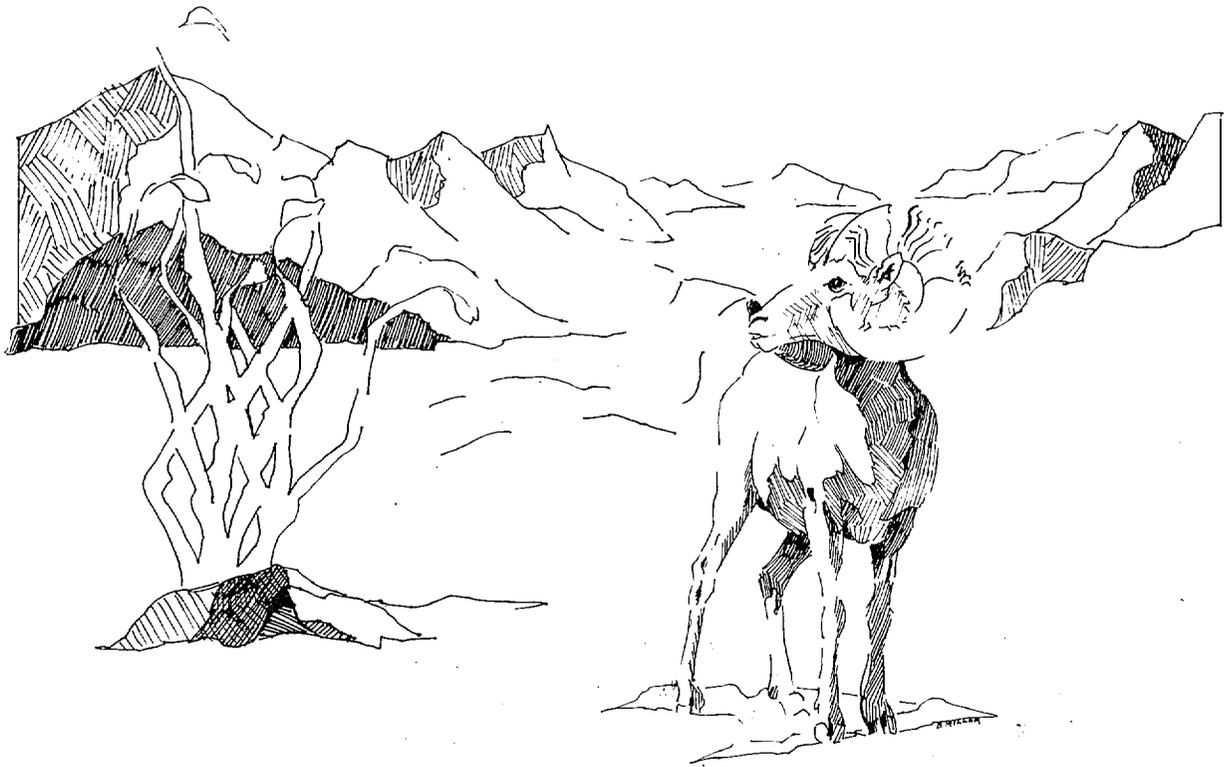


**FINAL**

# **YUMA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**and Environmental Impact Statement**



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Arizona

NEVADA

CLARK CO.

BULLHEAD CITY

KINGMAN

NEEDLES

# YUMA DISTRICT PLANNING AREA

## Bureau of Land Management

LAKE HAVASU  
CITY

MOHAVE CO.  
LA PAZ CO.

SAN BERNARDINO CO.  
RIVERSIDE CO.

PARKER

Colorado  
River  
Indian Reservation

QUARTZSITE

BLYTHE

RIVERSIDE CO.  
IMPERIAL CO.

Yuma Proving  
Ground

LA PAZ CO.  
YUMA CO.

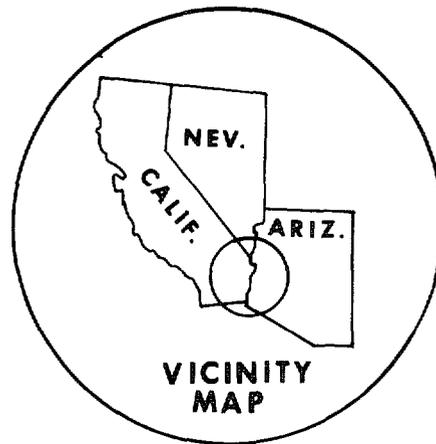
ARIZONA

CALIFORNIA

YUMA

SAN LUIS

MEXICO



----- COUNTY LINE

YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 5680  
YUMA, ARIZONA 85364





# United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1601 (YDO)

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE

3150 Windsor Avenue  
P.O. Box 5680  
Yuma, Arizona 85365

August, 1985

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the final environmental impact statement for the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (RMP-EIS). The draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in January 1985, and the 90-day public comment period ended April 19. Changes based on public comments and new information have been incorporated into this final RMP-EIS and all portions of the draft, excluding the wilderness appendix, have been reprinted in order to portray those changes. This final RMP-EIS includes the preferred alternative which is the BLM's proposed action.

This final RMP-EIS does not make any recommendations concerning the suitability of wilderness study areas (WSAs) for designation as wilderness. Wilderness recommendations will be reported in a separate EIS covering Yuma District WSAs and a number of other BLM-administered WSAs in Arizona.

All parts of this proposed plan may be protested. Protests should be sent to the Director (202), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington D.C. 20240, within the 30-day protest period. Protest statements should contain the following information:

-The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest.

-A statement of the issue or issues being protested.

-A statement of the part or parts of the plan being protested.

-A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party and/or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.

-A short, concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the proposed plan, excluding any portions under protest, will become final. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until final action has been completed on such protest. Any significant change to the proposed plan made as a result of a protest will be available for public review and comment prior to final plan approval and implementation. The final Resource Management Plan will be published with the record of decision in late 1985.

Sincerely,

J. Darwin Snell  
District Manager

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

YUMA DISTRICT  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

and

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This *Final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP-EIS) addresses future management options for approximately 1,192,000 acres of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management through its Yuma District Office in Yuma, Arizona. The plan focuses on resolving the following six resource management issues: wildlife habitat, special management areas, grazing, land ownership adjustment, rights-of-way and recreation. The wilderness issue, which appeared in the draft RMP-EIS, will be covered in a separate environmental document to be prepared in 1986 for the 22 Yuma District WSAs and a number of other BLM-administered WSAs in Arizona.

Six alternatives are described and analyzed. The *preferred alternative*, representing a balance between resource production and environmental protection, is the Resource Management Plan and was derived from the five other alternatives. *Alternative A*, the no action alternative, is a continuation of present management direction. *Alternative B* represents maximum use and production of economic resources. *Alternative C* is balanced resource use with economic values favored somewhat over environmental concerns. *Alternative D* is balanced resource use with environmental protection favored somewhat over economic production. *Alternative E* represents maximum protection of the natural environment. A description of the affected environment and an analysis of the environmental impacts of the alternatives is included in this final EIS.

For further information, contact Dennis Turowski, Planning Team Leader, BLM, Yuma District Office, P. O. Box 5680, Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697; Telephone (602) 726-6300.

**Date by which protests must be received:**

Within 30 days of the date of publication of the Notice of Availability by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register.

## **SPECIAL NOTICE TO READER**

This final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP-EIS) contains several changes from the draft RMP-EIS. Final wilderness recommendations have been deferred to a separate wilderness EIS to be prepared in 1986 (see *Issue 7: Wilderness* in Chapter 1). In addition, several changes have been made to the alternatives as a result of public comments and further BLM review. By alternative, the major changes are:

### **Preferred Alternative**

Area to be managed under special management prescriptions increased from 149,905 to 155,705 acres as a result of adding Milpitas Wash as an SMA, enlarging the Gibraltar Mountain SMA, and deleting a portion of the Cactus Plain SMA to accommodate corridor UC-6B

Future management of Havasu Heights North and Havasu Heights South ephemeral allotments to be determined through further review following approval of RMP

Public lands available for disposal increased from 45,480 to 55,490 acres as a result of adding three new disposal areas (Areas 10-12 totaling 12,330 acres) and deleting Area 9 (2,400 acres)

Parker-Blaisdell corridor (UC-6B) alignment and width adjusted along certain portions to avoid Parker Strip recreational developments and Disposal Area 11

Mohawk Pass added as ninth designated communication site and an objective added to phase out Black Peak as a designated communication site

ORV management objectives clarified by including a definition for "existing roads and trails" and setting priorities for roads and trails inventories

### **Alternative B**

Area to be managed under special management prescriptions reduced from 124,535 to 116,595 acres as a result of deleting a portion of the Cactus Plain SMA to accommodate corridor UC-6B

Public land available for disposal increased from 45,480 to 57,810 acres as a result of adding three new disposal areas (Areas 10-12 totaling 12,330 acres)

### **Alternative C**

Area to be managed under special management prescriptions increased from 205,805 to 214,880 acres as a result of enlarging the Gibraltar Mountain SMA from 16,280 to 25,260 acres

Mohawk Pass added as a designated communication site

### **Changes Common to All Alternatives**

Riparian acreage to be managed as priority wildlife habitat area reduced from 25,000 to 23,100 acres as a result of land transfer to Cocopah Indian tribe by Congress

Acreage for agricultural permits and leases reduced from 5,030 to 4,205 acres as a result of land transfer to Cocopah Indian tribe by Congress

Enlargement of Imperial Dam Long-Term Visitor Area from six interrelated areas totaling 285 acres to one area of 3,260 acres (see Map 7)

**FINAL**

**YUMA DISTRICT  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
and  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Yuma, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona

and

San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties, California

Prepared By

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
YUMA DISTRICT**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Dean Bibles", is written over a horizontal line.

D. Dean Bibles  
State Director  
Arizona State Office

AUGUST 1985

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# ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in this Environmental Impact Statement. Most of the abbreviations for terms are defined in the glossary.

<b>ACEC:</b>	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	<b>MFP:</b>	Management Framework Plan
<b>AMP:</b>	Allotment Management Plan	<b>MSA:</b>	Management Situation Analysis
<b>AUM:</b>	Animal-Unit Month	<b>NEPA:</b>	National Environmental Policy Act
<b>BLM:</b>	Bureau of Land Management	<b>NFIP:</b>	National Flood Insurance Program
<b>BR:</b>	Bureau of Reclamation	<b>NWPS:</b>	National Wilderness Preservation System
<b>C:</b>	Custodial Category (grazing)	<b>ONA:</b>	Outstanding Natural Area
<b>CAP:</b>	Central Arizona Project	<b>ORV:</b>	Off-Road Vehicle
<b>CDCA:</b>	California Desert Conservation Area	<b>P:</b>	Primitive (ROS Class)
<b>CEQ:</b>	Council on Environmental Quality	<b>P-E:</b>	Perennial-Ephemeral (grazing allotments)
<b>CFR:</b>	Code of Federal Regulations	<b>PILT:</b>	Payments in-lieu of taxes
<b>cfs:</b>	cubic feet per second	<b>R&amp;PP:</b>	Recreation and Public Purposes (land leasing)
<b>COE:</b>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	<b>RMP:</b>	Resource Management Plan
<b>CORRP:</b>	California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan	<b>RNA:</b>	Research Natural Area
<b>EA:</b>	Environmental Assessment	<b>ROS:</b>	Recreation Opportunities Spectrum
<b>EIS:</b>	Environmental Impact Statement	<b>ROW:</b>	Rights-of-Way
<b>EPA:</b>	Environmental Protection Agency	<b>SCORP:</b>	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
<b>FEMA:</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency	<b>SCS:</b>	Soil Conservation Service
<b>FLPMA:</b>	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	<b>SMA:</b>	Special Management Areas
<b>FWS:</b>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (also USFWS)	<b>SPNM:</b>	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (ROS Class)
<b>GEM:</b>	Geology-Energy-Mineral Reports	<b>SRMA:</b>	Special Recreation Management Area
<b>HMP:</b>	Habitat Management Plan	<b>T&amp;E:</b>	Threatened and Endangered
<b>HRA:</b>	Havasu Resource Area	<b>USDA:</b>	U.S. Department of Agriculture
<b>I:</b>	Improve Category (grazing)	<b>USDI:</b>	U.S. Department of Interior
<b>IMP:</b>	Interim Management Policy (for areas studied for wilderness recommendations)	<b>USFS:</b>	U.S. Forest Service
<b>KGS:</b>	Known Geologic Structures	<b>USFWS:</b>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (also FWS)
<b>LTVA:</b>	Long-term Visitor Area	<b>USGS:</b>	U.S. Geological Survey
<b>M:</b>	Maintain Category (grazing)	<b>WSA:</b>	Wilderness Study Area
		<b>YRA:</b>	Yuma Resource Area

# SUMMARY

This final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement contains several changes from the draft RMP-EIS. Final wilderness recommendations have been deferred to a separate wilderness EIS to be prepared in 1986 for all 22 Yuma District WSAs and a number of other BLM-administered WSAs in Arizona (see *Issue 7: Wilderness* in Chapter 1). In addition, several changes have been made to the Preferred and other alternatives as a result of public comment and further BLM review. The major changes to alternatives are:

- 1) Identification of three additional areas as available for disposal (Areas 10-12 totaling 12,330 acres) in the *Preferred Alternative* and *Alternative B*
- 2) deletion of Area 9 (approximately 2,400 acres) as a disposal area under the *Preferred Alternative*
- 3) addition of a Mohawk Pass communications site in the *Preferred Alternative* and *Alternative C*
- 4) addition of Milpitas Wash as an area to be managed under special management prescriptions in the *Preferred Alternative*
- 5) adjustment of the Parker-Blaisdell corridor (UC-6B) alignment and width along certain portions to avoid Parker Strip recreation developments and Disposal Area 11
- 6) future management of the two Havasu Heights ephemeral grazing allotments would be determined through further review in the *Preferred Alternative*
- 7) addition of definition for "existing roads and trails" and clarification of ORV management objectives in the *Preferred Alternative*
- 8) enlargement of the Imperial Dam Long-Term Visitor Area boundaries (see Map 7).

The final *Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP-EIS) identifies and analyzes options for managing public lands in the Yuma District. The planning area encompasses 1,192,000 acres of federal lands that straddle the Lower Colorado River in southwest Arizona and southeast California. Map 1 shows the planning area and its land ownership patterns. The lands and their associated resources are described in Chapter 3. The Yuma District RMP-EIS was prepared in accordance with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning regulations and under the authority of the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976* (FLPMA).

The RMP-EIS process is issue-driven. This means that the focus of the Yuma District planning effort is to resolve six major issues and concerns brought forth by the public, other agencies and BLM staff. The planning issues are summarized below and described in greater detail in

Chapter 1. Yuma District's public participation effort, which provided the basis for developing the issues, is described in Chapter 5.

**ISSUE 1: Wildlife Habitat.** What public lands should be managed with primary emphasis on wildlife habitat?

**ISSUE 2: Special Management Areas.** What natural, cultural and scenic resources should be designated as special management areas?

**ISSUE 3: Grazing.** What number of livestock could graze public lands without overusing the range resource?

**ISSUE 4: Land Ownership Adjustment.** What federal lands should be earmarked for disposal and non-federal lands for acquisition?

**ISSUE 5: Rights-of-Way.** Where should BLM designate utility corridors and communication sites to handle future development?

**ISSUE 6: Recreation.** Which public lands will be allocated for recreational uses and what is BLM's role in providing recreation?

The six issues raised at the outset of the plan helped streamline the process by pointing out areas where special attention was needed and by eliminating non-controversial resources and uses from study. Those uses and resources would continue to be managed as they are at present. The planning issues are described in greater detail in Chapter 1.

A range of six alternatives was developed by Yuma District's interdisciplinary planning team to respond to these six issues. Each alternative represents a complete and feasible plan for managing public lands in the district over the next 10 to 20 years. The range of alternatives is listed below:

- 1) *Preferred Alternative* — proposed RMP
- 2) *Alternative A* — no action; continuation of present management
- 3) *Alternative B* — resource production
- 4) *Alternative C* — balanced resource use; production
- 5) *Alternative D* — balanced resource use; protection
- 6) *Alternative E* — resource protection

The management actions set forth in Alternatives A through E were analyzed for their environmental effects on 13 resources (see Chapter 4, *Introduction*). On the basis of this analysis and decisions made by the district's management team, a Preferred Alternative was developed representing BLM's best estimate of an optimum multiple-use mix for public lands in Yuma District. This alternative combines or modifies actions proposed in the other five alternatives (see Chapter 2). The management actions in all six alternatives and the impacts of these actions are summarized in Tables S-1 and S-2.

TABLE S-1: COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES  
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

ISSUE/SUBISSUE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
ALTERNATIVE THEMES	Balance competing demands by providing for development of needed resources while protecting important and sensitive environmental values.	Continue existing management under Management Framework Plans (MFPs) and other resource activity plans.	Maximize resources production while providing only the minimal environmental protection measures required by law.	Provide balanced use of consumptive and non-consumptive resources. However, economic production is favored slightly over environmental concerns.	Provide balanced use of consumptive and non-consumptive resources. However, protection of natural and cultural values is favored slightly over economic values.	Maximize protection of the natural and cultural environment.
WILDLIFE HABITAT	Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately 247,740 acres.	Wildlife habitat would continue to be a priority consideration on approximately 183,740 acres.	Wildlife habitat would not be a recognized priority on public lands except where threatened and endangered species are involved.	Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately 41,880 acres.	Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately 247,740 acres.	Wildlife habitat take priority over consumptive uses on public lands, generally. 285,500 acres are identified as key wildlife habitat.
	Allowable uses on priority wildlife habitat areas would include only those activities compatible with wildlife habitat or those uses whose impacts can be mitigated in such a way that wildlife values are preserved or enhanced.	Uses and developments on priority wildlife habitat would continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure compatibility with wildlife habitat objectives.	All land uses and development needs would take priority over wildlife habitat except where threatened and endangered species are involved.	Allowable uses would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative.	Allowable uses would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative.	Allowable uses would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative except that priority habitat would be withdrawn from mineral entry.
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS						
a) Cultural Resources	Cultural resources on 33 areas totaling about 6,800 acres would be managed under the "conservation for future" use category, i.e., preserved in place.	Cultural resources would continue to be managed at present levels and protected as required by law.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative. Also all areas would be withdrawn from non-compatible uses such as mining and ORV use.

TABLE S-1 (Cont'd)  
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

ISSUE/SUBISSUE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
b) Natural Areas and Features	Designate two areas (31,360 acres) as special management areas; six other areas (155,705 acres) would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their	Six areas identified in the 1975 MFPs (102,600 acres) would be designated special management areas; four other areas identified in the MFPs (56,950 acres) would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values.	No areas would be designated but three areas (116,595 acres) would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values.	No areas would be designated but 12 areas (214,880 acres) would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values.	Designate twelve areas (214,880 acres) as special management areas.	Designate fifteen areas (256,660 acres) as special management areas.
GRAZING	Authorize 3,998 animal-unit months on four perennial-ephemeral (P-E) allotments. Temporary seasonal use authorizations would be considered to utilize big galleta grass when it is green and palatable on these allotments. Eight ephemeral allotments would continue to be managed under the special ephemeral rule and two would be reviewed to determine future use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Authorized use on four perennial-ephemeral allotments would be increased by 3,756 AUMs to 7,754 animal unit months of this would be through seasonal authorizations to utilize big galleta grass when green and palatable. Ten ephemeral allotments would be managed under the special ephemeral rule.	Same as Preferred Alternative except ten ephemeral allotments would continue to be managed under the special ephemeral rule.	Authorized use on four perennial-ephemeral allotments would be reduced by 1,539 to 2,459 animal-unit months. Temporary non-renewable seasonal use authorizations would be considered to utilize big galleta grass when it is green and palatable. Ten ephemeral allotments would be managed under the special ephemeral rule.	Grazing would not be an authorized use on the Yuma District. All permits and licenses would be cancelled and all forage would be allocated to wild-life or wild horses and burros.
LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENTS						
a) Disposals	55,490 acres of federal lands would be available for disposal.	All federal lands in Areas 1 and 2 and north of Interstate 40 would be available for	57,810 acres of federal lands would be available for disposal.	45,480 acres of federal lands would be available for disposal.	41,840 acres of federal lands would be available for disposal.	All federal lands would be retained in public ownership.

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ALTERNATIVES

TABLE S-1 (Cont'd)  
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

<u>ISSUE/SUBISSUE</u>	<u>PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE</u>	<u>ALTERNATIVE A No Action</u>	<u>ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production</u>	<u>ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production</u>	<u>ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection</u>	<u>ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection</u>
b) Acquisitions	BLM would attempt to acquire 31,220 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 26,620 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 4,320 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 10,080 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 44,100 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 29,960 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.
RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR UTILITY CORRIDORS AND COMMUNICATION SITES						
a) Utility Corridors	Designate nine utility corridors (307 total miles) all one-mile wide except for Interstate 40 which would be two-miles wide and parts of the Parker-Blaisdell corridor which would be one-half mile wide.	Designate five one-mile-wide utility corridors (219 total miles) in accordance with the 1975 MFPs.	No corridors designated.	Designate nine utility corridors (288 total miles); all except Interstate 40 would be one-mile wide.	Designate nine utility corridors (290 total miles); all except Interstate 40 would be one-mile wide.	Same as Alternative D except that the CDCA "F" corridor would be narrower.
b) Communication Sites	Nine sites (101.3 total acres) would be designated. However, Black Peak site would eventually be phased out.  New facilities would be located in designated corridors and sites unless evaluation of project shows location outside a designated area is the only practical alternative.	Seven sites identified in the MFPs (83.3 total acres) would be designated.  New facilities would be located in designated corridors and sites where feasible.	No communication sites designated.  No corridors or sites would be designated; however, as much public land as possible would be made available for ROW purposes.	Same as Preferred Alternative.  Same as Preferred Alternative.	Six sites (74.3 acres) would be designated.  Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Alternative D.  No facilities would be allowed to locate outside designated areas.

TABLE S-1 (Cont'd)  
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

ISSUE/SUBISSUE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
RECREATION						
a) General Objectives	Provide a mix of BLM, other public agency and private facilities through long-term leases to ensure recreation opportunities for a broad range of recreating publics. All recreation lands except Pittsburg Point would be retained in federal ownership. Provide additional federal lands for recreation where warranted by increased demand.	Recreation use would continue to be managed as directed in the 1975 MFPs. Basically, same as Preferred Alternative except that recreation facilities would be designed to accommodate existing use but not to encourage additional use.	Maximize recreational opportunities and developments. BLM operated day-use and fee sites on the Parker Strip and Squaw Lake would leased to concessioners. Provide additional federal lands for recreation to meet needs of users or operators.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Provide a mix of facilities as described in the Preferred Alternative, but only in existing recreation sites where no severe resource degradation or management problems occur. All recreation lands would be retained in federal ownership. No expansion onto additional federal lands would be authorized.	Manage public lands primarily for primitive recreation. Provide intensive types of recreation in only a few existing developed areas where no resource degradation or management problems occur. Concessions would eventually be phased out; all remaining recreation sites would be operated by BLM. All recreation lands would be retained in federal ownership. No expansion onto additional federal lands would be authorized.
b) Recreation Management in Floodplains	On Parker Strip, only day-use facilities would be allowed in the 100-year floodplain; new overnight facilities would be located outside the floodplain. On the remainder of the river only those new facilities that can be floodproofed would be allowed in the 100-year floodplain. Existing permanent structures would be phased out.	Floodplain regulations would continue to be applied on a case-by-case basis.	Only those new and existing permanent facilities that can be floodproofed would be allowed in the 100-year floodplain. Other permanent facilities that are not or cannot be floodproofed would be relocated outside of the 100-year floodplain.	Floodplain provisions would be the same as in Alternative B.	Only day-use floodproofed facilities would be allowed within the 100-year floodplain. All other existing facilities would be removed from the 100-year floodplain.	No recreational facilities would be allowed on public lands within the 100-year floodplain in the river corridor. All existing facilities would be removed from the 100-year floodplain.

TABLE S-1 (Cont'd)  
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

ISSUE/SUBISSUE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
c) Management of Concessions and Leases	Current concessions and leases would continue to be operated by private or other public agencies. Additional federal lands would be available for expansion of concessions or leases based upon a demonstrated need and economic feasibility. Pittsburg Point would be available for transfer to the State of Arizona and Lake Havasu City.	BLM would continue to lease 14 recreation areas for concessions in the district. Three areas would continue to be leased for state park management and six sites would continue to be leased for county park operation. Applications for the expansion of existing concessions would continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Preferred Alternative except that: no undue limitations would be placed on the expansion of concession and lease areas onto adjacent federal land; BLM day-use and fee sites on Parker Strip and Squaw Lake would be turned over for concession operation.	Same as Preferred Alternative except that Pittsburg Point would be retained in federal ownership.	Current concessions and leases would continue to be operated by private or other public agencies. No leases for new concessions or public recreation areas would be issued; no expansion of concessions onto adjacent public lands. Existing developments would be removed from areas with severe resource degradation.	BLM would phase out all concessions and leases on public lands. No leases for new concessions or public recreation areas would be issued.
	BLM would regulate the type and intensity of development that occurs on leased lands.	The type or intensity development on existing concessions and leases would continue to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.	BLM would not restrict either the type or intensity of development that occurs on leased lands.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No concessions or leases.
	Continuous occupancy of mobile home sites restricted to one five-month period in a single year; permanent residential use would be phased out.	BLM would encourage a shift from year-round mobile home sites to RV sites in concessions and leases.	Permanent year-round mobile home sites allowed in concession areas.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	No concessions or leases.
d) Off-Road Vehicle Use	Designate 640 acres as open to ORV use, 22,420 acres as closed, 1,168,940 as limited to roads and trails.	Interim ORV use designations would continue to be assigned to 751,760 acres.	Designate all public lands as open for ORV use.	Designate all public lands as open for ORV use, except in designated sensitive areas (270,285 acres) where ORV use would be limited.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	ORV use on all public lands in the district would eventually be limited to designated roads and trails only.

SOURCE: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.

TABLE S-2: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE  
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection	
AIR QUALITY, SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES	Air quality, soils and water resources would not be significantly affected under any alternative.						
CULTURAL RESOURCES	17,200 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	5,860 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	1,500 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	20,000 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	20,235 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	22,270 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	
MINERALS AND ENERGY	6,800 acres (less than 1% of district) withdrawn from mineral entry.  No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 17,900 acres (1.6% of district).	No public lands withdrawn from mineral entry.  Surface occupancy allowed district-wide.	Same as Alternative A.  Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.  No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 111,075 acres (less than 10% of district).	Same as Preferred Alternative.  No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 214,880 acres (17% of district).	508,890 acres (43% of district) withdrawn from mineral entry.  No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 508,890 acres (43% of district).	
RANGELAND RESOURCES	Forage production would increase by 3,756 AUMs in the long term (94% over current preference).  Special management area restrictions on the Cactus Plain and land disposals could prevent livestock use of 3,400 AUMs in the long term.	No change to forage production would occur under this Alternative.	Forage production would increase by 4,652 AUMs in the long term (116% over current preference).  Land disposals could prevent livestock use of 1,000 AUMs in the long term.	Effects on forage production would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative.	Forage production would increase by 1,756 AUMs in the long term (44% over current preference).  Special management area restrictions on the Cactus Plain could prevent livestock use of 2,400 AUMs in the long term.	Forage production consisting of 8,650 AUMs would be lost in the short & long term.	
RECREATION RESOURCES	Colorado River Recreation Opportunities	Long-term increase in number of developed recreation opportunities would occur.	No change in number of developed recreation opportunities would occur.	Overall long-term increase in developed recreation opportunities, but loss of 5,000 visitor days of day-use opportunities per year.	Long-term increase in developed recreation opportunities.	No short-term change in number of developed recreation opportunities.	Long-term decrease in developed recreation opportunities (80,000 visitor days lost annually).

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IMPACTS

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
	No noticeable change in users/clientele.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Substantial change in users/clientele could occur due to shift in types of recreation facilities provided, elimination of day-use opportunities, ORV-related noise and safety conditions.	Moderate change in users/clientele could occur due to ORV-related noise & safety conditions.	Moderate change in users/clientele could occur due to overcrowding & declining attractiveness of existing developed recreation sites.	Substantial change in users/clientele could occur due to overcrowding & declining attractiveness of developed recreation sites remaining open under this alternative.
	Future demand for developed recreation opportunities would be satisfied.	Some future growth in demand for developed recreation opportunities would not be met.	Future demand for developed recreation opportunities would be satisfied except some day-use & resource-based recreation demands.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Future growth in demand for developed recreation opportunities would not be met.	Some present & all future growth in demand for developed recreation opportunities would not be met.
	Losses in developed recreation opportunities could result if Pittsburg Point is transferred to Arizona.		Losses in developed recreation opportunities could result if Pittsburg Point is transferred to Arizona.			
Long-Term Visitor Areas	Attractiveness of present recreation use areas would be maintained due to regulating wood cutting & collection.	Attractiveness of present recreation use areas would decline in the long term due to wood cutting & collection.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative except some decline in attractivity due to overcrowding.
NATURAL AREAS & FEATURES	Unique natural features on 68,190 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.	Unique natural features on 43,740 acres would be indirectly protected by management of priority wildlife habitat areas.		Unique natural features on 15,340 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.	Unique natural features on 59,100 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.	Unique natural features on 73,555 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.
	Unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would be adversely impacted by continued grazing use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Unique natural features in the Cactus Plain area would be adversely impacted by continued grazing use.	Same as Alternative C.	Unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would benefit from the elimination of grazing.

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
VEGETATION						
Riparian	23,100 acres would receive long-term protection.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Long-term adverse impacts could occur from not protecting 23,100 acres.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Candidate T&E Plants	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 6 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 4 species due to ORV & LTVA use.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 8 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 4 species due to LTVA use.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 5 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 10 species due to ORV & LTVA use.	Potential long-term beneficial and adverse impacts on 11 candidate species.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 11 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 4 species due to LTVA use.	Same as Alternative D.
Rangeland Vegetation	Long-term beneficial impacts on plant cover & vegetation condition would occur due to improved distribution of livestock use and more desirable levels of utilization on forage species.	Long-term adverse impacts on vegetation condition would occur due to poor livestock distribution and heavy utilization of vegetation within the areas of livestock concentration.	Long-term beneficial impacts on vegetation would occur due to improved livestock distribution and more desirable levels of utilization of forage species. Plant cover would not change significantly in the long term.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative but vegetation condition would improve at a slower rate.	Significant, long-term beneficial impacts would occur on browse vegetation. Overall plant cover would not significantly change.
VISUAL RESOURCE						
	No noticeable adverse impacts on visual resources would occur.	Adverse impacts on visual resources from the continuation of current wood collection management in high-use recreation areas.	Adverse impacts on visual resources from intensive grazing of perennial-ephemeral allotments, intensive ORV use in areas designated as open to unrestricted ORV use and continuation of current wood collection management in high-use recreation areas.	Adverse impacts from intensive ORV use in areas designated as open to unrestricted ORV use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Beneficial impacts on visual resources from prohibiting wood collection in high-use recreation areas.			Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Beneficial impacts on visual resources from phasing out concession leases along the Colorado River and prohibiting wood collection on public lands.

III:

IMPACTS

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
WILDERNESS VALUES	All or portions of 11 WSAs would be protected by priority wildlife habitat management.	All or portions of 6 WSAs would be protected by priority wildlife habitat management.		Portions of 6 WSAs would be protected by priority wildlife habitat management.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	All or portions of 9 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	5 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 5 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 8 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 9 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 10 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.
	Adverse impacts from the disposal of 3,325 acres in Cactus Plain WSA.		Adverse impacts from the disposal of 3,325 acres in Cactus Plain WSA.			
	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 31,160 acres in and around WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 23,610 acres in and around WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 960 acres in WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 4,000 acres in WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 36,200 surface acres and 6,020 sub-surface acres in and around WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 28,200 surface acres and 6,020 sub-surface acres in and around WSAs.
	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 10 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 2 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.		Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 10 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 11 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 9 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.
	Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in all 22 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Adverse impacts on areas in all 22 WSAs due to unrestricted ORV use.	Adverse impacts on areas in 13 WSAs due to unrestricted ORV use.	Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in all 22 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.	Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in all 22 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to designated roads and trails.
				Beneficial impacts on 76,090 acres in 9 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.		

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
WILDLIFE HABITAT	403,525 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	274,950 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	116,595 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to special management area provisions.	246,965 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	442,580 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	508,890 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.
	Adverse impacts could occur from disposal of 5,745 acres.	No change in wildlife habitat conditions from disposals.	Adverse impacts could occur from disposal of 8,065 acres.	Adverse impacts could occur from disposal of 3,640 acres.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
	Long-term beneficial impacts would occur from prohibiting wood collection on 7% of the district.	Long-term adverse impacts would occur due to wood collection.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	No noticeable change in habitat condition overall from ORV designations.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Adverse impacts could occur on 1,192,000 acres due to ORV designations & use. Damage to desert tortoise habitat could occur from use of Parker 400 course for multiple events each year.	Adverse impacts could occur on 960,165 acres due to ORV designations & use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Minor adverse impacts would occur due to grazing.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Major adverse impacts would occur due to increasing authorized grazing use by 94%.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Beneficial impacts would occur due to reducing grazing use by 40%.	Beneficial impacts would occur due to elimination of grazing.
T&E Species	Habitat for the Yuma Clapper Rail would be protected under all alternatives. Other T&E species would also benefit from priority wildlife habitat areas.					
ECONOMICS						
Impacts on Ranchers	Average annual revenue would increase to \$45,700 due to increased forage production in the long term. However, special management area provisions and land disposals could reduce this to \$36,400.	No significant change in revenue for ranchers would occur. Average annual revenue for ranchers would be \$35,380.	Average annual revenue would increase to \$47,400 due to increased forage production in the long-term. However, land disposals could reduce this to \$46,000.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Average annual revenue for ranchers would be \$32,800. Special management area provisions could reduce this to \$30,400.	\$35,380 in annual revenue would be lost due to elimination of grazing.

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)  
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
Impacts on Recreation Concession & Lease Operators	Annual revenue could decline in the long term due to restricting continuous occupancy to 5 months and phasing out mobile home sites.	Annual revenue could decline in the long term due to encouraging a shift from mobile home to RV and campsites.	No measurable change in revenue in short term, but would probably increase in the long term.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Significant adverse impacts on concession operators would occur due to elimination of concessions and 100% loss of revenues.
Local Economic Impacts	County tax revenues could increase by up to \$31,400 annually due to sale of public lands.	County tax revenues would decrease by up to \$51,000 due to federal acquisition of lands.	County tax revenues could increase by up to \$250,000 due to transfer of public lands out of federal ownership.	County tax revenues could increase by up to \$235,200 due to transfer of public lands out of federal ownership.	County tax revenues could decrease by about \$6,000 due to federal acquisition of lands.	County tax revenues would decrease by \$140,760 due to federal acquisition of lands and elimination of agricultural use on public lands.
	Local retail and service industry receipts could decline due to restricting continuous length of-stay in mobile sites to five months.	Local retail and service industry receipts could decline due to shift from mobile home sites to RV and campsites.	Local retail and service industry receipts would probably increase as a result of unrestricted development and expansion of the recreation concessions and leases.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Local retail and service industry receipts would decline by about 2.6%.
Regional Economic Impacts	The economic impacts on the region would not be significant under any of the alternatives.					

SOURCE: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.