

United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SAFFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

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Safford, Arizona 85546

(602)428-4040

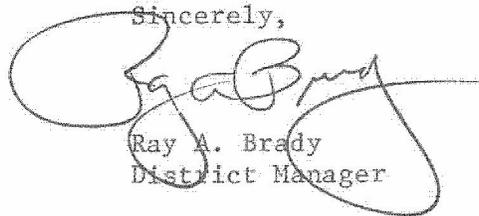
Dear Public Lands User:

In designating Aravaipa Canyon as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System on August 28, 1984, Congress found the area to be "...a primitive place of great natural beauty that, due to the rare presence of a perennial stream, supports an extraordinary abundance and diversity of native plant, fish, and wildlife, making it a resource of national significance...." Aravaipa Canyon was designated as wilderness to preserve and protect a natural and fragile complex of desert, riparian and aquatic ecosystems. The native plant, fish and wildlife communities dependent on those ecosystems, as well as the scenic, geologic, cultural and primitive recreational values, are also protected by this wilderness designation.

The wilderness resource is composed of many interrelated natural resource values. The Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Management Plan addresses the concerns and issues involved with the resources of the area and establishes management policies and actions that will provide an enduring resource of wilderness. The plan also outlines rules and procedures for the use and enjoyment of the area consistent with wilderness management policy.

Through the efforts and interest of many of you, as well as the review and comment of agencies and organizations, BLM has prepared a plan that considers the use and protection of the wilderness within the framework of the principles established in the Wilderness Act of 1964. I appreciate these efforts and welcome your continued interest in the management of Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness.

Sincerely,



Ray A. Brady
District Manager

USAV-00005562

8561
(044)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
425 E. 4th STREET
SAFFORD, AZ 85545

(602)428-4040

MAY 19 1988

K. Mahoney
W. B. B.

Dear Public Lands User:

In designating Aravaipa Canyon as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System on August 28, 1984, Congress found the area to be "...a primitive place of great natural beauty that, due to the rare presence of a perennial stream, supports an extraordinary abundance and diversity of native plant, fish, and wildlife, making it a resource of national significance...." Aravaipa Canyon was designated as wilderness to preserve and protect a natural and fragile complex of desert, riparian and aquatic ecosystems. The native plant, fish and wildlife communities dependent on those ecosystems, as well as the scenic, geologic, cultural and primitive recreational values, are also protected by this wilderness designation.

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Through the efforts and interest of many of you, as well as the review and comment of agencies and organizations, BLM has prepared a plan that considers the use and protection of the wilderness within the framework of the principles established in the Wilderness Act of 1964. I appreciate these efforts and welcome your continued interest in the management of Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness.

Sincerely,

Ray A. Brady
District Manager

KMahoney:efr 05/18/88
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USAV-00005563

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO PUBLISH

PRINTING AND BINDING REQUISITION NO. 8-17184-I-LM-GP7-0135

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To: Documents Control Branch (SSMC), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402

From: INTERIOR Department BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Bureau

Submitted by: Jane Glesson, Writer-Editor Name, Title, and Telephone ETS 461-5515 Date 2-16-88

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Title Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Management Plan

a

New Reprint Revised Dept. Serial # _____ Jacket # _____ Program # _____

Print Order # _____ Printer: GPO Contractor Region # _____

Form of Publication Handbook Manual Guide Map Tape Microform Other: _____

Recommended for sale: Yes No Quantity _____ Reason Against the law

Anticipated revision date _____ Wish to be notified when put on sale Yes No

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Unit of Issue _____

3. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

Brief description of contents Plan for management of the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness for the next
(for more space use reverse) 10 years

What publication does it supersede? _____

Copies for departmental distribution 1000

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Linda S. Johnson Contract Specialist 21 AZ
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PREPLAN ANALYSIS
FOR
ARAVAIPA CANYON
WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
Ken Mahoney
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Gila Resource Area

April 1986

INTRODUCTION

Bureau of Land Management policy requires the preparation of wilderness management plans for areas under its jurisdiction designated as wilderness by Congress. Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness was established on August 28, 1984, by Public Law 98-406. As a preliminary step to the wilderness management plan, the preplan analysis documents the boundaries of the planning area and identifies possible management goals, objectives, issues and data needs. The preplan analysis also names participants in the planning effort, identifies opportunities for public participation throughout the plan preparation and sets a planning schedule.

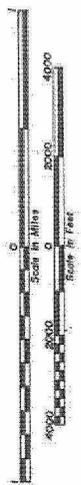
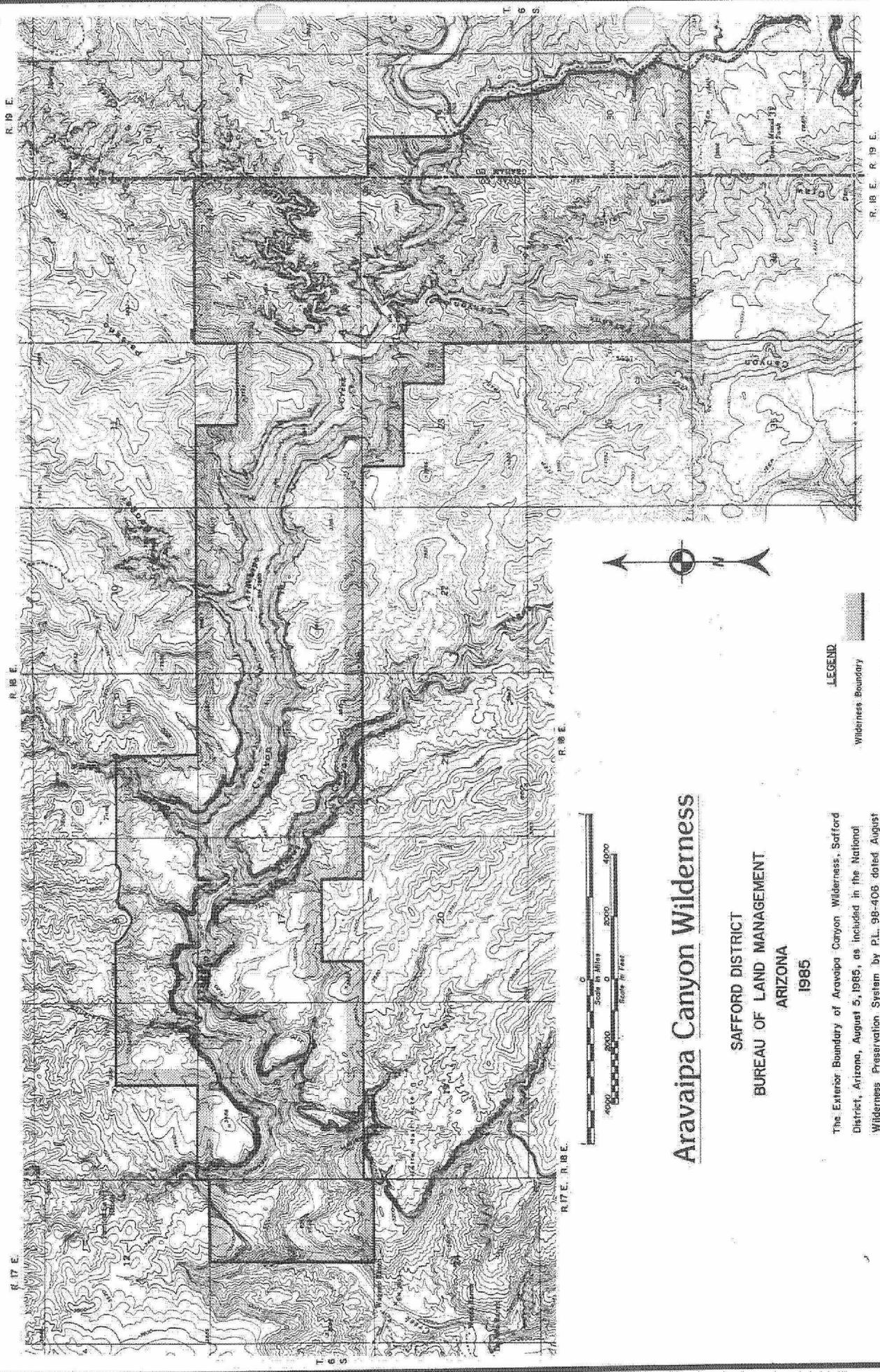
1. The Planning Area

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness comprises 6,699 acres of canyons and tablelands. A copy of the official map (Illustration 1) as submitted August 5, 1985, is attached depicting the wilderness boundaries. A legal description of the wilderness has also been completed and submitted with the boundary map. The wilderness management plan will address management objectives and actions affecting Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness as described above.

2. Standard Wilderness Management Goals

The following goals set the parameters for determining objectives and specific direction for management of Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness:

- o To provide for the long term protection and preservation of the area's wilderness character under a principle of non-degradation. The area's natural condition, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and any ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value present will be managed so that they will remain unimpaired.
- o To manage the wilderness area for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that will leave the area unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The wilderness resource will be dominant in all management decisions where a choice must be made between preservation of wilderness character and visitor use.
- o To manage the area using the minimum tool, equipment, or structure necessary to successfully, safely, and economically accomplish the objective. The chosen tool, equipment, or structure should be the one that least degrades wilderness values temporarily or permanently. Management will seek to preserve spontaneity of use and as much freedom from regulation as possible.
- o To manage non-conforming but accepted uses permitted by the



LEGEND
 Wilderness Boundary
 County Line

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness

SAFFORD DISTRICT
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 ARIZONA
 1985

The Exterior Boundary of Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness, Safford District, Arizona, August 5, 1985, as included in the National Wilderness Preservation System by P.L. 98-405 dated August 26, 1984.

Wilderness Act and subsequent laws in a manner that will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the area's wilderness character. Nonconforming uses are the exception rather than the rule; therefore, emphasis is placed on maintaining wilderness character.

3. Preliminary Management Objectives

The following objectives are intended to establish the specific wilderness conditions to be attained in Aravaipa Canyon. Objectives should be established for all resources in the wilderness that require management.

RECREATION. Aravaipa Canyon will be managed to provide a variety of primitive recreation opportunities including use and enjoyment of scenic, scientific, educational, and historical features. The wilderness resource will be dominant in all management decisions where a choice must be made between wilderness preservation and visitor use.

Visitor Management. Visitor use will be controlled to the extent necessary to preserve both the wilderness resource and visitor's wilderness experience and opportunities. Regulation of visitor use will be the minimum necessary to provide for use and preserve the wilderness character of Aravaipa Canyon.

Improvements and Facilities. Facilities and improvements within the wilderness will be provided only where they are the minimum necessary to protect the wilderness resource and the health and safety of visitors.

Commercial Use. Commercial use will be permitted when consistent with the protection of the wilderness resource, to provide a wilderness opportunity for those who are not prepared to experience Aravaipa Canyon on their own, to promote an understanding of wilderness, and to teach back country skills.

ADMINISTRATION. Necessary administrative activities will be conducted so as to preserve the integrity of the wilderness resource.

CULTURAL RESOURCES. Archaeological and historical resources are a unique and non-renewable part of Aravaipa Canyon. The management objective is to study, preserve, protect and enhance prehistoric and historic sites in compliance with State and Federal laws and BLM policy.

FISH AND WILDLIFE. Management emphasis will be placed on a natural distribution, number, and interaction of existing and native species of fish and wildlife. Natural processes will be allowed to continue as far as possible without human influence. Management will protect the conditions that allow natural processes to occur. To the extent possible, wildlife species will be allowed to maintain a natural balance with their habitat and each other.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat. Habitat manipulation will be permitted to perpetuate threatened and endangered species or to correct unnatural conditions resulting from human influence. These activities will be permitted only where they will enhance the wilderness resource and where natural processes are unsuccessful.

Fish and Wildlife Manipulation. Native fish and wildlife species may be reintroduced and managed as part of Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness if their presence enhances the wilderness values of the area.

Hunting/Fishing/Trapping. These activities will be allowed where consistent with State laws and regulations, public safety and wilderness management objectives.

Predators. Predator control actions will be approved contingent upon a clear showing that removal of an offending predator will not diminish the wilderness values of the area. Predators are an integral part of the wilderness as well as the wilderness experience.

FIRE. Fires will be controlled to prevent the loss of human life, property or resources within the wilderness or when fire threatens life, property or resources in areas outside of the wilderness. Fire that contributes to reestablishing and maintaining natural ecosystems without endangering human life, property or resources may be allowed to burn when in conformance with an approved Fire Management Plan. Prescribed fire may be permitted, on a case-by-case basis, to achieve wilderness and resource management objectives.

WATERSHED. Water quality will be managed to maintain and enhance a safe human contact standard. A potable water standard will not be required. Water quantity will be maintained at a level necessary to preserve the riparian ecosystem and wilderness experience. Management will prevent human-caused contamination of waters. Soil and vegetation will be managed to maintain a natural ecological condition.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING. Livestock grazing, where established prior to wilderness designation, will be allowed to continue on the rims above Aravaipa Canyon. Livestock grazing will not be permitted in the canyon bottom but cattle will be allowed to "trail" through the canyon bottom during round-ups.

Maintenance of Facilities. Maintenance of necessary rangeland improvements will be allowed in keeping with the minimum tool concept.

Construction of New Facilities. Construction of new rangeland improvements may be permitted if determined necessary for the purpose of rangeland and wilderness resource protection and the effective management of these resources.

Recreational Livestock. To maintain the riparian ecosystem, commercial and non-commercial recreational livestock will not be permitted to graze or remain overnight in the canyon bottom.

4. Potential Management Issues

The following issues identify problems and opportunities that may need to be resolved to attain the preliminary management objectives. The first three issues are general in nature and are required to be considered in each plan.

- o How will long-term protection of wilderness characteristics (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and supplemental features) be best provided?
- o How will visitor use be managed?
- o What non-conforming but accepted uses require attention and how will they be managed?

Recreation

- o Is a reservation and permit system necessary to manage visitor use and preserve wilderness values in Aravaipa Canyon?
- o Should the number of visitors allowed in the wilderness be reduced or increased from the current 50 people per day or should visitor numbers be limited at all?
- o Should the distribution of visitors allowed to enter from the east and west be changed, and if so, to what proportions from the current 20 on the east and 30 on the west?
- o Is there a need to keep the portable "airlift" toilet facility in the wilderness?
- o How much commercial use should be allowed in the wilderness and is there a need to allocate a portion of the allowable use to commercial outfitters and guides?
- o Is there a need to allocate a portion of the allowable use to groups?
- o Should campsites be designated in certain heavily used areas in the canyon?
- o Should campfires be allowed?
- o Should dogs be allowed in Aravaipa Canyon?

Administration

- o How should personnel be used to administer the permit system and insure compliance?
- o Are the administrative sites located to most efficiently provide visitor service and manage the wilderness?

Cultural Resources

- o How should cultural resources in the wilderness be managed?

Fish and Wildlife

- o How many bighorn sheep should be managed for in the wilderness?
- o How will wilderness management affect removal of bighorn sheep for transplant to other areas?
- o Should facilities construction occur within the wilderness to support wildlife spending time both in and outside the wilderness?
- o Should visitor use be restricted near raptor nesting sites during critical nesting periods?
- o Does visitor use conflict with a critical habitat designation for Threatened and Endangered fish species in Aravaipa Creek?
- o Is public safety adequately provided for during the hunting season under the current firearms closure?

Fire

- o How will wildfire be suppressed in the wilderness?

Watershed

- o How will water quality and quantity be maintained to prevent contamination and loss of riparian values?

Livestock Grazing

- o Should grazing continue to be excluded from the canyon bottom?
- o Should cattle be allowed to trail through the canyon bottom for roundup purposes?
- o Is the use of llamas as recreational livestock appropriate within Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness?
- o Should use of recreational livestock continue to be allowed only for day trips into the canyon bottom?

Additional issues have been identified in public meetings, letters and over the phone. These issues are listed in Appendix 1 and 2.

5. Data Needs

Much of the data necessary for preparing the plan is already available. Specific information will be needed on maintenance requirements of

range developments and special considerations for livestock management and wildlife management. This information can be obtained through correspondence and talking with grazing permittees, Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel, people involved with the George Whittell Wildlife Preserve and university researchers.

6. Participants in the Planning Effort

The Gila Resource Area Outdoor Recreation Planner is responsible for the overall preparation of the Wilderness Management Plan. The assistance of the following individuals will be needed in developing portions of the plan:

Al Alvarez	Fire and Emergency Services
Cindy Alvarez	Water Resources
Al Bammann	Vegetation, Insects, Noxious Plants
Bob Parker	Fish and Wildlife
Penny Rucks	Cultural Resources
Paul Tankersley	Range

Word processing by Division of Administration personnel will also be required.

7. Public Participation

Public involvement has been solicited and will continue to provide important direction to the development of the plan. Four public meetings were held in December, 1985, to address the management of Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness and allow interested people to identify their concerns. The meetings were held in Safford, Phoenix, Dudleyville and Tucson. The Public Lands Advisory Council also commented on management issues during one of their regular sessions.

Following publication of the Draft Wilderness Management Plan, a 45-day public comment period will be announced. Any issues and questions raised by the public during the development of the draft and final plan will also be considered.

8. Planning Schedule

The remainder of the schedule for developing the plan is determined by MBO Target Dates. July 1, 1986, is the target date for completing the preliminary draft plan. Following internal review, the draft plan will be printed and distributed for public review by August 1, 1986.

The final wilderness management plan will be completed by September 30, 1986. A full planning schedule is attached (Appendix 3).

9. Management Approval

Reviewed and approved:

Keith L. Cook
Gila Area Manager

4-23-86
Date

Leita K. Rosenkranz
Safford District Manager

4/30/86
Date

ARAVAIPA CANYON WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Summary of Issues

The ranchers were concerned with the impact of wilderness management on maintenance of livestock facilities and use of vehicles to manage their operations. Other persons felt livestock should not be permitted in either the canyon or the wilderness because of their impacts on the visitor and the resource. Trailing cattle in the canyon was a concern because of impacts on the visitors' and because the visitors could panic the cattle disrupting the cattle drive.

Issues

1. How will livestock facilities be maintained?
2. Will ranchers be permitted to use motorized vehicles for maintenance of range facilities and placement of salt?
3. Can ranchers continue to use jeep trails on the tablelands within the wilderness?
4. Livestock should not be allowed in the canyon or the wilderness due to impacts to people and the wilderness values.
5. Trailing cattle (about 2 times per year) through the canyon impacts the visitors' experience.
6. When cattle are trailed through the canyon, contacts with visitors may panic cattle disrupting the livestock drive.
7. BLM should make a greater effort to keep livestock out of the wilderness.
8. Livestock cause a greater impact to Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness (ACW) than the 50 people per day.

WATER

Summary of Issues

All comments addressed preservation and maintenance of water quantity and quality. Specifically comments addressed water quality standards and measures BLM should use to achieve desired quality and quantity standards.

Issues

1. BLM should manage the waters of ACW to a potable water standard.
2. BLM should manage the waters of ACW to the highest possible water quality standard (chemical and biological). Avoid the use of the word "potable".
3. To maintain the quantity and quality of water in ACW, BLM should: study the sources of water for Aravaipa Creek; consider upstream sources on private land; consider a planning area that also includes the watershed outside ACW; and consider the concerns of local residents regarding the watershed study area.
4. How will water quality in ACW be protected and maintained?
5. How will water quantity in ACW be protected and maintained?
6. To maintain water quality, BLM should look closely at and understand the sources of Aravaipa Creek.

AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS

Summary of Issues

The public is concerned with aircraft overflight above ACW. They are specifically concerned with the impacts of noise on the visitors and wildlife and the hazards of fuel spills or aircraft crashes. Most felt aircraft use should be limited or not allowed, except for search and rescue operations. The Air Force, however, expressed concern that their training routes in the area be maintained for continued use.

Issues

1. ACW should be identified on air sectional charts.
2. What is the extent of aircraft overflights of ACW?
3. How can BLM control overflights?
4. What is the impact of noise on visitors and wildlife?
5. BLM should control their own use of aircraft over ACW for recreation management, wildlife management, etc.
6. Aircraft overflights above ACW should be limited (military, private, and agency use).
7. Sightseeing tours and play should not be allowed.
8. Aircraft use for search and rescue should be allowed.
9. There are hazards of overflights including aircraft crashes, fuel spills, and noise impacts on visitor's solitude.
10. No aircraft activity should be allowed except search and rescue operations.
11. Can the actions the Grand Canyon National Park is taking in dealing with their aircraft overflight problem be used by BLM to limit this activity over ACW?
12. The Air Force trains in the vicinity of ACW (sometimes directly over the wilderness) and is concerned with the impacts wilderness management will have on the continued use of their training routes.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Summary of Issues

All comments addressed the use of prescribed fire. They addressed its effect on wildlife and wildfire and its use as a resource management tool in place of allowing fire to play a more natural role in the environment.

Issues

1. Prescribed fire should be planned to consider the effects on wildlife, including non-game birds.
2. Fire should be considered as a management tool rather than simply letting fire play a natural role in the ecosystem.
3. Is there a need to use prescribed fire in ACW to keep fuel loading down and control wildfire.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Summary of Issues

Only one comment addressed cultural resources.

Issues

1. BLM should place management emphasis on protecting cultural resources rather than on interpretation, excavation, or stabilization of sites.

WILDLIFE

Summary of Issues

Comments covered habitat manipulation, conflicts between visitors and wildlife, exotic species and predator control. Comments stated wildlife should be kept in balance with their habitat without man-made enhancements or manipulations that would degrade the wilderness. Possible conflicts between visitors and two wildlife species, bighorn sheep and black hawks, were identified. Comments focused on camping near critical water and nest trees, identifying seasons or periods when sheep and hawks are most susceptible to disturbance and educating visitors. Exotic species should be controlled or eradicated. Though doubt was expressed over the need control predators in the wilderness, any control should focus on individual animals.

Issues

1. Habitat manipulations should be permitted only where it will not degrade the wilderness resource.
2. Wildlife should be kept in balance with their habitat. It should be a natural situation, without man-made enhancements.
3. Should native species be introduced and habitat manipulated to increase numbers?
4. Should supplemental or artificial waters be built in the wilderness for bighorn sheep?
5. Construction of artificial water for bighorn sheep is contrary to the concept of wilderness. The sheep are doing fine without them.
6. Wildlife species should be managed rather than "allowed" to exist as a result of natural processes.
7. What conflicts are there between people and wildlife?
8. Are there conflicts between visitors and bighorn sheep lambing? Lambing can occur from February to April.
9. People camping where wildlife come to water can have a critical effect in drought years.
10. In dry years, water generally remains in Horse Camp, Virgus, and Booger Canyons.
11. If bighorn sheep are ever removed from ACW for transplanting to other areas, how will it be done?
12. What effect do visitors have on nesting raptors, particularly black hawks?
13. Visitors should be educated about the detrimental effects of camping or remaining near nest trees?

14. Visitors should be aware of black hawk distress calls.
15. Should visitors be asked to avoid certain trees or areas or would identifying specific trees cause people to go there, such as for photography, and inadvertently harass the hawks.
16. Black hawks are susceptible to being disturbed from May through June. Should visitors be informed of this?
17. Exotic species should not be introduced.
18. Exotic species should be controlled or eradicated. Visitors should be encouraged to pull up salt cedar.
19. Will there be a need for predator control in ACW? Is there any plan for managing predatory animals in the area?
20. Predator control should focus on individuals rather than species.

VEGETATION

Summary of Issues

The comments addressed the impacts of visitor use on vegetation and BLM manipulation of the riparian community.

Issues

1. What level of BLM manipulation should occur in riparian vegetation management?
2. Increased visitor use has affected vegetation. What impact does visitor use have on the vegetation/ecosystem?

RECREATION

Summary of Issues

Comments addressed many aspects of recreation use and management in ACW. Topics included length of stay restrictions, what parts of ACW the permit system should apply to, allocation of individual use vs. commercial use, and use of jeep trails within the wilderness. Other issues addressed livestock use, camping areas, hunting and trapping, campfire restrictions, and limitations on numbers of visitor. Finally visitor safety and the impacts of visitor use on adjacent lands (public and private) were also identified.

Issues

1. Will commercial use be considered in the determination of visitor carrying capacity?
2. BLM should consider camping areas that are not next to the creek?
3. The length of stay restriction (max. 3 days and 2 nights) should be extended for special purposes.
4. BLM should analyze which types of recreation activities that are appropriate in ACW.
5. BLM should develop an allocation philosophy or system for different types of uses.
6. BLM should give careful consideration to increased visitor use because all resource values and uses are closely related to visitor use.
7. BLM should address visitor safety in the management plan, particularly flooding, search and rescue, and firearm use.
8. Should hunters be included in the 50 person per day limit since they primarily use the tablelands and not the main canyon?
9. Should the 50 person per day limit apply to the entire wilderness or only the canyon bottoms?
10. There should be no limit on visitor use of the tablelands.
11. It would be difficult to limit use on the tablelands. Should there be a separate permit for use of the tablelands or no permit required at all?
12. Will hunters be permitted to use jeep trails on the tablelands within the wilderness?
13. How will BLM provide for visitors who don't have permits to use ACW? They now spill over on the Defenders of Wildlife property or adjacent public lands. Additional opportunities are needed for these visitors.

14. A camping area is needed for visitors who arrive the day before their permit is valid.
15. What horseback riding opportunities will be provided for in AWC?
16. The day use only requirement for horseback use should be maintained.
17. Will llamas be permitted in AWC?
18. Commercial use in ACW should continue as it is currently administered. There should be equal access for commercial uses.
19. Will there be designated camping areas to prevent or control environmental damage?
20. Hunting is not an appropriate use in the canyon below the rim because wildlife are not plentiful and it is dangerous to visitors.
21. Trapping should not be allowed in the canyon. Limit trapping to areas away from visitor use areas.
22. There are too many visitors in ACW. The limit should not be increased.
23. BLM should give consideration to camping restrictions including limits on nearness to the creek and limits on use of campfires due to the fuelwood supply.
24. There is some benefit to burning part of the driftwood carried down in the 1983 flood.
25. BLM should notify permit holders of hunting seasons.
26. Will existing road access be lost with wilderness management?

ADMINISTRATION

Summary of Issues

Comments dealt with personnel working at the canyon, enforcement of rules and regulations, identification of boundaries, the reservation system and fees, the West Aravaipa Road and visitor education. Concern was expressed about the effect of budgets cuts or increased visitor use on the rangers. Comments on enforcement authorities and penalties regarding violations of rules and boundaries were brought up. One comment addressed making the reservation system more convenient for the visitor. Another dealt with considering arrangements that would allow donations so that money collected could be used at the area. Residents at the west end of Aravaipa want BLM to encourage the county to improve or relocate the county road. Another comment addressed concern over hazards to visitors as a result of certain activities of others.

Issues

1. Will there be a need for additional rangers if use increases?
2. The area needs people to enforce rules and regulations. Personnel should be on duty in ACW 7 days a week.
3. In light of budget cuts, are there alternatives to staffing the area with rangers?
4. Volunteers or conservation corps personnel could assist in managing the area.
5. What enforcement authorities and penalties exist to deal with rule violators?
6. How are the boundaries identified, especially on the tablelands?
7. How is the use of vehicles within the boundaries enforced?
8. Can a better reservation system be found to eliminate the need for two phone calls to acquire a permit?
9. Do fees cover some of the costs operating? BLM could consider a donation box at the trailheads, so funds could stay with the area.
10. Will BLM remove the toilet in the canyon?
11. The West Aravaipa Road needs relocation or maintenance for visitor and residents' safety and continued use. BLM should encourage the county to get on with the work.
12. An effort should be made to educate people of the dangers of rolling rocks in the canyon and engaging in other hazardous activities.

13. The values present in Aravaipa Canyon should be addressed in brochures.
14. The public should assist in identifying resource values.
15. Monitoring and plan revision should determine use adjustments rather than historical precedence.

OTHER ISSUES

Summary of Issues

A variety of other issues were identified. These comments addressed the effects of the current BLM/State Land Department exchange on visitor use and our management plan, natural history studies, the effects of flooding, changes in visitor use patterns, the UofA carrying capacity study, mining, and the effects of increased visitor use.

Issues

1. Will the State lands being acquired in the exchange around ACW be included in the wilderness management plan?
2. Natural history studies should be encouraged in ACW.
3. ACW is prone to flooding. This can affect what the area looks like.
4. ACW should not be open to mineral entry.
5. Changes in visitor use patterns will affect adjacent residents.
6. What will the University of Arizona study cover? Will it lead to more visitors?
7. Increased visitor use could lead to commercial development (goods and services) needed to support that use.
8. With completion of the BLM/State Land Department exchange in the Aravaipa Canyon area, will there be a significant increase in visitor use in ACW and along the county road to the trailheads at either end of the canyon?

ARAVAIPA CANYON WMP
SUMMARY OF ISSUES RECEIVED BY MAIL AND PHONE

Five letters and two telephone conversations in December and early January addressed issues regarding Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness (ACW) management. Issues ranged from topics on water resources, native fish and bighorn sheep to visitor use and use of llamas as packstock.

Al Haralson 12-04-85 Phone conversation

Llamas should continue to be allowed.

Overnight use of the canyon bottom with llamas as packstock should be allowed.

C. E. Leith 12-08-85 Letter

Manage ACW to retain the opportunity for a true wilderness experience.

Whittell Trust 12-11-85 Letter

The main focus of the management plan should be protection of the many exceptional wildlife values associated with the Aravaipa Canyon Area.

Further study native fish populations in Aravaipa Creek and tributaries.

Continue water quality analysis utilizing stream gauging stations at both ends of the wilderness.

Establish a weather station to facilitate management of wildlife resources through a clearer understanding of streamflow factors.

Establish a water quality measurement system to help protect important wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Continue detailed monitoring of the watershed and establish controls as needed on livestock, mining and recreation uses.

Continue assessment of visitor use impacts to wildlife values in the main canyon.

Assess possible reintroduction of bighorn sheep on the south rim of the canyon to establish a second lambing area.

Review water rights and filing for rights as needed to protect existing wildlife needs.

Continue efforts to facilitate more effective management of the area by BLM through land exchange with state and private landowners.

Arizona State Parks 12-16-85 Letter

The strongest protective measures should be implemented for the area's many natural values.

List Aravaipa Canyon on the State Natural Area Register.

The perennial water flow and its quality must be maintained as it is the primary element of this unique ecosystem.

Give special emphasis to enhancing riparian habitat and dependent wildlife species.

Give primary emphasis to protecting wilderness qualities by managing increasing visitor use.

Evaluate needed management changes due to acquisition of approximately 50,000 acres of state land adjacent to ACW.

Proper management of visitor use in tributary canyons may alleviate some impacts in the main canyon.

Expand wilderness management boundaries to include newly exchanged lands.

Develop intensive protective measures to enhance wildlife populations and wilderness characteristics in acquired areas.

Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter, Rincon Group 12-24-85 Letter

Continue management without major changes.

Upstream sources of the creek should be closely monitored to assure a continued supply of good quality water. The perennial stream and associated riparian vegetation make Aravaipa Canyon unique in southern Arizona.

Exclude livestock from the canyon bottom. Fences may have to be extended to accomplish this.

The military's use of nearby airspace should not be allowed to encroach into the canyon itself.

The results of the carrying capacity study being conducted by the University of Arizona should be carefully considered when determining appropriate visitor use.

Hunting may not be compatible with other recreational uses in the canyon. Steps may have to be taken to keep the two uses separated.

Steve Williams 01-07-86 Phone conservation
The State/BLM land exchange should enhance and expand BLM's opportunities for sheep management.

Use of helicopters for habitat development and sheep management (retrieval of dead sheep, tracking radio collared sheep, transplants, etc.) should not be prohibited.

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.

01-09-86

Letter

The welfare of the desert bighorn sheep should be the primary concern. ACW should be dedicated to the conservation of the desert bighorn sheep.

The use of helicopters, motor vehicles, portable power tools, etc., for water development or other habitat enhancement projects within ACW should be allowed.

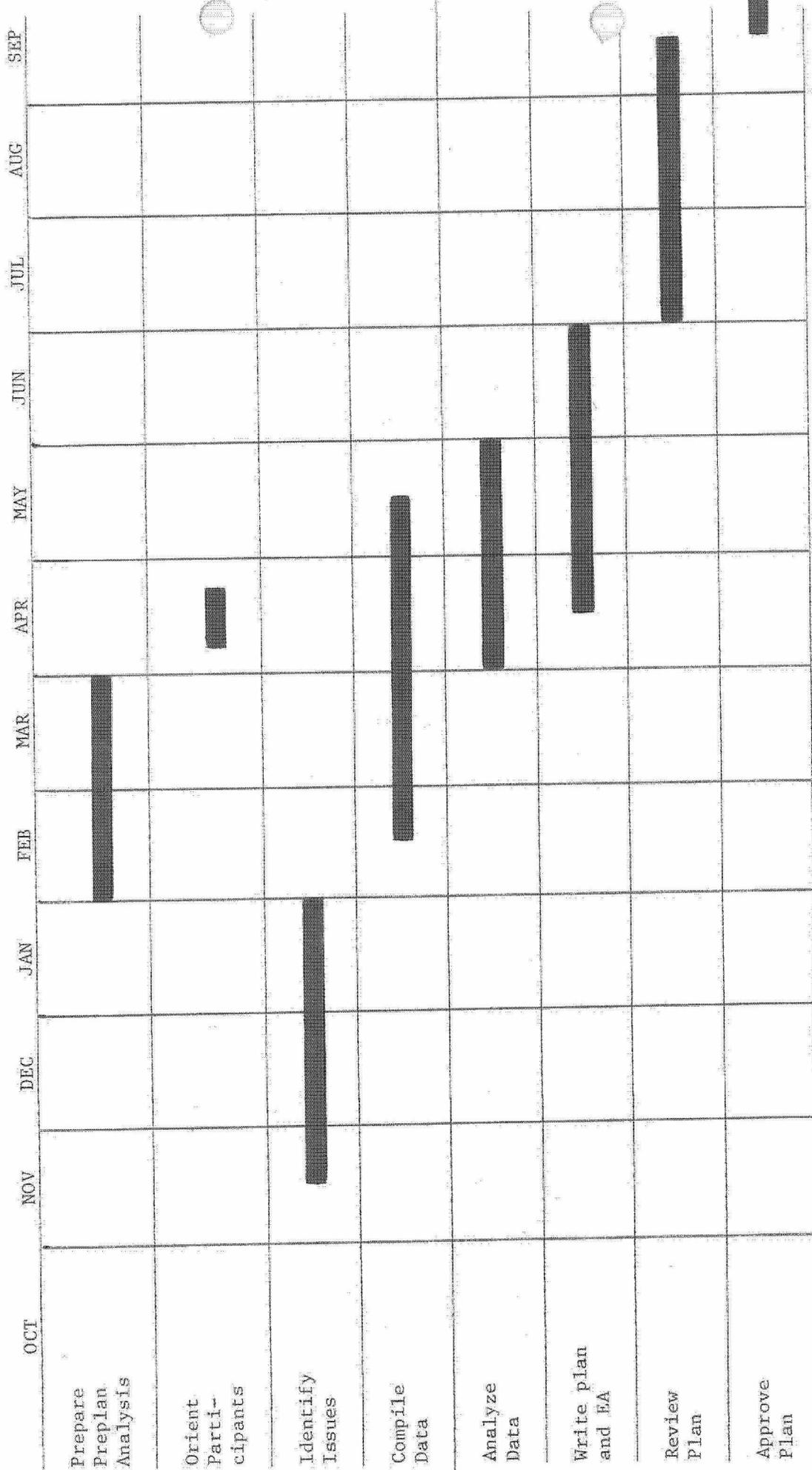
Arizona Game and Fish Department has established a precedence for use of aircraft in ACW to monitor radio-collared bighorn sheep movement by fixed wing and to conduct yearly surveys by helicopter for years. This use was well established prior to wilderness designation.

The use of aircraft should be allowed to continue for bighorn sheep management purposes according to Chapter II, B.5b. of the Wilderness Management Policy.

P. 10

Appendix B

PLANNING SCHEDULE
 ARAVAIPA CANYON WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN



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