

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
425 E. 4th STREET,
SAFFORD, AZ 85546

8561
(043)

Stump

(602)428-4040

Stanley K. Brickler, Ph.D.
The University of Arizona
College of Agriculture
School of Renewable Natural Resources
325 Biological Sciences East Building
Tucson, Arizona 85721

MAY 1 1986

Dear Stan:

As our cooperative research progresses in Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness, I want to take this opportunity to discuss several issues relative to the carrying capacity study. Many of these topics you have discussed with Steve Knox on your recent horseback trip into the wilderness. With the completion of Phase I approaching, we need to begin thinking about amending the cooperative agreement (CA) to include the details of Phase II. The purpose, statement of work, schedule, personnel involved, and budget need to be determined so the CA can be amended with no interruption of the research. As before, the budget discussion will be very important and the contributions the University of Arizona and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are making must be clearly displayed.

With respect to the budget for Phase II, we need to know what BLM's contribution will be so that we can begin the budget process to obtain the needed funds. In addition to our budgeting process, we also want to contact the Defenders of Wildlife as a possible source of funding for the study. Prior to making those contacts we will need at least a general idea of the budget for Phase II. I understand you are also exploring other sources of funding. I continue to support your efforts to fund this project.

The week of May 12, Dave Porter, from our Washington Office wilderness staff, will be visiting Aravaipa Canyon for a two day hike through the wilderness. I want to invite you to join us on that hike so that we can present to Dave our carrying capacity study, including its purpose, benefits to other wilderness managers, and cost. Your presence will be important during those discussions. Tentatively, we are planning to begin our hike on the west end on Tuesday, May 13, and come out the east end the following day.

I have instructed the rangers to complete the campsite inventory you discussed with Steve. We are also exploring ways to obtain the names and addresses of all wilderness visitors so you can develop a sample population for the questionnaire(s) of Phase II. I don't see a problem collecting this information, we just need to develop a method to do it.

USAV-00005536

In developing the survey questionnaire(s), keep in mind that OMB clearance may be required. As you know, we may be able to utilize the Recreation Visitor Survey form (No. 8310-8) by simply including the survey questions under Part E. When the research program is designed and the questionnaire(s) is (are) developed, we will consult with our State Office to determine if the Recreation Visitor Survey form can be used or OMB clearance will be required. In terms of scheduling and research progress, we should plan on the possibility of the need for OMB review and approval.

Last November you provided us with a preliminary list of research issues and questions. We met to discuss them and provided you with written comments. We would like to know how that list has been refined. Which issues and questions will the research address? If that list has not been finalized, we would still be interested in a preliminary idea of the issues and questions to be addressed.

Among other activities, you are currently designing the research program to be used in this project. We understand that the final program has not been completed but would like to hear your ideas on the research program you anticipate. We would like this information so more information can be provided to others in discussions that take place regarding the carrying capacity study.

At this point in the CA I am very pleased with the progress that has occurred. I feel our working relationship is good and growing. The primary obstacle ahead will be funding but we have made significant progress in that area. I feel our State and Washington Offices understand not only our local needs for this study but the regional and national benefits it will provide wilderness managers of all agencies. I look forward to the interesting work that lies ahead. If you have any questions, contact either me or Steve at the above address or phone number. Steve will continue to work with you on the issues discussed in this letter.

Sincerely,

Keith L. Cook
Gila Area Manager

SKnox/efr 5/01/86
0037C