

Date: 9/23/2003 11:00 PM

Sender: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

To:

[Redacted]

cc:

bcc:

Priority: Normal

Subject: Status list

Folks--attached is status matrix of environmental projects that we have on-going for the Tucson Sector. This list was developed for (b)(6) at the request of (b)(6) as a result of a meeting between CBP and DOI. Apparently DOI has agreed to help/partner with CBP to ensure a smooth decision making process. (b)(6) has forwarded the list to (b)(6) as of this morning (23 September 2003). Call if you have questions. Thanks.

(b) (6)



NEPA-Status.doc

**Tucson Sector Environmental Project Status Matrix  
(as of 22 September 2003)**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Issues (Affected Agency)</b>
1. Supplemental EA for Infrastructure Along the Naco-Douglas Corridor	Project includes primary fencing along the entire Douglas AO border, secondary fencing in Douglas and Naco POE areas, vehicle barriers or fences along Naco western AO, lighting, and road improvements for Naco and Douglas	Preliminary Final EA to be prepared by end of October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water withdrawal from San Pedro Basin might affect critical habitat for 2 fish and 1 plant; a BA is being prepared to address these issues (USFWS/BLM).</li> <li>2. A portion of the project transects the San Pedro National Riparian Conservation Area, which contains some of the critical habitat and is sensitive wildlife area (BLM).</li> <li>3. Some concerns that IAs will be pushed into remote areas to the west, which could affect the Coronado National Memorial (NPS).</li> </ol>
2. Biological Assessment for Proposed Infrastructure in Naco Corridor	This assessment will satisfy the Section 7 requirements, mentioned above. Will need to assess potential effects on Huachuca water umbel, spikedace and longfin dace	NTP just received--no schedule developed for draft	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water withdrawal from San Pedro Basin will be the primary issue. Ft. Huachuca and Sierra Vista have recently implemented conservation measures to reduce water demands. USBP might have to implement similar conservation measures, which could include trucking water in from outside sources, acquiring agricultural lands for preservation, using other wetting materials for dust control, etc. (USFWS)</li> </ol>
3. Tucson/Yuma Programmatic EIS	Programmatic evaluation of daily operations for both sectors--includes air reconnaissance, SAR, checkpoints, dragging, patrols (particularly off-road)	Revised Draft is being prepared for another internal review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial draft was sent out with BIRD projects included and confused everyone. We will need to convince all agencies that USBP is not planning to have the border completely fenced (double fencing) and leveled, as presented in the BIRD</li> </ol>
4. Tucson Sector BA	Addresses daily operations of USBP within Tucson Sector	Revised Final BA expected by the end of October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consultation shifted from Phoenix office to Tucson office, resulting in delays (additional species requested by Tucson office) (USFWS).</li> <li>2. Sonoran pronghorn on brink of extirpation—all activities will be closely monitored (USFWS)</li> <li>3. Push for critical habitat designation for jaguar in Nogales/Sonoita areas—will have impact on USBP projects if successful (USFWS)</li> </ol>
5. Yuma Sector BA	Addresses daily operations of USBP Tucson Sector	Final BA accepted in January 2003	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Need draft BO from Phoenix office (USFWS)</li> <li>2. Sonoran pronghorn on brink of extirpation</li> </ol>

Project Name	Project Description	Status	Issues (Affected Agency)
6. Three checkpoint locations on (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E)	Construct and operate 3 temporary checkpoints along state and Federal highways within (b) (7)(E)	Draft EA submitted for public review on (b) (7)(E) only last week—will be no review for 30 days	1. (b) (7)(E) council members might not approve locations because of fear that additional roads would be constructed to circumvent the checkpoints (BIA, (b) (7)(E))
7. Nogales Various Infrastructure EA	Project includes 2 miles of major roadway improvements on east side of POE, primary fencing on east side to parallel new road, installation of 15 RVS sites and continuation of current use of 69 portable light generators	Final EA at HQ for staffing	1. Will need to concurrence from SHPO (NPS), especially for visual impacts from RVS near POE
8. USBP Nogales Station EA and EBS	Acquisition of 30-acre site for permanent USBP station	Final EA expected to be sent to HQ within next 2 weeks; some contamination discovered at fuel tanks	1. Will need determine level of contamination, if any, and remediate site before purchasing (EPA)
9. Rescue Beacons EA (Tohono Nation)	Installation and operation of 10 rescue beacons on Tohono O'odham Nation	Preliminary draft completed; Tohono council has objected to the beacons so draft has not been released as yet	1. Tohono believe beacons will be used as staging area for smugglers; issue needs to be discussed in front of Council
10. 27-mile Road Improvements EA, Sonoita Station	Mostly road grading with some repair/installation of drainage structures	Received NTP recently; waiting for ROEs before surveys can start	No issues yet, but most of the work is on National Forest
11. 10-miles Road Construction, Nogales Station	5 miles of major road construction and improvements on either side of Nogales POE	Received NTP recently; waiting for ROEs before surveys can start	No issues yet
12. Installation of Temporary Vehicle Barriers, Tucson Sector	Installation of temporary vehicles at high traffic areas anywhere within the Tucson Sector—no ground disturbance	Received NTP recently; reconnaissance to identify sensitive areas to occur in October	No issues yet

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13. Cabeza Prieta NWR Road Improvements	5 miles of post-action surveys and 18 miles of new road construction/improvement on NWR	Field reconnaissance to occur week of 22 Sept; field surveys within the next two weeks	1. USBP graded about 5 miles of road without surveys or NEPA on the NWR within home range of Sonoran pronghorn (USFWS)