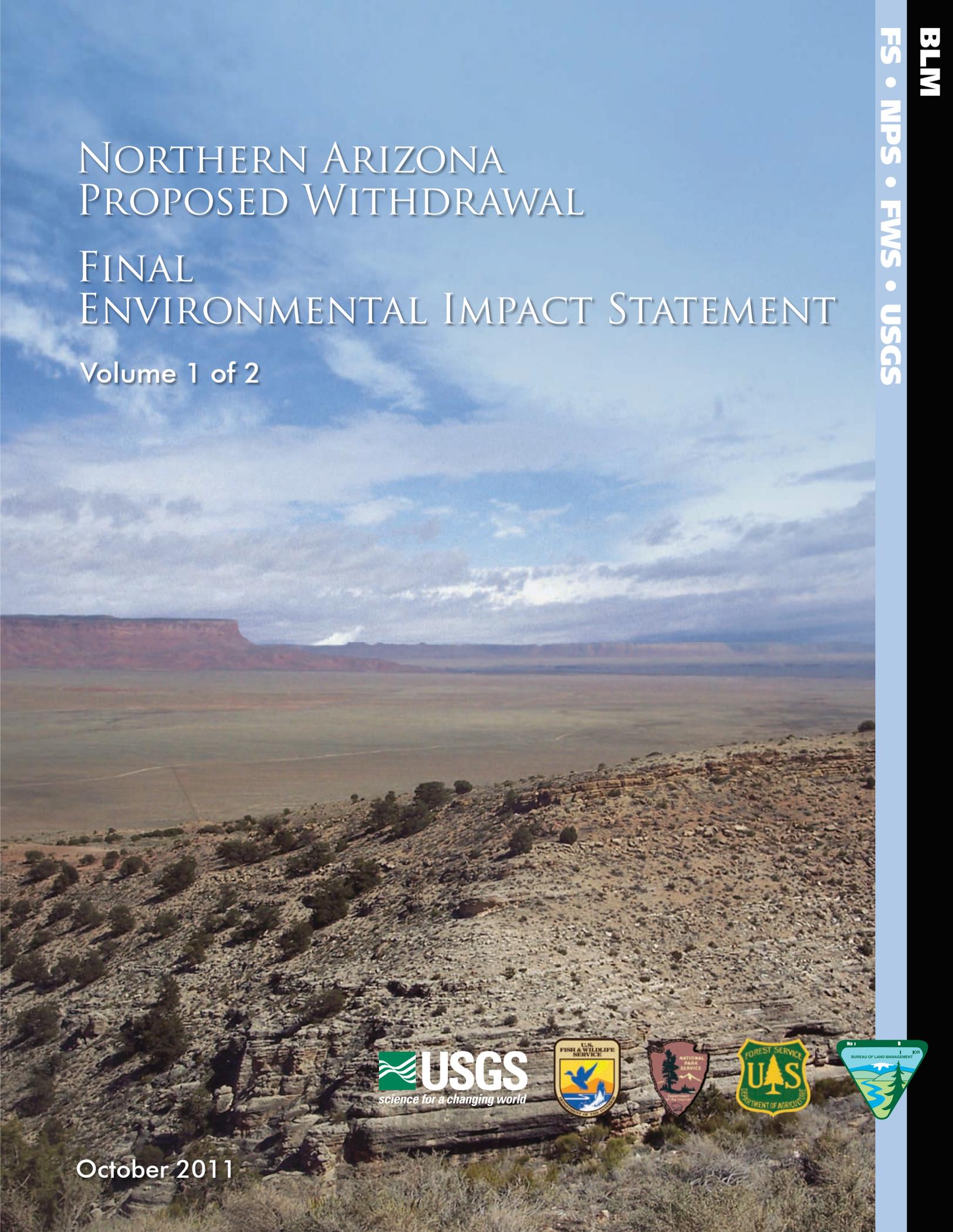


NORTHERN ARIZONA PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Volume 1 of 2



October 2011

MISSION STATEMENT

“The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for stewardship of our public lands. The BLM is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our Nation’s resources within the framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, rangelands, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness, air, and scenic quality, as well as scientific and cultural values.”

ABSTRACT

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents the analysis of potential environmental impacts of the Secretary of the Interior’s proposed 20-year withdrawal of approximately 1,006,545 acres of federal mineral estate in northern Arizona from the location and entry of new mining claims under the General Mining Law of 1872 [30 United States Code 22–54]. This federal mineral estate underlies approximately 626,678 of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Arizona Strip Field Office, 355,874 acres of National Forest System lands managed by the Kaibab National Forest, 4,204 acres administered by the Arizona State Land Department, and 19,789 acres of private land. The Notice of Intent to prepare this EIS was published in the Federal Register on August 26, 2009.

This Final EIS describes the physical, biological, cultural, historic, tribal, and socioeconomic resources in and around the proposed withdrawal parcels. The Final EIS considers the impacts of four alternatives, including changing the configuration and acreage of the withdrawals or not implementing the withdrawal (the “No Action” Alternative). The focus for the impact analysis was based on resource issues and concerns identified during public scoping conducted for the proposed withdrawal by BLM and other agency land managers and resource specialists. Public scoping identified concerns related to uranium exploration and development include impacts on surface and groundwater, cultural resources, air quality, wildlife, vegetation, recreation, wilderness areas, public health and safety, visual resources, and soundscapes. Other resource area concerns identified by the interdisciplinary team include tribal resources; social resources and economics; greenhouse gas emissions, ozone, and climate change; and cumulative impacts related to current uranium mining operations and other proposed development within and in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon watershed.