

Appendix C

**Press Release Announcing Agua Fria National
Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area
Scoping Meetings**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 6, 2002

Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office To Sponsor Public Scoping Meetings on Agua Fria National Monument Resource Management Plan and Plan Revision for the Bradshaw Foothills-Harquahala Planning Area

The Bureau of Land Management's Phoenix Field Office (BLM) is planning ten public scoping meetings to provide the public an opportunity to learn more about the resource management planning process underway for the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw Foothills-Harquahala area. Meeting attendees are also invited to provide relevant questions and issues regarding the possible environmental and social effects of different management alternatives for the Federal lands within the two planning areas. The issues raised at these meetings and those issues provided to BLM during the comment period, which closes November 15, 2002, will be evaluated in an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Agua Fria National Monument management plan and Bradshaw Foothills-Harquahala Plan revision.

The Agua Fria National Monument, created by presidential proclamation, contains one of the most significant systems of late prehistoric sites in the American Southwest. Greater than 71,000 acres in size, the new Monument requires a Resource Management Plan (RMP) in order for the BLM to manage the land and resources properly. Additionally, the increased pressure on public lands for recreation, rights-of-way, mineral rights, and other purposes resulting from population increases in the areas surrounding Phoenix requires the BLM to readdress its land use plan decisions for the Bradshaw Foothills-Harquahala Planning Area. The scoping meeting locations, dates, and times are as follows:

- ◆ **Flagstaff:** Museum of Northern Arizona, Branigar/Chase Discovery Center, 3101 North Fort Valley Road - Saturday, September 28, 1-3 p.m.
- ◆ **Dewey-Humboldt-Spring Valley:** Mayer High School Gymnasium, 17300 E. Muledeer Drive, Spring Valley - Tuesday, October 1, 7-9 p.m.
- ◆ **Black Canyon City:** Black Canyon Community Center/Albins Civic Center, 19055 South K-Mine Road, Black Canyon City - Wednesday, October 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Yarnell:** Senior Citizens Center, 22302 South Highway 89, Yarnell - Thursday, October 3, 1:30-5 p.m.
- ◆ **Castle Hot Springs:** Champie Schoolhouse - Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m.-noon.
- ◆ **Buckeye:** Buckeye Community Center, 201 Center Avenue, Buckeye - Monday, October 7, 7-9 p.m.
- ◆ **Phoenix:** Paradise Valley Community Center, 17402 North 40th, Phoenix (40th & Bell) - Tuesday, October 8, 7-9 p.m.

- ♦ **Wickenburg:** Wickenburg Community Center, 120 North Valentine Street, Wickenburg - Wednesday, October 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- ♦ **Prescott-Prescott Valley-Chino Valley:** Yavapai College Performance Hall, Yavapai College, 1100 East Sheldon Street, Prescott - Monday, October 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- ♦ **Peoria:** Peoria Community Center, 8335 West Jefferson, (2 blocks south of Peoria Avenue on 83rd), Peoria - Wednesday, October 16, 7-9 p.m.

During the summer and early fall of 2002, BLM held numerous informal community meetings to begin discussing the RMP planning process and to determine appropriate locations for the upcoming scoping meetings. Based on the feedback provided during these discussions, BLM has designed the upcoming scoping meetings to include an overview of the need for the project, the planning process, and the anticipated timeline. Most importantly, the meetings provide the public an opportunity to inform BLM of what issues and concerns need to be addressed in the EIS. Based on the input received, BLM will develop a range of potential management alternatives.

To send written comments and/or obtain further information, please contact:

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