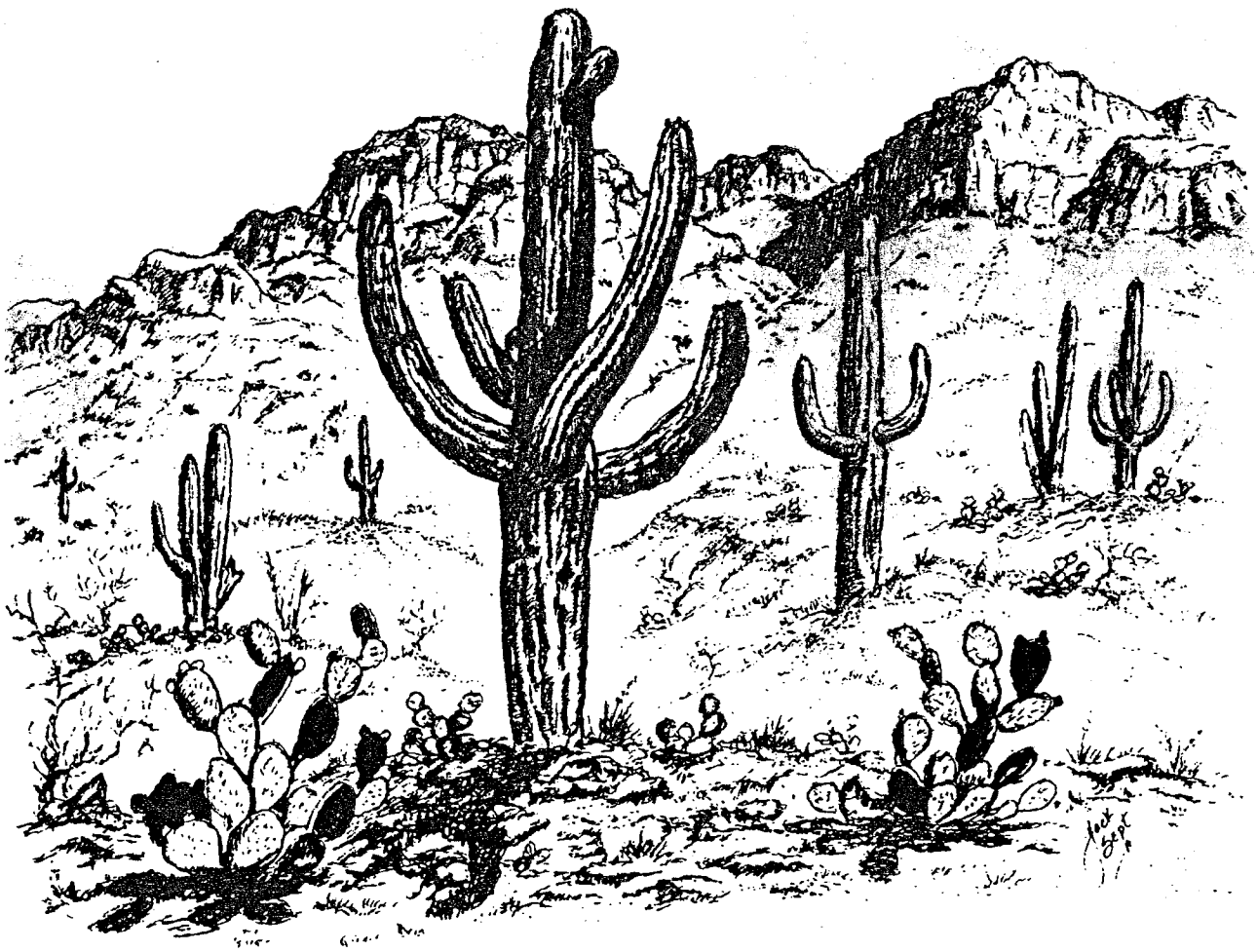
RECORD OF DECISION FOR THE PHOENIX DISTRICT PORTION OF THE EASTERN ARIZONA GRAZING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

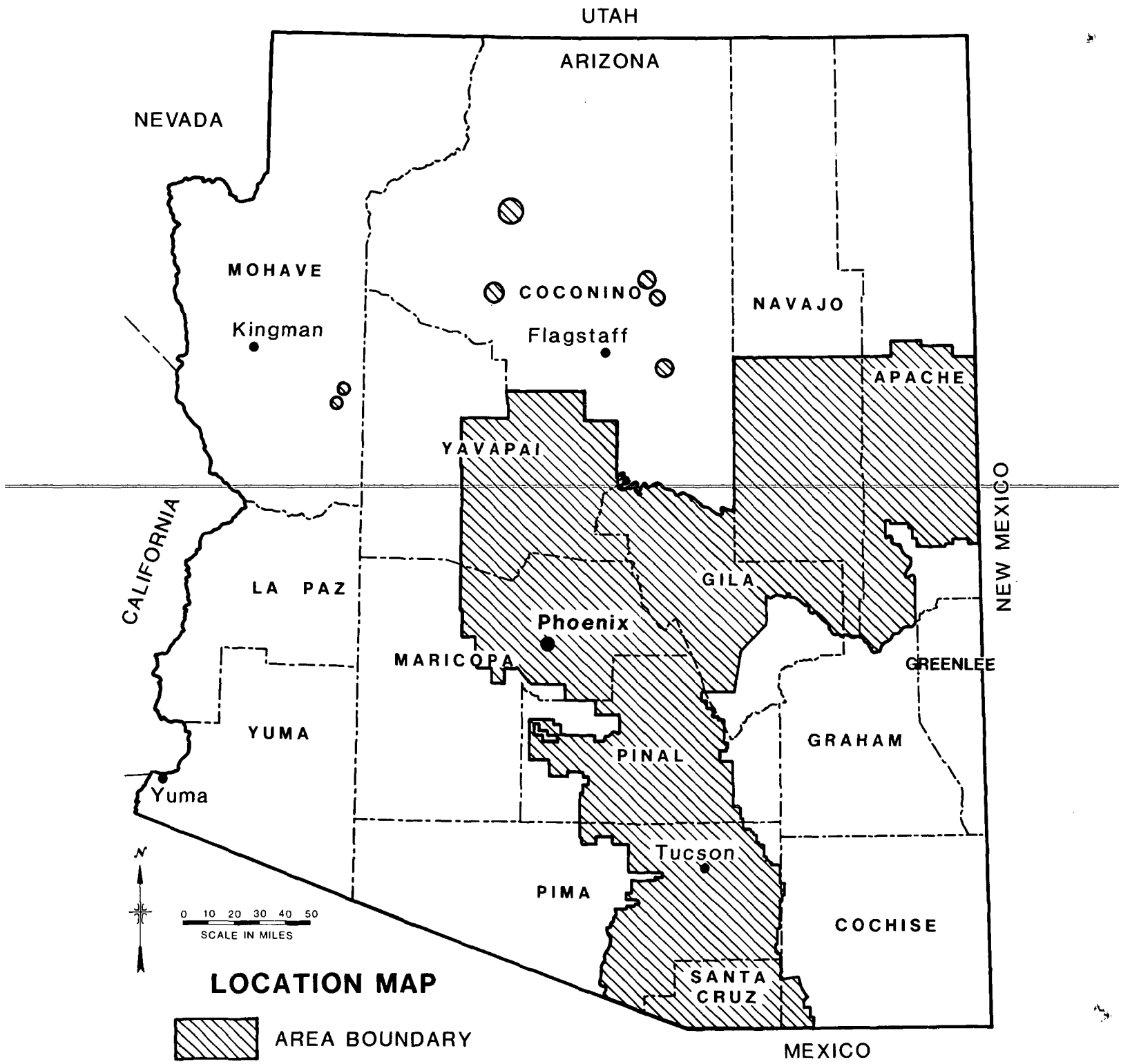


U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

PHOENIX DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 1987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RECORD OF DECISION

for the

PHOENIX DISTRICT

FINAL EASTERN ARIZONA GRAZING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

and

RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Phoenix District

AUGUST 1987

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Phoenix District Office
2015 West Deer Valley Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85027

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO

Dear Reader:

This is the Record of Decision and the Rangeland Program Summary for the Phoenix District portion of the Final Eastern Arizona Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This document provides a summary of the selected range management decisions for the Bureau of Land Management-administered surface land within the EIS area.

The various range management alternatives were considered in the Draft EIS released in September 1985. The Final EIS contained a description of the alternatives considered and addressed comments offered on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS was distributed in September 1986.

Your comments on the contents of this decision and summary are welcome and will be considered in preparing future individual grazing decisions. Written comments should be received by NOV 10 1987 and should be sent to the following address:

Bureau of Land Management
Phoenix District Office
2015 West Deer Valley Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85027

Thank you for your interest in the BLM's Rangeland Management Program.

Sincerely,

Henri R. Bisson

Henri R. Bisson
District Manager

DECISION

I recommend the adoption of Alternative A -- Rangeland Improvement as described in the Eastern Arizona Grazing Environmental Impact Statement of September 1986.

Signed: _____ Date: SEP 3 0 1987

District Manager, Phoenix

I approve the adoption of the Rangeland Improvement Alternative.

Signed _____ Date: SEP 3 0 1987

State Director, Arizona

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RECORD OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Arizona Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzed the natural resource, social and economical impacts of implementing any of four alternatives for grazing management on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Phoenix Resource Area, Phoenix District, and the Cochise and San Pedro planning units in Safford District. This document only discusses management in the Phoenix District. Safford District is preparing a separate Record of Decision and Rangeland Program Summary for Cochise and San Pedro planning units. Since Phoenix and Safford Districts are preparing separate documents, all figures, tables, percentages, costs, etc., reflect only the Phoenix District portion of the EIS.

In response to field studies, consultations with range users, public comments, an ongoing Resource Management Plan and an ongoing BLM and Arizona State Land Department (SLD) land exchange program, a few minor changes were made to the proposal concerning rangeland developments, allotment categorization and Allotment Management Plan (AMP) implementation. These changes will be addressed in this document.

The EIS encompasses approximately 19,000,000 acres in Eastern, Central and Southern Arizona and are located principally in Apache, Navajo, Yavapai, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz and Gila counties. While there are several large contiguous tracts of public land, the overall land ownership pattern is that of small, isolated tracts of public land intermingled with state and private land. This land is often rugged and remote. Land patterns strongly affect grazing and other multiple use management options.

Within the area, 934,648 acres are leased for grazing from the BLM. There are 243 allotments operated by 227 lessees.

BASIS

This EIS is written in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations and in specific response to the court decision in Natural Resources Defense Council, et al., vs. Rogers C.B. Morton, et al., 1973 (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, ref. Case No. 1983-73).

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Four alternatives were developed and analyzed in the EIS. The following is a summary of each alternative and its consequences:

Alternative A: Rangeland Improvement (Preferred Alternative)

Under this alternative, three AMPs totaling 59,945 acres would be revised based on monitoring of resource conditions. Four AMPs totaling 52,677 acres would be developed following the completion of the EIS. The remaining 236 allotments would not have AMPs developed by the BLM due to small amounts of public land on these ranches, limited resource conflicts or no potential for

improvement. Some of the small scattered parcels of public land could be included in coordinated ranch management plans developed by the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with major landowners, the State Land Department and the rancher. The BLM would participate, as a minority land interest, to ensure proper protection and management of the public land and its inherent resources.

Land treatments, such as land imprinting and seeding or prescribed burning, to be implemented on approximately 75,000 acres, affecting 13 allotments, will enhance rangeland values, watershed conditions and wildlife habitat.

Land that is presently unleased for livestock use would remain unleased, with vegetation reserved for wildlife and nonconsumptive use.

Consequences: The vegetation resource would benefit from the Preferred Alternative. Range condition would improve on the seven allotments receiving AMPs and follow present trends on the remaining 236. Vegetation cover would improve on those allotments receiving AMPs as well as the allotments that would receive land treatments.

Protected plants would benefit because the AMPs and land treatments proposed would be designed to minimize impacts, resulting in better habitat.

On allotments scheduled for AMPs or land treatments, the soil resources would benefit significantly in the long term. On the remaining 227 allotments, soil resources would be expected to follow present trends.

Water resources would benefit slightly from the Preferred Alternative.

Livestock production and distribution would improve because of land treatments and range improvements. Seven AMPs would be implemented or modified, providing an additional 1,060 AUMs in the long term. Land treatments would increase AUMs by 1,174 in the short term and 2,348 in the long term.

Wildlife habitat would improve on the seven allotments with AMPs and remain static or continue along present trend on 236 allotments. Mule deer would be the most affected big game species and would benefit from the increased forage production. Small game and nongame would also benefit from the increased forage and cover.

Wild burros would benefit from additional waters that are developed under this alternative.

Cultural resources would be impacted slightly under the Preferred Alternative. Development of range improvements would have an adverse impact by altering the values of undiscovered sites and increased access could increase the possibility of vandalism. Land treatments have positive impacts by reducing damage from natural forces over the long term.

Overall impacts to livestock would be beneficial. Proper utilization of forage by livestock, plus the increased forage from land treatments, could result in improved opportunities for hunting and wildlife observation.

No significant impacts would be anticipated to visual resources. Improvements will be designed and constructed to meet visual resource management objectives.

Wilderness values would not be impacted under the Preferred Alternative.

Based on the average impacts to representative ranchers, it can be assumed that no significant economic or social impacts would result from the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative B: No Action

This alternative would freeze the current range programs, initial and long-term use levels, regardless of range condition or potential, at 101,358 AUMs to livestock. This alternative would also not allow any change in class of livestock or change in season of use. Implementation of approved AMPs would continue, but no new AMPs would be developed. No new range improvements (fences, reservoirs, land treatments) would occur unless the range improvements were previously recognized in approved AMPs or were considered necessary for watershed or wildlife resources. Maintenance of existing range improvements would be allowed.

There would be no cost to the BLM for implementation of this alternative as maintenance of all existing improvements is the responsibility of the operators.

Consequences. The vegetation resource would be negatively impacted by this alternative. Except for the three allotments with approved AMPs, it would be impossible to reverse deteriorating trends in range condition. It is also expected that populations of protected plants would decline.

The soil resources would be negatively impacted under this alternative. Soil erosion would continue at present or accelerated rates.

There would be no discernible change to the water resources.

Livestock production would remain static during the short term and could decline in the long term because of the lack of improved grazing management. Impacts on livestock grazing, however, would be insignificant.

Wildlife would benefit on the three AMP allotments and remain static or continue along present trends on the remaining 240 allotments.

Except for not being able to build new range improvements on allotments within the wild burro herd area, there would be no significant impacts to burros. Habitat and numbers would continue along present trends.

Cultural resources would be slightly impacted because erosion, trampling and vandalism would continue.

There would be no significant impacts to recreation, visual resources, wilderness, ranch economics or social elements under this alternative.

Alternative C: Reduced Livestock Grazing

This alternative emphasizes the accelerated improvement of watershed and wildlife resources along with a short-term decrease in livestock numbers. Reductions under this alternative, affecting 27 allotments, would be based on the following:

1. Any allotment which has 10 to 25 percent of its BLM acreage in a poor ecological class would receive a 25 percent reduction in its BLM AUMs.

2. Any allotment which has more than 25 percent of its BLM acreage in a poor ecological condition class would receive a 50 percent reduction in its BLM AUMs.

Target figures under this alternative would initially be set at 93,807 AUMs for livestock. Long-term target figures based on projected increases in vegetation production (due to revision of implemented grazing systems, additional grazing and land treatments) are 104,730 AUMs to livestock. Land presently unleased for livestock use would remain unleased, with vegetation reserved for wildlife and nonconsumptive uses.

To implement this alternative, three AMPs would be revised, based on monitoring of resource conditions, and four AMPs would be developed following completion of the EIS. The remaining 236 allotments would not have AMPs developed by the BLM due to small amounts of public land, limited resource conflicts or the lack of potential for improvements.

Land treatments could occur on approximately 75,000 acres affecting 13 allotments to support rangeland values, watershed and wildlife habitat improvements.

Consequences. The vegetation resources would benefit from the reduction in livestock numbers, the revision of three AMPs, development of four AMPs and the proposed land treatments. Range condition and trend would improve as would the habitat of protected plants.

This alternative would have essentially the same beneficially long-term effects on the soil resources as the Preferred Alternative, although results may be achieved quicker because of the initial reductions on 27 allotments.

Water resources would be expected to benefit slightly from this alternative due to the reduced soil erosion resulting in lowered sediment yield.

Livestock numbers would decline initially as a result of the suspension of 7,551 AUMs. However, these reductions would improve range condition and establish an upward trend. In the long term, AUMs initially suspended could be restored should monitoring indicate that there has been an improvement. The seven Allotment Management Plans that would be revised or developed would provide an additional 1,060 AUMs in the long term. Land treatments would increase by 1,174 in the short term and 2,348 in the long term.

Wildlife habitat would improve on the seven allotments with AMPs and the 27 allotments that would receive AUM reductions. Mule deer, small game, nongame and protected and sensitive reptiles would benefit most.

Livestock reductions resulting in increased forage plus the possibility of additional waters would benefit burros.

Cultural resources would benefit on allotments with AMPs or land treatments and allotments that are to receive reductions.

Overall impacts to recreation would be beneficial. Proper utilization of forage by livestock, plus the increased forage from land treatments, could result in improved opportunities for hunting and wildlife observation.

No significant impacts would be anticipated to visual resources since improvements will be designed and constructed to meet visual resource management objectives.

Wilderness values would not be impacted under this alternative.

The impacts to ranch economics from the reductions proposed in this alternative would vary greatly. In the short term, the average reduction would cause a slight economic loss. Over the long term, however, a slight economic gain would be expected from the projected increase in forage.

Social attitudes would vary with the degree of livestock reductions.

Alternative D: No Grazing

Livestock grazing would not be permitted on public land under this alternative. All leases would be phased out as the lease terms expire. Range improvements would not be built or maintained unless the improvements were considered necessary for watershed or wildlife resources.

This alternative would phase out the current permitted livestock use of 101,358 AUMs on 243 allotments as each lease term expires. In the worst case analysis, the BLM would require fencing of public land to prevent livestock trespassing. About 5,874 miles of fence would be necessary for this undertaking and according to current cost estimates, would cost about $18.9 million to construct. In addition, annual maintenance would cost $176,000. The BLM would continue to monitor the rangeland for unauthorized use and actions to prevent and process any unauthorized use would cost $80,100 annually.

Consequences. The no grazing alternative would have significant positive impacts on the vegetative resource (range condition and trend), protected plants, soils, water resources, the greatest variety of wildlife (though fencing could cause problems) and cultural resources.

The livestock industry would be severely impacted by this alternative. A total of 101,358 AUMs would be lost, causing a number of operators to sell their ranches or stop grazing altogether. Livestock production would decline on surrounding private and state land.

The wild burro habitat would improve; however, the overall impacts to burros would be negative due to the amount of fencing that would be required.

Recreation and visual resources could be negatively impacted should the BLM land need to be fenced. Wilderness values would not be affected.

DECISION

The alternative selected is Alternative A -- Rangeland Improvement.

RATIONALE

Alternative A was determined by the BLM to best meet the EIS's social, economic and environmental needs while responding to multiple-use demands of livestock users, wildlife and watershed interests, recreationists and other user groups. This alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative. All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from implementing the preferred alternative have been adopted. This alternative also provides the BLM with the most reasonable opportunity to not only meet the objectives for the range program, but to provide management with the widest range of feasible options for solving present and future resource conflicts.

APPEALS

Appeals to the decision should follow procedures in 43 CFR 4.410 and must be filed with the Phoenix District Manager, Phoenix District Office, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM encouraged public participation throughout the development of the Grazing EIS for the Phoenix Resource Area. Public participation was solicited through mailings to each lessee, interested groups and individuals and other agencies. In addition, open house and informational sessions, along with formal meetings, were held to solicit comments and responses from the public. Meetings were held on October 23, 24, 25 and 30, 1984 in Phoenix, Bisbee, Benson, Tucson and St. Johns, Arizona to discuss the inventory process, selective management and possible grazing management alternatives for the EIS. Comments and suggestions were solicited from the attendees at those meetings.

The Phoenix-Lower Gila Resource Areas Grazing Advisory Board and the Phoenix District Multiple-Use Advisory Council were informed of planning and EIS progress and were asked for their comments and participation. The following is a list of agencies, groups and individuals (in addition to the grazing lessees and individual people on the district's mailing list) who were consulted by the BLM, submitted comments to the BLM or were sent copies of the Grazing EIS for comment:

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
Army Corps of Engineers
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Reclamation
Council on Environmental Quality
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Interior
Environmental Protection Agency
Fish and Wildlife Service
Forest Service
Geological Survey
National Park Service
Soil Conservation Service

County Supervisors and Planning Boards

Apache County
Cochise County
Coconino County
Gila County
Graham County
Maricopa County
Mohave County
Navajo County
Pima County
Pinal County
Santa Cruz County
Yavapai County
Central Arizona Association of Governments
District 4 Council of Governments
Local Indian tribal leaders
Maricopa Association of Governments
Northern Arizona Council of Governments
Southeast Arizona Government Organizations

Arizona State Agencies

Agriculture and Horticulture Commission
Department of Commerce, State Clearinghouse
Department of Library, Archives and Public Records
Department of Transportation
Game and Fish Department
Arizona Commission on Environment
Office of Economic Planning and Development
Natural Heritage Program
State Historic Preservation Officer
State Land Commissioner
State Land Department
State Parks Board
University of Arizona
Water Resources Department

Special Interest Groups

Arizona Cattlegrowers Association
Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
Arizona 4-Wheel Drive Association
Arizona State Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
Arizona Wildlife Federation
Arizona Woolgrowers Association
Audubon Society
Cochise Cattlegrowers Association
Defenders of Wildlife
Desert Tortoise Council
League of Women Voters
National Council of Public Land Users
Natural Resources Defense Council
Phoenix District Grazing Advisory Board
Phoenix District Public Land Advisory Board
Public Land Council
Safford District Grazing Advisory Board
Safford District Public Land Advisory Board
Sierra Club (local and national)
Wild Burro Protection Association
Wilderness Society
Wildlife Society

Elected Officials

Federal

Senator Dennis DeConcini
Senator John McCain
Representative Jim Kolbe
Representative Bob Stump
Representative Morris K. Udall
Representative Eldon Rudd

State

Senator Tony Gabaldon
Senator A.V. "Bill" Hardt
Senator John Hays
Senator Jeffrey Hill
Senator Greg Lunn
Senator John Mawhinney
Senator Peter Rios
Senator S.H. "Hal" Runyon
Senator Alan Stephens
Senator Jan Brewer
Senator Pat Wright
Representative Gus Arzberger
Representative Bart Baker
Representative David Bartlett

Elected Officials

State (Continued)

Representative Sam McConnell
Representative Dave Carson
Representative Bob Denny
Representative Reid Ewing
Representative Henry Evans
Representative Roy Hudson
Representative Jack B. Jewett
Representative Joe Lane
Representative Richard "Dick" Pacheco
Representative James B. Ratliff
Representative Sterling Ridge
Representative E.C. "Polly" Rosenbaum
Representative Nancy Wessell
Representative John Wettaw

Copies of the Record of Decision and the Rangeland Program Summary will be sent to affected grazing lessees and other recipients of the Grazing EIS. Copies may also be obtained and reviewed at the BLM's Phoenix District Office. The BLM will continue to solicit public comments throughout its implementation of management recommendations. Updates to this document will be distributed periodically to inform interested and affected parties of the BLM's progress in completing the program and achieving the rangeland management objectives.

RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Historically, livestock grazing has constituted a significant part of the land use within the EIS area. The land has also provided important habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and played a major role in supporting mining activities, all types of recreation use, wild burros, cultural resources, protected plants and other multiple resources such as soil and water.

The purpose of the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) is to identify management actions to be taken on public land within the EIS area. The BLM has determined that these actions are needed to protect current resources in satisfactory condition and improve resources where feasible and economical to do so. Implementing Alternative A -- Rangeland Improvement provides the BLM with a full range of options to manage the resource areas based on principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

The decision to implement Alternative A follows the completion of the EIS in September 1986. In response to additional field studies, consultation with range users, public comments and land tenure adjustments, a few modifications to Alternative A have been selected to make the proposal more cost effective and more feasible to implement within the proposed timeframe. The changes are to reduce the number of allotments to receive seedings, drop one allotment management plan, add a few range improvements where they have been identified as needed to enhance the resource or resolve resource conflicts and make adjustments to the AMP implementation schedule. The specific changes are outlined below under "Implementation of the Program."

The Preferred Alternative classifies allotments into three management categories. These categories and the criteria used to place allotments are listed below:

1. Improve (I) Category Criteria

   -- Present range condition is unsatisfactory.
   -- Allotments have moderate to high resource production potential and are producing at low to moderate levels.
   -- Serious resource-use conflict/controversy exists.
   -- Opportunities exist for positive economic return from public investments.
   - Present management appears unsatisfactory.
   -- Other criteria appropriate to EIS area.

   Allotments in the I category require either a change in management practices to improve conditions and achieve a relatively high resource potential or mitigation of serious resource conflicts.

   Generally, the cost of improving conditions on I allotments would be exceeded by the resulting economic benefits. The management objective for I allotments is to improve current unsatisfactory resource conditions. Therefore, I allotments will have first priority for range improvement funding, AMP development, monitoring and use supervision.

Range condition and trend, utilization, precipitation and actual livestock use will be monitored on all I allotments.

2. Maintain (M) Category Criteria

-- Present range condition is satisfactory.
-- Allotments have moderate or high resource production potential and are producing near their potential (or trend is moving in that direction).
-- No serious resource-use conflict/controversy exists.
-- Opportunities may exist for positive economic return from public investments.
-- Present management appears satisfactory.
-- Other criteria appropriate to EIS area.

Generally, allotments in the M category have no serious resource conflicts and range condition and present management are satisfactory. The management objective for M allotments is to maintain current resource conditions. Range condition and trend, precipitation and actual livestock use will be monitored on M allotments by priority ranking as funding permits. M allotments will have second priority for funding of range improvements and for AMP development.

3. Custodial (C) Category Criteria

-- Present range condition is not a factor.
-- Allotments have low resource production potential and are producing near their potential.
-- Limited resource-use conflict/controversy may exist.
-- Opportunities for positive economic return on public investment do not exist or are constrained by technological or economic factors.
-- Present management appears satisfactory or is the only logical practice under existing resource conditions.
-- Other criteria appropriate to EIS area.

Allotments in the C category include ten allotments with ephemeral designation, those with a small percentage of public land or those with low resource potential where response to management would not yield positive economic returns. The management objective for this category is to employ minimum management to the allotments while protecting existing resource values.

Permittees will assume a major role in range monitoring and range improvement construction for C allotments. The BLM will conduct periodic use supervision on these allotments.

The above criteria is used only as guidance to place the allotments into one of three categories. Some allotments were placed into a category even though they do not meet all the criteria within that category. District personnel had to refine some of the criteria to make certain they fit the local conditions unique to the planning area. If the resource situation of an allotment changes due to implementation of management decisions or future resource conflicts, an allotment may be recategorized based on that additional

information. The allotment categorization is shown in Table I under "Implementation of the Program."

The Rangeland Management Program

The BLM selected the Preferred Alternative with the intent to reach the following objectives:

1. Improve ecological rangeland conditions and increase rangeland forage on public land in the EIS area over a 20-year period.

2. Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation and increase infiltration and productivity of rangeland soil.

3. Reduce short-term disruption and ensure the long-term stability of the local livestock industry and the economy of communities dependent upon public land.

4. Maintain a viable wild burro population in the Lake Pleasant Herd Management Area by ensuring an adequate forage and water supply for the herd.

5. Protect and improve riparian habitat on public land within the EIS area. Within 20 years stabilize downward trends and improve overall rangeland condition in these communities, specifically the Gila, Hassayampa, New River and Agua Fria rivers and their tributaries.

6. In 20 years increase forage for consumptive use of public rangeland.

7. Protect areas of special natural, scenic, historical, cultural and scientific value.

8. Improve structural habitat diversity and rangeland condition to support additional numbers of small, upland, nongame and big game species.

9. Preserve and improve protected plant and animal species and their habitats including state-listed species, BLM-sensitive species and species proposed for or officially listed as having threatened or endangered status under federal law.

10. Improve water quality on Sycamore Creek and portions of the tributaries of the Gila, Agua Fria and Hassayampa rivers.

To carry out the above objectives, three AMPs totaling 59,945 acres would be revised and four AMPs totaling 52,677 acres would be developed. Four allotments would have land imprinting and seeding or prescribe burns to enhance rangeland values, watershed condition, wildlife habitat and riparian areas. The scheduling of AMPs and accompanying range improvements and land treatments are shown in Table II under "Implementation of the Program."

To ensure rangeland programs do not adversely impact a particular resource, an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists will review all rangeland development proposals to ensure the greatest multiple-use benefits. All proposals will be evaluated in an environmental study of appropriate scope to

determine site-specific impacts. Mitigating measures will be developed to reduce or eliminate site-specific impacts, if needed.

The BLM will monitor the grazing management program to determine the effectiveness of grazing treatments and new rangeland developments and to determine whether AMP objectives are being met. Trend studies will be monitored on a three to five year basis as the condition of resources and the relative stability of the allotment make it necessary. Monitoring will provide information critical to managing and refining the program and provide the basis for making needed adjustments to meet management objectives.

At a minimum, monitoring studies on I allotments will include actual yearly livestock use, forage utilization, precipitation and use supervision. Actual use figures from livestock operators are the foundations for grazing management adjustments since utilization, condition and trend and production have little value unless the grazing use is known. When AMPs are implemented, specialists will study utilization using the key forage plant method (an ocular estimate) or grazed class photo guides on one or more key forage plants. Trend studies will be evaluated at the end of each grazing treatment cycle to determine if condition is improving, declining or stable. Trend will be measured using plant frequency and cover data and correlated to rangeland condition. To measure yearly changes in rainfall, the BLM will install rain gauges in key locations throughout the EIS area. Such information is important because the amount of precipitation greatly affects vegetation production and plant vigor, thus influencing trend data.

When monitoring reveals that multiple use objectives are not being met, grazing systems may be modified, livestock numbers or kind of livestock may be changed or additional rangeland developments may be built to reach the objectives. In some instances, rangeland management objectives may need to be reevaluated. Complete evaluation of monitoring studies will be made every five years on I allotments. Use adjustments, if warranted, will be made following the completion of these studies. For example, if monitoring studies show that trend is static or upward and utilization is less than 50 percent on the key species, the stocking rate would be increased. To mitigate the effects of fluctuating ephemeral growths, permanent stocking increases or decreases will generally be held to a maximum of 15 percent in any one year. Use adjustments of more than 15 percent will be implemented over a five-year period, subject to the findings of continuing monitoring studies.

Studies on M allotments will be accomplished in the same manner as those on the I allotments with the exception that no formal utilization studies will be done. Utilization will be observed during use supervision visits to allotments to determine if possible resource conflicts are occurring.

Trend studies on M allotments will be read every 5 to 10 years. If studies indicate conflicts on changing resource conditions, the allotment may be changed to an I allotment to justify more intensive studies to aid in solving the resource conflict.

Custodial allotments will be visited a minimum of once every five years. Use supervision will visually detect trend, utilization and overall allotment condition. A need to change the selective management category for these allotments could be determined by these visits.

The schedule for reading monitoring studies and the type of studies for I, M and C allotments are shown in Table III, "Monitoring Schedule."

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

Three AMPs have been signed, two of which have been implemented; however, a few revisions are needed to meet management objectives. These revisions are presently ongoing and should be completed in 1989. Four other allotments are scheduled to have AMPs implemented. Four allotments are also identified for land treatments such as seeding or burning. For AMP scheduling and range improvement implementation, see Table II.

Consultation and coordination have been an active part of the multiple use planning and EIS process for the Phoenix District portion of the EIS. The BLM will continue consultation with livestock operators, affected landowners, federal, state and local agencies and other organizations involved in rangeland management. The BLM will examine inventory data, planning recommendations and public comments on resource management in the area. Site-specific needs will be identified by allotment, including recommended studies, rangeland developments, types of grazing systems and measures to restore other related resources. Should new information be presented during consultation that warrants adjustments, initial stocking levels and numbers or kinds of planned developments will be changed.

The Phoenix District will review each allotment and prepare agreements or issue decisions within five years from the publication of this RPS. The agreements or decisions will address required grazing management; and the proper use of rangeland forage. The BLM will provide copies of specific allotment decisions on request. Decisions may be protested within 15 days of their receipt by permittees, lessees or other persons adversely affected in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4160. Protests should be submitted to the Phoenix District Manager, Phoenix District Office, 2015 West Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85027. Final decisions may also be appealed to the Phoenix District Manager within 30 days of their receipt.

As this rangeland management program is implemented, a record of progress will be maintained and specific program details will be outlined in periodic updates of this RPS. These updates will include necessary program changes, monitoring results, range improvement progress and improvement efforts made by permittees and management system information.

This record of progress will be reflected in future RPS updates that will be distributed for public information and comment.

TABLE I
Management Categorization and Ranking of Allotments for Selected Alternative

Improved Category

Allotment Rank	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Public Acres	Public AUMs Preference	Initial	Short Term	Long Term
1	6239	U-Cross	11062	1941	1941	2011	2275
2	6103	11-L	18171	1824	1824	1824	2006
3	6020	Cocoraque Butte	6020	528	528	602	729
4	6169	Sycamore Creek	2423	322	322	322	354
5	6168	Grayback Mountain	27230	3060	3060	3128	3502
6	6183	Agua Blanco	14419	1356	1356	1432	1644
7	6095	Bo-Nine	30712	1570	1570	1570	1570

Maintain Category

Allotment Rank	Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Public Acres	Public AUMs Preference	Initial	Short Term	Long Term
1	6161	Bumble Bee	12832	1992	1992	1992	1992
2	6005	Cordes Junction	8763	1250	1250	1250	1250
3	6215	Williams Mesa	27389	4104	4104	4104	4104
4	6223	Crown Point	7860	1032	1032	1032	1032
5	6227	Jesus Canyon	6345	1068	1068	1068	1068
6	6222	King Solomon Gulch	16805	1863	1863	1863	1863
7	6072	Malpais Hill	28743	540	540	540	540
8	6029	Silverbell Peak	7268	540	540	540	540
9	6016	Tiger Mountain	4610	718	718	718	718
10	6197	Mineral Mountain	25553	2964	2964	2964	2964
11	6120	Tortilla Mountain	21610	2256	2256	2256	2256
12	6126	Waterman Peak	16144	799	799	799	799
13	6104	VX Ranch	9091	679	679	679	679
14	6243	Buckhorn Mountains	6789	924	924	924	924
15	6111	North Butte	10883	1224	1224	1224	1224
16	6251	Steamboat Mountain	11087	1032	1032	1032	1032
17	6042	Indian Camp	4678	432	432	432	432
18	6032	Box O Wash	10255	588	588	588	588
19	6026	Banty Creek	7238	1104	1104	1104	1104
20	6067	Ripsey	15962	1668	1668	1668	1668
21	6125	Hackberry Wash	8267	792	792	792	792
22	6244	Cat Hills	14871	1428	1428	1428	1428
*23	6047	Monument Hill Cell	11129	1416	1416	1416	1416

*Includes Allotments 6145, 6146, 6152, 6154, and 6250

Custodial Category (Not ranked)

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Public Acres	Public AUMs Preference	Initial	Short Term	Long Term
6001	Twin Buttes	4860	560	560	560	560
6002	Grovers Hill	320	24	24	24	24
6003	Arivaca Ranch	1564	324	324	324	324
6004	Newman Peak	6994	119	119	119	119
6006	North Star Mine	3759	432	432	432	432
6007	Washboard Wash	8018	600	600	600	600
6008	Ramsey Slide	40	12	12	12	12
6009	Alamo Wash	595	98	98	98	98
6010	Blanco Wash	2318	200	200	200	200
6011	Mayer	1233	240	240	240	240
6012	Bluebell	120	24	24	24	24
6013	Maggie Mine	3328	564	564	564	564
6014	Lost Gulch	2434	324	324	324	324
6015	Ash Mountain	586	72	72	72	72
6017	Manila Wash	354	60	60	60	60
6018	Martinez Wash	200	42	42	42	42
6019	Tucker Flat	548	72	72	72	72
6021	Minnehaha Creek	345	60	60	60	60
6022	Fresnaf Canyon	600	72	72	72	72
6023	Cerro Colorado	1780	336	336	336	336
6024	Relic Point	120	24	24	24	24
6027	Yarber Wash	846	158	158	158	158
6028	Little Ortega Lake	320	60	60	60	60
6030	Santan Mountains	2063	119	119	119	119
6031	Thomas Canyon	331	36	36	36	36
6033	St. Johns	1273	216	216	216	216
6034	White Mountain Lake	240	36	36	36	36
6035	Hassayampa River	40	12	12	12	12
6036	Solomon Butte	1880	324	324	324	324
6037	Dry Lake	2576	444	444	444	444
6038	Toltec Divide	120	24	24	24	24
6039	Brady Wash	14369	1488	1488	1488	1488
6040	Aguirre Pass	7704	432	432	432	432
6041	Walker Butte	994	0	0	0	0
6044	Lake Pleasant	12610	936	936	936	936
6045	Sycamore Mesa	1275	240	240	240	240
6046	Hackberry Mine	65	12	12	12	12
6048	Texas Gulch	256	48	48	48	48
6049	Milky Wash	120	12	12	12	12
6050	Buckeye Mountain	889	94	94	94	94
6051	Puerco River	5140	780	780	780	780
6052	The Divide	2400	456	456	456	456

Custodial Category (Not ranked)

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Public Acres	Public AUMs Preference	Initial	Short Term	Long Term
6053	Florence Junction	249	24	24	24	24
6054	Picture Rock Road	35	2	2	2	2
6055	Avra Valley	489	31	31	31	31
6056	West Wing Mountain	1880	0	0	0	0
6057	Hackberry Gulch	481	84	84	84	84
6058	Pink Cliffs	3855	648	648	648	648
6060	Kearny	1038	108	108	108	108
6061	Mesa Parada	4090	624	624	624	624
6062	Olsen Wash	40	12	12	12	12
6063	Cactus Basin	2965	504	504	504	504
6064	Lost Tank Canyon	15716	2364	2364	2364	2364
6065	Chaparral Gulch	2135	408	408	408	408
6066	Big Rebel Mine	226	36	36	36	36
6068	Sawtooth Mountain	32127	2259	2259	2259	2259
6069	Scraper Knoll	320	36	36	36	36
6070	Big Hollow Wash	636	84	84	84	84
6071	Wildcat Creek	1448	276	276	276	276
6073	Apache Butte	6703	756	756	756	756
6074	Flying Butte	5123	480	480	480	480
6075	Mammoth Wash	4231	240	240	240	240
6076	Straddling Lake	835	132	132	132	132
6078	Cottonwood	722	84	84	84	84
6079	Cottonwood Wash	40	12	12	12	12
6080	Buzzards Roost	498	48	48	48	48
6081	Zuni Wash	1120	192	192	192	192
6082	Rescue Canyon	1541	300	300	300	300
6083	Parker Wash	12388	1020	1020	1020	1020
6084	Sheepskin Wash	135	14	14	14	14
6085	San Luis Mountain	408	84	84	84	84
6086	Woodruff Butte	595	108	108	108	108
6087	Potato Wash	3233	432	432	432	432
6088	Hunt Valley	676	120	120	120	120
6089	Baboquivari Mountain	1455	240	240	240	240
6091	Leroux Wash	1890	180	180	180	180
6092	Digger Wash	334	36	36	36	36
6093	Coyote Mountain	5083	384	384	384	384
6094	Dewey	1170	180	180	180	180
6096	Zion	40	12	12	12	12
6097	Arkansas Gulch	376	36	36	36	36
6098	Gravel Pit	160	12	12	12	12
6099	Sleeping Beauty Mtn.	861	120	120	120	120
6100	Saucito Mountain	2606	144	144	144	144
6102	Old Sasco	4471	384	384	384	384
6105	Yuma Mine	160	12	12	12	12

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Public Acres	Public AUMs Preference	Initial	Short Term	Long Term
6106	Black Mesa	3950	744	744	744	744
6107	Snowflake	186	24	24	24	24
6108	Twin Wells	1159	156	156	156	156
6109	New River	742	56	56	56	56
6110	Hardscrabble Wash	18124	1488	1488	1488	1488
6112	El Tule	320	60	60	60	60
6113	Cochran	1688	168	168	168	168
6114	Chevelon Creek North	1286	180	180	180	180
6115	Demetrie Wash	222	24	24	24	24
6116	Sacaton	160	0	0	0	0
6118	Horse Hills	414	48	48	48	48
6119	Black Hills	3082	408	408	408	408
6121	Tortolita Mountains	920	84	84	84	84
6122	Black Canyon City	700	96	96	96	96
6123	Suffering Wash	964	192	192	192	192
6124	Antelope	320	36	36	36	36
6127	Marcou Mesa	6309	924	924	924	924
6128	Squaw Creek	13122	1747	1747	1747	1747
6132	China Wash	4298	564	564	564	564
6133	Gunnery	1825	167	167	167	167
6134	North Cerro Hueco	1280	288	288	288	288
6135	Poland Junction	1578	276	276	276	276
6136	Ortega Sink	1880	360	360	360	360
6137	Three Peaks	561	84	84	84	84
6139	Copper Mountain	1455	224	224	224	224
6140	Cerro Hueco	3200	696	696	696	696
6141	Richville	240	48	48	48	48
6142	Walker Creek	1622	252	252	252	252
6143	Big Bug Creek	414	75	75	75	75
6144	Durham Wash	24401	2331	2331	2331	2331
6147	Wagoner	120	12	12	12	12
6148	Dry Creek	2375	420	420	420	420
6149	Pipeline	280	36	36	36	36
6150	Buckhorn Creek	640	72	72	72	72
6151	Guild Wash	5331	0	0	0	0
6153	Red Hill	12737	1452	1452	1452	1452
6155	Carrizo Wash	4986	756	756	756	756
6156	Cedar Lake Wash	18853	2796	2796	2796	2796
6157	St. Johns Wash	12466	1884	1884	1884	1884
6158	Little Electric	7080	1008	1008	1008	1008
6159	Little Reservoir	5773	600	600	600	600
6160	Carrizo Wash East	640	120	120	120	120
6162	Cactus Forest	3429	324	324	324	324
6164	Black Ridge	200	24	24	24	24
6165	Twin Butte East	280	36	36	36	36

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Public Acres	Public AUMs Preference	Initial	Short Term	Long Term
6166	Twin Butte West	280	45	45	45	45
6167	Aguirre Valley	958	72	72	72	72
6170	Zuni River	3418	660	660	660	660
6172	Mesa Wash	440	60	60	60	60
6173	Queen Valley	509	0	0	0	0
6174	Palo Verde Mountains	4387	0	0	0	0
6175	Picture Rocks	1605	156	156	156	156
6176	Puerco Ridge	1600	276	276	276	276
6180	Mexican Wash	4347	660	660	660	660
6181	Humboldt	110	24	24	24	24
6182	Badger Spring Wash	40	12	12	12	12
6184	Hidden Lake	4481	408	408	408	408
6185	Beardsley Canal	380	12	12	12	12
6186	Arroyo Seco	3766	780	780	780	780
6187	Hewitt Road	281	48	48	48	48
6188	Lynx Creek	65	12	12	12	12
6190	Zuni Wash Bridge	880	168	168	168	168
6191	Gunsight Mountain	693	120	120	120	120
6194	Sacaton Mountains	5077	0	0	0	0
6195	Surprise Valley	18780	1932	1932	1932	1932
6196	Cinder Pit	59	5	5	5	5
6198	Ritchey Peak	2154	252	252	252	252
6200	Three Points	199	33	33	33	33
6201	Galena Gulch	3185	600	600	600	600
6202	Chevelon Creek South	118	12	12	12	12
6203	Cocio Wash	5552	375	375	375	375
6204	Valencia Mountain	758	72	72	72	72
6205	Crazy Creek Cell	1916	336	336	336	336
6206	Castle Hot Springs	1035	60	60	60	60
6207	Volcanic Ridge	320	48	48	48	48
6210	Joseph City South	80	12	12	12	12
6212	Twin Peaks	600	0	0	0	0
6213	Osborne Spring Wash	350	66	66	66	66
6214	Phoenix Park Wash	2080	198	198	198	198
6216	Cave Creek	241	24	24	24	24
6219	Gillette	1325	96	96	96	96
6220	Gold Basin	631	84	84	84	84
6224	Salado	440	84	84	84	84
6225	Holbrook	117	24	24	24	24
6226	Smelter Canyon	255	12	12	12	12
6228	Flint Knoll	1040	84	84	84	84
6229	Green Gulch	92	12	12	12	12
6230	Wiregrass Lake	3080	491	491	491	491
6231	Lyman Lake South	360	72	72	72	72
6232	Little Colorado River	960	140	140	140	140

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Public Acres	Public AUMs Preference	Initial	Short Term	Long Term
6234	Cow Canyon	640	120	120	120	120
6235	Bloody Basin	1617	216	216	216	216
6238	Antelope Creek	77	15	15	15	15
6241	Lithodendron Wash	5892	1116	1116	1116	1116
6242	Silver Creek	3062	408	408	408	408
6245	Humbug	1344	101	101	101	101
6246	Cottonwood Creek	960	96	96	96	96
6252	Mud Springs	1307	214	214	214	214
5013	John W. Hooper	13144	2220	2220	2220	2220
0101	C.O. Bar	8066	1200	1200	1200	1200
0102	Chambers Lease	1259	192	192	192	192
0104	Globe Ranch	1274	240	240	240	240
0106	Hart Cattle Company	40	5	5	5	5
0114	Red Hill	80	12	12	12	12
0003	Wagon Bow Inc.	80	12	12	12	12

TABLE II
AMP and Range Improvement Schedule

Allotment Number/Name		AMP Implemented	Range Improvements Type	Unit	Cost	Year
6020	Cocoraque Butte	1989	Seeding	600 acres	$15,000 1990	Start
6169	Sycamore Creek	1990	Burn		5 yrs. start 1988	Every
6168	Grayback Mountain	1991	Fence	20 miles	$60,000	Ongoing
			Reservoirs	4 E.A.	$16,000 1988	
			Wells	4 E.A.	$40,000 2-1989 2-1991	
			Pipelines	10 mi.	$30,000 4-1988 2-1990 2-1991 2-1992	
			Seedings	300 ac.	$ 7,500 Start 1989	
6183	Agua Blanco	1992	Wells	3	$30,000 1-1989 1-1990	1-1988
			Pipelines	5 mi.	$15,000 1-1988 4-1990	

Range improvement funds will first be allocated to these allotments. Depending upon rancher cooperation and ability to share costs, funds may be used on other "lower" priority allotments to resolve resource conflicts.

TABLE III
Monitoring Schedule

	"I" Allotments (Improve)	"M" Allotments (Maintain)	"C" Allotments (Custodial)
Actual Use Data	Ranchers report on/off dates of livestock to BLM annually	Ranchers report on/off dates of livestock to BLM annually	Studies will be set up as resource conditions warrant
Precipitation Data	Site-specific rain gauge data recorded monthly by ranchers and reported to BLM annually	Site-specific rain gauge data recorded monthly by ranchers and reported to BLM annually	Use information from nearby sources when available
Allotment Inspection	Visually detect: apparent trend; utilization and unauthorized use; once every year	Visually detect: apparent trend; utilization and unauthorized use; once every 3 to 5 years	Visually detect: apparent trend; utilization and unauthorized use;
Trend Studies	*/** Once every 3 to 5 years; trend plot photos; photo point; pace frequency transect (grassland); TOE - Pace transect (desert shrub)	Once every 5 to 10 years; trend plot photos; photo point; pace frequency transect (grassland); TOE - Pace transect (desert shrub)	Studies will be set up as resource conditions warrant
Utilization Studies	*Key forage plant method; once every 3 to 5 years	Will be established on AMP development	Studies will be set up as resource conditions warrant

Information Warranting Review--

Actual Use: Overuse at certain times of the year.
Precipitation: Forage condition by rainfall.
Allotment Inspection: Apparent condition and trend change.
Trend Studies: Change of direction in trend.
Utilization Studies: Change of one utilization class.

* When AMP is completed, these studies will be done in accordance with livestock movement.

** When AMPs are implemented on "I" allotments, monitoring will be accomplished each year on those allotments.

Review may mean one or more of the following: 1) establish more or less intensive studies, 2) one-time forage production inventory to authorize increase or decrease of stocking rate, 3) detection of unauthorized use or 4) change of allotment categorization (i.e., from "M" to "I" allotment).