

Please describe the number and extent of land sales or transfers that have occurred in the past as a measure of the number of such actions that could be expected under the No Action Alternative. This will assist in clarifying the differences between alternatives relative to the land exchange provisions in the other alternatives.

Page V-38, paragraph 4:

The implication here is that USBR would not enforce mitigation requirements of other agencies that address impacts to USBR lands without an RMP. The RMP does not supercede USBR responsibilities once they issue a permit or other authorization for a project that affects their lands. Please revise this paragraph.

Page V-39, paragraph 1:

The text of the last sentence assumes land “exchanges” are an existing action in the Zone and this is not supported by the statements under the No Action Alternative. Please revise.

Page V-41, Table V-1:

Please include the presence of the dune spurge on the Yuma Dunes east of the Zone.

Page V-45, Flat-tailed Horned Lizard

Reference to 1997 flat-tailed horned lizard management plan should be updated to the 2003 version.

Page V-48, Mitigation:

Reference to 1997 flat-tailed horned lizard management plan should be updated to the 2003 version. There are differences between the two versions and the mitigation requirements from the 2003 version should be the ones used in this document. The specific measures from the 2003 version should be listed on pages V-48 through 50. It is important that this RMP/EA incorporate these commitments for the period covered by the plan.

Page V-53, paragraph 5:

Please describe the annexation of portions of the Zone by the city of Yuma, and describe the potential zoning.

Page VI-4, 5th bullet:

Residential and commercial development also have effects to groundwater amount and quality. Natural gas or other types of pipelines also have the potential for leakage and contamination. This management action should also evaluate these types of projects for risks to groundwater.

Page VI-6, 4th bullet:

Much of the Hillander “C” tract is in agriculture. What types of restoration would be appropriate for this area under the RMP?

Page VI-8, 5th bullet:

The statement here on defining the groundwater as Colorado River water does not appear to recognize the degree of controversy this decision might engender among water rights holders. If this type of accounting is already factored into the management under Minute 242, then additional discussion of that fact is needed earlier in the document. There is nothing in the alternatives analyses that specifically addresses what the effects to present and future water uses would be under this provision.

Page VI-20, Monitoring:

Reference to 1997 flat-tailed horned lizard management plan should be updated to the 2003 version. There are specific monitoring requirements contained in the 2003 version that should be included here.

Page EC-2 through 4:

Reference to 1997 flat-tailed horned lizard management plan should be updated to the 2003 version. This section will require updating to incorporate the 2003 management strategy.

Page BIB-3:

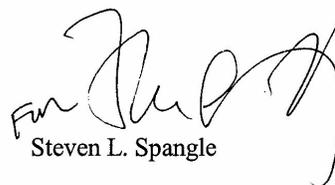
The correct publication year for Rorabaugh, Palermo and Dunn is 1987, not 1985.

Page BIB- 4:

Please include this citation:

“Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Interagency Coordinating Committee. 2003. Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy. 2003 Revision. 80 pp. plus appendices.”

Copies of the 2003 flat-tailed horned lizard management strategy should be available in your office. If you need additional copies, please contact us and we will provide them to you. Thank you for your efforts to conserve native species. If there are any questions concerning these comments, please contact Lesley Fitzpatrick (x236) or Tom Gatz (x240).



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cc: Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City, NV
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W:\Lesley Fitzpatrick\5-Mile Zone EA comments.wpd:egg