FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL STATION
WILLCOX, ARIZONA

PREPARED FOR:
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Washington D.C.

September 2002

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for the
UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL STATION, WILLCOX, ARIZONA

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE: The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is proposing to relocate the operation of a United States Border Patrol Station (USBPS) to a new facility. Both the existing facility and Proposed Alternative site are located in Willcox, Cochise County, Arizona. The analysis of potential project-related environmental impacts is documented in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the project.

The purpose of the proposed USBPS is to provide adequate space for the current and future needs of the United States Border Patrol (USBP) to detain undocumented aliens and criminal aliens. The existing facilities do not provide adequate space for employees or detainees.

According to the USBP, it is estimated that the Willcox USBPS provides only 40% of the required space for current staff levels and would provide only 15% for the staff levels projected for fiscal year 2002. The station also provides parking space for only 11% of the station's vehicles. The current detention area, where undocumented aliens and criminals are detained, provides room for a total of 35 detainees. Routinely, space for several more detainees is needed. Secured cells for high risk or violent detainees and the ability to segregate juveniles, unaccompanied females, and family groups currently does not exist due to the lack of space. Additional limitations of the Willcox Station include the absence of a secure loading and unloading area to prevent escapes.

PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Alternative would be constructed on a 20-acre parcel of city-owned property within the Willcox Industrial Park located in the southeast part of the city. Under the Proposed Alternative a new 26,355 square feet USBPS, capable of supporting existing and future staff levels and space for approximately 106 detainees.

ALTERNATIVES: Four alternatives were considered for the proposed Willcox USBPS. Of these, two are addressed in detail within the EA and two were dropped from further consideration. Two sites located approximately 2,000 feet west of the I-10 and Fort Grant Road traffic interchange, were eliminated because they were located in an active floodplain, and the proximity of residential land uses, existing and future, are incompatible with the siting of a USBPS. Also, there was the potential for unknown waste materials such as household chemicals, paint, oil, etc. that may have been deposited in or near the sites as a result of the operation of the adjacent to a city landfill that is no longer in operation. These properties were eliminated from further consideration and analysis due to the potential for environmental impacts and risks.

The two alternatives considered and addressed in detail are the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Alternative (as described above). Under the No-Action Alternative a new facility would not be constructed. The USBP would continue to operate in a facility that provides inadequate space for employees, equipment, and detainees.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: Biological, cultural, and hazardous materials surveys were conducted as part of the data collection in support of the EA. It was determined that the noise conditions, air quality, community resources, cultural resources, and threatened or endangered species would not be adversely impacted by the proposed action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
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UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL STATION, WILLCOX, ARIZONA

MITIGATION MEASURES: The following mitigation measures were developed to ensure minimal environmental impacts.

- Prior to construction of the proposed facility, an invasive species investigation should be completed at the Proposed Alternative site. In order to ensure that invasive species are controlled, the following mitigation measures shall be followed if no invasive species are found:
  - All disturbed soils that will not be landscaped or otherwise permanently stabilized by construction shall be seeded using species native to the project vicinity.
  - All earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed at the contractor's storage facility prior to arriving on site to prevent the introduction of invasive species seed.
- If invasive species are discovered, the following mitigation measures shall be included with the previous mitigation measures:
  - All earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed prior to leaving the construction site to prevent invasive species from leaving the site.
- Although the Proposed Alternative area has been previously disturbed, protected native plants within the construction limits would be impacted by the Proposed Alternative; therefore, the INS and USBP would be required to notify the Arizona Department of Agriculture at least 30 days prior to the start of construction to afford commercial salvagers the opportunity to remove and salvage these plants.
- If a desert tortoise is found in the project area during development, it is recommended that the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Guidelines for Handling Sonoran Desert Tortoises Encountered on Development Projects be followed.
- If previously unidentified cultural resources are encountered during activity related to construction of the USBPS, then the contractor should stop work immediately at that location and take reasonable steps to secure the preservation of those resources. The contractor must contact the City of Willcox, at 520-384-4271 and the State Historic Preservation Office at 800-285-3703, immediately and make arrangements for the proper treatment of those resources.

Based on the findings of the EA, no significant adverse impacts would occur from the proposed alternative. The Proposed Alternative is anticipated to benefit the community economically through housing, sales of goods and services, and taxes, and would allow the INS and USBP to carryout their mission in appropriate facilities. Therefore, no further analysis or documentation is warranted. The INS, in implementing this decision, will employ all practical means to minimize the potential adverse impacts on the local environment.

Kenneth R. Ehinger, Director
Headquarters Facilities and Engineering Division
Immigration and Naturalization Service

9/13/02
Date

ABSTRACT

LEAD AGENCY:	U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
AGENCY CONTACT:	Charles H. Parsons U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service 24000 Avila Road Laguna Niguel, CA 92607
PROPOSED ACTION:	The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is proposing to relocate the operation of a United States Border Patrol Station (USBPS) to a new facility. The existing and proposed facilities are located in Willcox, Cochise County, Arizona.
PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION:	The purpose of the proposed USBPS is to provide adequate space for the current and future needs of the United States Border Patrol (USBP) to detain undocumented aliens and criminal aliens. The existing facilities do not provide adequate space for employees or meet the INS and USBP requirements to provide safe, secure, and humane treatment for detainees.
ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION:	The No-Action Alternative would require improvements at the existing Willcox USBPS; however this would only alleviate some of the problems at the existing facility temporarily and would not meet the INS and USBP requirements. Two additional site locations were considered and eliminated from further consideration due to environmental constraints.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:	The Proposed Alternative would be located within an existing industrial park adjacent to other non-residential developments within the City limits of Willcox. The natural and human environmental resources that could potentially be affected by the Proposed Alternative were assessed. No significant adverse impacts to the natural or human environment would result from the construction and operation of a new USBPS at the proposed location.
CONCLUSIONS:	Based on the analysis of the resource studies, no significant adverse impacts would result from the Proposed Alternative. The Proposed Alternative is anticipated to benefit the community economically through housing, sales of goods and services, and taxes, and would allow the INS and USBP to carry out their mission in appropriate facilities. Therefore, no additional environmental analysis or documentation is warranted.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMSL	Above Mean Sea Level
ADES	Arizona Department of Economic Security
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
ADOT	Arizona Department of Transportation
AGFD	Arizona Game and Fish Department
ASM	Arizona State Museum
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
BLM	United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
C	Candidate
CA	Conservation Agreement
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
E	Endangered
EA	Environmental Assessment
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
I-1	Industrial Zone 1
I-10	Interstate-10
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
mg/kg	Milligram/Kilogram
MWRR	Mascot and Western Railroad
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
pCi/L	Picocuries/Litre
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PT	Proposed Threatened
SCS	SCS Engineers
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SRL	Soil Remediation Level
T	Threatened
U.S.	United States
UST	Underground Storage Tank
USBP	United States Border Patrol
USBPS	United States Border Patrol Station
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is proposing to relocate the operation of a United States Border Patrol Station (USBPS) to a new facility. Both the existing facility and Proposed Alternative site are located in Willcox, Cochise County, Arizona. Relocation of the existing operation is proposed due to space and facility limitations at the current location. The City of Willcox is proposing to donate land, construct a facility exclusively for the USBPS, and provide the INS with the option to directly purchase the facility, or lease with a buy-out option. This environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to document the existing environment and potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed facility.

This EA has been prepared under the direction of the INS as the lead agency, to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA, 40 CFR 1500-1508.

1.2 Background

The INS is the Federal agency responsible for administering immigration laws of the United States (U.S.). Within the INS, the USBP is responsible for maintaining control of the U.S. borders. The United States Border Patrol's (USBP) mission is to detect and prevent smuggling and illegal entry into the U.S., an increasingly important role with the growing threat of terrorism in the U.S. To accomplish this mission, the main task of the USBP is to detain undocumented aliens. During the detainment process, the USBP is required to provide safe, secure, and humane treatment for these detainees.

Changes in the 1996 immigration laws provided increased funding, additional USBP agents and better technology that have increased the INS' capabilities to apprehend undocumented aliens. This has sharply increased the number of detainees. In 2000, the INS housed an average of 20,000 undocumented aliens, including criminals involved with guns, drugs, or other contraband along the U.S. border, on a daily basis and removed over 181,000 undocumented aliens from the U.S. (INS 2001). To address the increasing responsibility to maintain control of the U.S. border and apprehend undocumented aliens, a major effort to construct additional USBP infrastructure is currently being undertaken along the Southwest border. The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Installation of INS JTF-6 Border Infrastructure on the Southwest Border, June 2001 was prepared for this effort. Although USBPSs are not specifically addressed in the report, they are part of the USBP infrastructure.

The Willcox Station is one of eight USBPSs located within the Tucson Sector that includes all but the far western portion of the state of Arizona (Figure 1). The facility, located on a 1/5-acre lot within a residential area, was purchased by the Department of

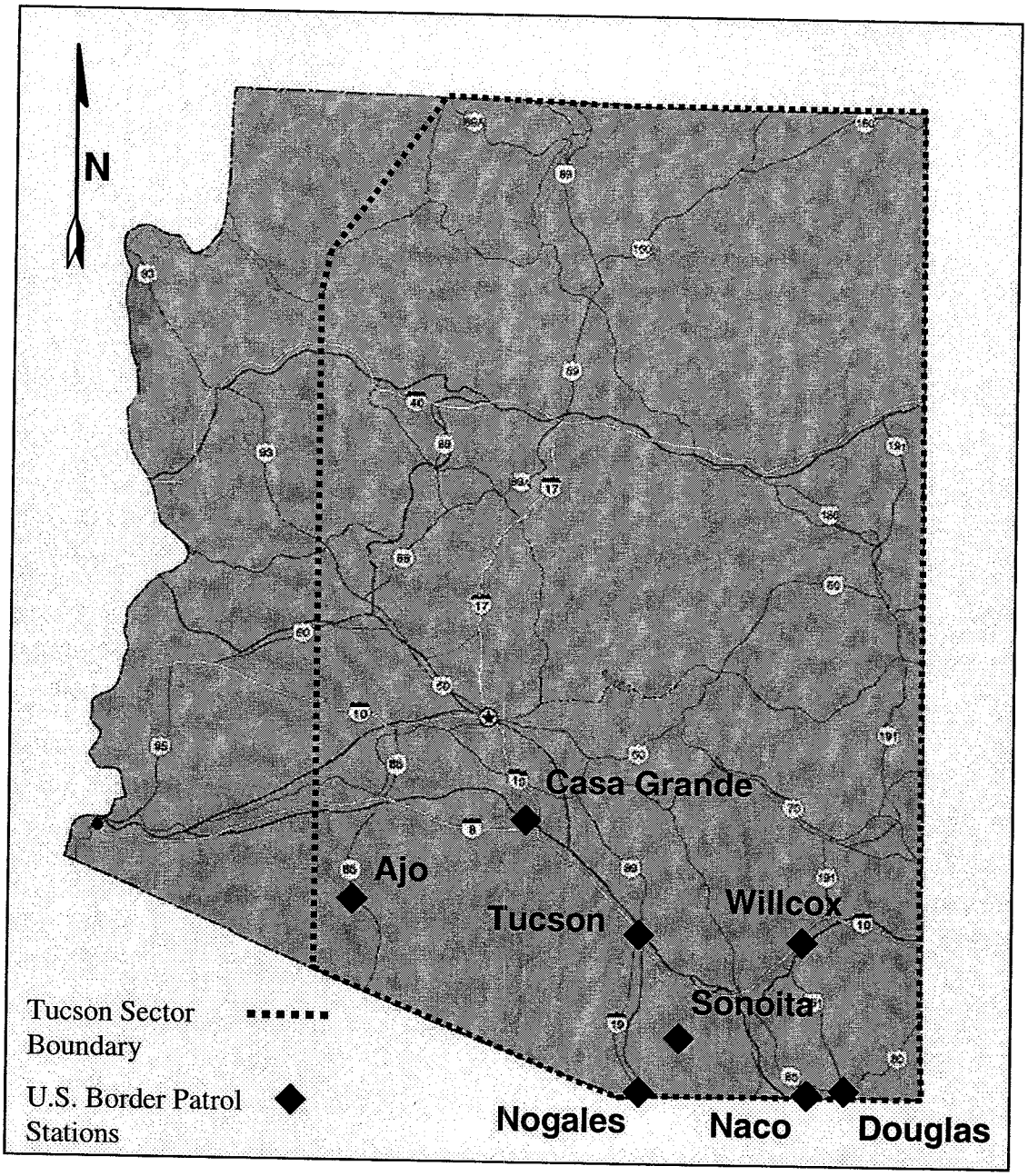


Figure 1. U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector

Justice in 1990 for the USBP. The functions of the Willcox USBPS are to process undocumented aliens apprehended within the Tucson Sector, store and issue equipment to USBP agents, and serve as an office location for personnel. The Willcox Station apprehends and processes on average, 80 undocumented aliens per day. Detainees are held from 1 to 12 hours before they are transported to other facilities.

From October 2001 to April 2002, the USBP Tucson Sector apprehended 146,795 undocumented aliens (USBP 2002). In 2001, agents serving the Willcox Station apprehended and processed approximately 26,000 undocumented aliens (USBP 2002). Tighter control of borders in neighboring states encourages undocumented aliens to move into the Tucson Sector and is part of the cause for the steady increase in apprehensions from previous years (Steller 2000).

1.3 Description and Location of Proposed Action

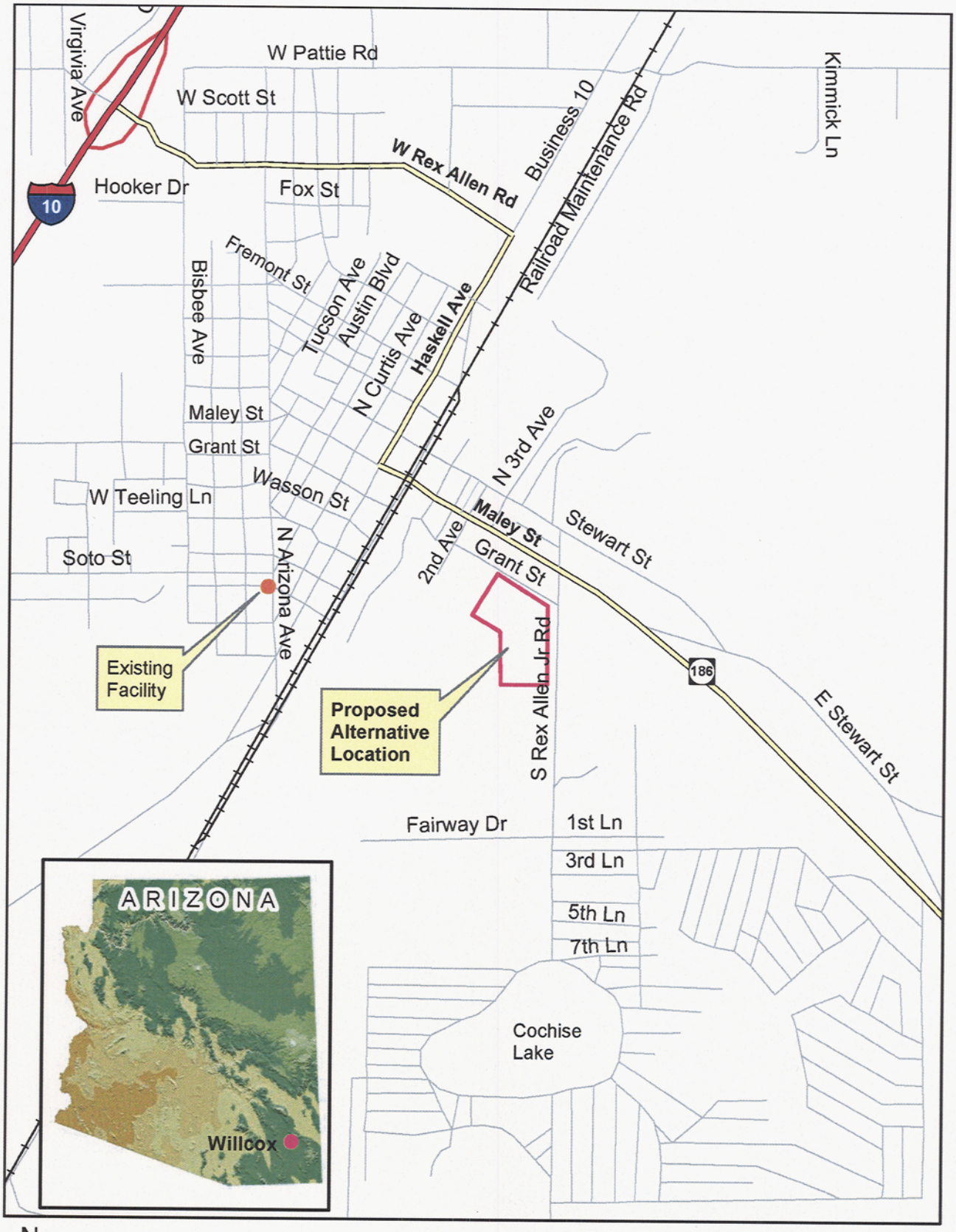
The Proposed Alternative would be located in southeastern Arizona, within the City of Willcox (Figure 2). Willcox is located along Interstate 10 (I-10), approximately 80 miles north of the U.S./Mexico International Border. The proposed USBPS would be constructed on a 20-acre parcel of City-owned property within an industrial park located in the southeast part of the City. The proposed USBPS would consist of two buildings, a 4,700 square feet vehicle maintenance facility and a 21,655 square feet main building (Figures 3 & 4). The main building would include space for offices, a conference room, lockers and exercise facilities, training facilities, an armory, and detention and control facilities. The Willcox USBPS would serve as a short-term (less than 12 hours) detention facility for undocumented aliens and criminal aliens.

1.4 Purpose and Need of Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed USBPS is to provide adequate space for the current and future needs of USBP employees to carry out their mission to apprehend and detain undocumented aliens. The proposed facility would provide the USBP the means to satisfy the requirement to provide safe, secure, and humane treatment for detainees during the detainment process in accordance to INS policy and standards.

The existing Willcox Station, intended to provide space for eight employees, consists of one 2,850 square feet building that presently serves 62 agents and staff. On-site parking is limited and a lease agreement with an adjacent business owner has provided parking space for the station's government vehicles. Storage space is also rented nearby.

According to the USBP (2001), it is estimated that the Willcox USBPS provides only 40% of the required space for current staff levels and would provide only 15% for the staff levels projected for fiscal year 2002. The station also provides parking space for only 11% of the station's vehicles. The current detention area, where undocumented



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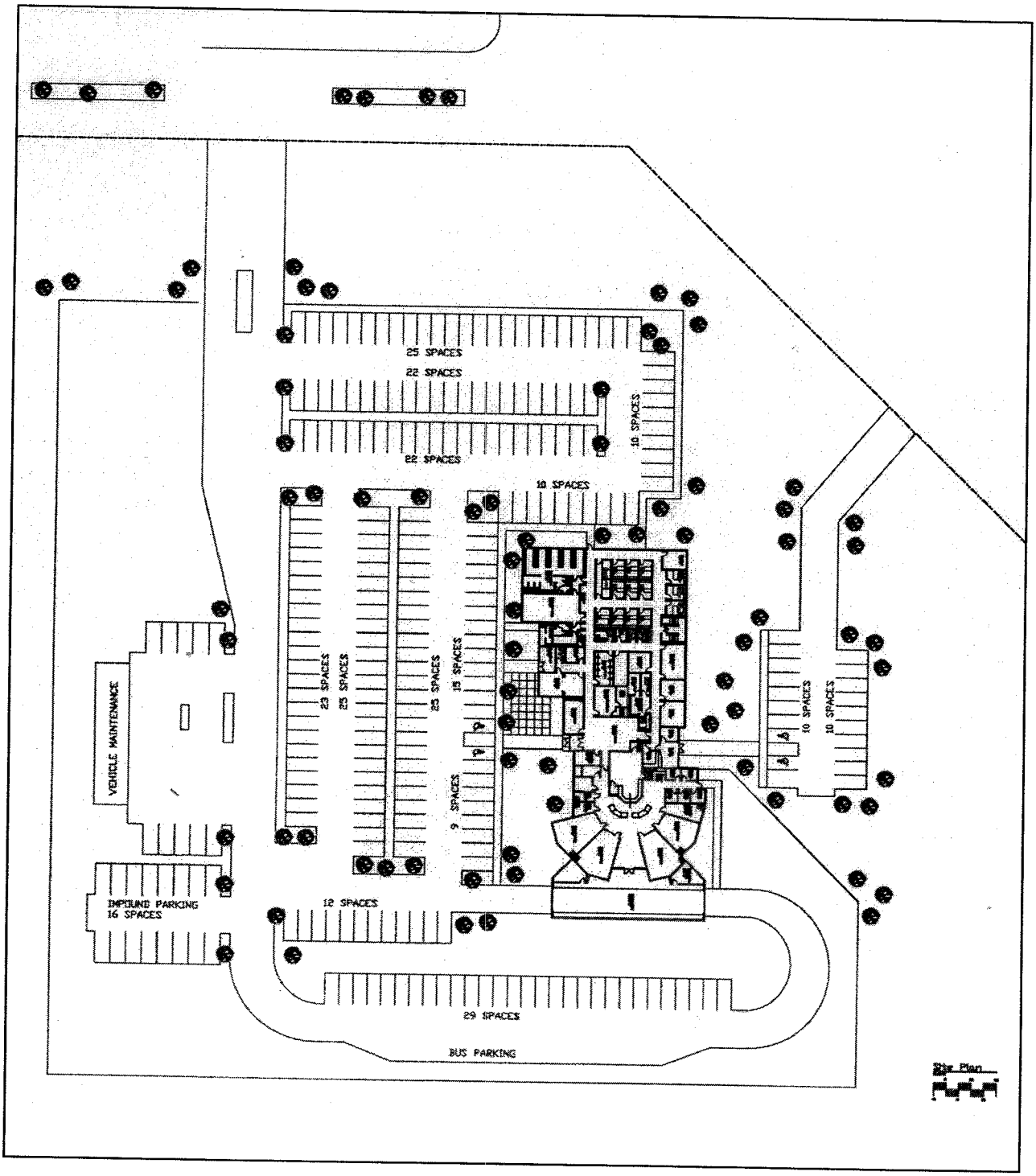
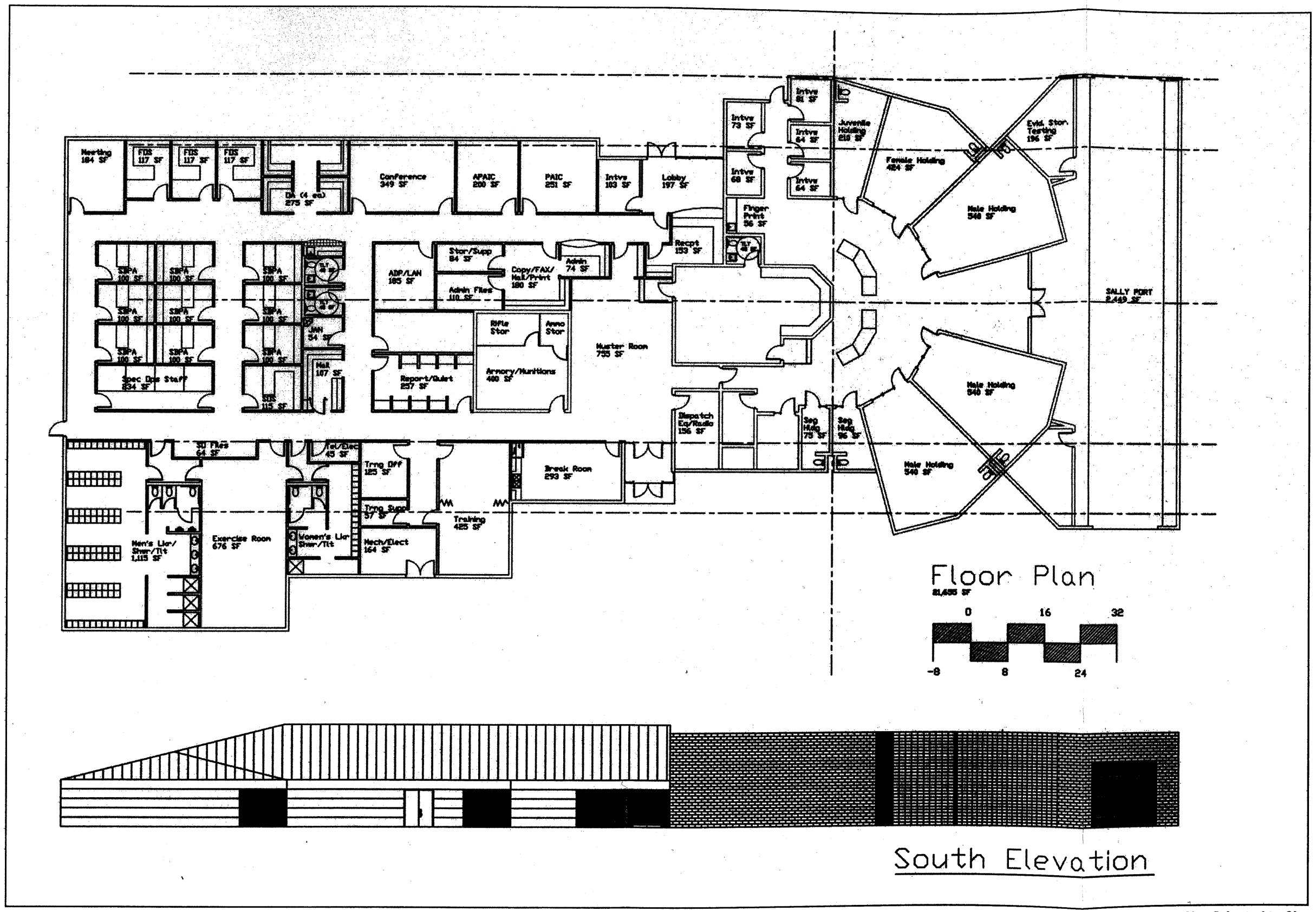
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

Figure 2. Proposed Alternative Site



Not Oriented to Site

Figure 3. Willcox Border Patrol Station
Conceptual Site Plan



Not Oriented to Site

Figure 4. Preliminary Building Plan

aliens and criminals are detained, provides room for a total of 35 detainees (700 square feet of space). Routinely, 50 detainees are held and occasionally up to 150 detainees. INS policy requires that 20 square feet of space be provided for every detainee, indicating a shortage from 300 to 2,300 square feet depending on the number of detainees. Secured cells for high risk or violent detainees and the ability to segregate juveniles, unaccompanied females, and family groups currently does not exist due to the lack of space. Additional limitations of the Willcox Station include the absence of a secure loading and unloading area to prevent escapes.

The USBP Willcox Station failed the last two security inspections due to the substandard facility. A security and safety assessment of the existing Willcox Station concluded that numerous problems and health and safety issues could not be corrected due to limited available space for expansion (USBP 2001). Due to overcrowding, the Willcox USBPS needs to move to a larger facility to meet their current and future operational requirements.

2 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Introduction

The INS proposes to acquire a new USBPS in the City of Willcox that will meet present and future USBP requirements. The present and future ability of the USBP to detain and process undocumented aliens is affected by the size of the current facility. This EA addresses the proposed facility location and anticipated impacts. The INS requested an initial environmental investigation for three properties owned by the City of Willcox prior to this EA. The purpose of the environmental investigation was to identify whether any of the properties had any important environmental constraints related to waters of the U.S., cultural resources, and biological resources.

Four alternatives were considered for the proposed Willcox USBPS. Of these, two are addressed in detail within the EA and two were dropped from further consideration. The two alternatives considered and addressed in detail are the No Action Alternative and the construction of a new facility within the Willcox Industrial Park.

2.2 Alternatives Considered and Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

Two adjoining alternative properties, located approximately 2,000 feet west of the I-10 and Fort Grant Road traffic interchange, were evaluated and eliminated from further analysis.

The two commercially zoned properties, both owned by the City of Willcox, are the site of a large borrow pit created during the construction of I-10, and a storage area for construction fill material. Adjacent to the west side of the property is a former city landfill. The two sites, 15 acres and 9.5 acres in size are within an area designated as

Zone A0 within the 100-year floodplain. Average depths of inundation within this flood-zone are between 1 and 3 feet (FIRM 1982, SCS 1992). To protect the surrounding developed areas from floodwater hazards, the City has constructed a drainage ditch to carry floodwaters into the borrow pit that now serves as a floodwater retention area. A motel is located east of the property and a large truck stop is located to the north, across Fort Grant Road. Residences are located on the southeast side of the property. Quail Drive Sports Park is located nearby to the west. According to the Willcox General Plan, the two properties are surrounded by future mixed-use and residential land uses.

The sites were eliminated because they are located in an active floodplain, which avoids impacts to the floodplain, as well as avoids potential floodplain hazards to the proposed facility. Additionally, the proximity of residential land uses, existing and future, are incompatible with the siting of a USBPS. Also, there is the potential for unknown waste materials such as household chemicals, paint, oil, etc. that may have been deposited in or near the sites as a result of the operation of the adjacent former City landfill. These properties were eliminated from further consideration and analysis due to the potential for greater environmental impacts and risks.

2.3 No Action Alternative

Under this alternative a new facility would not be constructed. The USBP would continue to operate in a facility that provides inadequate space for employees, equipment, and detainees.

2.4 Proposed Alternative

Under the Proposed Alternative a new 26,355 square feet USBPS, capable of supporting existing and future staff levels and space for approximately 106 detainees, would be constructed by the City of Willcox on 20 acres within the Willcox Industrial Park (see Figures 3-7). The proposed facility would be constructed exclusively for the use of the INS and USBP at a cost of approximately $6,650,000, in accordance with the plans and specifications of the INS and USBP (City of Willcox 2001a.). The proposed site is located in the southeast portion of the city, adjacent to the west side of Rex Allen Jr. Road, approximately 800 feet south of Maley Street (see Figure 2).

After construction of the proposed Willcox USBPS, the INS would have the option to directly purchase the facility or enter into a lease agreement with the City.

3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Negative Declarations

Negative declarations address resources or conditions that are not present or do not require assessment because the location is outside the area of concern for that resource.

The following resources have been assessed and would not be affected as a result of the Proposed Alternative:

- Prime and Unique Farmlands – No prime or unique farmlands were identified within the Proposed Alternative site; therefore, there would be no impact to prime or unique farmlands.

- Wetlands and Waters of the U.S. – There are no wetlands or waters of the U.S. located within the Proposed Alternative site; therefore, there would be no impact to wetlands or waters of the U.S.

- Critical Habitat – There is no designated or proposed critical habitat for federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species; therefore there would be no impact to critical habitat.

- Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species –The Proposed Alternative was evaluated for the habitat of or individuals of species that are federally listed as threatened and endangered. Habitat suitability is based on a field survey and literature available from other sources. Twenty-eight federally listed species occur on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) list, as having the potential to occur in Cochise County (Appendix C). It was determined that no federally listed species or designated critical habitat would be affected by the construction of the Proposed Alternative.

- Air Quality – The Proposed Alternative is located in an area that complies with all air quality standards defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Air pollutants designated by the USEPA that are of concern for public health and welfare and for which air quality standards have been defined include carbon monoxide, lead, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide.

  Localized air quality impacts may occur as a result of the operation of construction equipment and construction activities. However, this would be a temporary and localized affect until construction is complete. With the use of measures to control fugitive dust, the affect on temporary air quality impacts could be further reduced. The Proposed Alternative would not contribute to air pollution levels that would create a concern regarding USEPA air quality standards.

- Noise Considerations – The Proposed Alternative is located within an area designated as an industrial area. Sensitive receptors, such as residences, schools, and hotels are not located within 1,000 ft of the Proposed Alternative site. Additionally, an in-use Union Pacific Railroad line is located approximately 0.3 mile to the west with as many as 50 trains per day using the track (Rule 2001).

  The proposed USBPS is not a large noise generator and would not produce levels of noise out of character for the land use in the area; the Proposed Alternative would not have a substantial noise impact on the surrounding area.

3.1 Topography, Geology, and Soils

The Proposed Alternative lies in the Sulphur Springs Valley within the Mexican Highland section of the Basin and Range Deserts of the southern and western Arizona geologic province (SCS 1976; Kamilli and Richard 1998). Soils within the valley were deposited by water and are underlain by a thick sequence of gravel, sand, and silt. Older material beneath this consists of clay, silt, sand, sandstone, gravel, and conglomerate (SCS 1976).

The topography of the Proposed Alternative site is mostly flat with some uneven areas possibly due to previous man-made disturbances. Elevation of the site averages approximately 4,166 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Shallow, natural depressions occur over some areas of the site. The topography generally slopes from west to east and slopes are generally 0-5%.

Soils within the Proposed Alternative site are mapped as Crot sandy loam and Stewart loam. Crot sandy loams are deep, somewhat poorly drained soils, found as scattered slight depressions within areas of Stewart loam. Crot sandy loam is characterized by sand and silt loam that is strongly to very strongly alkaline with a low to high corrosivity potential for concrete depending on the soil depth. This soil can have a seasonally high water table (from 1 to 5 feet below ground surface). Runoff from this soil is slow, erosion potential is slight, and the soil has a low to moderate shrink-swell potential. Livestock grazing and community development, including housing, occur on these soils (SCS 1976). Stewart loam consists of shallow, somewhat poorly drained soils and similar to Crot sandy loam are deep but with a silica- and lime-cemented hardpan about 13 inches thick, just below the surface layer. Stewart loam is characterized by sand and silt loam that is very strongly alkaline and has a high corrosivity potential for concrete. Runoff from this soil is very slow, erosion potential is slight, and the shrink-swell potential is low. Livestock grazing and community development, including housing occur on these soils (SCS 1976).

3.2 Water Resources

3.2.1 Groundwater

The Proposed Alternative occurs within the Willcox Basin groundwater basin that covers approximately 1,911 square miles in the northern part of Sulphur Springs Valley. The City of Willcox is located near the center of the basin. The basin is a closed drainage system, and all water flows to the approximately 50 square-mile, Willcox Playa, in the south-central part of the basin (Arizona Department of Water Resources 2002). The area acts as an evaporation dish for surface water and shallow groundwater, while vegetation surrounding the playa transpires water to the atmosphere (U.S. Geological Survey 1969).

Average annual precipitation ranges from 8 inches on the valley floor to over 30 inches in the higher mountain elevations. Average annual precipitation for the City of Willcox is 12.25 inches per year.

In 1989, an estimated 45.3 million acre-feet of groundwater were in storage extending to a depth of 1,200 feet in the Willcox Basin (Arizona Department of Water Resources 1989). Natural recharge in the Willcox Basin has been estimated to be approximately 15,000 acre-feet per year (Arizona Water Commission 1978). The main use of groundwater in the Willcox area is for irrigation. Groundwater withdrawals have resulted in declines of water levels in developed areas of the basin. The Arizona Water Commission (1978) reported water level declines of one to nine feet per year.

3.2.2 Surface water

No aquatic areas occur within the Proposed Alternative site. The general area trends in a northwest to southeast direction, with surface flows following the topography during storm events. Surface flows are collected by the drainage system along the roadways as they leave the site.

3.3 Biological Resources

The Proposed Alternative site was evaluated for the habitat of or individuals of species that are federally listed as threatened, endangered, proposed threatened and candidate (Appendix C). Habitat suitability is based on a field survey and literature available from other sources. The field assessment was conducted October 16, 2001.

3.3.1 Vegetation

The Proposed Alternative site is located in the Semidesert Grassland biotic community (Brown 1994), at an approximate elevation of 4,166 feet amsl. A site visit was performed on October 16-17, 2001. The site is relatively flat, with limited vegetation. The site is altered, and shows evidence of cattle grazing and other ground disturbing activities. Dominant vegetation includes mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), buckhorn cholla and prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.), four-winged saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), yucca (*Yucca* sp.), and various grasses. No aquatic areas occur within the Proposed Alternative site.

Under Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species, dated February 3, 1999, projects which occur on federal lands or are federally funded must: "subject to the availability of appropriations, and within Administration budgetary limits, use relevant programs and authorities to: (i) prevent the introduction of invasive species; (ii) detect and respond rapidly to, and control populations of such species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner; (iii) monitor invasive species population accurately and reliably; and (iv) provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded".

Prior to construction of the proposed facility, an invasive species investigation should be completed at the Proposed Alternative site. In order to ensure that invasive species are controlled, the following mitigation measures shall be followed if no invasive species are found:

- All disturbed soils that will not be landscaped or otherwise permanently stabilized by construction will be seeded using species native to the project vicinity.
- All earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed at the contractor's storage facility prior to arriving on site to prevent the introduction of invasive species seed.

If invasive species are discovered, the following mitigation measures shall be included with the previous mitigation measures:

- All earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed prior to leaving the construction site to prevent invasive species from leaving the site.

Native plants, protected by the Arizona Department of Agriculture's Native Plant Law, occur within the Proposed Alternative site. The law requires landowners to notify the Arizona Department of Agriculture prior to the destruction of protected native plants. This allows the opportunity for protected plants to be salvaged by interested parties.

3.3.2 Wildlife

Common wildlife species which could potentially utilize the Proposed Alternative site include (Brown 1994): black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*); spotted ground squirrel (*Spermophilus spilosoma*); hispid pocket mouse (*Perognathus hispidus*); Ord's, banner-tailed, and Merriam kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys ordii, D. spectabilis, D. merriami*); white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*); southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus*), southern plains and white-throated woodrats (*Neotoma micropus, N. albigula*), badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and the coyote (*Canis latrans*).

Common year-round bird species which could utilize the Proposed Alternative site include: Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*); Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*); Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*); Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*); Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*); Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*); Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*); Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*); Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*); Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus* verticalis); Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*); Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*); Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris* Linnaeus); Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*); White-necked Raven (*Corvus crytoleucus*); Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*); Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus* brunneic*a*pillus); Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polygattos*); Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*); Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*); Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*); Meadow Lark (*Sturnella magna*; increasingly *S. neglecta*); Brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*), House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), and Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*).

Other animals that may occur within semi-desert grassland communities are those that come from adjacent scrubland and desertland communities, such as: Gambel's Quail (*Lophortyx gambelii*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus crooki*), and Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*).

Other native species that could occur in this biotic community include: Scaled Quail, Western yellow box turtle (*Terrapene ornate luteola*), desert-grassland hognose snake (*Heterodon nascius kennerlyi*), Western hooknose snake (*Ficimia cana*), the all-female desert-grassland whiptail (*Cnemidophorus uniparens*), Southwestern earless lizard (*Holbrookia texana scitula*), and the Western green toad (*Bufo debilis insidior*).

3.3.3 Sensitive Species

The Proposed Alternative site was evaluated for the habitat of or individuals of species that are considered sensitive. Habitat suitability is based on a field survey and literature available from other sources.

Two Sonoran desert tortoises were observed on the Proposed Alternative site during the cultural survey (Brodbeck, 2001). No evidence was observed during the biological field visit. The Sonoran desert tortoise is classified as a Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona. Sonoran desert tortoise habitat occurs primarily in the hills and rocky mountainous terrain of the Arizona Upland and Sonoran Desertscrub communities. Desert tortoises are typically found along washes and rocky areas, usually building their burrows in rocky areas (Johnson et al. 1990).

Two species of concern were identified by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) as having the potential to occur within 5 miles of the project area. The species are: the Playa spider plant (*Cleome multicaulis*) and the Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*). The Playa spider plant is known from a historical location in the Willcox area. It is associated with saline playas and springs, at an elevation of 3,600 feet to 4,200 feet amsl. This species is not likely to occur in the project area (4,166 feet amsl), as the project area is highly disturbed and no saline soils or springs occur. The Texas horned lizard is associated with Chihuahuan desertscrub and desert-grassland vegetation communities. It is found on sandy to gravelly flat ground with or without rocky cover, usually with scattered desert and grassland shrubs. This species could occur within the Proposed Alternative site.

3.4 Cultural Resources

A cultural resources assessment was conducted to determine whether important cultural resources exist within the Proposed Alternative site that could potentially be impacted. The survey was performed on October 10–11, 2001. The work was conducted under Arizona State Antiquities Act Permit No. 2001-185bl issued by the Arizona State Museum (ASM).

Prior to conducting the survey, record checks were conducted to determine whether any projects or previously recorded sites were located within 0.5 mi of the project area. The record checks were conducted at the ASM, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the State Office of the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The record checks revealed that several projects had taken place within the general vicinity of the Proposed Alternative site, but no previous survey work had been completed.

3.4.1 Survey Results

The results of the cultural survey can be found in the report *A Cultural Resources Survey of Approximately 80 Acres for a Proposed United States Border Patrol Station in Willcox, Cochise County, Arizona* (Brodbeck 2002). The cultural resources survey identified one archaeological site and nine isolated occurrences. The site recorded, AZ CC:13:60 (ASM), represents an abandoned segment of the Mascot and Western Railroad (MWRR), which ran between Willcox and Dos Cabezas between 1915 and 1932. All that remains is an earthen berm representing the original railbed; the tracks and ties have

been removed. A discontinuous distribution of mesquite trees lines both sides of the berm and a run-down barbed-wire fence, possibly one shown on the 1913 General Land Office maps, extends for a short distance along its southern side. Although the railroad as a whole may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the segment within the project area is considered a non-contributing element due to severely compromised integrity. The isolated occurrences include pieces of glass, ceramics, rusted metal, railroad spikes, and several cans; none are considered eligible for the NRHP.

3.4.2 Eligibility Recommendation

Although the MWRR may be considered eligible as a whole for its role in the history of southeast Arizona, and in particular, mining in the Sulphur Springs Valley, the segment within the project area is recommended as a non-contributing element that is not eligible for the NRHP.

The isolated occurrences include single artifacts and small groups of artifacts that do not meet minimum ASM site definition criteria. They are not associated with important people or events and mapping and field recording have exhausted their information potential. The isolated occurrences are considered not eligible for the NRHP.

3.5 Visual Resources

The Proposed Alternative is in an area that is generally flat and visually portrays a rural character because of the generally unaltered nature of the land adjacent to development (Figure 4). The site is primarily covered in grasses with scattered stands of mesquite. Industrial and agricultural land uses as well as general development within the City of Willcox are viewed to the west of the project area (Figure 5). Views to the east are interrupted by an electrical substation and activity associated with an adjacent wastewater treatment plant. Industrial land uses are also visible to the north of the project area as well as overhead powerlines on the north and east boundaries. Prominent views of the Winchester Mountains occur beyond the visible development in Willcox to the west as well as prominent views of the Dos Cabezas Mountains to the East. Distant views of the Pinaleno, Chiricahua, and Dragoon mountains exist to the north, southeast and southwest respectively.

3.6 Hazardous Materials

SCS Engineers (SCS) performed a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and limited soil sampling for the Proposed Alternative site. The ESA consisted of site reconnaissance; interviews; review of environmental, historical, and physical records pertaining to activities on and adjacent to the Proposed Alternative site; and interpretation

and reporting of findings. A total of eight soil samples were collected to evaluate the abandoned MWRR railbed as a potential source of lead contamination.

The Proposed Alternative site consists of vacant grazing land, and an abandoned MWRR railbed crosses the southern portion of the Proposed Alternative site. A large amount of solid waste debris, such as pieces of machinery and mechanical parts, were observed on the northwest portion of the Proposed Alternative site, extending south along an active railroad spur adjoining the Proposed Alternative site to the west. Some of the large metal parts were mostly buried. Also observed in this area were several soil mounds, a depression, an area of darker soil, and areas containing rust chips, gravel, whitish colored soil, and metal and plastic chips mixed with soil on the soil surface. Areas with lesser quantities of miscellaneous solid waste debris were observed primarily along Rex Allen, Jr. Drive and Grant Street. A subsequent field visit revealed that much of the debris had been removed from the northwest portion of the site and the area had been graded.

Seven soil samples were collected from the abandoned MWRR railbed for lead analysis, and one sample was collected from an apparently undisturbed area of the southern extension of the Proposed Alternative site for a background sample. The concentrations of lead in the railbed samples ranged from 6.2 to 11.0 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) and the concentration of lead in the background sample was 15 mg/kg.

Historically, the site has consisted of grazing land since at least 1943. Historical information did not indicate the presence of any structures on the site. The railbed across the site was reportedly built and used from 1915 to 1936, and was used to haul ore to Willcox from a mine in Dos Cabezas. Beginning in the 1980's, the northwest portion of the site was used by adjoining businesses to the north for parking vehicles. This portion of the site appeared disturbed from parked vehicles. The City of Willcox acquired the property from the Fulgham Trust (or Sunni Putnam and Louisa Kurtz) in 1992 or 1993. Current occupants of properties adjoining the site include Fertizona Willcox, Willcox Pipe and Steel, Irrigation and Sales and Service, an unmarked property with stored vehicles, an electrical substation, a waste transfer station, grazing land, and vacant land. Numerous aboveground storage tanks are located on the southern portion of the Fertizona property north of the site (present since sometime between 1985 and 1992). A large amount of debris, including lumber, vehicles and parts, machinery parts, melted cables, fencing, drum containers, air conditioner parts, and sheet metal, was located on the eastern portion of the Willcox Pipe and Steel property.

One or two buildings were located north of the site by 1943. The railroad spur currently adjoining the site to the west has been present since between the mid-1950s to mid-1960s. Development of many properties along Maley Street, to the north of the site, apparently occurred in the 1960s and 1970s. Historical commercial occupants of properties adjoining the site have included a towing company, container companies, cooling company, utility companies, irrigation suppliers, bowling alley, machine shop, food bank, fertilizer and chemical company, government offices, service and equipment company, ice company, and other miscellaneous businesses.

Figure 5. Looking south at Proposed Alternative site and Twin Lakes Municipal Golf Course from Rex Allen Jr. Road.

Figure 6. Looking west at Proposed Alternative site from Rex Allen Jr. Road.

No environmental regulatory database listings were identified on the Proposed Alternative site or adjoining properties. Environmental regulatory database listings identified in the vicinity (within 0.5 mile) included three CERCLIS facilities, one Arizona Superfund Program List area, one removed registered UST, and twelve LUST facilities (two cases have been closed). None of these facilities is located upgradient of the Proposed Alternative site. Three home indoor radon tests conducted for the zip code area containing the site had a high value of 4.6 pCi/L, which is slightly above the EPA general guideline of 4.0 pCi/L. This indicates that radon may be of slight concern in this area.

3.7 Socioeconomics

Economic and demographic characteristics for the project area were identified using the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) 2000 and 1990 Census data and the City of Willcox's General Plan (2001).

3.7.1 Population

Table 1 shows the population breakdown by city, county, and state.

Table 1. 2000 Census Population Statistics.

Area	2000
City of Willcox	3,733
Cochise County	117,755
Arizona	5,130,632

Source: ADES 2002.
2000 Census Summary File 1.

3.7.2 Racial Composition

The 2000 census data provided by the ADES for the City of Willcox related to racial composition were compared to the data for Cochise County. An examination of city level census data compared to the county, provide a baseline for determining whether protected populations are substantially represented within the study area; and therefore, would have the potential to be disproportionately affected.

According to available census data, the City of Willcox has a higher concentration of minority groups compared to concentrations in Cochise County (Table 2). The overall percent of minority populations residing within the City of Willcox is 45.6%.

Table 2. Racial Composition.

Location	Population	White	Hispanic or Latino	African American	Asian	American Indian	Pacific Islander	Other	2 or More Races
City of Willcox	3,733	54.4 %	41.7%	0.4%	0.8%	1.2%	0.1%	0.1%	1.3%
Cochise County	117,755	60.1 %	30.7%	4.3%	1.6%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%	2.1%

Source: ADES 2002.

3.7.3 Age

Table 3 details the number of individuals age 55 and over within the City of Willcox and Cochise County, Arizona. The percentages of persons ages 55 and over are consistent between the City of Willcox and Cochise County.

Table 3. Percentage of Persons Ages 55 and Over.

Area	2000
City of Willcox	25.7%
Cochise County	25.4%

Source: ADES 2002.
2000 Census Summary File 1.

3.7.4 Income

The total number of persons, families, and households living below the poverty level within the City of Willcox was much higher from the same groups at the county level (Table 4). Over a quarter of the City's population is defined as low-income.

Table 4. Poverty Status.

Location	Total Persons	Persons Below Poverty	Total Families	Families Below Poverty
City of Willcox	3,733	27.0%	947	21.6%
Cochise County	117,755	17.7%	30,786	13.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

3.7.5 Employment

Opportunities for employment in the City of Willcox include local government, public schools, retail sales and services, farm labor at local greenhouses or orchards, railroad jobs, and small manufacturing operations. Table 5 shows the percentages of persons employed in general employment areas.

Table 5. 2000 Employment Areas.

	Services	Sales/ Office	Management/ Professional	Production/ Transportation/ Material Moving	Construction/ Extraction/ Maintenance	Farming/ Fishing/ Forestry
City of Willcox	29.2%	19.3%	21.7%	12.5%	10.2%	7.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

According to ADES, 1,521 persons made up the total labor force for the City of Willcox in February 2002. The unemployment rate for that same period was 3.4%, which was lower than the county average of 5.5% and state average of 5.7% for that same period.

3.7.6 Housing

Table 6 represents the number of housing units and vacancy percentages for the City of Willcox.

Table 6. Housing Units Data.

	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units	% Vacant Units	Average Household Size
City of Willcox	1,665	1,383	269	16.3%	2.65

Source: ADES 2002.

The City of Willcox's Draft General Plan identified 53% of all housing as being substandard. Substandard housing is generally considered to be housing in need of rehabilitation or reconstruction. The General Plan also identified the need for more housing for middle and high-income workers.

3.8 Environmental Justice

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes assure that individuals are not excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on the basis of race, color,

national origin, age, sex, and disability. Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice directs that programs, policies, and activities not have a disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effect on minority and low-income populations. Minority populations are defined as persons who are African American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, Native American or Pacific Islander. Low-income is defined as household income below the state's poverty level.

3.9 Community Services

Existing community services include: Northern Cochise Community Hospital; an elementary and high school; nine parks, the Elsie S. Hogan Community Library; City police and fire departments located with the Department of Public Safety building; and the Department of Public Services. The police and fire departments are located approximately 1 mile from the Proposed Alternative site.

3.10 Land Use

3.10.1 Zoning

Existing zoning for the Proposed Alternative's location was identified by reviewing the City of Willcox's zoning map and associated text. Zoning for the project area is Non-Hazardous Industry; Industrial Zone 1 (I-1). All bordering properties are I-1 or Industrial Zone, which covers a variety of industrial uses.

3.10.2 Existing Land Use

All land within and surrounding the project area falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Willcox. Currently the parcel of land comprising the Proposed Alternative site is undeveloped. Surrounding land uses consists of industrial and vacant. The entrance for Twin Lakes Municipal Golf Course is located south of the proposed site on Rex Allen Jr. Road. Inside the golf course entrance is Cochise Lake. The City's wastewater treatment plant is located east of the Proposed Alternative site.

3.10.3 Future Land Use

The development of a General Plan provides municipalities with the authority and procedures to guide the physical development of land, while protecting the general health, safety, and welfare of the public. The City of Willcox's Final General Plan indicates that the Proposed Alternative site and adjacent areas will be used for industrial purposes (Figure 7.). All land surrounding the Proposed Alternative's location is planned for industrial uses (Rains 2002).

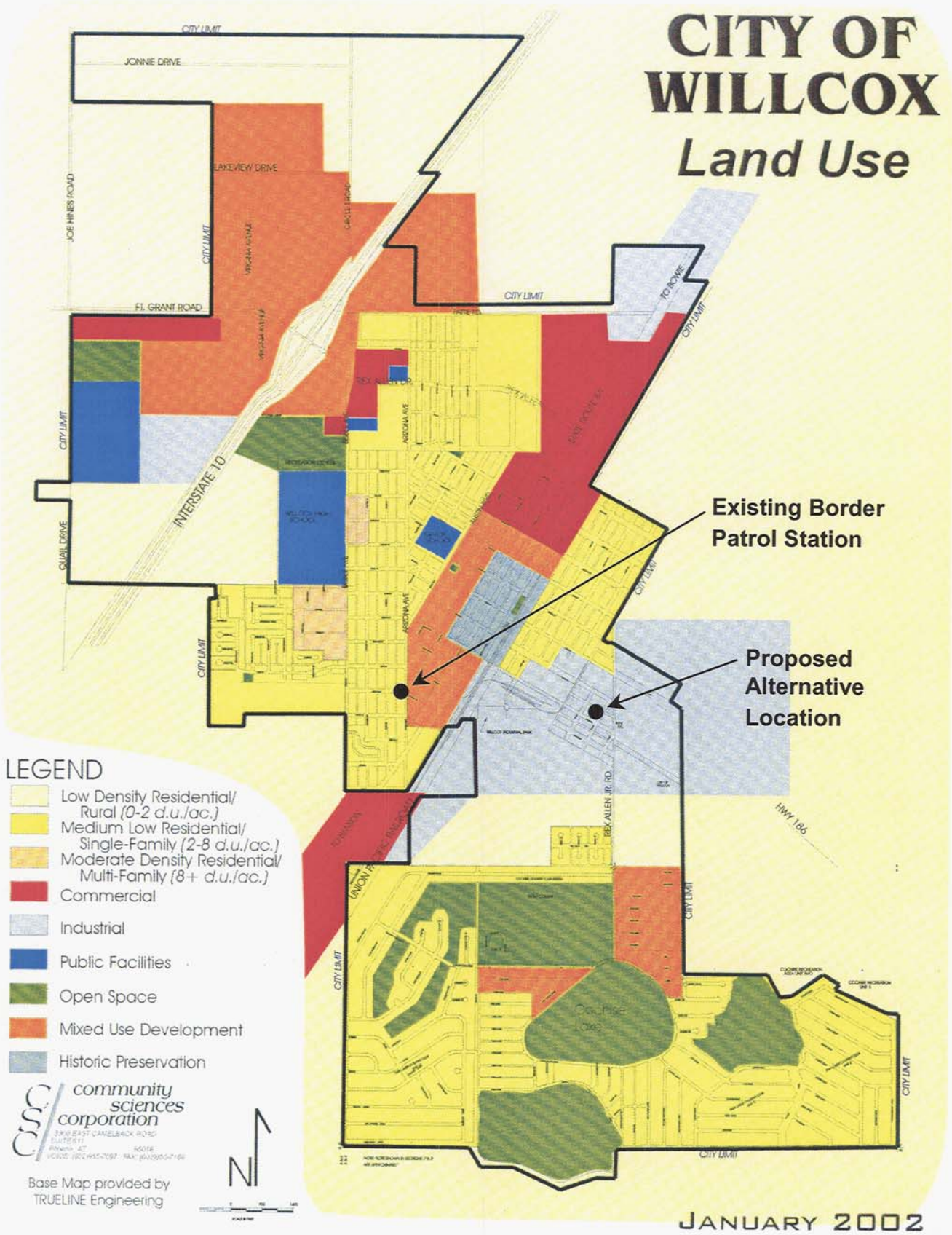


Figure 7. Willcox General Plan Land Use Map

The area around Cochise Lake, south of the project area, is one of the five growth areas identified by the City in their general plan. Originally this area was to be developed as a residential neighborhood, but the project failed due to financial reasons. The General Plan calls for the plan to be revived or redesigned to provide housing that would appeal to government employees.

3.11 Utilities

City water and natural gas lines border Rex Allen Jr. Road near the project area. City sewer lines border Maley Street just north of the project area. The existing Willcox Substation owned by Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. is located across from the Proposed Alternative's location, on the east side of Rex Allen Jr. Road.

3.12 Transportation Systems

Rex Allen Jr. Road is a paved non-striped two-lane roadway and is accessible off SR 186. Currently there are no street signs or traffic signals for Rex Allen Jr. Road or Grant Street near the project area. Grant Street is a dirt road with limited use.

3.13 Health and Safety

The Proposed Alternative site would be located in an industrial area. Industrial businesses often utilize materials or equipment that has the potential for health and safety issues and it is likely that the adjacent industrial businesses possess the potential for these concerns. Laws, policies, and guidelines govern industrial facilities to minimize the threat to public health and safety.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 Topography, Geology, and Soils

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area; therefore, it is anticipated that the topography, geology, and soils will not substantially change if this alternative is implemented.

Proposed Alternative
The Proposed Alternative would not impact the geology or the geomorphology within the vicinity of the project area, with the exception of fill that may be needed to construct the proposed facility. No increase in soil erosion rates are anticipated because of the slow runoff rates, from being moderately well to poorly drained, and nearly level gradient of the project area.

Water Resources

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area; therefore, surface and groundwater resources will not be impacted if this alternative is implemented.

Proposed Alternative
The proposed construction of the USBPS in the Willcox Industrial Park would not be expected to affect any surface or ground water resources. Activities, such as vehicle maintenance, and storage of materials, such as oils, will be used, stored, and disposed of in compliance with local, state, and national environmental laws and regulations for protecting water resources.

4.2 Biological Resources

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area; therefore, it is anticipated that the biological resources will not be substantially impacted if this alternative is implemented.

Proposed Alternative
The construction of the facility and an increase in future development would result in impacts such as loss of habitat for some plant and animal species, as well as habitat fragmentation. Most vegetation and suitable wildlife habitat have already been removed from the area for the industrial park, cattle grazing, commercial businesses, and roads. Because of this, the Proposed Alternative would not add any substantial negative effects on natural resources. As future developments are designed, mitigation measures may lessen some of these adverse habitat modifications.

4.2.1 Vegetation

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area; therefore, it is anticipated that the vegetation will not be substantially impacted if this alternative is implemented.

Proposed Alternative
Although the Proposed Alternative site has been previously disturbed, plants protected under the Arizona Native Plant Law occur within the construction limits and would be impacted by the Proposed Alternative; therefore, the Arizona Department of Agriculture must be notified at least 30 days prior to the start of construction to afford commercial salvagers the opportunity to remove and salvage these plants.

4.2.2 Wildlife

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area; therefore, it is anticipated that wildlife will not be substantially impacted if this alternative is implemented.

Proposed Alternative
The Proposed Alternative site does not support good quality habitat, as it is highly altered and located adjacent to the urban Willcox Industrial Park. Species most likely to occur regularly in the Proposed Alternative site include: coyote, small mammals such as rodents and rabbits, and birds such as Gambel's quail, cactus wren, sparrows, house finches. Development of this project will remove the habitat that currently exists. Species using this area will be displaced; however, due to the small amount of low quality habitat that will be affected, the impact on wildlife will be minimal.

4.2.3 Sensitive Species

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area; therefore, it is anticipated that sensitive species will not be substantially impacted if this alternative is implemented.

Proposed Alternative
The Texas horned lizard could occur within the project area. It is found on sandy to gravelly flat ground with or without rocky cover, usually with scattered desert and grassland shrubs. It is also associated with semi-desert grassland communities. No special actions are necessary during construction, and the AGFD has not requested any mitigation measures for the proposed work.

If a desert tortoise is found in the project area during development, it is recommended that the AGFD's Guidelines for Handling Sonoran Desert Tortoises Encountered on Development Projects be followed. The guidelines are included in Appendix D of this EA.

4.3 Cultural Resources

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area, the continuing use of the existing facility is unlikely to impact cultural resources.

Proposed Alternative
The Proposed Alternative would not impact any cultural resources, as the site is not eligible for listing on the NRHP. The SHPO provided concurrence on May 29, 2002, that the historic railroad alignment lacks integrity and is therefore not Register-eligible under Criterion D (see attached SHPO letter in Appendix B).

4.4 Visual Resources

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area; therefore, it is anticipated that visual resources will not be substantially impacted if this alternative is implemented.

Proposed Alternative
The Proposed Alternative would impact the rural character of the area; however, the land is planned for development and the visual character is not a factor for determining the lands' development potential. The proposed Willcox USBPS design does not include tall buildings that would block distant views from adjacent lands. Fences and walls would be visually consistent with the character of the adjacent land uses and may block views of less desirable features. Due to the location of the Proposed Alternative within an industrial park, the Proposed Alternative would not have a negative visual impact on the character of the area.

4.5 Hazardous Materials

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area; therefore, it is anticipated that hazardous materials will not be substantially impacted if this alternative is implemented.

Proposed Alternative
None of the facilities identified in the environmental regulatory database in the vicinity of the Proposed Alternative site are located hydrogeologically upgradient from the site. Therefore, groundwater beneath the site would not be impacted by migration of contaminants from releases at these facilities, and the facilities are not anticipated to be sources of recognized environmental concern to the Proposed Alternative site.

Based on the findings of the Phase 1 ESA performed in conformance with the scope and limitations of the ASTM Practice E-1527-00 the following recognized environmental conditions were identified by this assessment in connection with the site:

- Solid waste debris was identified in the northwest portion of the site in an initial site visit. Lesser quantities were located during a subsequent site visit and the area was partially graded. During construction, this area will be observed to determine if any residual debris or discolored soils are present. If debris is found, it will be removed and properly disposed. If discolored soil is observed, it will be evaluated and properly remediated, if necessary.
- Also observed in the northwest portion of the site were areas where pieces of rust, plastic, and metal were mixed with soil on the ground surface. If this debris presents a concern it will be properly disposed. If any discolored soil is observed, it will be evaluated and properly remediated, if necessary.

- Based on aerial photographs, the Fertizona facility or its predecessor appears to have used a portion of the site. That portion appears to have been used for vehicle parking and turn around. Also, above ground tanks were observed approximately 60 feet from the site boundary. According to Mr. Tom Hunt, Fertizona facility manager, Fertizona manufactures pesticides and herbicides. Mr. Hunt indicated that Fertizona and the City of Willcox recently performed soil testing near the site boundary. Ammonia and sulfur were found to be present at levels below State action levels. In addition, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) inspection report, dated November 1, 2002, indicates that soil samples were analyzed for ammonia, nitrate, sulfide, organochlorine pesticides, organophosphorus pesticides, and chlorinated herbicides. All analytical results were below State residential action levels. Furthermore, the ADEQ letter, dated January 10, 2002, indicates "There are no further hazardous waste issues at this time." During future site grading activities, if any soils suspected of contamination are discovered, the soil will be evaluated and appropriately disposed, if necessary.

There is no indication that debris observed on the site is a significant concern; therefore, no further testing is recommended as a result of the debris. Lead test results of the soil samples taken along the railbed, indicate that lead concentrations are well below the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Residential Soil Remediation Level (SRL) of 400 mg/kg and the Non-Residential SRL of 2,000 mg/kg, and are within the range of concentrations expected for lead concentrations in native Arizona soils. No further lead testing is recommended.

During construction of the proposed USBPS, hazardous materials, such as fuel and oils or other substances used and stored during construction, could be spilled that would contaminate the site. Best management practices will be implemented to prevent contamination of the site and spill containment and response plans will be available. With the implementation of these practices minimal impacts are expected for the construction of this type of project. Aboveground storage tanks would be used at the proposed maintenance facility that would reduce the potential for contamination of soils, groundwater, and surface water.

4.6 Socioeconomics

No Action Alternative

It is anticipated that the No Action Alternative will provide the existing level of direct and indirect benefits and restrictions. These conditions are not likely to increase over time due to the limitations on expansion of this facility.

Proposed Alternative
Building the Proposed Alternative would provide direct and indirect economic benefits to the City of Willcox and area businesses as a result of construction activities. The facility could also serve as a continuing positive contribution to the City of Willcox's revenue base if INS elects to lease the facility from the City of Willcox.

4.7 Environmental Justice

No Action Alternative
It is anticipated that the No Action Alternative will not change the levels of impacts to low-income or minority groups. These conditions are not likely to change over time due to the limitations on expansion of this facility.

Proposed Alternative
All populations in the project vicinity would be affected the same. Building the proposed facility would not substantially or disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations because there are no residential developments located near the proposed facility and all planned developments surrounding the proposed facility are anticipated to be industrial according to the City of Willcox's General Plan. There would be no residents or businesses displaced as a result of constructing this facility.

4.8 Community Services

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is in a developed urban area, and it is not anticipated to substantially impact community services.

Proposed Alternative
Building the proposed facility would result in additional Border Patrol Agents and their families living within the City of Willcox. This is anticipated to lead to a slight increase in the use and demand of city schools, housing, healthcare facilities, and local police and fire protection.

4.9 Land Use

No Action Alternative
The No Action Alternative would continue to operate on the boundary between areas of residential and mixed zoning.

Proposed Alternative
The Proposed Alternative site would be in an area zoned as industrial. The facility would be consistent with other industrial developments surrounding the site.

4.9.1 Future Land Use

No Action
The existing facility is in an area planned for residential uses. The facility would not be consistent with the future land use plan of the City of Willcox (City of Willcox 2001b).

Proposed Alternative
The facility would be consistent with the industrial uses as defined by the future land use plan (City of Willcox 2001b). The facility would help contribute to the residential development at Cochise Lake by encouraging nearby housing for people who work at the Proposed Alternative site.

4.10 Utilities

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is operating in a developed urban area; therefore it is anticipated that the same level of impacts on utilities will continue if this alternative is implemented.

Proposed Alternative
All necessary utilities would be available to the Proposed Alternative site. The new facility is anticipated to place an increased demand on the City's existing system, slightly higher than the existing INS facility but utilities would still operate within normal limits.

4.11 Transportation Systems

No Action Alternative
The existing facility is operating in a developed urban area; therefore it is anticipated that the transportation system will continue to operate at present levels if this alternative were implemented.

Proposed Alternative
Increased use of Rex Allen Jr. Road would eventually require signage and traffic control improvements along SR 186 and Rex Allen Jr. Road. Possible traffic control improvement would consist of a traffic signal at the intersection of Rex Allen Jr. Road and SR 186 and striping along Rex Allen Jr. Road. As vacant land adjacent to the project area becomes developed further improvements, like roadway widening, might be needed along Rex Allen Jr. Road.

4.12 Health and Safety

No Action Alternative
The continued operation of the existing Willcox USBPS would allow safety concerns related to overcrowding and facility safety deficiencies to go unaddressed. Lack of a secure loading and unloading area, segregation cells for separating potentially violent

detainees, and a secure processing area increases the risk to surrounding residents, staff, and detainees.

Proposed Alternative
The Proposed Alternative would include facilities for vehicle maintenance and operation including fuel and oil storage. Established safety codes and standards that govern these types of facilities would be followed, thereby minimizing risks to public health and safety.

Public, staff, and detainee safety would be a large component of the proposed facility by including required safety features for loading and unloading undocumented individuals, detainment, and processing. Safety for staff and detainees as well as the public would be increased as a result of the Proposed Alternative.

4.13 Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

No Action Alternative
The existing Willcox USBPS is located in an urban, residential area. Vacant property adjacent and surrounding the existing facility will likely be developed over time. This would eliminate the ability of the USBP to lease additional parking spaces within the neighborhood. For a facility already lacking space, these further losses due to development could result in conflicts with neighboring landowners, or may result in a reduced workforce at the existing facility. Reduction of the work force could have a negative impact on Willcox's economy. As the area develops further, additional burdens will be placed on utilities and community services; however this would be considered a normal occurrence. One exception would be the increase in traffic that is not typical for a neighborhood setting, including traffic congestion and conflicts.

Proposed Alternative
The CEQ's regulations define cumulative effects as " the effects on the environment that result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertake such other actions" (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1508.7). Secondary effects are defined as those that are "caused by an action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable" (40 CFR § 1508.8).

Many factors were evaluated for their cumulative and secondary effects. Because this project would take place in a previously disturbed area in an industrial park setting, the Proposed Alternative would have few cumulative and secondary effects.

The project area and surrounding areas are experiencing and expect to continue to experience ongoing development as described in the City of Willcox General Plan (City of Willcox 2001b). Increased development in general would subsequently cause an increase in population, employment, and stress on the transportation system, utilities and natural habitat that currently exists. This contributes to the cumulative and secondary effects on the land use and socioeconomics in the surrounding areas.

4.13.1 Land Use

Presently, land uses near the project area include vacant, disturbed land, a golf course, a power substation, a birding area, developments of commercial and industrial uses, and some areas of undeveloped natural terrain. The undeveloped areas include disturbed desert lands that are not currently in use and the native vegetation has been substantially eliminated in the industrial and commercial setting. The birding area is accessed by a road that goes through the golf course. The proposed INS facility would not impact the golf course or access for bird watchers. Because of the altered condition of the environment, the Proposed Alternative would not directly cause more alterations in the area, which would alter land use.

At the present time, it is not known what would become of the existing INS facility under the Proposed Alternative. Implementing the Proposed Alternative would improve the operational characteristics for the INS, which in turn would better accommodate the community, as well as the future outlook of the local economy. A secondary impact of the project would be an increase in employment opportunities. It is has been forecasted that up to a total of 120 USBP agents could be located at the new facility. If employment opportunities were to increase more residential areas and related infrastructure may be needed to accommodate the increase in population numbers.

Because of this future development, more traffic is anticipated in the area. The present transportation infrastructure may need to be improved to allow access to the facility and future developments in the community.

4.13.2 Topography, Geology and Soils

The Proposed Alternative would not have any significantly negative cumulative impacts on the surrounding land and soils. Inactive land surrounding the project site may have been approved for other urban uses as described in the City of Willcox General Plan (City of Willcox 2001b). Depending on future drainage design, added development might cause a decrease in storm water ground filtration and an increase in water flow across the surface of roads and subsequently impact flooding. No wetlands or waterways are in the vicinity of the project area that would have drainage impacted by any of these cumulative or secondary effects.

4.13.3 Biological Resources

Endangered and threatened plants and animals have not been previously discovered in the project vicinity and there would be no cumulative or secondary effects to federally listed species. The construction of the facility and an increase in future development would have secondary impacts such as loss of habitat for some plant and animal species, as well as habitat fragmentation. Most vegetation and suitable wildlife habitat have already been removed from the area for the industrial park, cattle grazing, commercial businesses, and roads. Because of this, the Proposed Alternative would not add any substantial negative effects on natural resources. As future developments are designed, planning may lessen some of these adverse habitat modifications.

4.13.4 Air and Noise Quality

The Proposed Alternative is expected to have negligible human health hazards associated with the cumulative effects of emissions that lower ambient air quality. Air quality impacts would be temporary during construction and are expected to lessen with completion of the project. Construction activities would temporarily, negatively decrease air quality, as more trucks would be on the road slowing traffic and emitting greater particulate matter into the environment. Because of future development, there would be a subsequent increase in traffic, more idle traffic in parking lots and a decrease in air quality in the areas surrounding the project site. In addition, Grant Road is unpaved and increased traffic volumes on this road would also contribute to a decrease in air quality.

With the exception of construction activities, the Proposed Alternative would not cause a permanent increase in noise. Future development in the vicinity would increase noise levels.

4.13.5 Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice

The Proposed Alternative would not cause the relocation of any residents or businesses. People visiting and working in the area would have a positive impact on the economy of Willcox. A cumulative effect of the Proposed Alternative would be on the value of real estate or buying opportunities around the industrial park and surrounding commercial areas. A secondary impact of this may be over-burdened social services due to the population change in the area.

4.13.6 Utilities

Utility usage would increase with the building of the facility. A secondary impact would be an overburdened utility system; this would be addressed in the future if additional development took place.

4.13.7 Cultural Resources

Cumulative impacts to cultural resources within the project area are not considered an issue of concern because no archaeological sites or historic properties recommended as eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP were identified.

4.13.8 Visual Resources

Presently, vacant spaces can be seen in the vicinity of the project area as well as man-made features, such as industrial facilities and a golf course. Other man-made features that are visible include overhead power lines and billboards. Adjacent to the proposed site is Rex Allen Jr. Road and Grant Street. To the southwest of the proposed site are the Dragoon Mountains and to the southeast are the Dos Cabezas and Chiricahua ranges, which provide distinct rugged landforms in the background. Desert scrub vegetation covers some of the vacant open spaces and cattle have historically grazed most of this. The facility would block some of these views permanently. In addition, there would be a parking lot and more vehicles in the area during certain times of the day, further impacting visual resources.

Temporary visual impacts would occur during the construction of the Proposed Alternative. Features such as excavation areas, soil stockpiles, equipment and materials storage, and other items would be visible from the surrounding area. Upon completion of the construction, these impacts would cease. The overall cumulative effects of these changes in visual character are considered negligible. A cumulative impact, such as lighting, would not change the visual effects from the existing conditions because lighting along the road and industrial park is already present. Any secondary impacts would be from future development in the area which would result from increased employment opportunities, increased traffic, and signage in the area.

4.13.9 Traffic

Long-term cumulative impacts would include increased levels of traffic along several roadways (Rex Allen Jr. Road and Grant Street) as a result of using such roads as a travel corridor to the facility. Conversely, traffic levels would decrease around the existing facility, once it is closed. Any new developments would increase and change traffic patterns through Willcox. Secondary impacts may include any change in long-term traffic patterns that may arise in the future. This could lead to a re-evaluation of current roadway conditions and layout and potential re-configuration to accommodate increased vehicular use.

5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Based on resources assessed and anticipated impacts to these resources, the construction and operation of the Proposed Alternative is not expected to have any significant effect on the quality of the environment. To ensure that federal and state environmental laws concerning potential resource concerns associated with the site are followed, the following mitigation measures shall be adhered to.

- Prior to construction of the proposed facility, an invasive species investigation should be completed at the Proposed Alternative site. In order to ensure that invasive species are controlled, the following mitigation measures shall be followed if no invasive species are found:
  - All disturbed soils that will not be landscaped or otherwise permanently stabilized by construction shall be seeded using species native to the project vicinity.
  - All earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed at the contractor's storage facility prior to arriving on site to prevent the introduction of invasive species seed.
- If invasive species are discovered, the following mitigation measures shall be included with the previous mitigation measures:
  - All earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed prior to leaving the construction site to prevent invasive species from leaving the site.
- Although the Proposed Alternative site has been previously disturbed, protected native plants within the construction limits would be impacted by the Proposed Alternative; therefore, the INS and USBP would be required to notify the Arizona Department of Agriculture at least 30 days prior to the start of construction to afford commercial salvagers the opportunity to remove and salvage these plants.
- If a desert tortoise is found in the Proposed Alternative site during development, it is recommended that the AGFD's Guidelines for Handling Sonoran Desert Tortoises Encountered on Development Projects be followed. The guidelines are attached as part of this EA.
- If previously unidentified cultural resources are encountered during activity related to construction of the USBPS, then the contractor shall stop work immediately at that location and take reasonable steps to secure the preservation of those resources. The contractor should contact the City of Willcox, at 520-384-4271 and the State Historic Preservation Office at 800-285-3703, immediately and make arrangements for the proper treatment of those resources.

6 PUBLIC COORDINATION

6.1 List of Agencies and Persons Consulted

The following is a list of agencies and persons that were provided scoping letters, requesting comments concerning the proposed Willcox USBPS (see letters in Appendix A):

- SHPO
- San Carlos Tribal Council
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council
- Gila River Indian Community Council
- Hopi Tribal Council
- White Mountain Apache Tribal Council
- Ak Chin Indian Community Council
- AGFD
- USEPA
- National Resource and Conservation Service
- BLM
- Chiricahua National Monument
- USFWS
- Coronado National Forest
- U.S. Geological Survey
- City of Willcox
- USBP

The Draft EA was made available to the public for review (see Appendix E) as well as local, state, and federal entities and private organizations. Responses to the Draft EA are included in Appendix F.

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7 LIST OF PREPARERS

Kurt Watzek	Project Manager/Environmental Planner HDR Engineering, Inc. B.A., Biology M.L.A., Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning
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Fiona Goodson	Environmental Planner/Biologist HDR Engineering, Inc. B.S., Ecology
Mark Brodbeck	Archaeologist HDR Engineering, Inc. B.A. and M.A., Anthropology
Andrea Helmstetter	Environmental Planner/Biologist HDR Engineering, Inc. B.A., Humanities B.S., Biology M.S., Natural Resources Science
Patricia Hartshorne	Senior Project Geologist B.A. and M.S. Geosciences
Charles H. Parsons	Regional Environmental Specialist INS Western Region Project Manager
Charles H. McGregor, Jr	Environmental Resource Planner USACE - Fort Worth Technical Reviewer B.A., Chemistry
Patience Patterson	Cultural Resources USACE – Fort Worth B.A. and M.A., Anthropology M. Phil., Archaeology

Chris Richards	U.S. Border Patrol Agent Field Operation Supervisor
Larry Rains	Former Willcox City Manager

APPENDICES

A. CORRESPONDENCE LETTERS

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

State Historic Preservation Office
State of Arizona
1300 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Gentlemen:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

The new facility would consolidate Border Patrol operations while supporting present and future growth. Currently, the U.S. BPS is located at 200 West Downen in Willcox, Arizona. The facility does not provide sufficient space for current or future Border Patrol operations. The new facility complex would integrate and increase the efficiency of current operations and provide infrastructure for projected growth. The station would be approximately 26,500 square feet and includes such facilities as the main station, sally port, parking, vehicle maintenance facility, dog kennels, seized vehicle temporary parking, fuel island, and station communication towers.

The proposed complex will be constructed on one of three proposed sites under an agreement with the City of Willcox. The proposed site will range from 20 acres to 9½ acres in size. The

land will be donated by the City of Willcox (Attachment 1). At the conclusion of construction activities, the U.S. Government will have the option to either purchase or lease the buildings. The EA will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of each alternative site.

Please provide any comments on this project and alternative sites within 30 days (by November 17, 2001). A listing of federal and state agencies that have been contacted is attached (Attachment 2). If there are any additional agencies that you feel should review and comment on the Proposed Action, please feel free to include them in your distribution of this letter and attachments. You will also receive a copy of the Draft EA, once it is completed.

Any questions concerning this Proposed Action should be directed to the undersigned at the address on this letter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Parsons

Charles H. Parsons, R.G.
Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

OCT 18 2001

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

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Chairman Manuel:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

The new facility would consolidate Border Patrol operations while supporting present and future growth. Currently, the U.S. BPS is located at 200 West Downen in Willcox, Arizona. The facility does not provide sufficient space for current or future Border Patrol operations. The new facility complex would integrate and increase the efficiency of current operations and provide infrastructure for projected growth. The station would be approximately 26,500 square feet and includes such facilities as the main station, sally port, parking, vehicle maintenance facility, dog kennels, seized vehicle temporary parking, fuel island, and station communication towers.

The proposed complex will be constructed on one of three proposed sites under an agreement with the City of Willcox. The proposed site will range from 20 acres to 9½ acres in size. The

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Any questions concerning this Proposed Action should be directed to the undersigned at the address on this letter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

for Rosalind S. Rishel
C. M. McCullough
Acting Director

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

OCT 18 2001

Honorable Ivan Makil, President
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Council
10005 East Osborn
Scottsdale, Arizona 85256

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear President Makil:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

The new facility would consolidate Border Patrol operations while supporting present and future growth. Currently, the U.S. BPS is located at 200 West Downen in Willcox, Arizona. The facility does not provide sufficient space for current or future Border Patrol operations. The new facility complex would integrate and increase the efficiency of current operations and provide infrastructure for projected growth. The station would be approximately 26,500 square feet and includes such facilities as the main station, sally port, parking, vehicle maintenance facility, dog kennels, seized vehicle temporary parking, fuel island, and station communication towers.

The proposed complex will be constructed on one of three proposed sites under an agreement with the City of Willcox. The proposed site will range from 20 acres to 9½ acres in size. The

land will be donated by the City of Willcox (Attachment 1). At the conclusion of construction activities, the U.S. Government will have the option to either purchase or lease the buildings. The EA will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of each alternative site.

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Sincerely,

for Rosalind S. Rushed
C. M. McCullough
Acting Director

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

OCT 18 2001

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

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Governor Antone:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

The new facility would consolidate Border Patrol operations while supporting present and future growth. Currently, the U.S. BPS is located at 200 West Downen in Willcox, Arizona. The facility does not provide sufficient space for current or future Border Patrol operations. The new facility complex would integrate and increase the efficiency of current operations and provide infrastructure for projected growth. The station would be approximately 26,500 square feet and includes such facilities as the main station, sally port, parking, vehicle maintenance facility, dog kennels, seized vehicle temporary parking, fuel island, and station communication towers.

The proposed complex will be constructed on one of three proposed sites under an agreement with the City of Willcox. The proposed site will range from 20 acres to 9½ acres in size. The

land will be donated by the City of Willcox (Attachment 1). At the conclusion of construction activities, the U.S. Government will have the option to either purchase or lease the buildings. The EA will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of each alternative site.

Please provide any comments on this project and alternative sites within 30 days (by November 17, 2001). A listing of federal and state agencies that have been contacted is attached (Attachment 2). If there are any additional agencies that you feel should review and comment on the Proposed Action, please feel free to include them in your distribution of this letter and attachments. You will also receive a copy of the Draft EA, once it is completed.

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Sincerely,

for Rosalind S Rushed
C. M. McCullough
Acting Director

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

OCT 18 2001

Honorable Wayne Taylor, Jr., Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86309

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Chairman Taylor:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

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Any questions concerning this Proposed Action should be directed to the undersigned at the address on this letter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

for Rosalind S. Rushet
C. M. McCullough
Acting Director

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

OCT 18 2001

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

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Chairman Massey:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

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Sincerely,

for Rosalind S. Rishel
C. M. McCullough
Acting Director

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

OCT 18 2001

Honorable Delia Carlyle, Chairperson
AK Chin Indian Community Council
42507 West Peters & Nall Road
Maricopa, Arizona 85239

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Chairperson Carlyle:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

The new facility would consolidate Border Patrol operations while supporting present and future growth. Currently, the U.S. BPS is located at 200 West Downen in Willcox, Arizona. The facility does not provide sufficient space for current or future Border Patrol operations. The new facility complex would integrate and increase the efficiency of current operations and provide infrastructure for projected growth. The station would be approximately 26,500 square feet and includes such facilities as the main station, sally port, parking, vehicle maintenance facility, dog kennels, seized vehicle temporary parking, fuel island, and station communication towers.

The proposed complex will be constructed on one of three proposed sites under an agreement with the City of Willcox. The proposed site will range from 20 acres to 9½ acres in size. The

land will be donated by the City of Willcox (Attachment 1). At the conclusion of construction activities, the U.S. Government will have the option to either purchase or lease the buildings. The EA will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of each alternative site.

Please provide any comments on this project and alternative sites within 30 days (by November 17, 2001). A listing of federal and state agencies that have been contacted is attached (Attachment 2). If there are any additional agencies that you feel should review and comment on the Proposed Action, please feel free to include them in your distribution of this letter and attachments. You will also receive a copy of the Draft EA, once it is completed.

Any questions concerning this Proposed Action should be directed to the undersigned at the address on this letter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

for Rosalind S. Rushet
C. M. McCullough
Acting Director

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

OCT 18 2001

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

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Chairman Stanley:

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U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
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Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

OCT 18 2001

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San Carlos Tribal Council
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VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
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C. M. McCullough
Acting Director

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

Ms. Mary Tuegel
Arizona Game and Fish Department
555 Greaswood Road
Tucson, Arizona 85602

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Ms. Tuegel:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

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Charles H. Parsons, R.G.
Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IX
Attention: NEPA Coordinator
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

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Charles H. Parsons, R.G.
Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

National Resource and Conservation Service
3003 North Central Avenue
Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Gentlemen:

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Charles H. Parsons, R.G.
Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

Mr. Jesse Juen
Bureau of Land Management - Tucson Sector
12661 East Broadway
Tucson, Arizona 85748-7208

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Mr. Juen:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

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Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

Mr. Bill Auby
Bureau of Land Management - Tucson Field Office
12661 East Broadway
Tucson, Arizona 85748-7208

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Mr. Auby:

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Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

National Park Service
Chiricahua National Monument
HCR2 Box 6500
Willcox, Arizona 85643

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Gentlemen:

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Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 West Congress
Tucson, Arizona 85701

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

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Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

Mr. John M. McGee
U.S. Forestry Service
Coronado National Forest
300 West Congress
Tucson, Arizona 85701

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Mr. McGee:

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Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

U.S. Geological Survey
520 North Park Avenue
Suite 221
Tucson, Arizona 85719

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

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Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

VIA U.S. Mail

Honorable Larry Rains
City of Willcox
Office of the City Manager
101 South Railroad Avenue, Suite B
Willcox, Arizona 85643

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Honorable Larry Rains;

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

The new facility would consolidate Border Patrol operations while supporting present and future growth. Currently, the U.S. BPS is located at 200 West Downen in Willcox, Arizona. The facility does not provide sufficient space for current or future Border Patrol operations. The new facility complex would integrate and increase the efficiency of current operations and provide infrastructure for projected growth. The station would be approximately 26,500 square feet and includes such facilities as the main station, sally port, parking, vehicle maintenance facility, dog kennels, seized vehicle temporary parking, fuel island, and station communication towers.

The proposed complex will be constructed on one of three proposed sites under an agreement with the City of Willcox. The proposed site will range from 20 acres to 9½ acres in size. The

land will be donated by the City of Willcox (Attachment 1). At the conclusion of construction activities, the U.S. Government will have the option to either purchase or lease the buildings. The EA will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of each alternative site.

Please provide any comments on this project and alternative sites within 30 days (by November 17, 2001). A listing of federal and state agencies that have been contacted is attached (Attachment 2). If there are any additional agencies that you feel should review and comment on the Proposed Action, please feel free to include them in your distribution of this letter and attachments. You will also receive a copy of the Draft EA, once it is completed.

Any questions concerning this Proposed Action should be directed to the undersigned at the address on this letter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Parsons

Charles H. Parsons, R.G.
Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

VIA U.S. Mail

Agent Jeff Calhoon
U.S. Border Patrol
200 West Downen
Willcox, Arizona 85644

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Mr. Calhoon;

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

The new facility would consolidate Border Patrol operations while supporting present and future growth. Currently, the U.S. BPS is located at 200 West Downen in Willcox, Arizona. The facility does not provide sufficient space for current or future Border Patrol operations. The new facility complex would integrate and increase the efficiency of current operations and provide infrastructure for projected growth. The station would be approximately 26,500 square feet and includes such facilities as the main station, sally port, parking, vehicle maintenance facility, dog kennels, seized vehicle temporary parking, fuel island, and station communication towers.

The proposed complex will be constructed on one of three proposed sites under an agreement with the City of Willcox. The proposed site will range from 20 acres to 9½ acres in size. The

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Please provide any comments on this project and alternative sites within 30 days (by November 17, 2001). A listing of federal and state agencies that have been contacted is attached (Attachment 2). If there are any additional agencies that you feel should review and comment on the Proposed Action, please feel free to include them in your distribution of this letter and attachments. You will also receive a copy of the Draft EA, once it is completed.

Any questions concerning this Proposed Action should be directed to the undersigned at the address on this letter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Parsons, R.G.
Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna

24000 Avila Road
P.O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

October 18, 2001

Agent Maurice Moore
U.S. Border Patrol
1970 West Ajo Way
Tucson, Arizona 85713

VIA U.S. Mail

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment
For Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station
Willcox, Arizona

Dear Mr. Moore

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new U.S. Border Patrol Station (BPS) within the city of Willcox, Arizona. The EA for the Proposed Action is being conducted by the INS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) of 1969 and INS procedures Relating to the Implementation of NEPA (28CFR Part 61, Appendix C). In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, we request your participation by reviewing the brief description and map locations (Attachment 1), and providing your comments concerning the proposal and any potential environmental consequences of construction at any of the proposed sites. Your input will be used to focus analysis in the environmental assessment on relevant issues. Please note that this correspondence is not part of any formal consultation that could be required under specific laws or regulations.

The new facility would consolidate Border Patrol operations while supporting present and future growth. Currently, the U.S. BPS is located at 200 West Downen in Willcox, Arizona. The facility does not provide sufficient space for current or future Border Patrol operations. The new facility complex would integrate and increase the efficiency of current operations and provide infrastructure for projected growth. The station would be approximately 26,500 square feet and includes such facilities as the main station, sally port, parking, vehicle maintenance facility, dog kennels, seized vehicle temporary parking, fuel island, and station communication towers.

The proposed complex will be constructed on one of three proposed sites under an agreement with the City of Willcox. The proposed site will range from 20 acres to 9½ acres in size. The

land will be donated by the City of Willcox (Attachment 1). At the conclusion of construction activities, the U.S. Government will have the option to either purchase or lease the buildings. The EA will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of each alternative site.

Please provide any comments on this project and alternative sites within 30 days (by November 17, 2001). A listing of federal and state agencies that have been contacted is attached (Attachment 2). If there are any additional agencies that you feel should review and comment on the Proposed Action, please feel free to include them in your distribution of this letter and attachments. You will also receive a copy of the Draft EA, once it is completed.

Any questions concerning this Proposed Action should be directed to the undersigned at the address on this letter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Parsons

Charles H. Parsons, R.G.
Regional Environmental Officer

Attachments (2)

B. RESPONSE LETTERS

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 837 • SELLS, AZ 85634

Telephone (520) 383-3622 • Fax (520) 383-337

PEIL-EC

May 23, 2002

William Fickel, Jr.
Chief –Regulatory Division
Department of the Army
Fort worth District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 17300
Forth Worth, Texas 76102-0300

Dear Mr. Fickel:

Thank you for consulting with the Tohono O'odham Nation regarding the proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station, Willcox Arizona.

The Cultural Affairs Office has reviewed the attacked cultural resources survey report and concurs that no historic properties will be affected by this project.

If previously unidentified subsurface cultural resources are encountered during construction, please have the contractor stop work and have a professional archaeologist evaluate the discovery.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Steere, Manager
Cultural Affairs Office

"Managing and conserving natural, cultural, and recreational resources"

Arizona State Parks

Jane Dee Hull
Governor

State Parks Board Members

Chair
Suzanne Pfister
Phoenix

Vice-Chair
Joseph H. Holmwood
Mesa

John U. Hays
Yarnell

Elizabeth Stewart
Tempe

William C. Porter
Kingman

Walter D. Armer, Jr.
Benson

Michael E. Anable
State Land Commissioner

Kenneth E. Travous
Executive Director

Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Tel & TTY: 602.542.4174
www.pr.state.az.us

800.285.3703 from (520 & 928) area codes

General Fax: 602.542.4180

Director's Office Fax: 602.542.4188

No historic properties affected

2002 MAY 34 AM 9:38

May 29, 2002

William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District
P. O. Box 17300
Fort Worth TX 76102-0300

RE: Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station in Willcox, AZ; INS, USBP
SHPO-2001-2741 (10800)

Dear Mr. Fickel:

Thank you for consulting with our office about the proposed Border Patrol Station on behalf of the Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) and the US Border Patrol (USBP) and for providing a copy of the supporting survey report prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc. William Collins, Historian and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and I have reviewed the report and offer the following comments pursuant to 36 CFR 800:

The survey of 80 acres (two parcels) identified one archaeological site, AZ CC:13:60(ASM), an abandoned segment of the Mascot and Western Railroad, which ran between Willcox and Dos Cabezas between 1915 and 1932. The railroad is not eligible fo inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A (event). The segment recorded within the Area of Potential Effect lack integrity and thus is not Register-eligible under Criterion D.

We concur with your determination of no historic properties affected.

We appreciate your continuing cooperation with our office in complying with the requirements of historic preservation.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Medley Miller
Compliance Specialist/Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office

Cc: Charles H. Parsons, R.G.
Regional Environmental Officer
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Administrative Center Laguna
24000 Avila Road
P. O. Box 30080
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0080

Gilbert R. Estrada
Senior Tactical Coordinator
U.S. Border Patrol
Tucson Sector
1970 West Ajo Way
Tucson, AZ 85713

C. THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND PROPOSED SPECIES FOR COCHISE COUNTY

Threatened, endangered, and special status species listed by the USFWS and AGFD, for Cochise County, that are determined not to occur in the project area.

Species Common name Scientific Name	Status	Habitat and 7.1.1.1 Elevational Range	Potential Presence In Proposed Alternative
Canelo Hills ladies' tresses *Spiranthes delitescens*	E	Finely grained, highly organic, saturated soils of cienegas. Elev. Range: about 5,000'	No suitable soils occur.
Huachuca water umbel *Lilaeopsis schaffneriana ssp recurva*	E	Shallow water, saturated soil near perennial seeps, springs, and streams. Elev. Range: 4,000'-6,500'	No aquatic areas occur.
Lesser long-nosed bat *Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*	E	Day roosts in caves and abandoned tunnels. Forages at night on nectar, pollen, and fruit of agaves and columnar cacti. Elev. Range: <6,000'	No suitable roost sites and limited foraging resources.
Mexican gray wolf *Canis lupus baileyi*	E	Chapparal, woodland, and forested areas. May cross desert areas. Elev. Range 4,000'-12,000'	Unconfirmed reports of individuals occurring throughout the southern part of the State (USFWS 2000). No habitat suitable for the wolf will be removed as a result of this project.
Ocelot *Leopardus (=felis) pardalis*	E	Humid tropical and sub-tropical forests, savannahs, and semi-arid thornscrub. Elev. Range: <8,000'	No suitable habitat occurs.
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus*	E	Dense cottonwood/willow and tamarisk vegetation communities along rivers and streams. Elev. Range: <8,500'	No suitable habitat present.
Yaqui chub *Gila purpurea*	E	Deep pools of small streams, pools, or ponds near undercut banks. Elev. Range: 4,000'-6,000'	No aquatic areas occur.
Yaqui topminnow *Poeciliopsis occidentalis sonoriensis*	E	Small to moderate sized streams, springs, and cienegas generally in shallows. Elev. Range: <4,500'	No aquatic areas occur.
Whopping Crane *Grus americana*	E	Marshes, prairies, and river bottoms. Elev. Range: 4,500'	No suitable habitat occurs within project area.
Sonora tiger salamander *Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi*	E	Stock tanks and impounded cienegas in San Rafael Valley, Huachuca Mountains. Elev. Range: 4,000'-6,300'	No suitable habitat occurs.
New Mexican ridge-nosed rattlesnake *Crotalus willardi obscurus*	T	Primarily canyon bottoms in pine-oak communities. Elev. Range: 5,000'-6,600'	No suitable habitat occurs.
Beautiful shiner *Cyprinella formosa*	T	Small to medium sized streams and ponds with sand, gravel, and rock bottoms. Elev. Range: <4,500'	No aquatic areas occur.

Cochise pincushion cactus *Coryphantha robbinsorum*	T	Semidesert grassland with small shrubs, agave, other cacti, and gramma grass. Grows on gray limestone hills. Elev. Range: >4,200'	No limestone soils occur within project area.
Spikedace *Meda fulgida*	T	Moderate to large perennial streams with gravel cobble substrates. Elev. Range <6,000	No aquatic areas occur.
Mexican Spotted Owl *Strix occidentalis lucida*	T	Nests in canyons and dense forests with multi-layered foliage structure. Elev. Range: 4,100'-9,000'	No suitable habitat occurs.
Yaqui catfish *Ictalurus pricei*	T	Moderate to large streams with slow current over sand and rock bottoms. Elev. Range: 4,000'-5,000'	No aquatic areas occur.
Mountain Plover *Charadrius montanus*	PT	Open and arid plains, short-grass prairies, and cultivated forms. Elev. Range: varies	No suitable habitat occurs.
Lemmon fleabane *Erigeron lemmonii*	C	Grows in dense clumps in crevices, ledges, and boulders in canyon bottoms in pine-oak woodlands. Elev. Range: 1,500'-6,000'	No suitable habitat occurs within project area.
Gila chub *Gila intermedia*	C	Pools, springs, cienegas, and streams. Elev. Range: 2,000'-3,500'	Species does not occur in the San Pedro River, therefore cannot be an accidental species in the St. David Ditch (Don Mitchell, Region V AGFD Fisheries Program Manager, pers. comm. to HDR, 2002).
Huachuca springsnail *Pyrgulopsis thompsoni*	C	Aquatic areas, small springs with vegetation and slow to moderate flows. Elev. Range: 4,500'-6,000'	No suitable habitat occurs within project area and project area below elevation range of species.
Ramsey Canyon leopard frog *Rana subaquavocalis*	CA	Artificial ponds in Tinker, Brown, and Ramsey Canyons on the east slope of the Huachuca Mountains. Elev. Range: 5,000'	Project area below known elevation range of species; project area outside of known range of species
Northern Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis septentrionalis*	E	Grassland and Savannah. Elev. Range: 3,500'-9,000	Species not expected to occur in project area; occurs as an accidental species. No recent confirmed reports of this species in AZ (USFWS 2000). No habitat suitable for this species will be removed as a result of this project.
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	T	Large trees or cliffs near water (reservoirs, rivers and streams) with abundant prey. Elev. Range: varies	No suitable habitat occurs within project area.
Chiricahua leopard frog *Rana chiricahuensis*	PT	Streams, rivers, backwaters, ponds, and stock tanks that are mostly free from introduced fish, crayfish, and bullfrogs. Elev. Range: 3,300'-8,900'	No suitable habitat occurs within project area.

Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*	E	Mature cottonwood/willow, mesquite bosques, and Sonoran desertscrub. Elev. Range: <4,000'	Lack of records for this species in Cochise County (Mike Wrigely, Endangered Species Biologist, USFWS, pers. comm. to HDR, 2000); and project elevation at upper elevation range of species.
Black-tailed prairie dog *Cynomus ludovicianus*	C	In burrows in plains and grassland habitat. Elev. Range: 5'	No suitable habitat within project area, species currently extirpated from state (USFWS 2001).
Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*	E	Arizona lakes and rivers. Elev. Range: varies	No suitable habitat occurs within project area.
Loach minnow *Tiaroga cobitis*	T	Small to large perennial streams with swift shallow water over cobble and gravel. Elev. Range <8,000'	Species does not occur in the San Pedro River, therefore cannot be an accidental species in the St. David Ditch (Don Mitchell, Region V AGFD Fisheries Program Manager, pers. comm. to HDR, 2002).

Source: USFWS 2001. Listed, protected, and candidate species for Arizona Counties.
E: Endangered C: Candidate T: Threatened PT: Proposed Threatened CA: Conservation Agreement

D. DESERT TORTOISE HANDLING GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING SONORAN DESERT TORTOISES ENCOUNTERED ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Revised January 17, 1996

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has developed the following guidelines to reduce potential impacts to desert tortoises, and to promote the continued existence of tortoises throughout the state. These guidelines apply to short-term and/or small-scale projects, depending on the number of affected tortoises and specific type of project.

Desert tortoises of the Sonoran population are those occurring south and east of the Colorado River. Tortoises encountered in the open should be moved out of harm's way to adjacent appropriate habitat. If an occupied burrow is determined to be in jeopardy of destruction, the tortoise should be relocated to the nearest appropriate alternate burrow or other appropriate shelter, as determined by a qualified biologist. Tortoises should be moved less than 48 hours in advance of the habitat disturbance so they do not return to the area in the interim. Tortoises should be moved quickly, kept in an upright position at all times and placed in the shade. Separate disposable gloves should be worn for each tortoise handled to avoid potential transfer of disease between tortoises. Tortoises must not be moved if the ambient air temperature exceeds 105 degrees fahrenheit unless an alternate burrow is available or the tortoise is in imminent danger.

A tortoise may be moved up to two miles, but no further than necessary from its original location. If a release site, or alternate burrow, is unavailable within this distance, and ambient air temperature exceeds 105 degrees fahrenheit, the Department should be contacted to place the tortoise into a Department-regulated desert tortoise adoption program. Tortoises salvaged from projects which result in substantial permanent habitat loss (e.g. housing and highway projects), or those requiring removal during long-term (longer than one week) construction projects, will also be placed in desert tortoise adoption programs. *Managers of projects likely to affect desert tortoises should obtain a scientific collecting permit from the Department to facilitate temporary possession of tortoises.* Likewise, if large numbers of tortoises (>5) are expected to be displaced by a project, the project manager should contact the Department for guidance and/or assistance.

Please keep in mind the following points:

- These guidelines do not apply to the Mohave population of desert tortoises (north and west of the Colorado River). Mohave desert tortoises are specifically protected under the Endangered Species Act, as administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- These guidelines are subject to revision at the discretion of the Department. We recommend that the Department be contacted during the planning stages of any project that may affect desert tortoises.

- Take, possession, or harassment of wild desert tortoises is prohibited by state law. Unless specifically authorized by the Department, or as noted above, project personnel should avoid disturbing any tortoise.

E. PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

STAR PUBLISHING COMPANY

Tucson, Arizona

STATE OF ARIZONA)
COUNTY OF PIMA)

Janice Anderson, being first duly sworn deposes and says: that she is the Legal Advertising Representative of the **STAR PUBLISHING COMPANY**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arizona, and that the said **STAR PUBLISHING COMPANY** prints and publishes The Arizona Daily Star, a daily newspaper printed and published in the City of Tucson, Pima County, State of Arizona, and having a general circulation in said City, County, State and elsewhere, and that the attached

Legal Notice

was printed and published correctly in the entire issue of the said The Arizona Daily Star on each of the following dates, to-wit:

July 24, 2002

Janice Anderson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of July, 2002

Carla D. Gamez
Notary Public

OFFICIAL SEAL
CARLA D. GAMEZ
NOTARY PUBLIC - ARIZONA
PIMA COUNTY
My Comm. Expires 06/30/04

My commission expires

TNI AD NO. 832456

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Draft Environmental Assessment
U.S. BORDER PATROL STATION
WILLCOX, ARIZONA

The public is hereby notified of the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) U.S. Border Patrol Station, Willcox, Arizona. This DEA addresses the potential impacts of the construction and operation of a new U.S. Border Patrol Station in the City of Willcox. The new U.S. Border Patrol Station will provide the required space for the current and future needs of the United States Border Patrol (USBP) to detain undocumented aliens. The Draft EA will be available for review at the Elsie S. Hogan Community Library in Willcox, Arizona and the Tucson-Pima Public Library in Tucson, Arizona. Send written comments to Mr. Charles Parsons, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Western Region, 24000 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607. Comments will be received until August 23, 2002.
Publish July 24, 2002
The Arizona Daily Star

Arizona Range News

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ARIZONA
COUNTY OF COCHISE } SS.

P. A. Tenney being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is the Agent to the Publisher of the ARIZONA RANGE NEWS, a newspaper of general circulation published in Willcox, Cochise County, State of Arizona; That the

Legal Notice: The public is hereby notified of the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) U.S. Border...

a copy of which is hereto attached, was published in said newspaper for 1 consecutive week(s), the first publication being in its issue dated the 24th day of July 20 02, and the last publication being in its issue dated the 24th day of July 20 02.

P A Tenney

Subscribed and sworn to before me 25th day of July, 2002.

Nancy E Johnston

My Commission expires July 25, 2003

OFFICIAL SEAL
NANCY E. JOHNSTON
Notary Public - State of Arizona
COCHISE COUNTY
My Comm. Expires July 25, 2003

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL STATION
WILLCOX, ARIZONA

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Publish: July 24, 2002
Arizona Range News

F. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RESPONSE LETTERS

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Douglas Ranger District
Coronado National Forest

3081 N. Leslie Canyon Rd.
Douglas, Arizona 85607
(520) 364-3468

File Code: 1950
Date: July 26, 2002

Charles Parsons
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Western Region
24000 Avila Road
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607

Dear Mr. Parsons;

Thank your for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Assesment you are preparing for the new station in Willcox Arizona.

Because of distance between towns, it may not be appropriate for me to respond with any kind of specific comments. Agents from Willcox Station have enforcement responsibility on part of the public lands administered by my office.

From a purely process point if view the document was very informative and would provide a base of information to make comments from were I a local resident or adjacent property owner. Hopefully the comments you receive are supportive of your needs to meet your agency mission.

If you have future projects involving your Agency activities on National Forest System lands I would like to be involved in the NEPA process for matters like that. Again, thank your for the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,

Douglas D. Hardy

DOUGLAS D. HARDY
District Ranger

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
2221 WEST GREENWAY ROAD, PHOENIX, AZ 85023-4399
(602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.COM

GOVERNOR
JANE DEE HULL
COMMISSIONERS
CHAIRMAN, MICHAEL M. GOLIGHTLY, FLAGSTAFF
JOE CARTER, SAFFORD
SUSAN E. CHILTON, ARIVACA
W. HAYS GILSTRAP, PHOENIX
JOE MELTON, YUMA
DIRECTOR
DUANE L. SHROUFE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
STEVE K. FERRELL

Tucson Office, 555 N. Greasewood Rd., Tucson, AZ 85745

August 19, 2002

Mr. Charles Parsons
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Park One
2141 E. Highland Avenue, Ste. 250
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-4792

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Willcox Border Patrol Station; Willcox, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Parsons:

The Arizona Game & Fish Department (Department) reviewed the above-referenced project information and finds that our concerns relative to control of exotic, invasive species; reseeding with native species; and the Sonoran desert tortoise have been adequately addressed.

Please contact me at 520/628-5982 ext. 550 if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Sherry A. Ruther
Habitat Specialist

SAR:sr

cc:Bob Broscheid, Project Evaluation Program Supervisor, Habitat Branch,
Raul Vega, District Wildlife Manager, Region V

C:/PROJECTS\FEDS/INS/Willcox Facility.doc