

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Draft Goals and Objectives for Transportation and Access

June 30, 2004



Presentation Overview

- Brief Summary of June 23, 2004 Workshop
- Tonight's technical presentation by:
 - Francisco Mendoza (BLM), Transportation and Access
- Brief overview of draft goals for transportation and access
- Break-Out Groups



June 23, 2004 Workshop

- Provided an overview of June 16, 2004 workshop, which covered the draft goals and objectives for Soils, Water, Watersheds, Air Quality, Geology and Minerals
- On June 23, presentations by Francisco Mendoza (BLM) on Recreation and Randall Simpson (URS) on Visual Resources
- Gathered public input on the draft goals and objectives for Recreation and Visual Resources



Francisco Mendoza, BLM Transportation and Access



Basic Laws and Regulations

Federal

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act
 - Authorizes the BLM to grant right-of-way for transportation
- Executive Order 11644 and 43 CFR 8340
 - Require designation of specific areas where off-highway vehicle (OHV) use would be permitted or prohibited
 - Designations of open, limited, and closed

State

- Arizona State Land Department requires right-of-way or permit to cross State Trust Land
- About one-third of the total inventoried route system in the Planning Area are across State Trust Land



BLM's Current Management

Bureau-wide

- Policy for road standards and steps for transportation plan development
- Roads may be built, improved, closed or use-restricted to meet resource management objectives

Monument Proclamation

- Requires BLM to:
 - “prohibit all motorized and mechanized vehicle use off road, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes”
 - “prepare a transportation plan that addresses the actions, including road closures or travel restrictions, necessary to protect the objects identified in this proclamation”



BLM's Current Management

(continued)

Decisions from the 1989 Resource Management Plan (RMP)

- A transportation plan was not developed.
- Motorized vehicles are limited to designated roads and trails in the Waterman Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Santa Ana del Cuiquiburitac Cultural Management Area and 800 acres around Ragged Top are closed to motorized vehicles



Key Elements of the Transportation Plan

Planning Components

Inventory

- Current physical network, route conditions, etc.

Access Needs

- Administrative, inholdings, authorized uses, public uses, easements, rights of way

Construction/Reconstruction/Improvement Needs

- Safety, resource protection

Obliteration/Rehabilitation Needs



Key Elements of the Transportation Plan

(continued)

Use Restrictions

(designations under 43CFR8340 or 43CFR8364.1):

- Numbers of vehicles; types of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; and other restrictions



Current Resource Condition

Travel Routes

- An inventory was completed as part of a University of Arizona study in February 2004
- Most roads within IFNM are primitive, non-4WD roads
- Most traffic occurs along the Waterman and East Silverbell Mountain areas
- Most routes are in fair to good condition
- Some routes have been established by use since the 1989 RMP



Current Resource Condition

(continued)

Off-road Travel

- Some use occurs – inventories from University of Arizona and Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum identify those use areas
- Wash running is an issue to be addressed in the upcoming RMP and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



Current Resource Condition

(continued)

Air Transportation and Airspace

- BLM does not have the authority to regulate airspace, but potential effects of air transportation may be considered in RMP decisions and the EIS, as appropriate
- Military facilities are located in the area, and overflights occur over IFNM
- El Tiro Gliderport is located off El Tiro Road
- Ultra light airport near Manville Road entrance



Route Designation Process

- As part of the planning process, routes and areas will be designated as open, limited, or closed to vehicular access in accordance with BLM policy and federal regulations and the Proclamation
- The route selection process will involve public input.



Interaction with Other Resources

- The provision of safe access to and through IFNM facilitates various land uses
- Opening access to an area may promote resource degradation as it comes into active use (i.e., vegetation loss, impacts to wildlife, changes in noise levels and visual setting)
- Road development or use restrictions on routes are tools to achieve other resource objectives
- The transportation plan is aimed at accommodating the various uses, activities, and resource management objectives.



Draft Goals – Transportation

- Provide adequate legal access for administrative purposes and public use.
- Implement a comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management System that designates routes for motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized recreation.



Break-out Groups

- Review the draft goals and objectives for transportation and access.
- Make your comments most effective by being specific.
- Reconvene following break-outs to hear ideas from other groups.



General Comments or Questions?



Carol Wirth, URS

Social and Economic Aspects of Planning



Basic Laws and Regulations

Federal

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)
 - Consider relative values of resources
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Consider effects on human environment
- Executive Order 12898
 - Environmental Justice
 - Identify and address disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority and low-income populations



BLM Policy

Bureau-wide

- BLM manages resources, not economic development or community infrastructure
- RMP decisions are inter-related with social and economic conditions
- Historically, a low level of emphasis was placed on social and economic analysis, but there has been increasing emphasis
- Public demand for meaningful social and economic analyses



Integration of Social and Economic Concerns into IFNM Goals and Objectives

- No specific social or economic goals or objectives
- Resource goals and objectives
 - Livestock Grazing
 - Mining
 - Recreation
 - Transportation and Access
 - Cultural Resources
 - Human values for natural resources

