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Social Considerations for the Yuma Field Office in Developing a Preparation Plan for a New Resource Management Plan

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Creating Productive Harmony between Human and Natural Environments

Social Considerations for the Yuma Field Office in Developing a Preparation Plan for a New Resource Management Plan

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Current BLM Challenges	2
Human Geographic Planning Units	4
The Kofa Social Resource Unit	5
The Quartzsite Community Resource Unit	8
Metro (Yuma Proper) Community Resource Unit	14
The Dome-Wellton Community Resource Unit	18
The Dateland Community Resource Unit	20
The Hyder Community Resource Unit	22
The South Community Resource Unit	23
Conclusions	26
Attachment A: Seven Cultural Descriptors Used in Community Assessment and for Planning Purposes	27
Figure One: Human Geographic Map for Land Use Planning	3

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Introduction

The Yuma Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management is preparing to revise its Resource Management Plan (RMP) over the next three years. It desired to update its knowledge of the local communities which are affected by BLM decisions by undertaking methods of community fieldwork to foster citizen participation and ownership. Through Assistance Agreement #1422P850A80015 between James Kent Associates (JKA) and the Bureau of Land Management, The Yuma Field Office provided six staff people the week of May 21, 2001 to learn JKA methods of Discovery and Community Based Planning. The team for the week was:

James Kent, James Kent Associates
Kevin Preister, James Kent Associates
Debbie DeBock, BLM
Karen Reichardt, BLM
Brian Twedt, BLM
Lucas Lucero, BLM
Ron Morphin, BLM, and
Carol Telles, BLM.

In addition, county personnel and citizens Gail Gallagher, John Roberts, and Jerry Soliz participated at different points throughout the week.

BLM staff members stated that their goals were to:

1. Front load the planning process and be in a better position to initiate the process;
2. Catch citizen issues of which they were unaware;
3. Learn to be more effective in addressing county-wide issues;
4. Learn specific processes by which to better know the community;
5. Get the community involved so that it's not just government initiating action;
6. Learn how to create ownership and get partnerships going; and
7. Position BLM to complete the pre-plan and to incorporate decisions and amendments into the new plan.

The purpose of the week was to use the JKA Discovery Process™ to describe local communities in order to:

1. identify present social and economic conditions and trends;
2. identify emerging issues requiring immediate or ongoing management attention;
3. flag citizen issues that need addressing in the RMP planning process;
4. identify preliminary planning units from a social, economic, and cultural perspective; and

5. develop a communication strategy by which to maintain ongoing contact with individuals, networks and groups.

Current BLM Management Challenges

Designate routes of travel, primarily off-highway, off road (no need to create new roads; may lead to closures to prevent resource damage).

Encroachment: land sprawl; higher densities where there shouldn't be; sale of state land for development.

Desert dumping; disposal of waste products, trash, hazardous waste, etc. (economic issue for some; multi-jurisdictional resolution necessary)

Major utility corridors; public doesn't understand our role or its importance; increased need in the future; opposition by some publics; little front-end work done with publics by utility companies.

Access to water for development purposes (water quantity), access to water for recreation

Foothills open space; concept often not defined; urban interface component;

Communication sites, proliferation of users; high power versus low power (interference); possible conflict with Yuma Proving Ground; limit of available sites/space.

Wildlife water catchments; access issue to government lands; wildlife management issue.

Illegal camping on BLM lands; long term camping needs are growing and not met; economic value to community; relationship to private RV parks.

Emerging issue: illegal alien travel across BLM lands; impacts to law enforcement; providing water to people (Humane Borders of Tucson is spearheading); impacts on the ground from trash, human waste.

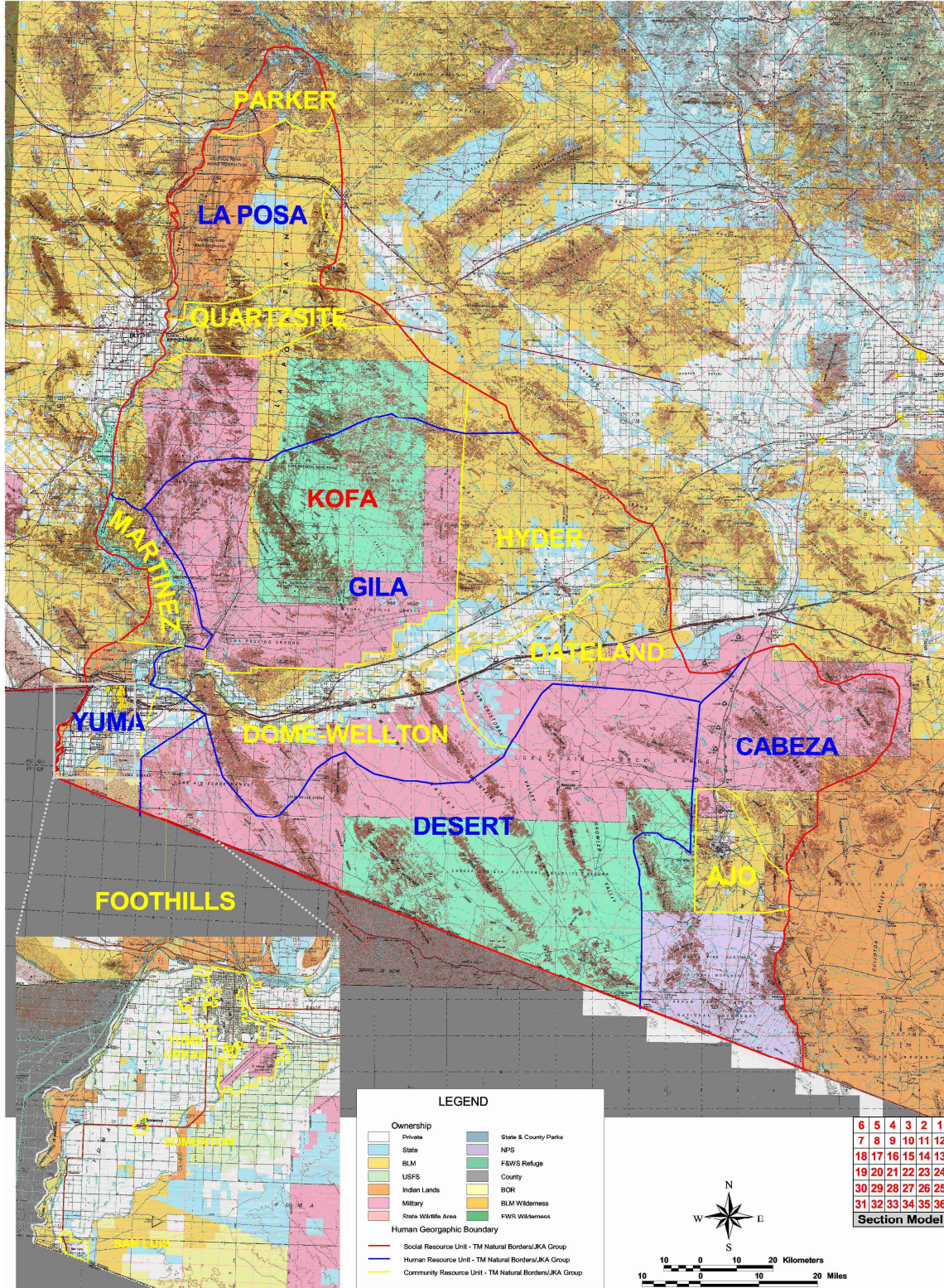
Cultural resource issues are increasing; Native Americans are wanting increased say.

Land tenure adjustments; whether or not to dispose of land.

Dunes near El Centro; present BLM California management approach causes problems for Yuma F.O. Many Yuma people use the site.

Farmers sell agricultural lands to developers and lease state land for agricultural uses nearby (trend?).

Figure One
Human Geographic Map (c) for Land Use Planning
Bureau of Land Management YUMA FIELD OFFICE



Human Geographic Planning Units

One of the products of this project has been the development of a human geographic map showing different scales that differentiate one local population from another. The Discovery Process makes use of seven Cultural Descriptors (Attachment A) useful for community assessment: publics, networks, settlement patterns, work routines, support services, recreation activities, and geographic features. On the basis of these descriptors, the team identified preliminary social/cultural boundaries that distinguish populations. Figure One on the prior page shows the results of this work at three scales.

1. The Kofa Social Resource Unit (SRU)TM is the largest unit (shown in red). SRUs often coincide with a river basin and other large features of the landscape. SRUs are aggregations of Human Resource Units (HRUs)TM on the basis of geographic features of the landscape, shared history, lifestyle, livelihood and outlook. SRUs are best characterized by a sense of belonging. At this level, face-to-face knowledge is much reduced. Rather, social ties are created by action around issues that transcend the smaller HRUs and by invoking common values (“We know how to take care of the desert rats around here.”).¹
2. Human Resource Units (HRUs)TM (shown in blue) are roughly equivalent in size to a county, but seldom correspond to county boundaries. HRU boundaries are derived from the seven cultural descriptors defined in Attachment A and by self-reporting by residents living in these areas. HRUs are characterized by frequent and customary interaction. They reveal face-to-face human society where people could be expected to have personal knowledge of each other and informal caretaking systems are the strongest. People’s daily activities occur primarily within their HRU including work, school, shopping, social activities, and recreation. Health, education, welfare and other public service activities are highly organized at this level with a town or community almost always as its focal point. The HRUs in the Kofa SRU are La Posa, Yuma, Gila, Desert, and Cabeza.
3. Community Resource Units (CRUs)TM (shown in yellow) are the lowest level of human geography shown in Figure One. CRUs are sub-units within an HRU. The CRUs are the scale at which informal networks operate most strongly, caretaking systems are clearly visible, and cultural absorption takes place. The La Posa HRU contains the Parker and Quartzite CRUs; the Yuma HRU contains the Martinez, Metro, and Foothills CRUs; the Gila HRU contains the Heider, Dome-Wellton, and the Dateland CRUs; the Desert HRU is largely uninhabited, and the Cabeza HRU contains at least the Ajo CRU.

¹ Kent, James A. and Kevin Preister, “Methods for the Development of Human Geographic Boundaries and Their Uses”, in partial completion of Cooperative Agreement No. 1422-P850-A8-0015 between James Kent Associates and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Task Order No. 001, 1999.

These scales of human geography are useful as planning units. CRUs predict the informal networks that will be partners with BLM in developing the revised RMP. Issues at this level are identified for early resolution through ongoing management. Those that cannot get resolved easily get flagged for planning analysis and longer term action through aggregation. That is, those longer-term issues that transcend the CRU boundary are resolved at the HRU level; and those issues that transcend the HRU boundary get resolved at the SRU level. For example, desert trash dumping, identified as an issue throughout the whole SRU will be resolved through a multi-jurisdictional approach with solutions applied to the local level.

In the following sections, the Kofa SRU will be described in broad terms, based on knowledge of the staff of the community. Then, each of the CRUs will be described in turn, based on the field visits by the team during the week. Each CRU description will include sections on:

- 1 - Existing Social and Economic Condition
- 2 -Major natural resource issues
- 3 - Opportunities to Improve Things
- 4 - Networks - Opportunities for Communication/Involvement
- 5 - Preliminary Strategies for Major Issues

The Kofa SRU

The Publics of the Kofa Social Resource Unit Whose Interests May Be Affected by BLM Decisions

Farmers
Hunters
Recreationists (dove hunting in Sept; quail)
Winter visitors
Farm labor
Transients
Military
Service sector workers
Medical; largest employer
Other government, including prison
Week end population; Lake Martinez
ORV
Fishers; bass/boat
Business: old and the Big Curve businesses (4th Avenue)
Youth
Elderly
Recent immigrants
Native Americans (Pushans?, Cocopah); casinos

Ecotourism interests
Mennonites
Historic preservation interests (Heritage City)
Movie industry interests

Publics of Interests (outside interests with stake in local area)

Center for Biological Diversity Humane Borders Recreationists National Rifle Association	Sierra Club Audubon Hunt Clubs American Sand Association
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Formal Communication (Organizations that are Existing and Potential Partners)

Fish and Wildlife Service Arizona Game and Fish Yuma County City of Yuma LaPaz County City of San Luis Southwest Ecotourism Alliance Goldwater/Yuma Proving/Kofa Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Town of Wellton Yuma Chamber of Commerce Wellton/Mohawk Irrigation District Yuma Convention Visitor	Bureau Arizona State Parks (Territorial Prison and others) State Lands Border Patrol The Tribes Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Bureau of Reclamation Yuma Area Governmental Alliance Sheriff's Department Greater Yuma Economic Development Cooperative Extension (4- H,etc)
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Informal Communication

Native Americans, must go “through the culture”; government to government
necessary to get anywhere; our dispatcher is linked to the chair; our crew has
contacts; the casino?
Long term visitor center in the winter; they have CB radios; avid communicators.
Mesa Sports, especially in the morning
Spragues Sports Shop
Quads: Liberty Motor Sports
Bookstore

Ted's Bullpen
Swap meets
Fishing, Highway 95 Bait Shop
Chop Shop (sand dunes)
OHV camps
Mad Greek
The churches
Famous Sams (on 4th)
Yuman Rod and Gun Club, they are at all the meetings
Rotary, at community center in San Luis
Project Central: rural leadership forum
Lutes' Casino
Mr. G's
Chili Pepper, by the hospital
Brownies, long timers
Basque Etchea restaurant in Tacna
Geronimos Restaurant in Wellton
Tamarac in Roll
Martinez Lake Bar and Restaurant
Lagirta in the morning for farmers.

Key Issues and Trends Thought to Exist in the Community

- Urban sprawl, NIMBY, 10 years old
- The Mesa: ag lands sold for development; leasing state lands for ag
- Growth
- Business increase; past the 50,000 thresholds, so more shopping centers
- Increase in chains
- OHV use has increased
- Recent immigration; adjustments in the schools; two languages; Hispanics now the majority
- Water quality is #1 issue in county planning
- Lettuce production has increased; now produce 95% of the nation; citrus is decreasing
- Solid waste disposal
- Endangered Species Act: flycatcher; Sonoran pronghorn; flat tail horned lizard; milkvetch;
- City's east and west wetlands projects; goal to develop the river front
- Federal prison may be in future despite past resistance; issue seems to be higher wages and effects on agricultural labor.

The Quartzsite CRU

1 - Existing Social and Economic Condition

Sum: Boom trend, infrastructure development with corridor to allow commercial development (road right-of-way issues), modest settling-out process, extant functional community with resilience, winter season primary revenue, highly diversified and persistent social base, tax structure not adequate for winter visitor impact, value for stewardship (trash cleanup), stressful winter season with 1.5 to 1.8 million visitors, split factions evidenced by employee turnover, political turnover, variety of economic statuses, lack of permanent job base.

Rainbow Acres is filled with snowbirds with OHV interests. Lots of quad use. Residents complained of quad damage last year but this issue is quiet now. Residents are concerned about possible closures of BLM and wish to work with the agency to prevent it and foster mutual stewardship. Residents we talked with said, “We stick to trails” but acknowledged a few people that do not and cause damage. Residents thought that increased law enforcement was the answer but when the limitations of law enforcement budgets was brought out, indicated a high willingness to talk and to contribute to better conditions. “I’d be for it,” one man tells us in reference to a cooperative effort. Residents talked about informal processes present in their housing development to handle speeders and other problems. These experiences could form a link to addressing public land issues. Rainbow acres currently has about 500 families and one resident said another 500 are being planned for. Caretaking is prevalent in this community and is a resource in mobilizing residents to participate in desert cleanup, monitoring and education.

Quartzsite began as a gold mining and ranching community. White settlement happened up the river from Yuma in big boats. Paddleboats apparently made it to Havasu City. Today, residents and elected officials talked about the 1.8 million visitors that came to the area last winter, apparently documented by the Department of Commerce. These were folks that stayed at least a month during January, 2001. Quartzsite has become a mecca for “snowbirds” in RVs that winter in warm climates in favorable locations. In addition to a mild winter climate, the area has become famous for mineral and rock “shows” as well as individual vendors who set up booths during the peak season.

“We had traffic backed up 6 miles in any direction from the town center. This is more people than live in the city of Phoenix.”

“You can buy anything you want in the winter.”

“We get stiffed because a lot of the vendors do not pay their taxes, or even buy licenses. We are working with the Department of Revenue to tighten up the process. A new water system is needed. We are looking to get a tank on Q Mountain and run a line to the BLM campground. BLM gave us a grant for \$50,000 to do engineering on it.” [city officials]

“It’s not as fun as it was. More people is making it more stressful.”

“Eventually the vendor scene will die because of escalating property values. There used to be 20 shows over six weeks, but now it’s over four weeks, and some key ones are dropping out. The show owners do the scheduling and sometimes this area loses out to other priorities.”

“My kids would love to return here if there was employment. In the old days, people would leave in the summer, too, just like the snowbirds do. I told my friends, ‘If you love Quartzsite, leave in the summer, or you will grow to hate it.’”

“You don’t have to have money to be in Quartzsite. The only way you make it is to have about 8 things that bring in money.”

“This town is ready to explode. I bought my front lot for \$175 way back when. It was recently appraised at \$460,000. The town’s presence on Highway 95 means we are going to get Canadian and Mexican business.”

“We know how to take care of the desert rats around here.”

“I’m getting out of here.”

“The city harasses vendors instead of supporting them.”

“When my husband was Deputy, we would take all kinds of kids in the truck bed for a wienie roast, or we’d go to Yuma to the fair. One time we took a bunch of kids to San Diego. Parents would turn their kids over to us.”

Ehrenberg is an unincorporated community of about 2000 that was settled by people wanting to get out of Blythe, a nearby town in California. It is a farming community that is oriented to the river. In contrast to other communities in the SRU, desert use with ORVs, quads and other vehicles is not as popular. River uses are more prevalent. The economic base is farming and service jobs in town and in Blythe. Residents reported not having a lot of involvement with BLM lands, although ownership is often not understood. Development is a frequent topic of conversation and farmers are active in trying to resist more growth. A third RV park is developing in Ehrenberg, signaling its emerging orientation to visitor traffic. Residents stated that the town has many low income residents and is struggling to define itself and its direction for the future. Its infrastructure is inadequate, but the school system is considered strong. Caretaking and community support are prevalent.

“The bass fishing is great here. I go to A-1 Reservoir, south of Flying J.”

“We need more than service jobs.”

2 –Major natural resource issues

Quartzsite issues relate to impacts to natural values from OHV roads, routes, trails, recurring dust problem, groundwater contamination, interest in upgrading LTVA's, interest in keeping LTVA's primitive, wood is limited resource, interest in using Dripping Springs, conflicts with access to desert and bighorn sheep habitat, want to take care of desert, lack of information, RV tank dumping. Ehrenberg natural resource issues relate to and CRIT/La Paz County lands transfer, illegal trash dumping, lack of solid waste disposal options, access to Colorado River and development of river economy, and paving river road below Flying J.

BLM has participated in successful actions in this area. The University of Arizona, La Paz County Extension sponsored a recycling program in Ehrenberg that has worked well and BLM was part of multi-jurisdictional clean up day with 15 dumpsters that involved the local fire department and other entities.

A major issue resolved by BLM recently had to do with the camping area north of town, the site of increased social problems such as crime. Local residents were appreciative that BLM put this land on the market as a way to deal with the problems. The BLM land sales on the west are going more slowly, it was reported, because the topography of washes and gullies does not lend itself to home construction without front end costs. The city has hopes that some industrial companies may locate in this area.

“BLM relinquishing that land was good. It got rid of people at the bottom of the barrel.”

“We had to go over there regularly and clean up.”

Another successful action was the lease of an 80 acre park site 7 years ago. In response to the loss of a family's baby girl, Celia's Memorial Garden was begun on BLM leased land that since has blossomed into what, upon completion, will be the largest desert botanical garden in the U.S. BLM action created a project that brought diverse elements of the community together for concerted, volunteer action, leading to broadened community capacity for future projects. Apparently the organizers of this project now desire a longer lease of 25 years so that they may attract state heritage grants.

How to upgrade the LTVAs. This is a sensitive management concern because some residents are on fixed incomes for whom increased fees will be a burden. At the same time, many people want improved services for obvious reasons. The sites are unlabeled, making emergency vehicle access difficult. An additional consideration is the private RV parks in the area and the concerns about possibly undercutting their businesses through lower-priced, alternative services.

“My friends go to the dump station at 4 a.m. so they only have to wait a couple of hours.”

“When the fee for the long-term area went from \$50 to \$100, it was a hardship. For some,

it gets pretty tight.”

“People will complain about the money no matter how small the amount.”

“Maybe the free 14 days spots should only be used for overflow when the other areas are full.”

“There needs to be better management of impacts to reduce costs. The city would like to explore taking over LTVA management.” [city officials]

“More than one camp host is necessary. They can’t be available 24 hours.”

OHV Use, Access

“Don’t cut off access to BLM. We think impacts can be managed without closures.”
[common]

“Four wheel drives are part of the tradition here. Lots of history of its use.”

“We were going to do a jeep business, years ago, but we got concerned about how that would affect the sheep population.”

“The quads cut across my wash. It’s highly frustrating that people come here and think we don’t have rules, just because they are not home.”

“I stay on the roadways but they are not designated now in some areas east of town. I go gently and slowly with no damage. I don’t drive after a rain.”

“I have told people to knock it off [when damage is occurring].”

Impact on Quartzsite capacity to deal with winter influx, rights of way

“The visitors hurt our library budget. We only have 6 computers and they get overrun. Book check out has skyrocketed.”

“A number of rights of way are needed. About a ½ mile strip of 100’ near the city offices that the city desires to develop as a park-n-ride area. Easements to extend the circle off the freeway exchange to bypass traffic—this is near Riggles Road. In the past at BLM’s suggestion, we did the paperwork for a ‘blanket’ rights of way approval to accommodate future needs. But that person left, and no one knows what happened to the agreement.”
[city officials]

“People didn’t remember the old agreements.”

Better information and communication.

“I’d like more BLM brochures to hand out an the Snowbird Information Center.”

“BLM could insert information into the Chamber of Commerce yearly newsletter. Our circulation is 50,000. Tell people how to take care of the land, who to call.”

“We need more BLM information to hand out.” [RV park owner, very common]

“Mark BLM land so you can find it and not destroy it.”

“BLM talks in the winter time are very effective.” [Chamber of Commerce]

“On the river, people don’t know where they can stop.”

“We don’t know where the BLM lands are.” [common]

Desert stewardship

“Vandals tore the wall down at Spanish wall. Only two feet are left.”

“There’s a lot of damage out on the desert. We tell people to call us and report it and sometimes they do.” [Chamber of Commerce]

“People urinate out at Dripping Springs. It’s getting contaminated.”

“There’s a lot of trash out by ____.” [common]

“There is no place to dump garbage. Our dump is only open Sunday through Wednesday and there is now a fee.”

“We need a dump site.”

“I can show you on a map BLM sites that have been trashed. We would help with clean up.” [Fire Chief, Ehrenberg]

“Old guys on quads just cut trails everywhere and go fast. You’d think they’d know better by their age. California kids like the two wheelers.”

Mining

“BLM doesn’t fairly recognize recreation mining. Certain regulations have to be changed, or else they are making us into outlaws.”

“I really dislike miners closing off areas and saying I can’t get through. Are they really mining? I think they just sit on these mines so they can have the land.”

Law Enforcement

“We could always use more law enforcement. It helps when the BLM ranger comes around.”

“Bad things are happening down at Goose Flats and an area we call ‘The Tree.’ Better patrols are needed.”

Business incubation

“We don’t have businesses oriented to the river yet. One guy does boat repair in his front yard. We need a way to support these enterprises.” [Ehrenberg]

Easements and leases

“There’s going to be an easement fight about Ehrenberg Landing. 15 lots of river residential has been shut down. I think it involves BLM land.”

“I’d like to lease BLM land to make the fire station 24 hours. It will help with the tax base and reduce residential tax demand.” [Fire Chief, Ehrenberg]

3 - Opportunities to Improve Things

More communication, more brochures, better brochures, blanket rights-of-way, return phone calls, face-to-face communication, more education efforts, encouraging stewardship of public lands in local tourist paper

Education of quad users by their peers—“We stay on the trails. 97% do the right thing in the desert.”

In Ehrenberg, coordinate with Fire Department and other partners to integrate fire hazard work of BLM with trash cleanup and vegetation removal, revegetation potential along river, habitat restoration, adequate transfer stations.

4 - Networks - Opportunities for Communication/Involvement

City government wants to be active partner, seasonal clubs, VFW hall, La Paz County, Chuck Busby, Paul Winer, Tina at Chamber of Commerce, Mary Ann at Rainbow Acres, Rosalie Oldham Wheeler, Leland Weeks.

In Ehrenberg, John Deere is a gathering place, Ehrenberg Improvement Association, Fire Dept., school is central social institution, secretary, developing ecotourism, KOA, European connection,

land acquisition interest around school.

5 - Preliminary Strategies for Major Issues

In Quartzsite:

Management - focus efforts on outreach, public education, environmental education, engaging local OHV clubs, research right-of-way agreements process, lack of understanding of lands program, turnover of Town staff, lack of continuity with Town staff

Planning- route designations, consider LTVA upgrades, sign age in desert.

In Ehrenberg:

Management - Focus on environmental education and information through outreach, kiosks, etc., work with county to get transfer station, more dumpsters, grants for funds, taxes(?)

Planning - PILT monies

Metro CRU (Yuma Proper)

1 - Existing Social and Economic Condition

Population growth, full range of economic status, regional full service center, schools lack environmental education what's going on around them, emerging environmental community; Retired people are making inquiries about settlement—an emerging trend.

The birding festival was a success with interest by participants in reservations for next year.

Access to river for recreation, including canoe and kayaking, is likely to increase.

New businesses coming in; old business buildings are for sale in Old Yuma. Parts of Old Town will be rebuilt.

2 - Major Natural Resource Issue

Urban sprawl, confluence area, illegal dumping, coordination of development for wetlands, keeping access open to public lands, route designations, interagency coordination to address solid waste issues, open space, urban interface, development limits, management of winter population, maintain quality of recreational resources, fear BLM dominated by lawsuits - balanced approach, more river recreational access, development of diverse recreational opportunities, river trail (Gila Trail) designation,

“The Bureau of Reclamation pulled the plug on bass fishing lakes.”

LTVAs

“More outreach is needed. Many residents of LTVAs are not informed. There are safety

and environmental issues.” Consider the carrying capacity for these areas. Have monitoring plan with measurable criteria. Sand Dunes is an example of exceeding use limits.”

“Look at grazing issues and utility corridors. The corridors should address upcoming needs and look at dispersed communication sites for cell towers. What coverage is needed? Provide for rehabilitation when the towers are no longer needed.

In addition to other interests identified in this section, BLM staff felt that the river corridor area is a distinctive geographic area with unique management challenges. Although not accomplished during this week of fieldwork, staff desired that future contact be made in this area. Generally, it was felt that environmental education, outreach, and coordination with other jurisdictions to manage this area is going to be important in the RMP planning process.

3 - Opportunities to Improve Things

River water allocation issues, communication and participation in issues, joint plans - multi-jurisdictional plans, protect river from development while providing for community growth.

The possibility of an interagency YCC/YACC group where the various agencies/groups would establish a prioritized project list and provide funding through grants and management for youth activities. The idea is to provide positive alternatives to youth gangs.

4 - Networks - Opportunities for Communication/Involvement

Audubon Society, Yuma Rod and Gun Club, sports shops, Chesters Historical Society, Desert Bass Anglers, Yuma Chapter of Desert Wildlife Unlimited, Susanna Henry, Betty’s Kitchen Protective Association (Pat Callahan, Carolyn Becker, May Fostner, Pat Burch), Jon Fugate, Cary Meister, Jimmy Waits-Chretins, Wade Noble, Irrigation Districts, Loren Pratt, Bill Embree, Dirk Frauenfelder, Pat Kenyon, Pamela Honaker, Dr. Habib Rathle, Marla Guy, Jerry Soliz.

The Chamber wants more BLM info to hand out.

Yuma Historical Society: Carol Brooks, Yuma Historical Society Museum.

Yuma County (Roger Blakely, Gail Gallagher)

Desert Wildlife Unlimited (Pat Cooley, works at Keith Lee Williams Seeds) and Leon Lessica Brawley group.

Horned Lizard Conservation Society (California Group): Gavin Wright, El Centro biologist

Southwest Research Station (Portal, AZ), Wade Sherbrooke, director since 1986.

Arizona Interagency Desert Tortoise Team, Jim Rorabaugh, FWS Biological Services, Phoenix.

The Gila Rod and Gun Club has ties to Spragues Sporting Goods (opportunities for informal contact) and with Round Table Pizza where they hold their meetings. The Pizza shop allows youth to take over the register as fundraising periodically, so they are plugged into youth issues.

Mesa Sports shop, Bill Kerekes very helpful about bass fishing, is a communicator because he knows lots of people and knows fishing issues. There is a coffee klatsch there every morning to talk about issues.

The Chili Pepper Restaurant attracts a very diverse crowd in age, interest and language.

Brownie's Restaurant is key old timer gathering place; lots of regular routines and contact. Farmers are in early morning and politicians later in the morning. Lots of brochures on bulletin board, petitions on display.

Las Cazuelas Restaurant (next to bait store), over 40, working men place.

Davis Marine Supply, huge bulletin board, key communication spot for those with fishing boats. Yuma Bassmasters meet there, many of them part of Rod and Gun Club. Gary Knight is owner and also Yuma Bassmasters leader.

Java Oasis coffee shop, businessmen, older high school, young people, young mothers.

Southwest Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee, started by Arizona Game and Fish Department.

5 - Preliminary Strategies for Major Issues

Focus on environmental education and information through outreach, kiosks, etc., work with county to get transfer station, more dumpsters, grants for funds, taxes(?). Work with agencies to address solid waste issues. Coordinate planning efforts with City and County. Opportunities for funding sources.

The Foothills Area

1 - Existing Social and Economic Condition

The Foothills is a residential area east of Yuma that was settled by people wanting out of Yuma itself and wanting a quieter though urban setting. Almost all residents spoken to said they were attracted to the community because it was "not Yuma." The community is growing at a steady pace.

"It's a clean area."

“It’s not so busy and noisy.”

“It’s not fair the Yuma is annexing the commercial areas, but not the residential.”

“We are getting haphazard development.”

2 - Major Natural Resource Issues

A manager of a storage company complained about the BLM closure at the Sand Dunes, near El Centro. “BLM should not let the Sierra Club dictate to them,” he stated. He used to use the area when he was younger and decries its loss for kids today. Much of his business is snowbirds who bring sandbuggies and jeeps:

“In the first year, you bring the 5th wheel, the second year you get a mobile home. The third year you’re full time.”

“[Off road] clubs do clean ups.”

“ORV users are scared to death of closures.”

“California is shutting down water skis, so more water related activities are coming over here.”

“We’ve used jeeps for 20 years. My family and I have always gone to the same place, out where they used to smuggle, straight south on Foothills. We take caravans of friends out there. A few years ago, we noticed trash and picked up a whole bunch. You have to get permission to on the range. You get this card that lasts for one year. You have to call if you are going out, tell them how many people are with you. I don’t notice people going off the trails.”

“It takes too long to get rights of way for utility corridors and easements. 3-4 months is too long.” [developer]

“People have hollered for parks around here, but Yuma County has no parks and recreation department. There is no one to maintain parks.”

It appears that future demand on BLM lands are at least a generation away in the Foothills area. Federal lands in the core area that are of interest to future growth belong to the Bureau of Reclamation.

3 - Opportunities to Improve Things

4 - Networks - Opportunities for Communication/Involvement

5 - Preliminary Strategies for Major Issues

Focus on environmental education and information through outreach, kiosks, etc., work with county to get transfer station, more dumpsters, grants for funds, taxes(?)

The Dome-Wellton CRU

1 - Existing Social and Economic Condition

Sum: Land owners, farm managers, migrant workers, few social services, strong community network, strong caretaking, reliance on agriculture, oriented to winter visitors, Orderly growth, agricultural community. Growth is occurring to the south of Wellton. So far, there has been a “gentleman’s agreement” that development does not touch the “green” (that is, agricultural) areas, one resident stated.

Winter trade sustains local communities.

The Hispanic community is growing and is difficult to involve in civic affairs.

The elderly population is increasing while school enrollment has gone down from 430 to 360, stated a school board member. Adequate funding of schools is a continuing challenge. Farms do not appear to be family operations any longer but are larger, corporate farms with managers and workers. The area is interested in preserving agriculture and agricultural uses were specified in the new County plan.

“Natural gas is needed. We are trying to work with Southwest Gas to bring additional. It would bring jobs. They also have to include wind and solar by 2003.”

“This area needs a recreational complex.”

2 - Major Natural Resource Issues

Access to public lands, illegal dumping, restrictions on public land, OHV users not staying on existing roads, protecting cultural resources.

OHV Road closures.

“Snowbirds keep to existing roads.”

California hunters during dove season leave trash behind.

Access and Land Closures

“Some areas should be closed off to mining.”

“Wilderness areas restrain access too much. There are enough refuge and wilderness areas. We have to maintain access to areas.”

“The washes should be designated as roads.”

“The restrictions at the range are too much. Now you need a permit to have a picnic.”

“Sand Dunes should not have been closed. The Endangered Species Act [ESA] needs to be re-written.”

Desert dumping

“Illegal dumping is everywhere.” [common]

“There needs to be education to get dumping to stop. The transfer station is only open one day a week, usually during the week when people are working. Cost is also a factor.”

”The Copper Mountain landfill does not take tires or car bodies. There is no legal way to dump these things.”

“We have a federal requirement to maintain the district free of debris. We have 105 miles of roads to maintain, some remote, where dumping occurs.” [manager, Wellton Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District]

3 - Opportunities to Improve Things

Communication, interagency coordination to address solid waste issues,

4 - Networks - Opportunities for Communication/Involvement

Mohawk School, Wellton Cafe, WMIDD, Ligurta Station, Roll Market and Post Office, Geronimo’s, (Bill and Jim at cash register), propane company, José.

“The community needs to be involved.”

5 - Preliminary Strategies for Major Issues

Focus on environmental education and information through outreach, kiosks, etc., work with county to get transfer station, more dumpsters, grants for funds, taxes(?)

The Dateland CRU

1 - Existing Social and Economic Condition

Sum: Land owners, farm managers, migrant workers, few social services, strong community network, strong caretaking, reliance on agriculture, not oriented to winter visitors, short term camping

Dateland is an area known for intensive agriculture, including organic table grapes, lemon and other citrus, alfalfa, and shrimp. These farms tend to be large scale, some are corporate, and their labor force is a combination of year-round workers and seasonal, migrant workers. For some farms and ranches, temporary employees can number up to 250 during harvest season. Farms can be run on a 24-hour basis. Apparently, the shrimp operations are a recent addition to the area, developed in response to the blight affecting seaside operations, and serving a Chinese market in the U.S. One shrimp operation reported trouble getting affordable electricity because the electric utility does not consider shrimp farming commercial agriculture. Hispanics have a good reputation with farm managers for being honest and hard workers.

Hunting season brings many visitors into the area, with associated problems of access and trespass. Local people enjoy hunting as well, but also hike with friends in the area and visit archeological sites.

2 - Major Natural Resource Issues

Illegal dumping, utility corridors, trespassing to access public lands, access to public lands, road access between two communities along powerline, employee safety during hunting season, wildlife water catchments, restricting access to public lands, protecting cultural resources

BLM is expected by residents to play a role in water and power issues in the area.

Residents reported concerns with loss of power 6-12 times during the monsoon. Apparently, Arizona Public Service is putting in a new line that will complete the loop and reduce blackouts.

“I want to bring in natural gas to this area.”

Dumping

“Dumping is partly a cultural thing. People are just used to throwing things away.”

“Dumping is happening on public roads near populated areas and on the Palomas/Harquahala Road.”

Roads

Pipeline Road is heavily used. So far, the state and county have not been able to improve it. This is a big issue for migrant workers going from San Luis to Harquahala Valley. There are vehicle accidents related to drinking, speeded, and visibility.

Access

Hunters are a problem because of access. Out-of-area hunters drive private roads to get access to public lands, rather than use the appropriate access. In addition, some areas have apparently been closed off.

“Hunters ‘don’t see’ the ‘no trespassing’ signs.”

“We used to go picnic in the spring to see wildflowers. You can’t drive into that area any longer.”

“Public lands have been shut off near homes.”

“People shouldn’t be charged to use public lands.”

“Endangered species are causing restrictions on private lands.”

3 - Opportunities to Improve Things

Communication about utility corridors.

4 - Networks - Opportunities for Communication/Involvement

Retta Springer, Children of the Light, school superintendent. Pat Koury an office staff, Hyder Market, Joe Mellage, Tark and Jeep, Conde Family

A web site and email system of communication would be helpful for some.

A number of people asked for maps and other BLM information for distribution to customers and visitors.

“People need to know where to camp.”

5 - Preliminary Strategies for Major Issues

Focus on environmental education and information through outreach, kiosks, etc., work with county to get transfer station, more dumpsters, grants for funds, taxes(?), route designations, designating camping area

The Hyder CRU

1 - Existing Social and Economic Condition

This area seems to be predominantly agricultural. The area does not experience the heavy winter visitor phenomenon so common in other areas. Although the area struggles with poverty, low incomes, and problems associated with migrant labor, the caretaking appears to be strong in terms of healthy schools, ability to absorb change, and outlook toward the future.

“Most of the business is from migrant workers during harvest season. We do some RV business but not like other areas.”

“My husband and son camp all the time at Yellow Mountain Peaks.”

“We enjoy the petroglyphs on public land, the horseback riding.”

2 - Major Natural Resource Issues

Stewardship

“People who live here don’t abuse public land. It’s the people who come here to hunt.”

Dumping concerns are reported to be widespread.

“You see household trash and appliances. The Dateland transfer site is 60 miles round trip. People aren’t going to drive over to the dump. The hours are not convenient. Not everyone can pay to dump trash.”

Access

“An area along the river would be nice for the community.”

Fire

“There is no fire station for 47 miles. We are trying to get a grant for a volunteer station. Seven trailers have burned.”

Utility Corridor

“Leave it up where it is.”

LTVAs

“We don’t want LTVAs like Quartzsite.”

Information

“Winter visitors inquire about camping locations.”

“What are the rules for using public lands?”

3 - Opportunities to Improve Things

4 - Networks - Opportunities for Communication/Involvement

Kathy and Chuck Hawthorne, Hyder Market

5 - Preliminary Strategies for Major Issues

The South CRU

1 - Existing Social and Economic Condition

Sum: Land owners, farm managers, migrant workers, few social services, strong community network, strong caretaking, reliance on agriculture, stabilizing area for immigrants, staging area for migrants, population growth rising, families of farm workers work in Yuma, labor pool for seasonal work in Yuma County and to California, health and social services, very family oriented, family is the rock of the community, services sector related to border, Hispanic dominated.

“You can count Americans on one hand.”

The South area refers to the southern part of Yuma County that includes the communities of San Luis, Gladsden and Somerton. San Luis started growing in 1985 and has quickly blossomed to 15,000 people. City employees grew from 35 to 128 in just ten years. San Luis will build a community center from CDGB (Community Development Block Grant) funds. Downtown is getting revitalized. The city is experiencing leap frog development and other growth pressures.

“BLM lands provided for the Joe Orduno Park—softball, baseball, a health center. Friendship Park; the wastewater treatment plant.”

Most people are reported to use local municipal facilities like the swimming pool, gym, and soccer events while the river is not used as much for local recreation, often because it is dry. However, it appears that for low income people, the river may be a recreation site for many, despite its dangers. Parents expressed worry about the safety because of seasonal high water levels and because of migration and drug related activities. Residents reported that the desert was not used much with off road vehicles, partly because of the economics in a low-income area.

Community issues relate to high rates of migration, high rates of poverty, the need for social services.

“The aliens are not dangerous but the mentally ill along the river are, there is active drug transportation.”

“Whole families get stabilized here.”

“Younger people are getting out of field work. Speaking English is very valuable and many people begin immediately to learn it.”

“Some people have quads and run them on the hills at the mesa. Most residents don’t have money to own quads or go out to eat.”

2 - Major Natural Resource Issues

Illegal dumping, restricted access to BOR lands to the east, Colorado River unknown, lack of knowledge about natural and cultural resources, dangerous River conditions, people don’t have money to buy OHV not out tearing up area, fishing in canals, not a lot of public land available to use

Dumping

“Since the county landfill closed down, dumping has become a problem—mattresses, couches, tires.”

“The County 16th dump is closing. Zellers is opening one on the mesa by County 18th street. Copper Mountain is the only source.”

“Cocopah landfill closed down a year ago. The next closest county landfill is Copper Mountain.”

“There is trash dumping in the five-mile zone.”

Agriculture

“Agricultural leases need to be renewed by BLM on a timely basis, especially around Hunters’ Hale.”

“People are regularly dumping illegally into the agricultural canals.”

“Agricultural land is going for houses. How will we feed ourselves?”

Water

“Water users are important to the area and need to be included in any BLM planning. The old canals are still used for agriculture.”

“The Colorado River is too polluted. Water quality problems are concentrated because so much water is diverted for agricultural and domestic use, leaving less water in the river.”

“We have compromised our kindness to the land by maximizing production. Mexicans are more interested in keeping the land natural.”

“Canals are fished by local Somerton residents. The Cocopah fish at the river because they are closer to it.”

Development

“Somerton would like to have discussions with BLM, the county and others to discuss future development. With all the land set-aside, the needs of the community are not met. We can't build roads or sewer. I'd like to see more flexibility in how requests for lands are evaluated.”

“BLM should help us balance federal and private lands. Sell more lands, don't patent or lease. Streamline the application process. Designate south county to one BLM lands person.”

3 - Opportunities to Improve Things

Public outreach, environmental education, public lands available for parks, want land east of town for growth

4 - Networks - Opportunities for Communication/Involvement

Little League, mesquite tree in Friendship Park, Comite de Bienestar, Puentes de Amistad, Senior Center, Eloida “Storyteller”, retired police chief, community center, Paul Melcher, Frank Carrillo, David Ford, water users associations

“City council is a good place to get the word out.”

5 - Preliminary Strategies for Major Issues

Focus on environmental education and information through outreach, kiosks, etc., work with county to get transfer station, more dumpsters, grants for funds, taxes(?), dumping in canals, team up with irrigation districts on dumping, work with County or Cocopah on transfer stations, learn more about Yuma South landfill.

Conclusions

In concluding the week, JKA and BLM staff shared advice for each other and for the Yuma Field Office as the RMP revision is undertaken.

Don't form a committee of caretakers, leave them in their natural habitat.

Cultural and technical aspects of planning need to be integrated.

Spend 70% of time with cultural and 30% with technical. Currently, 98% of staffing is on technical side.

How do we make the shift to 70% of time with cultural aspects (the means to create citizen ownership).

When citizen ownership takes over, frees us up to be facilitators.

Continue to visit sites contacted.

Follow through with contacts.

Provide information requested during this exercise.

Don't shift communication to coordinator; keep team participating.

Community based planning - let go of control.

Become unpredictable - change from meetings to casual visits.

Cut down meetings with groups.

Be strategic with meetings.

Use community units for meetings. Base meetings on appropriate geographic units.

Start keeping record of whom we meet with and what is discussed. Keep by geography. Looking for a pattern.

Relationships are important - keep going.

Get back and start resolving some of the minor issues.

Look for stories that need to be institutionalized.

Share with staff and take staff to field to meet contacts.

Attachment A

Seven Cultural Descriptors Used in Community Assessment and for Planning Purposes

Seven Cultural Descriptors

ONE Describe the publics and their interests

Definition

A public is any segment of the population that can be grouped together because of some recognized demographic feature or common set of interests. A public may exist currently or at some future date; it may reside permanently in a geographic area, or may live elsewhere and have an interest in the management of natural resources. Sample publics include ranchers, loggers, tourists, small businesses, industries, miners, senior citizens, minorities, homemakers, youth, preservationists and governmental bodies.

By identifying publics and characterizing each public's interests, a resource manager can understand how segments of a population will be affected differently by resource decision making. Also, predictions can be made about how changing public interests will influence management in the future.

Questions Used to Complete Human Resource Unit (HRU) Characterization

- What publics are within the immediate sphere of influence of resource management and decision making activities? What are the ongoing interests of each identified public? Which of the publics have specific resource-related interests? Are there any public interests or activities that affect resource management activities?
- Is there any public that is directly affected by the resource decision making process? Which publics currently benefit from jobs generated by the resource outputs? Are there any individuals, businesses or industries that are dependent upon a specific output?
- Which publics could potentially benefit from resource use and development activities? Which publics could potentially be affected from a change in current management activities?
- What publics are outside the immediate sphere of influence of resource management activities, but use the resource or are involved in the decisionmaking process? Do these publics have a relationship to the resource because they affect or are affected by resource management activities?

TWO

Describe the networks

Definition

A network is comprised of individuals who support each other in predictable ways and have a shared commitment to some common purpose (Figure Four). Networks may be informal arrangements of people tied together for cultural, survival, or caretaking reasons. Networks may also be formal arrangements of people who belong to an organization, club or association, which has a specific charter or organizational goals. Networks may function in a local geographic area or may influence resource management activities from regional or national levels. Examples of informal networks include ranchers who assist each other in times of need, miners who work on the same shift, grass-roots environmentalists, or families who recreate together. Examples of formal organizations include a cattlemen's association, coal mining union, preservationist or snowmobile club.

A knowledge of networks citizens form to express their interests is essential for identifying public issues relating to management activities and for monitoring the effectiveness of resource decisionmaking.

Questions Used to Complete Human Resource Unit (HRU) Characterization

- What informal networks do each of the identified publics form to express their interests? What is the function of each network? When and where does each informal network gather to share information or services? How do the members of each network communicate with each other?
- Which networks function in an ongoing manner for cultural, caretaking or survival reasons? Which networks are temporarily involved around particular events or issues?
- What is the informal leadership in each network or who is respected and why? Are any networks more effective than others in addressing the issues that concern them?
- Which networks extend beyond the local level and function on a regional or national scale? Are there any regional or national networks that influence resource management activities?
- What formal organizations, associations or clubs do the identified publics form to express their interests? What is the purpose of each group? When and where does each formal organization meet to share information or provide services? How do the members of each group communicate with each other? Which organizations operate in an ongoing manner and which operate temporarily?
- What is the formal and informal leadership in each organization or who is respected and why? Are any groups more effective than others in addressing the issues that

concern them?

- Which organizations have a membership that extends beyond the local level and operates on a regional or national level? Are there any regional or national organizations that influence resource management activities?

Networks are contacted through program and action development to:

- Monitor changing public attitudes and activities
- Identify and evaluate public issues
- Dispel rumors about management activities
- Inform public of current and future plans
- Discuss opportunities available to address issues
- Prepare for formal public participation and news releases

THREE ***Describe the settlement pattern***

Definition

A settlement pattern is any distinguishable distribution of a population in a geographic area, including the historical cycles of settlement in an area. This cultural descriptor identifies where a population is located and the type of settlement categorized by its centralized/dispersed, permanent/temporary, and year-round/seasonal characteristics. It also describes the major historical growth/non-growth cycles and the reasons for each successive wave of settlement.

Knowledge of settlement patterns provides a resource manager with a basis for predicting the significance of probable population changes associated with resource management and development activities.

Questions Used to Complete Human Resource Unit (HRU) Characterization

- Where do people live and how is the population distributed in the immediate geographic area? Are the settlement areas dispersed throughout the countryside and/or centralized in towns and cities?
- What is the history of settlement? What types of people came with each successive wave of settlement? Why did people settle in the area? Are there any particular characteristics of the settlement pattern that make it unique?
- Have there been any significant increases or decreases in population in the past? What caused these? Is the current settlement stable or on the increase or decrease? What is causing this trend?
- What major changes have occurred during past settlement cycles? How rapidly have these changes occurred? How have people handled or accepted change in the past? Are these changes easily recalled by people?
- What new publics have settled in the area in recent years? How have long-term residents accepted newcomers? Is the area settled with diverse or homogenous publics? Which settlement areas are integrated with diverse publics and which are not and why?
- What future publics can you anticipate residing in the immediate geographic area? What will be the possible causes of the future settlement patterns? How rapidly will the settlement occur?

FOUR

Describe the work routines

Definition

A work routine is a predictable way in which people earn a living, including where and how. The types of employment, the skills needed, the wage levels and the natural resources required in the process are used to generate a profile of an area's work routines. The opportunities for advancement, the business ownership patterns, and the stability of employment activities are also elements of the work routine descriptor.

A knowledge of work routines can be used to evaluate how alternative uses of natural resources will affect the ways people earn a living and how changes in work routines, in turn, will impact future natural resource uses.

Questions Used to Complete Human Resource Unit (HRU) Characterization

- What are the ways in which the people in the immediate geographic area earn a living? Are people self-employed or employed by small business or large corporations? What are the primary employment activities and the approximate percentage of people involved in each sector?
- What kinds of skills are required of people in the various types of employment? What level of pay is received? Has there been any significant shift in employment activities or income levels in recent years? If so, has the shift influenced resource use or management activities?
- Are the majority of businesses owned locally or by corporations and people from outside the area? Are generational cycles of families in the same employment typical?
- Are there any work routines that are seasonal in nature? Are the seasonal jobs taken by residents of the area or from outside the area? Do many people work two jobs or is it common for families to have two wage earners? Is the unemployment significant? If so, among which publics?
- What is the average age of the labor force? Are youth able to find employment in the area? Are there adequate opportunities for advancement? Do people change jobs frequently or work in the same activities most of their lives? Which publics have a strong cultural identity associated with their work?
- Is there a compatible mix of employment activities? Which activities are aggravating each other? How do current resource management practices maintain the mix of activities? How could future changes in resource management stabilize or enhance the current employment mix?

FIVE

Describe the supporting services

Definition

A supporting service is any arrangement people use for taking care of each other. Support services occur in an area in both formal and informal ways. Examples of formal support services include the areas of health, education, law enforcement, fire protection, transportation, environment and energy. Examples of informal support activities include the ways people manage on a day-to-day basis using family, neighborhood, friendship or any other support system.

A resource manager can use the supporting services descriptor to evaluate how alternative uses of resources will affect the ways people take care of each other and how changes in supporting services, in turn, will impact future natural resource management.

Questions Used to Complete Human Resource Unit (HRU) Characterization

- Where are the formal support services such as the commercial, health, education, transportation, protective, energy facilities located? What is the geographic area that is serviced? Which services are used routinely by people in the area? Which services do people have to leave the area to obtain?
- How are the services operated? Are the facilities and services provided adequate for the area? Which are inadequate and for what reasons?
- What informal supporting activities occur in the area? How do people care for each other on a day-to-day basis and in times of crisis? Do families, friends, church or volunteer organizations provide support?
- How much do people take care of each other on an informal basis and how much do people rely on formal services? Do people still trade for services or almost always pay cash for services?
- How are the elderly, single parents, youth, poor and others taken care of? Are informal systems used such as neighborhoods, or are formal organizations used for assistance? To what degree do people take care of their own problems or rely on government agencies and formal services? Do all people have access to the supporting services and activities?
- Has the amount or type of supporting services changed in recent years? How has the provision of support services and activities changed? What has contributed to these changes?

SIX

Describe the recreational activities

Definition

A recreational activity is a predictable way in which people spend their leisure time. Recreational opportunities available, seasonality of activities, technologies involved, and money and time required are aspects of the recreational descriptor. The frequency of local/non-local uses of recreational resources, the preferences of local/non-local users, and the location of the activities are also included. A manager can use this cultural descriptor to evaluate how alternative uses of resources will affect the ways people recreate and how changes in recreational activity, in turn, will impact future resource management.

Questions Used to Complete Human Resource Unit (HRU) Characterization

- What are the principal types of recreational activities of people in the area? Which activities, sites or facilities are most preferred? Are certain activities seasonal?
- What is the orientation of the leisure time activities? Are the activities of individual, family, team, church or school related? Are there significant recreational activities in which a wide range of individuals participate? How do groups like youth and senior citizens recreate?
- How much time is spent in recreational activities? How much money is spent on recreational activities? What kinds of recreational vehicles or equipment are used? Do the majority of activities occur on public or private lands and facilities?
- Are there recreational opportunities in the area that attract people on a regional or national scale? What activities, sites or facilities are most preferred? Are certain activities seasonal? Is there a significant number of businesses that rely on the income from these recreational activities? Which activities relate to natural resource uses and management?
- Have there been any major changes in recreational activities in recent years? What events caused the change? What types of sporting goods or recreational license sales have been on the increase? What recreational sites or facilities have experienced an increase or decrease in use and why? Do current recreational sites and facilities accommodate the demands? What changes in recreational activities are anticipated in the future and why?
- What written and unwritten rules do people use when recreating? Is there much of a difference between the recreational activities of residents in the area and those who temporarily visit the area? How does the type of recreation differ?

SEVEN

Describe the geographic boundaries

Definition

A geographic boundary is any unique physical feature with which people of an area identify. Physical features separate the activities of a population from those in other geographic areas such as a valley that people identify as being “theirs” or a river that divides two towns. Examples of geographic boundaries include topographic and climatic features, distances, or any unique characteristic that distinguishes one area from another. Geographic boundaries may be relatively permanent or short-lived; over time, boundaries may dissolve as new settlement patterns develop and as work routines and physical access to an area change.

By knowing the geographic boundaries of a population, a manager can identify and manage the effects of natural resource use and development that are unique to a particular geographic area.

Questions Used to Complete Human Resource Unit (HRU) Characterization

- How do people relate to their surrounding environment? What geographic area do people consider to be a part of their home turf? Within what general boundaries do most of the daily activities of the area occur? How far do the networks people use in their routine activities extend throughout the area?
- What is the area people identify with as being “theirs”? Are there any particular characteristics, social or physical that people think are unique to the area? What features attracted people to the area or provide a reason to stay?
- Are there any physical barriers that separate the activities of a population from those in other geographic areas? Are there any evident social barriers?
- What are the predominant uses of the land and what topographic or climatic features support such activities? What percentage of the geographic area is in the private and public sector? Is most of the private land owned by year-round residents or by people from outside the area?
- Have there been any significant changes in the use of the land and its resources in recent years? What has caused the changes? How have these short- or long-term changes affected people and their ways of life? How accessible is the area to external influences? What kind of influences? Are these beneficial or negative impacts on the area?