

APPENDIX G

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GILA DISTRICT
TUCSON FIELD OFFICE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

EA #: AZ-420-2007-014
Project Name: Middle Gila Canyons Area Transportation and Travel Management Plan

Project Location: Public lands administered by the BLM in the Tucson Field Office White Canyon Resource Conservation Area, in Pinal County, generally located in T2S R12E, T3S R11E, T3S R12E, T3S R13E, T4S R10E, T4S R11E, T4S R12E, T4S R13E, T5S R10E, T5S R11E, T5S R12E of the Gila & Salt River Principal Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona. The project area location is shown Map 1 and Map 2 of the proposed plan. The planning area is covered by the following USGS 7.5' quadrangles: Florence Junction, Picketpost Mountain, Superior, Florence NE, Mineral Mountain, Teapot Mountain, Hot Tamale Peak, Florence, Florence SE, North Butte, Grayback, Kearny, Cactus Forest, Ninetysix Hills NW, Ninetysix Hills NE.

A. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have reviewed the environmental assessment prepared for the proposed action, including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact on the human environment and therefore an EIS is not required pursuant Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan, as amended.

B. DECISION/RATIONALE

It is my decision to implement the proposed action to designate the area's BLM transportation system, establish specified use restrictions on use of motor vehicles, and provide corrective maintenance to improve drainage and control erosion. Specific management objectives, practices and guidelines are detailed in the proposed Transportation and Travel Management Plan.

The proposed action will accommodate foreseeable administrative access needs and public recreational use in the area, while protecting the natural and cultural resources on the public lands and reducing or minimizing potential conflicts with other uses.

C. MITIGATING MEASURES

Mitigating measures are incorporated in the proposed action, and no further measures are indicated. As land use changes over time, or as new resource information becomes available

through monitoring, adaptive management strategies will be employed to address changing conditions within the framework of the proposed action.

D. RESIDUAL IMPACTS

The main residual impacts include the continued existence of roads and trails in the planning area, and the continued use of the transportation system and associated activities on adjacent sites. The proposed action will result in an identified travel route system consisting of roads, primitive roads and trails to accommodate present and future uses. Loss of vegetation productivity on soils underlying the transportation system, covering approximately 476.7 acres, will continue for the life of the route system. Transportation related soil erosion and potential sediment input to the Gila River will be reduced. Fugitive dust from the transportation system will be reduced by reducing the mileage of official motorized routes, and by revegetation of closed routes.

Authorized Official: _____ Date: _____
Brian B. Bellew, Field Manager