



U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona State Office

Yuma District Office

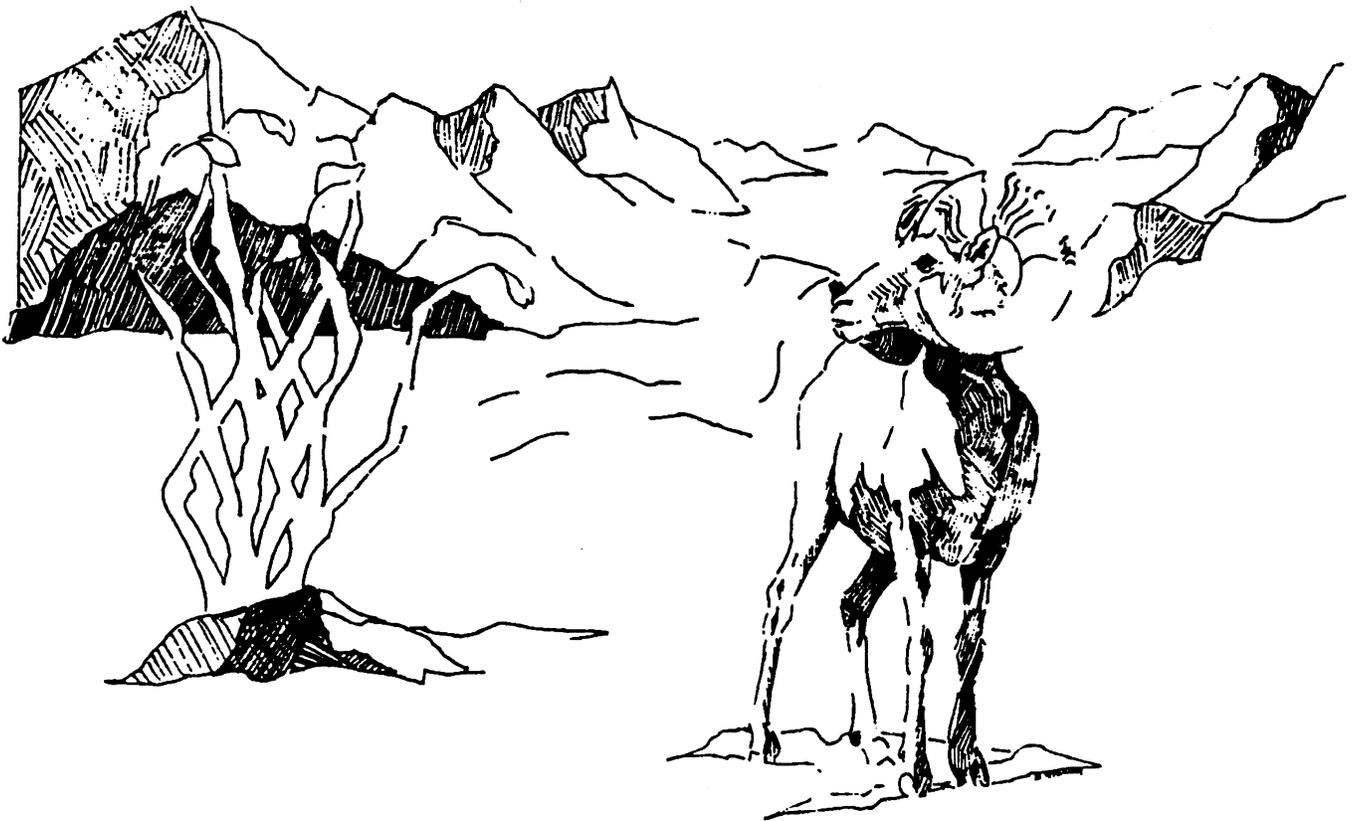
March 1996



FINAL

Yuma District (Lands)

Resource Management Plan Amendment



The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of the public lands and resources and their various values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use sustained yield; a combination of uses that take into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness and natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.

BLM/AZ/PL-96/004



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE
3150 WINSOR AVENUE
YUMA, ARIZONA 85365



IN REPLY REFER TO:

1610.5-5 (050)

Dear Reader:

The document accompanying this letter is the Yuma District (Lands) Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment analyzes the impacts expected from implementing the proposed Amendment. The Amendment, if approved, will enable the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to improve the way it does business by being able to process land disposal and acquisition requests in a more timely manner.

The Bureau's planning process includes an opportunity for administrative review via a plan protest to the BLM Director, should a reader believe that approval of the proposed Resource Management Plan would be in error (see 43 CFR 1610.5-2.). Careful adherence to these guidelines will assist in preparing a protest assuring the greatest consideration to each point of view.

Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process leading to this proposed Amendment may protest. If Yuma District records do not indicate any involvement in any stage of the preparation of this Amendment, the protest will be dismissed without further review.

A protesting party may raise only those issues that he or she submitted for the record during the planning process. New issues raised in the protest period should be directed to the Yuma District Manager for consideration in future plan amendments or as otherwise appropriate.

The 30-day protest period begins when the Notice of Availability is published in the *Federal Register* for the Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment. There is no provision for any extension of time. To be considered "timely," a protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Also, although not a requirement, we suggest that protests be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Protests must be filed in writing to:

Director (480)
Bureau of Land Management
Resource Planning Team
Box 10
1620 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

In order to be considered complete, each protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of this proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, maps, etc., included in this document.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director's decision is believed to be incorrect. *This is a critical part of the protest.* Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, or available planning records (i.e., meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc). A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the Arizona State Director's proposed decision without any data will not provide the benefit of this information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

We in the Yuma District thank all who participated in this planning process and contributed to the development of this document. Your help and cooperation have been valuable in resolving natural resource management issues in the Yuma District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith I. Reed". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Judith I. Reed
District Manager

YUMA DISTRICT
(Lands)
Resource Management Plan Amendment and
Environmental Assessment

Draft () Final (X)

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

1. Type of Action: Administrative (X) Legislative ()

2. Abstract: This Yuma District (Lands) Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment describes and analyzes alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, for improving the management of the public lands and resources in the Yuma District, Arizona.

3. Comments were requested from the individuals, groups and agencies listed in Chapter V.

4. For further information contact:

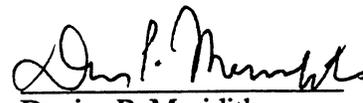
Brenda Smith
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
3150 Winsor Avenue
Yuma, Arizona 85365
(520) 726-6300

5. Protests must be filed with the Director (480) and postmarked within 30 days of the date of publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.

Recommended by:


Judith I. Reed
District Manager
Yuma District Office

Approved by:


Denise P. Meridith
State Director
Arizona State Office

**YUMA DISTRICT (LANDS)
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office**

EA-AZ-050-96-024

March 1996

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SUMMARY

This document discusses two alternatives that resolve a planning issue in the Yuma District. The preferred alternative is to amend the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (RMP) to give the Yuma District more flexibility to consider requests for disposals and acquisitions involving parcels that have not previously been specifically identified in land use plans. Lands considered for acquisition or disposal would serve certain purposes. Additionally, lands considered for disposal would be evaluated based on criteria including public resource values or concerns, accessibility, investment in facilities or improvements, manageability, and other factors.

The alternative to the proposed Amendment is no action.

Environmental consequences from implementing the preferred alternative would generally be beneficial because the amendment would give the Yuma District more flexibility to consider requests for disposals and acquisitions involving parcels that have not been specifically identified in the RMP. There would be no immediate or direct significant adverse impacts. Indirect adverse impacts associated with the preferred alternative could occur, depending on site-specific proposals. These could involve a possible loss of Federal protection for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural resources, wetlands and riparian zones, wildlife habitat, or threatened or endangered species habitat due to land disposals. Beneficial impacts could result from land acquisition actions and subsequent Federal protection for these resources. There may also be indirect adverse impacts to County governments from the loss of tax revenues as a result of land acquisitions. However, *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* compliance documentation must be completed before site-specific disposal and acquisition actions can be approved. All actions must also be in compliance with other pertinent legislation and regulations including the *Endangered Species Act* and the *National Historic Preservation Act*. Mitigation measures would be required to alleviate adverse effects.

BACKGROUND

There have been five previous Amendments to the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (BLM 1985). These were considered routine and noncontroversial by District management. According to Bureau of Land Management policy, each was subjected to an environmental assessment in compliance with the Council on Environmental Quality requirements for implementation of the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*. Findings of No Significant Impact were filed with the environmental assessments, and after a 30-day public review and protest period, decision records were signed by the State Director.

In December 1991, the Phoenix, Safford and Yuma Districts realigned their boundaries in order to improve the management of BLM-administered lands in Arizona. Yuma District received approximately 1.2 million acres from the Phoenix District. Although currently administered by Yuma District, management of these transferred lands is guided by the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (MFP) (March 1983), the Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan, as amended (June 1988), or the Kingman Resource Management Plan (March 1995).

In September 1995, the appropriate decisions from the Phoenix District planning documents were incorporated into the Yuma District RMP, through an Administrative Determination, in order to create a single, comprehensive planning document for the Yuma District.

This document combines a Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment. The Proposed Amendment details the changes to the RMP that are under consideration. The Environmental Assessment analyzes the environmental consequences of amending the Yuma District RMP. Combining documents to reduce duplication and improve efficiency is consistent with Council on Environmental Quality regulations and Bureau of Land Management policy.

A Notice of Intent to prepare the RMP Amendment was published in the *Federal Register* on November 6, 1995. Letters informing the public of the proposed amendment were distributed to the Resource Management Plan mailing list; comments were accepted for a 30-day period. Local media were also informed.

A Finding of No Significant Impact is attached. The finding is documentation that implementation of the preferred action examined in the Environmental Assessment would not have significant adverse environmental impacts.

The Finding of No Significant Impact, this Environmental Assessment, and other appropriate materials will be considered by the State Director before the Record of Decision is signed. The Record of Decision will not be issued for at least 30 days, allowing the public opportunity to formally protest approval of this Amendment (see the protest instructions in the cover letter).

The Amendment process complies with the 1983 BLM Planning Regulations that specify procedures that must be followed before a Resource Management Plan can be changed (43 CFR 1610.5-5). The Environmental Assessment represents the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* compliance documentation required by Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500).

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Need

As indicated in the Approved Yuma District RMP, any change in circumstances or conditions affecting the scope, terms, or provisions of the RMP could trigger an Amendment (Approved Plan, Page 3). Changes are needed in the RMP guidelines for land ownership adjustments. These are discussed below.

B. Plan Amendment Issues

The Yuma District RMP states that public lands within the District will be retained in Federal ownership unless specifically identified for disposal. Acquisitions are also restricted to lands specifically identified, except when an exchange is involved. The District is missing land tenure adjustment opportunities because of the narrow guidance and age of the existing RMP decisions. An amendment is needed to give the Yuma District more flexibility to consider requests for disposals and acquisitions involving parcels that have not previously been specifically identified in land use plans.

C. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, and Other Plans

This proposed Amendment is consistent with the goals and objectives of other Federal, State, and local plans and policies that affect the planning area.

Informal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been completed for the proposed Amendment. Results of this consultation have been incorporated into this final plan, and the Service has concurred that this proposal would not affect any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.

D. Availability of Planning Documents

Copies of the Approved Yuma District RMP and other documents relevant to this Plan Amendment are available for review in the Yuma District Office (3150 South Winsor Avenue, Yuma, Arizona 85365) and the Havasu Resource Area Office (3189 Sweetwater Avenue, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403).

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

There are two alternatives considered in this document, the proposed action and no action. The alternatives were developed to resolve issues and management concerns that have appeared since the Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Records of Decision (May 1986, February 1987) and the Approved Yuma District Resource Management Plan (1987) were issued. The proposed action alternative is the BLMs preferred alternative.

A. Proposed Action Alternative

The appropriate General Management Guidance portions of the Yuma District, Lower Gila South and Kingman RMPs, and the Lower Gila North MFP would be revised to incorporate the following provisions. These changes would apply only to lands administered by the Yuma District.

1. Disposals

Under these sections, all text requiring lands to be specifically identified for disposal would be replaced with:

"All land disposal actions are discretionary. Exchange is the preferred method of disposal in order to assure an optimum final land ownership pattern and provide better overall land management. Sales will be considered where more efficient. Disposal of these lands will be made on a case-by-case basis, and will be accomplished by the most appropriate disposal authority.

"All lands considered for disposal must meet one or more of the criteria outlined in Section 203(a) of the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act*. These are lands that are difficult or uneconomic to manage; lands acquired for a specific purpose, but no longer required for that or another Federal purpose; or lands that will serve important public objectives, including, but not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development, and that outweigh other public objectives and values.

"Disposal lands will serve the purposes of: 1) community expansion and economic development; 2) local governmental needs; or 3) to facilitate Federal land management and minimize BLM administrative costs. Site-specific decisions regarding land ownership adjustments in the District will be made based largely on consideration of the following criteria through the environmental analysis process. This process must be in compliance with the *National Environmental Policy Act*, the *Endangered Species Act*, the *National Historic Preservation Act*, and other applicable legislation prior to the approval of any lands action.

"Yuma District policy is to not dispose of lands occupied by listed or proposed threatened or endangered species. If other public uses outweigh the value of a parcel as Federally-owned threatened or endangered species habitat, disposal may be considered on a case-by-case basis. In this instance, consultation or conferencing with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the *Endangered Species Act*

will be required. Exchange for other parcels of habitat will be encouraged. Compensation for loss of habitat value will be required where a compensation policy exists. Other mitigation may also be required.

"The following criteria list is not considered all-inclusive but represents the major factors to be evaluated when considering disposal actions.

a. Public resource values or concerns, including but not limited to: threatened, endangered or sensitive species habitat; riparian areas; floodplains and wetlands; fisheries; nesting/breeding habitat for game birds or animals; key big game seasonal habitat; wild horse and burro habitat; developed recreation and recreation access sites; municipal watersheds; energy and mineral potential; visual resources; cultural resources; cultural resource sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; wilderness and areas being studied for wilderness; and other statutory-authorized designations.

b. Accessibility of the land for public uses.

c. Amount of public investments in facilities or improvements (i.e., range improvements, wildlife projects, etc.) and the potential for recovering those investments.

d. Difficulty or cost of administration (manageability).

e. Significance of the decision in stabilizing business, social and economic conditions, and/or lifestyles.

f. Encumbrances or conflicts of record; consistency of the decision with cooperative agreements and plans or policies of other agencies.

g. Suitability and need for change in land ownership or use for purposes including but not limited to community expansion, such as industrial, residential or agricultural (other than grazing) development."

2. Acquisitions

Under Acquisitions, replace the current text with:

"Land acquisitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis through exchange, purchase, or donation. Lands to be acquired must either: a) facilitate access to public lands and resources; b) provide resource protection; c) facilitate implementation of the RMP/MFP; d) provide for a more manageable land ownership pattern; or e) maintain or enhance public uses and values."

The current text under Specific Management Guidance would not change. The areas currently identified for disposal and acquisition would not change.

B. No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, there would be a continuation of current planning guidance that requires that lands be specifically identified for disposal or acquisition before requests for such actions can be processed. No disposals or acquisitions would occur without an amendment to the appropriate land use plan.

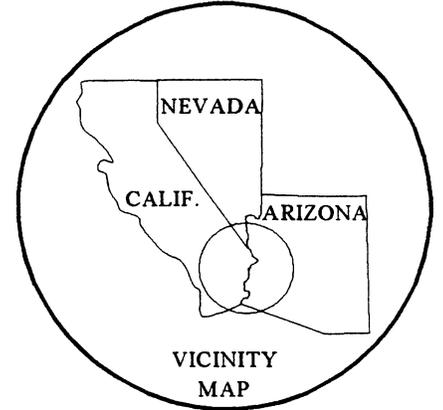
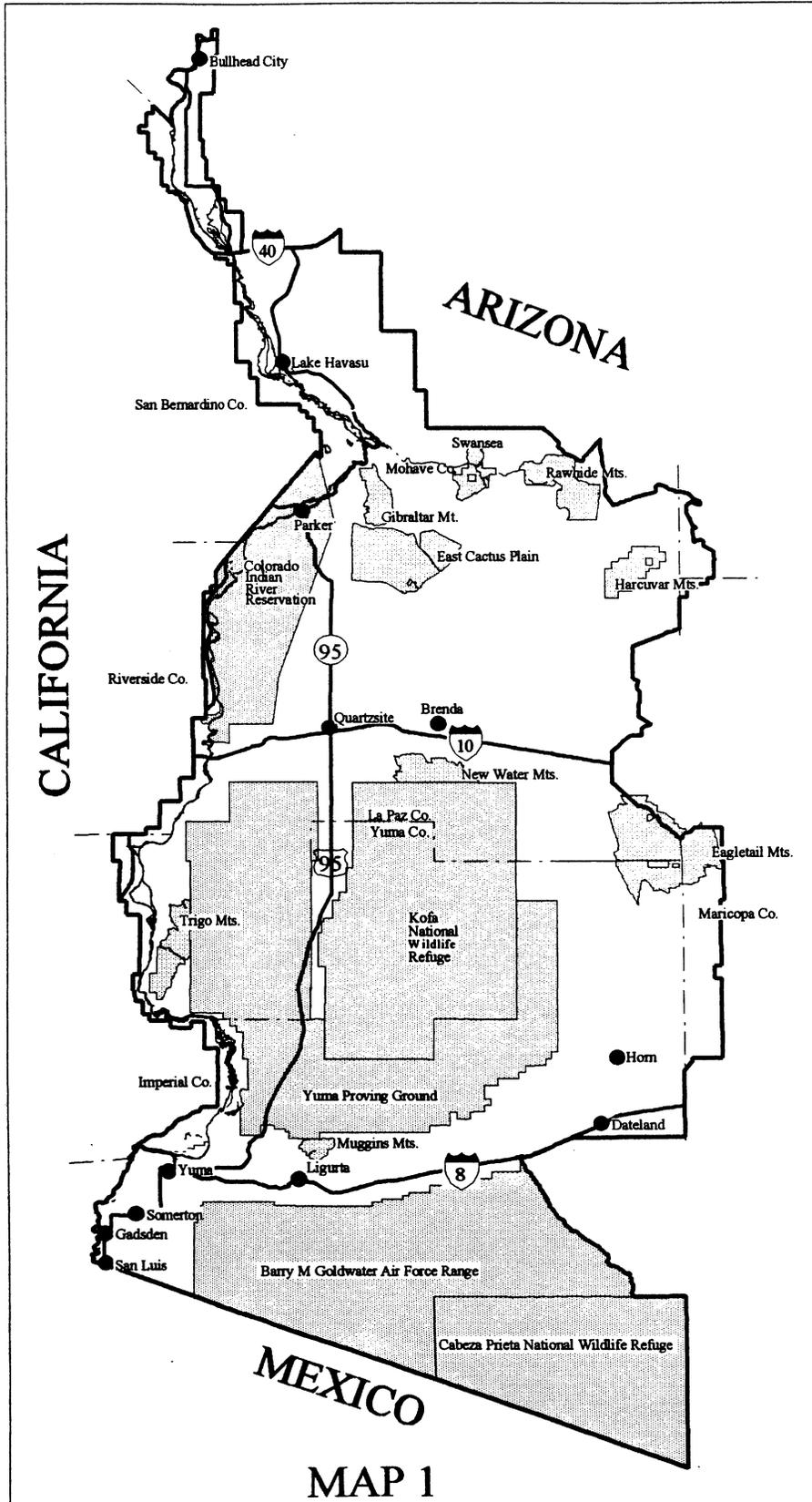
III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The affected environment for the proposed Plan Amendment, which includes the entire Yuma District, is described in Chapter 3 of the Final Yuma District Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (BLM 1985a), the Final Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (BLM 1985b), and the Proposed Kingman Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (BLM 1993). These sections are hereby incorporated by

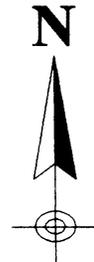
reference. These documents are available for public review at the Yuma District and Havasu Resource Area offices.

The District comprises approximately 2.5 million acres of public land located in portions of Maricopa, La Paz, Mohave, Yavapai, and Yuma Counties in Arizona, and Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties in California (see Map 1).

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT YUMA DISTRICT



--- COUNTY LINE
 [Hatched Box] WILDERNESS AREA



UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE
 APRIL 1995



IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. Introduction

Approval of the proposed action would constitute a determination that amending the RMP to incorporate the proposed changes in guidance is appropriate and consistent with sound land use planning and long-term Bureau management goals for the District. Approval of the proposed action would be the first step of a two-step process. The second step involves actual evaluation of site-specific proposals consistent with the amended plan. The details and impacts of proposed actions would be analyzed in site-specific environmental reviews, which are subject to full public involvement. Each environmental review would contain an analysis of impacts from the proposed action and a reasonable range of alternatives, including a no action alternative, with appropriate mitigation to avoid adverse impacts.

Amending the RMP would not in itself result in any environmental impacts because only management guidance in the plan would be changed. The following analysis is a general discussion of the possible impacts anticipated from these subsequent actions. The specific impacts would depend on the specific land parcel(s) being disposed of or acquired. The purpose is to provide the public and the decision maker with an adequate general understanding of possible impacts to allow an informed decision.

Impacts from the proposed action would be similar to those discussed in Chapter 4 of the Final Yuma District, Final Lower Gila

South, and Proposed Kingman RMPs. The main difference between existing management guidance for the lands program and what is being proposed is that under the preferred alternative, most of the District would be open to consideration for disposal and acquisition requests.

Certain lands have been excluded from disposal through the planning process or Congressional action. Excluded from disposal are 332,160 acres of priority wildlife habitat as identified in the Yuma District RMP. Priority wildlife habitat is located within the area managed by Yuma District prior to the 1991 boundary change and includes riparian areas along the Colorado, Bill Williams, and Gila Rivers; bighorn sheep yearlong use areas and one migration corridor; and Category I and II desert tortoise habitat. Lands in or adjacent to the floodplain within the old Yuma District boundary will be retained in Federal ownership. Lands that have been withdrawn from appropriation under the public land laws are excluded from disposal. Lands within designated wilderness areas, designated wild and scenic rivers, and rivers determined eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System and under protective management prescriptions will also be retained in Federal ownership.

B. Impacts of the Proposed Action

The following critical elements have been analyzed and would not be affected by the proposed action:

- Air Quality
- Floodplains
- Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
- Water Quality-Drinking/Ground
- Wild and Scenic Rivers

1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Disposal of lands within Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) would occur only if an environmental analysis found this action to be consistent with the goals and objectives for which these lands were designated.

Acquisition of private or state land within ACECs would improve the manageability of these areas and protect their unique values.

2. Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns

Disposing of public land would remove cultural resources and Traditional Cultural Properties from the management, guidance, and protection provided by Federal laws and regulations. Cultural resources and Traditional Cultural Properties would no longer be protected by the *Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979* as amended, the *American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978*, or the *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990*. However, some cultural resources and Traditional Cultural Properties have been allocated to Use Categories that preclude them from disposal. Prior to the approval of any disposal action, compliance with the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* as amended, and its implementing

regulations (36 CFR 800), would ensure the identification and consideration of cultural resources or Traditional Cultural Properties present. Impacts from disposal would be mitigated by plans developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, affected tribes, and interested publics.

On acquired lands, cultural resources and Traditional Cultural Properties would be managed through BLM 8100 Manual guidance and come under the protection of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* as amended, *Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979* as amended, and other applicable legislation.

3. Farmlands (Prime or Unique)

The Yuma District RMP states that agricultural lands outside the levee along the Colorado River will be retained in Federal ownership. Following further analysis, including delineation of the 100-year floodplain, disposal of some of these lands could occur. Disposal of leased agricultural lands could result in the lands continuing to be used for agricultural purposes or being converted to some other use.

Acquisition of agricultural lands could continue their use under a lease agreement or could convert these lands to uses that would benefit other programs carried out by BLM.

4. Wetlands/Riparian Zones

Riparian and wetland habitat within the old Yuma District boundary is excluded from disposal. Outside of this boundary,

disposal of land with wetland or riparian habitat could occur, if consistent with BLM riparian area management policy. This policy calls for retaining riparian areas in public ownership unless disposal would be in the public interest, as determined through the planning process. Prior to the approval of any disposal action, environmental documentation would be completed.

Acquiring lands within wetland or riparian zones would provide Federal protection and management opportunities for these areas.

5. Wildlife and Threatened or Endangered Species

The Yuma District RMP, as amended, excludes the disposal of priority wildlife habitat. In addition to wetland and riparian habitat, priority wildlife habitat includes desert tortoise category 1 and 2 habitat and certain bighorn sheep habitat within the pre-1991 Yuma District boundary. BLM policy for special status species management calls for retaining in Federal ownership all habitat essential for the survival or recovery of any threatened or endangered species, including habitat used historically by these species. However, certain land disposal actions could negatively impact wildlife habitat or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species protected under the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*, as amended. Prior to the approval of any disposal action, environmental compliance documentation would be completed. Consultation or conferencing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be required to determine the extent of impacts to listed or

proposed threatened or endangered species and any required mitigation measures to reduce these impacts.

Land acquisitions could positively affect wildlife by bringing under Federal protection high value habitat such as riparian areas, flat-tailed horned lizard habitat, and desert tortoise Category I or II habitat.

6. Wilderness

Lands within designated wilderness are precluded from disposal.

Acquisition of lands within or adjacent to wilderness would improve the manageability of these areas. Acquired lands within wilderness areas would be managed for their wilderness values. Lands acquired adjacent to wilderness would improve public access and maintain ongoing public use of these areas.

7. Socioeconomics

The flexibility to consider requests for land disposals and acquisitions involving any parcel in the District would shorten the time necessary for BLM to process these actions. Disposals would have beneficial impacts to counties by helping to satisfy community urban-suburban expansion needs, and by increasing their taxable land bases. Management of the lands resource, both public and private, would be enhanced by disposing of Federal land now intermingled with private lands.

Acquisitions could adversely affect counties by removing lands from their taxable bases.

C. Impacts of the No Action Alternative

1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Under the no action alternative, previously identified parcels could be acquired and the impacts to ACECs from these actions would be the same as those described under the proposed action. The opportunity to acquire parcels not previously identified for acquisition could be delayed or lost because of the need to complete a land use plan amendment prior to an acquisition action.

2. Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns

Previously identified parcels could still be disposed of or acquired under this alternative, and the impacts to cultural resources and Native American religious concerns from these actions would be the same as those described under the proposed action. The opportunity to acquire parcels not previously identified for acquisition could be delayed or lost because of the need to complete a land use plan amendment prior to an acquisition action.

3. Farmlands (Prime or Unique)

Previously identified parcels could still be disposed of or acquired under this alternative, and the impacts to farmlands from these actions would be the same as those described under the proposed action. The opportunity to dispose of or acquire parcels not previously identified for disposal or acquisition could be delayed or

lost because of the need to complete a land use plan amendment prior to any land tenure adjustment.

4. Wetlands/Riparian Zones

Previously identified parcels could still be acquired under this alternative, and the impacts to wetlands or riparian zones from these actions would be the same as those described under the proposed action. The opportunity to acquire parcels not previously identified for acquisition could be delayed or lost because of the need to complete a land use plan amendment prior to an acquisition action.

5. Wildlife and Threatened or Endangered Species

Previously identified parcels could still be disposed of or acquired under this alternative, and the impacts to wildlife and threatened or endangered species from these actions would be the same as those described under the proposed action. The opportunity to acquire parcels not previously identified for acquisition could be delayed or lost because of the need to complete a land use plan amendment prior to an acquisition action.

6. Wilderness

Previously identified parcels could still be acquired under this alternative, and the impacts to wilderness from these actions would be the same as those described under the proposed action. The opportunity to acquire parcels not previously identified for acquisition could be delayed or lost because of the need to

complete a land use plan amendment prior to an acquisition action.

7. Socioeconomics

Opportunities for land tenure adjustments could be lost or delayed by the need to amend the land use plan if a parcel in a request has not been specifically identified for disposal or acquisition. The Bureau's responsiveness to the public would also be reduced in these cases.

D. Cumulative Impacts

According to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1508.7), "cumulative impact" is the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Cumulative impacts related to the implementation of this amendment were analyzed and none are anticipated.

E. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Amending the RMP would not entail any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources. Future disposal actions conducted in accordance with this amendment could include a loss of Federal protection for ACECs, cultural resources, wetlands or riparian zones, or wildlife and threatened or endangered species habitat on lands transferred out of Federal ownership.

F. Relationship of Short-Term Use to the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

The short-term action of disposing of parcels of Federal lands could have adverse long-term effects on ACECs, cultural resources, wetlands or riparian zones, or wildlife and threatened or endangered species habitat.

Short-term actions to acquire State and private lands could have long-term benefits by bringing parcels under Federal protection for wilderness or other special designation management, and protecting resource values such as cultural, wildlife and threatened or endangered species, and riparian.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. Participating Staff

Bureau of Land Management, Yuma
District Office:

- Brenda Smith, Renewable Resources Advisor

Bureau of Land Management, Havasu
Resource Area:

- William J. Liebhauser, Area Manager
- Aline La Forge, Archaeologist

Bureau of Land Management, Yuma
Resource Area:

- Joy Gilbert, Area Manager
- Patricia Boykin, Supervisory Lands and Minerals Specialist
- David Curtis, Realty Specialist
- Deborah DeBock, Realty Specialist

B. Public Notification and Scoping

A Notice of Intent to amend the Yuma District RMP was published in the *Federal Register* on November 6, 1995. Public issues and concerns were also solicited through news releases and direct mailings.

A Notice of Availability for the Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment was also published in the *Federal Register*.

Press releases regarding the availability of the Amendment/Environmental Assessment were distributed to local media sources. Letters were sent to approximately 500 organizations, agencies, and individuals on the distribution list for the Yuma District Resource Management Plan Amendment advising them of the availability of the document.

C. Environmental Justice

In accordance with Presidential Executive Order No. 12898, "Environmental Justice", Federal agencies and many State governments, as well as public and private corporations, are required to minimize the disproportionate negative impacts of environmentally related decisions on minority and low income communities. An integral part of the scoping process noted above was to identify environmental justice issues relating to the social, cultural, and economic conditions and health of minorities and low income groups on BLM lands and in BLM activities.

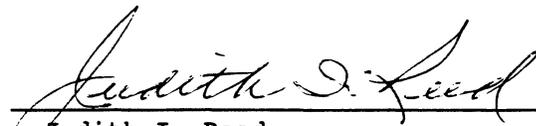
No specific issues have been identified that might adversely impact minority or low income groups by the proposed action. Actions that might result from future decisions would be subject to further outreach and to specific analysis to determine whether any such groups would be affected.

REFERENCES

- USDI, Bureau of Land Management. 1983. Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan. Lower Gila Resource Area, Phoenix District Office.
- _____. Bureau of Land Management. 1985a. *Final Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. Yuma District Office.
- _____. Bureau of Land Management. 1985b. *Final Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. Lower Gila Resource Area, Phoenix District Office.
- _____. Bureau of Land Management. 1987. *Approved Yuma District Resource Management Plan*. Yuma District Office.
- _____. Bureau of Land Management. 1993. *Proposed Kingman Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement*. Kingman Resource Area, Phoenix District Office.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have reviewed the environmental assessment for the Yuma Plan Amendment. I have determined that implementing the preferred action alternative would not have any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is, therefore, not required. I have also determined that the preferred action would be in conformance with the existing Yuma District Resource Management Plan (Final Record of Decision, signed February 1987).



Judith I. Reed
Yuma District Manager



Date

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Yuma District
3150 Winsor Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85365**

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