



## NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

NOPA AZ-0330-2007-0001

EA-AZ-0330-2007-035



**State -** Arizona

**County -** Mohave

**Area -** Attn: Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO)  
2610 Sweetwater Avenue  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403  
(928) 505-1200

### **Wilderness Area – Gibraltar Mountain Wilderness**

1. Type of Action: Barrier construction at Gibraltar Wilderness boundary.

The following project involves construction of barrier(s) at the Gibraltar Mountain Wilderness boundary to reduce illegal vehicle use within the wilderness area. Continued vehicle entry has a impact on wilderness values and natural resources. Human impacts caused by motorized vehicles also adversely affect the qualities of wilderness character for which agency management is responsible. These qualities include: 1) “untrammeled” 2) “natural” 3) “undeveloped” and 4) “outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation”. This project includes establishment of trailhead signs and visitor register(s) to educate the public on the wilderness restrictions and appropriate recreational activities.

#### Description of Activity:

##### Construction of Barriers

The proposed action is to construct a steel guard-rail or post and cable barrier with an attached gate totaling 296 feet across Route HS360 leading to the Gibraltar Mountain Wilderness and Mammon Mine private property. The barrier and gate would be located in the wash perpendicular to the wilderness boundary, and would extend across the wash, toward the rugged terrain below the Mammon Mine property area. The proposed barrier would leave public lands open to all existing uses with the exception of 0.29 miles of Route HS360, which will be closed to public vehicular access. The gate at the end of the barrier would allow owners of Mammon Mine vehicular access beyond the structure in order to access private property. It would also allow approved administrative vehicular access to public lands outside the wilderness boundary. Due to the wide and flat topography within the wash, no designated parking and/or turn-a-round area would need to be constructed in front of the barrier.

One 16" x 30" wilderness entry sign, mounted on two 4" x 4" metal posts, will be placed in front of the barrier on HS360. A visitor register box will be placed near the sign. Another sign (same size) will also be placed 1000' before the wilderness boundary warning vehicles of the route's end. All installed structures will be marked with reflective tape to aid in vehicle operators in recognizing the newly installed structures.

Construction of the barrier would be done between the months of November and March. The action requires a wheeled-tractor with backhoe to dig 4-feet deep by 3-feet wide, 296 feet long trench in the sand. The area of disturbance will be limited to no more than 6' wide linear area along the proposed barrier. All wheeled equipment will be work/access the project within this linear area to minimize disturbance of any native vegetation and/or soils. Other equipment on site would include: shovels, hammers, wrenches, chainsaws, and extra fuel for the backhoe and for any other machinery. The number of people needed for this operation is approximately five individuals with a maximum workforce of ten people. This includes qualified personnel to operate the tractor/backhoe and chainsaws. No vehicle use would occur inside the wilderness boundary prior to or during barrier construction.

The staging and/or camping area for this construction project would be outside of the wilderness area in the work area wash. Maximum surface disturbance would be less than one acre of the wash bottom. Time at the site can require from one to ten days for completion. Up to six vehicles may be used to access the work area. The tractor would be brought in on a trailer as far as possible, then driven to the work site if route conditions do not allow for trailer access.

#### Route Rehabilitation

Following construction of the barrier, portions of routes located within wilderness that are visible from the wilderness boundary would be restored to a natural condition using vertical mulching and stone placement. Vertical mulching is a technique which places dead vegetation to visually disguise trampled areas and accelerate the natural revegetation process. Native stone would also be placed to further aid in disguising the compacted vehicle routes. These route rehabilitations would take place in wilderness areas beyond the constructed barrier on HS360, and additionally at the closed vehicle route at the northeastern end of route HS362. This route, HS362, should end at the wilderness boundary; however, vehicle trespass has continued beyond the posted wilderness boundary up to Mammon Mine private property.

#### Additional Barrier Construction

Following the construction of the Route HS360 barrier and rehabilitation of the wilderness route at HS362, monitoring of the wilderness area would continue for a period of two years in order to determine if an additional post and cable barrier was needed to block vehicle access at the conclusion of HS362 at the wilderness boundary. If a barrier was installed, similar signage to that of HS360 would be placed prior to the post and cable to indicate route closure and appropriate wilderness recreation opportunities.

Maintenance of Barriers

Under this EA, maintenance on these barrier/trailhead sites would be accomplished as needed over the next five years.

2. Chronology of Events

November –1990	Gibraltar Mountain Wilderness designated by Public Law 101-628, Arizona Desert Wilderness Act.
1995- 2007	Repeated replacement of boundary signs and vehicle trespass documented in monitoring reports beyond wilderness boundary near Mammon Mine.
June – 2007	EA-AZ-0330-2007-035 initiated.
September 30, 2007	Comment on this proposed action closed.

Note:

If you would like a copy of the environmental assessment when completed please contact the Lake Havasu Field Office. As always, your comments and questions are welcome concerning this and any other BLM actions. For further information regarding this activity, please contact Jill Miller-Alert, Wilderness Specialist, (928) 505-1204 (e-mail: [jalert@blm.gov](mailto:jalert@blm.gov).)

Please help us manage your public lands. If you observe any inappropriate use or activities on public lands, please contact your local BLM office and speak with the Ranger Staff.

//s/ James T Shoaff

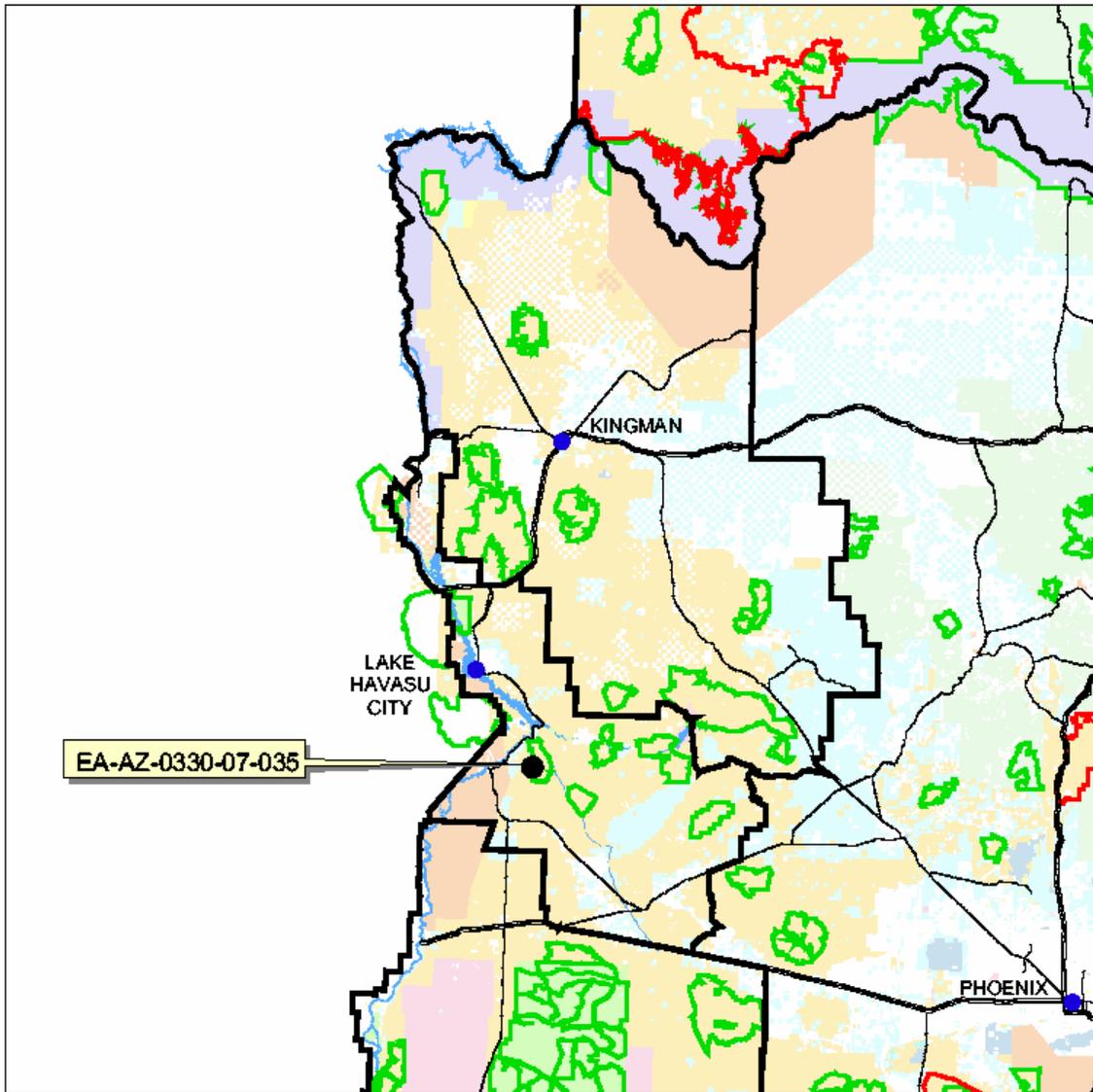
August 15, 2007

Field Manager

Date

General Location Map:

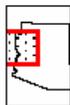
**Gibraltar Wilderness Barrier**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE

Map printed on June 4, 2007  
Map produced by the BLM, Arizona State Office

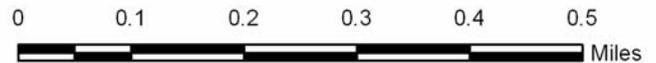
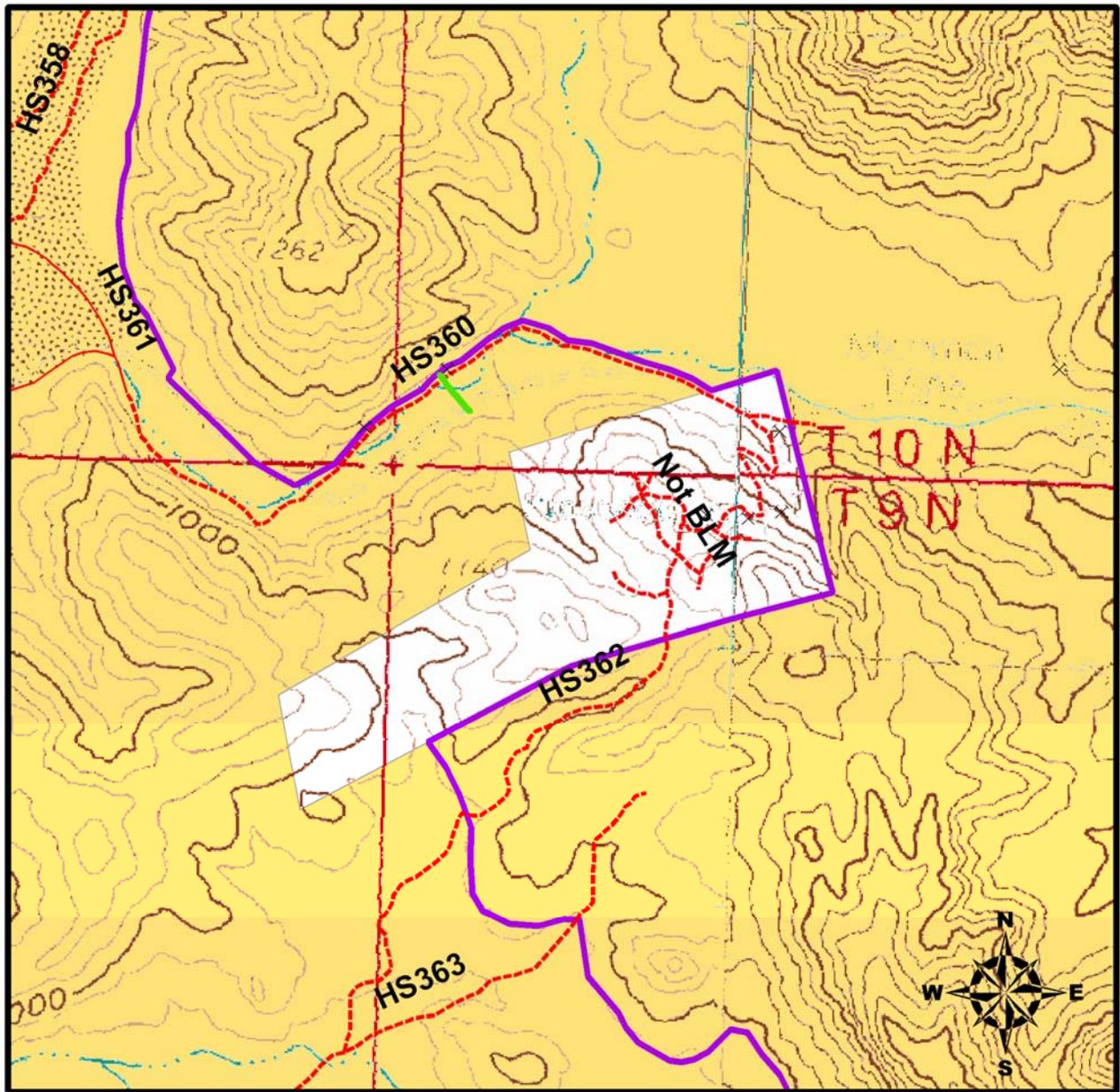
LOCATION MAP



LAND STATUS LEGEND

- |              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Private      | BOR                         |
| State        | City, County, & State Park  |
| BLM          | State Wildlife Area         |
| USFS         | County Lands                |
| Indian Lands | BLM National Monuments      |
| Military     | National Conservation Areas |
| NPS          | Wilderness                  |
| FWS          |                             |

Project Location Map.



**Legend**

- Proposed Barrier
- Primary Road, Unpaved
- - - Secondary Road Unpaved
- - - Tertiary Road Unpaved
- - - 4x4 Trail or Single Track
- Wilderness Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

## Gibraltar Wilderness Barrier Project Inventory Route Numbers HS360 & HS362

Lake Havasu Field Office  
Colorado River District  
- July 2007-



The Bureau of Land Management makes no warranties, implied or expressed, with respect to information shown on this map.

Gibraltar Wilderness Barrier Project Sites



*Illustrated Barrier at HS360 (wash barrier)*



*North View Proposed Barrier Site*



*Southeast View of Proposed Barrier Site*



**Route HS 360**



*Illustrated Wilderness Boundary at HS362*