

Lands Update
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
December 2016
Phoenix, Arizona

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

General Planning Status – Please see attached table.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (A-S)

- On April 19, 2016, the A-S published a draft white paper that documented proposed monitoring changes and described how those changes would bring the A-S Land Management Plan monitoring strategy into compliance with the 2012 Rule. Included in the changes was the dropping of pronghorn as a monitored species. The Department provided comment in May, requesting that pronghorn remain the grassland focal species for monitoring. In June, the A-S completed the process of updating their monitoring program and published an Administrative Change to the Land Management Plan for the A-S. As a result of Department comment pronghorn have been retained as a focal species.
- In a letter dated June 30, 2016, the Department informed the Forest of its decision to decline to withdraw its appeal of the A-S Land Management Plan (LMP) and Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) based on the two recommended wilderness areas included in the LMP and FEIS.
- The A-S has re-initiated Travel Management NEPA planning and analysis. The A-S will prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, which is anticipated to be available for public comment in July 2017, with a ROD anticipated July 2019. The Department is a Cooperating Agency for the A-S Travel Management Planning process.

Coconino National Forest

- With assistance from Department staff, Mogollon Rim Ranger District is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cragin Watershed Protection Project. This project will use thinning and prescribed burning to reduce wildfire risk along the wildland urban interface (WUI) and potential impacts to watershed that feed C.C. Cragin (formerly Blue Ridge) reservoir. The Department is a cooperating agency and now serves on the project's ID team. The Proposed Action has been released and the Forest is beginning to formulate the EA. The Department commented on the draft EA; comments included a list of areas that the Department would like prioritized for thinning and burning, and the use of treatments that would stimulate aspen and hardwood growth in some areas.
- The Coconino National Forest is continuing to review public comments on Travel Management at the District level. The Department has been heavily involved with this review process and will be reviewing campsite data collected. Dates for these meetings to review the data will be scheduled for late 2016/early 2017.

Coronado National Forest (CNF)

- The Final Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement are in the final editing phase with release for public review expected in early 2017.
- The Department provided scoping comments on the proposed Plan of Operations for the Hermosa-Taylor Drilling Project in the Patagonia Mountains. The project proponent, Arizona Minerals, Inc., has proposed to develop eight exploratory drill holes at three drill sites on the Forest. The Forest will be preparing an Environmental Assessment.

Kaibab National Forest (KNF)

- The KNF has released its Grasslands Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA). The Department submitted comments and is a cooperating agency. Comments were supportive of the project and focused on pronghorn corridors and keeping the language broad enough to incorporate flexibility in habitat modification practices.
- The Kaibab National Forest is continuing to review public comments on Travel Management at the District level. The Department is heavily involved in this process and is obtaining campsite data for the Williams and Tusayan District. Campsite data collection is anticipated to be completed in spring 2017.

Prescott National Forest (PNF)

- The Smith Valley and Williamson Valley Grazing Allotments EA decision notice was received on September 30, 2016, with the alternative to continue grazing under an adaptive management approach being chosen; as long as resources continue to move toward desired conditions, or are being maintained under best management practices.

Tonto National Forest (TNF)

- The Forest Plan Revision is underway and the Department is actively involved. Recently, we provided a comment letter on the Draft Assessment Report of Ecological Conditions, Trends and Risks to Sustainability in which we outlined our expectations moving forward. In particular, the Department outlined concerns with the possibility of new special lands designations such as proposed wilderness and the need to maintain recreational opportunities.
- In response to objections files by the Department and other entities, the Deputy Regional Forester has decided that the Travel Management EIS will require a Supplemental EIS to account for inadequacies in addressing the Clean Water Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, National Forest Management Act, Travel Management Rule and other related guidance.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Arizona Strip Field Office

- The Uinkaret Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being downgraded to an EA. The Department continues to serve on the ID Team and is a cooperating agency; comments on the EA were submitted in November. Comments focused on keeping the language broad enough in the EA to incorporate flexibility in habitat modification practices.
- The Department commented on the Draft Pakoon Springs Public Use EA in October.

Kingman Field Office (KFO)

- The Department continues to have bi-weekly meeting with the BLM KFO on NEPA related projects occurring throughout the districts.
- Department personnel continues to assist BLM KFO range cons with their fall range monitoring efforts. GMU's 18B, 16A, and 15A/B have been concentrated on since early September.

Lower Sonoran Field Office

- The Department is a cooperating agency on the Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and EIS for Recreational Target Shooting on the Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM). The Department reviewed and provided general comments on the Administrative Draft of the RMPA and EIS. The Department will review and provide further comments on the public draft, scheduled to be released this fall.

Phoenix Field Office

- The Phoenix and Lower Sonoran FO's resumed the quarterly NEPA status calls with the Department.

Tucson Field Office

- The BLM expects to hire a new Project Manager for the San Pedro River National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) RMP/EIS in the near future. The SPRNCA Draft RMP/EIS is not expected until Spring 2017.
- BLM is reinitiating consultation with the USFWS for Las Cienegas National Conservation Area over newly listed species. The target date for BLM to submit the Biological Assessment to USFWS is now early 2017.

Yuma Field Office

- The Field Office has finalized the EA and begun signing the La Posa TMP. The Department is participating in current route evaluations for the Imperial Hills and Laguna Mountains areas.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA)

- A new timeline has been released by GRCA in regards to the bison EA. The Department continues to be involved in team meetings. Cooperating agencies will be able to review and comment on draft EA by early December 2016. A 30 day public review (including public meetings) of the draft EA is to be held in January 2017. The final EA and signing are anticipated in mid-March 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG)

- YPG has proposed withdrawing an additional 23,850 acres of BLM land west of U.S. 95, between Stone Cabin and Quartzsite. The land will be a safety buffer for testing activities on that portion of the range. Department staff has met with YPG staff and discussed Department concerns, including impacts to the YPG hunting program and public recreation on the lands. The Department will be actively involved in the land withdrawal process.

ENERGY

Mohave County Wind

- The Mohave County Wind project has been sold to the Orion Company. The Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Field Office is in the process of changing ROW permits, as Orion has indicated their interest in proceeding with the 500-megawatt wind facility project.

Section 368 Corridors Analysis

- The Department attended a workshop on September 20, 2016 to discuss the Section 368 Corridors Analysis. To comply with Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the U.S. Departments of Energy (DOE) and the Interior (DOI), and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) identified energy corridors (commonly referred to as “Section 368” or “west-wide” energy corridors) for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines, and electricity transmission and distribution facilities. In January 2009, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and FS designated 6,000 miles of Section 368 corridors on Federal lands in the 11 contiguous western states through two Records of Decisions (RODs) and associated land use plan amendments. In 2009, several non-profit organizations filed a lawsuit challenging the designation of the corridors, and in 2012, the court dismissed the case pursuant to a Settlement Agreement. As part of the settlement, BLM was to implement an interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) addressing periodic corridor reviews; update agency guidance; update agency training; and complete a corridor study. This MOU, signed in June 2013 describes the interagency process for conducting these reviews, the

types of information and data to be considered, and the process for incorporating resulting recommendations in BLM and FS land use plans. Six regions throughout the western United States were identified, with Arizona falling within regions 1, 2 and 3 for the Corridor Study. Specifically, this Corridor Study evaluates: The opportunity for more effective corridor utilization, the types and numbers of projects within the corridors, evaluation of existing ROWs within the corridors, and where corridors are being over- or under-utilized. The regional interagency periodic review for region 1 began in early October 2016, with the Department commenting on corridor routes within this region. Comments for the first Region being analyzed were due October 24, 2016.

Gray Hawk Solar Project

- The Department received an application from Gray Hawk Solar to develop a 70 megawatt photovoltaic solar energy facility in the Northern Kingman area. The company has submitted applications for land rezone for the energy overlay development. The project plans to sell solar power to Unisource Energy pursuant to a long-term power purchase agreement.

Fort Mohave Solar Project

- The Department is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), regarding the Departments role as a cooperating agency, and the preparation of the EIS with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- The Fort Mohave Solar Project EIS timeline is to begin in late 2016 through the summer of 2017.

SunZia Transmission Line

- The Department met with SunZia on September 21, 2016 to discuss the development of the Plan of Development (POD). They need to have the line constructed and operational by December 2017. The Department will be involved in the development of the POD and a schedule will be released for review dates.

Southline Transmission Line

- The elevational survey for the mitigation of Crane Lake at Willcox Playa Wildlife Area was conducted the week of October 17th, 2016 and the geotesting for surface permeability has been completed. The final engineering drawings are nearing completion.

Ten West 500kV Transmission Line (aka Palo Verde Devers II, Delaney – Colorado)

- BLM is the lead federal agency for this project. The Department is a cooperating agency and BLM sent the Department the preliminary alternatives report.

TRANSPORTATION

I-11 Wickenburg to Nogales

- ADOT has begun preparing their Tier I Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Interstate-11 (Wickenburg to Nogales segments). The Department has Cooperative Agency status and has provided an initial scoping letter with comments and recommendations. The Department will be working with ADOT to provide feedback on the alternatives, and offer more in depth analyses of resource concerns and mitigation opportunities, as the Tier I DEIS process progresses.
- A potential route for proposed I-11 would pass through the Wildlife Mitigation Corridor, owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and cooperatively managed under an agreement with the Department and Pima County. The Wildlife Mitigation Corridor was originally protected as mitigation for habitat fragmentation caused by the Central Arizona Project Canal which transects it via several below-ground passages, allowing wildlife to move across unimpeded between the Tucson Mountain Wildlife Area and on to the Tohono O'Odham Nation and Ironwood Forest National Monument.

North/South Corridor

- ADOT is restarting their environmental analysis; previously they prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), but are now changing to a Tier I DEIS; a Tier I EIS is more of a planning level document than a regular EIS. The Department will be attending ADOT November 2016 Stakeholder Agency meeting, and will request Cooperating Agency status for the upcoming NEPA process.

South Mountain Freeway

- The Department is currently coordinating and tracking the design build process and will be participating in the process during those segments that contain the multi-use crossing areas.

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Apache Sitgreaves	<p><u>LRMP</u> - September 25, 2015: NOA for plan and EIS published in the Federal Register. October 25, 2015: Plan went into effect. December 23, 2016: Department notice of appeal. February 26, 2015: Department meets with Southwest Regional Office, resolving issues 1 through 7 of the Department's appeal, but reaching no resolution on recommended wilderness. June 30, 2016: Department sends decline to withdraw appeal letter to Appeal Reviewing Officer.</p> <p><u>TMP</u> - October 2010: Draft EIS (forest wide) released , process halted due to 2011 Wallow Fire. June 9, 2016: Forest re-initiates NEPA planning and analysis. June 27, 2016: ID Team kick-off meeting. July 28, 2016: ID Team meeting initial review of Forest Plan consistency. September 13, 2016: ID Team meeting initial 2010 DEIS roads comments review</p>	<p>LRMP - Agreement reached on Department Issues 1-7. Issue of Recommended Wilderness unresolved.</p> <p>TMP - Prepare draft supplemental EIS.</p>	<p>LRMP - Potential litigation depending on Commission decision.</p> <p>TMP - DSEIS for public comment anticipated July 2017, ROD anticipated July 2019.</p>
Issues:	<p><u>LRMP</u> - Approximately 7100 acres of recommended wilderness. Concern over potential impacts to the Department's ability to manage wildlife/habitat, and that impacts to the Department were not adequately analyzed in the EIS. <u>TMP</u> - 2013 draft EIS allows for Motorized Big Game Retrieval (MBGR) 1 mile from road for elk, mule deer & bear. Provides for 658 miles of corridors for dispersed camping 300 ft. off established roads.</p>	Potential litigation.	
Coconino	<p><u>LRMP</u> - Final Draft released May 2016.</p> <p><u>TMP</u> - Final 2011 (forest wide), MVUM's available; AGFD appealed plan on MBGR and dispersed camping decisions, appeal denied.</p>	<p><u>LRMP</u> - Dept. formulating final recommendations.</p> <p><u>TMP</u> - Coconino has opened and closed the scoping process to revise TMP.</p>	<p>Final LRMP expected Spring 2017.</p> <p>TMP revision process is currently ongoing. The Dept. is included as a cooperating agency and will continue to actively engage.</p>

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Issues:	<p><u>LRMP</u> - Most issues and concerns appear largely resolved in final draft except 3 wilderness expansion areas.</p> <p><u>TMP</u> - limited dispersed camping 300ft from specifically identified roads, 30ft from all other roads. MBGR for elk only, 1 mile from roads except GMUs 5A & 5B.</p>	<p><u>LRMP</u>: Region 2 is currently coordinating Dept. response.</p> <p><u>TMP</u>: Region completed data collection of approx. 95% of the dispersed camping locations on the Coconino NF. This data has been instrumental in the current TMP revision identifying the need for camping corridor and open road changes.</p>	<p><u>LRMP</u>: Region 2 will continue to coordinate within the Dept. to determine appropriate next steps.</p> <p><u>TMP</u>: Continue to work with the forest as a cooperator identifying and recommending needed changes.</p>
Coronado	<u>LRMP</u> - draft released Dec 2013, Dept. commented.	Final review by ABQ complete, Forest is making final changes to LRMP. BO due from FWS in March, final was due to public in September 2016 (Per SOPA checked again 11/8/16).	FEIS NOA in Fed Register est 9/2016 (SOPA checked 11/6/2016)
	<u>MVUM EA's</u> - district by district.	Changes to Motorized Travel System EA's are progressing district by district. Three districts are in final phase, 2 are in initial phase. Region addressing district-specific road closures and access issues. 300' corridor closure in some areas	MVUM decisions by district. See status below.
Issues:	<p><u>LRMP</u>- Reduces use of locatable mineral withdrawal. General inconsistencies and State Land access issues. NO MBGR. MVUM's show access through roads that have locked gates. District-specific road closures and access issues.</p> <p><u>MVUM EA</u> Specific road closures, lack of legal access to forest, non-system roads not added to TAP- No MBGR. Loss of 300' camping corridor in some areas.</p>	Comment on draft EA for Sierra Vista PDEA. Object, if needed, on Safford, Nogales, Douglas, and Santa Catalina under 218 Rule.	<p>District Draft MVUM EA timeline per SOPA 11/8/2016 :</p> <p>Catalina Final Draft EA 9-2016 Douglas Final Draft EA 6/2016 Nogales Final Draft EA 5-2016 Sierra Vista Preliminary Draft EA 11-2016 Safford Final Draft EA 1/2017</p> <p>NOTE: All dates are past due except Safford as of 11/8/2016.</p>

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Kaibab	LRMP - Final Feb 2014.	LRMP: Dept. comments (excluding Wilderness recommendations) were incorporated in Final LRMP.	
	<p>TMP - completed by district. MVUM's available.</p> <p><u>S. Zone</u> (Tusayan and Williams RD): TMP revision released Jan 2016. Dept. was cooperating agency and worked closely with Districts on revisions. Dept. accepted final revision. Region continuing to collect dispersed camping locations to inform future revisions.</p> <p><u>N. Zone</u>: Region has completed data collection of all dispersed camping locations.</p>	<p>TMP</p> <p><u>S. Zone</u>: Region 2 will complete dispersed camping inventory to inform future TMP revisions.</p> <p><u>N. Zone</u>: No TMP revision process has been initiated (timing uncertain)</p>	
Issues:	<p>LRMP recommends small areas of additional Wilderness to clarify boundaries.</p> <p>TMP:</p> <p><u>S. Zone</u>: Decision incorporates 300ft camping corridor recommendations and many specific road recommendations (to open and to close). Forest deferred to consider additional camping corridor and road changes under an adaptive management strategy. MBGR is considered outside the scope of the adaptive management strategy. The Forest is currently signing closed roads on the ground.</p> <p><u>N. Zone</u>: MBGR restricted to bison and elk only. Current designated dispersed camping opportunities at lower elevations possibly insufficient to accommodate late season deer hunters and other campers.</p>	<p>TMP:</p> <p><u>S. Zone</u>: Complete the collection of the campsite location data and present it to the forest for consideration in their adaptive management planning.</p> <p><u>N. Zone</u>: Dept. is ready to engage in TMP revisions to address deficiencies when process is initiated.</p>	

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Prescott	<u>LRMP</u> - Draft released 2012. <u>TMP</u> - No new TMP, amending 2005 plan for travel management.	FEIS published in Federal Register 05/05/2015, ROD signed 5/5/15. Department appealing inclusion of 8 wilderness expansion areas with no analysis of impacts to Dept's ability to manage wildlife resources	Department Appeal filed 11/05/15. PNF Plan Appeal Review Period Extension Request Approved 4/11/16. Response Letter Sent May 27, 2016 to the FS over the consultation process and the Departments decline to withdraw appeal of PNF LRMP and FEIS. July 01, 2016 : Final appeal decision #16-13-00-0001. USDA Forest Service Washington Office declined to conduct a review of Departments appeal, with the decision to approve the revised land management plan for PNF.
Issues:	<u>LRMP</u> - MBGR: Elk only, within 1 mile of designated open road. May be changed by amendment. Dispersed camping 300' from centerline of designated roads. MBGR ELK ONLY.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of motor vehicles should be limited to within 1 mile of designated roads and motorized trails to retrieve a legally hunted and tagged elk during elk hunting seasons as designated by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and for 24 hours following the end of each season. Only one vehicle (i.e., one trip in and one trip out) per harvested animal should be operated off of designated roads and motorized trails. 2. Hunters should use the most direct and least ground-disturbing route to accomplish the retrieval. 3. Motorized big game retrieval should not occur when conditions are such that travel would cause damage to natural and/or cultural resources. 4. Motor vehicles should not cross riparian corridors, streams, and rivers except at hardened crossings or crossings with existing culverts. 	Final appeal decision July 01, 2016 - #16-13-00-0001. USDA Forest Service Washington Office declined to conduct a review of Departments appeal, with the decision to approve the revised land management plan for PNF.

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Issues:	<p>LRMP-Special Land Use Designations (Proposed Wilderness Areas). Recommended new Wilderness 23,000 acres without congressional approval, managed as new wilderness until approved.</p>	<p>The Forest Service intends to implement interim management restrictions associated with its wilderness designations; with the Department taking the position the FS lacks statutory authority to revise the management directions of recommended wilderness areas without Congressional action officially designating any wilderness recommendations. November 2, 2015 AZGFD Notice of Appeal of Decision: New Wilderness Designation in Prescott National Forest (PNF) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (MB-R3-09-05, signed May 5, 2015 by Regional Forester Calvin Joyner) for the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP)</p>	<p>December 2016 Commission Meeting: Review litigation options for PNF recommended wilderness and declined appeal decision. July 01, 2016 : Final appeal decision #16-13-00-0001. USDA Forest Service Washington Office declined to conduct a review of Departments appeal, with the decision to approve the revised land management plan for PNF. Response Letter Sent May 27, 2016 to the FS over the consultation process and the Departments decline to withdraw appeal of PNF LRMP and FEIS. April 10, 2016 AZGFD response letter to Teresa Chase commenting on administrative corrections to the LRMP in advance of publication. November 2, 2015 AZGFD Letter Notice of Appeal of Decision: New Wilderness Designation in Prescott National Forest (PNF)</p>
Issues:	<p>LRMP - Monitoring Transition white paper and Chapter 6 Monitoring and Evaluation change from Management Indicator Species (MIS) to focal species; the western meadowlark was chosen for the grassland indicator species, with the American pronghorn being removed.</p>	<p>May 05, 2016 Region 3 Habitat responded with a comment letter indicating our concerns over removing pronghorn from the monitoring and evaluation strategy. June 30, 2016 received response from PNF Forest Supervisor Teresa Chase indicating the western meadowlark would remain the focal species for grasslands stating they continue to support the conclusion that meadowlark would serve the FS purposes, because their management actions are not looking at the population as a whole, but rather population fluctuations in treatment areas. The FS felt pronghorn would be impeded by fences/obstacles and therefore are not often indicative of the success of their management actions.</p>	<p>June 30, 2016 received response from PNF Forest Supervisor Teresa Chase indicating the western meadowlark would remain the focal species for grasslands.</p>

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Tonto	<p><u>LRMP</u> - Initiating Planning Process/public scoping 2014. The Forest is finalizing the assessment phase of the plan and will initiate the ID Team meetings once the assessment is complete.</p> <p><u>TMP</u> - Draft Decision and Final EIS complete.</p>	<p>AGFD participating as Cooperating Agency throughout LRMP and TMP processes;The LRMP is in the assessment phase currently, comments are being incorporated into the final and should be out after the first of the year. The Department has participated on the ID Team for TMP and as the technical expertise for the aquatic and fisheries portions of the LRMP assessment development process. We have participated in the public meetings for both the TMP and LRMP assessment phase. Most recently, the Department was requested to provide data into the species of conservation concern for the Phase I assessment of the LRMP process and we reviewed/responded to the draft assessment.</p>	<p>Phase I Assessment of the LRMP August 2016 Supplemental to the EIS underway for TMP</p>
<i>Issues (LRMP):</i>	<p>The Phase I plan assessment has been drafted (began in 2015). This assessment evaluated the existing data and information, sustainability of social, economic and ecological resources. The process is about 1 year behind. The Department did have a representative on the assessment ID Team, per request from the TNF and has since participated with the team for various data exchanges.</p>	<p>The Phase II includes the development of the Plan to address the desired conditions, management objectives and other plan components; along with development of alternatives for issues with differing opinions. Phase I included some complications with regard to formatting and criteria process for the species of conservation concern from the regional FS office. The Department provided information on all of the various species and lists, urging the FS to be more inclusive.</p>	<p>Phase II is expected to begin 2017. Phase I Plan Assessment final first of the year.</p>
<i>Issues (TMP):</i>	<p>Consistency across forests, enforceability, MBGR 1 mile off road for elk and bear only. MVUM's are inaccurate. Dispersed camping corridors may be omitted in favor of the motorized dispersed camping inventory completed in collaboration with the Department. Three road closures may be proposed due to perceived conflicts with wilderness boundaries. Dispersed camping closures maybe proposed for the upper Salt River Recreation Area - Lake Roosevelt as part of the Roosevelt Habitat Conservation Plan primarily for southwestern willow flycatchers.</p>	<p>Objection letter was filed with the FS and a confirmation of receipt has been received by the Department. We met with the FS for resolutions.</p>	<p>It was determined from the regional office a supplemental was needed.</p>

Field Office /District	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Arizona Strip			
AZ STRIP RMP (including Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermillion Cliffs NMs)	ROD Feb 2008	n/a	
Colorado City TMP	We have faced very few issues with respect to maintaining appropriate motorized access. Where they have occurred, BLM has afforded opportunities to negotiate and successfully resolve.		ROD Expected 2016
Littlefield TMP	" "		ROD Expected 2016
St. George Basin TMP	" "		ROD Expected 2016
Remainder of AZ Strip Field Office TMP	EA initiated 2014, Department staff are fully engaged in the process.		ROD Expected 2017, possibly 2018
Hassayampa			
RMP	ROD for Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP and Agua Fria National Monument signed February 2009. Plan does not allow MBGR. Dispersed camping allowed, routes to campsite open in TMP. Recreational shooting allowed, BLM may close areas to shooting if resource damaged documented.		

Black Canyon Recreation and Travel Management Plan	BLM has completed 1st round of route evaluation analysis to identify travel alternatives for each route for the TMP and has processed results. The Department participated in the analysis process with BLM staff and provided input on the development of a draft range of alternatives. Overall, the planning proposes 50 miles of new routes to the current 350 miles to improve access to Black National Recreation Trail; access for motorized trail users off county roads; and overall trail connectivity.	BLM ID Team needs to create a set of draft alternative maps that support route alternatives and combine travel and recreation actions (eg. Trail heads or other infrastructure development); scope alternatives to public through a series of public meetings; followed by a 30 day comment period to help BLM craft a preferred alternative. BLM will meet with AGFD to review draft alternative maps prior to the public meetings. BLM plans to conduct additional scoping in Black Canyon City winter 2015-16 to discuss proposals for bypass roads around the community. Currently there are no legal motorized access roads to public lands west of the City; resulting in private land trespass and related management issues.	The project is on hold due to Recreation Staff vacancy.
Issue (Black Canyon TMP)	The proposed Castle Creek Wilderness expansion by the Prescott National Forest (PNF) would close approximately 6.3 miles of an existing OHV trail that is currently the only access into the area. The trail is partially an old road and partially an unimproved single track that goes back and forth onto the PNF and adjacent Bureau of Land Management; but access to the BLM portions would be inaccessible with the proposed wilderness expansion boundary. The BLM is currently doing travel management planning for their adjacent lands and has an interest in the trail as well depending on what alternative is chosen. The trail is difficult to access but is routinely recommended for hunters that want to avoid hunter saturated areas.	PNF does not recognize the route as legal, never has and has told the BLM they will not keep open for motorized BLM trail connectivity purposes; PNF proposes to downgrade to foot travel as part of Catstle Creek trail system into the Wilderness. BLM would have to construct a new road to keep the existing loop, which would require an RMP amendment. No alternative plans have been developed at this point.	
Box Canyon Travel Mgmt Re-evaluation	Decision on Wickenburg Travel Management Plan was issued last Summer Town of Wickenburg appealed decision Box Canyon area. BLM has agreed to re-evaluate the Box Canyon area (judge remanded only that portion of the decision) and is working with Wickenburg to re-evaluate with a more focused approach.	BLM will be initiating re-evaluation as a NEPA process; but no current funding to initiate planning as of Fall 2015. Looking at developing an MOU with Wickenburg to formalize them as a partner, and give Wickenburg status for future planning.	
Harquahala Wilder	Finalized	Implementation	

Vulture Mountain	Partnership between Maricopa County Parks and BLM Hassayampa Field Office to manage recreation in 71,000 acres of BLM land in the Vulture Mountains	Department involved in developing plan. Plan completed. Management details in negotiation	Unknown
Kingman			
Resource Management Plan	ROD Signed 1993; route evaluations currently being conducted. Plan Life: 20 years, with amendments as needed. Plan does allow MBGR outside of wilderness. Dispersed Camping allowed on BLM lands. Off Highway Vehicle travel allowed on existing roads, trails and navigable washes. Antler collection and recreational shooting allowed. No wilderness expansion or special area designations expected.	Continuing implementation, 2014 Burro Surveys indicate burros significantly above AML. BLM KFO removed 100 burros from Black Mtn HMA in FY 2015. BLM KFO removed 125 Burro's from HMA in 2016. Review Route Evaluations. Regional meetings held with public, AZGFD, BLM and Mohave County...applying pressure to Regional and District Offices for removals. BLM KFO is conducting a EA for burro sterility project in Black Mountain HMA. Western Governor's Association webinar examined the challenges and opportunities associated with responsible and humane mgmt. of horses and burro's on public lands. Congressional Response (U.S. Representative Chris Steward (Utah): BLM responses are unacceptable 1) Adoption 2) Contraceptive Studies are not addressing the problem, but presenting a band-aid approach. Legislation is needed to address the problem, lift the DOI appropriations Bill mandate language to the BLM, and allow them to humanely euthanize and/or sale without restrictions. General viewpoint for a possible solution was to allow the states to management the problem.	Department implementing statewide strategy to move BLM National Program Office to fund burro management at AML. Support submitted by Mohave County and Arizona Congressional members. BLM sterility EA expected in July 2016. Aug.16/2016 Region III responded to ZonaStat-H PZP Fertility Mgmt. Pilot Project for Wild Female Burros EA Nov. 10, 2016 Western Governor's Association hosted a National Forest & Rangeland Management Initiative Webinar: The Future of Wild Horse & Burro Management.
Bullhead Travel Management Plan	FONSI/ROD signed March, 2009	In effect until rescinded or amended by management action.	
Lake Havasu			
<i>RMP</i>	RMP ROD signed July 2007. Plan does not allow MBGR. Dispersed camping allowed, routes to campsite open in TMP. Recreational shooting allowed, BLM may close areas to shooting if resource damaged documented.		
<i>TMP</i>	FONSI signed for Bullhead Unit March 2009, Havasu Unit September 2013. Route Evaluations begun for Bouse Unit	Completed new route inventories for Bouse and Cactus Plain TMA. Reanalyzing routes	Unknown

Lower Sonoran			
<i>RMP</i>	RMP for Lower Sonoran Field Office and Sonoran Desert National Monument ROD signed September 2012. Plan does not allow MBGR. Dispersed camping allowed, routes to campsite opened in TMP. Recreational shooting allowed, BLM may close areas to shooting if resource damaged documented. Temporary road closures in SDNM continue as BLM is attempting to obtain funding to complete rehabilitation of damaged routes.		
<i>TMP</i>	SDNM TMP completed in RMP. No ongoing TMP in this Field Office (efforts in Hassayampa Field Office)	Uncertain	
<i>SDNM Recreational Shooting</i>	Court upheld litigation ordered reanalysis of decision to allow recreational shooting on SDNM. Department has requested cooperating agency status on reanalysis. Department reviewed and provided comments on Administrative Draft RMPA and EIS	Public Draft of RMPA and EIS will be released.	
<i>SDNM Juan Bautista De Anza Area Recreation Plan</i>	Reviewing Draft Plan. Provided Comments	FONSI will be signed and Plan Implemented. Should result in opening of temporarily closed roads.	
Phoenix District			
<i>Issues:</i>	No issues with District Office		
Safford			
<i>RMP</i>	Gila Box Riparian completed 1998; Aravaipa EMP and FONSI finalized 9/15/15		
<i>TMP</i>	Gila Unit TMP scoping completed; Middle Gila completed 2010;		
<i>Issues:</i>	Aravaipa EMP: no MBGR; helicopter use in wilderness subject to MRDG; GBRNCA: trespass cattle		

Tucson			
<i>RMP</i>	Ironwood Forest NM RMP completed; scoping comments sent 11/2014 for San Pedro Riparian; BLM determined 24,000 ac at SPRNCA possess Wilderness Characteristics and San Pedro and Babocomari Rs eligible for Natl Wild/Scenic River System; Las Cienegas TMP/RMP completed	SPRNCA Draft RMP and EA for TMP	SPRNCA Draft RMP 12/2016
<i>TMP</i>	Ironwood Forest NM TMP finalized 7/2014; scoping comments sent for San Pedro Riparian 9/2013;	SPRNCA TMP route inventory workshop attended by WMs (northern portion only). Southern portions of SPRNCA TMP route workshop schedule TBD.	SPRNCA Draft TMP 12/2016
<i>Issues:</i>	SPRNCA: no MBGR, public access		
Yuma			
<i>RMP</i>	RMP ROD signed January 2010. Plan does not allow MBGR. Dispersed camping allowed, routes to campsite open in TMP. Recreational shooting allowed, BLM may close areas to shooting if resource damaged documented.		
<i>TMP</i>	La Posa Plan Final EA and FONSI signed	Begin Implementation	Final signed
<i>TMP</i>	Reviewed public comments on route evaluation alternatives for Imperial Hills. Begun route evaluation for Laguna Mountains		
STATE OFFICE			
RENEWABLE ENERGY			
TEN WEST TRANSMISSION LINE	Held Agency/Stakeholder Issues Meeting. Collecting Information. Prepared Scoping letter. Reviewed and Commented on Preliminary Alternatives Report.	Administrative Draft RMPA and EIS	