

# CHAPTER 5

## CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

During the preparation of the DEIS for the proposed Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment, the BLM consulted with and received input from various federal, state, and local agencies, elected representatives, non-governmental organizations, tribal governments and private individuals. This chapter summarizes the BLM's efforts to notify and involve potentially interested or affected parties of the proposed exchange and discusses environmental justice. Please see Chapter 7 for consultation and coordination since publication of DEIS.

### 5.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SCOPING

A Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment was developed, implemented and modified beginning in 1995 and amended as necessary. The objective of the PPP was to ensure notification of potentially interested parties of the proposed exchange/plan amendment, invite them to participate in the analysis process, and develop a list of scoping issues to be addressed in the EIS. The primary public scoping elements of the PPP are described below.

#### 5.2.1 Publication of Notices

**Notice of Intent.** The BLM submitted two Notices of Intent (NOI), to prepare an EIS, which were published in the *Federal Register* on December 19, 1994 and June 20, 1997. The NOIs identified the proposed action, lead federal agency, project proponent, third party EIS contractor, announced the dates and locations of public scoping meetings, and the BLM person to contact for more information.

**Notice of Exchange Proposal (NOEP).** A Notice of Exchange Proposal (NOEP) was published in the *Federal Register* on June 20, 1997, and in local newspapers in Gila, La Paz, Pinal and Mohave Counties. The NOEP announced the proposal for exchange of approximately 10,977 acres of selected lands for approximately 8,994 acres of offered lands<sup>54</sup>, provided legal descriptions for the selected and offered lands, and announced that the selected lands identified in the exchange have been segregated from appropriation for a period of five years under FLPMA. An NOEP was not published in late 1994 since another land package was not available at that time.

#### 5.2.2 News Release and Informational Mailing to Potentially Interested and/or Affected Parties

A mailing list of interested parties identified throughout the environmental review process was compiled from BLM files, county land ownership records, Asarco, attendance at public meetings and other sources. This has been updated regularly to include groups and individuals requesting information on the proposed land exchange. The mailing list includes private individuals, special interest groups, agencies, elected officials, and tribal governments. The list will be used to generate mailing labels and has fields that allow sorting for special uses (e.g., special mailing to agencies).

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<sup>54</sup> The total offered lands package published in the *Federal Register* was prior to appraisals. Since the appraisals, the offered lands package has decreased to 7,300 acres for parcels within Pinal and Mohave Counties.

Approximately four weeks prior to scheduled public meetings, mailings were sent out consisting of a Fact Sheet, map of the selected and offered lands locations, and schedule. An additional mailing has been sent to notify all interested parties regarding the Plan Amendment Criteria for the project (January 1998). Upon completion of the DEIS, mailings will be sent to notify all persons, groups, and agencies on the mailing list of the DEIS availability and of the schedule and locations of public meetings for the DEIS (Spring 1998). The public will be notified of these meetings in the same manner used for the scoping meetings. Appropriate mass media will be used to supplement mailings where necessary.

### 5.2.3 Coordination with State and Federal Agencies

Letters requesting scoping comments on the proposed exchange/plan amendment were sent in November 1994 and June 1997 to the state and federal agencies listed in Table 3-21. Eight out of the thirteen agencies listed in Table 5-1 responded.

Table 5-1. State and Federal Agencies Contacted for the Proposed Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment

State Agencies	Federal Agencies
Arizona Department of Agriculture & Horticulture	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Arizona Dept. of Mines and Mineral Resources	U.S. Geological Survey
Arizona Department of Transportation	U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Tonto National Forest
Arizona Game and Fish Department	U.S.D.I. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office	U.S.D.I. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona State Land Department	
Arizona State Parks Department	

Throughout the NEPA process, BLM will continue to coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the identification and treatment of cultural resources and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding potential impacts to threatened and endangered species.

### 5.2.4 Coordination with Tribal Governments

In 1995, twelve tribes were sent an initial consultation letter to request any concerns about the Ray Land Exchange, including traditional cultural properties and project issues. On June 20, 1997, tribal governments were sent a certified consultation letter regarding the Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment. The consultation letter requested comments on the proposed land exchange/plan amendment and listed the locations and times of scoping open houses. A copy of the NOEP was also sent with the consultation letter. Table 5-2 lists the tribal governments contacted for the Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment EIS.

Tribal governments and specific tribal individuals were also contacted in April 1998 as part of the EIS process to identify and evaluate traditional cultural properties. Twenty-five letters and copies of related reports were mailed with a 60-day request for comments. Two tribes, the San Carlos and Yavapai-Apache responded with a comment letter. The Tucson Field Office is in the process of re-contacting tribes for further discussions.

Table 5-2. Tribal Governments Contacted for the Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment

Ak-Chin Indian Community Council	<b>San Carlos Apache Tribe</b>
Colorado River Indian Tribes	Tohono O'Odham Tribe
Fort Mohave Tribe	Tonto Apache Tribe
Gila River Indian Community	White Mountain Apache Tribe
Pueblo of Zuni	<b>Yavapai-Apache Tribe</b>
Hualapai Tribe	Yavapai-Prescott Tribe
Hopi Tribe	
Ft. McDowell Mohave-Apache Tribal Council	
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community	

### 5.2.5 Public Scoping/Open House

Over one thousand scoping information pamphlets that described the proposed action were mailed by SWCA on behalf of the BLM to agencies, organizations, and interested individuals (Appendices A & B). The scoping period for the Ray Land Exchange was from December 19, 1994 to February 14, 1995 and the Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment scoping period was from June 20 to August 4, 1997. In addition to mailings, legal notices were published in the *Federal Register* as well as in other newspapers throughout Arizona.

During the Ray Land Exchange scoping period, two public open house meetings were held in Kearny and Mesa on January 30 and 31, 1995, respectively. During the Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment scoping period, three open house meetings were held in Kearny, Mesa and Kingman on July 21, 22 and 23, 1997. Open house meetings were advertised through publication of the NOI in the *Federal Register*, legal notices in local papers, and the informational mailer sent to interested parties. Fliers written in Spanish and English with scoping open house information were posted throughout the towns of Kearny, Winkelman, and Hayden. Open house participants were provided with a fact sheet and comment form. A total of 190 individuals attended the five open house meetings, each of which lasted four hours.

### 5.2.6 Public Outreach Activities

Public outreach activities included presentations by the project team to the Arizona Trails Stewards, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Congressional Staffs and to the Mohave County Public Land Use Committee. The informational fact sheets and comment sheets used for the public scoping meetings were made available at these meetings. All comments and questions raised during and after the presentations are included in this compilation of scoping issues.

## 5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

BLM has complied with Executive Order 12898 concerning Environmental Justice and will continue to accomplish notification of impact analysis through these activities: notifications at public meetings identified above involving distribution of meeting fliers in Spanish, notification to adjacent landowners; consultation with Native Americans, and news releases in local newspapers. Attempts to notify and involve low income and minority communities near the project areas will continue during the EIS process.

In reviewing the socioeconomics, water, air and the proposed access route, it was determined that potentially adverse impacts from the land exchange do not disproportionately affect Native Americans or the minority or low income groups.

# CHAPTER 6

## LIST OF PREPARERS

Responsibility	Name	Qualifications
U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment EIS Interdisciplinary Team		
Project Manager	Shela McFarlin	B.A. Anthropology, University of Kentucky M.A./Advanced Studies, Anthropology, Michigan State University 17 years BLM experience
Management Oversight	Jesse J. Juen	B.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Texas A&M University M.S. Wildlife Management, Texas Tech University 16 years BLM experience
	Bill Childress	B.S. Physical Geography, Arizona State University 14 years BLM experience
Arizona Exchange Team Leader	Bill Ruddick	Business Administration Studies, Crowder College, Arizona State University 18 years BLM experience
Wildlife Biology	Karen Simms	B.S. Zoology, University of California Davis M.S. Wildlife Biology, University of California Davis 10 years BLM experience
	Bob Hall	Wildlife and Range Management, Humbolt State University 20 years BLM experience
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Cultural Resources	Connie Stone	Ph.D Anthropology, Arizona State University 10 years BLM experience
	Don Simonis	M.A. Anthropology, Arizona State University 19 years BLM experience 22 years total experience
Range Management	Darrell Tersey	B.S. Wildlife Ecology, University of Arizona 6 years BLM experience 10 years US Forest Service experience 5 years Arizona State Lands Department experience
Recreation	Jack Ragsdale	B.S. Agriculture, University of Arizona 22 years BLM experience
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Ray Land Exchange/Plan Amendment EIS

Responsibility	Name	Qualifications
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	Joe Malys	A.A. Civil Engineering Technology, Phoenix College 12 years Civil Engineering Experience 3 years BLM experience
Hazmat Specialist	Robert Smith	B.S. Soil Science, University of Nevada, Reno 20 years BLM experience, 3 years SCS and 12 years HazMat experience
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Project Liaison: Kingman Field Office	Eddie Guerrero	B.S. Wildlife Biology, New Mexico State University 17 years BLM experience
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Responsibility	Name	Qualifications
Third Party NEPA Contractor SWCA Inc., Environmental Consultants		
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Responsibility	Name	Qualifications
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