails at the Blythe Intaglios Complex within the Big Marias ACEC to control access and prevent damage to cultural and natural resources. Allow construction, maintenance, and improvement of hiking trails and associated facilities within the ACEC as necessary. Once the trails are established, require visitors to stay on designated hiking trails within the Blythe Intaglios Complex.
- TM-041: Limit parking within the Blythe Intaglios Complex to designated areas.
- TM-042: Maintain the 122-acre North Bank Milpitas Wash OHV Restriction until the completion of the Ehrenberg–Cibola TMP. Designate these lands as a Limited or Closed OHV Management Area in the TMP.
- TM-043: Allow construction, maintenance, and improvement of existing or new hiking trails, barriers, and signs in the Big Marias ACEC as necessary.

Administrative Actions

- AA-229: Coordinate with the BLM Palm Springs-South Coast and El Centro Field Offices, CRIT, Reclamation, Cibola and Imperial NWRs, YPG, and other interested Tribes and

agencies to ensure the future route designation process for the Ehrenberg–Cibola TMA takes into account the other agencies' missions.

- AA-230: Develop partnerships and a volunteer workforce to enhance and expand equestrian trail opportunities in the Ehrenberg–Cibola TMA.
- AA-231: Nominate designated hiking and equestrian trails located in Arizona within the Ehrenberg–Cibola TMA to the Arizona State Parks Trail System.

B. GILA RIVER VALLEY TMA

Desired Future Conditions

- SM-005: A multiple-use Anza NHT provides contiguous recreational trail connectivity between the Greater Yuma TMA and the BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office.
- SM-010: Public land visitors are provided with recreational connectivity from the Anza Trail to other recreational trails and other points of interest within the Gila River Valley TMA, including the Sears Point ACEC.

Management Actions

- TM-020: Limit equestrian use to existing inventoried routes within the Sears Point ACEC until the route designation process is complete. If determined necessary, designate equestrian trails and install equestrian trailhead facilities to reduce user and resource conflicts. Limit equestrian use to these trails once they have been designated.
- TM-040: Designate hiking trails at the Sears Point ACEC interpretive area to control access and prevent damage to cultural and natural resources. Allow construction, maintenance, and improvement of hiking trails and associated facilities within the ACEC as necessary. Once the trails are established, require visitors to stay on designated hiking trails within the Sears Point ACEC interpretive area.
- TM-044: Identify the 60,500-acre Gila River Valley TMA and its 180-mile route inventory as the planning area that will be addressed in the implementation-level Gila River Valley TMP (Map TMA-4).
- TM-045: Designate portions of the Anza Trail through BLM-administered lands for motorized and non-motorized recreation as appropriate.
- TM-046: Establish a parking area and install barriers as needed at the Sears Point ACEC interpretive area to control access and prevent damage to cultural and natural resources. Determine an appropriate location for the parking area in coordination with stakeholders and Native American tribes.

Administrative Actions

- AA-232: Coordinate with the BMGR, BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office, YPG, and other interested Tribes and agencies to ensure the future route designation process for the Gila River Valley TMA takes into account the other agencies' missions.

- AA-233: Work with interested cooperators to establish legal and safe public access to Anza NHT trailheads and the Sears Point ACEC from Interstate 8.

C. GREATER YUMA TMA

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-047: The future route designation process in the Greater Yuma TMA focuses on creating an interconnected system of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails for the use of local community residents.
- TM-048: The future route designation process in the Greater Yuma TMA provides route-specific use limitations to reduce user conflicts where multiple forms of travel are occurring.
- SM-005: A multiple-use Anza NHT provides contiguous recreational trail connectivity between the Gila River Valley TMA and the BLM El Centro Field Office.
- SM-010: Public land visitors are provided with recreational connectivity from the Anza Trail to other recreational trails and other points of interest within the Greater Yuma TMA, including the Gila and Laguna mountains.

Management Actions

- TM-045: Designate portions of the Anza Trail through BLM-administered lands for motorized and non-motorized recreation as appropriate.
- TM-049: Identify the 133,600-acre Greater Yuma TMA and its 650-mile route inventory as the planning area that will be addressed in the implementation-level Greater Yuma TMP (Map TMA-5).
- TM-050: Identify an interconnected system of mountain biking and hiking trails within the Laguna Mountains. Establish recreational trail connectivity from the Laguna Mountains to the Mitty Lake Wildlife Area and the Anza NHT.
- TM-051: Identify an interconnected system of equestrian and hiking trails in the Gila Mountains. Establish recreational trail connectivity from the Gila Mountains to the Anza NHT.
- TM-052: Establish designated motorized trail connectivity through the East Imperial Hills between Martinez Lake Road and the Hidden Shores RV Village BLM recreation concession lease.
- TM-053: Work with cooperators to identify a water-based route suitable for canoeing, kayaking, and river floats along the lower Colorado River from Martinez Lake to downtown Yuma. Install and maintain launching and portage sites along the route as appropriate.

Administrative Actions

- AA-234: Coordinate with the BLM El Centro Field Office, BMGR, WMIDD, Reclamation, Imperial NWR, YPG, Cocopah and Fort Yuma–Quechan reservations, and other interested

Tribes and agencies to ensure the future route designation process in the Greater Yuma TMA takes into account the other agencies' missions.

- AA-235: Nominate designated hiking, biking, and equestrian trails in the Greater Yuma TMA to the Arizona State Trails System.
- AA-236: Work with interested cooperators to establish legal and safe public access to and across designated recreational routes in the Greater Yuma TMA.

D. LA POSA TMA

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-054: The future route designation process ensures that motorized recreational trails within the La Posa TMA provide opportunities for challenging experiences for OHV riders.

Management Actions

- TM-020: Limit equestrian use to existing inventoried routes within the Dripping Springs ACEC until the route designation process is complete. If determined necessary, designate equestrian trails and install equestrian trailhead facilities to reduce user and resource conflicts. Limit equestrian use to these trails once they have been designated.
- TM-040: Designate hiking trails in the vicinity of the spring at the Dripping Springs ACEC to control access and prevent damage to cultural and natural resources. Allow construction, maintenance, and improvement of hiking trails and associated facilities within the ACEC as necessary. Once the trails are established, require visitors to stay on designated hiking trails within the vicinity of the spring at the Dripping Springs ACEC.
- TM-055: Identify the 384,600-acre La Posa TMA and its 1,710-mile route inventory as the planning area that will be addressed in the implementation-level La Posa TMP (Map TMA-2).
- TM-056: Establish a parking area at both the north and south sides of the Dripping Springs ACEC. Install post-and-cable or other barriers as needed to manage access.
- TM-057: Close the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area around the spring to public use during extreme or severe drought conditions to protect desert bighorn sheep populations, as recommended by AGFD.

Administrative Actions

- AA-237: Coordinate with the BLM LHFO, CRIT, Kofa NWR, YPG, and other interested Tribes and agencies to ensure the future route designation process in the La Posa TMA takes into account the other agencies' missions.
- AA-238: Nominate designated hiking and equestrian trails in the La Posa TMA to the Arizona State Trails System.
- AA-239: The future route designation process determines the sustainability of existing rock crawling trails within the La Posa TMA.

E. YUMA EAST TMA

Desired Future Conditions

- TM-058: Travel management strives to retain the undeveloped nature of the Yuma East TMA by limiting the number of paved roads authorized across BLM lands.

Management Actions

- TM-059: Identify the 587,000-acre Yuma East TMA and its 1,410-mile route inventory as the planning area that will be addressed in the implementation-level Yuma East TMP (Map TMA-3)
- TM-060: Do not authorize the paving of any roads within the Yuma East TMA which would negatively impact the area's visual resources and wildlife habitat.
- TM-061: Within the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness, prohibit recreational equestrian use within one quarter mile of Indian Springs to prevent impacts to wildlife habitat and cultural resource values. At equestrian trailheads, promote low-impact hitching methods that the public can use prior to entering the Indian Springs area.

Administrative Actions

- AA-240: Coordinate with the BLM Lower Sonoran and Hassayampa field offices, Kofa NWR, YPG, and other interested Tribes and agencies to ensure the future route designation process in the Yuma East TMA takes into account the other agencies' missions.

2.13 VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The BLM's VRM System provides a way to identify, evaluate, and determine the appropriate levels of protection to the public lands' scenic values. The overall goal of VRM analysis is to minimize visual impacts through development of landscape-appropriate mitigation measures.

All BLM lands within the planning area have been designated into VRM Classes I through IV, with VRM Class I lands providing the most protection to scenic values and VRM Class IV lands providing the least protection. VRM designations for the planning area are described in Table 2-13 and shown on Map 2-13.

Table 2-13
Approved RMP VRM Designations

| VRM Class | Approved RMP BLM Acres |
|-------------|------------------------|
| I | 167,800 |
| II | 618,600 |
| III | 512,400 |
| IV | 19,200 |
| Total Acres | 1,318,000 |

VRM=Visual Resource Management; BLM=Bureau of Land Management

Desired Future Conditions

- VR-001: VRM Class I Lands: To preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention;
- VR-002: VRM Class II Lands: To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low;
- VR-003: VRM Class III Lands: To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate; and
- VR-004: VRM Class IV Lands: To provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.
- VR-005: The long-term scenic quality of BLM-administered lands within the viewsheds of National Byways is maintained through the application of the BLM VRM system.
- VR-006: The viewsheds and landscape character of ACECs is maintained to the extent practicable through the BLM's VRM system.
- VR-007: Viewsheds of important cultural resources whose settings contribute significantly to their scientific, public, traditional, or conservation values are maintained.

Management Actions

- VR-008: Designate 167,800 acres of VRM Class I. All Wildernesses are designated as VRM Class I.
- VR-009: Designate 618,600 acres of VRM Class II.
- VR-010: Designate 512,400 acres of VRM Class III. All ROW Corridors and communications sites are designated as VRM Class III.
- VR-011: Designate 19,200 acres of VRM Class IV.
- VR-012: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, decrease the visual effect of existing facilities on naturalness or scenic resources during reconstruction, replacement, or major maintenance.
- VR-013: Design and maintain facilities to preserve the visual integrity of cultural resources, settings, and cultural landscapes consistent with VRM objectives established in the Approved RMP.
- VR-014: All ROWs meet VRM objectives and mitigation measures stipulated in the authorization.
- VR-015: Solar or wind generating facilities will not be allowed in VRM Classes I and II.

Administrative Actions

- AA-241: Incorporate design considerations to minimize potential impacts to public lands' visual values into all BLM-authorized surface disturbing activities, regardless of size. Emphasis will be on BLM providing input during the initial planning and design phase to minimize costly redesign and mitigation at a later time.

- AA-242: Analyze all surface-disturbing projects that require BLM authorization according to the Visual Resource Contrast Rating guidelines and procedures as required by BLM Manual 8431-1. Assess the degree of visual contrast to the landscape’s form, line, color, and texture from implementing these projects.
- AA-243: Evaluate proposed surface-disturbing projects from key observation points for the following factors: distance (between project and key observation points), angle of observation, length of time the proposed project will be in view, relative size or scale, season of use, light conditions, recovery time, spatial relationships, atmospheric conditions, and motion.
- AA-244: Use visual resource design techniques and BMPs (summarized in the BMP section later in this chapter) to mitigate the potential for short- and long-term visual impacts from other uses and activities.
- AA-245: Encourage visual resource simulations to be incorporated into the Contrast Rating Analysis for major BLM-authorized ground-disturbing activities, as recommended by BLM Manual 8431-1. Simulations will accurately convey to the public the anticipated impacts to visual scenery of the project area from the identified key observation points. Simulations would also serve as a point of reference to ensure that the project proponents reclaim and restore disturbed public lands as agreed to in the authorizing document.
- AA-246: Since the overall VRM goal is to minimize impacts to the scenic values of the public lands, mitigation measures are typically developed during project-specific NEPA analysis. During and after project implementation, these measures will be monitored by the BLM for their effectiveness at reducing impacts to scenic values.

2.14 WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS MANAGEMENT

Section 201 of FLPMA provides the BLM with the authority to inventory features of the land, including those associated with the concept of wilderness, or wilderness characteristics. Lands with wilderness characteristics will not be managed as Wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 or WSAs. The lands that will be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics are listed by BLM acres in Table 2-14 and shown on Map 2-14.

Table 2-14
Approved RMP Identification of Lands that will be
Managed to Maintain Wilderness Characteristics

| Approved RMP Identification | Approved RMP BLM Acres |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Wilderness Characteristics | 48,400 |

BLM=Bureau of Land Management

Desired Future Conditions

- WC-001: For those areas where BLM has identified to maintain wilderness characteristics, these characteristics will be managed to be ecologically sustainable and resilient to human-

caused disturbances. The following components of wilderness characteristics will be maintained:

- Naturalness. Lands and resources exhibit a high degree of naturalness when affected primarily by the forces of nature and where the imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable. Naturalness attributes may include the presence or absence of roads and trails, fences, and other improvements; the nature and extent of landscape modifications; the presence of native vegetation communities; and the connectivity of habitats. Wildlife populations and habitat are recognized as important aspects of naturalness and will be actively managed;
- Solitude. Visitors may have outstanding opportunities for solitude when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent, where visitors can be isolated, alone, or secluded from others; and
- Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. Visitors may have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means of conveyance off designated routes or as specifically excepted, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.

Management Actions

In those lands identified to maintain wilderness characteristics, these management actions are meant to reduce impacts to some or all of the wilderness characteristics.

- WC-002: Allow BLM-authorized surface disturbing activities or the permanent placement of structures and facilities, including but not limited to range improvements, water catchments, roads, trails, and fencing, or as required by law, only when the level of change to the characteristic landscape will be low, subject to the below project criteria.
 - In general, projects with a small footprint that will benefit from maintenance of wilderness characteristics and are compatible with other resource objectives could be approved. The criteria that will be considered for proposed projects within lands managed to maintain wilderness characteristics are listed below.
 - Need for project to protect, manage, and/or conserve natural and cultural resources.
 - Opportunity to manage and control public use or provide for public safety.
 - Opportunity to restore or enhance natural, cultural, or visual resources and meet resource objectives.
 - Long-term effect on naturalness and resources.
 - Ability to restore to its previous natural state after the project is completed.
 - Size and scale of the project.
 - Compatibility with the specified VRM Class and Prescribed Recreation Settings.
 - Loss of opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation.
 - Potential for use to be accommodated outside of the area.

- When approved, projects will be completed using the least impacting methods that can be reasonably used to accomplish the project, considering resource effects as well as labor effort and cost, including design for the facility to blend into the landscape; consideration of site selection and use of a low profile; design facilities that will require minimal maintenance; and use of BMPs to minimize surface and vegetation disturbance during construction. When completed, a restoration plan will be implemented to actively restore disturbed areas.
- WC-003: Allow maintenance of existing facilities.
- WC-004: Remove facilities that are no longer used, as funding and labor becomes available.
- WC-005: Evaluate and rehabilitate existing, unused, disturbed areas to a natural condition consistent with natural resource restoration objectives.
- WC-006: Reclaim sites and areas affected by human activities when such places are no longer needed for authorized land uses.
- WC-007: Allow minimum impact activities to occur such as filming, commercial recreation, guided hunts and other associated activities, when such activities conform to Approved RMP decisions, such as Prescribed Recreation Settings and VRM classes.
- WC-008: Allow the administrative use of motorized equipment on routes for natural and cultural resource management including but not limited to water supplementation, collar retrieval, and capture/release of wildlife, maintenance, repair, and reconstruction or construction of wildlife waters. Any actions will be conducted in a manner that creates the least disturbance to land to be reclaimed as soon as possible after the administrative need has ended.
- VM-063: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, allow vegetative manipulation to control noxious, exotic, or invasive plant species, when there is no effective alternative and when the control is necessary to maintain the natural ecological balances within the area. Control may include manual, chemical, and biological treatment, provided it will not cause adverse impacts to the wilderness characteristics.
- FM-021: When AMR allows, use minimum impact suppression tactics during fire suppression operations within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.
- FM-028: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, allow prescribed fires in conformity with a fire management plan so long as it is consistent in improving or maintaining the area's wilderness characteristics.
- GM-023: Allow existing livestock grazing operations and support facilities to continue within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.
- RR-022: Allow fishing, hunting, and trapping activities within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics. AGFD retains jurisdiction and responsibilities with respect to fish and wildlife management and establishes regulations and enforcement for these uses.
- TM-014: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, allow the use of non-motorized, mechanical transport such as wheeled game carriers.

- TM-016: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, cross-country travel for administrative purposes will be permitted only with prior approval by the authorized officer and following appropriate NEPA analysis. Any administrative action will be conducted in a manner that creates the least disturbance and reclaimed as soon as possible after the administrative need has ended.
- TM-022: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, the use of motor vehicles and mechanical transport, and the construction of temporary roads, structures, and installations will be allowed for emergency purposes. Any emergency actions will be conducted in a manner that creates the least disturbance and will be reclaimed as soon as possible after the situation has ended.
- TM-036: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, restore closed routes to natural conditions or convert closed routes for non-motorized uses such as bicycle, equestrian, or hiking trails as appropriate.
- VR-012: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, decrease the visual effect of existing facilities on naturalness or scenic resources during reconstruction, replacement, or major maintenance.
- LR-032: At time of renewal of any existing ROWs within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, YFO will discuss with the grant holder the possibility of relocating the ROW outside of identified lands with high value wilderness characteristics.
- LR-063: Retain lands managed to maintain wilderness characteristics in public ownership.
- MI-004: Authorize and issue new mineral leases within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics on a case-by-case basis, unless precluded from leasing by withdrawal or other laws and regulations.
- MI-010: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, regulate mineral leases to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation.
- MI-021: Authorization of sale and free use permits (mineral materials) will be allowed within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.

Administrative Actions

- AA-247: Lands managed to maintain wilderness characteristics will be annually monitored to determine if resource conditions are meeting identified Desired Future Conditions and the effectiveness of Management Actions. Monitoring will be completed in conjunction with other BLM resource programs, including, but not limited to, Recreation, Travel Management, Wildlife, Vegetation, Soil Resources, and Land Health Standards. Monitoring will be conducted in rotation (one area per year or as needed.) Results and conclusions of this work will be presented in the five-year plan evaluation.

2.15 CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Cultural resource management in the BLM includes allocating cultural properties to appropriate cultural resource use categories and allocating areas with important cultural resources as SCRMAAs.

The Desired Future Conditions, Management Actions, and Administrative Actions below apply to all cultural resources in the planning area.

Desired Future Conditions

- CL-001: Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.
- CL-002: Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration or from other resource uses.
- CL-003: YFO provides research opportunities on cultural resources that will contribute to our understanding of the ways humans have used and influenced the landscape.
- CL-004: Historic trails, including the Anza Trail, Butterfield Overland Mail Route, Gila Trail, and Mormon Battalion Trail, are managed to realize their educational, recreational, and scientific values.
- CL-005: Within Wilderness, YFO accommodates traditional or sacred uses identified by Native American tribes who traditionally used the area.
- CM-002: The characteristics of the Limitrophe area that have been identified by Native American tribes and groups as important for traditional use are protected and maintained.
- RR-001: Public understanding and appreciation of the planning area's natural and cultural history and sensitive resources are enhanced through educational outreach and heritage tourism opportunities.
- VR-007: Viewsheds of important cultural resources whose settings contribute significantly to their scientific, public, traditional, or conservation values are maintained.

Management Actions

- CL-006: Implement protection measures to stop, limit, or repair damage to cultural resource sites. A variety of protection measures described in BLM Manual 8140 may be used to protect the integrity of sites at risk such as signs, fencing or barriers, trash removal, target shooting closures, erosion control, backfilling, repairing, shoring up, or stabilizing structures, restricting uses and access, and closures.
- CL-007: Inventory, document, monitor, and protect cultural resources of importance and relevant features within designated ACECs prior to developing interpretation programs, in order to preserve the future integrity of the resource values prior to public use.
- FM-018: Protect all known cultural resources from fire management activities-related disturbance through consultation with cultural resource specialists.

- VR-013: Design and maintain facilities to preserve the visual integrity of cultural resources, settings, and cultural landscapes consistent with VRM objectives established in the Approved RMP.
- LR-068: Where feasible, acquire properties adjacent to public lands through donation, exchange, purchase, or other means that contain significant cultural resources including, but not limited to, those properties eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Administrative Actions

- AA-248: Complete Class II (sample) and Class III (intensive) field inventories to identify and record cultural resource sites, in accordance with Section 110 of the NHPA. Inventory will focus on the following areas:
 - SCRMA's and other areas with predicted cultural resource sensitivity, and
 - Areas where cultural resource sensitivity is unknown because of a lack of previous field inventory.
- AA-249: Follow guidance developed by the BLM – SHPO Cultural Resource Data Sharing Partnership (CRDSP). Ensure that YFO's cultural resources information is entered into the AZSITE database and the California Historical Resources Information System, as appropriate.
- AA-250: Ensure that all proposed undertakings and authorizations are reviewed and conducted in compliance with applicable Federal laws including Section 106 of the NHPA.
- AA-251: Verify that project designs and proposed activities seek to avoid disturbing or removing Native American human remains and associated items.
- AA-252: Continue to coordinate and consult with Native American tribes to identify places of traditional importance in accordance with BLM Manual 8120.
- AA-253: Accommodate requests by Native American tribes for use of, and access to, sacred sites and other places of traditional cultural importance that are identified through government-to-government consultation.
- AA-254: Establish collaborative research partnerships with academic institutions, professional and non-profit organizations, and vocational organizations.
- AA-255: Restrict public information about the locations of cultural resource sites that are not allocated to Public Use, as required by law and regulation.
- AA-256: Maintain an annual monitoring program that focuses on the condition of NRHP-listed and NRHP-eligible cultural resource sites that are allocated to the Public Use, Traditional Use, and/or Conservation for Future Use categories. ACECs and SCRMA's will be monitored on an annual basis to identify any potential adverse impacts. Develop partnerships with organizations like the Arizona Site Steward Program to achieve monitoring goals.

2.15.1 SPECIAL CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Approved RMP allocates 10 SCRMA in the planning area, which are illustrated in Table 2-15 and Map 2-15 and listed. Appendix H provides additional information on the new SCRMA allocation.

Table 2-15
Approved RMP SCRMA

| Special Cultural Resource Management Areas | Approved RMP (BLM acres) |
|---|--------------------------|
| Scientific Use | |
| Cibola Valley | 4,700 |
| Laguna Mountains | 2,700 |
| Ligurta Area | 4,800 |
| Traditional Use and Conservation for Future Use | |
| Muggins Mountains Terraces | 4,300 |
| Walters Camp | 1,600 |
| Conservation for Future Use | |
| Big Maria Terraces | 4,700 |
| Mittry Lake | 1,000 |
| North Gila Mountains | 1,100 |
| Palo Verde Point Area | 1,300 |
| Senator Wash North | 2,300 |
| Total SCRMA Acres | 28,500 |

BLM = Bureau of Land Management; SCRMA = Special Cultural Resource Management Area

Management Actions

- CL-008: Additional SCRMA may be allocated through an RMP amendment as they are identified. SCRMA may increase or decrease in acreage based upon new information.

CL-009: Allocate 4,700 BLM-administered acres as the Big Maria Terraces SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Conservation for Future Use. This portion of the YFO has a rare density of intaglios and other desert pavement features that extends across the terraces above the Colorado River floodplain. Together with the intaglio features present inside the Big Marias ACEC, this landscape is currently recognized as the single greatest concentration of intaglio and geoglyph sites in North America. This area needs proactive management to prevent additional impacts to the desert pavement landscape from recreational use, particularly damage from unauthorized OHV tracks.
- CL-010: Allocate 4,700 BLM-administered acres as the Cibola Valley SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Scientific Use. The Cibola Valley SCRMA is located on the east side of the Colorado River, in the vicinity of the Town of Cibola, Arizona. The SCRMA contains a high concentration of indigenous cultural features, including cleared areas in the desert pavement, rock alignments, circular mounds, trail networks, lithic scatters, plus some intaglio and petroglyph sites. The cultural resource sites

in this SCRMA require proactive management due to increased development and recreational use in this area.

- CL-011: Allocate 2,700 BLM-administered acres as the Laguna Mountains SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Scientific Use. The Laguna Mountains SCRMA is located within the west and south foothills of the Laguna Mountains, near the confluence of the Colorado and Gila rivers. The landscape of this area primarily contains traces of habitation such as extensive low density lithic scatters, cleared areas in the desert pavement, rock features, ceramic scatters, and a trail network. There are also some known petroglyph sites of importance in the region. The cultural resource sites in this SCRMA require proactive management due to increased development and recreational use in this area.
- CL-012: Allocate 4,800 BLM-administered acres as the Ligurta Area SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Scientific Use. The Ligurta Area SCRMA is located between the Gila River to the east and the Gila Mountains to the west, in the vicinity of Ligurta, Arizona. Known indigenous cultural resources in this area include rock features, dance patterns, many cleared areas in the desert pavement and a trail network. The cultural resource sites in this SCRMA require proactive management due to the increasing amount of development and recreational use in this area.
- CL-013: Allocate 1,000 BLM-administered acres as the Mittry Lake SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Conservation for Future Use. The Mittry Lake SCRMA is located along the south and east sides of Mittry Lake, within the existing Mittry Lake CMA. This SCRMA includes important indigenous artifact scatters, with a diversity of lithic materials and ceramic types and a potential for subsurface deposition that is not common for the YFO area, plus some known petroglyphs. The cultural resource sites in this SCRMA require proactive management due to their close proximity to intensive recreational use in the vicinity of Mittry Lake.
- CL-014: Allocate 4,300 BLM-administered acres as the Muggins Mountains Terraces SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Traditional Use and Conservation for Future Use. The Muggins Mountains Terraces SCRMA is located along the south side of the Muggins Mountains, in the foothills above the Gila River floodplain in the vicinity of Wellton, Arizona. This area contains petroglyphs, cleared areas in the desert pavement, trail networks, lithic scatters, rock alignments, and other rock features located along the desert pavement terraces. This area needs proactive management to prevent additional impacts to the desert pavement landscape from increased recreational use, particularly damage caused by unauthorized OHV tracks.
- CL-015: Allocate 1,100 BLM-administered acres as the North Gila Mountains SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Conservation for Future Use. The North Gila Mountains SCRMA is located along the northern edge of the Gila Mountains, in the foothills above the south side of the Gila River. This area is known for its high density of desert pavement features, including intaglios, pebble mounds, cleared areas, rock rings, rock alignments, and an extensive trail network. The cultural resource sites in this SCRMA require proactive management due to increased development and recreational use in this area.
- CL-016: Allocate 1,300 BLM-administered acres as the Palo Verde Point Area SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Conservation for Future Use.

The Palo Verde Point Area SCRMA is located on the east side of the Palo Verde Mountains, in the vicinity of Palo Verde, California. This SCRMA is situated on the west side of the Colorado River above the floodplain and is unique for its relatively pristine condition, with the desert pavement virtually undisturbed compared with other portions of the planning area. Consequently, the cultural resources in this SCRMA are in superior condition with less human-caused damage. Traces of indigenous use in this area include important intaglio sites, an extensive petroglyph site, plus trail networks, rock alignments, cleared areas in the desert pavement, and widespread lithic scatters. The cultural landscape in this area requires proactive management to retain the undisturbed character of the resources.

- CL-017: Allocate 2,300 BLM-administered acres as the Senator Wash North SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Conservation for Future Use. The Senator Wash North SCRMA is located in California adjacent to the Senator Wash Reservoir, bounded by the Colorado River to the east and the El Centro Field Office to the west. Indigenous cultural resource sites known in this area consist of rock alignments and other rock features, trails, and an intaglio site. The cultural resource sites in this SCRMA area require proactive management due to their close proximity to intensive recreational use in the vicinity of the Senator Wash Reservoir.
- CL-018: Allocate 1,600 BLM-administered acres as the Walters Camp SCRMA and manage the cultural resources within the SCRMA primarily for Traditional Use and Conservation for Future Use. The Walters Camp SCRMA is located on the west side of the Colorado River, between the Imperial and Cibola NWRs in California. There is extensive evidence of year-round use by indigenous peoples, with important intaglio sites, desert pavement features such as cleared areas and rock alignments, and artifact scatters situated across the landscape. In addition, the sacred Xam Kwitcam migratory trail (a path that begins at AviKwame, the mythical site of Yuman creation north of Needles, California and ends at Yuma, Arizona) is believed to cross through this area (von Werlhof 2004). Proactive management is needed to protect the cultural resources in this SCRMA from increased recreational use and OHV traffic.
- TM-007: Designate a Closed OHV Management Area within 2,200 acres of the Muggins Mountains SCRMA.
- TM-013: Within all SCRMA, prohibit motorized vehicles from pulling off 100 feet on either side of the centerline from designated routes. Motorized use shall remain within the route with reasonable use of the shoulder and immediate roadside for vehicle passage, parking/overnight camping, and emergency stopping.
- TM-020: Within the Big Maria Terraces SCRMA, limit equestrian use to existing inventoried routes until the route designation process is complete. Designate equestrian trails and install equestrian trailhead facilities to reduce user and resource conflicts. Limit equestrian use to these trails once they have been designated.
- TM-042: Maintain the 122-acre North Bank Milpitas Wash OHV Restriction within the Walters Camp SCRMA until the completion of the Ehrenberg–Cibola TMP. Designate these lands as a Limited or Closed OHV Management Area in the TMP.
- LR-004: In the event that Reclamation relinquishes their second form withdrawal within SCRMA, YFO will propose to withdraw additional Federal lands from mineral entry.

- LR-028: To the extent possible, new transportation ROWs will avoid SCRMA. Appropriate mitigation will be required when avoidance is not possible.
- LR-038: New utility facilities within ROW Corridors will avoid impacts to natural and cultural resources within SCRMA to the greatest extent possible. If impacts cannot be avoided, mitigation will be required.
- LR-052: Surface occupancy of renewable energy facilities will not be allowed in SCRMA.

2.15.2 ALLOCATION TO USE CATEGORIES

BLM evaluates cultural resources according to their current and potential uses. Cultural properties and classes of cultural properties that are known and projected to occur in the planning area are allocated to one or more of the following use categories: Scientific Use, Public Use, Traditional Use, Conservation for Future Use, Experimental Use, and Discharged from Management. Suitable uses for cultural properties are determined based on the properties' characteristics, condition, setting, location, accessibility, perceived values and potential uses. Category allocations are used to determine appropriate mitigation and treatment options for cultural properties that are presently known and for those discovered in the future. A site may be allocated to more than one use category, and category allocations are reevaluated and revised, as appropriate, when circumstances change or new data become available.

While the primary focus of a SCRMA is for a particular use, individual sites within the SCRMA may be managed for any of the six cultural resource use categories, as appropriate. The principal use categories for a SCRMA may be reevaluated and revised when circumstances change or new data becomes available.

A. SCIENTIFIC USE

Desired Future Condition

- CL-019: The YFO allocates cultural resource sites and SCRMA to Scientific Use based on the following criteria: significance and uniqueness of sites; potential to contribute toward scientific understanding; capability of current available scientific methods to achieve research goals; appropriate research proposal that will further scientific understanding or resource management; and existing threats to sites, including vandalism, erosion processes, or other types of disturbance.
- CL-020: Cultural properties in the Scientific Use category are protected until land use conflicts or research in the public interest makes it necessary or advisable to subject them to scientific study.

Management Actions

- CL-021: Consider and authorize studies at sites allocated to Scientific Use using currently available research methods, including methods that will result in the properties' alteration or destruction, on a case-by-case basis.

- CL-022: Permit scientific and historical studies by qualified researchers at selected sites allocated to Scientific Use.

Administrative Actions

- AA-257: Use historic contexts and research designs to provide guidance for scientific studies at sites allocated to Scientific Use.
- AA-258: Assign highest priority for study to Scientific Use sites that are threatened with damage from human activities or natural processes, areas of scientific interest, sites eligible for the NRHP, and areas where research may inform management actions.
- AA-259: Establish collaborative research partnerships for sites allocated to Scientific Use with academic institutions, professional and nonprofit organizations, and vocational organizations.
- AA-260: Provide opportunities for and encourage Tribal participation in research at sites allocated to Scientific Use.

B. PUBLIC USE

Desired Future Condition

- CL-023: YFO allocates cultural resource sites and SCRMA's to Public Use based on the following criteria: presence of aboveground features, such as structures or rock art, landscape characteristics, or other features that are of interest to the public and are amenable to interpretive development; the condition of the site and the feasibility of treating or stabilizing areas to withstand visitation; accessibility to travel routes; visitor safety; compatibility of other land uses and site values, such as traditional use by Native Americans; feasibility of regular inspections by BLM staff and volunteers; and partnership opportunities for interpretive and educational projects.
- CL-024: Cultural properties managed for Public Use will be protected and developed as interpretive exhibits in place, or for related educational and recreational uses by members of the general public.

Management Actions

- CL-007: Inventory, document, monitor, and protect cultural properties before interpretive development for Public Use, to the extent necessary to preserve archaeological data, plan for interpretive facilities, provide a baseline condition assessment for monitoring changes resulting from visitor use, and complete interpretive plans.
- CL-025: Continue to allocate the Blythe Intaglios Complex in the Big Marias ACEC, the Fisherman Intaglio, the Sears Point ACEC interpretive area, and historic trails such as the Anza Trail, the Butterfield Overland Mail Route, the Gila Trail, and the Mormon Battalion Trail to Public Use.
- CL-026: Allocate the Dripping Springs site and the Tyson Wash Petroglyphs to Public Use.

- CL-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals and ROW facilities, will generally not be authorized at Public Use cultural resource sites. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage resource values will be allowed.
- CL-028: Implement actions designed to stabilize, repair, and maintain cultural properties in good condition at Public Use sites.
- RR-005: Authorize commercial tour operators to Public Use cultural resource sites on a case-by-case basis. Include stipulations in SRPs to ensure that commercial tour operations will not damage cultural resources.
- RR-018: Implement appropriate developments necessary for protection and interpretation at Public Use cultural resource sites, including but not limited to installing registration boxes and interpretive signs; establishing non-motorized trails, including hardened walking trails within ¼ to ½ mile distance from sites; closing and converting to hiking trails or rehabilitating existing vehicle routes in close proximity to the site; and producing fact sheets or brochures.
- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within Public Use cultural resource sites.

Administrative Actions

- AA-261: Provide opportunities for Tribal participation in interpretation at Public Use sites.
- AA-262: Promote heritage tourism at selected Public Use sites, and cooperate with Native American tribes, other agencies, and organizations on heritage tourism projects that benefit local economies.
- AA-263: Require commercial tour operators at Public Use sites to provide appropriate educational information on archaeological site etiquette and resource conservation to their customers if cultural properties are included on the tour. Require tour operators to report any vandalism or damage to sites.

C. TRADITIONAL USE

Desired Future Condition

- CL-029: Cultural resource sites and SCRMAAs managed for Traditional Use are limited to those identified by Native American tribes and other social or cultural groups as important for maintaining their cultural identity, heritage, or well-being.
- CL-030: Cultural properties allocated to Traditional Use will be managed for long-term preservation to accommodate the needs of Native American tribes and other groups for which these places are important.
- CL-031: Physical damage or intrusions at Traditional Use sites that might impede their use by religious practitioners are prevented.

- CL-032: The YFO develops specific management for sites managed for traditional uses in consultation with the Native American tribes to which they are culturally important.

Management Actions

- CL-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals and ROW facilities, will generally not be authorized at Traditional Use cultural resource sites. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage resource values will be allowed.
- CL-033: Stabilize, fence, or otherwise manage significant Traditional Use sites or features to protect the values ascribed to these sites by Native American tribes.
- CL-034: Minimize direct and indirect impacts to cultural values at Traditional Use sites pursuant to applicable cultural resource laws and regulations if land use actions cannot be redesigned to avoid culturally sensitive locations.
- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within Traditional Use cultural resource sites.

Administrative Actions

- AA-264: Review requests for vehicular access to sacred areas not normally open to vehicles and consider authorizing such use on a case-by-case basis if Native American tribes identify such areas in the future.
- AA-265: Work and coordinate with Native American tribes to select harvesting areas and allow noncommercial (personal use) collection of medicinal herbs, ceremonial herbs, other vegetation, and/or minerals for traditional or ceremonial use.
- AA-266: Identify sacred sites in consultation with Native American tribes.
- AA-267: Keep the locations of sacred sites and other places of traditional or religious importance to Native American tribes confidential to the extent allowed by law.

D. CONSERVATION FOR FUTURE USE

Desired Future Condition

- CL-035: Cultural resource sites and SCRMA's allocated to the Conservation for Future Use category are of singular historic importance, architectural interest, or cultural importance. Their unusual significance makes them unsuitable for scientific or historical study that will result in their physical alteration.
- CL-036: Cultural properties allocated to Conservation for Future Use will be managed to maintain their present condition or setting until conditions are met in the future that will make them available for other uses.

Management Actions

- CL-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals and ROW facilities, will generally not be authorized at Conservation for Future Use cultural resource sites. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage resource values will be allowed.
- CL-037: Segregate Conservation for Future Use cultural properties from all other land or resource uses, including cultural resource uses that will threaten their present condition or setting.
- CL-038: Implement actions designed to preserve Conservation for Future Use cultural properties and maintain them in good condition.
- CL-039: Minimize direct and indirect impacts to cultural values at Conservation for Future Use sites pursuant to applicable cultural resource laws and regulations if land use actions cannot be redesigned to avoid culturally sensitive locations.
- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within Conservation for Future Use cultural resource sites.

Administrative Actions

- AA-268: Conserve cultural resource sites allocated to Conservation for Future Use for the future until specified provisions were met such as the discovery of new information about the site, the development of new scientific techniques capable of fully realizing the research potential of the site, or damage to the site's integrity from vandalism or natural processes.

E. EXPERIMENTAL USE

Desired Future Condition

- CL-040: Cultural resource sites and SCRMA's allocated to the Experimental Use category are those suited for controlled experimental studies that will result in better management of other cultural properties.
- CL-041: Cultural properties allocated to Experimental Use will be available for studies that will aid in the management of other cultural properties, including studies that will result in the properties' alteration or destruction.

Administrative Actions

- AA-269: Consider studies at Experimental Use sites such as testing and measuring the rate of natural or human-caused deterioration, testing the effectiveness of certain protection measures, and testing the effects of fire.
- AA-270: Implement studies at Experimental Use sites that will develop new research or interpretation methods or will generate similar kinds of practical management information, weighing the benefits of specific information to be gained versus the loss of cultural attributes or data that may occur during the experiment or study.

- AA-271: Do not apply experimental study to cultural properties with strong research potential, traditional cultural importance, or good public use potential if it will significantly diminish those values.

F. DISCHARGED FROM MANAGEMENT

Desired Future Condition

- CL-042: Cultural properties Discharged from Management are limited to those having no remaining information potential, no traditional values, and no identifiable use. Cultural properties will be allocated to this category only on a case-by-case basis after inspection and recordation in the field, and only after complying with Section 106 of the NHPA.
- CL-043: Cultural resource sites identified through government-to-government consultation as having traditional use values are not allocated to the Discharged from Management use category.
- CL-044: Other land uses take precedence when managing cultural resource sites allocated to Discharged from Management, including land uses that will further diminish the properties' integrity.

Administrative Actions

- AA-272: Record cultural properties in the Discharged from Management category in the field and retain them in the inventory.

2.16 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Paleontological resources found on public lands are recognized by BLM as constituting a fragile and nonrenewable scientific record of the history of life on earth. They therefore represent an important component of America's natural heritage.

Desired Future Conditions

- PL-001: YFO protects and conserves significant paleontological resources as they are discovered on public lands.
- PL-002: YFO manages paleontological resources in ways that prioritize research needs, facilitate educational and recreational needs, and protect important sites.
- PL-003: Specific objectives and management actions are developed for fossil localities, when paleontological resources are discovered in the planning area.

Management Actions

- PL-004: Evaluate paleontological resources as they are discovered, considering their scientific, educational, and recreational values. Identify appropriate objectives, management actions, allowable uses, and allocations for fossil localities as they are found.
- PL-005: Restrict the collection of all vertebrate fossils, and noteworthy invertebrate and plant fossils, to legitimate scientific or educational uses in accordance with permitting procedures.
- PL-006: Allow recreational collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils (43 CFR 8365).
- PL-007: Areas with Low Paleontological Sensitivity. Assessment or mitigation for proposed land use authorizations in areas with low paleontological sensitivity will not be required except in very rare circumstances.
- PL-008: Areas with Moderate Paleontological Sensitivity. BLM-authorized surface-disturbing activities in areas with moderate paleontological sensitivity may require assessment to determine further courses of action. A field survey by a qualified paleontologist may be required. Management prescriptions for resource preservation and conservation through controlled access or special management designation will be considered.
- PL-009: Areas with High Paleontological Sensitivity. An assessment by a qualified paleontologist prior to authorizing land uses that could impact vertebrate fossils and/or uncommon invertebrate fossils will be required in areas with high paleontological sensitivity. A records search, inventory, monitoring, and/or mitigation will be required as appropriate before and/or during these actions.

Administrative Actions

- AA-273: Develop a paleontology sensitivity map according to the procedures outlined in BLM Manual 8270 and BLM Handbook H-8270-1. All land use actions with a potential to impact vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils will be screened against this map. Classifications will be based on future inventory of geological units and will be accomplished through adaptive management and plan maintenance.
- AA-274: Establish agreements and partnerships with interested organizations, such as museums, scientific organizations, agencies, or universities to support inventory, evaluation, recordation, mitigation, protection, and management of paleontological resources.
- AA-275: Priority areas for paleontological inventory will be areas that are most likely to include significant paleontological resources, that are relatively accessible to the public, and/or that are vulnerable to damage or loss from land use activities.
- AA-276: A long-term monitoring program will consist of the annual visitation to any significant paleontological localities found within the planning area to identify adverse impacts, if any. The same approach would apply to significant localities identified in the future.

2.17 AIR, WATER, AND SOIL MANAGEMENT

2.17.1 AIR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

FLPMA and the CAA of 1970 and Amendments of 1977 and 1990 prohibit BLM or any Federal land management agency from conducting, supporting, approving, licensing, or permitting any activity on Federal land that does not comply with all applicable local, State, and Federal air quality laws, statutes, regulations, and implementation plans.

Desired Future Conditions

- WS-001: Air quality, as established by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Arizona and California air quality standards, is maintained or improved.
- WS-002: Desired outcomes and area-wide criteria or restrictions are identified in cooperation with the appropriate air quality regulatory agencies that apply to emission-generating activities, including the CAA's requirements for compliance with:
 - Applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Section 109),
 - State Implementation Plans (Section 110),
 - Control of Pollution from Federal Facilities (Section 118),
 - Prevention of Significant Deterioration, including visibility impacts to mandatory Federal Class I Areas (Section 160 et seq.), and
 - Conformity Analyses and Determinations (Section 176(c)).
- WS-003: Standards involving particulate matter up to 10 micrometers in size (PM₁₀) are met in the Yuma Non-attainment area.
- WS-004: Air quality within required standards is met through cooperative management of emissions with industry, the States of Arizona and California, and Federal agencies. YFO will strive to minimize, within the scope of its authority, any emissions that may cause violations of air quality standards, add to acid rain, or degrade visibility.

Management Actions

- WS-005: Comply with the State of Arizona laws and regulations for all proposed actions that will contribute to particulate matter emissions in the air as a result of actions taken in this RMP. The planning area includes the Yuma PM₁₀ Non-attainment Area. Likewise, comply with the State of California laws and regulations regarding particulate emissions.
- WS-006: Continue to take actions to control fugitive dust from Open OHV Management Areas, dry washes, river beds, and construction sites to prevent non-point source air pollution.

Administrative Actions

- AA-277: Work closely with counties or States on the development or amendment of State implementation plans.

- AA-278: Actively support ADEQ and the California Air Resources Board Imperial County Air Pollution Control District regulatory oversight of air resources in the planning area.
- AA-279: Consult, coordinate, and comply with applicable Tribal, Federal, State, and local air quality regulations, as required by the CAA, EO 12088, and Tribal, Federal, or State implementation plans.
- AA-280: Monitoring of air quality and other conditions conducted by ADEQ will be used to determine whether BLM actions that may contribute to air quality concerns (mainly prescribed fire) may proceed or be deferred until conditions improve. The number of BLM actions contributing to any violation of national air quality standards will be tracked annually and reported in the Annual Program Summary and Planning Update.

2.17.2 WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Water resources in the planning area include both surface water and groundwater. The groundwater resource is managed by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). BLM works in cooperation with ADWR to develop groundwater resources to provide water to BLM grazing lease holders, mineral operators, and to some recreational sites.

The planning area occurs within the Lower Colorado River Basin, which is further divided into smaller watersheds. Water management applies to these watersheds, as well as the floodplains and riparian areas of the Colorado and Gila Rivers.

Desired Future Conditions

The following Desired Future Conditions will be applied throughout the entire planning area:

- WS-007: The physical presence and legal availability of surface water and groundwater is maintained on public lands.
- WS-008: Surface water and groundwater on public lands meet or exceed Federal, Arizona, and California water quality standards for specific uses.
- WS-009: Water quality complies with State water quality standards and achieves, or is making significant progress toward achieving, established YFO management objectives such as meeting wildlife and recreational needs.

A. SURFACE WATER

Desired Future Conditions

- WS-010: Surface waters are identified and protected from the standpoint of human health concerns, aquatic ecosystem health, or other public uses
- WS-011: Stream bank and channel conditions are preserved and enhanced.
- WS-012: Area wide use restrictions or other protective measures are identified to meet Federal, Tribal, State, and local water quality requirements.

Management Actions

- WS-013: Maintain existing proper functioning conditions of watersheds by applying BMPs.
- WS-014: Prevent or reduce water quality degradation through the application of specific mitigation measures.
- WS-015: Acquire legally perfected rights to use water from the lower Colorado River in support of YFO programs, including the water needs of the BLM recreation sites, commercial and concession facilities, and wildlife and habitat.
- WS-016: Continue to maintain or improve water quality in accordance with State and Federal standards. Consult with the appropriate State agencies (ADEQ and others) on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality. Establish and implement Management Actions on public land within municipal watersheds to protect water quality and quantity.

Administrative Actions

- AA-281: Provide water use reports periodically to Reclamation per agreement.
- AA-282: Analyze surface and ground water quality and quantity on a case-by-case basis.

B. FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

BLM is mandated by EO 11988-Floodplain Management to avoid development or occupancy on the 100-year floodplain wherever possible. Accepted flood proofing measures and other flood protection measures must be applied to all new construction or rehabilitation of structures and facilities in the floodplain.

Desired Future Conditions

- WS-017: Floodplains and riparian areas administered by BLM along the Colorado and Gila rivers will continue to be managed with priority consideration given to maintenance as wildlife habitat.
- WS-018: Desired plant communities and suitable wildlife habitat are restored and maintained for the benefit of migratory birds, waterfowl, reptiles, big-game mammals, and other desired species within riparian areas and floodplains.
- WS-019: Hydrologic function between watersheds and main channels of the Colorado and Gila rivers is maintained through proper floodplain management.
- RR-003: Ample recreation opportunities are provided on BLM-administered lands within the 100-year floodplains of the lower Colorado and Gila rivers.

Management Actions

- WS-020: Manage BLM-administered lands within or adjacent to the Colorado River Floodplain for natural resource-based recreational uses compatible with the Desired Future Conditions of wildlife habitat and vegetation communities.

- WS-021: Allow only those permanent new facilities that can be flood proofed within the 100-year floodplain. Existing permanent structures will be allowed to remain in the 100-year floodplain until they are inundated, their useful life is gone, or the present leases expire.
- GM-024: No grazing leases will be authorized within the 100-year floodplain of the Colorado or Gila rivers.
- LR-019: No new agricultural leases will be authorized within the 100-year floodplain of the Colorado and Gila rivers.
- LR-063: BLM-administered lands within or adjacent to the Colorado River 100-year floodplain will remain in Federal management and not be made available for disposal.

Administrative Actions

- AA-283: Coordinate with Reclamation pursuant to DM 613 on management of BLM-administered lands within the Colorado River Floodplain.
- AA-284: Coordinate floodplain management with the USIBWC's projects, objectives, and mission.

2.17.3 SOIL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Soils in the planning area are associated with a variety of climates, vegetative cover, topography, and geology. Five soil suborders (specific soil types) are found in the planning area (The Nature Conservancy 2004). Almost 90 percent of the planning area consists of aridisols, a soil order (general soil type) of the USDA NRCS Soil Classification System. The planning area also contains sensitive resources including biological soil crusts, desert pavement, and stabilized sand dunes.

Desired Future Conditions

- WS-022: Soil resource conditions are maintained or improved throughout the planning area.
- WS-023: Soils are managed to maintain biological productivity and to minimize erosion.
- LH-001: Land Health Standard #1, as related to soils, and multiple use objectives per *Standards and Guidelines* (USDOI BLM 1997) are met.

Management Actions

- WS-024: After completion of BLM-authorized surface disturbing activities, disturbed surfaces will be restored to a natural condition as far as possible.
- WS-025: Restrict vehicular and construction activities when soils are susceptible to a heightened risk of erosion or compaction. Restore areas of excessive surface damage from past activities.
- WS-026: Incorporate erosion and salinity control measures into projects where appropriate.

Administrative Actions

- AA-285: Conduct a range-wide soil survey using USDA NRCS standards to provide information on soil types, erosion risks, and soil vulnerability to disturbances.
- AA-286: Coordinate with USDA NRCS.
- AA-287: Map all sensitive soil resources to facilitate protection of biological soil crusts, desert pavement, and stabilized sand dunes.
- AA-288: Monitor effects to sensitive soils resulting from OHV use.
- AA-289: Minimize and/or avoid damage to sensitive soils from land use actions and multiple-use will be to the extent practicable.

2.18 LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT

The Lands and Realty program consists of two distinct parts: land use authorizations and land tenure. FLPMA enables BLM to accomplish a variety of lands actions, including but not limited to sales, withdrawals, acquisitions, exchanges, leases, permits, easements, and ROWs. A summary of lands and realty actions is presented in Table 2-16 and Map 2-16.

Table 2-16
Approved RMP Lands and Realty Decisions

| Decisions | Approved RMP BLM Area |
|--|-----------------------|
| Lands Available for Disposal (acres) | |
| Total Acres | 11,900 |
| Acquisitions | |
| Lands would be acquired on a case-by-case basis. | |
| Withdrawal (acres) | |
| Wilderness (AZ/CA) (existing, by law) | 167,800 |
| Big Marias ACEC | 2,900* |
| Dripping Springs ACEC | 640 |
| Sears Point ACEC | 8,500 |
| Total Acres | 179,840 |
| ROW Corridors (miles) | |
| El Paso Natural Gas | 72 |
| Interstate 8 | 86 |
| Interstate 10 | 79 |
| Palo Verde–Devers | 84 |
| Palo Verde Mountains Reroute | 11 |
| Parker Blaisdell | 86 |
| San Diego Gas & Electric Interconnection | 89 |
| Highway 95 California | 26 |
| Total Corridors | 8 |
| Total ROW Corridor Miles | 465** |

**Table 2-16
Approved RMP Lands and Realty Decisions (cont.)**

| Decisions | Approved RMP BLM Area |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Communications Sites | |
| Big Maria | |
| Black Rock Hill | |
| Cunningham | |
| Guadalupe | |
| Laguna Mountain (High Power) | |
| Mohawk | |
| Palo Verde Gap | |
| Salome | |
| Stone Cabin | |
| Telegraph | |
| Total Sites | 10 |

BLM=Bureau of Land Management; AZ=Arizona; CA=California; ACEC=Area of Critical Concern; ROW=right-of-way

*BLM would propose to withdraw 2,900 acres in the Big Marias ACEC should Reclamation revoke their existing withdrawal for the area.

**There are several overlapping ROW Corridors; there are a total of 531 miles of ROW Corridors when including the overlapping corridors.

2.18.1 LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS

A. WITHDRAWAL

Within the planning area, 167,800 acres of public land have been permanently withdrawn from mineral entry according to the Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended. The Approved RMP continues a withdrawal in the Sears Point ACEC, recommends an expansion of the Sears Point ACEC withdrawal, and recommends additional withdrawals in the Big Marias and Dripping Springs ACECs. BLM-administered lands that are currently withdrawn or that are proposed for withdrawal are shown on Map 2-16.

There are existing withdrawn lands within the YFO for the following Federal agencies: Reclamation, USFWS, Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, Department of the Air Force, and U.S. Border Patrol. YFO has limited administrative responsibility on approximately 282,000 acres of land along the lower Colorado River that are currently withdrawn from public domain or have been acquired for project purposes by Reclamation. BLM's management of Reclamation withdrawn and acquired lands is the subject of an interagency agreement (*Reclamation/BLM Interagency Agreement of 23 March 1983*, or subsequent revisions) and department-wide guidelines (DM 613 and the Lower Colorado River LUP).

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-001: The amount of land withdrawn is minimized and, where applicable, existing withdrawals are revoked if the land is no longer needed for the original purpose of the withdrawal.

Management Actions

- LR-002: Continue managing existing withdrawals within the planning area, including 167,800 acres of Congressionally-designated Wilderness, 2,900 acres at the Big Marias ACEC, and 3,600 acres at the Sears Point ACEC.
- LR-003: Pursue the withdrawal of 640 acres of Federal land within the Dripping Springs ACEC (see Map 2-1-2) and an additional 4,900 acres of Federal land within the Sears Point ACEC (see Map 2-1-3).
- LR-004: In the event that Reclamation relinquishes their second form withdrawal within SCRMAAs and/or the Big Marias ACEC, YFO will propose to withdraw additional Federal lands from mineral entry.
- LR-005: All non-Federal lands acquired within the Gila River Cultural ACEC (i.e., Sears Point ACEC core area) boundary established and withdrawn by Public Land Order 7212 (September 5, 1996) will be managed under the current existing withdrawal. Continue to acquire from willing sellers those non-Federal lands within the current boundary of the Gila River Cultural ACEC withdrawn by Public Land Order 7212.
- LR-006: If lands withdrawn by Reclamation, USFWS, Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, Department of the Air Force, and/or U.S. Border Patrol are returned to the public domain, YFO will manage them in accordance with the Approved RMP decisions for surrounding or adjacent BLM-administered lands.

Administrative Actions

- AA-290: Continue to review existing withdrawals, including other agency withdrawals, periodically to ensure that the reasons for the withdrawal are still valid, and that only the acreage needed is retained in withdrawn status.
- AA-291: Use the appropriate tools for protection of designated ACECs, which could include withdrawal.
- AA-292: On Federal lands where appropriate, follow the floodplain management practices consistent with EO 11988, Floodplain Management.

B. LEASES/PERMITS/EASEMENTS

Public land is subject to application for community expansion needs under a wide variety of public land laws. YFO authorizes agricultural, industrial, and commercial uses on Federal lands pursuant to applicable laws and regulations.

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-007: The public demand for leases, permits, and easements is met.
- LR-008: Community expansion needs are met.
- LR-009: Existing residential leasing is phased out.

Management Actions

- LR-010: Use Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act leases to meet the needs for community expansion.
- LR-011: Any authorization determined to be in noncompliance with the terms and conditions will be subject to termination.
- LR-012: Phase out existing cabin site and residential permits, and remove improvements associated with such permits.
- LR-013: Prohibit assignment or transfer of cabin site and residential permits.
- LR-014: Lands authorizations within the Dunes WHA will avoid to the extent practicable, minimize, or mitigate impacts to dunes with sensitive species.
- SM-021: New land use authorizations within designated ACECs will be discouraged and only authorized when it is necessary for resource protection and/or when no reasonable alternative exists.
- SM-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals, ROW facilities, and surface occupancy for oil and gas leases, will not be authorized inside the Sears Point ACEC 3,700-acre core area and the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area. Discretionary actions within the ACEC, but outside of the core area, will be avoided to the extent practicable. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage ACEC resource values will be allowed within the entire ACEC, including the core area.
- VM-042: Minimize BLM-authorized ground-disturbing activities in VHAs to protect focal plant species-populations. Land use authorizations for activities such as mineral extraction and livestock grazing would generally not be approved.
- CL-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals, ROW facilities, and surface occupancy for oil and gas leases, will generally not be authorized at Public Use, Traditional Use, or Conservation for Future Use cultural resource sites. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage resource values will be allowed.
- PL-007: Areas with Low Paleontological Sensitivity. Assessment or mitigation for proposed land use authorizations in areas with low paleontological sensitivity will not be required except in very rare circumstances.
- PL-008: Areas with Moderate Paleontological Sensitivity: BLM-authorized surface-disturbing activities in areas with moderate paleontological sensitivity may require assessment to determine further courses of action. A field survey by a qualified paleontologist may be required. Management prescriptions for resource preservation and conservation through controlled access or special management designation will be considered.
- PL-009: Areas with High Paleontological Sensitivity: An assessment by a qualified paleontologist prior to authorizing land uses that could impact vertebrate fossils and/or

uncommon invertebrate fossils will be required in areas with high paleontological sensitivity. A records search, inventory, monitoring, and/or mitigation will be required as appropriate before and/or during these actions.

Administrative Actions

- AA-293: Monitor existing and future authorizations for compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization.

1. Agricultural Leases

As of June 2007, YFO authorizes 1,528 acres of agriculture leases. This includes 1,300 acres in Arizona and 228 acres in California.

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-015: Lands currently authorized for agricultural purposes that are not renewed are converted to uses that benefit other BLM programs, such as development for recreational use or restoration of wildlife habitat.

Management Actions

- LR-016: Continue to authorize agricultural leases on a case-by-case basis.
- LR-017: The transfer or reassignment of agricultural leases will be subject to prior review and approval by BLM.
- LR-018: YFO will develop agricultural lease stipulations restricting crop types for purposes of law enforcement and public safety.
- LR-019: No new agricultural leases will be authorized within the 100-year floodplain of the Colorado and Gila rivers.

Administrative Actions

- AA-294: The transfer or reassignment of agricultural leases will be subject to review and approval by YFO.
- AA-295: The issuance of agricultural leases will be contingent on the lessee providing proof of a legal source of water and legal water rights under State water law.

2. Concession Leases

The planning area's two recreation concession leases are managed according to the 1993 BLM *Yuma District's Concession Review Program* (USDOI BLM 1993). Concession leases are authorized for recreation areas for concessionaire, State park, and county park operations to ensure that recreation opportunities are provided for the public. Private enterprises provide services and facilities that are responsive to public needs and are in appropriate intensively developed recreation areas.

Desired Future Condition

- LR-020: Public lands are available to develop concessions for recreation opportunities to meet the growth of public recreation use on a case-by-case basis.

Management Actions

- LR-021: Issue new recreation concession leases on a case-by-case basis in conformance with FLPMA. Land use alternatives that should be considered during NEPA analysis include accommodating the current lessee's request, allowing other potential bidders an opportunity to enter the recreation concession lease program, converting the lease to a traditional BLM-managed recreation site, and restoring the land to wildlife habitat.
- LR-022: Concessions will be managed in accordance with its authorized concession lease including quarterly inspections for compliance with the terms and conditions of the leases.
- LR-023: Restrict occupancy within concessions to no more than 150 days in a calendar year.
- LR-024: Concession leases found in non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization will be subject to termination.
- LR-025: Phase out individual authorizations within concession leases.
- LR-026: Do not authorize concession leases that allow exclusive use.
- VM-019: Require concessions to get BLM approval for landscaping plans. Require the use of native plants and drought adapted vegetation.

Administrative Actions

- AA-296: Monitor and administer recreation concession leases according to the 1993 Yuma District Concession Review Program to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization. Concession leases will be monitored for compliance and effectiveness through the existing Concession Review Policy on a quarterly basis, or as needed. The results of the quarterly compliance will be compiled annually and submitted to the Field Manager.
- AA-297: Any new developments within concession leases will be monitored for compliance utilizing site-specific stipulations developed during the NEPA process. Additionally, the impact of recreation concession facilities on recreational, cultural, and natural resources will be monitored as needed. Baseline collection of data will be identified during the NEPA process proposing additional concession facilities; and the frequency of monitoring will be determined after the collection of baseline data.

C. RIGHTS-OF-WAY

The types of uses that will be authorized by ROWs issued pursuant to FLPMA will include, but are not limited to, access roads, power lines, telephone lines, fiber-optic systems, communications facilities, and water and sewer pipelines. The types of uses that will be authorized by ROWs or temporary use permits pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act are pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced there from.

Desired Future Condition

- LR-027: Public demand for ROWs is met on a case-by-case basis.

Management Actions

- LR-014: Lands authorizations within the Dunes WHA will avoid to the extent practicable, minimize, or mitigate impacts to dunes with sensitive species.
- LR-028: Public lands will generally be available for transportation ROWs subject to NEPA evaluation, except where specifically prohibited by law or regulation. To the extent possible, new ROWs will avoid areas such as WHAs, VHAs, SCRMAAs, ACECs, and the Anza Trail. Appropriate mitigation will be required when avoidance is not possible.
- LR-029: Any authorization determined to be in noncompliance with the terms and conditions will be subject to termination.
- LR-030: Require all ROW construction activities to follow stipulated rehabilitation measures in support of the planning area's desired plant communities. Stipulations may include imprinting, contouring, debris and brush replacement, and invasive plant treatment. Avoid blading new routes to the greatest extent possible. Where access is needed to accomplish objectives, crush vegetation instead of blading and denuding the ground surface.
- LR-031: To the extent possible, locate new ROWs within or parallel to existing ROWs or ROW Corridors to minimize resource impacts. Locate new major ROWs and utility facilities in designated ROW Corridors, unless an evaluation of the project demonstrates location outside of a designated corridor is the only practicable alternative.
- LR-032: At time of renewal of any existing ROWs within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, YFO will discuss with the grant holder the possibility of relocating the ROW outside of identified lands with high value wilderness characteristics.
- SM-021: New land use authorizations within designated ACECs will be discouraged and only authorized when it is necessary for resource protection and/or when no reasonable alternative exists.
- SM-022: Prohibit new routes within designated ACECs except as needed to manage and interpret resources or as required by law, such as access to valid mining claims or private property.
- SM-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals and ROW facilities, will not be authorized inside the Sears Point ACEC 3,700-acre core area and the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area. Discretionary actions within the ACEC, but outside of the core area, will be avoided to the extent practicable. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage ACEC resource values will be allowed within the entire ACEC, including the core area.
- VM-042: Minimize BLM-authorized ground-disturbing activities in VHAs to protect focal plant species-populations. Land use authorizations for activities such as mineral extraction and livestock grazing would generally not be approved.

- VR-014: All ROWs meet VRM objectives and mitigation measures stipulated in the authorization.
- CL-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals and ROW facilities, will generally not be authorized at Public Use, Traditional Use, or Conservation for Future Use cultural resource sites. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage resource values will be allowed.
- PL-007: Areas with Low Paleontological Sensitivity. Assessment or mitigation for proposed land use authorizations in areas with low paleontological sensitivity will not be required except in very rare circumstances.
- PL-008: Areas with Moderate Paleontological Sensitivity: BLM-authorized surface-disturbing activities in areas with moderate paleontological sensitivity may require assessment to determine further courses of action. A field survey by a qualified paleontologist may be required. Management prescriptions for resource preservation and conservation through controlled access or special management designation will be considered.
- PL-009: Areas with High Paleontological Sensitivity: An assessment by a qualified paleontologist prior to authorizing land uses that could impact vertebrate fossils and/or uncommon invertebrate fossils will be required in areas with high paleontological sensitivity. A records search, inventory, monitoring, and/or mitigation will be required as appropriate before and/or during these actions.

Administrative Actions

- AA-298: Process applications for ROWs in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Applications must be in conformance with the approved LUP.
- AA-299: Monitor ROWs for compliance with existing laws and regulations in conformance with their authorization.
- AA-300: Monitor existing and future authorizations for compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization.
- AA-301: Ensure that all new power lines are safe for raptors. Inventory power lines to ensure that they meet established standards as described in BLM Manual 2800 and in the Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006). Inventories of power lines within areas of known high raptor use should be completed first.

1. Right-of-Way Corridors

Approved RMP ROW Corridors are presented in Table 2-16 and Map 2-16.

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-033: Major ROWs are consolidated within approved corridors to minimize resource impacts.

- LR-034: Designated corridors are the preferred location for major ROWs.
- LR-035: Established corridors are aligned with adjacent BLM field office corridors in California and Arizona.

Management Actions

- LR-031: To the extent possible, locate new ROWs within or parallel to existing ROWs or ROW Corridors to minimize resource impacts. Locate new major ROWs and utility facilities in designated ROW Corridors, unless an evaluation of the project demonstrates location outside of a designated corridor is the only practicable alternative.
- LR-036: Designate the El Paso Natural Gas, Interstate 8, Interstate 10, Palo Verde-Devers, Palo Verde Mountains Reroute, Parker Blaisdell, San Diego Gas and Electric Interconnection, and Highway 95 California ROW Corridors, totaling eight corridors over 465 miles.
- LR-037: All designated major ROW Corridors will be one mile in width.
- LR-038: New utility facilities within ROW Corridors will avoid impacts to natural and cultural resources within ACECs, SCRMAAs, and WHAs to the greatest extent possible. If impacts cannot be avoided, mitigation will be required.

Administrative Actions

- AA-302: ROW Corridor designations will be consistent with the Western-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS.

2. Communications Sites

BLM communications sites accommodate the wireless systems referred to in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as well as many other uses, including, but not limited to, AM/FM broadcast facilities, commercial mobile radios, private mobile radios, and microwaves on designated communications sites. The Approved RMP designates nine low-power communications sites and one high-power communications site. A summary of communications sites is presented in Table 2-16 and Map 2-16.

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-039: Consolidate single facility sites into more efficient communications facilities through site management plans.
- LR-040: Meet public demand for high-power facilities by establishing a high-power communications site.

Management Actions

- LR-041: Designate the Big Maria, Black Rock Hill, Cunningham, Guadalupe Mountain, Mohawk, Palo Verde Gap, Salome, Stone Cabin, and Telegraph Pass low-power communications sites.
- LR-042: Designate the Laguna Mountains high-power communications site.

2.0 Management Decisions

- LR-043: Terminate the Kofa and Airway Beacon communications sites.
- LR-044: Establish a communications site along the California State Highway 78 route which will be the Palo Verde Gap Low Power Communications Site.
- LR-045: Applications for new communication use facilities outside designated communications sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Co-location and subleasing will be emphasized.
- LR-046: Restrict any additional communications facilities in the Big Marias ACEC to the currently authorized Big Maria Communications Site boundaries.
- LR-047: New designated communications sites will have site management plans completed prior to authorizing new facilities and/or uses at the site.
- LR-048: Non-designated communications sites may require communications site plans prior to authorization as determined by the BLM authorized officer.

3. Renewable Energy

BLM's general policy is to facilitate environmentally responsible commercial development of solar energy projects on public lands and use solar energy systems on BLM facilities where feasible. The potential for renewable energy in the planning area is based on environmental, physical, and economic criteria, in conjunction with policy directives.

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-049: Public lands within the planning area provide for the production and distribution of renewable energy.
- LR-050: The use of public lands for production of renewable energy is encouraged.
- LR-051: The growth, production, or conversion of biomass materials to energy products is authorized on a case-by-case basis, pursuant to applicable laws, regulations, and policies and in accordance with the approved LUP.

Management Actions

- LR-052: Surface occupancy of renewable energy facilities will not be allowed in special designation areas or SCRMA's.
- LR-053: Wind generating facilities will not be allowed under military training routes.
- VR-015: Solar or wind generating facilities will not be allowed in VRM Classes I and II.

Administrative Actions

- AA-303: Process applications for commercial renewable energy facilities as ROWs or lease authorizations on a case-by-case basis.
- AA-304: Monitor all renewable energy facility authorizations for compliance with the terms and conditions of their authorization.

D. TRESPASS

Trespass means using, occupying, or developing public lands or their resources without a required authorization or in a way that is beyond the scope and terms and conditions of the authorization. Trespass is a prohibited act which includes acts or omissions causing unnecessary or undue degradation to the public lands or their resources. Samples of trespass include but are not limited to illegal dump sites, unauthorized construction of facilities, structures, roads, and residential and agricultural use.

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-054: The unauthorized use of public lands is eliminated.

Management Actions

- LR-055: Resolve existing unauthorized uses of public land through methods including, but not limited to, termination, approval by the appropriate type of authorization, or litigation.

Administrative Actions

- AA-305: Monitor public lands for the occurrence of trespass.
- AA-306: Evaluate all trespass for damage to natural and cultural resources particularly pursuant to the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 and the ESA, and mitigate appropriately.
- AA-307: Educate the public as to appropriate authorized uses of public land.

2.18.2 LAND TENURE

A. CLASSIFICATION

Classification is the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to determine the physical suitability of public land for disposition (i.e., retention or disposal). The following actions require classification: R&PP leases and patents, agricultural entries (i.e., applications under the Desert Land Act, as amended, and the Carey Act), and State grants for educational, institutional, and park purposes. The following decisions will be applied throughout the planning area.

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-056: Public lands are properly classified.

Management Actions

- LR-057: Reclassify public lands appropriately for all proposed dispositions.

Administrative Actions

- AA-308: When lands are proposed for disposition, ensure that the lands are classified appropriately.

B. DISPOSAL

Public lands have potential for disposal when they are isolated and/or difficult to manage. Disposal actions usually take place in response to a request from the public, or from an application that could result in a title transfer wherein the lands leave the public domain. All public lands will be retained, unless specifically identified for disposal.

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-058: When disposing of public lands, the BLM considers the public interest by giving full consideration to better Federal land management and the needs of State and local people. These include the need of lands for the economy, community expansion, recreation areas, food, fiber, minerals, and fish and wildlife.
- LR-059: When disposing by sale, the preferred method will be competitive or modified-competitive.
- LR-060: Eliminate split-estate by disposing of either the surface or subsurface rights, if disposal of the rights will be in the public interest.
- LR-061: Ensure no net loss of Federal ownership along the lower Colorado River.

Management Actions

- LR-062: Identify 11,900 acres of public land within the planning area as being available for disposal (Appendix I).
- LR-063: The YFO will retain the following types of Federal land in public ownership:
 - Lands within ACECs.
 - Sonoran desert tortoise habitat, unless land disposal through an exchange provides greater benefits to desert tortoises.
 - Lands managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.
 - Lands within or adjacent to the Colorado River 100-year floodplain.
 - Lands designated or proposed critical habitat for a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
 - Lands supporting listed or proposed threatened or endangered species if such transfer will be inconsistent with recovery needs and objectives or will likely affect the recovery of the listed or proposed species.
 - Lands supporting Federal candidate species if such action will contribute to the need to list the species as threatened or endangered.
- LR-064: Disposal of lands not identified for disposal in the Approved RMP will require an RMP amendment and will have to meet the disposal criteria of applicable laws and regulations.

Administrative Actions

- AA-309: Disposal requests from the public will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- AA-310: Lands identified for disposal must meet the criteria for public land sale or exchange under existing laws, regulations, and policies at time of disposal.

C. ACQUISITION

FLPMA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (delegated to BLM) to acquire non-Federal lands or interests in lands pursuant to FLPMA Section 205(a).

Desired Future Conditions

- LR-065: YFO acquires lands that facilitate access to public lands and resources, maintain or enhance public uses and values, facilitate implementation of this RMP, provide for a more manageable land ownership pattern, include significant natural or cultural resource values, or eliminate split-estate by acquiring either the surface or subsurface rights, if acquisition of rights will be in the public interest.
- LR-066: Split-estate consolidation, pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA, is achieved.
- LR-067: Any lands acquired by the BLM will include both the surface and mineral estate when possible.

Management Actions

- LR-068: Seek to acquire non-Federal lands and interests in lands from willing landowners through purchase, exchange, donation, easement, or other means. Acquisitions will include surface and subsurface rights, and water rights whenever possible. BLM would seek to acquire non-Federal lands that:
 - Are within or adjacent to special designations and allocations, including ACECs and WHAs.
 - Are adjacent to public lands that contain significant cultural resources including, but not limited to, those properties eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.
 - Facilitate conservation banking of natural communities with sensitive and/or priority plant species, especially if loss of essential habitat is anticipated.
 - Consolidate areas with high actual or potential value for non-game migratory bird habitat.
 - Consolidate important raptor habitats that are located on State or privately-owned lands within Key Raptor Areas (i.e. Mittry Lake Wildlife Area and the Colorado River corridor) (USDOI BLM 1992).
 - Is currently unprotected or potential FTHL habitat within management areas in accordance with established priorities and/or criteria.
- LR-069: Manage all acquired lands in accordance with the Approved RMP decisions for surrounding or adjacent BLM-administered lands.

Administrative Actions

- AA-311: Seek appropriate sources of funding to acquire desired lands from willing owners.

2.19 MINERAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

BLM supports mineral exploration and development on public lands in keeping with BLM's multiple-use mandate. Unless otherwise restricted, all Federal mineral estates administered by YFO within the planning area will be available for orderly and efficient development of mineral resources. Leases and sales of mineral materials are discretionary actions.

2.19.1 LEASABLE MINERALS

Leasable minerals include fluid minerals such as oil, gas, coalbed methane, carbon dioxide (CO₂), and geothermal resources; and solid minerals such as coal, sodium, and potash. Although not a leasable mineral, helium is included in this category, because it is typically associated with CO₂ exploration and development (43 CFR 3100 and 43 CFR 3200).

Desired Future Conditions

- MI-001: Public lands are available for mineral leasing in accordance with existing leasing laws unless precluded from leasing by withdrawal or other laws and regulations.
- MI-002: Operations authorized by the leasing law do not cause unnecessary or undue degradation of public land resources.
- MI-003: Site-specific decisions regarding lease issuance and the attachment of appropriate stipulations are based on existing laws, regulations, and policies, and in conformance with the Approved RMP.

Management Actions

- MI-004: Authorize and issue new mineral leases throughout the planning area on a case-by-case basis, unless precluded from leasing by withdrawal or other laws and regulations.
- MI-005: In highly sensitive areas, where special stipulations are not sufficient to protect surface resource values, stipulations for no surface occupancy for leasable mineral development may be attached to the lease.
- MI-006: Should activity cease on a mining claim, wells will become government property and the determination of whether or not the wells are capped will be made by BLM.
- MI-007: For split estate minerals (where the U.S. owns the minerals), leasing of Federal mineral estate on lands where the surface is not held by the Federal government will be done in accordance with Federal law, regulations and policy guidance. The surface owner will be notified prior to lease and given the opportunity to comment.
- MI-008: Protection of resource values within designated ACECs will take precedence over leasable/locatable materials. If an area is not withdrawn from mineral entry, special

mitigation will be required to avoid impacts to resources. All locatable mineral actions will require an approved Mining Plan of Operations in accordance with BLM Manual 3809 regulations. Leasable mineral exploration and development will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

- MI-009: No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases will be allowed within (1) the Colorado and Gila River Riparian WHA, (2) the Desert Mountains WHA where AGFD has identified sensitive desert bighorn sheep habitat, (3) within the Big Marias ACEC to protect cultural resources, (4) the Limitrophe CMA, (5) the Sears Point ACEC 3,700-acre core area, (6) the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area, or (7) at Public Use, Traditional Use, or Conservation for Future Use cultural resource sites.
- MI-010: Within lands being managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, regulate mineral leases to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation.
- SM-021: New land use authorizations within designated ACECs will be discouraged and only authorized when it is necessary for resource protection and/or when no reasonable alternative exists.
- SM-022: Prohibit new routes within designated ACECs except as needed to manage and interpret resources or as required by law, such as access to valid mining claims or private property.

Administrative Actions

- AA-312: Continue to administer exploration and development in the planning area in accordance with surface and mineral management regulations.
- AA-313: When BLM manages the subsurface estate only, BLM will consult with the surface owner prior to issuing a contract or permit.

2.19.2 LOCATABLE MINERALS

Locatable minerals include metallic minerals such as gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and uranium; and non-metallic minerals such as allunite, asbestos, barite, gypsum, and mica; and uncommon varieties of stone (43 CFR 3800).

Desired Future Conditions

- MI-011: Public lands are available for exploration, location, and development of mining claims in accordance with existing mining laws unless withdrawn or segregated from entry.
- MI-012: Operations authorized by the mining laws do not cause unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

Management Actions

- MI-008: Protection of resource values within designated ACECs will take precedence over leasable/locatable materials. If an area is not withdrawn from mineral entry, special mitigation will be required to avoid impacts to resources. All locatable mineral actions will

require an approved Mining Plan of Operations in accordance with BLM Manual 3809 regulations. Leasable mineral exploration and development will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

- MI-013: As part of the land ownership adjustment program, consolidate surface and subsurface (minerals) estates under one ownership when possible, thereby improving manageability of the Federal lands involved.
- MI-014: Require notices when mechanized equipment is used for exploration or processing and cumulative disturbance is five acres or less.
- MI-015: Require a mining plan of operations in accordance with 43 CFR 3800 for operations including, but not limited to:
 - Where disturbance is greater than five acres or where bulk sampling will remove 1,000 tons or more of ore;
 - In the California Desert Conservation Area designated by the California Desert Conservation Area plan as “controlled or limited” use areas;
 - In designated ACECs or currently withdrawn or reserved lands where the mining claim predates the withdrawal or reservation;
 - In Closed OHV Management Areas; and
 - In lands or waters known to contain federally listed threatened or endangered species or in proposed or designated critical habitat.
- MI-016: In withdrawn areas, a validity examination will be required at prior existing claims before submittal of a mining plan of operations to verify the valid discovery of a valuable mineral deposit.
- MI-017: Require reclamation of all disturbances created by casual use mining.
- MI-018: Assess all mining plans of operations for potential impacts to Sonoran desert tortoise habitat on a case-by-case basis. Adverse impacts to desert tortoise will be mitigated to the extent allowable in BLM 3809 regulations.
- SM-022: Prohibit new routes within designated ACECs except as needed to manage and interpret resources or as required by law, such as access to valid mining claims or private property.

Administrative Actions

- AA-314: Continue to administer exploration and development in the planning area in accordance with current surface and mineral management regulations.
- AA-315: Monitor public lands for the occurrence of unauthorized use.
- AA-316: Inventory and monitor mines which provide habitat for bats.

2.19.3 SALABLE MINERALS

Salable minerals include construction materials such as sand, gravel, cinders, decorative rock, and building stone (43 CFR 3600). It is BLM’s policy to make mineral materials available to the

public and local governmental agencies whenever possible and wherever it is environmentally acceptable. Disposal of mineral materials is a discretionary action and will be authorized in accordance with appropriate laws, regulations, and policies, in conformance with the Approved RMP.

In response to increased demand for mineral materials in the planning area, YFO has proposed five sites as community pits. Mineral material disposals will continue to be authorized in other locations in the planning area if appropriate. A summary of community pits is presented in Table 2-17 below and shown on Map 2-16.

Table 2-17
Approved RMP Community Pit Names and Sizes

| Community Pit Name | Approved RMP BLM Acres/Max Volume |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ehrenberg South | 100 acres (~1,000,000 cubic yards) |
| NE Quartzsite | 100 acres (~1,000,000 cubic yards) |
| Dateland | 200 acres (~1,000,000 cubic yards) |
| Brenda | 100 acres (~1,000,000 cubic yards) |
| Hart | 200 acres (~1,000,000 cubic yards) |
| Total Acres/Volume | 700 acres (~5,000,000 cubic yards) |

Desired Future Conditions

- MI-019: The disposal of saleable minerals does not cause unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.
- MI-020: Public lands remain available for disposal of mineral materials at the discretion of the authorized officer.

Management Actions

- MI-021: Authorize mineral materials operations on a case-by-case basis to facilitate infrastructure development.
- MI-022: Conduct a site specific environmental analysis for the implementation of each community pit.
- MI-023: Authorize no salable mineral materials permits within: (1) Category I and II desert tortoise habitat, (2) the Colorado and Gila River Riparian WHA, (3) the Limitrophe CMA, or (4) ACECs.
- MI-024: Allocate five community pits totaling a maximum of 700 acres (~5,000,000 yard) in Ehrenberg South, NE Quartzsite, Dateland, Brenda, and Hart (see Table 2-17). If site-specific environmental analysis reveals the community pit will have an adverse or significant impact on resources, the footprint of the proposal may be modified or reduced to avoid or minimize impacts. If impacts to resources cannot be sufficiently avoided or mitigated during site-specific analysis, the proposed community pit will not be implemented.
- MI-025: Limit salable mineral materials permits within the Desert Mountains WHA by making appropriate use of community pits.

2.0 Management Decisions

- SM-021: New land use authorizations within designated ACECs will be discouraged and only authorized when it is necessary for resource protection and/or when no reasonable alternative exists.
- SM-022: Prohibit new routes within designated ACECs except as needed to manage and interpret resources or as required by law, such as access to valid mining claims or private property.
- SM-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals and ROW facilities, will not be authorized inside the Sears Point ACEC 3,700-acre core area and the Dripping Springs ACEC 640-acre core area. Discretionary actions within the ACEC, but outside of the core area, will be avoided to the extent practicable. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage ACEC resource values will be allowed within the entire ACEC, including the core area.
- VM-042: Minimize BLM-authorized ground-disturbing activities in VHAs to protect focal plant species-populations. Land use authorizations for activities such as mineral extraction and livestock grazing would generally not be approved.
- CL-027: Except for prior existing rights, discretionary Mineral Resource Management (Section 2.19) and Lands and Realty (Section 2.18) actions, including but not limited to mineral materials disposals and ROW facilities, will generally not be authorized at Public Use, Traditional Use, or Conservation for Future Use cultural resource sites. Installation of facilities to protect, interpret, or manage resource values will be allowed.
- PL-007: Areas with Low Paleontological Sensitivity. Assessment or mitigation for proposed land use authorizations in areas with low paleontological sensitivity will not be required except in very rare circumstances.
- PL-008: Areas with Moderate Paleontological Sensitivity: BLM-authorized surface-disturbing activities in areas with moderate paleontological sensitivity may require assessment to determine further courses of action. A field survey by a qualified paleontologist may be required. Management prescriptions for resource preservation and conservation through controlled access or special management designation will be considered.
- PL-009: Areas with High Paleontological Sensitivity: An assessment by a qualified paleontologist prior to authorizing land uses that could impact vertebrate fossils and/or uncommon invertebrate fossils will be required in areas with high paleontological sensitivity. A records search, inventory, monitoring, and/or mitigation will be required as appropriate before and/or during these actions.

Administrative Actions

- AA-317: Coordinate with Reclamation to locate and preserve adequate mineral materials to accommodate project needs.
- AA-318: Identify suitable locations for additional community pits where appropriate, based on future public need/demand.

- AA-319: Monitor minerals activities consistent with BLM policies, including periodic field inspections that ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and site-specific authorizations. Findings for each inspection are documented and placed in the case file. The number of sites inspected and the number of sites in compliance will be reported in the Annual Planning Update Report and Summary.

2.20 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT

YFO will identify areas or hazards which have potential impact to public health and safety. Abandoned mines, UXO, International Boundary issues, and hazardous materials are public health and safety concerns in the planning area.

2.20.1 ABANDONED MINES

A primary public safety concern with regard to abandoned mines is the danger of a person being injured or killed by falling into or collapse of an open shaft, adit, or pit.

Desired Future Conditions

- HM-001: The risk to members of the public associated with abandoned mines is reduced or eliminated.
- HM-002: Abandoned mine sites are inventoried and prioritized for reclamation, closure, or use as wildlife habitat.

Management Action

- HM-003: Reduce the public risk by implementing fencing, signs, and ultimately closure of abandoned mine openings.
- HM-004: For abandoned mines posing a public safety hazard, design protective fences or closures to accommodate existing or future use by wildlife (i.e., bats, small mammals, and owls).
- HM-005: For abandoned mines that are part of an NRHP-listed or eligible historic site, the BLM will resolve the public safety hazard in compliance with NHPA and other applicable laws.

Administrative Actions

- AA-320: Cooperate with the appropriate Arizona and California State agencies to identify the location of abandoned mines and prospects.
- AA-321: Reclamation and mitigation work done on abandoned mine sites will be monitored to ensure compliance with laws and regulations and with the terms of the work order or contract. Abandoned mine sites requiring clean-up will be monitored to protect and safeguard human health, prevent/restore environmental damage and to limit the BLM's liability. This monitoring includes such things as conducting periodic water and soil sampling, monitoring

for revegetation of reclaimed areas, dust control, erosion and other signs of potential danger to human health and harm to the environment.

2.20.2 UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

UXO consists of military materials used in tests and on training ranges. UXO may include but is not limited to bombs, mortars, artillery shells, rockets, submunitions and landmines. Given the amount of aircraft used on the various military facilities in the planning area, it is possible that a military aircraft could crash and be a source of UXO.

Desired Future Conditions

- HM-006: The public's risk of exposure to UXOs is reduced.

Management Actions

- HM-007: Take appropriate measures to protect the public from known UXO locations on BLM-administered lands, such as signing, fencing, removal, and remediation.

Administrative Actions

- AA-322: In cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, identify the locations on BLM-administered lands that are potential areas of UXO concern. Investigate, inventory and record the presence of UXOs on BLM-administered lands.
- AA-323: Educate and advise the public of potential UXO risks present on public lands.

2.20.3 INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY ISSUES

YFO manages public land along the International Boundary. The area experiences criminal incidents such as undocumented immigrant traffic, drug trafficking, robbery, and random acts of violence including sporadic gunfire.

Desired Future Conditions

- HM-008: Borderlands are safe for public and agency use.

Management Actions

- HM-009: Place signs regarding border safety, where appropriate.
- VM-011: Conduct and/or authorize vegetation treatments in selected locations along the International Boundary to allow visibility and reduce cover for clandestine activity. Such treatments will be conducted in a way that considers impacts to Native American religious concerns.
- VM-012: Require mitigation for vegetation treatments to offset impacts to riparian habitat and recreation values along the International Boundary.

- FM-029: Resolve public health and safety issues by clearing hazardous fuels along the International Boundary under the fire management program, where appropriate.

Administrative Actions

- AA-324: Coordinate with Mexico, Federal, State, and local agencies, and interested Native American tribes to address public health and safety issues on the International Boundary.

2.20.4 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials consist of chemicals and materials that have the potential to adversely impact human health and the environment. In the planning area, hazardous materials may include but are not limited to petroleum products, industrial chemicals, acids, heavy metals, lead-based paint, and asbestos-containing materials. Potential sources of hazardous materials include abandoned mines, mining mill sites, landfills, illegal dumping, leaking fuel tanks, illegal drug manufacturing sites, abandoned buildings, formerly used defense sites, and military aircraft crashes.

Desired Future Conditions

- HM-010: The potential impacts to human health and the environment from hazardous materials within the planning area are minimized.

Management Actions

- HM-011: Remediate areas contaminated with hazardous materials in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Administrative Actions

- AA-325: Perform public notification of potential health risks by means of notices, signs, and other forms of communication.
- AA-326: Identify the presence of and characterize the types of hazardous materials present on BLM-administered lands.
- AA-327: Coordinate with Federal and State agencies to remove and/or remediate hazardous materials as they are identified.
- AA-328: Remediation within NRHP-listed or eligible cultural sites will be conducted in accordance with the NHPA.
- AA-329: Implement soil testing and groundwater monitoring to define the lateral and vertical extent of impact from sites with hazardous materials contamination.
- AA-330: Monitor the extent of impacts of sites containing hazardous materials, such as mining and milling wastes, to air, soil, and surface and groundwater.
- AA-331: Coordinate to conduct “cleanup days” on illegal dumping sites, as time and staff availability permits.