



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Yuma Field Office
2555 East Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365
www.blm.gov/az/

In Reply Refer To:
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March 6, 2015

MAR 1 2 REC'D

MAR 13 REC'D

Dear Wilderness Constituents:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) are coordinating efforts to redevelop two wildlife water catchments and potentially reintroduce a 10j experimental nonessential population of Sonoran Pronghorn within the Eagletail Mountain Wilderness. As part of an initial scoping effort, we are seeking input into identifying issues that may be of concern.

The BLM Yuma Field Office administers the Eagletail Mountain Wilderness and manages its wildlife habitat. The AGFD manages the wildlife populations. Congress designated the Eagletail Mountain Wilderness with the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990. There are requirements for both agencies to manage wildlife and its habitat in order to address issues that affect the protection of wilderness values in designated wilderness areas under their jurisdictions.

The Eagletail Mountain Wilderness contains approximately 97,880 acres of BLM land and 2,720 acres of Arizona State lands. Within this area includes wildlife water catchments: 605 and 726, in addition to thousands of acres of designated habitat for the 10j population of Sonoran Pronghorn. The forthcoming environmental documents will address these proposed actions within the Eagletail Mountain Wilderness.

A list of planning issues already identified is enclosed, together with a map of the planning area. The BLM is requesting input to identify other issues that may be of concern regarding the proposals within the Eagletail Mountain Wilderness area.

Please send a list of any additional issues you would like the agencies to address to: Planning Team Leader, Wildlife Proposals within the Eagletail Mountain Wilderness; 2555 East Gila Ridge Road; Yuma, Arizona 85365. Your comments can also be sent by electronic mail to BLM_AZ_YFOWEB@blm.gov. A list of your written or electronic mail wilderness planning concerns for either area should be received no later than May 15, 2015.

We appreciate your interest in wilderness management. Your participation in the wilderness planning process will help us meet the challenge of protecting these special areas so current and future generations will have the opportunity to experience and enjoy wilderness resources.

Sincerely,

John MacDonald
Field Manager

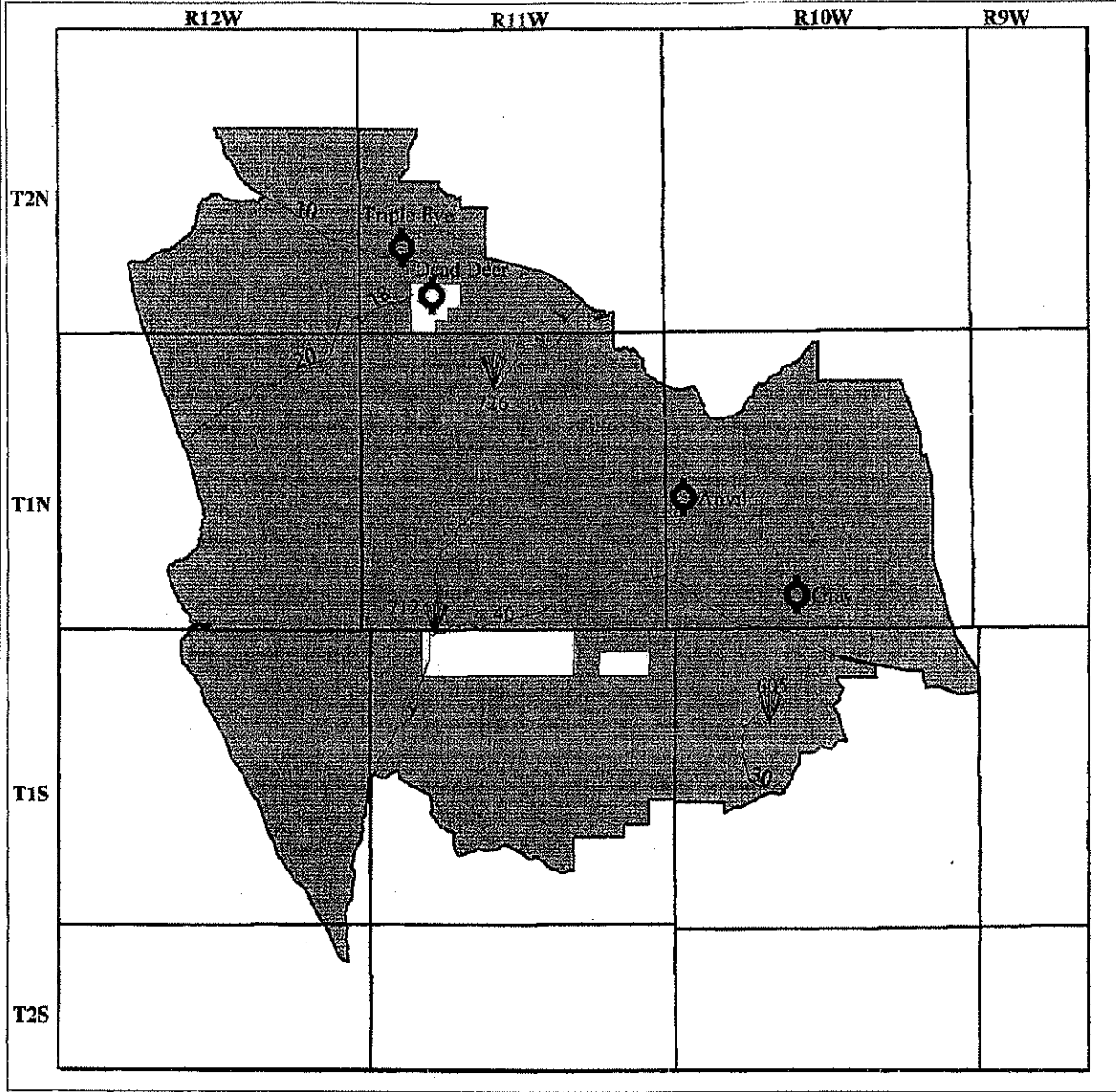
Enclosures

ISSUES

Following are the management issues that have been identified for the planning area.







1. The long-term preservation of wilderness values is mandated by the Wilderness Act. Concerns to address are: effects of visitor uses; illegal vehicle trespass; monitoring of effects of various uses; management of exotic species; and opportunities for environmental education, interpretation, and public outreach.
2. Appropriate analysis must be considered for air operation needed to support wildlife management, emergency operations, and possible military activities within designated wilderness.
3. Existing structures within the area should be evaluated for historic values and the potential need for removal, preservation, protection, or restoration; and interpretation should be determined. A cultural resource inventory for the area has not been completed; there may be sites (historic or archaeological) which need mapping, preservation, or protection.
4. Off-road vehicle use is affecting wilderness values, agency mission, and cultural resources.
5. Continued operation of necessary existing range and wildlife developments are specifically permitted by wilderness legislation. Operation of these developments will have effects on wilderness values and opportunities. Concerns to address: wildlife and grazing operation management to preserve wilderness values and development modification to lessen their impacts on wilderness values.

MAP 3 - WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENTS AND ACCESS ROUTES



EAGLETAIL MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS

LEGEND

-  Wilderness Area
-  State Lands
-  Wilderness Boundary
-  Trails
-  Pothole Catchment
-  Wildlife Catchment



UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE
 YUMA RESOURCE AREA
 AUGUST 1994



LOCATION DIAGRAM