

## ASDO NEPA DOCUMENT ROUTING SHEET

NEPA Document Number: **DOI-BLM-AZ-A010-2011-0006-CX**

Project Title: Eight Allotments Grazing Permits Transfer

Project Lead: Jackie Roaque

Date that any scoping meeting was conducted: N/A

Date that concurrent, electronic distribution for review was initiated: 02/15/2011

Deadline for receipt of responses: 03/04/2011

ID Team/Required Reviewers will be determined at scoping meeting or as a default the following:

Gloria Benson, Tribal Liaison  
Diana Hawks, Recreation/Wilderness/VRM  
Rody Cox (acting), Lands/Realty/Minerals  
Lorraine Christian (acting), Wildlife/ T&E Wildlife  
John Herron, Cultural  
Jackie Roaque, Special Status Plants  
Ray Klein, GCPNM Supervisory Ranger  
Linda Price, S&G  
Whit Bunting, Range/Vegetation, Weeds  
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator  
John Sims, Supervisory Law Enforcement

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Lorraine Christian ASFO  
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(Ms. Rogers and Ms. Reif are Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) habitat specialists. Ms. Skrzynski is Environmental Program Director for the Kaibab Paiute Tribe (KPT). They may review and/or forward on ASDO NEPA documents to other employees. If a Project Lead receives comments from any AGFD employee on their draft NEPA document, they should include them in the complete set/administrative record and share them with the ASDO Wildlife Team. They will then recommend how these comments should be addressed. If a Project Lead receives comments from any KPT employee, they should include them in the complete set/administrative and share them with Gloria Benson as the ASDO Tribal Liaison. Ms. Benson will then recommend how these comments should be addressed.)

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**A. Background**

BLM Office: Arizona Strip Field Office

Allotment Number: #00099

Proposed Action Title/Type: Rock Canyon Allotment Grazing Permit Transfer

Location of Proposed Action: The Rock Canyon Allotment is located approximately 14 miles south of Hurricane, Utah and is found within the following described area of the Arizona Strip Field Office (Attachment 2):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona  
T. 42 N., R. 9 W.,  
Sections 31, 32 and 33  
T. 41 N., R. 9 W.,  
Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Description of Proposed Action: This transfer of base water and attached grazing preference from William M. Gubler to Gubler Ranch, LLC applies to the Rock Canyon Allotment. The attached preference of this allotment is described below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>%PL*</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Rock Canyon	33	Cattle	11/01 – 02/28	55	72
Rock Canyon	33	Cattle	03/01 – 05/31	55	55

\*PL = Public Land

There are no changes to the grazing preference or terms and conditions of the permit. The permit resulting from this transfer would be effective for the same period of time as the current permit, which is valid through October 31, 2012.

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BLM Office: Arizona Strip Field Office

Allotment Number: #04861

Proposed Action Title/Type: Toquer Tank Allotment Grazing Permit Transfer

Location of Proposed Action: The Toquer Tank Allotment is located approximately 28 miles south of St George, Utah and is found within the following described area of the Arizona Strip Field Office (Attachment 2):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona

T. 39 N., R. 10 W.,  
Sections 9, 10 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35,36  
T. 38 N., R. 10 W.,  
Section 1  
T. 39 N., R. 9 W.,  
Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32  
T. 38 N., R. 9 W.,  
Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Description of Proposed Action: This transfer of base water and attached grazing preference from William M. Gubler to Gubler Ranch, LLC applies to the Toquer Tank Allotment. The attached preference of this allotment is described below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>%PL*</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Toquer Tank	238	Cattle	10/01 – 02/28	94	1111
Toquer Tank	237	Cattle	03/01 – 05/31	94	674
Toquer Tank	2	Horses	10/01 – 02/28	94	9
Toquer Tank	2	Horses	03/01 – 05/31	94	6

\*PL = Public Land

There are no changes to the grazing preference or terms and conditions of the permit. The permit resulting from this transfer would be effective for the same period of time as the current permit, which is valid through March 31, 2017.

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BLM Office: Arizona Strip Field Office

Allotment Number: #04840

Proposed Action Title/Type: Pocum Tank Allotment Grazing Permit Transfer

Location of Proposed Action: The Pocum Tank Allotment is located approximately 22 miles south of St George, Utah and is found within the following described area of the Arizona Strip Field Office (Attachment 2):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona

T. 39 N., R. 12 W.,  
Sections 24, 25, 36  
T. 38 N., R. 11 W.,  
Sections 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27,  
28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36

Description of Proposed Action: This transfer of base water and attached grazing preference from William M. Gubler to Gubler Ranch, LLC applies to the Pocum Tank Allotment. The attached preference of this allotment is described below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>%PL*</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Pocum Tank	122	Cattle	05/16 – 09/17	98	491
Pocum Tank	3	Cattle	05/16 – 06/15	98	3

\*PL = Public Land

There are no changes to the grazing preference or terms and conditions of the permit. The permit resulting from this transfer would be effective for the same period of time as the current permit, which is valid through February 28, 2019.

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BLM Office: Arizona Strip Field Office

Allotment Number: #04824

Proposed Action Title/Type: Mountain Sheep Allotment Grazing Permit Transfer

Location of Proposed Action: The Mountain Sheep Allotment is located approximately 15 miles southwest of St George, Utah. It is located entirely within the Paiute Wilderness and the Virgin River ACEC also winds through the northern portion of the allotment. Mountain Sheep Allotment is found within the following described area of the Arizona Strip Field Office (Attachment 2):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona  
T. 41 N., R. 14 W.,  
Sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, 35

Description of Proposed Action: This transfer of base water and attached grazing preference from William M. Gubler to Gubler Ranch, LLC applies to the Mountain Sheep Allotment. The attached preference of this allotment is described below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>%PL*</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Mtn Sheep	16	Cattle	11/16 – 02/28	100	55
Mtn Sheep	16	Cattle	03/01 – 05/15	100	40

\*PL = Public Land

There are no changes to the grazing preference or terms and conditions of the permit. The permit resulting from this transfer would be effective for the same period of time as the current permit, which is valid through February 28, 2012.

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BLM Office: Arizona Strip Field Office

Allotment Number: #05223

Proposed Action Title/Type: Wildband Allotment Grazing Permit Transfer

Location of Proposed Action: The Wildband Allotment is located approximately 18 miles southwest of Fredonia, Arizona. Portions of the East Burnt pasture of the Wildband Allotment are part the Kanab Creek ACEC. The allotment is found within the following described area of the Arizona Strip Field Office (Attachment 3):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona

- T. 39 N., R.39 W.,  
Sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30,  
31, 32, 33
- T. 39 N., R. 4 W.,  
Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,  
32, 33, 34, 35, 36
- T. 38 N., R. 3 W.,  
Sections 4, 5, 6
- T. 38 N., R. 4 W.,  
Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19
- T. 38 N., R. 5 W.,  
Sections 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20,  
21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36
- T. 37 N., R. 5 W.,  
Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26
- T. 37 N., R. 4 W.,  
Sections 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22,  
23, 24, 26, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 36

Description of Proposed Action: This transfer of base water and attached grazing preference from William M. Gubler to Gubler Ranch, LLC applies to the Wildband Allotment. The attached preference of this allotment is described below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>%PL*</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Wildband	360	Cattle	03/01 – 02/28	88	3802

\*PL = Public Land

There are no changes to the grazing preference or terms and conditions of the permit. The permit resulting from this transfer would be effective for the same period of time as the current permit, which is valid through February 19, 2018.

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BLM Office: Arizona Strip Field Office,  
Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument

Allotment Number: #04838 , #04839, and # 04804

Proposed Action Title/Type: Lambing - Starvation Allotment, Wolfhole Mountain Allotment, and Whiterock – Soapstone Allotment Grazing Permit Transfer

Locations of Proposed Action:

The Lambing – Starvation Allotment is located approximately 7 miles south of St George, Utah, occurring both north and south of Interstate 15. Approximately 3,730 acres are part of the Paiute Wilderness and approximately 2,395 acres are managed as areas with wilderness characteristics, both found in the Jackass Pasture south of I-15. Also present in this allotment is the Virgin River ACEC in the Starvation Pasture and the Black Knolls ACEC in the North Freeway Pasture; both north of I-15. The allotment is found within the following described area of the Arizona Strip Field Office (Attachment 2):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona

T. 42 N., R. 12 W.,  
Section 31  
T. 42 N., R. 13 W.,  
Sections 34, 35, 36  
T. 41 N., R. 12 W.,  
Sections 6 and 7  
T. 41 N., R. 13 W.,  
Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15,  
16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, 31  
T. 41 N., R. 14 W.,  
Sections 13, 24, 25, 36  
T. 43 S., R. 16 W.,  
Sections 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34

The Wolfhole Mountain Allotment is located approximately 21 miles south of St George, Utah and is found within the following described area of the Arizona Strip Field Office (Attachment 2):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona

T. 40 N., R. 12 W.,  
Sections 31, 32, 33  
T. 40 N., R. 13 W.,  
Section 36  
T. 39 N., R. 13 W.,  
Sections 1, 12, 13, 24  
T. 39 N., R. 12 W.,  
Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

The Whiterock – Soapstone Allotment is located approximately 26 miles south of St George, Utah and is found within the following described area of the Arizona Strip Field Office (Attachment 2):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona

- T. 39 N., R. 12 W.,  
Sections 18, 19, 30, 31, 32, 33
- T. 39 N., R. 13 W.,  
Sections 34, 35, 36
- T. 38 N., R. 13 W.,  
Sections 1, 2, 12, 13, 24
- T. 38 N., R. 12 W.,  
Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28,  
29, 30

Approximately 4,270 acres of the Whiterock – Soapstone Allotment are located in Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument and are found within the following described area (Attachment 2):

Gila & Salt River Meridian, Mohave County, Arizona

- T. 39 N., R. 13 W.,  
Sections 24 and 25
- T. 38 N., R. 13 W.,  
Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 14, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24
- T. 38 N., R. 12 W.,  
Sections 19 and 30

Description of Proposed Action: This transfer of base water and attached grazing preference from William M. Gubler to Gubler Ranch, LLC applies to the Lambing – Starvation, Wolfhole Mountain and Whiterock – Soapstone Allotments. Presently, all 3 allotments are included on one permit and would continue as such after the transfer. The attached preference of each allotment is described below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>%PL*</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Lambing	95	Cattle	11/16 – 02/28	83	272
Lambing	95	Cattle	03/01 – 05/15**	83	197
Lambing	2	Horses	03/01 – 04/05	83	2
Wolfhole Mtn	105	Cattle	06/01 – 08/31	100	318
Whiterock	264	Cattle	08/01 – 10/15	100	660

\*PL = Public Land

\*\* Grazing use on the Lambing Allotment from 4/15 – 5/15 would not be in the Starvation Pasture which contains southwestern willow flycatcher habitat in the river portion.

There are no changes to the grazing preference or terms and conditions of the permit. The permit resulting from this transfer would be effective for the same period of time as the current permit, which is valid through February 28, 2012.

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## **B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan Name: Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP), Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Date Approved: January 29, 2008 (both RMPs)

The proposed action is in conformance with the following RMP decisions:

LA-GM-01 (from both RMPs), which states: “All allotments will continue to be classified as available for grazing by livestock under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, except where specifically noted....”

Rock Canyon, Toquer Tank, Pocum Tank, Mountain Sheep, Wildband, Lambing – Starvation, Wolfhole Mountain and Whiterock – Soapstone Allotments are classified as available for grazing by livestock under this decision.

SD-AC-04, (Arizona Strip Field Office RMP) which states: “The Virgin River Corridor ACEC for protection of Virgin River fishes and threatened desert tortoise will be modified to include only the 100-year floodplain (approx. 2,065 acres). Boundary adjustments will eliminate areas outside of the 100-year floodplain previously included in the ACEC. Desert tortoise habitat previously included within this ACEC will be incorporated into and managed as a part of the Beaver Dam Slope or Virgin Slope ACEC. The Virgin River Corridor ACEC will then be managed for Virgin River fishes and riparian values only.”

SD-AC-10, (Arizona Strip Field Office RMP) which states: “The Black Knolls ACEC for the protection of endangered Holmgren milkvetch will be designated at 428 acres and include proposed critical habitat for the species”

SD-AC-11, (Arizona Strip Field Office RMP) which states: “The Kanab Creek ACEC for the protection of endangered SW flycatcher habitat and riparian, scenic, and cultural resources will be designated at 13,148 acres”

The nature of the proposed action (i.e. transferring existing grazing permits from one entity to another) is such that no impact is expected on significant cultural resources, southwestern willow flycatcher habitat, Virgin River fish habitat, riparian values, scenic values, or special status plants. This action is therefore in conformance with these decisions.

MA-GM-13, (Arizona Strip Field Office RMP) which states: “Portions of the following livestock grazing allotments with SW flycatcher habitat will be available for grazing during the non-growing season (leaf drop to bud break). Conservative grazing guidelines

will be used consistent with the SW flycatcher recovery plan. Monitoring will be used to ensure compliance with utilization levels and to determine actual growing season and livestock grazing will not be authorized later than April 15 in the following portions of identified livestock grazing allotments (see Special Status Species decisions):

- Clearwater portion (suitable habitat) of the Kanab Creek Allotment
- Clearwater portion (suitable habitat) of the Wildband Allotment.
- The river portions of the Lambing and Littlefield Allotments with SW flycatcher habitat.”

Permitted grazing would not be authorized later than 4/15 in these portions of the allotments; therefore the proposed action is in conformance with this RMP decision.

MA-TE-90, (Arizona Strip Field Office RMP) which states “Livestock will be excluded from suitable flycatcher habitat (whether occupied or unoccupied) during the growing season (bud break to leaf drop). This includes portions of the following allotments: the River Pasture of Lambing Allotment and Kanab Creek. Unsurveyed suitable habitat shall be considered occupied. If livestock are excluded using fencing, fencing shall be inspected and maintained annually. ...”

Grazing in the Lambing – Starvation Allotment would occur as described in this RMP decision.

**C: Compliance with NEPA:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, Appendix 5.4: D. (1) Approval of transfers of grazing preference.

The proposed action is simply to transfer the existing grazing preference from one entity to another. This categorical exclusion is therefore appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply, see Attachment 1.

**D: Signature**

Authorizing Official: /s/ Lorraine M. Christian Date: 3/21/11  
(Signature)

Name: Lorraine M. Christian  
Title: Arizona Strip Field Office Manager

Authorizing Official: /s/ Pam McAlpin Date: 3/24/2011  
(Signature)

Name: Pam McAlpin  
Title: Grand Canyon – Parashant Monument Manager

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Jacquilyn Roaque

Rangeland Management Specialist

BLM, Arizona Strip Field Office

345 East Riverside Drive

St. George, Utah 84790

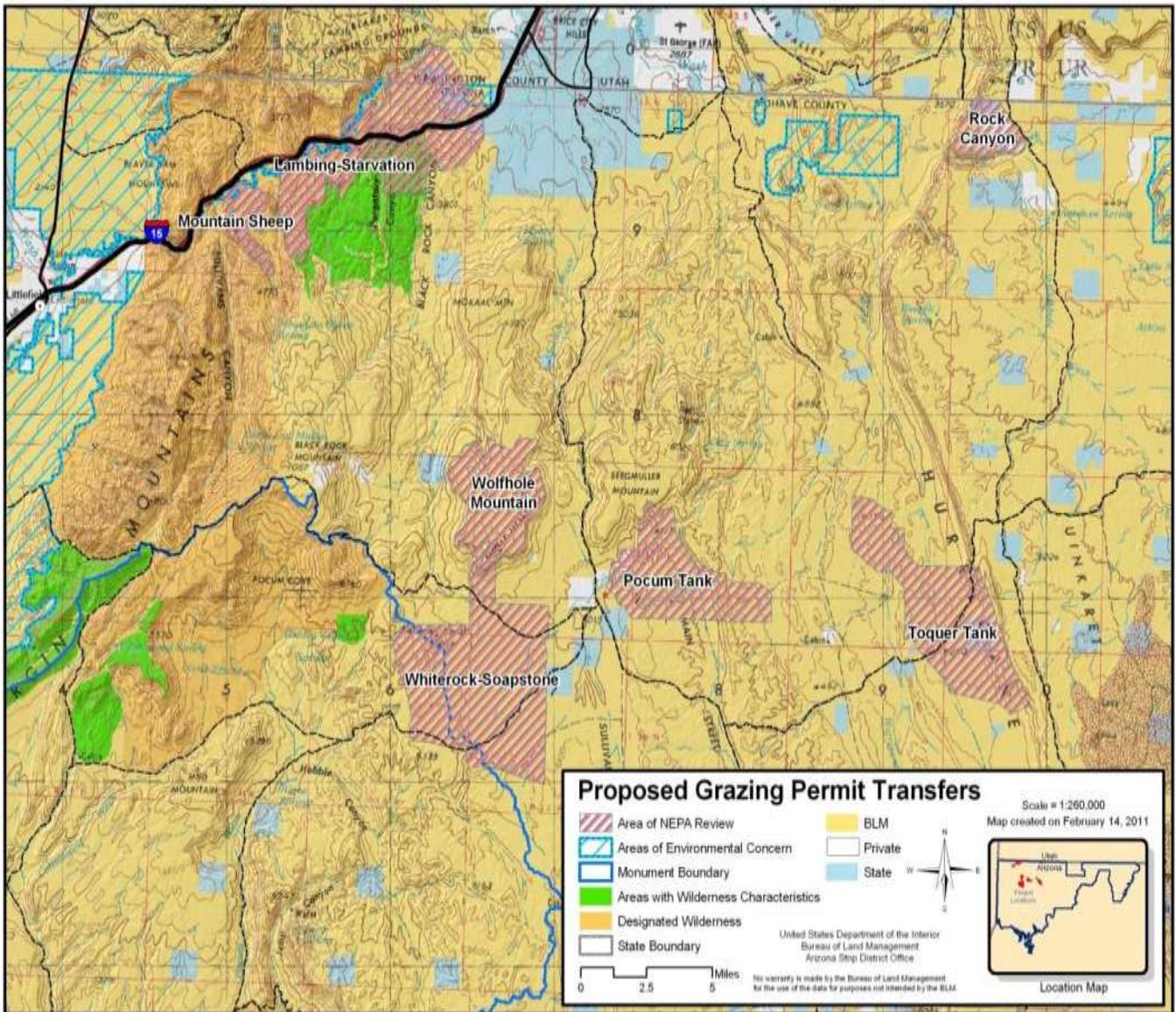
(435)688-3242

# Attachment 1

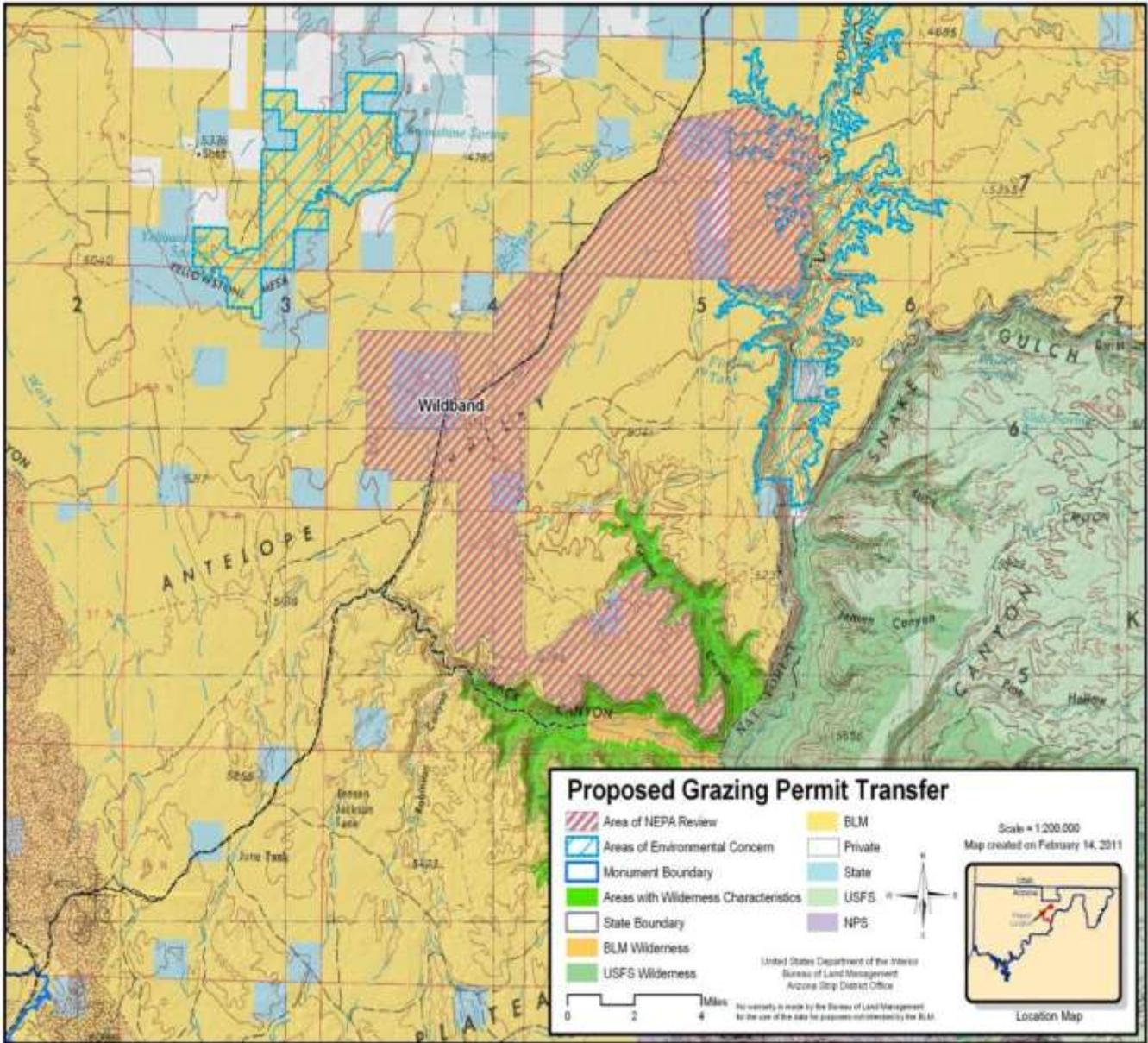
<b>EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES REVIEW AND CHECKLIST</b>		
<p>IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed below, and comment for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included where appropriate.</p>		
<b>EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES</b>	<b>YES/NO &amp; RATIONALE (If - Appropriate)</b>	<b>STAFF</b>
Does the proposed action...		
1. Have significant impacts on public health and safety?	No	JRoague
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	JHerron DHawks LChristian
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?	No	JRoague
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	JRoague
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	JRoague
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	JRoague
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?	No	JHerron
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	LChristian JRoague

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	JRoaque
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?	No	JRoaque
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?	No	GBenson
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	WBunting

# Attachment 2



# Attachment 3



# Attachment 4

