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Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources Mining Collection

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04/29/87

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES FILE DATA

PRIMARY NAME: MONTANA-ARIZONA

ALTERNATE NAMES:
JANUARY

LA PAZ COUNTY MILS NUMBER: 2

LOCATION: TOWNSHIP 10 N RANGE 13 W SECTION 18 QUARTER SE
LATITUDE: N 34DEG 12MIN 09SEC LONGITUDE: W 113DEG 39MIN 06SEC
TOPO MAP NAME: IVES PEAK - 15 MIN

CURRENT STATUS: PAST PRODUCER

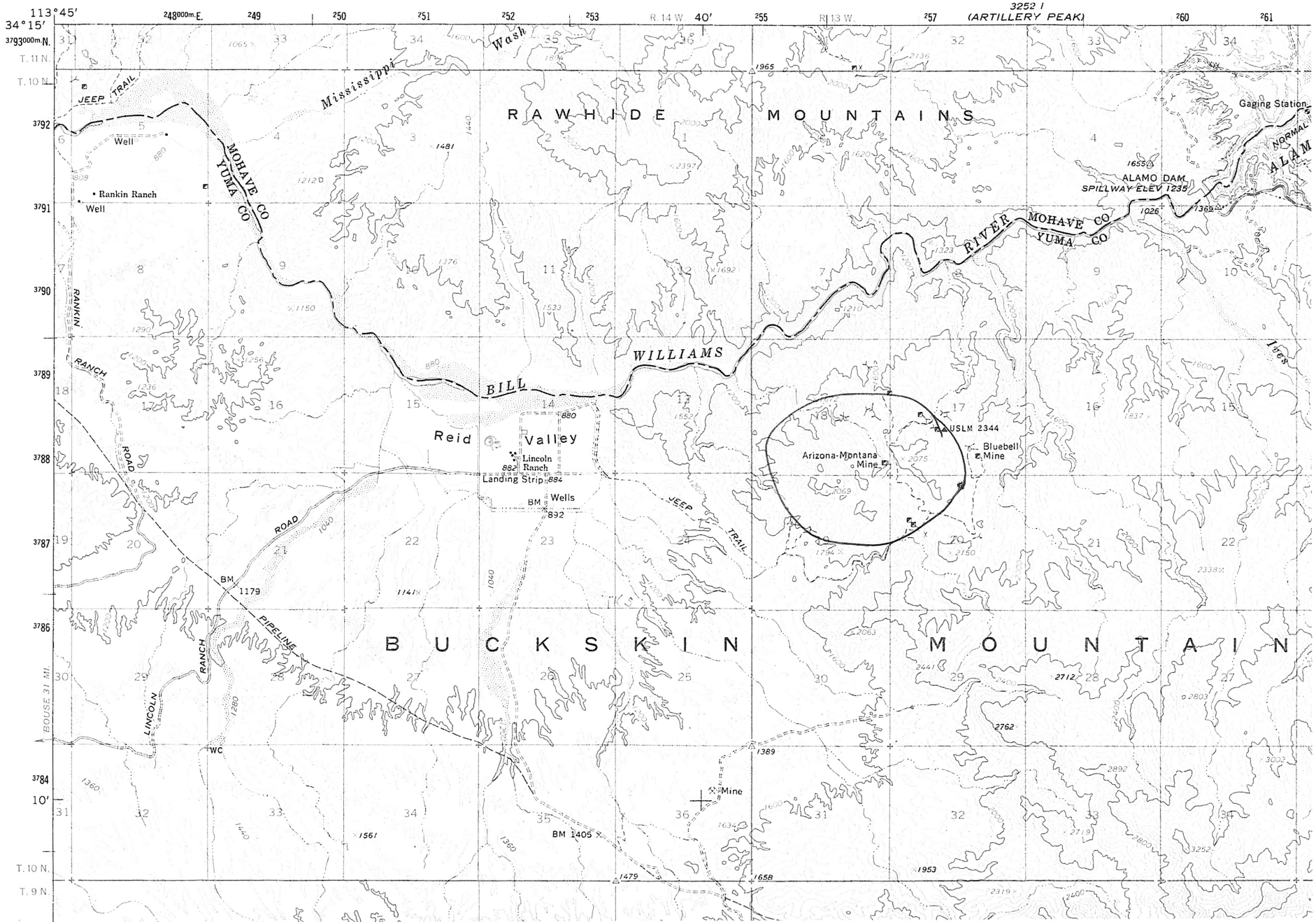
COMMODITY:
COPPER
SILVER
GOLD LODE

BIBLIOGRAPHY:
AZBM FILE DATA
ADMMR MONTANA-ARIZONA FILE
AZBM BULL 192

3232 N
(CASTANEDA HILLS)

Topo Map.
IVES PEAK - 15 MIN.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



REDBIRD CONSOLIDATED MINING & SMELTING CO.

Mr. J. E. Rogers, Manager.

Property located 22 miles from Wenden on the same vein as the Arizona-Montana property. Consists of 17 claims located in Santa Maria Mining District.

They have large lime contact in which occur chimneys of carbonate ore some 45 feet wide. The average assay of ore submitted by Mr. Rogers gave .1 oz. gold; $5\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. silver, and 18.3% Copper. He believes that the carbonate ore as a whole will average from 10 to 12% copper.

Will agree to ship output of mine on contract as soon as he is in a position to submit a general-average sample for assay and treatment figure.

He is endeavoring to get started on this property and to get it opened up but owing to the fact of the hot weather about coming on in this district the mine's are all leaving it and it is hard to work stock across the dry valleys without sufficient wells for water.

He estimates that he can ship in four weeks time if material can be got on the ground.

St. Louis men have put up \$150,000 to develop this property, they receiving 450,000 shares in a million and a half corporation.

ARIZONA-MONTANA COPPER MINING CO.

Mr. I. T. Hosey, President,
Phoenix, A.T.

Mr. Hewird, Manager
Wenden, A.T.

Have 15 claims located in the Santa Marie Mining District Yuma County, located 12 miles east of Carrigan's property by road; 35 miles from Wenden.

They have a shaft down to 1000 feet, cutting stations for levels at every 100 feet.

The "January" claim has a shaft down 230 feet, with 300 ft. of drift. The ore is a carbonate carrying copper, gold and silver values. How much Values The ore has a slightly acid nature and on all returns on ore shipped to Val Verde by Rogers in 1902, an average of 47% silica was shown.

They are installing a gasoline hoist and a 75 HP compressor and will work 20 men.

This property was sold by J. E. Rogers to this company in August 1906, for \$75000 cash.

OK

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT #AZ-054-95-057

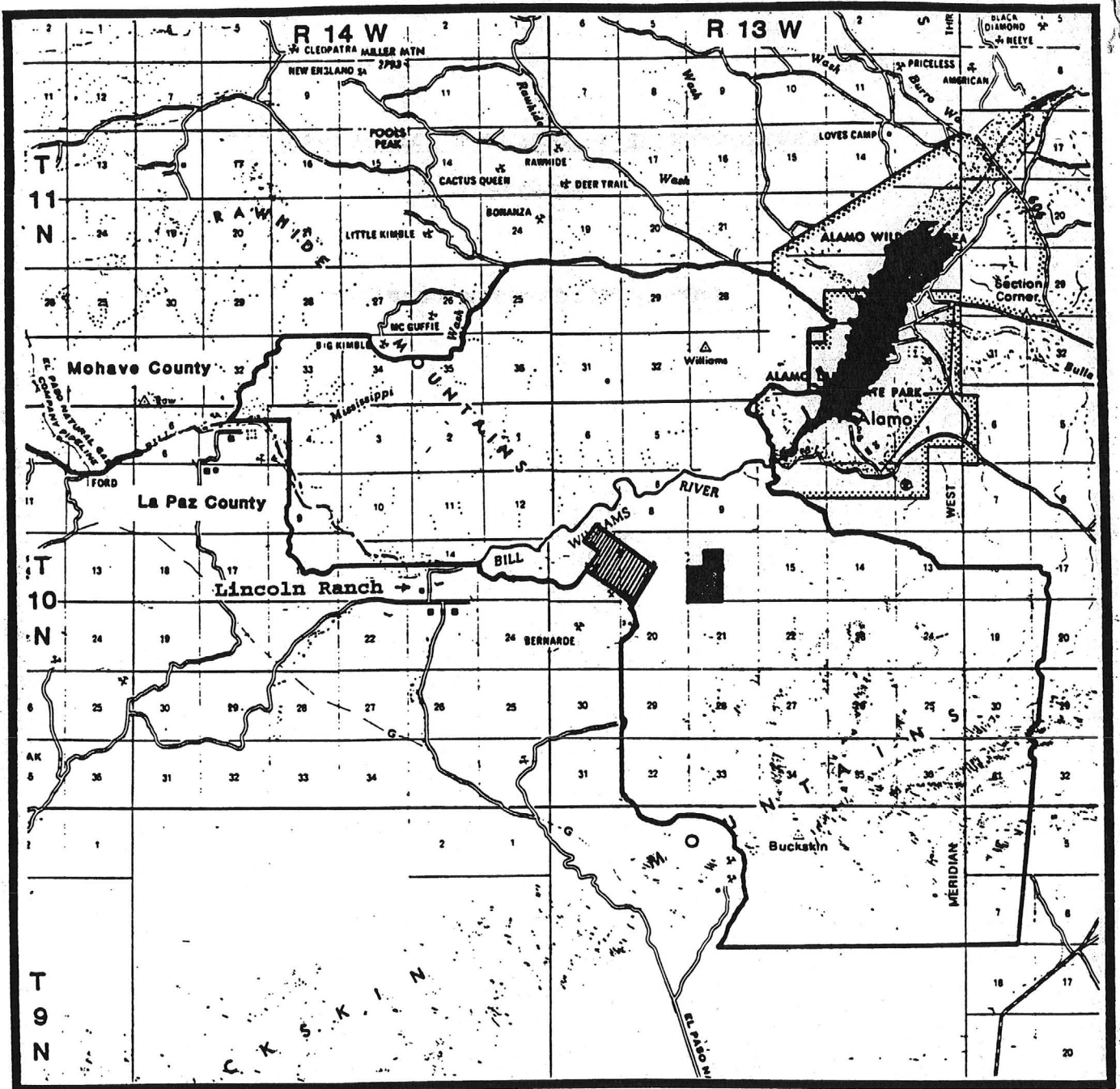
AZA-28843

Ankeny Wilderness Donation

PREPARED BY:




Clifton T. Bobinski
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HAVASU RESOURCE AREA
Yuma District
3189 Sweetwater Ave.
Lake Havasu, Arizona 86406

August 1995



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District

**RAWHIDE MOUNTAINS
WILDERNESS AREA**

-  **MINERAL SURVEY
2344 & 2345**
-  **WILDERNESS AREA
BOUNDARY**
-  **NONFEDERAL LAND
WITHIN WILDERNESS
AREA**



LOCATION MAP



I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

On November 23, 1994, Ms. Mary M. Ankeny notified the Area Manager of the Havasu Resource Area that she wished to donate property encompassing nine mining claims, patented in 1906, to the Bureau of Land Management. She stated that she did not want the land to ever again be mined or developed. Ms. Ankeny offered to voluntarily convey and transfer the property, described below (see maps), to the United States as a gift under Section 103 (a) of the Public Land Administration Act of 1960 and Section 6 of the Wilderness Act of 1964:

T. 10 N., R. 13 W., Gila & Salt River Meridian
Sec. 7, 17, 18: Mineral Survey 2344 & Mineral Survey 2345
182.533 acres (more or less), La Paz County, Arizona

The Ankeny property is contiguous to the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness on all sides except one. The Rawhide Mountains Wilderness was designated by the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990, Public Law 101-628. The donated land would become an addition to the adjacent wilderness and managed to preserve and protect the wilderness values. Management responsibility for the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness was transferred to the Havasu Resource Area of the Yuma District on December 15, 1991, from the Lower Gila Resource Area of the Phoenix District, Bureau of Land Management.

B. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

Acquisition of the Ankeny property would facilitate better management of the surrounding public lands and the adjacent wilderness resources by preventing the commercial, residential, or mineral development of the donated property and the potential impacts associated with development. The acceptance of the donation would both benefit the general public by adding a suitable addition to the wilderness at little cost to the taxpayers and facilitate the wishes of Ms. Ankeny to protect the donated property from future mining or development. Acquisition of the Ankeny property would also ensure Federal protection of sensitive bat species and important bat habitat (maternity roosts), Category II desert tortoise habitat, and significant historical cultural properties located on the patents.

C. Conformance with the Land Use Plan

The Ankeny property is identified for acquisition in the Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan (approved March 1995). The Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan designates the Three Rivers Riparian Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which includes an area along the Bill Williams River that was previously managed by the Lower Gila Resource Area and a portion of the Ankeny property. One of the approved management prescriptions for the ACEC is to acquire and close to mineral entry certain private and state lands, including the Ankeny property.

D. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

Authority for land acquisition by gift is provided by Section 103 (a) of the Public Land Administration Act of July 14, 1960 and Section 6 of the

Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. This action would be processed in accordance with the regulations found in 43 CFR 2100.

The Bureau of Land Management's management objectives and actions for desert tortoise habitat are established in Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on the Public Lands: A Rangeland Plan (November, 1988). Objective 8, Management Action 8C of this plan states: Encourage private donations of land, funds, and services to facilitate acquisition of land with high tortoise habitat values.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to accept donation of the private land described below for preservation as wilderness:

T. 10 N., R. 13 W., Gila & Salt River Meridian
Sec. 7, 17, 18: Mineral Survey 2344 & Mineral Survey 2345
182.533 acres (more or less), La Paz County, Arizona

The proposed action would allow title in the surface and subsurface estate to vest in the United States of America and its assigns the land to be managed as an addition to the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness. The donated private land would be closed to mineral entry and would receive Federal protection of sensitive bat species and important bat habitat (maternity roosts), Category II desert tortoise habitat, and significant historical cultural properties located on the patents.

B. No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the donation would not be accepted and the subject land would remain in private ownership. With private ownership, future development or mining activity could negatively impact the surrounding wilderness, important bat habitat, Category II desert tortoise habitat, and significant historical cultural properties.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. General Setting

The 182.5 acres (approx.) of patented private land is located 38 miles east of Parker, Arizona in La Paz County and approximately 0.5 to 1.5 miles south of the Bill Williams River. The property is surrounded by public land and adjacent to the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness (38,470 acres) on all but one side. Topography is characterized by sawtoothed ridges and steep sided canyons and is heavily dissected by washes. The elevation ranges from 1320 feet near the northwest corner to over 2040 feet near the southeast corner. Vegetation is of the Sonoran Desert Scrub community consisting of palo verde, creosote, staghorn cholla, barrel cactus, and several Arizona State Protected plant species.

The Ankeny property is suitable habitat for mule deer and desert bighorn sheep. It is within two miles of an active Bald Eagle nest and is a foraging area for other raptors. The patent shows sign of wild burro use and is located within the Alamo Burro Herd Area.

The property is accessible to within 1 mile by way of a very narrow and rocky two-track vehicle route which requires 4-wheel drive. A historic road, which follows a wash and is intermittent and indistinct in many places, provides access by foot to the property, where no sign of recent (<20 years) vehicle use is evident. The property is primarily natural in appearance but does contain visual disturbances caused by the gold mining activity which occurred in the late 1890's and ceased in the 1930's. The disturbances include two short segments of single track vehicle ways which are naturally revegetating. Workings on the property consist of two large shafts several hundred feet deep. Associated with these workings are several adits, shallow shafts, and prospecting pits. The property is free of any present human development, including buildings or utilities.

All of the affected resources, with the exception of visual resources, which are present in the adjacent wilderness are described in the Upper Sonoran Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (approved August 1987). This document is available for review by the public at the Yuma District Office in Yuma, Arizona, and the Havasu Resource Area Office in Lake Havasu, Arizona, and is hereby incorporated by reference. The following is a summary of the affected resources with site-specific details of the Ankeny property.

B. Wilderness

The Ankeny property would be a suitable addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The property generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature since the historic mining disturbances are substantially unnoticeable. The evidence of historic mining activity does not detract from the naturalness of the area since most work was done by hand and not machine. The naturalness of the patent area matches or exceeds that of the adjacent designated wilderness.

The opportunities for primitive recreation in the area are outstanding. Activities like hiking and backpacking in the area would be exceptional given the outstanding vistas, rugged terrain, and cultural artifacts of historic note. The area is extremely remote and isolated and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area contains many features of ecological and historical value.

C. Threatened or Endangered Species

A survey in January of 1993 by the Arizona Game and Fish Department of several of the shafts and adits on the property reported bat guano ratings indicative of significant roosts, such as maternity roosts. The California leaf-nosed bat (Macrotus californicus), a Federal Candidate Category 2 species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, has been identified using nearby mines and is very likely using these shafts and adits. Other potential bat species using the mines include the cave myotis (Myotis velifer) and the

Mexican free-tail (Nyctinomops macrotis), both Federal Candidate Category 2 species.

The Ankeny property is within high value BLM Category II desert tortoise habitat. The Sonoran population of desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) is listed as a Federal Candidate Category 2 species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

A pair of Bald Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) actively nest less than two miles from the Ankeny property. Bald Eagles are Federally listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and are protected by the State of Arizona.

D. Cultural Resources

A judgmental survey was conducted by the Havasu Resource Area Archeologist. Significant historical cultural properties were identified on the property, including artifacts and features associated with mining in the 1890-1920's. These historic resources are potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places because their spatial context and much of the content is intact, and the integrity of setting remains excellent. No prehistoric sites were identified.

E. Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

All portions of the Ankeny property within Section 7 and 18 of T. 10 N., R 13 W., G&SRM, totaling approximately 90 acres, are located within the boundary of the Three Rivers Riparian ACEC.

F. Hazardous or Solid Waste

A Level I Contaminant Survey on the property was completed June 30, 1995. No contaminants or obvious signs of any effects of contamination were observed.

G. Visual Resources

Rawhide Mountains Wilderness is in a Visual Resource Management Class I. The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes, however it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention (BLM Manual H-8410-1).

H. Socioeconomics

La Paz County billed the owner an estimated \$292.16 in property taxes in 1994. The total real property taxes billed to all taxpayers in La Paz County in 1994 was \$10,008,746.90, where real property included both land and improvements.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following resources common to each alternative have been analyzed and either are not present and/or would not be affected by the proposed action or the no action alternative:

- 1) Water Quality
- 2) Riparian or Wetland Zones
- 3) Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 4) Prime or Unique Farmland
- 5) Hazardous or Solid Waste
- 6) Native American Religious Concerns
- 7) Floodplains
- 8) Air Quality

A. Proposed Action

1. Wilderness

If this property were acquired by the Federal Government, an additional 182.53 acres of land would be managed as part of the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness. Acquisition of the Ankeny property would facilitate better management of the surrounding public lands and the adjacent wilderness resources by preventing the commercial, residential, or mineral development of the donated property and the potential impacts associated with development.

2. Threatened or Endangered Species

Acquisition of the Ankeny property would ensure Federal protection of sensitive bat species and important bat habitat (maternity roosts), and Category II desert tortoise habitat. Acquisition of the Ankeny property would further implement the Bureau's stated management objective to encourage private donations of lands with high value desert tortoise habitat.

3. Cultural Resources

Acquisition of the Ankeny property would provide Federal protection of the significant historical cultural properties located on the patents.

4. Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Acquisition of the Ankeny property will increase the amount of Federal ownership within the Three Rivers Riparian ACEC and implement one of many management prescriptions approved by the Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan.

5. Visual Resources

Federal acquisition and management as wilderness would preserve the existing natural character of the landscape of both the private property and the adjacent Rawhide Mountains Wilderness which is consistent with the visual resource management objectives for Visual Resource Management Class I areas. The Ankeny property would be redesignated as Class I.

6. Socioeconomic

La Paz County would no longer collect the billed yearly property taxes, totalling an estimated \$292.16 in 1994. The tax loss that would affect La Paz County as a result of federal acquisition of the Ankeny property represents less than 0.003 % of the total real property taxes billed to all taxpayers in La Paz County in 1994.

Federal acquisition would add 182.53 acres to the total "entitlement land" in La Paz County eligible for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). La Paz County received \$434,000 in PILT payments in 1994 to offset the loss of revenue caused by tax-exempt federal land. La Paz County PILT payments are currently limited by a payment ceiling and this acquisition would not change the amount of PILT received by the County. However, Public Law 103-397, passed on October 22, 1994, increased the payments for entitlement lands from \$.75 per acre in 1994 progressively to \$1.65 per acre in 1999 based on the Consumer Price Index and by amending the population cap. PILT payments to La Paz County are therefore expected to increase starting in fiscal year 1995.

B. No Action Alternative

1. Wilderness

The private property could be developed at some point in time which would adversely affect the wilderness qualities of both the Ankeny property and the adjacent wilderness. The construction of buildings or other improvements, including a motorized access route, would have the potential to degrade the natural appearance of the patent and the adjacent wilderness, and would reduce the opportunities of wilderness visitors for solitude.

2. Threatened or Endangered Species

Sensitive bat species and important bat habitat (maternity roosts) as well as Category II desert tortoise habitat would not receive Federal protection.

3. Cultural Resources

Significant historical cultural properties located on the patents would not receive Federal protection.

4. Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

The amount of Federal ownership within the Three Rivers Riparian ACEC would not change.

5. Visual Resources

The potential development of the private property could degrade the natural character of the existing landscape. Extensive changes to the existing landscape would not be consistent with Visual Resource Management Class I objectives.

6. Socioeconomic

La Paz County would continue to bill yearly property taxes, which totalled \$292.16 in 1994. La Paz County would receive PILT payments equal to the payment ceiling, which amounted to \$434,000 in 1994. This acquisition would have no impact on the amount of PILT received by the County.

C. Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative effects on the socioeconomics of La Paz County, Arizona, were analyzed for a period of 10 years. A total of 34,532 acres of non-agricultural lands, including the subject lands, have been identified for acquisition in La Paz County by the Yuma District Resource Management Plan, as amended (approved February, 1987). The Yuma District Resource Management Plan, as amended, also identifies 59,928 acres of lands for disposal. The Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (approved March, 1983) identifies an additional 1,080 acres of land for disposal in La Paz County but no additional acres for acquisition. No substantive effects on the local economy are anticipated from the acquisition of the 182.53 acres of nonirrigated and undeveloped lands.

Considering the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future acquisitions, the implementation of the proposed action is not expected to have any significant cumulative impacts.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. List of Preparers - Bureau of Land Management

Havasu Resource Area

Clif Bobinski, Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist
 Cindy Barnes, Range Conservationist/Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
 Aline LaForge, Archeologist
 Elroy Masters, Wildlife Biologist/Environmental Coordinator
 Karen Montgomery, Realty Specialist
 Dave Taylor, Geologist
 Robert Henderson, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
 Joseph Liebhauser, Acting Area Manager

Yuma District Office

Dave Curtis, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
 Lowell Jeffcoat, Hazardous Materials Coordinator

Arizona State Office

Joy Zeitelhack, Acquisition Specialist
 Ken Mahoney, Wilderness Specialist

B. Agencies/Persons Consulted

La Paz County Board of Supervisors

Patricia Madueno, Madam Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Elda Butler, Cultural Program Director, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Matthew Leivas, Sr., Chairman, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
Joe Murdock, Chief Conservation Officer, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

Daniel Eddy, Jr., Chairman, Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT)
Betty Cornelius, Museum Director, Colorado River Indian Tribes

Stan Rice, Jr., President, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribes
Nancy Quade, Cultural Research Director, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

C. Scoping

The La Paz County Board of Supervisors, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, and the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribes were consulted through written correspondence. Similar actions have been supported by the Tribes and not opposed by the County; no concerns have been identified.

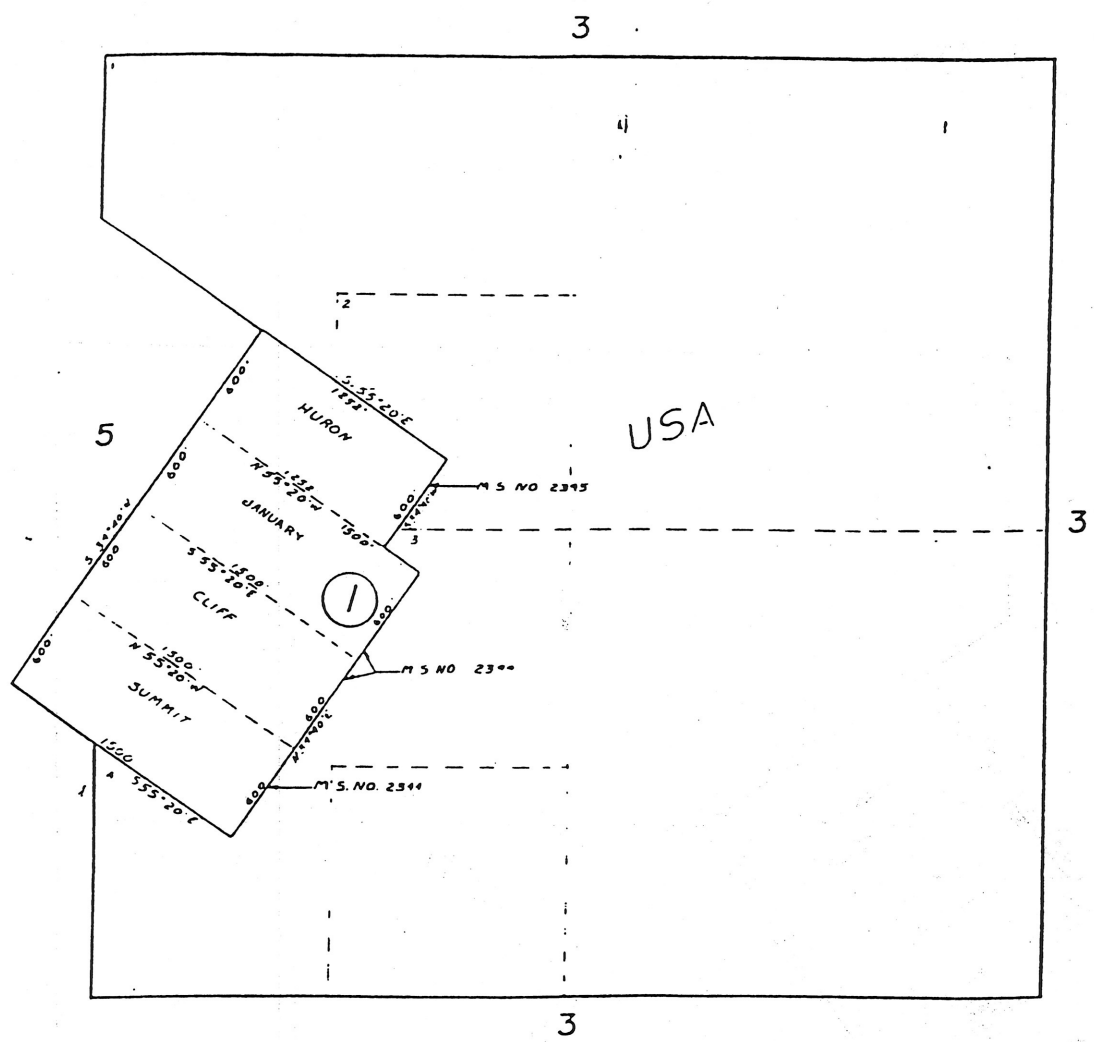
D. Environmental Justice

Consideration was given to local minority and low income groups which may be affected by the proposed land acquisition. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, and the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribes were identified and consulted.

E. Public Review and Comments

The draft environmental assessment was mailed to approximately 400 organizations, agencies, and individuals on the distribution list for actions affecting wilderness in Arizona. A 30-day public review and comment period was established.

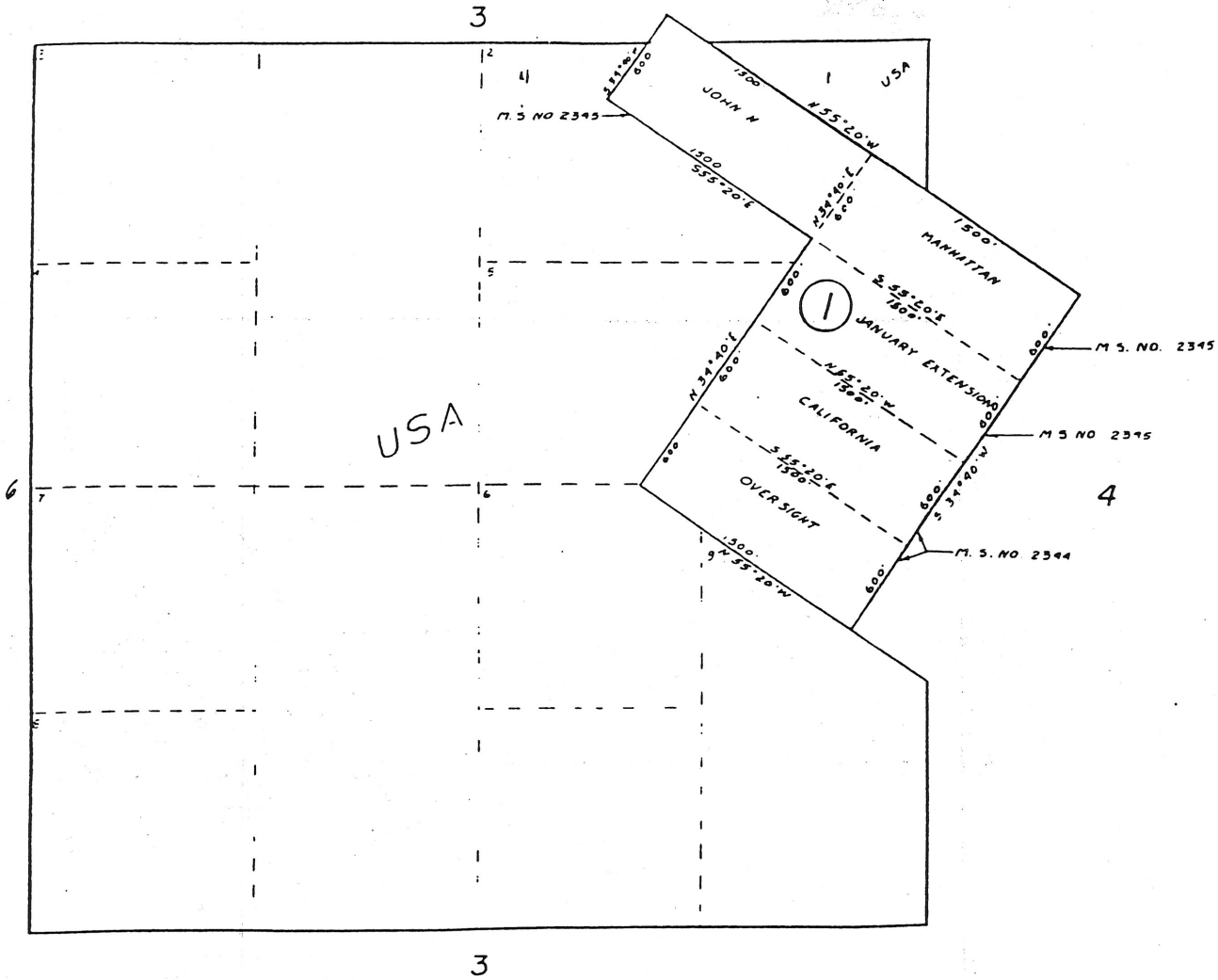
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T	N	R	W	SEC	
	10	13	17		
SECTION DETAIL:					
SUBDIVISION:					
AREA CODE: 1900					



REVISION	
DATE	
SCALE:	0 300' 600'
LA PAZ COUNTY	
GEORGE NAULT	
ASSESSOR	
ASSESSOR MAP FOR INFORMATION ONLY NO LIABILITY ASSUMED	

MAP 2

309		5	
T	N	R	W SEC
10	13	18	
SECTION DETAIL:			
SUBDIVISION:			
AREA CODE: 1900			



REVISION
DATE
SCALE: 0 300' 600'
LA PAZ COUNTY
GEORGE NAULT ASSESSOR
ASSESSOR MAP FOR INFORMATION ONLY NO LIABILITY ASSUMED

MAP 3

MONTANA-ARIZONA COPPER CO.

Yuma County

Sections 17 & 18, T10N, R13W.

CJH WR 7/25/80: Mrs. Mary Ankeny, 3513 San Jose Lane, Santa Barbara, California 93106, still owns nine patented claims comprising part of the Montana-Arizona Mine. She wants to sell them.

STATE OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES
MINERAL BUILDING, FAIRGROUNDS
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007



November 28, 1969

Mrs. Dean H. Ankeny
3513 San Jose Lane
Santa Barbara, California 93105

Dear Mrs. Ankeny:

I am answering your letter of November 18th regarding your Montana-Arizona mine.

This mine probably was operated in the last century - possibly by the Montana & Arizona Copper Co. which was defunct by early 1900. The 1908 volume of The Copper Handbook has a Montana-Arizona Copper Co. as the holder of 26 claims about 30 miles north of Wendendale - see photocopy of page 970 of the book. Since the page has much the same description as later volumes of a 300 ft. shaft and a considerable number of trenches, and the 1907 volume lists only the Montana & Arizona defunct company, the Montana-Arizona may reasonably be assumed to have acquired the property after the work was done.

Subsequent issues of the handbook show the mine idle until Volume XIII, 1918, which reports neither activity nor idleness. Volume XIV, covering 1918, 1919 and the first quarter of 1920 does the same. Then subsequent volumes report it idle - those since 1937 merely listing the name under "Inactive Companies".

There is no record in the volumes of any production and you did not mention in your letter of September 11th that you had any. You so far have indicated no knowledge of mineral occurrences other than, "An assay of a number of rocks picked up recently on the property has a good showing of gold and copper." It is important that the rocks were picked up with a purpose of sampling the material which might be mined, in an area which you can describe and in places which you can describe.

Mr. Soule' suggested and I strongly recommend that you hire a registered engineer to report on your holdings. Our field engineer for your territory will not be there until the second week in February. If you wish to wait and have him take a look first, then please write us to arrange for a meeting with whomever you wish to take him to the property during one day only.

C
O
P
Y

November 28, 1969

A mining company probably would want a lease with option to buy, but first it would want some free time to look the property over, and for the balance of the first year it would be reluctant to pay very much because it would be a period of initial drilling and study. It would expect to pay more the second and third years. The free time, payments and an option price would have to be agreed upon and your engineer would be of much help to you.

Other terms of agreement probably would be exclusive company control and use of the property, you to have right of inspection at any time; royalty payments on production, to be credited against monthly payments; payment of taxes and doing of assessment work - usually by the company; and right to cancel, with information including core samples, assays, geological maps and other related data except interpretive material, going to the owner.

Enclosed is information for joining the Arizona Small Miner Operators Association and subscription to Pay Dirt, the only Arizona mining paper.

Under separate cover we are sending a copy of our booklet, Laws and Regulations which may be of help to you.

Perhaps you would care to look at the book, Economics of the Mineral Industries, second edition, published by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers. It may be "heavy" reading for you, but you would pick up some things of value to you, I'm sure.

If we can be of further help, let us know.

Sincerely,

FRANK P. KNIGHT,
Director.

FK:p
Enc.

STATE OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES
MINERAL BUILDING, FAIRGROUNDS
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007



March 3, 1969

Mrs. Mary Ankeny
3513 San Jose Lane
Santa Barbara, California 93105

Dear Mrs. Ankeny:

We find Montana-Arizona Copper Co. first mentioned in The Copper Handbook Volume VIII, 1908. The same report is given in volumes VIII and IX (1909). It gives the main office as Spokane, Washington with mine office at Planet, Yuma Co., Arizona. J. W. Greenough, manager. "Lands, 26 claims, area 520 acres, circa 30 miles north of Wendendale" (Wenden). "Property said to show 5 veins of 3' to 100' width, traceable circa 7000', including a 3' vein carrying good gold values. Development is by a 2-compartment 300' shaft and a considerable number of trenches". "Management considered good."

Later reports show the property idle.

Sincerely,

FRANK P. KNIGHT,
Director.

FK:p

February 26, 1969

Department of Mineral Resources
Mineral Bldg., Fairgrounds
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Gentlemen:

I am the owner of an old mine in northern Yuma County known as the old Montana-Arizona Mine. It is located in Sections 17 and 18 of Township 10^N Range 13, ^W U. S. Mineral Surveys 2344 and 2345. The names of the claims are January, January Extension, Huron, Cliff, Summit, California, John H., Manhattan, and Oversight.

I am interested in finding out all I can about the history of this mine, and wonder if you have any records regarding it such as how much and what kind of ore was taken out of it. I believe it was in operation from 1906 through 1913 and maybe before or after those dates. If you do not have records of this kind, is there any bureau in Arizona that might have? I realize that this was before Arizona became a state.

I shall appreciate any information you can give me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Ankeny

Mrs. Mary Ankeny
3513 San Jose Lane
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105

OR
K

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT #AZ-054-95-057

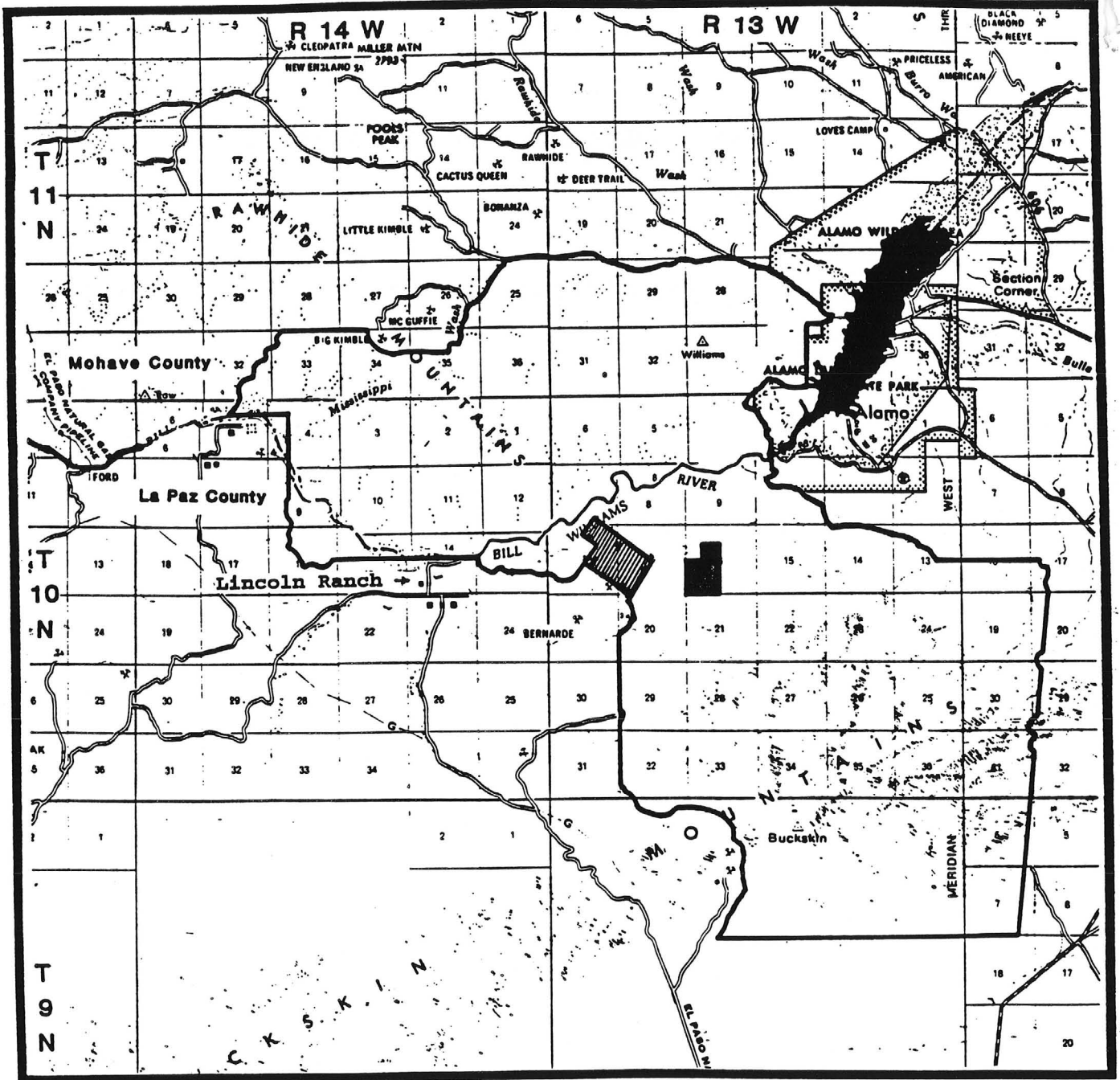
AZA-28843

Ankeny Wilderness Donation

PREPARED BY:




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3189 Sweetwater Ave.
Lake Havasu, Arizona 86406**

August 1995



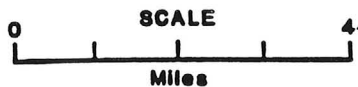
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District

**RAWHIDE MOUNTAINS
WILDERNESS AREA**

-  MINERAL SURVEY
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-  WILDERNESS AREA
BOUNDARY
-  NONFEDERAL LAND
WITHIN WILDERNESS
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The Ankeny property is contiguous to the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness on all sides except one. The Rawhide Mountains Wilderness was designated by the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990, Public Law 101-628. The donated land would become an addition to the adjacent wilderness and managed to preserve and protect the wilderness values. Management responsibility for the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness was transferred to the Havasu Resource Area of the Yuma District on December 15, 1991, from the Lower Gila Resource Area of the Phoenix District, Bureau of Land Management.

B. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

Acquisition of the Ankeny property would facilitate better management of the surrounding public lands and the adjacent wilderness resources by preventing the commercial, residential, or mineral development of the donated property and the potential impacts associated with development. The acceptance of the donation would both benefit the general public by adding a suitable addition to the wilderness at little cost to the taxpayers and facilitate the wishes of Ms. Ankeny to protect the donated property from future mining or development. Acquisition of the Ankeny property would also ensure Federal protection of sensitive bat species and important bat habitat (maternity roosts), Category II desert tortoise habitat, and significant historical cultural properties located on the patents.

C. Conformance with the Land Use Plan

The Ankeny property is identified for acquisition in the Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan (approved March 1995). The Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan designates the Three Rivers Riparian Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which includes an area along the Bill Williams River that was previously managed by the Lower Gila Resource Area and a portion of the Ankeny property. One of the approved management prescriptions for the ACEC is to acquire and close to mineral entry certain private and state lands, including the Ankeny property.

D. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

Authority for land acquisition by gift is provided by Section 103 (a) of the Public Land Administration Act of July 14, 1960 and Section 6 of the

Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. This action would be processed in accordance with the regulations found in 43 CFR 2100.

The Bureau of Land Management's management objectives and actions for desert tortoise habitat are established in Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on the Public Lands: A Rangeland Plan (November, 1988). Objective 8, Management Action 8C of this plan states: Encourage private donations of land, funds, and services to facilitate acquisition of land with high tortoise habitat values.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to accept donation of the private land described below for preservation as wilderness:

T. 10 N., R. 13 W., Gila & Salt River Meridian
Sec. 7, 17, 18: Mineral Survey 2344 & Mineral Survey 2345
182.533 acres (more or less), La Paz County, Arizona

The proposed action would allow title in the surface and subsurface estate to vest in the United States of America and it assigns the land to be managed as an addition to the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness. The donated private land would be closed to mineral entry and would receive Federal protection of sensitive bat species and important bat habitat (maternity roosts), Category II desert tortoise habitat, and significant historical cultural properties located on the patents.

B. No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the donation would not be accepted and the subject land would remain in private ownership. With private ownership, future development or mining activity could negatively impact the surrounding wilderness, important bat habitat, Category II desert tortoise habitat, and significant historical cultural properties.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. General Setting

The 182.5 acres (approx.) of patented private land is located 38 miles east of Parker, Arizona in La Paz County and approximately 0.5 to 1.5 miles south of the Bill Williams River. The property is surrounded by public land and adjacent to the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness (38,470 acres) on all but one side. Topography is characterized by sawtoothed ridges and steep sided canyons and is heavily dissected by washes. The elevation ranges from 1320 feet near the northwest corner to over 2040 feet near the southeast corner. Vegetation is of the Sonoran Desert Scrub community consisting of palo verde, creosote, staghorn cholla, barrel cactus, and several Arizona State Protected plant species.

The Ankeny property is suitable habitat for mule deer and desert bighorn sheep. It is within two miles of an active Bald Eagle nest and is a foraging area for other raptors. The patent shows sign of wild burro use and is located within the Alamo Burro Herd Area.

The property is accessible to within 1 mile by way of a very narrow and rocky two-track vehicle route which requires 4-wheel drive. A historic road, which follows a wash and is intermittent and indistinct in many places, provides access by foot to the property, where no sign of recent (<20 years) vehicle use is evident. The property is primarily natural in appearance but does contain visual disturbances caused by the gold mining activity which occurred in the late 1890's and ceased in the 1930's. The disturbances include two short segments of single track vehicle ways which are naturally revegetating. Workings on the property consist of two large shafts several hundred feet deep. Associated with these workings are several adits, shallow shafts, and prospecting pits. The property is free of any present human development, including buildings or utilities.

All of the affected resources, with the exception of visual resources, which are present in the adjacent wilderness are described in the Upper Sonoran Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (approved August 1987). This document is available for review by the public at the Yuma District Office in Yuma, Arizona, and the Havasu Resource Area Office in Lake Havasu, Arizona, and is hereby incorporated by reference. The following is a summary of the affected resources with site-specific details of the Ankeny property.

B. Wilderness

The Ankeny property would be a suitable addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The property generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature since the historic mining disturbances are substantially unnoticeable. The evidence of historic mining activity does not detract from the naturalness of the area since most work was done by hand and not machine. The naturalness of the patent area matches or exceeds that of the adjacent designated wilderness.

The opportunities for primitive recreation in the area are outstanding. Activities like hiking and backpacking in the area would be exceptional given the outstanding vistas, rugged terrain, and cultural artifacts of historic note. The area is extremely remote and isolated and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area contains many features of ecological and historical value.

C. Threatened or Endangered Species

A survey in January of 1993 by the Arizona Game and Fish Department of several of the shafts and adits on the property reported bat guano ratings indicative of significant roosts, such as maternity roosts. The California leaf-nosed bat (Macrotus californicus), a Federal Candidate Category 2 species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, has been identified using nearby mines and is very likely using these shafts and adits. Other potential bat species using the mines include the cave myotis (Myotis velifer) and the

Mexican free-tail (Nyctinomops macrotis), both Federal Candidate Category 2 species.

The Ankeny property is within high value BLM Category II desert tortoise habitat. The Sonoran population of desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii) is listed as a Federal Candidate Category 2 species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

A pair of Bald Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) actively nest less than two miles from the Ankeny property. Bald Eagles are Federally listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and are protected by the State of Arizona.

D. Cultural Resources

A judgmental survey was conducted by the Havasu Resource Area Archeologist. Significant historical cultural properties were identified on the property, including artifacts and features associated with mining in the 1890-1920's. These historic resources are potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places because their spatial context and much of the content is intact, and the integrity of setting remains excellent. No prehistoric sites were identified.

E. Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

All portions of the Ankeny property within Section 7 and 18 of T. 10 N., R 13 W., G&SRM, totaling approximately 90 acres, are located within the boundary of the Three Rivers Riparian ACEC.

F. Hazardous or Solid Waste

A Level I Contaminant Survey on the property was completed June 30, 1995. No contaminants or obvious signs of any effects of contamination were observed.

G. Visual Resources

Rawhide Mountains Wilderness is in a Visual Resource Management Class I. The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes, however it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention (BLM Manual H-8410-1).

H. Socioeconomics

La Paz County billed the owner an estimated \$292.16 in property taxes in 1994. The total real property taxes billed to all taxpayers in La Paz County in 1994 was \$10,008,746.90, where real property included both land and improvements.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following resources common to each alternative have been analyzed and either are not present and/or would not be affected by the proposed action or the no action alternative:

- 1) Water Quality
- 2) Riparian or Wetland Zones
- 3) Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 4) Prime or Unique Farmland
- 5) Hazardous or Solid Waste
- 6) Native American Religious Concerns
- 7) Floodplains
- 8) Air Quality

A. Proposed Action

1. Wilderness

If this property were acquired by the Federal Government, an additional 182.53 acres of land would be managed as part of the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness. Acquisition of the Ankeny property would facilitate better management of the surrounding public lands and the adjacent wilderness resources by preventing the commercial, residential, or mineral development of the donated property and the potential impacts associated with development.

2. Threatened or Endangered Species

Acquisition of the Ankeny property would ensure Federal protection of sensitive bat species and important bat habitat (maternity roosts), and Category II desert tortoise habitat. Acquisition of the Ankeny property would further implement the Bureau's stated management objective to encourage private donations of lands with high value desert tortoise habitat.

3. Cultural Resources

Acquisition of the Ankeny property would provide Federal protection of the significant historical cultural properties located on the patents.

4. Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Acquisition of the Ankeny property will increase the amount of Federal ownership within the Three Rivers Riparian ACEC and implement one of many management prescriptions approved by the Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan.

5. Visual Resources

Federal acquisition and management as wilderness would preserve the existing natural character of the landscape of both the private property and the adjacent Rawhide Mountains Wilderness which is consistent with the visual resource management objectives for Visual Resource Management Class I areas. The Ankeny property would be redesignated as Class I.

6. Socioeconomic

La Paz County would no longer collect the billed yearly property taxes, totalling an estimated \$292.16 in 1994. The tax loss that would affect La Paz County as a result of federal acquisition of the Ankeny property represents less than 0.003 % of the total real property taxes billed to all taxpayers in La Paz County in 1994.

Federal acquisition would add 182.53 acres to the total "entitlement land" in La Paz County eligible for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). La Paz County received \$434,000 in PILT payments in 1994 to offset the loss of revenue caused by tax-exempt federal land. La Paz County PILT payments are currently limited by a payment ceiling and this acquisition would not change the amount of PILT received by the County. However, Public Law 103-397, passed on October 22, 1994, increased the payments for entitlement lands from \$.75 per acre in 1994 progressively to \$1.65 per acre in 1999 based on the Consumer Price Index and by amending the population cap. PILT payments to La Paz County are therefore expected to increase starting in fiscal year 1995.

B. No Action Alternative

1. Wilderness

The private property could be developed at some point in time which would adversely affect the wilderness qualities of both the Ankeny property and the adjacent wilderness. The construction of buildings or other improvements, including a motorized access route, would have the potential to degrade the natural appearance of the patent and the adjacent wilderness, and would reduce the opportunities of wilderness visitors for solitude.

2. Threatened or Endangered Species

Sensitive bat species and important bat habitat (maternity roosts) as well as Category II desert tortoise habitat would not receive Federal protection.

3. Cultural Resources

Significant historical cultural properties located on the patents would not receive Federal protection.

4. Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

The amount of Federal ownership within the Three Rivers Riparian ACEC would not change.

5. Visual Resources

The potential development of the private property could degrade the natural character of the existing landscape. Extensive changes to the existing landscape would not be consistent with Visual Resource Management Class I objectives.

6. Socioeconomic

La Paz County would continue to bill yearly property taxes, which totalled \$292.16 in 1994. La Paz County would receive PILT payments equal to the payment ceiling, which amounted to \$434,000 in 1994. This acquisition would have no impact on the amount of PILT received by the County.

C. Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative effects on the socioeconomics of La Paz County, Arizona, were analyzed for a period of 10 years. A total of 34,532 acres of non-agricultural lands, including the subject lands, have been identified for acquisition in La Paz County by the Yuma District Resource Management Plan, as amended (approved February, 1987). The Yuma District Resource Management Plan, as amended, also identifies 59,928 acres of lands for disposal. The Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (approved March, 1983) identifies an additional 1,080 acres of land for disposal in La Paz County but no additional acres for acquisition. No substantive effects on the local economy are anticipated from the acquisition of the 182.53 acres of nonirrigated and undeveloped lands.

Considering the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future acquisitions, the implementation of the proposed action is not expected to have any significant cumulative impacts.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. List of Preparers - Bureau of Land Management

Havasu Resource Area

- Clif Bobinski, Outdoor Recreation Planner/Wilderness Specialist
- Cindy Barnes, Range Conservationist/Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
- Aline LaForge, Archeologist
- Elroy Masters, Wildlife Biologist/Environmental Coordinator
- Karen Montgomery, Realty Specialist
- Dave Taylor, Geologist
- Robert Henderson, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
- Joseph Liebhauser, Acting Area Manager

Yuma District Office

- Dave Curtis, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
- Lowell Jeffcoat, Hazardous Materials Coordinator

Arizona State Office

- Joy Zeitelhack, Acquisition Specialist
- Ken Mahoney, Wilderness Specialist

B. Agencies/Persons Consulted

La Paz County Board of Supervisors

Patricia Madueno, Madam Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Elda Butler, Cultural Program Director, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Matthew Leivas, Sr., Chairman, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
Joe Murdock, Chief Conservation Officer, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

Daniel Eddy, Jr., Chairman, Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT)
Betty Cornelius, Museum Director, Colorado River Indian Tribes

Stan Rice, Jr., President, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribes
Nancy Quade, Cultural Research Director, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

C. Scoping

The La Paz County Board of Supervisors, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, and the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribes were consulted through written correspondence. Similar actions have been supported by the Tribes and not opposed by the County; no concerns have been identified.

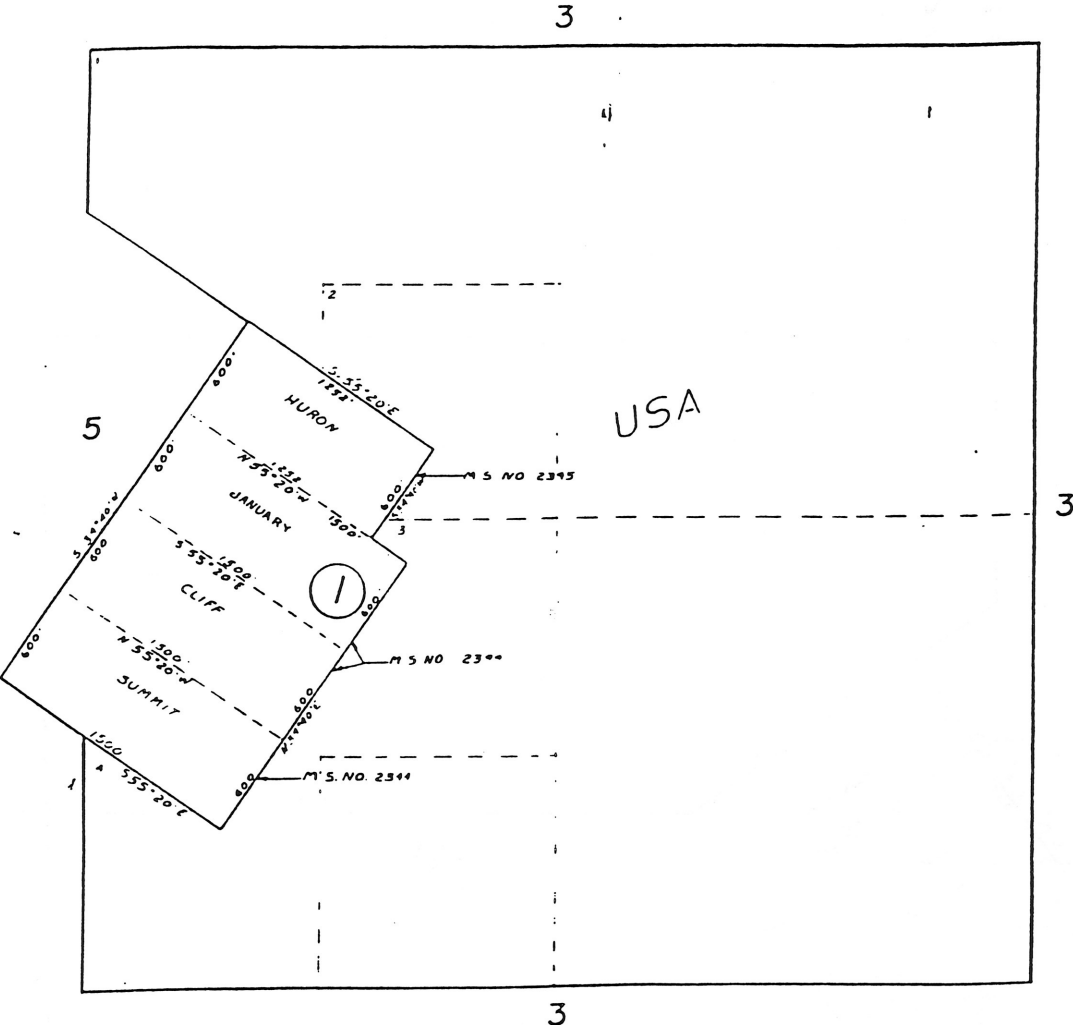
D. Environmental Justice

Consideration was given to local minority and low income groups which may be affected by the proposed land acquisition. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, and the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribes were identified and consulted.

E. Public Review and Comments

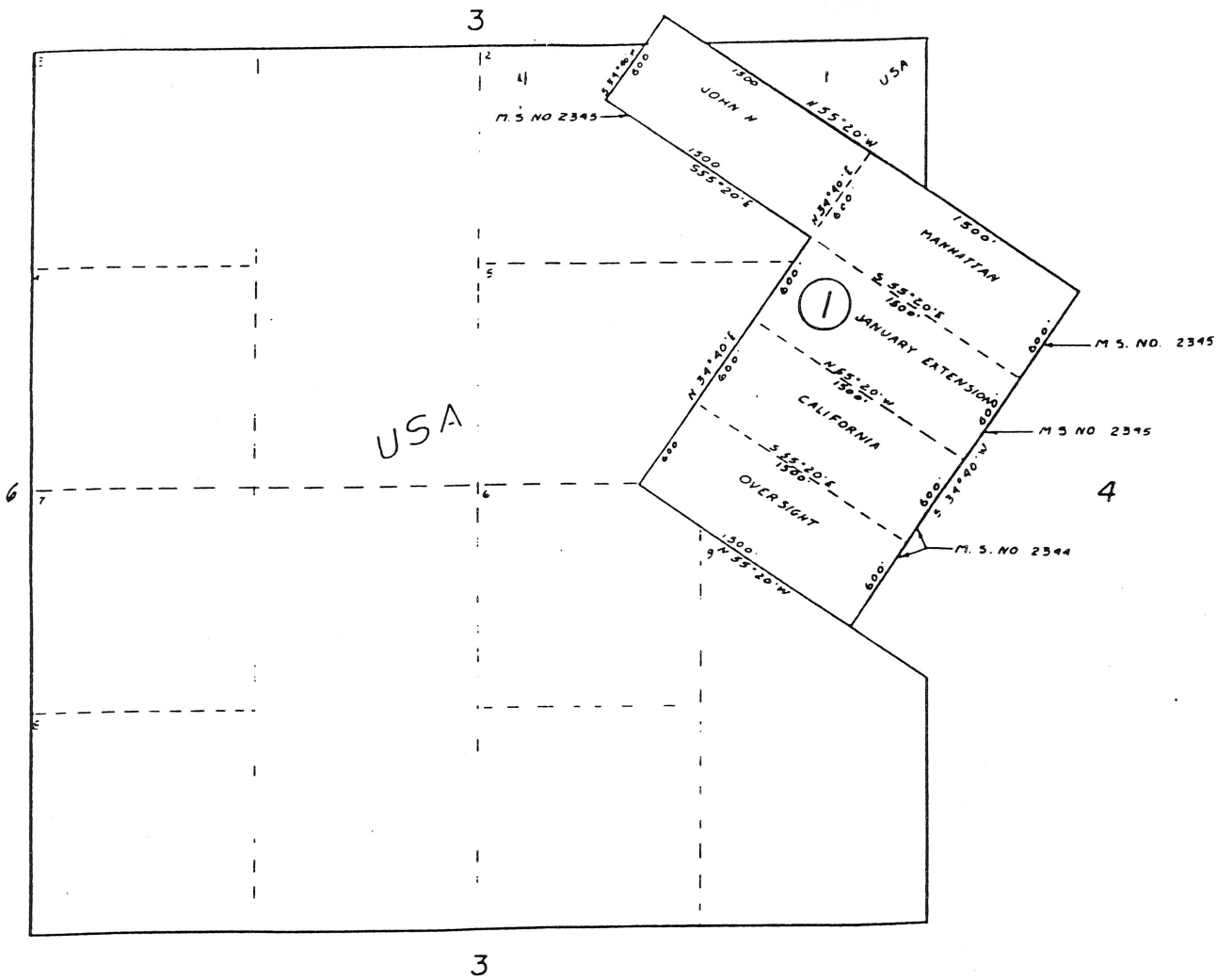
The draft environmental assessment was mailed to approximately 400 organizations, agencies, and individuals on the distribution list for actions affecting wilderness in Arizona. A 30-day public review and comment period was established.

BOOK		MAP	
309		4	
T	N	R	W SEC
10	13	17	
SECTION DETAIL:			
SUBDIVISION:			
AREA CODE: 1900			



REVISION	DATE
SCALE:	0 300' 600'
LA PAZ COUNTY	
GEORGE NAULT	
ASSESSOR	
ASSESSOR MAP FOR INFORMATION ONLY NO LIABILITY ASSUMED	

309		5	
T	N	R	W SEC
10	13	18	
SECTION DETAIL:			
SUBDIVISION:			
AREA CODE: 1900			



RECORD NO.	
DATE	
SCALE:	0 300' 600'
LA PAZ COUNTY	
GEORGE NAULT ASSESSOR	
ASSESSOR MAP FOR INFORMATION ONLY NO LIABILITY ASSUMED	

MAP 3