

Proposed Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:

Planet



A proposal report to the Bureau of Land Management,
Kingman Field Office, Arizona

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PREFACE: This Proposal was developed according to BLM Manual 6310

General Overview

Instruction Memorandum 2011-154 and Manuals 6310 and 6320 set out the BLM's approach to protecting wilderness characteristics on the public lands. This guidance acknowledges that wilderness is a resource that is part of BLM's multiple use mission, requires the BLM to keep a current inventory of wilderness characteristics, and directs the agency to consider protection of these values in land use planning decisions.¹

In March 2012, the Bureau of Land Management issued updated manuals for inventorying and managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics on public lands (hereafter often referred to as LWC's). These manuals provide the agency with direction for implementing its legal obligations to inventory and consider management of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act's provision that BLM "preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition" (43 U.S.C. § 1701(a)(8)). **Manual 6310** (Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands) guides the BLM on how to meet its obligations to inventory for and identify lands with wilderness characteristics. **Manual 6320** (Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process) guides the BLM on the options available to address lands with wilderness characteristics in land use planning once they have been identified in the required inventory, such as putting management prescriptions in place to protect wilderness characteristics. The purpose of this report is to provide the BLM with recommendations for designation of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the Kingman Resource Area of northwestern Arizona, based on new, accurate, and up-to-date information according to **Manual 6310**.²

What does Manual 6310 require for the identification of LWC's?

Minimum standards for LWC proposals are described in Manual 6310 in section .06.B.1. There are three things required in a citizens' wilderness proposal in order to meet the minimum standard for BLM to consider it in an inventory and to consider it as new information:

- Detailed map with specific boundaries;
- Detailed narrative of the wilderness characteristics; and
- Photographic documentation.

Once there is new information that meets these standards, then "as soon as practicable, the BLM shall evaluate the information," including field checking as needed and comparing with existing data to see if previous conclusions remain valid. Further, BLM will document its rationale and make it available to the public. (.06.B.2). This proposal report provides the three necessary criteria listed above.

¹Memorandum 2011-154 is available online at:

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/regulations/Instruction_Memos_and_Bulletins/national_instruction/2011/IM_2011-154.html

² Manual 6310 is available online at :

http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Information_Resources_Management/policy/blm_manual.Par.38337.File.dat/6310.pdf

What does Manual 6310 require for an area to be identified as an LWC?

Requirements for determining lands have wilderness characteristics are found in section .06.C.2 of Manual 6310. Lands with Wilderness Characteristics must possess the following traits:

• **Size**

Sufficient roadless area to satisfy size requirements (5,000 acres, of sufficient size to make management practicable or “any roadless island of the public lands”; or contiguous with Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, USFWS areas Proposed for Wilderness, Forest Service WSAs or areas of Recommended Wilderness, National Park Service areas Recommended or Proposed for Designation).

• **Naturalness**

Affected primarily by the forces of nature – The criteria is “apparent naturalness” which depends on whether an area looks natural to “the average visitor who is not familiar with the biological composition of natural ecosystems versus human affected ecosystems.” This is an important distinction between ecological integrity and apparent naturalness.

Human impacts – Human impacts must be documented and some are acceptable so long as they are “substantially unnoticeable”; Examples include trails, bridges, fire rings, minor radio repeater sites, air quality monitoring devices, fencing, spring developments, and stock ponds.

Outside human impacts – impacts outside the area are generally not considered, but major outside impacts should be noted and evaluated for direct effects on the entire area (the manual explicitly cautions BLM to “avoid an overly strict approach”).

• **Outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation**

The area does not have to possess both opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, nor does the area need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre; BLM cannot compare lands in question with other parcels; BLM cannot use any type of rating system or scale.

• **Supplemental values**

Ecological, geological, scientific, scenic, educational or historical features should be documented where they exist, although they are not required traits.

What does Manual 6310 require for the identification of the boundaries of an LWC?

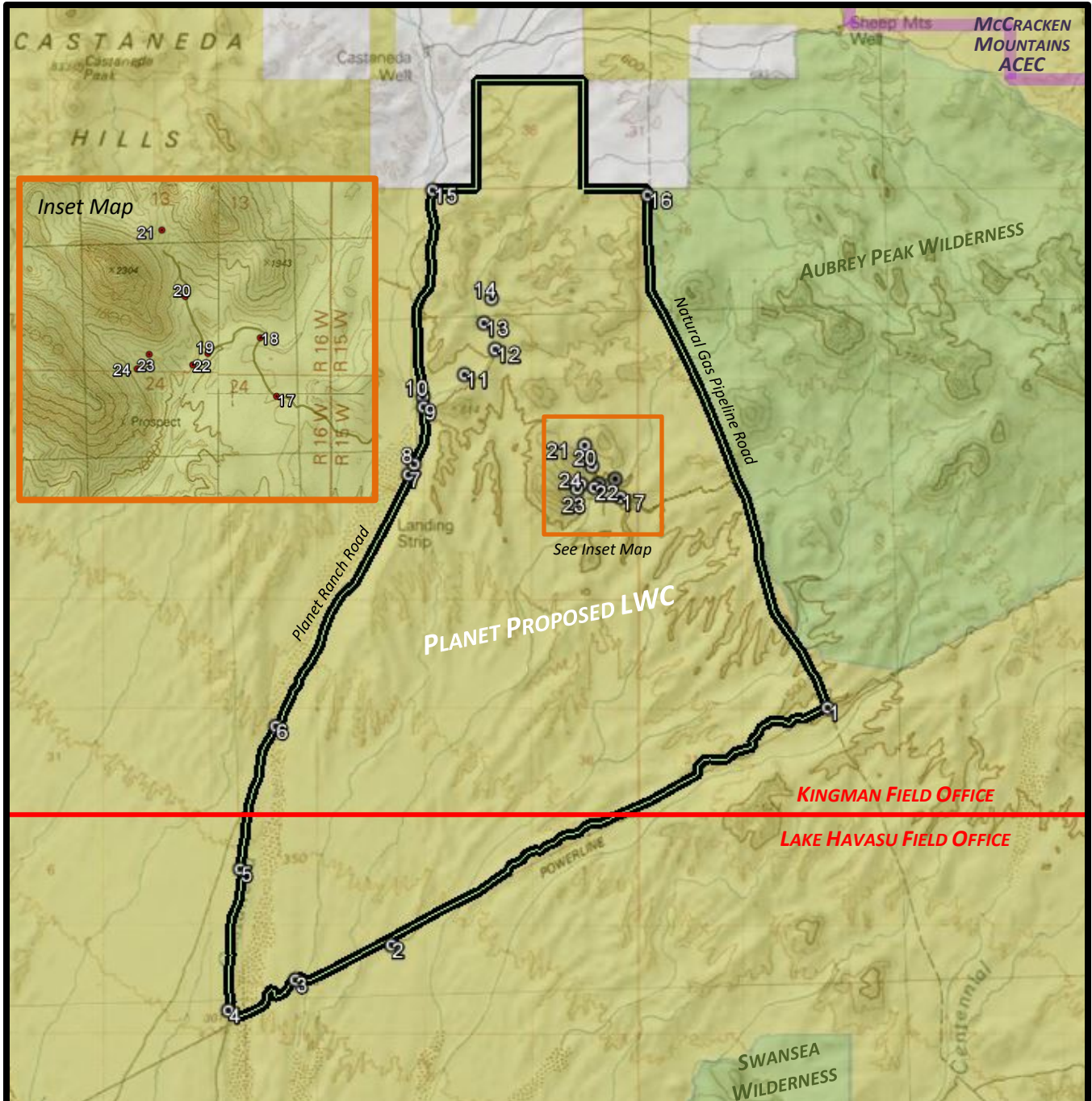
Boundaries should be based on wilderness inventory roads and naturalness rather than opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. For inventorying wilderness characteristics, BLM will use the “road” definition from FLPMA’s legislative history; the term “road” and “wilderness inventory road” are interchangeable in this guidance. The AWC survey team took a very literal, maintenance-driven approach to road/way determination.

• “Wilderness inventory roads” are routes which have been: (1) *improved and maintained* (when needed), (2) *by mechanical means* (but not solely by the passage of vehicles), (3) *to insure relatively regular and continuous use*.

• “Primitive routes” or “ways” are transportation linear features located within areas that have been identified as having wilderness characteristics and not meeting the wilderness inventory road definition.

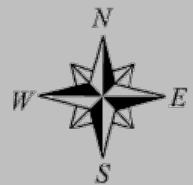
• Lands between individual human impacts should not be automatically excluded from the area; no setbacks or buffers allowed; boundaries should be drawn to exclude developed rights-of-way; “undeveloped rights-of-way and similar possessory interests (e.g., mineral leases) are not treated as impacts to wilderness characteristics because these rights may never be developed”; areas can have wilderness characteristics even though every acre within the area may not meet all the criteria.

MAP: Planet Proposed Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)



Planet Proposed LWC

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Bureau of Land Management | LWC Unit Boundary | Wilderness Areas |
| Private Land | Photopoints | McCracken ACEC |



1 mile 5 miles

Map of Proposed LWC, showing photo data points, vehicle routes, and unit boundaries. Background map USGS topographic. Data: Google Earth, BLM, USGS, TWS, Field Survey. Projection: WGS 84 – UTM Zone 12N. Produced for Arizona Wilderness Coalition by Joe Trudeau, Hassayampa Forestry & Ecological. September 2016. www.az-eco.com.

SECTION 1: General Overview

Unit Location

The Planet Proposed LWC unit is located in the far southwestern corner of the Kingman Field Office, roughly 26 miles to the southwest of Wikieup, Arizona, in southern Mohave County. This is the transitional area between the McCracken Mountains, the Rawhide Mountains, and the Castaneda Hills, in a vast desert landscape sloping southwards towards the Bill Williams and Colorado Rivers. The southernmost portion of the unit is located in the Lake Havasu Field Office. The LWC unit is about twelve miles to the west of the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness, about ten miles to the northwest of the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness, only a few miles to the north of the Swansea Wilderness, and is directly west and adjacent to the Aubrey Peak Wilderness.

Brief Boundary Description

A powerline and its associated utility right of way (Photopoint 1) serve as the southern proposed LWC boundary. The western boundary is comprised of BLM Route 7381 (Planet Ranch Road), as well as an old landing strip (Photopoint 7), and a short section of an unnamed wilderness inventory road (Photopoint 8). The northern proposed LWC unit boundary is the BLM property line with private lands. The eastern LWC unit boundary is BLM Route 7387, which is also the utility right of way for the El Paso natural gas pipeline (Photopoint 16).

Landforms & Biological Communities

Planet Proposed LWC features terrain, landforms, and vegetation that are characteristic of the ecotonal environments in western Arizona where the Upland Sonoran and Mojave Desert Ecoregions blend together, in a rugged landscape of mountains, mesas, and plains formed over the last nearly two-billion years. The BLM has written that the protection of this area

“would preserve a highly scenic and complex series of narrow canyons dissected by a colorful lava flow, features that contribute to outstanding opportunities for solitude, hiking, camping, and geologic sightseeing...providing a variety of recreation opportunities in a pristine desert environment” (BLM, 1982: p. 79).

The geology here is indeed varied and very interesting. The northernmost tip of the unit consists of 1.6 to 1.8 billion year old metamorphosed sedimentary, volcanic, and gneissic rocks which have weathered to low, buffed orange-reddish hills. The center of the unit features a series of colorful volcanic plugs that consist of mixed pyroclastic flows, andesite, and rhyolites that erupted into form 15 to 25 million years ago. These extremely steep, dark red to black peaks tower above a grey-black basaltic tableland to the north, which flowed over the eroding metamorphic rocks in a volcanic event 10-15 million years ago. These flowing sheets of lava have eroded into numerous canyons cutting into low mesas, rimmed by basalt cliffs where many wildlife species find habitat. From these rugged volcanic features, the past 10 million years of geologic calm has led to the erosion of much of the material into a broad alluvial slope to the south, which is cut by dozens of meandering washes and tan sandy hills comprised of conglomerates and sandstones (Arizona Geological Society, 2000).

The roughly triangular-shaped unit is dominated by Sonoran Paloverde-Mixed Cacti Desert Scrub vegetation across all soil types, with inclusions of Sonora-Mojave Creosote-White Bursage and Sonoran Mid-Elevation Desert Scrub vegetation in patches throughout the area (USGS, 2015). Washes feature more paloverde, ironwood, mesquite, wolfberry and other tall shrubs, while the steeper, rockier hillsides are cloaked with saguaro, stunted paloverde, creosote, and bursage.

Previous Wilderness Inventories

The Planet Wilderness Study Area was one of eight WSA's proposed by BLM in the 1980 Hualapai-Aquarius Grazing EIS (BLM, 1980) as Unit AZ-02-053, encompassing 12,765 acres. At that time, the BLM did not own some of the land in the farthest southwestern and farthest northern portions of the unit, but since then, land exchanges have allowed BLM to consolidate ownership by acquiring State Trust and private lands, thus bringing contiguous public ownership to 14,921 acres. This report updates the BLM's wilderness inventory to include the 2,000+ acres acquired since 1980.

In the Upper Sonoran Wilderness Draft EIS, the BLM exhibited two blatant contradictions of its own judgement when it proposed Wilderness designation for the Aubrey Peak WSA but recommended against the Planet WSA. In that assessment, the BLM stated that *"Planet WSA is relatively small and could potentially be surrounded by utility corridors, which would reduce scenic values and solitude opportunities [and] Wilderness values might not be manageable because of the area's small size and utility corridor placement on adjacent land"* (BLM, 1982: p. 79). In terms of size, both units were similar; Aubrey Peak WSA was 15,240 acres and Planet WSA was 12,765 acres. Today, the unit we are proposing has grown to just a few hundred acres less than Aubrey Peak Wilderness, so it is obviously of a size that merits protection of wilderness character. Regarding the impact of utilities on wilderness character, it is inconsistent that the BLM used the presence of utilities in a case against the protection of the Planet WSA when the Aubrey Peak WSA was bounded by the same natural gas pipeline and the same power line. Since that time, no additional utilities have been developed; the same two corridors are used today as they were 35 years ago. Our inventory led us on a 4-hour hike through the unit, and at no time were the power line or gas pipeline detrimental to our experience.

Also in that EIS, a stark contradiction is that the BLM proposed Wilderness designation for the Aubrey Peak WSA, despite non-federal ownership of 62% of mineral rights, but suggested that the Planet WSA was non-suitable for Wilderness designation because 62% of its mineral rights were in non-federal ownership. During our field inventory in December of 2015, we did not observe any active mining or prospecting, though some claim corner-stakes were observed. Photopoints 11 & 12 show portions of a vehicle route that was constructed to access an exploratory drill hole, and Photopoints 22 through 24 show portions of a route that was constructed to other mining prospects. The routes are fully revegetated, not used by any vehicles, and show that there is no active mining happening or likely in the future. Because BLM Manual 6310 says that *"undeveloped possessory interests (e.g., as mineral leases) are not treated as impacts to wilderness characteristics"*, we believe that the entire 14,921 acres of the Planet Proposed LWC are suitable for management to preserve wilderness character.

SECTION 2: Wilderness Characteristics

The proposed LWC meets the minimum size criteria for roadless lands

The Planet Proposed LWC contains about 14,921 contiguous acres of roadless wildlands under BLM ownership. There are no inholdings or cherrystem roads within the proposed LWC unit. The acreage reported here is more than the original Planet Wilderness Study Area, inventoried in 1978 and 1979, because the BLM has acquired several parcels of Arizona State Trust Land and private land.

The proposed LWC is affected primarily by the forces of nature

Primitive Routes

Only a few primitive routes (ways) occur in the proposed LWC unit. These routes, described in detail in Section 3, are very lightly used or completely un-used, single lane two-tracks, or natural washes which are rarely traveled in by ATV's. Some examples of such routes can be seen in Photopoints 2, 3, and 13. These routes absolutely do not affect the wilderness user experience in any significant manner. The primitive routes present are mainly in dry washes and largely hidden from sight. The rolling terrain of the creosote dominated bajadas and drainages, along with numerous buttes, hills and small mountains conceal the visual impact of the primitive routes. Moreover, the bulk of the LWC unit is devoid of any primitive routes at all. The BLM has commented on the pristine nature of much of this unit, saying that protection of wilderness values would "*preserve desert plains undisturbed by ORV use, a rare situation in the Sonoran Desert*" (BLM, 1982: p.79). In our opinion, the most significant vehicle route is the way used by Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to access the Castaneda Wash Water Catchment tucked into a notch in the volcanic mountains. The route is very rarely used, and in fact we couldn't even find where it leaves the eastern gas pipeline. Photopoints 17 through 20 shows the primitive character of this route, which does not appear to have been mechanically constructed for much of its length. If not for the tracks of a recent AZGFD truck passage, we may not have noticed walking across it.

Wildlife Water Catchment

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and the Arizona Game and Fish Department installed the Castaneda Wash water catchment during 2010 and 2011. This installment can be seen in Photopoint 21. The catchment is located in the saddle between some of the mountains in the central part of the LWC. It has a very low profile making it inconspicuous from most vantage points. This water catchment is substantially unnoticeable from most locations within the proposed LWC. The AZGFD maintains water catchments in several of the existing wilderness areas in the Kingman Resource Area; for example there are two such installments in the adjacent Aubrey Peak Wilderness. This is the most significant of all the human impacts in this unit; however, it is our determination that, because such installments can be accommodated within LWCs, that this installment does not substantially affect the naturalness of the unit as a whole.

Lack of Ranch Infrastructure

The Planet Proposed LWC is distinctive because it completely lacks cattle grazing impacts in a region where ranching activities are almost ubiquitous. In some locations throughout the unit, there are impressive developments of intact biological soil crusts. From our observations, the presence of well-developed soil crusts is unique and unusual for public lands in the Kingman Field Office due to the often-pervasive impacts of cattle grazing in the region, which is known for its negative impacts on soil crusts. The presence of such intact soil crusts speaks greatly to the naturalness of this unit. The absence of cattle grazing enhances the wilderness character of the LWC; not only increasing its level of naturalness, but also its potential for providing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Lack of Inholdings & Cherrystems

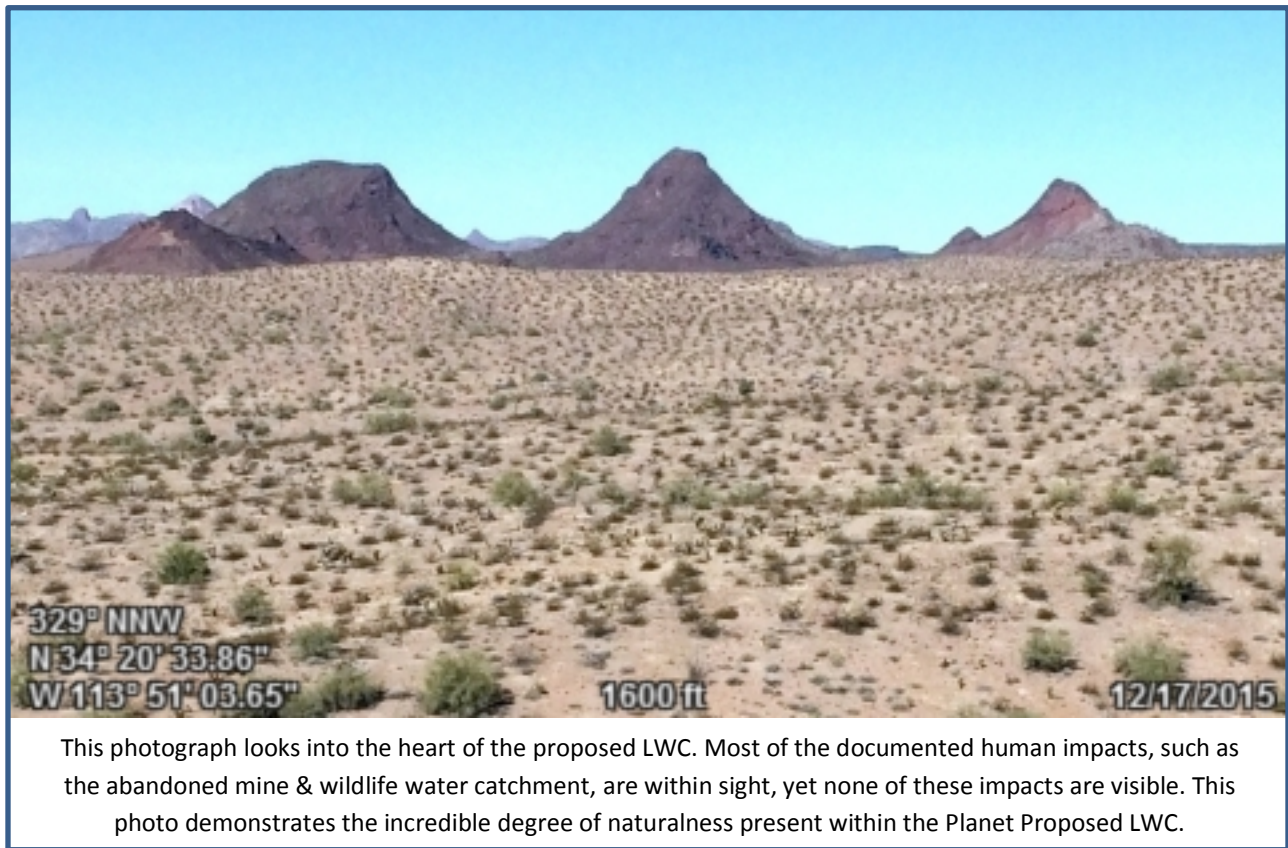
The Planet Proposed LWC is exceptional because it is such a clean unit lacking inholdings and cherrystemmed wilderness inventory roads. Due to these circumstances, management for the protection of wilderness resources would be easier without complicating access issues. Solid blocks of BLM land such as the Planet Proposed LWC are excellent candidates for LWC management.

Inactive Mining

There are two areas that were once mined or prospected within the proposed LWC unit. However, it has been quite some time since this mining occurred, and the evidence of this past use is revegetating and becoming naturalized. Photopoints 12 and 24 show the old routes that were used to access the mining claims. As these photopoints illustrate, the mining claims have had decades to naturally rehabilitate, and the old primitive routes leading to them are almost undetectable. With more time and the opportunity to recover, these old claims will become more and more difficult to detect. Furthermore, the presence of mineral claims does not affect naturalness, as *“undeveloped possessory interests (e.g., mineral leases) are not treated as impacts to wilderness characteristics because these rights may never be developed”* (BLM Manual 6310, page 10).

Summary of Human Impacts

This proposed LWC is dominated by the forces of nature, not man. The human impacts described above do not substantially detract from the naturalness of the proposed LWC. To visitors, the Planet Proposed LWC not only appears natural, but extremely remote, scenic and largely untouched. Human impacts such as the AZGFD wildlife water catchment and historic mining sites are inconspicuous and specific to small sites within an otherwise pristine unit. These human impacts do not substantially impact the wilderness characteristics of the area.



The proposed LWC provides outstanding opportunities for solitude & primitive and unconfined recreation

This LWC unit is isolated; far away from any major outside disturbances. It is situated nearly 40 miles west of Highway 93; 26 miles southwest of Wikieup; 30 miles southeast of Interstate 40; 20 miles north of the tiny town of Bouse, and 20 miles east of Lake Havasu City. This is a secluded corner of an already vast and remote region, thus providing exceptional opportunities to experience solitude in a wild landscape. It is very important to protect remote roadless landscapes such as these, as more and more human development chips away at the last remaining undeveloped blocks of public land.

The proposed LWC is an ideal place for those seeking solitude. The terrain, consisting of rolling sandy bajadas, winding washes, labyrinthine basalt-rimmed canyons, and steep mountains, is ideal for finding remote, secluded places to be alone and find refuge from the bustling world. Some washes within the proposed LWC feature beautiful stands of ancient ironwood and palo-verde trees. These trees offer vegetative screening for visitors looking to avoid others. It is quite easy to disappear in the Planet Proposed LWC without seeing another soul in this large, undeveloped landscape.

There is a diversity of outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation experiences available within the proposed LWC. There are several options for planning 2-3 backpacking trips; navigating up washes cloaked in ironwood trees, climbing rugged basalt peaks and buttes, and traversing the numerous canyons and drainages. Backcountry climbing options consist of extreme routes up challenging volcanic cliffs, only for the most experienced and adventurous desert climbers. The LWC provides hunting opportunities for a variety of economically important species including bighorn sheep, Gambel's quail, mountain lion, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and white-winged dove. Day-hikers can enjoy a range

Planet Proposed LWC

of options from sandy washes, undulating bajadas, or striking volcanic formations, depending on their preferences. The LWC provides ideal terrain for cross country horseback riding or overnight pack trips. This landscape is remarkably stunning for desert photography of everything from saguaros and ironwood, to coyotes, mountain lions, or bighorn sheep, or sweeping sunset panoramas. Great wildlife and bird watching opportunities exist throughout the LWC unit, but are especially good around the hills, buttes and mountains in the northern half of the unit where the topography offers a variety of aspects for observation. Sightseers looking for botanical, zoological, or geological features with distinctive wilderness character will find all these and more within the Planet Proposed LWC.



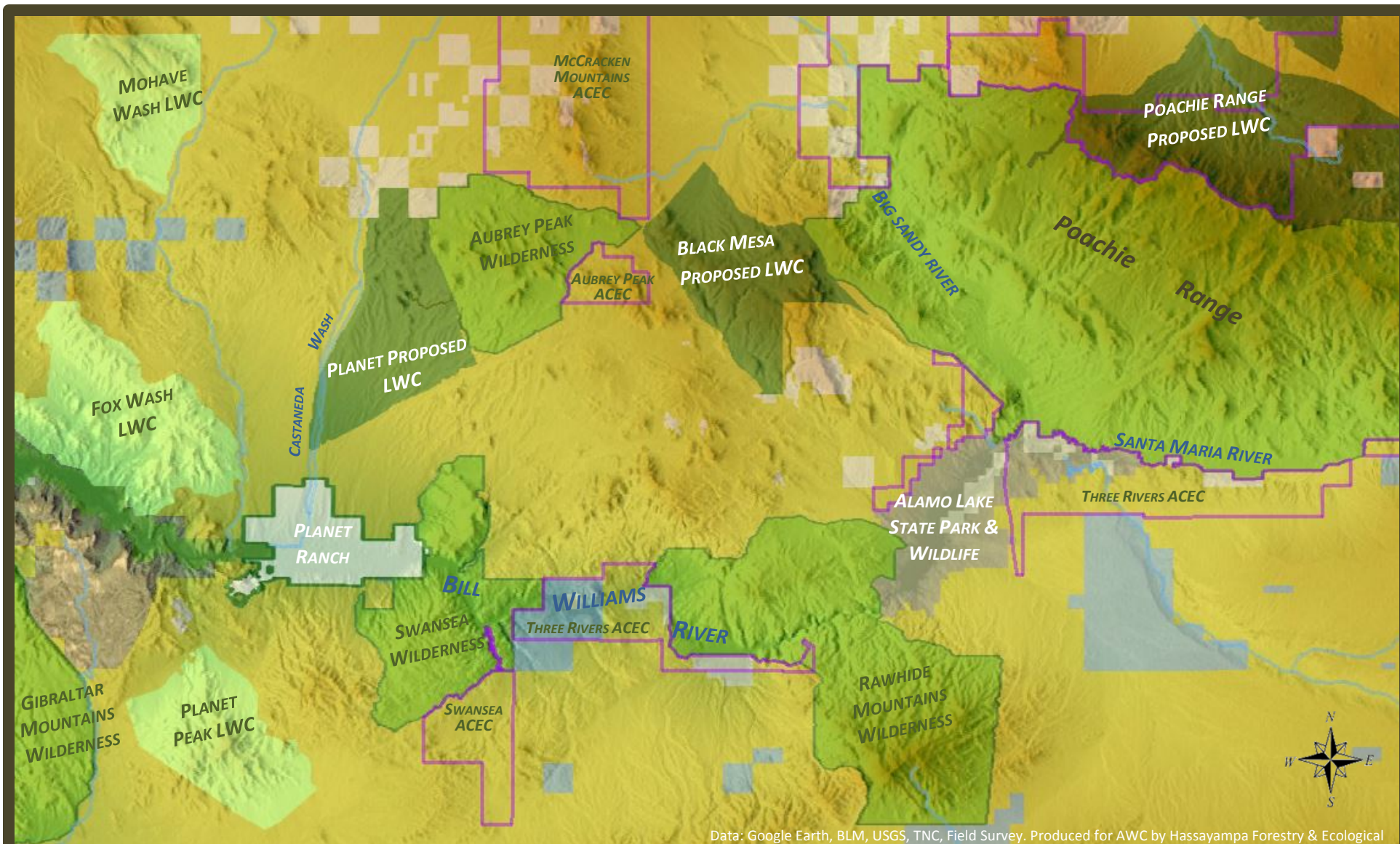
“The topographic complexity of the basalt peaks, mesas, defiles, and incised washes to the south easily isolates visitors from human sights and sounds. Vast undisturbed vistas in this remote and unvisited area enhance the feeling of solitude. The area remains relatively untrammled by man. Solitude is outstanding across the entire unit. Hiking and backpacking opportunities are excellent because of scenic features and complex, challenging terrain” (BLM, 1982: p. 40).

The proposed LWC has supplemental values that enhance the wilderness experience & deserve protection

The Planet Proposed LWC provides important habitat for wildlife, and protection of it would contribute to conservation of the Bill Williams River watershed.

The northeastern portion of the unit, in addition to much of the Aubrey Peak Wilderness, was identified by BLM to be crucial lambing habitat for desert bighorn sheep (BLM, 1980). Protection of this unit would *“protect habitat for desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, desert tortoises, Gila monsters, rosy boas, and kit foxes, increasing the chance of visitors observing these special-status wildlife”* (BLM, 1982: p. 79). In addition to these species, Golden Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, the northern three-lined boa, and a number of bat species-of-concern have been documented in and around the unit (AZGFD Online Habimap Tool). The nearly-pristine condition of the unit, the remoteness of the area, and the lack of human development has maintained large tracts of healthy wildlife habitat such as this.

Looking beyond the boundaries of this proposal, the Planet unit is part of an expansive region of wildlands of regional and national importance for nature conservation; specifically, the Bill Williams River watershed. The Nature Conservancy has completed an ecoregional assessment of the Sonoran Desert using advanced GIS and statistical computing tools to identify a network of conservation areas where the most imperiled, keystone, or endemic ecosystems, species, and habitats could be protected with the least effort. The Bill Williams River and its tributaries were identified as one of the most important ecosystems to protect in the Sonoran Desert (Marshall et. al, 2000). Through decades of conservation work, much of the Bill Williams Rivers’ riparian woodlands and related rare habitat have been protected as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Designated Wilderness, and State Wildlife Management Area. Collaborative watershed management programs are underway by the Bill Williams River Steering Committee. A recent development in conservation is the Bill Williams Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014. Part of this is a plan for Freeport-McMoran to lease more than 3000 acres of its land at Planet Ranch to the Bureau of Reclamation for the restoration of native riparian forests; ultimately this land will be transferred to the State of Arizona to become a state wildlife management area. The entire Planet Proposed LWC drains into this private land by way of Castaneda Wash, stressing the regional importance of protection of the landforms in the proposed unit from excessive disturbance or loss of vegetative cover. The map on the next page displays land ownership and management status of this area.



Data: Google Earth, BLM, USGS, TNC, Field Survey. Produced for AWC by Hassayampa Forestry & Ecological

The Planet Proposed LWC would protect wilderness characteristics in a region of immense biological importance. The Bill Williams River, formed by the Big Sandy & Santa Maria Rivers confluence at Lake Alamo, is one of the most important riparian ecosystems in the southwest. The Planet unit would protect watershed uplands in the Castaneda Wash sub-watershed, which drains directly into Planet Ranch, a private parcel of which portions are currently being transferred into public ownership for the restoration of cottonwood-willow forests, and to be managed as part of a Multi-Species Conservation Program by multiple agencies.

BILL WILLIAMS RIVER BIOREGIONAL CONSERVATION NETWORK

THE VICINITY OF THE PLANET PROPOSED LWC



Bureau of Land Management	Proposed LWC Areas	Designated Wilderness	LHFO Managed for Wildrns Character	Private Land	Arizona State Trust Land	Other State & Federal Land	ACEC	Streams & Washes	0.5" = 2.5 miles
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SECTION 3: Detailed Boundary & Routes Description

Narrative Description of the Proposed LWC Boundary

This section of the report provides a detailed boundary description for the Planet Proposed LWC unit, including all wilderness inventory roads that comprise the unit boundary, all of the primitive routes/ways that permeate the unit boundary, and all other boundaries, such as land ownership, utility corridors, and other excluded areas. Many portions of the unit boundary have been determined according to wilderness inventory road identification protocols described in BLM Manual 6310, which states that a “way” maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a “road” for purposes of inventorying lands with wilderness characteristics. Furthermore, the fact that a “way” is used on a regular and continuous basis does not make it a road. A vehicle route that was constructed by mechanical means, but is no longer being maintained by mechanical methods is not a road. A wilderness inventory road, by comparison, is a vehicle route that has “been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use” (Manual 6310, p. 11). Based on these criteria, the Planet Proposed LWC unit contains 14,921 contiguous roadless acres, with very few primitive routes permeating the unit boundary. The Photopoints described here of the Planet Proposed LWC are listed in detailed tables with photographs following this description. Beginning at Photopoint 1, the proposed LWC unit description will move clockwise around the unit.

Southern Boundary

Beginning at the southeastern proposed LWC unit corner, Photopoint 1 displays an image of the powerline corridor and its associated wilderness inventory road (BLM Route 7442) to the west, and BLM Route 7387 in the foreground. BLM Route 7387 is a maintained wilderness inventory road that serves as the entire east boundary for the Planet Proposed Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. Heading southwest from Photopoint 1, the powerline corridor and associated road serve as the southern LWC unit boundary. The southwestern part of the proposed LWC extends into the Lake Havasu Resource Area. No roads or primitive routes enter the proposed LWC unit along the southern boundary continuing west until Photopoint 2. Photopoint 2 depicts an image of a dry wash with a primitive route going up the wash toward the proposed LWC unit. As the photo shows, this way was not constructed and contains no evidence that it has ever been maintained as a route. Continuing to the west along the LWC boundary, Photopoint 3 displays an image of a way entering the Planet Proposed LWC unit. This way contains no signs of construction or maintenance, and appears to end after a short distance with no apparent purpose. Furthermore, the berm along the powerline road shows that this way gets minimal vehicular use. Farther to the west, Photopoint 4 was taken at the southwestern LWC unit corner and shows the utility right of way (maintained wilderness inventory road; BLM Route 7442) for the powerline that acts as the southern unit boundary.

Western Boundary

Heading north from the southwestern LWC unit corner (Photopoint 4), BLM Route 7381 is a constructed and maintained wilderness inventory road (Planet Ranch Road) that serves as the Planet Proposed LWC western unit boundary. Photopoint 5 displays a photograph looking south down BLM

Route 7381. However, Photopoint 5 was taken to document an old section of BLM Route 7381. Traveling along BLM Route 7381, there are several locations where the road was diverted and rebuilt. The old sections of road were not rehabilitated, and slowly turned into short, unmaintained ways. As Photopoint 5 illustrates, the sections of the old road were once maintained, but have since stopped receiving maintenance and get only occasional vehicular use. However, because human impacts in the Mohave Desert can take quite a long time to disappear, the old road, which is now just a way, is still quite obvious.

Continuing north along the western proposed LWC unit boundary (BLM Route 7381), the unit passes from the Lake Havasu Resource Area back into the Kingman Resource Area. Photopoint 6 was taken where a way (BLM Route 7423) enters the Planet Proposed LWC unit, traveling down Castaneda Wash. This route travels down the dry wash with no evidence that it was constructed, or that it is being maintained. There is no apparent purpose for this primitive route. BLM Route 7381 is the proposed unit boundary until it intercepts an old airplane landing strip that is no longer used. The airstrip serves as the LWC unit boundary for about a mile and a quarter, parallel to BLM Route 7381. We used this feature for the proposed unit boundary because the air strip is an obvious human impact that has not revegetated much since it was actively used. Photopoint 7 was taken looking south down the old landing strip. At the north end of the landing strip, one of the old sections of the main road (BLM Route 7381) loops to the east (seen in Photopoint 8). This old section of BLM Route 7381 is in much better shape than other old sections of BLM Route 7381. It was used to access the landing strip, and may receive periodic maintenance. Therefore, this short section of the old BLM Route 7381 has been excluded from the unit and serves as the proposed LWC unit boundary. Photopoint 8 also shows the unused entrance to a 'Need to Verify' route that the BLM identified in their route inventory. As Photopoint 8 documents, there are no vehicle tracks heading south from the road, and the AWC inventory team found no evidence of this supposed route which appears to have been revegetated.

Continuing north from Photopoint 8, BLM Route 7381 once again becomes the western LWC boundary. A couple of primitive routes enter the proposed LWC unit at Photopoints 9 and 10. Photopoint 9 displays vehicle tracks traveling up a natural wash. It appears that most vehicles enter the dry wash here, even though the BLM route inventory data displays a route (BLM Route 7425) entering the wash just to the north of Photopoint 9. It is likely that the primitive route shown in Photopoint 9 is BLM Route 7425. Although this way shows no evidence of construction or maintenance, because it is a linear feature that is getting vehicular use, we have classified it as a way. Photopoint 10 depicts an image of another way heading up the same wide, dry wash. This way was constructed decades ago, but contains no evidence that it is being maintained. Furthermore, this way no longer has a purpose, as it was once used to access some old prospecting areas that are no longer active. Photopoints 11 and 12 show the condition of this primitive route as it travels toward the old prospects. As these photographs document, this old route is no longer used, and has been reclaimed by nature. Continuing up the dry wash, Photopoint 13 displays an image of another dry wash that is receiving occasional vehicular use (BLM Route 7425A). This primitive route shows no signs of construction or maintenance, and receives very low use. Just after the wash shown in Photopoint 13 branches from the main wash, vehicular use of the main wash fades to nothing. The BLM route inventory data shows BLM Route 7425 continuing

up the main wash, but the AWC inventory team found no evidence of vehicular use continuing up this wash. Continuing up the wash shown in Photopoint 13, Photopoint 14 shows that vehicular use of this wash also fades to nothing. Photopoint 14 depicts a completely natural wash.

Returning to the western Planet Proposed LWC unit boundary (BLM Route 7381), this wilderness inventory road continues to serve as the LWC boundary heading north. There are no more routes that enter the proposed LWC unit along the length of BLM Route 7381. Photopoint 15 was taken at the LWC northwestern corner; looking south down BLM Route 7381 (Planet Ranch Road).

Northern Boundary

The entire northern unit boundary is the BLM/private property line, extending from Photopoint 15 to Photopoint 16

Eastern Boundary

The entire eastern boundary of the Planet Proposed LWC unit is a wilderness inventory road following the El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline, shown in Photopoint 16 (BLM Route 7387). Only one way enters the unit from the eastern boundary, shown in Photopoints 17 & 18. The route does not appear to be constructed and definitely shows no signs that it is being maintained. This way appears to be kept open solely by the passage of vehicles and receives very little use. This primitive route appears to be the maintenance access for an Arizona Game and Fish Department water catchment farther up the way. Photopoint 19 was taken looking up this way after it exits a dry wash. As the photo documents, there are some erosion problems along this primitive route, which is obviously not being maintained. Photopoint 20 depicts the naturalizing condition of this way that is most likely only very occasionally used by AZGFD to service the water catchment. The primitive route ends shortly before reaching the wildlife water catchment. Photopoint 21 displays a photograph of the water catchment, which is only visible when directly over it because it was designed to be inconspicuous and blend into the surrounding natural landscape.

A primitive route continues down the dry wash past Photopoint 19, and Photopoint 22 shows an image of this way as it exits the wash. While this route was likely bladed once, it has obviously not been maintained, and is slowly returning to a natural condition. This primitive route was originally used to access an old prospect, which has not been active for many decades and is in the process of being reclaimed by nature. This way gets very little vehicular use, but those that do drive on it seem to have created a new primitive route that serves no purpose, is not maintained, and can be seen in Photopoint 23. Continuing farther up the old way that was once used to access the prospect, Photopoint 24 serves as evidence that this route no longer exists, and has been reclaimed by nature. The person displayed in Photopoint 24 is standing on the old way, which cannot even be seen in the photograph. Again, no more ways enter the unit from the gas pipeline road until the unit corner at the powerline road, completing the tour around the Planet Proposed LWC.

SECTION 4: Photopoint Data

Data Tables & Photographs to accompany Maps and the Detailed Boundary & Routes Description

Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 001
Unit name	Planet
Route name	BLM Route 7442 & 7387
Determination	Road
Maintenance	Recent earthwork
Feature	Junction of Routes/Ways

Photopoint 001. The powerline corridor (BLM Route 7442) that serves as the southern boundary for the Planet Proposed LWC, as well as BLM Route 7387 which is the eastern LWC unit boundary.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 002
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 002. A unnamed way entering the proposed LWC unit. This photopoint is located within the Lake Havasu Resource Area.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 003
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 003. This route ends after just a short distance with no apparent purpose. This photopoint is located within the Lake Havasu Resource Area.



Planet Proposed LWC

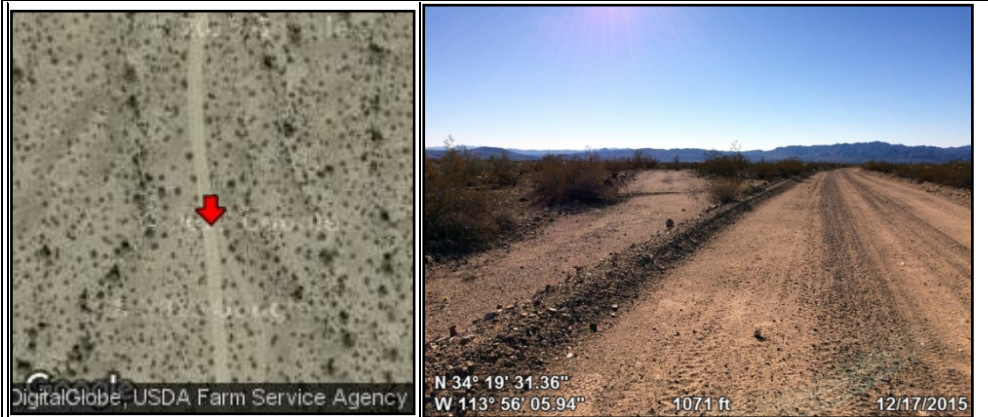
Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 004
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Utility ROW
Determination	Road
Maintenance	Old evidence
Feature	Junction of Routes/Ways

Photopoint 004. This photopoint, which was taken at the southwestern unit corner, is located within the Lake Havasu Resource Area.



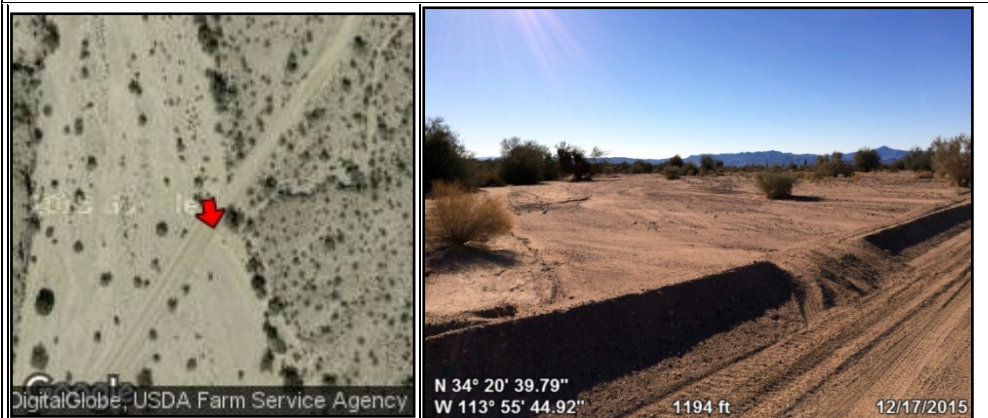
Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 005
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	Old evidence
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 005. Showing an old section (left) of BLM Route 7381 along with the current BLM Route 7381 (right). The old section of road (left) no longer serves any purpose. This photopoint is located within the Lake Havasu Resource Area.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 006
Unit name	Planet
Route name	BLM Route 7423
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Notice berm and older use

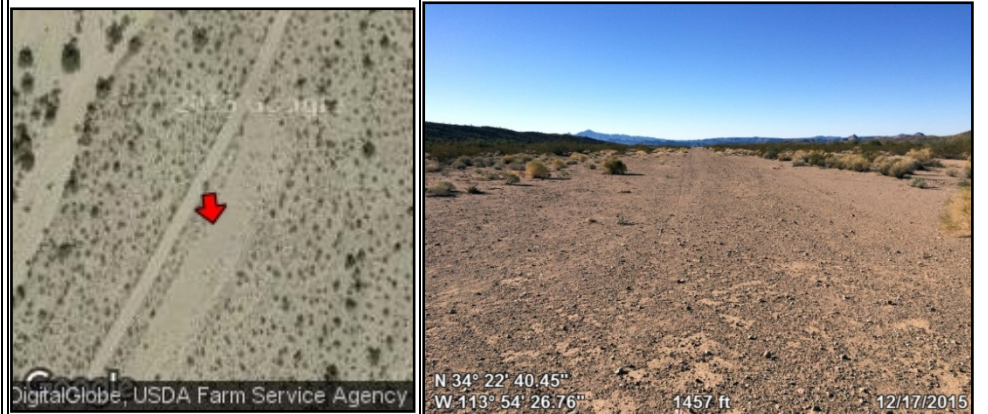
Photopoint 006. This primitive route travels down Castaneda Wash.



Planet Proposed LWC

Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 007
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Road
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 007. This is the old landing strip that serves as a short portion of the western boundary for the Planet Proposed LWC unit.



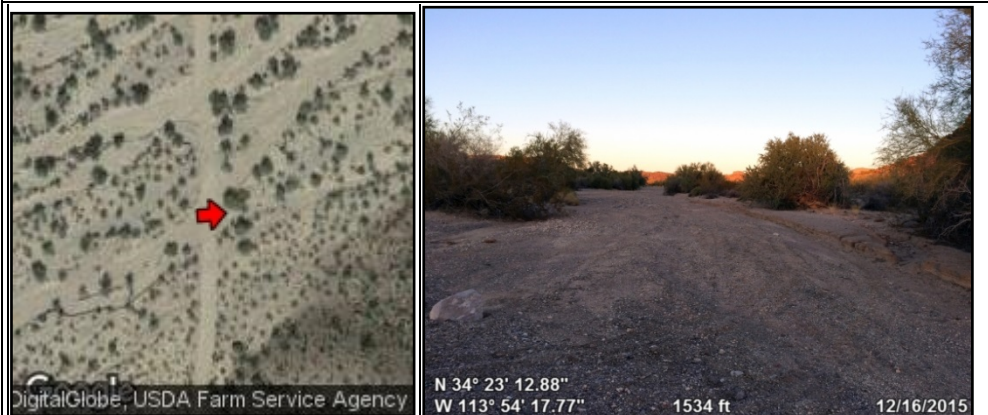
Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 008
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Road
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 008. A wilderness inventory road serving as the proposed LWC unit boundary for a very short distance.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 009
Unit name	Planet
Route name	BLM Route 7425
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Natural wash

Photopoint 009. A primitive route traveling up a dry wash.



Planet Proposed LWC

Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 010
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 010. This primitive route was once used to access a mining prospect that is no longer active.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 011
Unit name	Planet
Route name	BLM Route 7425
Determination	Reclaimed
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 011. This portion of the route has revegetated with perennial shrubs and has been reclaimed by nature.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 012
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Reclaimed
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 012. This old way was once used to access a mining prospect that has been abandoned and is in the process of naturalizing. This photo displays the abundant vegetation that has grown into the old way, as well as significant erosion that has made this reclaimed way impassable.



Planet Proposed LWC

Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 013
Unit name	Planet
Route name	BLM Route 7425A
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Natural wash

Photopoint 013. A primitive route in a dry wash.



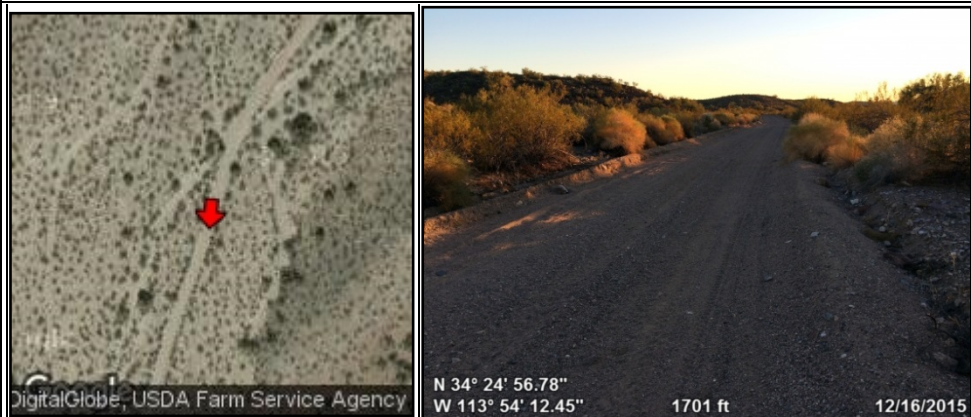
Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 014
Unit name	Planet
Route name	BLM Route 7425A
Determination	Natural wash
Maintenance	None
Feature	End of BLM route data.

Photopoint 014. The primitive route above eventually fades to nothing, becoming the natural wash displayed here.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 015
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Planet Ranch Road
Determination	Road
Maintenance	Recent blade
Feature	Unit corner

Photopoint 015. This photograph was taken looking south from the northwestern proposed LWC unit corner.



Planet Proposed LWC

Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 016
Unit name	Planet
Route name	BLM Route 7387 - El Paso natural gas pipeline road
Determination	Road
Maintenance	Recent blade
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 016. This photograph was taken at the northeastern LWC unit corner looking down the wilderness inventory road that forms the eastern boundary.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 017
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 017. This primitive route eventually leads to an AZGFD wildlife water catchment.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 018
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 018. Low vehicular use along this way.



Planet Proposed LWC

Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 019
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Erosion

Photopoint 019. This primitive route is obviously not being maintained.



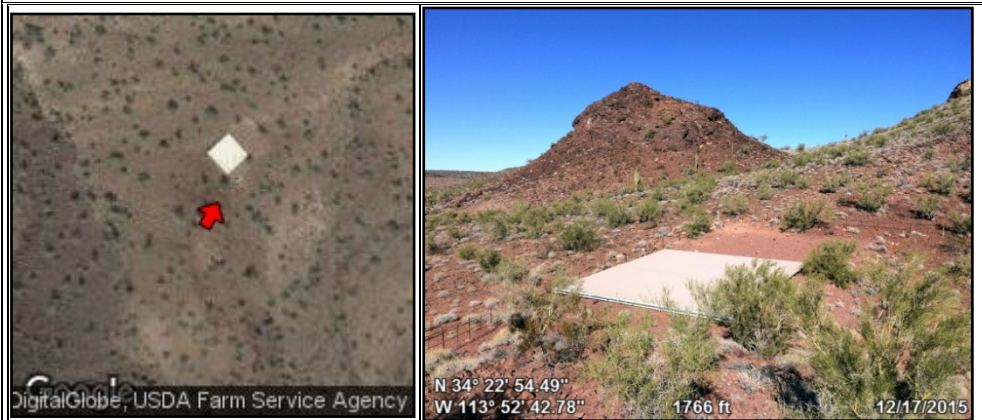
Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 020
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 020. Almost no vehicular use on this primitive route.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 021
Unit name	Planet
Route name	N/A
Determination	N/A
Maintenance	N/A
Feature	Castaneda Wash catchment

Photopoint 021. This low profile AZGFD wildlife water catchment is only obvious when viewed from above.



Planet Proposed LWC

Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 022
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Typical condition of Route/Way

Photopoint 022. This way is not being maintained.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 023
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Way
Maintenance	None
Feature	Extremely low use

Photopoint 023. Almost no use on this user-created primitive route.



Attributes	
Title	Photopoint 024
Unit name	Planet
Route name	Not Named
Determination	Reclaimed
Maintenance	None
Feature	Erosion/revegetation

Photopoint 024. Evidence of this old way has almost completely disappeared.

