

NOVEMBER 2002

FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL
TEMPORARY VEHICLE BARRIERS
NACO AND DOUGLAS, ARIZONA



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Washington, D.C.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY VEHICLE BARRIERS IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE U.S. BORDER PATROL, TUCSON SECTOR

PROJECT HISTORY: The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is planning to install temporary vehicle barriers along a 25-mile corridor starting west of Black Draw, Arizona (approximately 20 miles east of Douglas) to the border of the eastern boundary of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA), approximately 11 miles west of Naco.

Illegal immigrants threaten the safety and welfare of U.S. residents and cause detrimental impacts to natural and cultural resources in their attempts to enter the U.S. This remote and isolated region of southeast Arizona along the Mexican border has resulted in this area becoming a major artery for the smuggling of illegal immigrants and controlled substances. Illegal immigrants have created hundreds of new trails through this area. This contributes to the destruction of sensitive species, fragmentation of landscape, disturbance to wildlife, impacts to historical sites and, significant levels of litter. Often the illegals crash through the existing border fence with vehicles and drive through environmentally sensitive areas.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The lack of physical barriers has allowed illegal vehicle entry into the U.S. to continue unimpeded. Because of the nearby road network, undocumented aliens, smugglers, and potential terrorists can easily enter the U.S. The proposed project will provide an immediate and effective deterrence measure against illegal vehicle entry. Temporary vehicle barriers have proven to be an effective method of stopping illegal entry.

The need for this action is to enhance the USBP's deterrence capability for illegal vehicle entry by placing additional vehicle barriers at locations along the international border within the Naco and Douglas stations' Area of Operations (AO). This EA addresses the potential for environmental impacts of the proposed temporary vehicle barriers.

PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action would allow the placement of temporary vehicle barriers at various locations along a 25-mile corridor within the Naco and Douglas AOs. The eastern terminus of the proposed corridor would be just west of Black Draw in the San Bernardino Valley, and the western limit is near the eastern boundary of the San Pedro Riparian NCA. The barriers would be placed in high illegal traffic areas on an as-needed basis and relocated to other areas, as USBP intelligence dictates. Thus, the entire corridor would not be barricaded at any given time.

ALTERNATIVES: Alternatives addressed in the EA include No Action, Alternative and the Preferred Alternative described above. The No Action Alternative would not allow the installation of the temporary vehicle barriers. The Preferred Alternative would allow the placement of the temporary vehicle barriers, which would cause no additional ground disturbance. Other alternatives considered but eliminated from further discussion include the construction of permanent barriers/fence to be placed along the international border within the Douglas and Naco stations.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY VEHICLE BARRIERS
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U.S. BORDER PATROL, TUCSON SECTOR

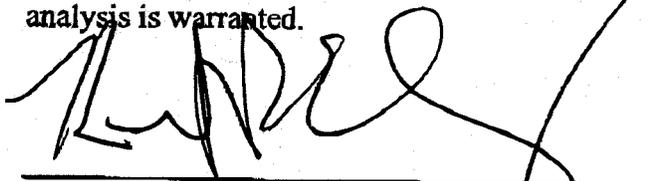
This EA is tiered from two documents: the Final Environmental Assessment for Infrastructure within U.S. Border Patrol Naco-Douglas Corridor, Cochise County, Arizona and the Final Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for INS and Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6) U.S./Mexican Border. The EA for the proposed action is tiered from these previous documents in accordance with the President's Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: No significant effects to the natural or human environment are expected upon implementation of the proposed action. The temporary vehicle barriers would be placed adjacent to existing border roads; thus, no new road construction or road improvements would be required.

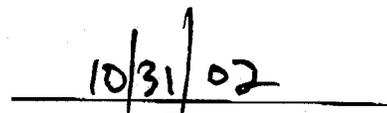
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN MEASURES: Environmental design measures will be implemented and supervised by the USBP managers of the temporary vehicle barriers in Naco and Douglas. These measures include:

1. Using standard construction procedures to minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation and control fugitive dust during construction.
2. On-site activities would be restricted to daylight hours on Monday through Saturday, except in emergency situations.
3. Temporary vehicle barriers will not be placed in the Coronado National Forest, Coronado National Memorial, San Pedro National Conservation Area, or the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge.

FINDING: Based upon the results of the EA and the environmental design measures to be incorporated as part of the proposed action, it has been concluded that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on the environment. For this reason no further environmental analysis is warranted.



Kenneth R. Ehinger, Director
Headquarters, Facilities and Engineering Division



Date

FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For
Temporary Vehicle Barriers
Naco and Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona

November 2002

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- PROPOSED ACTION:** Infrastructure improvements that will be addressed include the placement of temporary vehicle barriers along 25 miles of the international border within the U.S. Border Patrol's (USBP), Douglas and Naco Stations Areas of Operation. The acquisition, installation, and maintenance of temporary vehicle barriers are the primary focus of this Environmental Assessment (EA).
- PURPOSE AND NEED:** In the proposed project area the lack of physical barriers has allowed illegal vehicle entry into the U.S. to continue unimpeded. Because of the nearby road network, undocumented aliens, drug smugglers, and potential terrorists can easily escape into the U.S. once they have successfully breached the border. The purpose of this project is to provide an effective deterrence measure against illegal vehicle entry into the U.S. Temporary vehicle barriers have proven to be an effective method of stopping illegal entry into the United States. Thus, the need of this action is to place additional vehicle barriers at locations along the international border within the Naco and Douglas stations' Area of Operations to enhance the USBP's deterrence capability for illegal vehicle entry. This EA addresses the potential for adverse or beneficial environmental impacts of the proposed temporary vehicle barriers.
- ALTERNATIVES ADDRESSED:** The No Action Alternative would not allow installation of the of the temporary vehicle barriers. The Preferred Alternative would allow the installation of temporary vehicle barriers at various locations along a 25-mile corridor, on an as-needed basis. No additional ground disturbance would be required for the installation of the barriers.
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The Preferred Alternative would involve minimal ground disturbance during the placement of the temporary vehicle barriers in an area that is disturbed. No significant adverse effects to air quality, water quality, cultural resources, unique areas, soils, threatened or endangered species, protected species, wetlands or land use are expected. Site-specific surveys for sensitive resources and coordination with the appropriate Federal and state agencies by INS and USBP have provided insurances that the proposed action would not have a significant adverse impact on the human or natural environment.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the findings of this analysis and assuming that all mitigation measures recommended herein are implemented, no significant adverse impacts would occur from the Preferred Alternative.

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SECTION 1.0
INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE AND NEED



1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE AND NEED

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) proposal to install temporary vehicle barriers at various locations along a 25-mile corridor within the USBP Douglas and Naco Stations' Areas of Operation (AO). Temporary vehicle barriers would be installed in areas that receive high illegal vehicular entry on an as-needed basis, in order to aid USBP agents in defending the United States borders against illegal entries.

This EA is tiered from two documents: the Final Environmental Assessment for Infrastructure within U.S. Border Patrol Naco-Douglas Corridor, Cochise County, Arizona (INS 2000A) and the Final Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for INS and Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6) U.S./Mexican Border (INS 2001b). This EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for the Implementation of the NEPA as well as the INS' Procedures for Implementing NEPA (28 CFR 61).

1.1 Background

1.1.1 INS Organization

The INS has the responsibility to regulate and control immigration into the United States. In 1924, the U.S. Congress created the USBP to be the law enforcement arm of the INS. The USBP's primary function is to detect and deter the unlawful entry of aliens and smuggling along the nation's land borders and between the ports-of-entry (POE). With the increase in illegal drug trafficking, the USBP also has become the leader for drug interdiction between land POEs. Since 1980, an average of 150,000 immigrants have been naturalized every year. At the same time, illegal aliens have become a significant issue. INS apprehension rates are currently averaging more than 1.5 million illegal aliens throughout the country per year.

The southwest border is a major gateway for the entry of illegal people and drugs into the United States. For the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000, 293 million people, 89 million cars, 4.5 million trucks, and 572,583 rail cars entered the United States from Mexico (ONDCP

2001). It is a large, diverse, and difficult boundary to effectively enforce without the use of dedicated tactical infrastructure (fences, lights, roads, cameras, etc.).

Prior to the early 1990s, there was less awareness of the southwest border issues and less national attention was given to illegal trans-boundary activity than is currently attributable. As a result, the USBP's growth was nominal, funding for enforcement efforts fell short, and the USBP functioned under severe constraints. Events over the last decade related to illegal immigration and narcotics smuggling have increased the nation's awareness and generated substantial interest in controlling the U.S./Mexico border. National concern has led to increased funding and staffing, and has also created new opportunities in the development of proactive border control strategies as demonstrated in patrol and enforcement operations throughout the southwest border area (e.g., Operations Gatekeeper, Hold-the-Line, Safeguard, and Rio Grande).

The enforcement strategy pre-dating such operations was necessarily reactive and, because little emphasis was placed on deterring illegal crossing, it diminished the importance of an infrastructure (e.g., lights and fences) along the U.S./Mexico border. Instead, the USBP's efforts focused singularly upon making apprehensions after the international boundary was breached. This strategy utilized the "element of surprise" by deploying limited resources away from the border in concealed positions. However, as illicit trafficking continued to increase, the area that the USBP was required to patrol also increased. The USBP's inability to deter or contain illegal migration allowed an increase in the geographic footprint (and subsequent environmental impacts) of illegal migration patterns.

During recent years, the USBP has significantly increased its emphasis on deterrence. Deterrence is achieved only when the USBP has the ability to create and convey the immediate, credible, and absolute certainty of detection and apprehension. As such, tactical infrastructure components, such as vehicle barriers, are a critical element in the current enforcement strategy. Developing trends such as the continued urbanization and industrialization of the immediate border, the recognition of environmental preservation concerns, and the increase of criminal trans-boundary activities (including trafficking in people and drugs, and counter terrorism efforts) continue to pose a border enforcement challenge and compound the need for tactical infrastructure.

1.1.2 Area of Operation

Naco Station

The Naco Station's AO is located within Cochise County and covers approximately 2,000 square miles. The station's AO includes 30 miles of international border and the communities of Naco, Bisbee, Tombstone, Sierra Vista, Warren, Hereford, Palominas, and Huachuca. There are currently 203 USBP agents assigned to the station.

Wildlife habitat preservation is the main focus on public lands here. The Coronado National Forest, Coronado National Memorial, and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area are all located within the Naco Station AO. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Park Service manage these lands. Also, there are a few private landowners that range cattle on their land in this locale.

The geographical terrain of the area is desert with rolling hills covered with brush thickets and numerous north-south trending washes. The approximate elevation of the station is 4,800 feet above mean sea level (msl), though the southern reaches of the Huachuca Mountains, which bound the western most portion of the AO, can attain elevations up to 8,000 feet msl.

The summers are very hot and dry with temperatures rising above 100° Fahrenheit (F). In winter the average daily temperatures range from lows of 28° F to highs of 60° F. Snow can accumulate to a depth of several feet on the mountain peaks and can occur from November to April. Most of the rainfall in the area occurs during the summer months (July through September) usually as intense and violent thunderstorms.

Douglas Station

The Douglas Station is located within southeast Cochise County and covers approximately 1,600 square miles. The station's AO includes approximately 30 miles of international border. The station's headquarters is located here, with 500 USBP agents currently assigned to it. The communities of Douglas, Pirtleville, Elfrida and McNeal are within this AO, with Douglas being the largest (population 14,000). The City of Douglas

shares the border with Agua Prieta, Mexico. The Dragoon and Mule Mountains border Douglas on the west, and the Chiricahua, Pedregosa, and Perilla Mountains on the east.

The Douglas Station leads the Tucson Sector in terms of density of illegal traffic, both alien and narcotics. Which is due largely to being so close to the large Mexican city of Agua Prieta, a town of 100,000 people, where organized smuggling operations of both aliens and narcotics are suspect as staging areas. It is not uncommon to have 100 to 200 illegal aliens staging along Mexico Highway 2 preparing to cross the border (Robison pers com 2002).

Like Naco, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the USFWS, the State of Arizona, and a few private owners manage much of the land surrounding Douglas. The geography along the U.S./Mexico border is generally flat, cut by numerous washes. The approximate elevation of the station is 4,000 feet msl. Further inland, the Pedregosa and Swisshelm Mountains provide a natural barrier. Some of these mountains reach elevations up to 8,000 feet msl. Summer temperatures regularly exceed 100° F. July through September is when the majority of the rainfall occurs in this region. Winter average daily temperatures range from lows of 28° F to highs of 60° F. Accumulation of snow several feet deep on the mountain peaks can occur.

1.1.3 Regulatory Authority

The primary sources of authority granted to officers of the INS are the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), found in Title 8 of the United States Code (8 USC), and other statutes relating to the immigration and naturalization of aliens. The secondary sources of authority are administrative regulations implementing those statutes, primarily those found in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR Section 287), judicial decisions, and administrative decisions of the Board of Immigration Appeals. In addition, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) mandates INS to acquire and/or improve equipment and technology along the border, hire and train new agents for the border region, and develop effective border enforcement strategies.

Subject to constitutional limitations, INS officers may exercise the authority granted to them in the INA. The statutory provisions related to enforcement authority are found in Sections 287(a), 287(b), 287(c), and 287(e) [8 USC § 1357(a,b,c,e)]; Section 235(a) [8

USC § 1225]; Sections 274(b) and 274(c) [8 USC § 1324(b,c)]; Section 274(a) [8 USC § 1324(a)]; and Section 274(c) [8 USC § 1324(c)] of the INA. Other statutory sources of authority are Title 18 of the United States Code (18 USC), which has several provisions that specifically relate to enforcement of the immigration and nationality laws; Title 19 [19 USC § 1401(i)], relating to U.S. Customs Service cross-designation of INS officers; and Title 21 [21 USC § 878], relating to Drug Enforcement Agency cross-designation of INS officers.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The U.S. experiences a substantial influx of illegal immigrants and drugs each year. Both of these illegal activities cost the American citizens billions of dollars annually due directly to criminal activities, as well as the cost of apprehension, detention, and incarceration of criminals; and, indirectly in loss of property, illegal participation in government programs, and increased insurance costs. These increases have necessitated the construction and implementation of various infrastructure systems to enhance the USBP's ability to detect, apprehend, and deter illegal aliens and drug traffickers. The INS is now using high tech methods of detecting illegal aliens with the use of Integrated Surveillance and Intelligence Systems (ISIS). ISIS components include, but are not limited to, unattended ground sensors, low-light television cameras, infrared cameras, towers (and their connections to power and communication lines), and intelligent computer aided detection (ICAD). The combination of sound infrastructure (e.g., roads, fences, barriers, and ISIS components) and adequate resources (e.g., vehicles, field agents, support personnel, etc.) is essential for the effective enforcement of the border strategy and integral to the success of the USBP to gain, maintain, and extend control of the border. USBP agents are much more successful in their jobs when a physical barrier is in place to hinder illegal entry.

This being said, illegal drive throughs are the most common way of transporting narcotics from Mexico into the U.S. These drive through events often involve large quantities of narcotics (500 to 2,000 pounds) and daring drivers who not only have little respect for the lives of USBP agents, but also little respect for the general public as well, due to the high price associated with such large quantities of narcotics. Illegal vehicle entries occur in areas that lack a physical barrier and provide a natural entry, such as

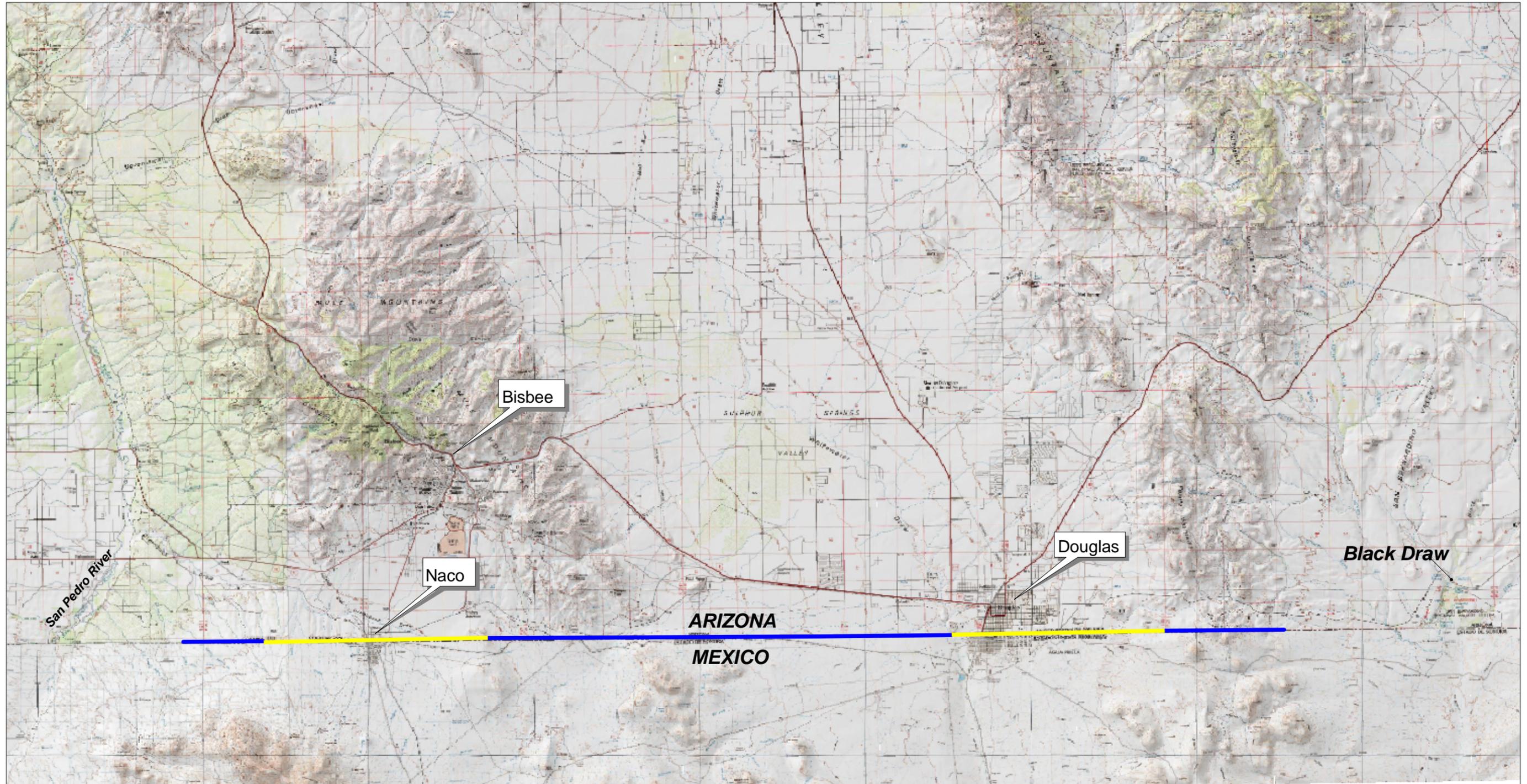
washes, arroyos, and draws. Temporary vehicle barriers would provide an invaluable service in slowing or halting illegal vehicle entries by strategically placing the barriers in problem areas until more permanent solutions are developed. Thus, the need is to provide an immediate solution to deter illegal vehicle entries.

Two miles of permanent vehicle barriers, which were constructed under a previous EA, (USACE 2000) have proven to be effective in stopping illegal vehicle traffic in this area. In spite of this, illegal entry has shifted to the east and west in an attempt to avoid these barriers. Since January 2001 to July 2002, over 109 drive throughs and 86,326 pounds of narcotics have been documented in the Naco and Douglas AOs. Thus, there is a need to place additional vehicle barriers at locations along the U.S./Mexico border in the Naco and Douglas AOs to enhance the deterrence rate of illegal vehicle entry. The purpose of the temporary vehicle barriers is to create a barricade that would halt or substantially deter illegal vehicle traffic in areas that provide easy escape routes for illegal entrants. Other purposes of the proposed action are to enhance the flexibility of deployments by USBP agents thereby facilitating apprehension, to reduce health and safety risks to USBP agents in remote areas, and to reduce damage to natural and cultural resources due to illegal vehicle traffic.

Since the tragedy of the terrorist attacks on the United States, the anti-terrorism function of the INS has gained increased responsibility of the USBP. This increased role requires more vigilance at the POEs and all areas along the borders. All enforcement activities and subsequent infrastructure and technological improvements, such as roads, fencing, remote video surveillance (RVS) systems, vehicle barriers, and lighting, are necessary elements in securing the Nation's borders from illegal entry.

1.3 Location of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would occur in Cochise County near the cities of Naco and Douglas, Arizona (Figure 1-1). The Naco and Douglas Station AOs covers approximately 60 miles of the U.S./Mexico border. Temporary vehicle barriers are proposed for various locations



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

0 11,000 22,000 33,000 44,000 Feet

Sources:
 USGS 1:100,000 Digital Raster Graphics
 Proposed Temporary Vehicle Barrier
 Corridor and the Existing Fence/Barrier
 from GSRC, 2002.

-  Proposed Temporary Vehicle Barrier Corridor
-  Existing Fence/Barrier

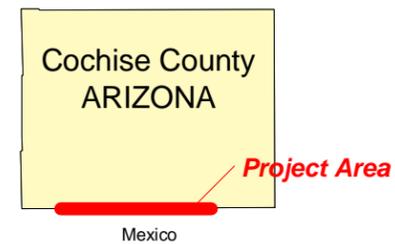


Figure 1-1: Proposed Temporary Vehicle Barrier Corridor

along 25 miles of the entire 60 miles of border under the jurisdiction of the Naco and Douglas Stations. The eastern terminus of the proposed temporary vehicle barriers is just west of Black Draw in the San Bernardino Valley, and the western limit is near the eastern boundary of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (San Pedro Riparian NCA), which is approximately 11 miles west of Naco. The temporary vehicle barriers are portable and may be positioned anywhere in this corridor as “hot spots” for illegal vehicle entry develop. Vehicle barriers would not be placed within the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), San Pedro Riparian NCA, Coronado National Memorial, and other sensitive areas.

1.4 Applicable Environmental Statutes and Regulations

The proposed project would be constructed in accordance with and in partial fulfillment of USACE obligations under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, USACE Planning Guidance Book (Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, E.O. 13112 (Invasive Species) as well as the statutes and regulations in the following paragraph.

This EA was prepared by Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) under contract to the USACE, Fort Worth District, in accordance with, but not limited to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA); Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended; the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act (AHPA) of 1974, as amended; Executive Order (E.O.) No. 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”; E.O. No. 11988, “Floodplain Management”; E.O. No. 11990, “Protection of Wetlands”; E.O. No. 13007, “Indian Sacred Sites”; E.O. No. 13045, “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks”; and E.O. No. 12898 “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice.” Table 1-1 summarizes the pertinent environmental requirements that guided the development of this EA.

**Table 1-1
Applicable Environmental Statutes and Regulations**

Federal Statutes
Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974
Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended
Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1972
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended
Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1980
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
Executive Orders, Memorandums, etc.
Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988) of 1977
Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990) of 1977
Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice to Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (E.O. 12898) of 1994
Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks (E.O. 13045) of 1997
Protection of Migratory Birds & Game Mammals (E.O. 11629) of 2001
Indian Sacred Sites (E.O. 13007) of 1996
Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (E.O. 13175) of 2000
Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments (Presidential Memorandum) of 1994

1.5 Report Organization

This report is organized into nine major sections including this introduction and the description of the purpose and need, and location of the proposed project. Section 2.0 describes all alternatives considered for the project. Section 3.0 discusses the environmental features potentially affected by the project, while Section 4.0 discusses the environmental consequences for each of the viable alternatives. Mitigation measures are discussed in Section 5.0 and public comments as well as the Notice of Availability (NOA) are presented in Section 6.0. Sections 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0 present a list of the references cited in the document, a list of acronyms and abbreviations, and a list of the persons involved in the preparation of this document, respectively.

Appendix A includes a list of state protected species and Appendix B contains correspondence letters that were sent and received during the preparation of this EA. Other supporting documents can be found in the Environmental Assessment completed for U.S. Border Patrol's Infrastructure along the Naco-Douglas Corridor in Cochise County, Arizona (INS 2000A) and the Final Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for INS and Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6) U.S./Mexican Border (INS 2001b).

SECTION 2.0
ALTERNATIVES

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

This section describes the alternatives that were considered during the preparation of this EA, relative to their ability to satisfy the purpose and need. Two alternatives will be addressed: (1) No Action Alternative, and (2) the Preferred Alternative. Each of these alternatives are discussed below.

2.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would require leaving the border devoid of infrastructure to obstruct illegal vehicles from entering the U.S. Much of the border in the Douglas and Naco Station AOs have only the original International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) fence that only serves as a marker for the international border. This fence provides no effective deterrent measures against illegal vehicle entry. The No Action Alternative would not increased deterrence of illegal entry nor expand the window of opportunity for USBP agents to detect and respond to illegal entry attempts.

2.2 The Preferred Alternative – Temporary Vehicle Barriers

The Preferred Alternative is to position temporary vehicle barriers at various locations along existing border roads of the Douglas and Naco, Arizona AOs, on an as needed basis. The proposed vehicle barriers would be installed in areas where there is no physical infrastructure in place within the Douglas and Naco Station AOs, where “hot spots” are detected or anticipated. The proposed vehicle barriers are typically constructed of welded metal such as railroad track (photograph 1), but may be also constructed of telephone poles or pipe (photograph 2).



Photograph 1



Photograph 2

The temporary vehicle barriers cannot be rolled or moved manually, and must be lifted using a forklift or front-end loader. The barriers will be constructed at the USBP stations and then transported to areas as needed, placed on the ground, and chained together. Temporary vehicle barriers would be placed

along the southern edge of existing border roads to minimize disturbance to wildlife and vegetation. No ground disturbance would occur during the installation of the barriers. As the name implies, vehicle barriers are designed to impede illegal vehicle entry only; they do not preclude pedestrian or wildlife movement. This alternative would substantially impede illegal vehicle traffic within the areas in which they are placed.

2.2.1 Alternative Designs

Concrete culverts may also be used as temporary vehicle barriers, although they are not preferred since they are easily rolled out of the way by illegal aliens and may also impede movements of small wildlife species if placed too closely together.

2.2.2 Construction Personnel and Equipment

USBP maintenance staff, JTF-6 divisions, National Guard units, or private contractors would complete the proposed construction and installation of the vehicle barriers. Construction is anticipated to begin between the months of October and November 2002. Construction of the barriers would be performed at the Naco and Douglas stations' equipment yards. The barriers would then be transported to the desired location and off loaded.

Equipment anticipated to be used during the placement of the vehicle barriers would include a front-end loader or forklift and a flatbed truck, which would be deployed from the affected station's equipment yard. The Border Patrol Special Coordination Center

(BPSCC) in El Paso, Texas would provide construction material. Materials would be stored at the each stations equipment yard for the duration of the project.

2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Evaluation

Other types of permanent barrier/fence designs were considered during the preparation of this EA. However, due to the urgency of establishing a vehicle deterrence solution, alternative designs such as permanent fencing were eliminated from further consideration. These designs would result in greater direct impacts since a road would have to be constructed in order to install the permanent barriers or fence along the border. Such solutions may be used at a later date, as they have proven to be an effective deterrent for illegal vehicle and pedestrian traffic, depending upon the design.

2.4 Summary

Two alternatives, the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Action Alternative, will be carried forward for analysis. A summary matrix (Table 2-1) shows how each of the alternatives satisfies the purpose and need of this project. Table 2-2 presents a summary matrix of the potential impacts from each of the alternatives carried forward and how they may affect the environmental resources in the Region of Influence (ROI).

Table 2-1 Summary of Alternatives Considered

Purpose and Need Requirements	No Action	Temporary Vehicle Barriers	Permanent Vehicle Barriers
Provide immediate ability to deter illegal vehicle entries	No	Yes	No
Enhance USBP agents flexibility	No	Yes	Yes
Enhance the safety of USBP agents	No	Yes	Yes
Decrease damage to natural resources and historic sites	No	Yes	Yes

Table 2-2 Summary Matrix of Potential Impacts

Affected Environment	No Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative
Land Use	No impacts	No effect on current land use
Soils and Prime Farmlands	No direct impacts; indirect impacts would continue from illegal traffic and consequent enforcement activities	No effect on soils or prime farmlands
Vegetation Communities	No direct impacts; illegal traffic would continue to indirectly impact vegetation communities	No additional ground disturbance
Fish and Wildlife Resources	No direct impacts; illegal traffic would continue to damage vegetation thereby causing synergistic impacts to wildlife	Beneficial impacts to wildlife populations are anticipated by protecting habitat from drive throughs
Unique and Sensitive Areas	No direct impacts; illegal traffic would continue to damage unique and sensitive areas by causing accidental wildfires, creating trails, and discarding trash	Indirect effects to unique and sensitive areas located in national forests, wildlife refuges, or conservation areas may occur due to lack of infrastructure
Protected Species and Critical Habitat	Indirect impacts due to illegal traffic trampling habitat and threatened and endangered plant species	Protection of threatened and endangered species is likely to occur as a indirect result of this alternative
Cultural Resources	No impacts	No direct impacts
Air Quality	Indirect impacts from additional patrol activities	No direct impacts
Water Resources	No direct impacts; indirect impacts from stream channels being used as paths by illegal vehicles	Beneficial indirect impacts to water resources by stopping illegal traffic from using stream channel as escape routes
Socioeconomics	No direct impacts; indirect impacts from societal costs from illegal immigration and drug trafficking	Indirect benefits from the effectiveness of the USBP in the reduction of illegal aliens and drug smugglers

SECTION 3.0
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Discussions in this section will be limited to only those resources that may be potentially affected with the installation of the temporary vehicle barriers by the USBP. Therefore, discussions of resources such as geology, utilities, and climate are omitted. Additional details concerning the resources and existing conditions of the environment along the project region were presented in the EA completed for U.S. Border Patrol's infrastructure along the Naco-Douglas corridor in Cochise County, Arizona (INS 2000a) and the Final Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for INS and Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6) U.S./Mexican Border (INS 2001b), which is incorporated herein by reference.

3.1 Land Use

The total area of Cochise County is 6,169 square miles and the 2001 census estimated the population to be 119,281 with a population density of 19.33 per square mile (U.S. Census Bureau 2002). The largest land use in the entire county is in the private and corporate ownership category (42%). The principal land use outside the urban areas is rangeland and agriculture (cotton, alfalfa, barley, corn, and vegetables). The Federal government controls approximately 841,000 acres of the county, with the majority of the land being in the multiple-use Coronado National Forest. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages the San Bernardino NWR, the BLM controls approximately 350,000 acres, which includes the Chiricahua National Monument, San Pedro Riparian NCA, and numerous multiple use areas, primarily for grazing. The State of Arizona controls approximately 1,368,000 acres (34%), which is primarily used for recreation, historical, and natural areas. All of the above mentioned land uses are found along the project corridor.

3.2 Soils And Prime Farmland

3.2.1 Soils Associations

Arizona has a diverse assortment of soil types throughout the state, with variations in depth, texture, chemical properties, and appropriate land uses. This diversity is directly related to regional differences in climate, parent material, topography, and erosion

actions. The predominant soil associations found within the Naco corridor are Casto-Martinez-Canelo Association, Lithic Haplustolls-Lithic Argiustolls-Rock Outcrop Association, Lithic Torriorthents-Lithic Argiustolls-Rock Outcrop Association, Nickel-Latene-Pinaleno Association, Tubac-Sonoita-Grabe Association, White House-Bernardino-Hathaway Association. The Bonita-Graham-Rimrock, Karro-Gothard, Lithic Torriorthents-Lithic Haplustolls-Rock Outcrop, Nickel-Laten-Cave, and Tubac-Grabe soil associations dominate the Douglas corridor. More detailed information regarding the soils in the project region is contained in previous environmental documents (INS 2000A and INS 2001b) and is incorporated herein by reference.

3.2.2 Hydric Soils

There are no soils classified as hydric located within the study area (INS 2000A).

3.2.3 Prime and Unique Farmlands

A memorandum dated August 11, 1980 from the Council on Environmental Quality requires federal agencies to assess the effects of their actions on lands classified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as prime and unique farmlands. Prime farmland is defined as land best suited for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and also available for these uses. These soils have favorable growing seasons and receive sufficient quantities of moisture to produce high yields 8 out of every 10 years. Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high value food and fiber crops.

3.3 Vegetation

The Apachian biotic province runs west from the New Mexico-Arizona state line through a large portion of Cochise County (Dice 1943). The province covers the grassy high plains and mountains of southeastern Arizona and consists of plant species adapted to semiarid conditions. There are four major vegetation communities (i.e., forest, woodland, grassland, and desert scrub) in Cochise County (Brown 1994; Brown and Lowe 1983). The project area is contained within the semi-desert grassland and desert scrub designation.

The semi-desert grassland is found in the valley areas of Cochise County. This vegetation type is dominated by grama grasses (*Bouteloua* spp.), velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutinea*), Lehmann's lovegrass (*Eragrostis lehmanniana*), and Arizona cottontop (*Digitaria californica*). Desert scrub vegetation is the most prevalent vegetation type found in the project area. Vegetation associated with the desert scrub in this area are: creosote-bush (*Larrea tridentata*), acacia (*Acacia constricta*), tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*), sage (*Salvia* spp.), and mesquite (*Prosopis* spp). More detailed information on vegetation in the project area can be found in previous environmental documents (INS 2000A and INS 2001b) and is incorporated herein by reference.

3.4 Wildlife Communities

The native fauna of southeastern Arizona, which encompass Cochise County, include approximately 370 species of birds that have been observed in this region. The bird population is dominated by sparrows and towhees (35 species); wood warblers (32 species); swans, geese, and ducks (31 species); tyrant flycatchers (30 species); and sandpipers and phalaropes (26 species). The majority of these bird species occur in spring and fall when neotropical migrants (e.g., flycatchers and warblers) pass through on their way to summer breeding or wintering grounds in South America, and in the winter when summer resident birds (i.e., robins, kinglets, and sparrows) from the northern U.S. arrive to spend the winter here. The majority of the 109 mammalian species found in the area are bats and rodents (i.e., mice, rats, and squirrels) with rodents (e.g., pocket mice and kangaroo rats) being the most commonly encountered mammals. Of the 23 amphibian species that inhabit southeastern Arizona, spadefoot toads and true toads are dominant and the most widespread. A total of 72 species of reptiles can be found in the area with the iguanid lizards and colubrid snakes being the most prevalent along with whiptails. More information on fauna in the specific project area can be found in the Final Environmental Assessment for Infrastructure within U.S. Border Patrol Naco-Douglas Corridor, Cochise County, Arizona (INS 2000A).

3.5 Unique or Sensitive Areas

As a result of the unique and distinguishable changes in altitude, climate, topography, and latitude, southeastern Arizona is a place where habitats and species come together.

Cochise County, Arizona has several unique or sensitive areas found near the project areas that are set aside by both government and private entities for preservation of such distinctive areas. Riparian areas, scenic canyons, and vast wilderness represent these unique areas. The Coronado National Forest, Coronado National Memorial, San Pedro Riparian NCA and San Bernardino NWR, are all located near the project area and will be described in the following subsections.

3.5.1 Coronado National Forest

The Coronado National Forest encompasses 2,475,000 acres in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico and is managed by the USDA Forest Service. The Coronado National Forest is located in 12 broadly spread mountain ranges which support an eclectic group of wildlife and vegetation. There are eight wildness areas, four small lakes, and over a thousand miles of trails spread across the Coronado National Forest.

3.5.2 Coronado National Memorial

The Coronado National Memorial, which is operated by the National Park Service, is located 25 miles west of Bisbee in the southern Huachaca Mountains. The Memorial preserves a broad variety of plant and animal life native to the southwestern United States. The natural environment is representative of the Upper Sonoran Zone and the mountains of southeastern Arizona. The Memorial includes 4,750 acres of oak woodlands and grasslands in the park. More than 100 different species of butterflies and birds have been documented here, as well as bobcats and mountain lions.

3.5.3 San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

Managed by the BLM's Tucson Field Office, the San Pedro Riparian NCA contains over 58,000 acres of public land, between the international border (United States and Mexico) and St. David, Arizona. The San Pedro River provides critical water to the area, flowing from Sonora, Mexico, northward between the Huachuca and Mule mountains ranges, and joins the Gila River 100 miles downstream. The San Pedro's perennial flow, although sometimes just a trickle, is a rare occurrence in the Southwest. It provides abundant food, water, and cover near the riparian zone for many wildlife species. The NCA supports over 350 species of birds, 80+ species of mammals, two native and several introduced species of fish, and more than 40 species of amphibians and reptiles.

3.5.4 San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge

Located 17 miles east of Douglas is the 2,309-acre San Bernardino NWR, which is situated on the U.S./Mexico border and managed by USFWS. San Bernardino NWR is located in a wide valley, which has an elevation of 3,720 to 3,929 feet msl. The Yaqui River provides habitat to several federally protected species such as the Yaqui chub (*Gila purpurea*), Yaqui topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis sonoriensis*), beautiful shiner (*Cyprinella formosa*), and Yaqui catfish (*Ictalurus pricei*). It also supports various mammals, numerous reptiles, and amphibians, and over 270 species of birds.

3.6 Protected Species and Critical Habitats

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) [16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.] of 1973, as amended, was enacted to provide a program for the preservation of endangered and threatened species and to provide protection for the ecosystems upon which these species depend for their survival. All Federal agencies are required to implement protection programs for designated species and to use their authorities to further the purposes of the Act. Responsibility for the identification of a threatened or endangered species and development of any potential recovery plan lies with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce.

The USFWS is the primary agencies responsible for implementing the ESA. The USFWS is responsible for birds and terrestrial and freshwater species. The USFWS responsibilities under the ESA include: (1) the identification of threatened and endangered species; (2) the identification of critical habitats for listed species; (3) implementation of research on, and recovery efforts for, these species; and (4) consultation with other Federal agencies concerning measures to avoid harm to listed species.

An endangered species is a species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A threatened species is a species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Proposed species are those that have been formally submitted to Congress for official listing as threatened or endangered. Species may be considered endangered or threatened when any of the five following criteria occurs: (1) the current/imminent destruction,

modification, or curtailment of their habitat or range; (2) overuse of the species for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (3) disease or predation; (4) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and (5) other natural or human-induced factors affect continued existence.

In addition, the USFWS has identified species that are candidates for listing as a result of identified threats to their continued existence. The candidate (C) designation includes those species for which the USFWS has sufficient information on hand to support proposals to list as endangered or threatened under ESA. Nonetheless, proposed rules have not yet been issued because such actions are precluded at present by other listing activity.

The ESA also calls for the conservation of what is termed Critical Habitat - the areas of land, water, and air space that an endangered species needs for survival. Critical habitat also includes such things as food and water, breeding sites, cover or shelter, and sufficient habitat area to provide for normal population growth and behavior. One of the primary threats to many species is the destruction or modification of essential habitat by uncontrolled land and water development.

3.6.1 Federal

The USFS and the BLM both maintain a list of sensitive species located in the National Forests or on the BLM lands of Arizona. A list of sensitive species is presented in the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) letter included in Appendix A of the EA for Infrastructure within USBP Naco-Douglas Corridor, Cochise County, Arizona (INS 2000A).

A total of 27 species listed by the USFWS as endangered, threatened, proposed threatened, proposed endangered or candidate species occur within Cochise County, Arizona (USFWS 2002). Thirteen of these species are listed as endangered, nine as threatened, one as proposed endangered, one as proposed threatened, and three as candidate. Information pertaining to federally protected species is included in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1

Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species Potentially Occurring within Cochise County, Arizona

Common/Scientific Name	Federal Status	Date Listed	Designated Critical Habitat	Habitat Requirements
AMPHIBIANS				
Chiricahua leopard frog <i>Rana chiricahuensis</i>	T	6/13/02 67 FR 40789	NA	Streams, rivers, backwaters, ponds, and stock tanks
Sonora tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi</i>	E	1/6/97 62 FR 665	NA	Stock tanks and impounded cienegas in San Rafael Valley, Huachuca Mountains
BIRDS				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	7/12/95 60 FR 35999	NA	Large trees or cliffs near water (reservoirs, rivers, and streams) with abundant prey
California Brown pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	E	10/16/70 35 FR 16047	NA	Coastal land and islands; Arizona lakes and rivers
Cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl <i>Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum</i>	E	3/10/97 62 FR 10730	NA	Mature cottonwood/willow, mesquite bosques, and sonoran desertscrub
Mexican spotted owl <i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	T	4/11/91 56 FR 14678	2/1/01 66 FR 8530	Old growth forest associated with steep canyons
Mountain plover <i>Charadrius montanus</i>	PT	2/16/99 64 FR 7587	NA	Open arid plains, short-grass prairies, and cultivated forms
Northern aplomado falcon <i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i>	E	1/25/86 51 FR 6686	NA	Desert grasslands
Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E	2/27/95 60 FR 10694	7/7/97 62 FR 39129	Dense riparian vegetation
FISHES				
Beautiful shiner <i>Cyprinella formosa</i>	T	8/31/84 49 FR 34490	8/13/84 49 FR 34490	Deep pools in creeks, scoured areas of cienegas, and other stream-associated quiet waters
Gila chub <i>Gila intermedia</i>	PE	8/9/02 67 FR 51947	N/A	Pools, springs, cienegas, and streams
Loach minnow <i>Tiaroga cobitis</i>	T	10/28/86 51 FR 39468	3/8/94 59 FR 10898	Lower San Pedro River has been designated as critical habitat by USFWS

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Common/Scientific Name	Federal Status	Date Listed	Designated Critical Habitat	Habitat Requirements
Spikedace <i>Meda fulgida</i>	T	7/1/86 51 FR 23769	2/25/00 65 FR 24327	Lower San Pedro River has been designated as critical habitat by USFWS
Yaqui catfish <i>Ictalurus pricei</i>	T	8/31/84 49 FR 34490	8/13/84 49 FR 34490	Moderate to large streams with slow current over sand and rock bottoms
Yaqui chub <i>Gila purpurea</i>	E	8/31/84 49 FR 34490	8/13/84 49 FR 34490	Deep pools of small streams, pools, or ponds near undercut banks
Yaqui topminnow <i>Poeciliopsis occidentalis sonoriensis</i>	E	3/11/67 32 FR 4001	NA	Streams, springs, and cienegas between 4,000 - 5,000 feet elevation, primarily in shallow areas
INVERTEBRATES				
Huachuca springsnail <i>Pyrgulopsis thompsoni</i>	C	NA	NA	Aquatic areas, small springs with vegetation slow to moderate flow
MAMMALS				
Black-tailed prairie dog <i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	C	NA	NA	Burrows in plains and grassland habitats
Jaguar <i>Panthera onca</i>	E	7/22/97 62 FR 39147	NA	Variety of habitats including lowland wet habitats and typically swampy savannas
Lesser long-nosed bat <i>Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena</i>	E	9/30/88 53 FR 38456	NA	Desert scrub habitat with columnar cacti and agave present as food plants
Mexican gray wolf <i>Canis lupus baileyi</i>	E	3/11/67 32 FR 4001	NA	Chapparal, woodland, and forested areas. May cross desert areas
Ocelot <i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	E	7/21/82 47 FR 31670	NA	Humid tropical and sub-tropical forests, savannas, and semi-arid thornscrub
PLANTS				
Canelo Hills ladies' tresses <i>Spiranthes delitescens</i>	E	1/6/97 62 FR 665	NA	Finely grained, highly organic, saturated soils of cienegas
Cochise pincushion cactus <i>Coryphantha robbinsorum</i>	T	1/9/86 51 FR 952	NA	Semidesert grassland with small shrubs, agave, other cacti, and grama grass
Huachuca water umbel <i>Lilaeopsis schaffneriana</i> ssp. <i>recurva</i>	E	1/6/97 62 FR 665	7/12/99 64 FR 37441	Cienegas, perennial low gradient streams, wetlands
Lemmon fleabane <i>Erigeron lemmonii</i>	C	NA	NA	Crevices, ledges, and boulders in canyon bottoms in pine-oak woodlands

Common/Scientific Name	Federal Status	Date Listed	Designated Critical Habitat	Habitat Requirements
REPTILES				
New Mexico ridge-nosed rattlesnake <i>Crotalus willardi obscurus</i>	T	4/4/78 43 FR 34479	8/4/78 43 FR 34476	Presumably canyon bottoms in pine-oak and pin-fir communities

Legend: E = Endangered
 T = Threatened
 P = Proposed Threatened or Endangered
 C = Candidate

Sources: USFWS 2002; AGFD 2001

No evidence of Federally listed threatened or endangered species were found during biological surveys conducted for this project during April 2002, or during past surveys in the project area (USACE 1993, 1994a, 1994b, 1996, 2000, and INS 2000a, 2001b).

One ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) sighting was reported in the last two years in Mexico near Douglas, Arizona. The AGFD has photographed (January 2002) the protected jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in southwest Arizona. This jaguar is the first photographed in six years in North America and was sighted near Nogales approximately 60 miles west of Naco. Until the January photograph, the last confirmed sighting of the jaguar was in 1996 near the Baboquivari Mountains, approximately 100 miles to the west of the project area in Pima County, Arizona. According to the AGFD there were no recorded sightings of jaguarundi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*) in or near the project area in recent years (AGFD 2001a).

The range of the lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*) is from “southern Arizona and extreme southwestern New Mexico, through western Mexico, and south to El Salvador” (Bat Conservation International 2001, University of Arizona 2001). The occurrences in southern Arizona range from “the Picacho Mountains southwest to the Agu Dulce Mountains, southeast to the Chiricahua Mountains” (University of Arizona 2001). Although the lesser long-nosed bat is out of the range of the project area, their habitats, roosting areas, and feeding areas were evaluated. Assessments during field surveys performed in 2001 and 2002 were based on the presence of the columnar cacti, which are a preferred food source, and appropriate roosting and breeding sites, caves, and mines (Bat Conservation International 2001, University of Arizona 2001). No such cacti or roosting and breeding sites were observed in or near the project corridor during the surveys.

3.6.2 Critical Habitat

Critical habitat has been designated in the San Pedro Riparian NCA for the spikedace and the loach minnow. With this in mind, no vehicle barriers would be positioned inside the NCA. Therefore, no critical habitat is present within the project corridor.

3.6.3 State

The AGFD maintains lists of Wildlife of Special Concern (WC). This list includes species whose occurrence in Arizona is or may be in jeopardy, or with known or perceived threats or population declines (AGFD 2001b). These species are not necessarily the same as those protected by the Federal government under the ESA. There was no evidence of or observations of any AGFD-listed species during April 2002 site visits.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture maintains a list of protected plant species within Arizona. The Arizona Native Plant Law (1993) defined five categories of protection within the state. These include: Highly Safeguarded, no collection allowed; Salvage Restricted, collection only with permit; Export Restricted, transport out of state prohibited; Salvage Assessed, permit required to remove live trees; and Harvest Restricted, permits required to remove plant by-products. Information pertaining to state protected species potentially occurring in Cochise County is presented in the AGFD letter included in Appendix B of this EA.

3.7 Cultural Resources

The cultural resources within the study area are extensive and diverse. Numerous terrestrial investigations have been performed north of the U.S./Mexico border in the project corridor. These investigations and their results are discussed in detail in the EA completed for USBP's infrastructure along the Naco-Douglas corridor in Cochise County, Arizona (INS 2000a) and in the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for INS and JTF-6 Activities, U.S./Mexican border (INS 2001b), and are incorporated herein by reference. Furthermore, Aztlan recently conducted surveys along the entire Naco-Douglas corridor to relocate and re-evaluate sites that were previously identified. No known sites that are considered potentially eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) have been found within the footprint of this project (INS 2001a). Additionally, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with INS that there would be no potential to effect historic properties with the execution of this project, since there would not be any ground disturbance (see Appendix B).

3.8 Air Quality

The State of Arizona has adopted the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (40 CFR Part 50) as the state's air quality criteria (Table 3-2). Primary standards are established to protect public health while secondary standards provide protection for the public's welfare including wildlife, climate, recreation, transportation, and economic values. States are required to adopt ambient air quality standards that are at least as stringent as the Federal NAAQS; however, the state standards may be more stringent.

Cochise County is considered in attainment for all Federal NAAQS except for Douglas and Paul Spur. The Clean Air Act requires that for areas designated "non-attainment," plans must be prepared and implemented to bring the area into attainment within a specified time. More detailed information on air quality in the project area can be found in the EA completed for U.S. Border Patrol's infrastructure along the Naco-Douglas corridor in Cochise County, Arizona (INS 2000A) and the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for INS and JTF-6 Activities, U.S./Mexico Border (INS 2001b) and is incorporated herein by reference.

3.9 Water Resources

The project area receives water from surface runoff and groundwater via precipitation and snowmelt in the local mountains. Geologic forces have created a regional terrain that includes arroyos or washes (deep gullies), steep canyons, and somewhat flat basins. Due to the arid climate of the area, most of the drainage channels are dry most of the year. Rivers and streams that flow periodically due to fluctuations in precipitation are referred to as being ephemeral or intermittent waterways. Due to the flash flood tendency of the washes, sediment loads are high when water is present. Natural and human-induced factors determine the quality of these resources. Numerous small ephemeral drainages transect the project corridor.

The major surface water drainages near the project corridor are Black Draw, Greenbush Draw, Whitewater Draw, and the San Pedro River. With the exception of the San Pedro River, temporary vehicle barriers may be positioned in these streams. Again, no vegetation or soil would be disturbed during the placement of the barriers.

Table 3-2: National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Standard Value	Standard Type
Carbon Monoxide (CO) 8-hour average 1-hour average	9ppm (10mg/m ³)** 35ppm (40mg/m ³)**	Primary Primary
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂) Annual arithmetic mean	0.053ppm (100µg/m ³)**	Primary and Secondary
Ozone (O ₃) 1-hour average* 8-hour average*	0.12ppm (235µg/m ³)** 0.08ppm (157µg/m ³)**	Primary and Secondary Primary and Secondary
Lead (Pb) Quarterly average	1.5µg/m ³	Primary and Secondary
Particulate<10 micrometers (PM-10) Annual arithmetic mean 24-hour average	50µg/m ³ 150µg/m ³	Primary and Secondary Primary and Secondary
Particulate<2.5 micrometers (PM-2.5) Annual arithmetic mean 24-hour Average	15µg/m ³ 65µg/m ³	Primary and Secondary Primary and Secondary
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂) Annual arithmetic mean 24-hour average 3-hour average	0.03ppm (80µg/m ³)** 0.14ppm (365µg/m ³)** 0.50ppm (1300µg/m ³)**	Primary Primary Secondary

Source: USEPA 1995.

Legend: ppm = parts per million
mg/m³ = milligrams per cubic meter of air
µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter of air

*The ozone 1-hour standard applies only to areas that were designated non-attainment when the ozone 8-hour standard was adopted in July 1997.

**Parenthetical value is an approximate equivalent concentration.

More information on surface and groundwater resources within the Naco and Douglas area is described in detail in the EA for Infrastructure within USBP Naco-Douglas Corridor, Cochise County, Arizona (INS 2000A) and the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for INS and JTF-6 Activities, U.S./Mexico Border (INS 2001b). The information contained in these two documents is incorporated herein by reference.

3.9.1 Waters of the U.S. and Wetlands

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 (P.L. 95-217) authorizes the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Deepwater aquatic habitats are “areas that are permanently inundated at mean annual water depths greater than 6.6 feet, or permanently inundated areas less than or equal to 6.6 feet in depth that do not support rooted-emergent or woody plant species” (USACE 1987). Any area that meets these criteria is commonly classified as “Other Waters of the United States.” Waters of the United States are further defined as all other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, mudflats, sand flats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, natural ponds, or impoundments of waters, tributaries of waters, and territorial seas. Jurisdictional boundaries for these water resources are defined in the field by the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) which is that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as clear, natural lines impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

Jurisdictional wetlands are defined as “areas that are inundated or saturated at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions” (40 CFR 230.3). Three mandatory technical criteria for determining the presence of a wetland are (1) hydric soils, (2) hydrophytic vegetation, and (3) wetland hydrology. Jurisdictional wetlands as outlined by the USACE (1987) are referred to as “wetlands” throughout this section.

Activities that result in the dredging and/or filling of jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. including wetlands are regulated under Section 404 of the CWA. The USACE has established Nationwide Permits (NWP) to efficiently authorize common activities, which do not significantly impact Waters of the U.S. The NWP were modified and reissued by the USACE in the Federal Register on 15 January 2002, with an effective date of 18

March 2002. All NWP's have an expiration date of 19 March 2007. The USACE has the responsibility to authorize permitting under a NWP, or to require an Individual Permit. The Supreme Court ruling in the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers case ("SWANCC", Case No. 99-1178) on January 9, 2001 restricted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and USACE's regulatory authority under Section 404 (a) of the CWA based on the migratory bird rule (USACE 2002). Historically, the USACE exercised jurisdiction over waters (Waters of the U.S.) that are or may be used as habitat by migratory birds and are an example of water whose use, degradation or destruction could affect interstate or foreign commerce and should be afforded Section 404 (a) protection. In the SWANCC case, the U.S. Supreme Court concluded that the use of the Migratory Bird Rule (51 FR 41217 [1986]) to assert jurisdiction over isolated, non-navigable, and interstate waters exceeds the authority granted by Congress under the CWA. This ruling eliminates the CWA jurisdiction over isolated, non-navigable, and intrastate waters used as habitat by migratory birds. The court's ruling is strictly limited to only waters that are "non-navigable, isolated, and intrastate." All other waters should continue to be regulated. By this, the USACE qualified the impact of the court's decision by requiring that a water body have all three characteristics for it to escape jurisdiction. However, isolated, interstate, and non-navigable waters is possible if their use, degradation, or destruction could affect other Waters of the U.S., thus establishing a nexus between the waters in question and other Waters of the U.S.

Based on this, the following types of waters are not affected by the SWANCC decision: all waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or maybe susceptible to use, in interstate or foreign commerce, including tidal waters, interstate waters, including interstate wetlands, impoundments of waters otherwise defined as Waters of the U.S., including all tributaries to navigable waters, territorial seas, and wetlands adjacent (bordering, contiguous, or neighboring) to other Waters of the U.S.; wetlands separated from other Waters of the U.S. by man-made dikes or barriers, natural river berms, beach dunes, and the like are still "adjacent". The SWANCC ruling will apply to the entire United States and will be enforced by the USACE along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Jurisdiction of waters under SWANCC should be analyzed on a case-by-case basis, by the affected USACE district. The Los Angeles District, USACE, Phoenix Field office, is the regulatory agency for this region. Whitewater Draw, Greenbush Draw, and Black Draw as well as the numerous other ephemeral streams identified in the project corridor may be classified as jurisdictional Waters of the United States.

3.10 Socioeconomics

The 2001 census estimated the population of Cochise County to be 119,281 with Naco's population making up approximately 833 of that number (U.S. Census Bureau 2002). The four major communities near the study area are Huachuca City, Bisbee, Douglas, and Sierra Vista.

More detailed information, which is incorporated herein by reference, can be found in the EA for Infrastructure within USBP Naco-Douglas Corridor, Cochise County, Arizona (INS 2000A) and the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for INS and JTF-6 Activities, U.S./Mexican border (INS 2001b).

3.11 Noise

The three common classifications of noise are: (1) general audible noise that is heard by humans; (2) special noise, such as sonic booms and artillery blasts that can have a sound pressure of shock component; and (3) noise-induced vibration also typically caused by sonic booms and artillery blasts involving noise levels that can cause physical movement (i.e., vibration) and even possible damage to natural and man-made structures such as buildings and cultural resource structures. Most noise sources will fall within the audible noise classification because of the rural nature of the majority of the study area.

Audible noise typically is measured in A-weighted sound pressure levels expressed in decibels (dBA). The A-scale de-emphasizes the low and high frequency portions of the sound spectrum and provides a good approximation of the response of the average human ear. On the A-scale, zero dBA represents the average least perceptible sound

(gentle breathing) and 140 dBA represents the intensity at which the eardrum may rupture (jet engine at open throttle) (National Research Council 1977).

Normal rural noise levels in the study area would range from a low of 35 (dBA) over the majority of the corridor to a high of about 60 dBA near rural communities. However, higher ambient noise levels occur in the more developed areas of Douglas, particularly near the POE. More detailed information on noise in the project area can be found in previous environmental documents (INS 2000A and INS 2001b) and is incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 4.0
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES



4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section of the EA addresses potential impacts to the human and natural environment within the Naco and Douglas AO for the No Action and Preferred Alternatives outlined in Section 2.0.

4.1 Land Use

4.1.1 No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would not affect current land use along the border road. The surrounding lands would continue to be used as open rangeland. USBP enforcement actions to detect and apprehend illegal immigrants and smugglers would also continue.

4.1.2 Preferred Alternative

No changes in land use along the project corridor would occur from implementing this alternative. The area surrounding the project corridor is currently used mostly as open rangeland and would continue to be used as such.

4.2 Soils And Prime Farmland

4.2.1 No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would have no direct disturbances to soils. Extant erosion problems would continue, since illegal drive throughs would continue to occur, exacerbating erosion. Soils found in the Naco and Douglas areas have medium to high erosion hazards, depending on slope.

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would have no effect on prime farmland in the study area because there are no prime farmlands present.

4.2.2 Preferred Alternative

Under this alternative, no ground disturbance is expected during the placement of the temporary vehicle barriers. Additionally, there is no unique farmland at the sites where

construction will occur. Therefore, this impact topic has been dismissed from further consideration.

4.3 Vegetation

4.3.1 No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would continue to cause impacts to vegetation as a result of illegal vehicle entrants.

4.3.2 Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative would include the placement of temporary vehicle barriers in various locations along the Naco and Douglas border region, which have been previously disturbed. As a result, the placement of the temporary vehicle barriers would produce no additional direct impacts to vegetation and should substantially reduce secondary impacts to vegetation due to illegal entry at these locations. Indirect effects have occurred to vegetation by illegal entrants diverting around existing fences and barriers or away from areas that are routinely patrolled. Improvements in the infrastructure and increases in patrol activities have resulted in some illegal entrants redirecting their efforts into other more remote areas. The rugged mountains areas that are located in and around the Naco and Douglas AOs would not be expected to experience a substantial increase in illegal vehicle traffic since these areas are not readily accessible by vehicle.

During the survey performed in April 2002, several soap tree yucca (*Yucca elata*) were identified outside of the project corridor. This species is not included in the highly safeguarded category of protected native plants of Arizona, but is listed as salvage restricted protected native plant (USACE 2001a). Plant species protected under the Arizona Native Plant Law, such as the soap tree yucca, are not located in the corridor where temporary vehicle barriers would be placed. Temporary vehicle barriers would be placed in highly disturbed areas along the edge of border patrol roads where vegetation is mostly lacking.

4.4 Wildlife

4.4.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not allow the placement of the temporary vehicle barriers. Thus, vehicle entry would persist, creating new paths of travel in order to avoid USBP detection, which would continue to interrupt and damage wildlife habitat and communities.

4.4.2 Preferred Alternative

No additional direct impacts to wildlife resources are expected as a result of installing the vehicle barriers since no wildlife habitat would be altered. Temporary vehicle barriers would not be placed in any of the wildlife refuges, national monuments, or other sensitive areas. Vehicle barriers would not hinder wildlife movements due to construction design of these structures, which allow for animals to move freely, under or over the structures. Additionally, wildlife communities and their habitat would be spared from constant disturbance resulting from continuous illegal vehicle traffic in these isolated areas. However, it is likely that other regions of the U.S./Mexico border would be targeted as new illegal entry sites due to the lack of physical barriers.

4.5 Unique or Sensitive Areas

4.5.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not allow the placement of the temporary vehicle barriers. Illegal entry would continue to seek out new passages in order to avoid USBP detection. Inevitably, unique or sensitive areas may be damaged as an indirect effect of persistent illegal aliens and drug smuggler searching out new routes to avoid detection and apprehension.

4.5.2 Preferred Alternative

Temporary vehicle barriers would not be placed in areas classified as unique or sensitive within the proposed project corridor. Because many of these unique and sensitive areas are located in national forests, wildlife refuges or conservation areas, physical barriers are not present to deter and prevent entry; as a result, an increase in illegal vehicle traffic may occur in areas lacking temporary vehicle barriers which would cause indirect

impacts to unique and sensitive areas. However, it is more likely that with the temporary vehicle barriers situated in known hotspots, USBP agents would have the flexibility to concentrate more of their patrol efforts on areas absent of barriers, which in turn would provide greater protection to natural resources.

4.6 Protected Species and Critical Habitats

4.6.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no direct effects on protected species or critical habitats. However, increased and continued illegal traffic and the consequent enforcement activities could have detrimental indirect effects to protected species and critical habitats.

4.6.2 Preferred Alternative

No threatened or endangered species were observed within the project area during the biological surveys or reconnaissance survey performed in April 2002 or during past surveys in the project area (USACE 1996, 1998a, 1998b, and INS 1998, 2001b). As summarized in Section 3.6 of this document, no such species have been documented in previous EAs for various projects within the Douglas and Naco areas. Furthermore, no critical habitat designations would be disturbed since these areas would be avoided. Therefore, no direct impacts to threatened or endangered species would be expected upon implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

4.7 Cultural Resources

4.7.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not result in any direct effects to cultural resources. However, the magnitude of off-road effects to cultural resources from illegal vehicle entry would vary depending upon the number of illegal vehicle entries and off-road pursuits in the areas cultural resources are located. By implementing the No Action Alternative, agents would continue to lack the deterrence factor of physical barriers to discourage illegal vehicle entry into the U.S., thereby increasing the potential to damage known and unrecorded cultural resource sites.

4.7.2 Preferred Alternative

Placement of temporary vehicle barriers would not affect any cultural resource sites, since there will be no ground disturbing activities. Less illegal traffic, as a result of the placement of vehicle barriers would cause fewer off-road impacts to cultural resources. Indirect beneficial effects would occur by reducing the number of illegal vehicle entries and off-road pursuits by USBP agent, thereby protecting cultural resources in the surrounding areas. Conversely, new routes may be sought in an effort to continue drug smuggling operations; therefore, there is the slight potential to disturb areas that may have intact cultural resources. Included in Appendix B is a letter received from the Arizona SHPO stating that they concurred with INS that there is no potential for this project to affect historical sites.

4.8 Air Quality

4.8.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would eliminate any additional emission sources associated with the proposed project. Indirect impacts to air quality due to fugitive dust particles created by illegal vehicular entry and off-road pursuits by USBP agents would continue to occur with the No Action Alternative.

4.8.2 Preferred Alternative

Air quality impacts from construction and maintenance activities of barriers include emissions caused by fuel combustion of engines and fugitive dust from traveling to areas where barriers would be placed. Particulate concentrations would be expected to be below *de minimis* thresholds due to the short duration of the construction activities and no ground disturbances. The Preferred Alternative would not violate national standards. An air conformity analysis is not required for this project.

4.9 Water Resources

4.9.1 No Action Alternative

No impacts to water resources would be expected upon implementation of this alternative. Increased sediments in streams, arroyos, and water resources as an indirect

effects of runoff caused by illegal vehicle use of these natural water courses would continue under the No Action Alternative.

4.9.2 Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative would not impact any water resource sites with the installation of the temporary vehicle barriers. Barriers may be placed in arroyos, washes, draws, etc., in order to prevent illegal vehicle entry. However, temporary vehicle barriers will not be installed in the San Pedro River since it is in the San Pedro Riparian NCA. The placement of temporary vehicle barriers in these stream channels are not considered fill material and would not require a permit for this alternative (Dummer 2002). The Preferred Alternative would substantially hinder or preclude use of these corridors as a means of illegal entry and reduce erosion associated with drive throughs, thus protecting water resources.

4.10 Socioeconomics

4.10.1 No-Action Alternative

Socioeconomic conditions in the area would remain the same as they are now for the No Action Alternative. The lack of vehicle barriers along areas in this region would allow more vehicle entry and drug smugglers access to cross the U.S./Mexico border. Overall, the No Action Alternative would not be expected to be beneficial for the Douglas and Naco areas.

4.10.2 Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative would utilize USBP maintenance staff, JTF-6 personnel, National Guard units, or private contractors to complete the mission; therefore, no effects on population, personal income, or housing would occur unless private contractors were used. In this event, a temporary increase in personal income may occur. Materials and other project expenditures would also be obtained from outside the region, providing little or no temporary direct economic benefits. No displacement is predicted to result from this action; therefore, there would be no direct impacts to housing in the area.

Some indirect, beneficial impacts would occur as a result of the operation of the system. A reduction in illegal drug and alien traffic would have synergistic socioeconomic benefits associated with insurance costs, property losses, law enforcement expenses, and other social costs (i.e., drug rehabilitation, medical expenses, and labor opportunities).

4.10.3 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" required each Federal agency to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionate adverse effects of its proposed actions on minority populations and low-income communities.

The racial mix of Cochise County is about 90% Caucasian, and less than half (34%) of the entire county population claim to be of Hispanic origin. The proposed project would not displace residences or commercial structures along the project corridor. Therefore, disproportionate effects to minority populations would not be expected.

Cochise County has about 21% of its total population living at or below poverty levels. The 1997 per capita personal income was estimated to be about \$17,000, which indicated a 28% increase since 1990. Consequently, no disproportionate adverse effects to low-income populations would be expected from the implementation of either of the alternatives.

On the other hand, implementation of the Preferred Alternative would enhance the probability of success for the INS/USBP. This increased success in controlling illegal drug activity and the increasing flow of UDAs and drug smugglers into the Naco and Douglas area would benefit all populations, regardless of income, nationality, or ethnicity. Long-term positive impacts would occur on local, regional, and national levels by the reduction of illegal immigrants and drug trafficking and the associated social costs.

4.11 Noise Effects

4.11.1 No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in no increases in ambient noise levels.

4.11.2 Preferred Alternative

If this alternative were selected, activities would occur to the east and west of Naco and Douglas, Arizona, in remote areas of these AOs. Equipment, such as trucks and forklifts, would cause temporary increases in noise levels near the installation site. Installation of these vehicle barriers is not expected to affect any sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, hospitals, churches, and residences), since the installation sites would be remote to any developed areas. Based on past similar activities, construction of the vehicle barriers would occur at the USBP stations and then transported to areas as needed, thus reducing the Day-Night average noise levels (DNLs) and the chances of causing annoyances.

Wildlife may at first be startled and flee the installation area; however, this would cause no long-term effects to wildlife species. Ambient noise levels would return as soon as each temporary vehicle barrier is placed, with no long-term, significant adverse impacts.

4.12 Cumulative Impacts

This section of the EA addresses the cumulative impacts associated with the proposed road and drainage improvements project and other projects/programs that are planned for the region. In the following paragraphs is a general discussion regarding cumulative effects that would be expected irrespective of the alternative selected, the various resources that would be impacted are addressed within each alternative discussion. In order to evaluate cumulative effects, documents from current, past, and future operations in the region are evaluated below (INS 1998, 2000a, 2000b, 2001b; USACE 1996, 1998a, 1998b, 2000).

Current Projects

The USBP and other entities are currently conducting projects in the region. A few of the on-going projects in the area include:

- A new USBP complex is currently being constructed along the King's Ranch Road near Douglas, Arizona.
- The USBP Naco and Douglas Station is installing remote video surveillance (RVS) systems and placing portable lighting in the area.
- The Douglas Station is in the process of constructing a low water crossing at Whitewater Draw.
- Performing 1.5 miles of road improvements from Whitewater Draw to Cattleman's Road in Douglas.
- The Naco Station is completing 2 miles of vertical extensions on the extant primary fence.
- The Wilcox USBP Station is in the process of acquiring land to build a new station.
- Constructing 2 miles of new north/south access roads west of the Douglas POE.

Past Projects

Sections of the border road near the proposed project have already been improved. Past projects in the area included:

- Improving 25 miles of border east and west of the Douglas POE.
- Establishing 1 mile of border fence on the west side of the Douglas POE.
- Installing 3 miles of stadium style lights, east and west of the Douglas POE.
- Erecting 1.3 miles of decorative fence, east and west of the Douglas POE.
- Placement of 99 portable generator lights in the Douglas AO.
- The Douglas Station installed portable generator lights along a 25-mile corridor east and west of Douglas POE.
- The Douglas Station implemented the use of 13 RVS stations.
- Installation of two miles of stadium-style lights in Naco corridor.
- Construction of 6.5 miles of landing mat and picket style fence east and west of Douglas POE.
- The Naco Station erected 2 miles of fencing.
- Establishing 2.5 miles of vehicle barriers in Naco corridor.
- The Naco Station installed 2 miles of lighting.
- The Douglas Station constructed 4.5 miles of all weather road.
- The Douglas Station installed 3 miles of lighting.
- Implementing 8 RVS stations in the Naco corridor.
- The Naco Station performed 1.5 miles of fence extensions.

An analysis of each component of the affected environment was completed from the existing EAs in order to identify which actions would have cumulative impacts as a result of the past and proposed operations. Additional information was considered, including real estate ownership, growth rates, and known future projects in the area. No long-term significant impacts have been reported from past analysis of these projects.

Positive cumulative benefits have resulted from past INS activities. Improvements to roads and the installation of other detection/deterrence methods have increased the USBP's apprehension and interdiction rates. Improvements to and the installation of drainage structures may increase downstream water quality. Additional knowledge regarding cultural resources and protected species' locations, and distributions have been obtained through numerous surveys and monitoring efforts associated with INS projects. Erosion has been alleviated along some roads, and fences have precluded illegal foot and vehicular traffic through environmentally sensitive areas.

Future Projects

Known future projects from INS and USBP in the project area include:

- The Douglas station plans to erect 4 miles of landing mat fence west of the POE.
- Construction of 3.5 miles of landing mat fence east of the Douglas POE.
- Operation of 4 miles of stadium lights on the east and west sides of the Douglas POE.
- Drainage improvements along the border road, east of Whitewater Draw.
- Road maintenance and improvements as necessary along the border road in Douglas and Naco.
- Extension of landing mat fence for 1.2 miles in Naco AO.
- 10 Remote video surveillance sites in the Naco and Douglas AOs.
- 4.0 miles of road improvements in Naco corridor.
- Implementation of the Border Infrastructure Reference Document.

Plans by other agencies in the region that would also affect the region's natural and human environment include the road improvements by Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the addition of a public park near the U.S. Highway 80 bypass near Douglas. Representatives from the San Bernardino NWR, Coronado National Forest, Coronado National Memorial, and San Pedro Riparian NCA were contacted about upcoming projects in their parks; none reported any anticipated projects in the near future (Yarbrough 2002).

4.12.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would result in negative indirect impacts to the area. The lack of physical barriers would continue to be a challenge to USBP due to the easy access into the U.S., making the border more difficult to control against illegal activities such as entry and drug trafficking. Erosion, and damage to vegetation, threatened and endangered species and sensitive wildlife habitats would continue along the Naco and Douglas AO due to illegal vehicle traffic.

4.12.2 Preferred Alternative

There is no essential difference in cumulative adverse effects that would occur under the Preferred Alternative, as opposed to the No Action Alternative since no ground disturbances would occur. Furthermore, placement of the barriers would occur within areas that are already heavily disturbed. Transporting temporary vehicle barriers would result in a slight increase in temporary emissions and particulate matter, but they are short term and would not be expected to add to the cumulative effects. If UDAs and smugglers decide to shift illegal activities to other regions in an effort to avoid detection and apprehension, indirect effects to cultural resources, wildlife, vegetation, and other resources could occur. Much of the outlying topography in the Douglas and Naco AOs is exceptionally rugged, making vehicle entry nearly impossible. The Preferred Alternative will provide positive long-term effects by reducing illegal vehicle entry, protecting wildlife and its habitat, as well as water resources, and historic sites that may be located in the project area.

SECTION 5.0
ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN MEASURES

This chapter describes those measures that could be implemented to reduce or eliminate potential adverse impacts to the human and natural environment. INS and USBP have incorporated many of these measures as standard operating procedures on past projects. The mitigation measures are presented for each resource category that could be potentially affected. The proposed mitigation measures would be coordinated through the appropriate agencies and land managers/administrators.

5.1 Air Quality

Project-related particulate matter (PM_{10}) emissions is expected to occur only during the transportation of the temporary vehicle barriers from the Naco or Douglas station AOs, to the sites where they would be placed. These emissions would be negligible, compared to the amount of emissions created when an illegal vehicle tries to evade USBP agents. Transport speed would be held to a minimum, which would be set by USBP, in order to reduce the emissions. Proper and routine maintenance of all vehicles and other equipment would be implemented to ensure that air emissions are within the design standards of the piece of equipment.

5.2 Biological

In an effort to preserve biological resources and reduce impacts caused by the placement of temporary vehicle barriers, barriers would be placed along the disturbed areas of existing border roads. Temporary vehicle barriers would not be placed in the Coronado National Forest, Coronado National Memorial, San Pedro Riparian NCA, or the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge. Barriers will be relocated as quickly as possible to new “hot spots” before new routes are established and vegetation is permanently damaged as a result of this. As referenced in section 4.9.2, barriers placed in draws and washes will not require a permit as long as no dredge or fill material is used to install them.

SECTION 6.0
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

6.1 Agency Coordination

This chapter discusses consultation and coordination that has occurred during preparation of the final versions of this document. It includes contacts that are made during the development of the alternative development and writing of the EA. Formal and informal coordination has been conducted with the following agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- San Bernardino NWR
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)
- Arizona Department of Game and Fish (ADGF)
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)
- Arizona Department of Agriculture
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

6.2 Public Review

The draft EA was made available for public review for a period of 30 days, and the Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the local newspaper. Proof of publication is included in Appendix B of this document. One public comment letter was submitted on the draft document and is included in Appendix B. A summary of the comments received and the responses to the comments are presented in the following section.

The final EA will be released to the public and a NOA will be published in the local newspaper. Exhibit 6-1 is a copy of the NOA that will be published for the final EA.

Exhibit 6-1

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for
Installation of Temporary Vehicle Barriers
Naco and Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona**

The public is hereby notified of the availability of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for temporary vehicle barrier installation along the U.S.-Mexico Border near Naco and Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona. This EA addresses the placement of temporary vehicle barriers along 25 miles adjacent to the international border in the Naco and Douglas U.S. Border Patrol Area of Operations. The Final EA will be available for review at the Douglas Library, 560 E. 10th Street, Douglas, Arizona 85607.

6.3 Comments and Responses

The following sections address two comment letters received during the public review of the draft EA.

6.3.1 SouthWest Alliance to Resist Militarization (SWARM)

Comment 1: The commenter claims that the EA is inadequate because only two alternatives were carried forward for analysis.

Response 1: In Section 2.3 of the draft EA, other types of permanent barrier/fence designs were considered; however they were not carried forward due to the urgency of establishing a vehicle deterrence solution. Construction and installation of a permanent barrier/fence would take longer to implement, consequently extending the time smugglers have to transport illegal drugs, aliens, and terrorists into the U.S. with the use of a vehicle.

Comment 2: The commenter states that vehicle barriers would not protect water resources by not allowing the temporary vehicle barriers to be placed into Black Draw, Greenbrush Draw, Whitewater Draw, and the San Pedro River, since barriers will cover the entire stretch of the Naco and Douglas corridor.

Response 2: Since one of the goals of this project is to protect water resources, temporary vehicle barriers would be allowed in all drainages as needed, with the exception of the San Pedro River, which is located in the San Pedro Riparian NCA, and Black Draw, which is out of the project area. With the implementation of the proposed action, USBP agents will have much more flexibility to concentrate their patrol efforts on areas that lack physical barriers, thus providing deterrence to areas (e.g. San Pedro Riparian NCA) excluded from the placement of temporary vehicle barriers. The environmental consequences of placing temporary vehicle barriers in drainages are discussed in section 4.9.

Comment 3: The commenter suggests that there is a conflict in the EA between impacts from the “No Action Alternative”, and the “Proposed Action Alternative” regarding effects of migrants shifting.

Response 3: Clarification was made to Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 in the final EA concerning shifting illegal vehicle traffic to remote areas with the placement of temporary vehicle barriers.

Comment 4: Commenter disputes the statement “barriers will be in place until more permanent solutions are developed”. Commenter indicates permanent solution is the “border wall” and impacts of each step toward this solution should be considered.

Response 4: . As indicated in Sections 1.2 and 2.2, the USBP is in dire need of immediate resolution to the problem of illegal vehicle traffic. Although plans are being formulated that would provide a permanent solution (which do contain various fence designs), these solutions require numerous years and a large amount of money to plan, design, evaluate, and implement. The proposed action provides a temporary measure to facilitate apprehension and deterrence in the interim. The permanent deterrence solution will be evaluated under separate NEPA documentation, as disclosed in Section 4.12 of the draft EA.

6.3.2 Tohono O’odham Nation

Comment 1: The Cultural Affairs office of the Tohono O’odham Nation agrees INS decision that the placement of temporary vehicle barriers has no potential to cause impacts to cultural or natural resources.

SECTION 7.0
REFERENCES



7.0 REFERENCES

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- USACE. 1996. Final Environmental Assessment for the JTF-6 Road Maintenance and Construction Naco-Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona (JT315-96). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, Fort Worth, Texas.
- USACE. 1998a. Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Proposed JTF-6 Light Pole Installation Mission Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, Fort Worth, Texas.
- USACE. 1998b. Final Environmental Assessment for the JTF-6 Fence Construction Project Yuma County, Arizona. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, Fort Worth, Texas.
- USACE. 2000. Final Environmental Assessment Joint Task Force Six Proposed Fence and Road Improvement Project, Naco, Cochise County, Arizona. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, Fort Worth, Texas.
- USACE. 2001a. Environmental Assessment for JTF-6 Proposed Fence, Lighting, Road Repair and Improvement Project Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona. USACE, Fort Worth District, Fort Worth, Texas.

USACE. 2002. SWAACC Ruling: Memorandum concerning CWA Jurisdiction over Isolated Waters. Internet website:
<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/pub/outgoing/co/reg/SWANCC.pdf>. Updated 12 July 02.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2002. Internet website:
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/04/04003.html>.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 1995. AP-42: Compilation of Air Pollutant Emission Factors. Volume I: Stationary Point and Area Sources. Fifth Edition.

USFWS. 2002. Arizona Ecological Services Field Office Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species List for Cochise County, Arizona. Internet website:
<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/>. Updated 13 September 2002

Yarbrough, Brad. 2002. Personal communication between Mr. Brad Yarbrough of GSRC and the resource managers of San Bernardino NWR, Coronado National Forest, Coronado National Memorial, and San Pedro Riparian NCA.

SECTION 8.0
ACRONYMS



8.0 ACRONYMS

ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
ADOT	Arizona Department of Transportation
AGFD	Arizona Game and Fish Department
AO	Area of operation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	Carbon monoxide
dBA	decibel
DNLs	Day-Night Average Noise Levels
EA	Environmental Assessment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
IBWC	International Boundary and Water Commission
IIRIRA	Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
JTF-6	Joint Task Force Six
$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Micrograms per cubic meter
mg/m^3	Milligrams per cubic meter
msl	Mean Sea Level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NOA	Notice of Availability
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NWP	Nationwide Wetland Permit
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NCA	National Conservation Area
O_3	Ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
PM_{10}	Particulate matter measuring less than 10 microns
Pb	Lead
POE	Port of Entry
ppm	Parts per million
ROI	Region of Influence
RVS	Remote Video Surveillance
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SO_2	Sulfur dioxide
UDA	Undocumented Alien
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USBP	U.S. Border Patrol
USC	U.S. Code
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SECTION 9.0
LIST OF PREPARERS



9.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following people were primarily responsible for preparing this Environmental Assessment.

NAME	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	DISCIPLINE/EXPERTISE	EXPERIENCE	ROLE IN PREPARING EA
Eric Verwers	INS A-E Resource Center	Biology	14 years in NEPA and related studies	Program manager and EA review and coordination
Charles McGregor	USACE, Ft. Worth District	Chemistry	5 years technical review of NEPA documents	Technical manager, EA review and coordination
Patience Patterson	USACE, Ft. Worth District	Archaeology	29 years Professional Archaeologist/Cultural Resource Manager	Technical manager and EA review and coordination
Suna Adam Knaus	Gulf South Research Corporation	Forestry/Wildlife	14 years natural resources	EA review
Chris Ingram	Gulf South Research Corporation	Biology/Ecology	25 years EA/EIS studies	EA review
David Alford	Gulf South Research Corporation	GIS/graphics	2 years GIS/graphics experience	GIS/graphics
Brad Yarbrough	Gulf South Research Corporation	Forestry/Wildlife	2 years in NEPA and related studies	Project Manager

APPENDIX A
STATE PROTECTED SPECIES

Appendix A
State Protected Species of Potential Occurrence in Cochise County, Arizona

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	WSCA Status	NPL Status
MAMMALS				
Mexican long-tongued bat	<i>Choeronycteris mexicana</i>	SC	WC	--
western red bat	<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	--	WC	--
lesser long-nosed bat	<i>Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae</i>	E	WC	--
jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>	E	WC	--
Arizona shrew	<i>Sorex arizonae</i>	SC	WC	--
BIRDS				
northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	SC	WC	--
violet-crowned hummingbird	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i>	--	WC	--
Baird's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii ammordramus</i>	SC	WC	--
Sprague's pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	--	WC	--
northern gray hawk	<i>Asturina nitida maxima</i>	SC	WC	--
common black-hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	--	WC	--
western yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	--	WC	--
black-bellied whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	--	WC	--
northern buff-breasted flycatcher	<i>Empidonax fulvifrons pygmaeus</i>	SC	WC	--
southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E	WC	--
American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	SC	WC	--
Mississippi kite	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	--	WC	--
Mexican spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	T	WC	--
elegant trogon	<i>Trogon elegans tyrannus</i>	--	WC	--
thick-billed kingbird	<i>Crassirostris tyrannus</i>	--	WC	--
tropical kingbird	<i>Melancholicus agosia</i>	--	WC	--
REPTILES				
Arizona ridgenose rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus willardi willardi</i>	--	WC	--
Sonoran desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	SC	WC	--
desert massasauga	<i>Sistrurus catenatus edwardsi</i>	--	WC	--
Mexican garter snake	<i>Thamnophis eques megalops</i>	SC	WC	--
AMPHIBIANS				
Sonoran tiger salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi</i>	E	WC	--
western barking frog	<i>Eleutherodactylus augusti cactorum</i>	--	WC	--
plains leopard frog	<i>Rana blairi</i>	--	WC	--
Chiricahua leopard frog	<i>Rana chiricahuensis</i>	PT	WC	--
Ramsey Canyon leopard frog	<i>Rana subaquavocalis</i>	SC	WC	--
lowland leopard frog	<i>Rana yavapaiensis</i>	SC	WC	--
FISHES				
gila chub	<i>Gila intermedia</i>	C	WC	--
Yaqui chub	<i>Gila purpurea</i>	E	WC	--
roundtail chub	<i>Gila robusta</i>	SC	WC	--

Appendix A (cont.)				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	WCSA Status	NPL Status
Yaqui catfish	<i>Poeciliopsis occidentalis sonoriensis</i>	E	WC	--
loach minnow	<i>Tiaroga cobitis</i>	T	WC	--
PLANTS				
plummer onion	<i>Allium plummerae</i>	--	--	SR
redflower onion	<i>Allium rhizomatum</i>	--	--	SR
chiricahua rock flower	<i>Apacheria chiricahuensis</i>	--	--	SR
coppermine milk-vetch	<i>Cobrensis var. maguirei</i>	SC	--	SR
Huachuca milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus hypoxylus</i>	SC	--	SR
playa spider plant	<i>Cleome multicaulis</i>	SC	--	SR
Santa Cruz beehive cactus	<i>Coryphantha recurvata</i>	--	--	HS
Cochise pincushion cactus	<i>Coryphantha robbinsorum</i>	T	--	HS
slender needle corycactus	<i>Coryphantha scheeri var. valida</i>	--	--	SR
cob corycactus	<i>Coryphantha strobiliformis</i>	--	--	SR
pinaleno hedgehog cactus	<i>Echinocereus ledingii</i>	--	--	SR
Texas rainbow cactus	<i>Echinocereus pectinatus var. pectinatus</i>	--	--	SR
needle-spined pineapple cactus	<i>Echinomastus erectocentrus var. erectocentrus</i>	SC	--	SR
button cactus	<i>Epithelantha micromeris</i>	--	--	SR
chiricahua fleabane	<i>Erigeron kuschei</i>	SC	--	SR
lemmon fleabane	<i>Erigeron lemmonii</i>	C	--	HS
San Carlos wild-buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum capillare</i>	SC	--	SR
woodland spurge	<i>Euphorbia macropus</i>	SC	--	SR
Wislizeni gentian	<i>Gentianella wislizeni</i>	SC	--	SR
Bartram stonecrop	<i>Graptopetalum bartramii</i>	SC	--	SR
crested coral root	<i>Hexalectris spicata</i>	--	--	SR
Texas purple spike	<i>Hexalectris warnockii</i>	SC	--	HS
Huachuca water umbel	<i>Lilaeopsis schaffneriana var. recurva</i>	E	--	HS
lemmon lily	<i>Lilium parryi</i>	SC	--	SR
leafy lobelia	<i>Lobelia fenestralis</i>	--	--	SR
Madrean adders mouth	<i>Malaxis corymbosa</i>	--	--	SR
purple adders mouth	<i>Malaxis porphyrea</i>	--	--	SR
slender adders mouth	<i>Malaxis tenuis</i>	--	--	SR
varied fishhook cactus	<i>Mammillaria viridiflora</i>	--	--	SR
Wilcox fishhook cactus	<i>Mammillaria wrightii var. wilcoxii</i>	--	--	SR
catalina beardtongue	<i>Penstemon discolor</i>	--	--	HS
Chiricahua rock daisy	<i>Cochisensis phyllanthus</i>	--	--	SR
Thurber's bog orchid	<i>Platanthera limosa polemonium</i>	--	--	SR
blumer's dock	<i>Rumex orthoneurus</i>	SC	--	HS
fallen ladies'-tresses	<i>Schiedeella parasitica</i>	--	--	SR
Huachuca groundsel	<i>Senecio huachucanus</i>	--	--	HS
canelo hills ladies'-tresses	<i>Spiranthes delitescens</i>	E	--	HS
Michoacan ladies'-tresses	<i>Stenorrhynchos michuacanus</i>	--	--	SR
tepic flame flower	<i>Talinum marginatum</i>	SC	--	SR
limestone Arizona rosewood	<i>Vauquelinia californica spp. pauciflora</i>	SC	--	SR
green death camas	<i>Zigadenus virescens</i>	--	--	SR

APPENDIX B
CORRESPONDENCE



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Natural Resources Department

Cultural Affairs

P.O. Box 837 Sells, AZ 85634

Voice: (520) 383-3622 Fax: (520) 383-3377



Per E
uf

September 30, 2002

William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division
Department of the Army
Fort Worth District Corp of Engineers
P.O. Box 17300, 819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

Dear Mr. Fickel,

Thank you for sending a copy of the "Draft Environmental Assessment for Temporary Vehicle Barriers, Naco and Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona."

The Cultural Affairs office of the Tohono O'odham Nation agrees with the INS determination that placement of temporary vehicle barriers has little or no potential to cause impacts to cultural or natural resources.

Please provide our office with copies of the more detailed archaeological and biological survey reports.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Steere
Manager, Cultural Affairs

Cc: File



SOUTHWEST ALLIANCE TO RESIST MILITARIZATION
842 S. SIXTH AVE. TUCSON, AZ 85701 (520) 623-4944
SWARM@RESISTMILITARIZATION.ORG

September 28, 2002

Mr. Charles McGregor
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District
PO Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76012-0300

Dear Mr. McGregor,

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Southwest Alliance to Resist Militarization (SWARM). The comments below are in reference to the August 2002 Draft Environmental Assessment for US Border Patrol Temporary Vehicle Barriers, Naco and Douglas, Arizona.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) appears to have several deficiencies that I will address in these comments.

1. This Environmental Assessment does not advance sufficient alternative to the proposed action. When only two alternatives have been advanced, the "No Action" and "Preferred", NEPA is not satisfied. The alternative required under NEPA is there to insure informed decision-making by Federal agencies- that decision-makers consider all practical possibilities. A NEPA document that is prepared to advance a pre-determined proposal violated the purpose and principles behind NEPA.
2. This EA claims that the vehicle barriers will protect water resources "by stopping illegal traffic from using stream channels as escape routes", but how can this be if the barriers will cover the entire stretch of the border from west of Naco to east of Douglas, except for Black Draw, Greenbrush Draw, Whitewater Draw and the San Pedro River. Under your reasoning (the vehicle barriers are needed because traffic goes around existing barriers), won't traffic now want to go around the barriers into the water resources?
3. The EA states that traffic will not shift into more extreme regions of the border (there by impacting these regions), however, in the very next paragraph, the EA states that the "No Action" alternative would continue to cause impacts to vegetation because "illegal entrants divert around existing fences and barriers or away from areas that are routinely patrolled." It also states that under the preferred alternative, indirect impacts are unlikely because migrants probably will not go around the barriers; but under the "No Action" alternative negative impacts would continue because illegal traffic continues to go around existing barriers. You seem to be saying that migrants go around barriers when stating your case against the "No Action" alternative, but say they don't when you are arguing for the "Preferred Action" alternative. Which is it?
4. The EA states that barriers will be in places until more "permanent solutions" are developed. "Permanent solutions" have not already been developed? Trend would

indicate that the border wall is considered the "permanent solution", and that this installation of the vehicle barriers is the first step towards installing the wall. Thus, the impacts of each step towards that end should be considered.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Ford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and the last name "Ford" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Ford
Co-Director
Southwest Alliance to Resist Militarization/
Border Action Network

The Daily Dispatch

530 11th Street, Douglas, AZ 85607 • (520) 364-3424

Marissa Rivera, being first duly sworn deposes and says that she is an agent of The Daily Dispatch, a daily newspaper, published in the City of Douglas, County of Cochise, State of Arizona:

That the Notice, a copy of which is hereto attached, described as follows:

Gulf South Research
Douglas and Naco

was published daily in the entire and regular issue of said THE DAILY DISPATCH, for 1 consecutive weeks, the FIRST publication of said notice being _____ in the issue dated September 3, 2002, and the LAST publication being in the issue dated September 3, 2002.

The deponent further says that the Notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement thereof.

(SIGNED) Marissa Rivera

Sworn and Subscribed to me this

4 day of September, 2002

[Signature]
Notary Public



My commission expires: June 2, 2003

PUBLIC NOTICE

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the
Construction of a
Barrier, Construction of a
U.S. Access Road, and
Naco, Cochise County, Arizona**
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the construction of a barrier, construction of a U.S. access road, and Naco, Cochise County, Arizona. This DEA addresses the placement of temporary vehicle barriers within 25 miles along the international border. The Draft EA will be available for review at the Douglas Library, 560 E. 10th St., Douglas, Arizona 85607. Send written comments to Mr. Charles McGregor, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth Texas 76121-0300, (817) 990-1700. Comments will be received until 1 October 2002.
Published: 9/3/02



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

September 3, 2002

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Dallas Massey, Sr., Chairman
White Mountain Apache Tribal Council
202 East Walnut Street
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

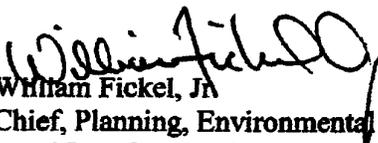
Dear Chairman Massey:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

As noted in our previous letter dated June 26th, we have initiated the Section 106 coordination process for this project as required in 36 CFR Part 800.3. We have received a concurrence of no potential to affect historic properties from the SHPO (July 3, 2002).

We will gladly receive comments on this document until October 1, 2002. If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Ms. Patience Patterson at (817) 886-1723. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

September 3, 2002

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Raymond Stanley, Jr., Chairman
San Carlos Tribal Council
P.O. Box 0
San Carlos, AZ 85550

Dear Chairman Stanley:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Fickel, Jr.", written over a printed name.

William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

September 3, 2002

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

**Honorable Edward Manuel, Chairman
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634**

Dear Chairman Manuel:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

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Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosure



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300**

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

September 3, 2002

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Ivan Makil, President
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council
10005 E. Osborn
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

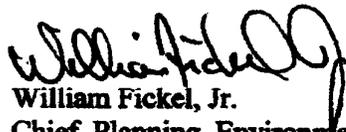
Dear President Makil:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

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Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

September 3, 2002

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Wayne Taylor, Jr., Chairman
ATTN: Mr. Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma
Hopi Tribal Council
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Dear Chairman Taylor:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Fickel, Jr.", written over a printed name.

William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosure



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300**

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

September 3, 2002

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Delia Carlyle, Chairperson
Ak Chin Indian Community Council
42507 W. Peters & Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85239

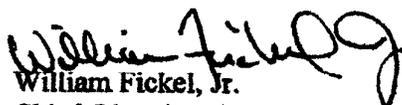
Dear Chairperson Carlyle:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

As noted in our previous letter dated June 26th, we have initiated the Section 106 coordination process for this project as required in 36 CFR Part 800.3. We have received a concurrence of no potential to affect historic properties from the SHPO (July 3, 2002).

We will gladly receive comments on this document until October 1, 2002. If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Ms. Patience Patterson at (817) 886-1723. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

September 3, 2002

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Donald R. Antone, Governor
Gila River Indian Community Council
P.O. Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85247

Dear Governor Antone:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

As noted in our previous letter dated June 26th, we have initiated the Section 106 coordination process for this project as required in 36 CFR Part 800.3. We have received a concurrence of no potential to affect historic properties from the SHPO (July 3, 2002).

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Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosure



THE STATE OF ARIZONA

GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

2221 WEST GREENWAY ROAD, PHOENIX, AZ 85023-4399
(602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.COM

WJ
FER-E 46

GOVERNOR
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STEVE K. FERRELL



August 1, 2002

Mr. Williams Fickel, Jr.
Department of the Army
Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers
PO Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

Re: **Special Status Species Information for Arizona/Mexico International Border, San Pedro River to Black Water Draw (Naco and Douglas Stations); Border Patrol.**

Dear Mr. Fickel:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed your request, dated July 23, 2002, regarding special status species information associated with the above-referenced project area. The Department's Heritage Data Management System (HDMS) has been accessed and current records show that the special status species listed on the attachment have been documented as occurring in the project area (5-mile buffer). In addition, this project occurs in the vicinity of any designated Critical Habitats for the loachminnow and spikedace (San Pedro River) and the Yaqui catfish, Yaqui shiner, and Yaqui chub (Black Water Draw).

The Department's HDMS data are not intended to include potential distribution of special status species. Arizona is large and diverse with plants, animals, and environmental conditions that are ever changing. Consequently, many areas may contain species that biologists do not know about or species previously noted in a particular area may no longer occur there. Not all of Arizona has been surveyed for special status species, and surveys that have been conducted have varied greatly in scope and intensity.

Making available this information does not substitute for the Department's review of project proposals, and should not decrease our opportunities to review and evaluate new project proposals and sites. The Department is also concerned about other resource values, such as other wildlife, including game species, and wildlife-related recreation. The Department would appreciate the opportunity to provide an evaluation of impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitats associated with project activities occurring in the subject area, when specific details become available.

Mr. William Fickel, Jr.

August 1, 2002

2

The Department, at this time, is unable to provide you with any information relative to potential project-related impacts to wildlife resources that might occur in the study area. We will require information on the locations of specific activities, at a minimum, in order to provide you with more specific comments. Whenever this information becomes available, please forward it to the Department so that we might assist you in identifying potential impacts to wildlife resources.

If you have any questions regarding the attached species list, please contact me at (602) 789-3618. General status information, state-wide and county distribution lists, and abstracts for some special status species are also available on our web site at: http://www.azgfd.com/frames/fishwild/hdms_site/Home.htm.

Sincerely,



Sabra S. Schwartz
Heritage Data Management System, Coordinator

SSS:ss

Attachment

cc: Bob Broscheid, Project Evaluation Program Supervisor
Joan Scott, Habitat Program Manager, Region V

AGFD #7-19-02(16)

Special Status Species within 5 Miles of AZ/Mexico Border, San Pedro River to Black Water Draw

Arizona Game and Fish Department, Heritage Data Management System
August 1, 2002

Scientific Name	Common Name	ESA	USFS	BLM	WSCA
<i>AGOSIA CHRYSOGASTER</i>	LONGFIN DACE	SC		S	
<i>AMMODRAMUS BAIRDII</i>	BAIRD'S SPARROW	SC			WC
<i>CAMPOSTOMA ORNATUM</i>	MEXICAN STONEROLLER	SC	S		
<i>CAREX CHIHUAHUENSIS</i>	A SEDGE		S		
<i>CLEOME MULTICAULIS</i>	PLAYA SPIDER PLANT	SC			
<i>COCCYZUS AMERICANUS</i>	YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	C	S		WC
<i>CYPRINELLA FORMOSA</i>	BEAUTIFUL SHINER	LT			WC
<i>ECHINOCEREUS PECTINATUS VAR PECTINATUS</i>	TEXAS RAINBOW CACTUS				
<i>EUMOPS PEROTIS CALIFORNICUS</i>	GREATER WESTERN MASTIFF BAT	SC			
<i>GILA PURPUREA</i>	YAQUI CHUB	LE			WC
<i>IBERVILLEA TENUISECTA</i>	TEXAS GLOBE BERRY			S	
<i>ICTALURUS PRICEI</i>	YAQUI CATFISH	LT			WC
<i>LASIURUS BLOSSEVILLII</i>	WESTERN RED BAT				WC
<i>LASIURUS XANTHINUS</i>	WESTERN YELLOW BAT				WC
<i>LEPTONYCTERIS CURASOAE YERBABUENAE</i>	LESSER LONG-NOSED BAT	LE	S		WC
<i>LILAEOPSIS SCHAFFNERIANA VAR RECURVA</i>	HUACHUCA WATER UMBEL	LE			
<i>MYOTIS VELIFER</i>	CAVE MYOTIS	SC		S	
<i>PENIOCEREUS GREGGII VAR GREGGII</i>	NIGHT-BLOOMING CEREUS	SC			
<i>PHRYNOSOMA CORNUTUM</i>	TEXAS HORNED LIZARD	SC		S	
<i>PHYSALIS LATIPHYSA</i>	BROAD-LEAF GROUND-CHERRY		S		
<i>POECILIOPSIS OCCIDENTALIS SONORIENSIS</i>	YAQUI TOPMINNOW	LE			WC
<i>PYRGULOOPSIS BERNARDINA</i>	SAN BERNARDINO SPRINGSNAIL	SC	S	S	
<i>RANA CHIRICAHUENSIS</i>	CHIRICAHUA LEOPARD FROG	PT	S		WC
<i>RANA YAVAPAIENSIS</i>	LOWLAND LEOPARD FROG	SC	S		WC
<i>SIGMODON OCHROGNATHUS</i>	YELLOW-NOSED COTTON RAT	SC			
<i>THAMNOPHIS EQUUS MEGALOPS</i>	MEXICAN GARTER SNAKE	SC	S		WC
<i>TYRANNUS MELANCHOLICUS</i>	TROPICAL KINGBIRD				WC

Critical Habitats for the loachminnow, spikedace (San Pedro River) and Yaqui chub, Yaqui shiner, and Yaqui catfish (Black Water Draw) in project area. AGFD# 7-19-02(16), Border Patrol activities, Douglas and Naco Districts.

STATUS DEFINITIONS
ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT (AGFD)
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (HDMS)

FEDERAL US STATUS

ESA **Endangered Species Act (1973 as amended)**
US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://arizonaes.fws.gov>)

Listed

- LE** Listed Endangered: imminent jeopardy of extinction.
- LT** Listed Threatened: imminent jeopardy of becoming Endangered.
- XN** Experimental Nonessential population.

Proposed for Listing

- PE** Proposed Endangered.
- PT** Proposed Threatened.

Candidate (Notice of Review: 1999)

- C** Candidate. Species for which USFWS has sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposals to list as Endangered or Threatened under ESA. However, proposed rules have not yet been issued because such actions are precluded at present by other listing activity.
- SC** Species of Concern. The terms "Species of Concern" or "Species at Risk" should be considered as terms-of-art that describe the entire realm of taxa whose conservation status may be of concern to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, but neither term has official status (currently all former C2 species).

Critical Habitat (check with state or regional USFWS office for location details)

- Y** Yes: Critical Habitat has been designated.
- P** Proposed: Critical Habitat has been proposed.

[**N** No Status: certain populations of this taxon do not have designated status (check with state or regional USFWS office for details about which populations have designated status)].

USFS **US Forest Service (1999 Animals, 1999 Plants: corrected 2000)**
US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Region 3 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/>)

- S** Sensitive: those taxa occurring on National Forests in Arizona which are considered sensitive by the Regional Forester.

BLM **US Bureau of Land Management (2000 Animals, 2000 Plants)**
US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office
(<http://azwww.az.blm.gov>)

- S** Sensitive: those taxa occurring on BLM Field Office Lands in Arizona which are considered sensitive by the Arizona State Office.
- P** Population: only those populations of Banded Gila monster (*Heloderma suspectum cinctum*) that occur north and west of the Colorado River, are considered sensitive by the Arizona State Office.

TRIBAL STATUS

NESL Navajo Endangered Species List (2000)
 Navajo Nation, Navajo Fish and Wildlife Department
 (<http://www.heritage.tnc.org/nhp/us/navajo/esl.html>)

The Navajo Endangered Species List contains taxa with status from the entire Navajo Nation which includes parts of Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. In this notebook we provide NESL status for only those taxa whose distribution includes part or all of the Arizona portion of the Navajo Nation.

Groups

- 1 Those species or subspecies that no longer occur on the Navajo Nation.
- 2 Any species or subspecies which is in danger of being eliminated from all or a significant portion of its range on the Navajo Nation.
- 3 Any species or subspecies which is likely to become an endangered species, within the foreseeable future, throughout all or a significant portion of its range on the Navajo Nation.
- 4 Any species or subspecies for which the Navajo Fish and Wildlife Department (NF&WD) does not currently have sufficient information to support their being listed in Group 2 or Group 3 but has reason to consider them. The NF&WD will actively seek information on these species to determine if they warrant inclusion in a different group or removal from the list.

MEXICAN STATUS

MEX Mexican Federal Endangered Species List (October 16, 2000)
 Proyecto de Norma Oficial Mexicana PROY-NOM-059-ECOL-2000

The Mexican Federal Endangered Species List contains taxa with status from the entire Mexican Republic and waters under its jurisdiction. In this notebook we provide MEX designations for only those taxa occurring in Arizona and also in Mexico.

- P** En Peligro de Extinción (Determined Endangered in Mexico): in danger of extinction.
- A** Amenazada (Determined Threatened in Mexico): could become endangered if factors causing habitat deterioration or population decline continue.
- Pr** Sujeta a Protección Especial (Determined Subject to Special Protection in Mexico): utilization limited due to reduced populations, restricted distribution, or to favor recovery and conservation of the taxon or associated taxa.
- E** Probablemente extinta en el medio silvestre (Probably extinct in the wild of Mexico): A native species whose individuals in the wild have disappeared, based on pertinent documentation and studies that prove it. The only existing individuals of the species are in captivity or outside the Mexican territory.

[] = One or more subspecies of this species has status in Mexico, but the HDMS does not track it at the subspecies level (most of these subspecies are endemic to Mexico). Please consult the NORMA Oficial Mexicana PROY-NOM-059-ECOL-2000 for details.]

STATE STATUS**NPL Arizona Native Plant Law (1999)**

Arizona Department of Agriculture (<http://agriculture.state.az.us/PSD/nativeplants.htm>)

- HS** Highly Safeguarded: no collection allowed.
- SR** Salvage Restricted: collection only with permit.
- ER** Export Restricted: transport out of State prohibited.
- SA** Salvage Assessed: permits required to remove live trees.
- HR** Harvest Restricted: permits required to remove plant by-products.

WSCA Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona (1996 in prep)

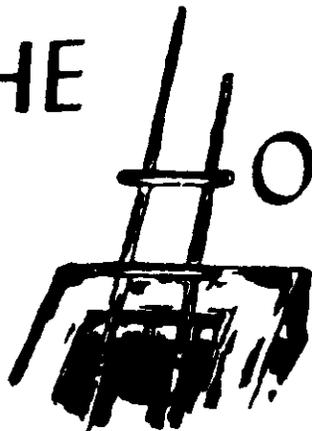
Arizona Game and Fish Department (<http://www.azgfd.com>)

- WC** Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona. Species whose occurrence in Arizona is or may be in jeopardy, or with known or perceived threats or population declines, as described by the Arizona Game and Fish Department's listing of Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona (WSCA, in prep). Species indicated on printouts as WC are currently the same as those in **Threatened Native Wildlife in Arizona (1988)**.

Revised 10/3/01, AGFD HDMS

J:\HDMS\DOCUMENT\NBOOKS\TEMPLATE\EORDEFS\STATDEF

THE



HOP I TRIBE

PER
DM
DE
DD
FAL

Wayne Taylor, Jr.
CHAIRMAN

Elgean Joshevana

VICE-CHAIRMAN

July 15, 2002

Colonel Gordon M. Wells, District Engineer
Attention: Patience Patterson
Department of the Army, Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

Re: A draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for proposed installation of remote video surveillance systems in the Central Region of the INS

INS/USBP, Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation - Temporary Vehicle Barrier Placement

Dear Colonel Wells,

Thank you for your letters to Chairman Taylor dated June 13, 2002, and June 26, 2002, regarding the above referenced projects. As you know from our previous correspondences, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in Arizona, and therefore we appreciate your continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

In regard to the draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office understands that site specific surveys and evaluations and tiered National Environmental Policy Act documents will be completed once locations for remote video surveillance systems installation are identified. Please provide us with copies of these surveys and evaluations and documents for review and comment as they are developed.

In regard to the preparation of an Environmental Assessment for temporary vehicle barrier placement, we understand that sensitive areas will be avoided, no subsurface impacts will occur, and the area of potential effect has been assessed in previous actions. Therefore, we generally concur with the INS determination that the preferred alternative has no potential to cause effects. However, please provide us with a copy of the draft Environmental Assessment for review and comment.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you again for your consideration.

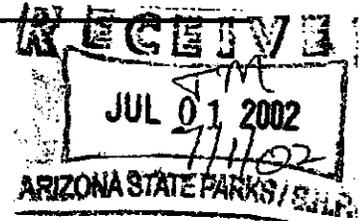
Respectfully,

Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Office of the Chairman
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

**S.H.P.O.- 2002 - 1409 (11666)****U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Architect-Engineer Resource Center**

Attention: CESWF-PM-INS
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A28
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300



June 26, 2002

SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle Barrier Placement

Mr. James Garrison, State Historic Preservation Officer
ATTN: Joanne Medley
Arizona State Parks
1300 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Mr. Garrison:

The INS intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. We wish to initiate the Section 106 coordination process for this project as noted in 36 CFR Part 800.3. The proposed action is the placement of temporary vehicle barriers for a total of 25 miles on either side and between Naco and Douglas, Arizona (see enclosed map).

The temporary vehicle barriers will not be installed in the San Pedro Natural Conservation Area, Coronado National Memorial, San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge, or other sensitive areas. The EA will identify potential sites for the acquisition and installation of the temporary vehicle barriers and will address the potential effects of the barriers within the proposed project area.

The temporary vehicle barriers are constructed in such as way as to be placed on the surface of the ground. These barriers will be placed on the edge of the existing border road, no subsurface impact will occur. Also, the area of potential effect has been assessed in previous actions for INS and USBP. The attached photograph of a temporary vehicle barrier illustrates the configuration and placement of the barriers (see enclosed photo).

Based on the project procedures, which will require no ground disturbing activities associated with the preferred alternative, INS has determined, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1), there is no potential to cause effects.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Ms. Patience Patterson at (817) 886-1723. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,



Eric W. Verwers, Director
INS, Architect-Engineer Resource Center

Enclosures

*Concur -
no potential to affect
historic properties
Glenn Hedley
in SAPOJ
July 3, 2002*



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

July 5, 2002

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization/ U.S. Border Patrol Projects Along the U.S.- Mexico Border

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona Ecological Service
ATTN: Mr. David Harlow, Field Supervisor
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021-4915

Dear Mr. Harlow:

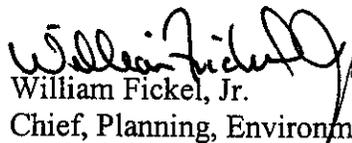
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, is acting on behalf of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), in preparing two Environmental Assessments (EAs) for various U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) projects (construction of fences, all weather border patrol roads, drag roads, permanent lights and low-water crossings) within a 300-foot corridor along the U.S.- Mexico International Border within the USBP Naco and Douglas Stations in Southeastern Arizona.

Enclosed is a quadrangle map showing the project area. We are currently in the process of gathering the most current information available regarding Federally listed species potentially occurring within this area of Naco and Douglas, Arizona. USACE respectfully requests that your agency provide a list of the protected species of Cochise County along with a description of the sensitive resources (e.g., rare or unique plant communities, threatened and endangered and candidate species, etc.) that you believe may be affected by the proposed activities. Any information you may have regarding critical habitat areas for these species would also be greatly appreciated.

We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EAs once they are completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed and/or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EAs.

Your prompt attention to this request would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mr. Charles McGregor at (817) 886-1708.

Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental, and
Regulatory Division

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

July 5, 2002

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization/ U.S. Border Patrol Projects Along the U.S.- Mexico Border

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Regional Supervisor
ATTN: Mr. Jerry Perry
555 North Greasewood Road
Tucson, AZ 85745

Dear Mr. Perry:

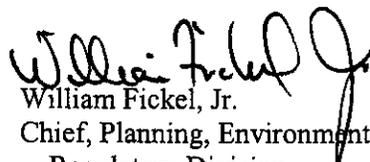
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Enclosed is a quadrangle map identifying the project area. We are currently in the process of gathering the most current information available regarding state listed species potentially occurring within this area of Naco and Douglas, Arizona. USACE respectfully requests that your agency provide a list of the protected species of Cochise County along with a description of the sensitive resources (e.g., rare or unique plant communities, threatened and endangered and candidate species, etc.) that you believe may be affected by the proposed activities. Any information you may have regarding critical habitat areas for these species would also be greatly appreciated.

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Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental, and
Regulatory Division

Enclosure



**U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Architect-Engineer Resource Center**

*Attention: CESWF-PM-INS
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A28
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300*

June 26, 2002

SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle Barrier Placement

**Mr. James Garrison, State Historic Preservation Officer
ATTN: Joanne Medley
Arizona State Parks
1300 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

Dear Mr. Garrison:

The INS intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. We wish to initiate the Section 106 coordination process for this project as noted in 36 CFR Part 800.3. The proposed action is the placement of temporary vehicle barriers for a total of 25 miles on either side and between Naco and Douglas, Arizona (see enclosed map).

The temporary vehicle barriers will not be installed in the San Pedro Natural Conservation Area, Coronado National Memorial, San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge, or other sensitive areas. The EA will identify potential sites for the acquisition and installation of the temporary vehicle barriers and will address the potential effects of the barriers within the proposed project area.

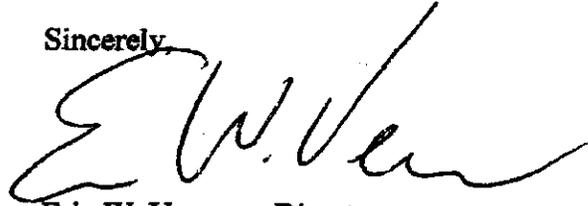
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-2-

Based on the project procedures, which will require no ground disturbing activities associated with the preferred alternative, INS has determined, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1), there is no potential to cause effects.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Ms. Patience Patterson at (817) 886-1723. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric W. Verwers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "V".

Eric W. Verwers, Director
INS, Architect-Engineer Resource Center

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

June 26, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Delia Carlyle, Chairperson
Ak Chin Indian Community Council
42507 W. Peters & Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85239

Dear Chairperson Carlyle:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

We also have initiated the Section 106 coordination process for this project as noted in 36 CFR Part 800.3. The proposed action is the placement of temporary vehicle barriers for a total of 25 miles on either side and between Naco and Douglas, Arizona (see enclosed map).

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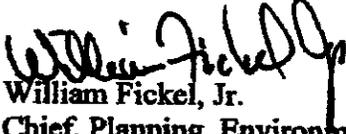
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Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

June 26, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle Barrier Placement

Honorable Donald R. Antone, Governor
Gila River Indian Community Council
P.O. Box 97
Sacaton, AZ 85247

Dear Governor Antone:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

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Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

June 26, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Wayne Taylor, Jr., Chairman
ATTN: Mr. Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma
Hopi Tribal Council
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

Dear Chairman Taylor:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

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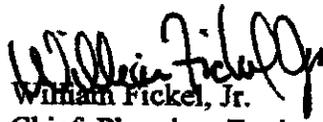
The temporary vehicle barriers are constructed in such as way as to be placed on the surface of the ground. These barriers will be placed on the edge of the existing border road, no subsurface impact will occur. Also, the area of potential effect has been assessed in previous actions for INS and USBP. The attached photograph of a temporary vehicle barrier illustrates the configuration and placement of the barriers (see enclosed photo).

-2-

Based on the project procedures, which will require no ground disturbing activities associated with the preferred alternative, INS has determined, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1), there is no potential to cause effects.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Ms. Patience Patterson at (817) 886-1723. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,



William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

June 26, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Ivan Makil, President
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council
10005 E. Osborn
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

Dear President Makil:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

We also have initiated the Section 106 coordination process for this project as noted in 36 CFR Part 800.3. The proposed action is the placement of temporary vehicle barriers for a total of 25 miles on either side and between Naco and Douglas, Arizona (see enclosed map).

The temporary vehicle barriers will not be installed in the San Pedro Natural Conservation Area, Coronado National Memorial, San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge, or other sensitive areas. The EA will identify potential sites for the acquisition and installation of the temporary vehicle barriers and will address the potential effects of the barriers within the proposed project area.

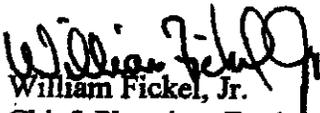
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Sincerely,


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Enclosures



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FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

June 26, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Raymond Stanley, Jr., Chairman
San Carlos Tribal Council
P.O. Box 0
San Carlos, AZ 85550

Dear Chairman Stanley:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, intends to prepare an **Environmental Assessment (EA)** addressing **U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)** activities within the **Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation**. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

We also have initiated the Section 106 coordination process for this project as noted in 36 CFR Part 800.3. The proposed action is the placement of temporary vehicle barriers for a total of 25 miles on either side and between Naco and Douglas, Arizona (see enclosed map).

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If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Ms. Patience Patterson at (817) 886-1723. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

June 26, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle Barrier Placement

Honorable Edward Manuel, Chairman
Tohono O'odham Nation
P.O. Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634

Dear Chairman Manuel:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

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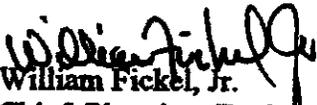
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If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Ms. Patience Patterson at (817) 886-1723. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

June 26, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) /U.S. Border Patrol (USBP),
Tucson Sector, Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation – Temporary Vehicle
Barrier Placement**

Honorable Dallas Massey, Sr., Chairman
White Mountain Apache Tribal Council
P.O. Box 700
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

Dear Chairman Massey:

The Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of INS, intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities within the Naco and Douglas Stations Areas of Operation. As part of our on-going consultation in this area, and in accordance with Federal laws and regulations, we wish to solicit your comments on this project.

We also have initiated the Section 106 coordination process for this project as noted in 36 CFR Part 800.3. The proposed action is the placement of temporary vehicle barriers for a total of 25 miles on either side and between Naco and Douglas, Arizona (see enclosed map).

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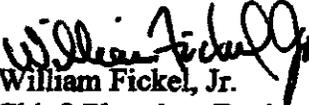
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