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## CHAPTER VI RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## Chapter VI

# Resource Management Plan

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## INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) followed a formal planning process to complete this planning and environmental compliance document. On the basis of the issues identified, Reclamation analyzed possible management alternatives for the study area. After analyzing the four alternatives, Reclamation selected Alternative D (Natural Resources Conservation/Protection with Limited Recreation, Community, and Commercial Development) as the preferred management alternative. The preferred management alternative will be the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and is described in this chapter. (See **map VI-1**, Final Resource Management Plan Map.)

The preferred management alternative addresses two distinct areas where a variety of management actions can occur. The first area encompasses about 11,600 acres in the western portion of the study area where limited recreation, community, and commercial development may occur. The second area encompasses about 18,600 acres in the eastern portion of the study area, where land use is more restricted, and which includes the approximately 16,000-acre Yuma Desert Management Area.

This chapter describes the goals and objectives formulated to address the issues and concerns and describes in detail the management actions Reclamation developed to facilitate accomplishment of the goals and objectives.

The management actions highlighted in this chapter were based on public input and internal review of Reclamation programs and policy. The actions should be implemented within the 10-year planning period of the RMP; however, implementation depends on, among other things, cooperation of other involved entities, cost-sharing efforts, available funding, and the success of the study area working group (working group) in resolving conflicts and providing valuable input to Reclamation in its effort to prioritize the actions for funding and implementation. The working group is discussed later in this chapter. This chapter also describes the process required to amend and/or revise the RMP; discusses what monitoring efforts will be used to track the success of the RMP implementation actions, and outlines certain guidance and standards Reclamation will follow to successfully implement the RMP management actions.

## PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Reclamation has the primary stewardship responsibility to manage the lands under its jurisdiction in accordance with existing laws, regulations, and policies and guidelines. The goals and objectives and management actions outlined in this chapter must be met in an environmentally and economically sound manner. A primary step in the planning process was to identify goals and objectives and associated management actions needed

to address identified issues and concerns and that would not conflict with existing laws, regulations, and policies and guidelines. In addition, many of the goals and objectives and management actions were formulated in response to basic land management principles and concepts. Pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, potential effects of implementing certain combinations of management actions (i.e., “alternatives” or management plans) were analyzed and the results disclosed. The basic challenge was to select those combinations of goals and objectives and management actions that were widely accepted by the public and agency personnel, could be implemented without serious conflicts, within the environmental resource limitations, within the planning life of the RMP, and were consistent with existing laws, regulations, and policies and guidelines, as well as with the Protective and Regulatory Pumping Unit (PRPU) project purposes.

The RMP assumes that Reclamation will follow existing and future Federal laws, regulations, and Executive orders when managing lands within the study area. Attachment F provides a partial list of applicable Federal laws, regulations, and Executive orders.

## **MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### ***General Management Actions***

Certain general management actions were identified during the planning process to facilitate management of approximately 30,200 acres of land within the study area. The following discussion sets forth those general management actions that apply to all lands within the study area and that do not directly relate to a specific issue category. Specific management actions for the seven identified issue categories and the goals and objectives established for each issue category are detailed later in this chapter. Following are the general management actions to be implemented by Reclamation:

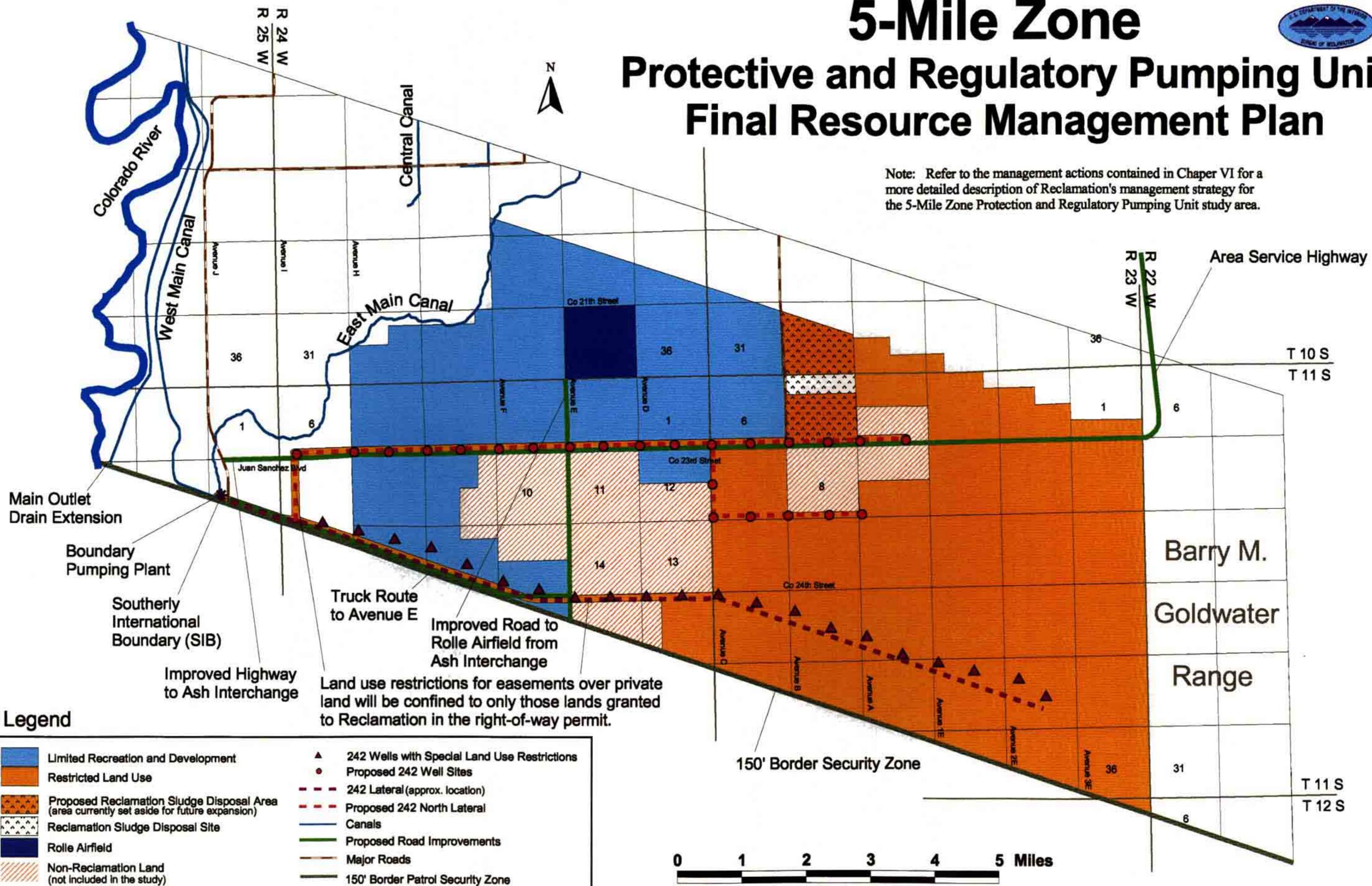
- ~ Continue to operate the lands within the study area for the primary purposes for which the PRPU was authorized.
- ~ Ensure management of lands within the study area follows Reclamation’s existing and future *Policies and Directives and Standards*; Federal laws, regulations and Executive orders; as well as existing State, and county laws, regulations, and ordinances.
- ~ Develop a comprehensive land use strategy to provide for limited recreation, community, and commercial development and natural resources conservation and protection.
- ~ Ensure mitigation and compensation for project impacts on flat-tailed horned lizard and its habitat both within and outside of the Yuma Desert Management Area.



# 5-Mile Zone

## Protective and Regulatory Pumping Unit Final Resource Management Plan

Note: Refer to the management actions contained in Chapter VI for a more detailed description of Reclamation's management strategy for the 5-Mile Zone Protection and Regulatory Pumping Unit study area.



- ~ Adhere to the guidance provided in the 2003 Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy (Rangewide Management Strategy) when managing the Yuma Desert Management Area within the study area. In particular, use the Planning Actions and Mitigation Measures provided in the Rangewide Management Strategy.
- ~ Implement the management actions identified in the RMP/environmental assessment (EA) within the 10-year planning period, depending on funding, personnel limitations, and cooperation of other involved entities.
- ~ Ensure that decisions will be made for the benefit of the project and the general public.
- ~ Ensure that the public use and any facility development are consistent with the goals and objectives of the RMP and other approved management planning documents.
- ~ Conduct periodic land management reviews and other monitoring efforts to ensure that the lands are being managed pursuant to existing agreements and land use authorizations.
- ~ Monitor the variety of land uses to identify user and land use conflicts and investigate corrective measures to prevent further conflicts, if necessary.

### ***Goals and Objectives***

As stated earlier, Reclamation developed goals and objectives in direct response to the issues and concerns identified through the planning and NEPA compliance process. A *goal* is a general statement that describes the desired future condition that is expected to be achieved once the RMP is fully implemented. An *objective* is a brief statement that describes a broad-based strategy that can accomplish a goal.

### ***Specific Management Actions***

Each set of goals and objectives outlined in this chapter is accompanied by specific management actions that will facilitate completion of the objectives. The following management actions are essentially the same actions identified in attachment E; however, the management actions are described in more detail and are grouped not only to show the direct relationship of the actions to the issue category but also to the goals and objectives. In many instances, a particular management action that has been identified in one issue category cannot be implemented successfully without implementing a management action(s) from another issue category (e.g., many of the land use authorization management actions under the Land Use Issue Category cannot be implemented successfully without implementing some of the management actions included in the Partnership Issue Category). Attachment G is a summary table of the proposed elements (management actions) contained in the preferred resource management plan.

Many of the actions may be specific; other actions may be broad and intended to initiate other actions that are needed to achieve the desired future condition. Examples of other actions needed are to: (1) develop a fire management plan, (2) cooperate with other entities to accomplish the action items, (3) enter into agreements with other entities to clarify responsibilities, (4) prepare a Class II or Class III cultural resources survey, and (5) establish appropriate social, physical, environmental, and/or facility carrying capacities before any developments occur.

The following section lists the goals, objectives, and management actions for each of the seven issue categories: land use, water use, partnerships, natural and cultural resources management, public information, recreation management, and health and safety.

### ***Land Use Issue Category***

Land use issues and concerns focused on developing a comprehensive land use strategy that details how Reclamation might balance increased demands for the use of lands within the study area for municipal expansion, infrastructure, and transportation needs while protecting natural and cultural resources and Reclamation's ability to meet its water delivery obligations to Mexico. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category will prevent unnecessary damage to existing resources and facilities within the study area, allow compatible land uses to occur within the study area, and protect the authorized purposes of the PRPU.

### ***Land Use***

<b><i>Goal</i></b>	<b><i>Objectives</i></b>
Construction and operation of PRPU project facilities.	1. Maintain ability to plan, develop and operate, and maintain Reclamation project features.

### ***Specific Management Actions – Land Use***

- ~ Maintain the capability to expand Reclamation's existing Yuma Desalting Plant sludge disposal site in accordance with Aquifer Protection Permit No. P100180. Conduct site expansion in a manner to avoid adverse effects to water quality or loss of unique desert habitat and mitigate for habitat losses, if appropriate.
- ~ Maintain ability to operate and maintain existing and future PRPU project facilities throughout the study area, including the Yuma Desert Management Area. Complete proper mitigation, when necessary.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
<p>Protect natural and cultural resources and Reclamation project purposes when issuing land use authorizations.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avoid authorizing land uses in environmental and resource sensitive areas such as the Yuma Desert Management Area.</li> <li>2. Avoid land uses that negatively affect project purposes.</li> <li>3. Reclaim disturbed lands.</li> <li>4. Mitigate authorized land uses.</li> <li>5. Support land transfer and exchanges.</li> <li>6. Concentrate development in western portion of study area.</li> <li>7. Establish fire management strategies.</li> <li>8. Balance the types of land uses authorized in the future.</li> <li>9. Establish utility corridors.</li> </ol>

***Specific Management Actions – Land Use***

In addition to the management actions mentioned, Reclamation will adhere to the following guidance when issuing land use authorizations on lands that remain under Reclamation jurisdiction.

- Conduct site-specific NEPA compliance for proposed land uses to ensure that surface and ground water quality and other natural and cultural resources are protected. If proper clearances cannot be obtained or proper mitigation achieved, proposed land uses will not be granted.
- Allow only those land uses that do not adversely affect Reclamation project features.
- Carefully review any proposed land exchanges or land use authorizations that would occur within existing or proposed Reclamation well or facility locations to ensure that the exchange or transfer will not affect Reclamation’s project purposes.
- Before finalizing any future land uses within the study area, identify future water needs and solutions to address water quantity and quality requirements to sustain such uses.
- Mitigate and compensate project impacts on flat-tailed horned lizard and its habitat both within and outside of the Yuma Desert Management Area.
- Do not allow land uses that adversely affect Indian trust assets unless proper mitigation measures are achieved and all environmental clearances are obtained.
- Avoid Indian sacred sites and traditional cultural properties when issuing land use authorizations.
- Do not allow land uses that adversely affect threatened and endangered (T&E) or other special status species or critical habitat unless proper mitigation measures are achieved and all environmental clearances are obtained.

- Continue to follow existing land use authorization requirements and regulations (i.e., procedures will not change).
- To maintain water quality and project purposes, evaluate land use proposals on a case-by-case basis.
- Issue limited land use authorizations in the western portion of the study area to benefit limited recreation, community, or commercial development. Use authorizations would be considered for activities related to providing facilities and opportunities for general public use such as overnight campgrounds, community trails and open spaces, golf courses, sports complexes, etc. operated by local government entities or concessionaires.
- Issue land use authorizations in the Yuma Desert Management Area only for public health, safety, and security purposes, and limit those that would cause surface disturbance.
- Prefer short-term compatible uses of Reclamation lands. Allow long-term uses only with strict conditions/stipulations.
- Increase cooperation with adjacent landowners to ensure compatible land uses and minimal adverse effects on water quality.
- Provide a utility corridor along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to Avenue E, primarily to service the port-of-entry, plus designate additional utility corridors along the proposed truck route, and along the proposed roads from the proposed State Route 195 (SR195) interchange north to Rolle Airport and east to the minimum security prison.
- Confine all future utilities to designated corridors within the study area.
- Continue with Yuma County the terms and conditions of the 1986 lease agreement for Rolle Airfield.
- Use Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping as a planning tool when issuing land use authorizations.

Reclamation will adhere to the following guidance for lands which may be exchanged/transferred out of Federal ownership:

- Support legislation for land exchanges/transfers on an acre-to-acre basis with no net acreage loss to the PRPU.
- Allow land transfers/exchanges between Reclamation and private owners and city/county entities outside the Yuma Desert Management Area to benefit (1) limited recreation, community, and commercial opportunities, (2) flat-tailed horned lizard habitat, or (3) natural or cultural resources.
- As is standard, retain any known water and/or mineral rights for the lands exchanged/transferred out of Federal ownership.
- Include necessary and appropriate clauses in conveyance documents for use of Federal lands that may be exchanged or conveyed to private partners to ensure that potential uses do not impede Reclamation's ability to manage the study area for Reclamation and other federally mandated purposes.
- If the city of San Luis were to purchase the Hillander "C" tract, consider exchanging certain Federal lands in the western portion of the study area to the city for Hillander "C" lands.
- Do not allow agriculture use on Reclamation lands to protect water quality. Therefore, the Hillander "C" tract would be taken out of production and restored to as natural a condition as possible if Hillander "C" lands were exchanged to Reclamation.

- Investigate possibility of exchanging lands in the western portion of the study area for Hillander “C” lands owned by private individuals.
  - Federal lands exchanged to public or private parties could be used for those purposes outlined in the San Luis General Plan, provided all conveyance stipulations and conditions are agreeable to all parties.
  - Do not exchange or transfer lands within the Yuma Desert Management Area out of Federal ownership pursuant to the 2003 Rangewide Management Strategy.
  - Ensure lands received into Federal ownership are contiguous to the study area.
- ~ In addition to the some of the management actions mentioned, Reclamation will adhere to the following guidance dealing with development. (Also see “Partnerships” and “Recreation Development” issue categories.)
- Concentrate all limited recreation and community development in the western portion of the study area (about 11,600 acres) and protect and enhance the natural resources in the eastern portion of the study area (about 18,600 acres), including the approximately 16,000-acre Yuma Desert Management Area.
  - Consider soil conditions and other environmental conditions or limitations when developing future facilities.
  - Do not allow new primary public road construction other than that discussed under “Partnerships.”
  - Allow maintenance of existing roads, recognizing that maintenance of some roads may be necessary to prevent proliferation of parallel routes.
  - Allow for the construction of secondary roads in the western portion of the study area to provide access to campgrounds, day use facilities, and trailheads, if these facilities are constructed.
  - Require appropriate mitigation for any new secondary road construction and other developments as necessary.
- ~ Initiate a comprehensive weed control program to effectively eliminate and prevent the spread of noxious weeds.
- ~ Do not apply pesticide treatments within the Yuma Desert Management Area. However, use of specifically targeted hand-applied herbicides (such as for salt cedar eradication projects) is allowed.
- ~ Within the Yuma Desert Management Area, rehabilitate damaged and degraded habitat, including closed routes and other small areas of past intense activity. Methods may include but are not limited to: ripping or scarifying compacted soils, recontouring the surface, pitting or imprinting the surface, seeding with native plants, planting seedlings, irrigating, and barricading.
- ~ Follow the updated 2001 Federal Fire Management Policy and the Secretary of the Interior’s 2001 policy letter and develop a fire management plan for the study area. Suppress fires in the Yuma Desert Management Area using a mix of the following methods:
- (1) Aerial attack with fire retardants
  - (2) Crews using hand tools to create fire breaks
  - (3) Mobile attack engines limited to public roads, designated open routes, and routes authorized for limited use
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- When suppressing fires, prohibit use of earth-moving equipment, such as bulldozers, within the Yuma Desert Management Area, except in critical situations to protect life, property, or resources. Post-suppression mitigation will include rehabilitation of firebreaks and other ground disturbance using hand tools. When developing a fire management plan for the study area, Reclamation will incorporate appropriate guidance contained in the 2003 Rangewide Management Strategy.
  - Ensure a balance among wildlife resources, recreational opportunities, and authorized activities issued through land use agreements.
  - Ensure that no land use authorizations are granted for private, exclusive use of Reclamation lands.
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### ***Water Use Issue Category***

Water use issues and concerns focused on providing a water use strategy. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category will protect Reclamation’s ability to meet its water delivery obligations to Mexico.

### ***Water Use***

<b><i>Goal</i></b>	<b><i>Objectives</i></b>
Protection of authorized PRPU project purposes.	1. Limit water use within the study area.

### ***Specific Management Actions – Water Use***

- To maintain water quality and quantity and Reclamation project purposes, evaluate land use proposals on a case-by-case basis.
  - Use of groundwater granted in a land use authorization document issued by Reclamation in the study area would be subject to reduction or termination if Reclamation needs the water to meet its delivery obligations to Mexico. If groundwater pumping in the study area reaches or approaches 160,000 acre-feet per year, require a land use applicant to obtain water from outside the 5-mile zone.
    - Maintain the capability to pump approximately 140,000 acre-feet of water a year from the PRPU.
    - Continue to regulate the quantity of water pumped from wells within the study area.
    - Use established Reclamation water accounting procedures to evaluate requests for water usage in the study area on a case-by-case basis.
    - Avoid groundwater contamination or degradation.
    - Only allow water-conserving landscaping within the PRPU.
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***Partnerships Issue Category***

Partnership issues and concerns focused on creating partnerships with a variety of entities to facilitate management of the study area. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would secure partners to help manage the study area and would define the roles and responsibilities of all involved entities that have an interest in the management of the study area.

***Partnerships***

<b><i>Goal</i></b>	<b><i>Objectives</i></b>
Formation of cooperative partnerships to achieve the goals and objectives of the RMP.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with involved entities to implement the RMP management actions.</li> <li>2. Continue to seek public input during the 10-year life of the RMP.</li> <li>3. Provide an appropriate level of public access to areas within the study area, or designate areas closed to public use, if necessary.</li> </ol>

***Specific Management Actions – Partnerships***

- Seek public/private partnerships and volunteers to help manage the study area.
- If areas are closed to public use, enter into a cooperative agreement(s) with appropriate entities to enforce such closures(s) (i.e., area(s) designated as closed to protect the public safety or to protect project features such as laterals, canals, wells, and sludge ponds, or to protect natural resources.
- When cooperating with other entities on proposed land uses within the study area, ensure that proper NEPA compliance and other environmental clearances are completed before the land use is authorized.
- Cooperate with concerned parties to establish a working group to help Reclamation identify potential options to resolving general study area issues and to implement the specific RMP management actions.
- When cooperating with other entities, consider Reclamation-authorized project needs and access.

**International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC)**

- Continue to cooperate with the IBWC, U.S. Geological Survey, and private and municipal and industrial and agricultural water users to account for water use within the study area.
- Continue to maintain and monitor observation wells within the study area and install new observation wells, as needed.

### **U.S. Border Patrol (Border Patrol)**

- ~ Enter into an agreement with the Border Patrol that outlines each agency's role and responsibility within the study area.
- ~ Once proper NEPA compliance is completed and the project is authorized, process the application from the Border Patrol to increase the width of its protective zone from 90 to 150 feet.
- ~ Identify existing and future drag roads and surveillance towers. Reclamation should approve locations of future drag roads and towers within the study area.
- ~ Coordinate with the Border Patrol and other entities on the limited construction of fences within the study area.
- ~ In cooperation with the Border Patrol and to protect Reclamation facilities and flat-tailed horned lizard habitat, establish reasonable and necessary standards and guidelines for Border Patrol off-road vehicle use within the study area. Consider allowing limited off-road vehicle use, when necessary, to fulfill the Border Patrol's mission.
- ~ Provide education programs and materials to Border Patrol to enhance awareness of flat-tailed horned lizard issues and protection measures.

### **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

- ~ Increase efforts with BLM to redefine each agency's responsibilities within and outside the study area, pursuant to the existing agreement and *Departmental Manual 613*.

### **Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS)**

- ~ Cooperate with MCAS to limit recreation use in the eastern portion of the study area and along the western boundary of the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

### **Federal Highway Administration, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), City of San Luis, and Other Appropriate Entities – Public Access**

- ~ Once proper environmental clearances are obtained, cooperate with ADOT and Federal Highway Administration in processing the needed permits to construct the proposed SR195 within the study area boundary, including a proposed major interchange at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Avenue E.
- ~ Once proper environmental clearances are obtained, cooperate with appropriate entities in processing needed permits to construct a major road from the proposed SR195 interchange at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Avenue E north to Rolle Airfield.
- ~ Once proper environmental clearances are obtained, cooperate with the city of San Luis and other entities in processing needed permits to construct an improved highway from San Luis east along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to the proposed SR195 interchange at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Avenue E.
- ~ Once proper environmental clearances are obtained, cooperate with the city of San Luis and other entities in processing the necessary permits to construct a truck route from San Luis to the new commercial port-of-entry. The truck route will parallel the international boundary east from the city to 24<sup>th</sup> Street, then follow 24<sup>th</sup> Street east to Avenue E, and then continue south to the new commercial port-of-entry.

- ~ In cooperation with the Border Patrol and other entities, ensure that all new roads are fenced to prevent OHV use and to protect critical resources, such as flat-tailed horned lizard habitat and Reclamation project features and structures, and to protect public safety.
- ~ Ensure that appropriate entities implement mitigation measures if any road construction adversely affects existing or planned well sites or other facilities within the PRPU or if it adversely affects the flat-tailed horned lizard or its habitat.
- ~ Cooperate with other entities, such as the city of San Luis, to keep all utilities within road corridors/rights-of-way established for the proposed SR195, road to Rolle Airfield, along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to Avenue E, then to the port-of-entry, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to the minimum security prison—portions of which are part of the proposed SR195—and the truck route from the city of San Luis to Avenue E.

### **Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)**

- ~ Cooperate and enter into appropriate agreements with AGFD to protect wildlife habitat and to develop public education programs to foster awareness and conservation of unique desert species.
- ~ Cooperate and enter into appropriate agreements with AGFD to develop and implement inventory, monitoring, and protection plans for other special status species.
- ~ Cooperate with AGFD to continue to allow hunting within the study area; however, cooperate with the AGFD and other concerned entities in monitoring any developed public use areas to determine if limited hunting closures should be initiated to protect visitors or project features. State law already prohibits shooting within ¼ mile of occupied facilities. Reclamation lands are considered open to hunting unless area(s) are specifically designated closed.
- ~ Cooperate and enter into appropriate agreements with AGFD to enforce hunting closures, if determined necessary.
- ~ Cooperate and enter into appropriate agreements with the AGFD to enforce off-highway vehicle (OHV) closures designated by Reclamation within the study area. Reclamation must install appropriate signs designating such closures before AGFD can legally enforce such closures.

### **Yuma County**

- ~ Ensure close cooperation and coordination with the Yuma County planning and zoning commission to review its comprehensive plan and to assist in its goal to “discourage the conversion of farmland to residential.”
- ~ Cooperate with Yuma County when the elements of the Rolle Airfield airport master plan are initiated.

### **Yuma Area Water Resources Management Group (YAWRMG)**

- ~ Continue to cooperate with the YAWRMG in an effort to manage the water resources in the Yuma area.

### **PRPU Study Area Working Group**

- ~ Establish a working group to help resolve problems within the PRPU study area.
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***Natural and Cultural Resources Management Issue Category***

Natural and cultural resource management issues and concerns focused on protecting the flat-tailed horned lizard and its associated habitat; protecting the unique desert habitat within the study area; managing threatened, endangered, and other special status species; and protecting Indian tribal interests. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would protect the natural and cultural resources, wildlife species and habitat, and tribal interests within the study area.

***Natural and Cultural Resources Management***

<b><i>Goal</i></b>	<b><i>Objectives</i></b>
Enhance and protect all natural resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a line of communication with entities concerned with protecting cultural resources.</li> <li>2. Provide a reasonable level of oversight to protect cultural resources.</li> <li>3. Require all entities doing business on Reclamation lands to provide enough notification of pending actions to allow Reclamation to comply with pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.</li> </ol>

***Specific Management Actions – Natural and Cultural Resources***

- Continue to fully comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Federal undertakings.
- Consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and area Indian tribes, as required by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800, as revised, to locate and identify any cultural resources within the study area before initiating any Federal undertaking.
- In consultation with the SHPO and area Indian tribes and based on the Class I survey, develop a research design for conducting Class II or Class III surveys to determine areas of high or low potential for cultural resources, including traditional cultural properties, within the study area.
- Conduct intensive cultural resource surveys of areas with high potential for cultural resources and/or any areas scheduled for ground-disturbing or potentially ground-disturbing activities to locate cultural resources.
- During ground-disturbing activities, make every effort to avoid significant cultural resources.
- Also see “Land Use Issue Category.” Additional actions will enhance and/or protect natural resources.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Protection of the unique desert habitat and management of threatened, endangered, and special status species.	1. Follow existing Federal laws, rules and regulations, as well as existing management strategies.

***Specific Management Actions – Natural and Cultural Resources***

- ~ Protect flat-tailed horned lizard and associated habitat in accordance with the guidance contained in the 2003 Rangeland Management Strategy.
- ~ Adhere to flat-tailed horned lizard monitoring requirements, as well as documentation of habitat disturbance and loss.
- ~ In cooperation with other entities, increase the level of effort to protect T&E and other special status species.
- ~ Define and implement management actions necessary to minimize loss or degradation of flat-tailed horned lizard habitat.
- ~ As needed, mitigate and compensate PRPU project and RMP management action(s) impacts on the flat-tailed horned lizard both within and outside the Yuma Desert Management Area.
- ~ Implement various protective measures within the Yuma Desert Management Area.
- ~ As necessary, provide fencing to protect flat-tailed horned lizard habitat, unique desert habitat, and threatened, endangered, and special status species.

***Public Information and Education Issue Category***

Public information and education issues and concerns focused on providing a variety of public information about the study area through different media (e.g., internet, brochures, radio, maps, and pamphlets); providing appropriate signing detailing the rules and regulations and land restrictions; and providing a variety of interpretative opportunities for the visiting public. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would enhance the visitor experience; interpret the different resources; and educate the public on the proper use of Federal lands.

***Public Information and Education***

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Enhance public information.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish clear, consistent bilingual signage to guide public use of the PRPU study area.</li> <li>2. Communicate with the public using a variety of media such as printed bilingual material, maps, photos, brochures, web sites, etc.</li> </ol>

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***Specific Management Actions – Public Information and Education***

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- Inventory signing needs within the study area and post appropriate bilingual regulatory and informational signs to inform and educate the public about the use of Reclamation lands and facilities.
  - Provide interpretive maps, brochures, pamphlets at convenient public contact areas, such as government buildings, tourism centers. Provide expanded internet information services to the public. Printed and internet material will be bilingual, as needed.
  - Prepare and make available public information and education about the Yuma Desert Management Area and other lands within the study area, including the purposes of the flat-tailed horned lizard management areas and pertinent regulations governing the use of such lands.
  - Ensure that interpretation and public information emphasize appreciation and protection of the natural and cultural resources and promote conservation and preservation.
  - Post bilingual interpretive signs in areas with interesting natural and cultural values.
  - Post bilingual interpretive signs at trailheads or parking areas to allow visitors to appreciate the resources from “a distance.”
  - Post bilingual OHV closure signs in appropriate areas.
  - Post bilingual signs at refuse pickup and transfer sites.
  - Ensure that all signs posted (bilingual) near the international boundary indicate the location of the boundary between the United States and Mexico and that a person is entering the United States.
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***Recreation Management Issue Category***

Recreation management issues and concerns focused on restricting OHV use, maintaining hunting access, providing limited day use opportunities and support facilities; and providing recreation activities that are compatible with adjacent land uses and the Rangewide Management Strategy. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would allow limited recreation use to occur while protecting the natural and cultural resources within the study area.

***Recreation Management***

<b><i>Goal</i></b>	<b><i>Objectives</i></b>
Establish appropriate campground and day use facilities and opportunities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Secure a managing partner to provide recreation facilities and opportunities.</li><li>2. Follow appropriate design and construction standards when developing facilities.</li><li>3. Avoid environmental and resource sensitive areas.</li></ol>

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	<p>4. Restrict development to certain areas within the study area.</p> <p>5. Cooperate with appropriate entities.</p>
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***Specific Management Actions – Recreation***

- Pursuant Public Law, 89-72, as amended, Reclamation will not provide recreation facilities unless a non-Federal or another Federal entity, through a long-term agreement with Reclamation, has agreed to develop, operate, and maintain such facilities on a long-term basis in lieu of Reclamation development and management.
- In lieu of a non-Federal government entity and if economically feasible, Reclamation will investigate the possibility of securing a commercial business to construct, operate, and maintain a limited number of recreation and commercial facilities within the study area, including campgrounds, concessions, and trails. This would be accomplished through a concession permit giving a commercial operator the right to conduct commercial activities on Federal land.
- Ensure overnight and day use facility developments are constructed in consultation with the Border Patrol to ensure that its roles and responsibilities are not impeded.
- Concentrate recreation developments, if any, in the western portion of the study area. Do not allow any recreation development in the Yuma Desert Management Area.
- To protect public safety and to protect Reclamation investments, do not allow recreation development or public use on or adjacent to existing or planned Reclamation project features, such as canals, laterals, wells, or sludge ponds. This also includes Reclamation easements across private lands.
- Ensure recreation opportunities provided are compatible with adjacent existing land uses, such as those prescribed in the San Luis General Plan and the Barry M. Goldwater Integrated Resource Management Plan.
- Ensure any recreation developments within the study area are based on public demand, which will be determined prior to initiating any site development planning. In addition, if public demand is sufficient, Reclamation, in cooperation with a managing partner, will establish carrying capacities during the planning phase of development to determine the location, type, and appropriate number of facilities to be constructed and to afford maximum protection of natural and cultural resources. Capacities will emphasize controlled public access and reduced use in some areas. GIS mapping will be used to help identify physical and environmental carrying capacities. Existing information, such as demographic statistics, public use surveys, and the Arizona State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, will be used to help establish social carrying capacity limits.
- If recreation facilities are determined to be feasible, Reclamation and its managing partner will follow, to the extent possible, the general design criteria listed in attachment H or the appropriate design standards of the managing entity.
- If campgrounds are constructed by a private or non-Federal entity, each shall have a 14-day camping restriction, or a length of stay that Reclamation determines is appropriate, and limited support facilities, such as potable water, restrooms, trash receptacles, and shade shelters.
- In cooperation with a non-Federal government entity, support construction of nonmotorized, multi-use trails of limited length in the western portion of the study area in a manner to minimize adverse effects on the natural and cultural resources.

- ~ Trails would be limited to foot traffic, equestrians, nonmotorized bicycles, and wheelchair users (motorized and nonmotorized) and will provide hiking, photography, wildlife observation, interpretation, and nature study opportunities.
- ~ Pave or harden portions of developed trails to provide access to persons with disabilities.
- ~ Ensure trail development follows the general design guidelines listed in attachment I.
- ~ Allow hunting to continue in designated areas.
- ~ Prepare site specific master plans and obtain appropriate environmental clearances.

<i><b>Goal</b></i>	<i><b>Objectives</b></i>
Prevention of resource damage caused by OHV use.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prohibit OHV use within the study area.</li> <li>2. Reclaim disturbed areas caused by past OHV use.</li> </ol>

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***Specific Management Actions – Recreation***

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- ~ Pursuant to existing Federal law and Reclamation policy, close OHV trails/roads.
  - ~ Restrict the public to using vehicles only on designated roads. Exceptions will be made for emergency vehicles used for such purposes as fire and search and rescue, as well as for vehicles used by the Border Patrol to accomplish its mission.
  - ~ Implement rehabilitation measures using native species and other methods discussed in the 2003 Flat-Tailed Horned Rangeland Management Strategy.
  - ~ Install bilingual OHV closure signs at appropriate locations within the study area.
  - ~ Prepare a travel management plan detailing OHV trails/roads to be closed and revegetated and to identify designated vehicular roads.
  - ~ AGFD to enforce OHV closures through an agreement with Reclamation.
  - ~ In cooperation with other entities, install necessary fencing to prevent unauthorized OHV use. (Also see “Partnerships.”)
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***Health and Safety Issue Category***

Health and safety issues and concerns focused on providing appropriate law enforcement to enforce rules and regulations established for the study area, providing appropriate sanitation facilities, and removing trash, such as abandoned automobiles. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would provide a safe and healthy environment for visitors within the study area.

## ***Health and Safety***

<b><i>Goal</i></b>	<b><i>Objectives</i></b>
Promote the health and safety of users of the study area.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote proactive law enforcement activities.</li> <li>2. Respond to and correct unsafe conditions within the study area.</li> <li>3. Provide adequate public safety measures for protection of visitors.</li> </ol>

### ***Specific Management Actions – Health and Safety***

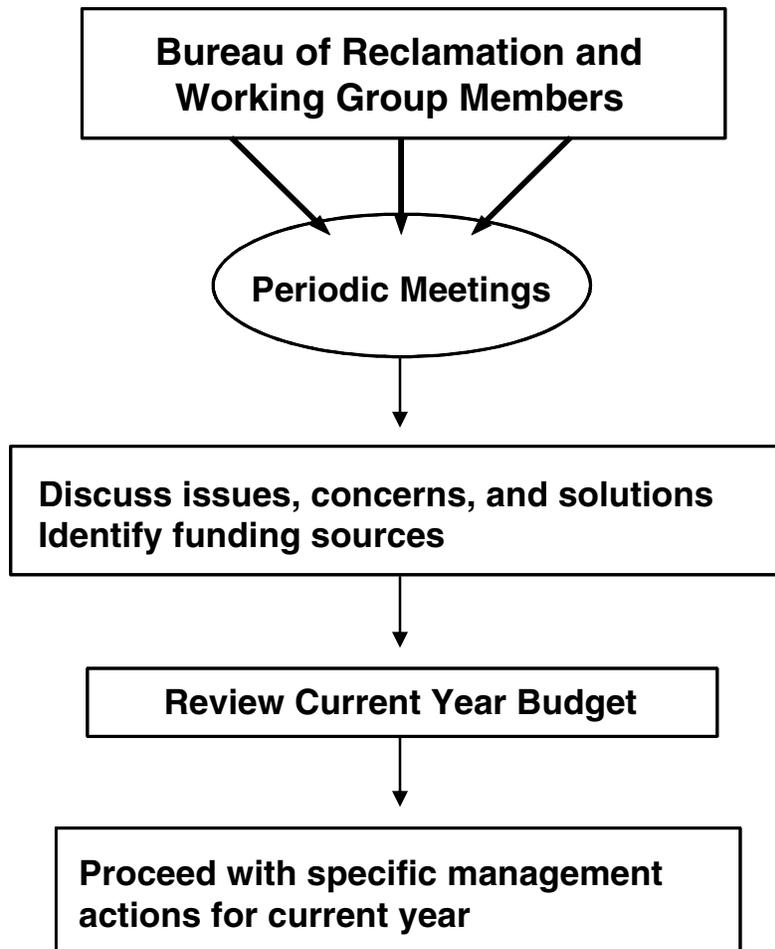
- ~ Ensure that visitor health and safety is the primary focus when constructing facilities and providing visitor use opportunities.
- ~ Respond to and correct unsafe conditions immediately.
- ~ Ensure that Reclamation project features and structures are properly fenced and signed to protect facilities from vandalism and to protect the safety of the public. (Also see “Partnerships.”)
- ~ Keep public use away from existing or proposed Reclamation project features. (Also see “Recreation Management.”)
- ~ Enforce rules and regulations to discourage unauthorized use within the boundary of the study area and promote proactive law enforcement activities.
- ~ Increase efforts to enforce rules and regulations to discourage random shooting and OHV use to reduce or eliminate wildlife harassment and habitat loss.
- ~ Promote the Crime Witness Protection Program to promote public safety.
- ~ Post bilingual rules and regulations governing the use of Reclamation lands at visitor contact areas.
- ~ Post appropriate bilingual warning signs within the study area to warn visitors of potential hazards.
- ~ Remove abandoned vehicles, washers, dryers, refrigerators, and other trash from illegal dump sites in the study area.
- ~ Initiate efforts to keep the study area free of trash.

## **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Reclamation is primarily responsible for implementing the RMP. Approval and acceptance of the RMP/EA by involved agencies include a commitment by Reclamation and other entities, where appropriate, to seek financial, program, and staffing resources necessary to implement the proposed actions. Because funding is uncertain, implementation of specific actions will require close coordination between Reclamation and the many other parties (stakeholders) interested in the management and use of study area lands.

Other factors that may influence the implementation of a particular action are based on whether the action: (1) is procedural or technical, such as preparing agreements or developing specific plans; (2) addresses public health and safety concerns; (3) is in compliance with existing laws and regulations; (4) is required to prevent resource damage or protect wildlife species or habitats; or (5) requires large capital investments, such as trail or facility development.

Successful planning and coordination will be necessary to identify annual program priorities and will be essential to secure funding necessary to accommodate the goals and objectives of this RMP. To aid in planning for future needs and development, Reclamation will serve as the lead agency to collaborate with appropriate stakeholders (working group) on a periodic basis to discuss issues, concerns, and solutions and to identify funding sources. This working group (figure VI-1) will identify concerns and help Reclamation decide which projects should be funded and who will fund them. Once a budget is approved, Reclamation could then implement specific actions.



*Figure VI-1.—Working Group Process.*

## GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS

To initiate and implement the RMP management actions, specific guidance or standards will be followed. The guidance and standards are in the form of Federal laws and regulations, Executive orders, CFRs, existing agreements, State and local laws and regulations, best management practices, or other directives. In many instances, the guidance and standards will be the Reclamation manual for a specific program. Reclamation will follow all Federal laws, regulations, and Executive orders, particularly those listed in attachment F, and pertinent agreements and guidance documents when implementing the management actions documented in this chapter. For example, if Reclamation constructs public use facilities, such as campgrounds and trails, it will follow appropriate up-to-date design and construction standards as well as the Criteria for Facility Development (attachment H) and Criteria for Nonmotorized, Multiuse Trail Development (attachment I).

Two very important aspects of implementing the management actions are to ensure that Reclamation's ability to operate and maintain the PRPU is not impeded and that the flat-tailed horned lizard and its habitat are not affected. Therefore, in addition to the various laws, regulations, and guidance documents, Reclamation will be guided more specifically by Section 103(a) of the Colorado Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974 and the 2003 Rangewide Management Strategy when implementing the management actions.

Reclamation also will follow the guidance provided in its published manuals, the more important of which are the following policies, directives, and standards related to:

- ~ Pest Management/Resource Protection (Integrated Pest Management), ENV 01-01<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Underground Storage Tank Management, ENV 02-01<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Pollution Prevention - Hazardous and Solid Waste Minimization, ENV 02-04<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Management of Shooting Ranges on Reclamation Lands, ENV 02-07<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Implementation of the Cost Sharing Authorities for Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, LND 01-01<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Cultural Resources Management, LND 02-01<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Land Withdrawals, Withdrawal Reviews, and Withdrawal Revocations, LND 03-01<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Concessions Management by Non-Federal Partners, LND- 04-02<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Real Estate Appraisal, LND 05-01<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Land Acquisition, LND 06-01<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> These designations refer to the numbering system of the manuals. For example, ENV 01-01 is the Environmental Series, Part 01, chapter 01; LND 01-01 is the Land Series, part 01, chapter 01.

- ~ Land Use Authorizations, LND 08-01<sup>1</sup>
- ~ Land Disposal, LND 08-02
- ~ Real Property Management Records, LND 09-10

For more detailed information, access Reclamation manuals at <[http://www.usbr.gov/recman/d\\_and\\_s.htm](http://www.usbr.gov/recman/d_and_s.htm)>.

## MONITORING

To track the success of implementing the management actions, monitoring activities will be initiated (i.e., how to evaluate, observe, enforce, comply, or document that a management action is achieved). Monitoring will occur over the 10-year expected life of the RMP and will be initiated once the management actions have been implemented.

Following is a partial list of possible reviews and monitoring efforts that may help Reclamation track the success of implementing certain management actions:

- ~ Real Property Utilization Reviews
- ~ Recreation Compliance Reviews
- ~ Withdrawal Reviews
- ~ Hazardous Waste Management Reviews
- ~ Land Use Authorization Reviews
- ~ Review of Pest Management/Resource Protection Plans
- ~ Water Quality Monitoring
- ~ Groundwater Level Monitoring
- ~ Facility Condition Assessments
- ~ Accessibility Reviews
- ~ Review/Monitoring of Underground Storage Tanks
- ~ Annual review of Reclamation's Yuma Desalting Plant sludge disposal site, pursuant to its Aquifer Protection Permit.

In addition to these monitoring activities, which Reclamation routinely conducts on its lands and which will help in monitoring the success of implementing the management actions, several monitoring efforts have been mentioned specifically as action items in the RMP. The important monitoring efforts mentioned in the RMP are:

- ~ Ensuring that the public use and facility development are consistent with the goals and objectives of the RMP.

- ~ Closing areas for public safety and security purposes, as a result of monitoring efforts. However, it is Reclamation’s goal to properly monitor public use of its lands to prevent such closures from happening.
- ~ Ensuring that project features are protected by restricting public use as a result of monitoring efforts.
- ~ Conducting periodic land management reviews and other monitoring efforts to ensure that the lands are being managed pursuant to existing agreements and land use authorizations.
- ~ Monitoring the variety of land uses to identify user conflicts and investigate corrective measures to prevent further conflicts from occurring.
- ~ Cooperating and entering into agreements with AGFD to develop and implement inventory, monitoring, and protection plans for other special status species.
- ~ Continuing to cooperate with the IBWC to account for water use within the PRPU study area.
- ~ Ensuring that a biological monitor shall be present in construction areas to develop and implement worker education programs, ensuring that protection measures designed to reduce impacts to flat-tailed horned lizard are implemented, flagging designated work areas, enforcing procedures if flat-tailed horned lizards are encountered and emphasizing importance of reducing vehicle mortality on flat-tailed horned lizards when driving to and from work site.
- ~ Continuing to maintain and monitor observation wells within the study area and install new observations wells, as needed.

Reclamation will use a combination of the above-mentioned monitoring efforts in cooperation with involved entities to track the success of the management actions once they are implemented.

## **AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE RMP/EA**

Reclamation may revise or amend the RMP within the established 10-year planning period. During the implementation or monitoring phases of the RMP, Reclamation, other agencies, or the public may identify problems, deficiencies, or additional issues that should be addressed. Changes in the social, economic, physical, or environmental conditions may also necessitate changes to the RMP/EA. Minor changes in data or material that do not conflict with the established goals and objectives would be documented by Reclamation and would not require further public involvement and NEPA compliance. Changes that would modify one or more of the prescribed decisions and require major changes to the established goals and objectives would be documented by an amendment to the RMP and may require further public involvement and NEPA compliance. Reclamation will determine the level of public involvement and NEPA compliance.

The RMP is expected to be re-evaluated at the end of the 10-year planning period (year 2014) to determine whether or not the RMP should be updated. The planning and NEPA process used to complete this RMP/EA will be used to prepare an updated RMP/EA.