

Area. Generally, the plan provides a framework for protection of the National Conservation Area, allowing those uses that are compatible with preservation of the National Conservation Area. Energy and mineral uses are not permitted, nor are sand and gravel operations.

According to the San Pedro Plan, livestock grazing has been prohibited for the life of the plan on the original acreage. Dispersed and developed recreation is being carefully planned to avoid impacts to the abundant natural, cultural and paleontological (fossil) resources. Vehicles will be restricted to designated roads. Discharge of firearms is being restricted to ensure visitor safety. Many actions will be implemented to maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of the water, riparian vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources and paleontological resources. Administrative and visitor contact facilities are also planned.

The decisions of the *San Pedro River Riparian Management Plan* will apply to the 6,521 acres of the National Conservation Area not covered in the plan, with the following exceptions.

- 1 Livestock grazing will continue on the added 6,521-acre area in accordance with the State exchange agreements. This area includes state lands acquired through exchange; state grazing leases will be recognized for the term of these leases.
- 2 Allotment categorization will be changed from "Maintain" to "Improve" to intensively manage livestock on all allotments in the 6,521 -acre area.
- 3 Allotment management plans will be prepared for all allotments in the 6,521 -acre area to provide for continued livestock grazing and protection of the riparian values of the National Conservation Area.

Management Concern 1 - Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife and their habitat are managed cooperatively by BLM and Arizona Game and Fish Department under a *Memorandum of Understanding* (1987). Federally listed or proposed threatened and endangered wildlife are protected under provisions of the *Endangered Species Act* (1973, as amended). BLM Manual 6840 outlines the conservation of Threatened and Endangered species and the ecosystems they depend upon; ensures that all actions authorized, funded or carried out by BLM are in compliance with the Endangered Species Act; cooperates with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in planning and providing for the recovery of Threatened

and Endangered species; and retains in public ownership all habitat essential to the survival or recovery of any Threatened and Endangered species, including habitat used historically by these species. It is also BLM policy to manage candidate species and their habitat to prevent the need to list them as threatened or endangered.

Management Concern 2 - Lands and Realty

Land Ownership Adjustment Lands identified for disposal by sale must comply with Section 203 of The *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976*. Section 203 states that lands offered for sale must meet one of the following criteria: they are difficult and uneconomical to manage and not suitable for management by another agency; they are no longer needed for the original purpose for which they were acquired; or they will serve an important public purpose. If lands, because of their location or other characteristics, meet one of the above criteria, they may be offered for sale (see Appendix 5).

All public lands will be disposed of at fair market value, except for lands disposed of under the *Recreation and Public Purposes Act* or state indemnity selection. Disposals are subject to valid existing rights.

It is Bureau policy not to dispose of public lands encumbered with properly recorded unpatented mining claims. These lands, however, may be disposed of if the mining claims are found to be void; a mining claimant relinquishes the mining claims to the United States; a mining claim is contested and found to be invalid; or policy is changed.

State Indemnity Selection is another method of disposal of public lands. Upon statehood the government granted Arizona four sections of land per township. Much of this land had already been appropriated and, therefore, was unavailable to the state. Other state lands may have been appropriated by federal projects and require compensation to the state. Thus, a "bank" of public lands has accrued to the state from which it may select desired, unappropriated public lands. All public lands identified for disposal will also be available for state selection.

Lands identified for disposal will be reviewed for the presence of significant natural and cultural resources, threatened and endangered plants and animals, flood hazards and other critical factors. The actual transfer of the land cannot be finalized until these reviews are complete.