When recorded,
return to:
Marian Sheppard, BOS
(9/21/10 #3B)

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Gila County, Az, Sadie Tomerlin Dalton, Recorder

RESOLUTION NO. 10-09-01
GILA COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING
CASE # LURPP 2010 AMENDMENT

A RESOLUTION OF THE GILA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AMENDING THE GILA COUNTY LAND USE RESOURCE POLICY PLAN (LURPP)

WHEREAS, the Gila County Board of Supervisors may amend the Gila County Land Use Resource Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, Arizona Revised Statutes, sections 11-829 and 11-251.05C contain the procedures for such amendments, and

WHEREAS, the Gila County Planning and Zoning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on such amendment and recommended approval to the Board of Supervisors on such amendment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gila County Board of Supervisors, at a regularly scheduled and duly noticed public hearing did pass and adopt the following amendment to the Gila County Land Use Resource Policy Plan, the full text of which is attached as Exhibit "A", such amendment to become effective October 21st, 2010.

Passed and adopted this 21st day of September 2010.

Gila County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Marian Sheppard

Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

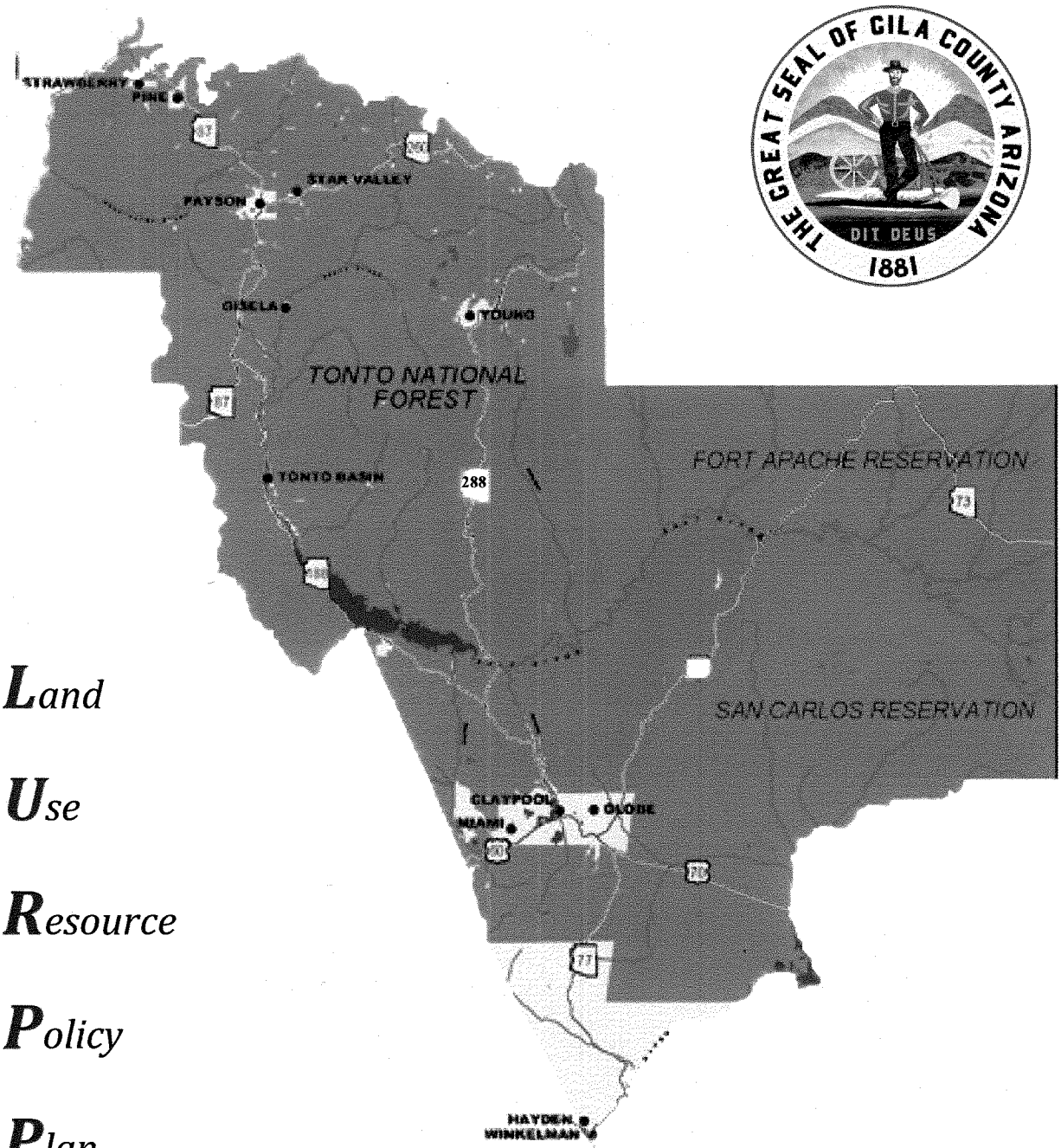
Michael A Pastor

Michael A. Pastor, Chairman

APPROVED TO FORM:

Bryan Chambers, Chief Deputy County Attorney

EXHIBIT A



THE GREAT SEAL OF GILA COUNTY ARIZONA
DIT DEUS
1881

Land

Use

Resource

Policy

Plan

August 19, 2010

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Land Use and Resource Policy Plan

For Federal Lands Situated in the

County of Gila, State of Arizona

Revised by the Gila County Planning And Zoning Commission

August 19, 2010

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Introduction

At the request of the Gila County Board of Supervisors, the Gila County Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, Don M. Ascoli, appointed a committee comprised of Planning and Zoning Commissioners and Community Development Director Robert Gould to review and revise the Gila County Land Use and Resource Policy Plan (LURPP). The LURPP Committee members include:

Commissioner Jay W. Spehar, LURPP Committee Chairman
Commissioner Don M. Ascoli, Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman
Commissioner Ron Christensen, Committee Member
Commissioner Mickie Nye, Committee Member
Director Robert Gould, Gila County Community Development Director

The LURPP Committee wishes to commend and extend its appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for its interest in the vital issue of the managing and making productive use of Federal and State managed land and resources in Gila County. The LURPP Committee also wishes to thank members of the public for their interest, comments and suggestions.

Public input has been highly valued in the process of developing Gila County's LURPP. Extensive public comment was taken prior to the publication of the initial LURPP in 1997, and additional public comment has been sought for the 2010 LURPP revisions.

Public participation was sought through the following venues:

- Public Service Advertising
- Written or oral comments from public meetings held in Globe, Tonto Basin, Payson and Young.
- Public comments submitted on behalf of NGO's
- Written comments were accepted by comment card submittal, mail, FAX or email.

All written public comments received by the LURPP Committee have been included in Appendix "A" to the revised LURPP. Although comments were received on many topics, comments considered for inclusion in policy statements have been limited to those pertaining to Federal management of land in Gila County, including access, resource development, resource use, conservation and the LURPP process. Public comments were also considered on the basis of issue relevance, technical accuracy, legality, practicality and compatibility with the LURPP's purpose.

Finally, it is important to note that the establishment of LURRP Policy Statements requires elected and appointed officials to make difficult decisions based on many factors, including public input, legal requirements, issue expertise, historic experience, planning goals and other relevant factors. The Policy Statements contained herein apply Federal and State managed lands or "public" lands, as they are also known, situated in Gila County and to all land activities that have a Federal or State nexus.

Gila County, Arizona, Policy Statements

I. Gila County Policy Statement on LURPP Purpose and Intent

1. The policy of Gila County is to exercise its lawful right and duty to require coordination with all Federal and State agencies and to adopt a LURPP that sets forth Gila County Policy Statements regarding federally managed land and resource planning, management and decision making processes that may affect the residents, lands and resources situated in Gila County, Arizona. Federal and State laws require that all Federal and State agencies coordinate their planning and decision making processes and activities with Gila County. The LURRP complies with the requirements of the 2010 State of Arizona SB/HB 1398 as it relates to Federal and State management of land and resources, and it is consistent with the County's culture, customs, traditions, and economic heritage.

2. Gila County hereby provides notice to all Federal and State agencies that Gila County hereby exercises its legal right and duty to demand and require that said Federal and State agencies coordinate with Gila County as is required by law for all activities related in any manner whatsoever to the management of land, air, water, wildlife or other natural resources, including, but not limited to, land and resource management, planning and decision making processes that may affect land or resources situated in Gila County. Coordination is required by numerous Federal, State and constitutional laws, including, but not limited to the following laws, as amended where applicable: A.R.S. 9-500.29, A.R.S. 11-269.09, A.R.S. 48-281, A.R.S. 28-307, 332 and 49-104; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, National Forest Management Act, Travel Management Regulations, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Soil and Water Resource Conservation Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Metropolitan Transportation Planning, Homeland Security Organization, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Wilderness Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and any and all other laws, rules and regulations requiring coordination between state or federal agencies and local governments.

3. Because only four percent of the County's land base is privately owned, Federal and State land and resource management agencies have a disproportionate control and influence over the safety and welfare of Gila County's residents. The LURPP requires Federal and State agencies to coordinate all their planning and decision making activities with Gila County as a partner of equal standing in the planning and decision making processes and further requires mitigation of those decisions that have adverse effects on the land, resources, culture, customs, traditions, heritage and economy of the residents of Gila County.

Table 1

Ownership	Acres	Square miles	% of Total
National Forest	1,683,603	2,631	55.16%
BLM/Other Fed	54,208	85	1.77%
Arizona (ASLD)	30,080	47	0.98%
Indian Reservation	1,160,128	1,812	38.01%
Private	124,077	194	4.07%
TOTAL	3,052,096	4,769	100.00%

4. The LURPP requires Federal and State "coordination" to meet as a minimum the criteria set forth in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act at 43 USC 1717, the 1982 Rules as promulgated by

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the Secretary of Agriculture to define "coordination" under the National Forest Management Act and the Arizona Revised Statutes. At a minimum these criteria require Federal agencies to:

A. Keep apprised of state, local and tribal land use plans;

B. Assure that consideration is given to local plans when developing a federal plan, policy or management action;

C. Provide early notification (prior to public notice) to local government of the development of any plan, policy or action

D. Provide opportunity for meaningful input by local government into development of the plan policy or action; and

E. Make all practical efforts to resolve conflicts between Federal and local policy and reach consistency.

5. If either Federal or State law explicitly prohibits coordination of Federal planning and decision making with Gila County, then the County must be afforded the status of cooperating and/or consulting agency and must be included in the planning and decision making process as a partner of equal standing with the state and/or federal agencies.

6. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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II. Gila County Policy Statement on Preserving its Cultures and Customs

1. The policy of Gila County is to preserve, perpetuate and grow its historic cultures, customs and traditions of land access and resource development and use that are essential to the culture, economy and tax base of Gila County, including, but not limited to, fish and wildlife, ecosystems, habitats, watersheds and water resources, historic and scientific sites, natural scenic sites, mineral resources, forests and timber resources, rangelands and recreational areas and activities.

2. Gila County has a rich history of diverse cultures and customs beginning with the earliest prehistoric inhabitants and followed by successive generations of linguistically and culturally diverse Native American tribes that over the millennia have used the land and its resources to engage in hunting, fishing, gathering, farming, mining, grazing, recreation, spiritual experiences, trading and other activities that are now essential to the culture, customs, economy and tax base of Gila County.

3. Racially and ethnically diverse immigrant pioneers entered what is now Gila County in the 1860s and established communities and economies based on the land's resources including, but not limited to, mining, ranching, farming, logging, merchandising and other commercial endeavors that remain essential to the culture, customs, economy and tax base of Gila County.

4. Pioneers formed democratically based, self-governing communities and developed the land's resources to the extent it was possible to establish a tax base in support of critical governmental functions and services that protected the health, safety, welfare and property of Gila County's residents. The survival and cohesiveness of Gila County's historic cultures, customs, economy and tax base, the protection of its citizens' health, safety, welfare and property, remain dependent on access to and use of federally managed land and resources.

5. The citizens of Gila County desire to perpetuate and grow their ethnic and racially diverse cultures, customs, traditions, and economy, including the growth of the tax base which is deficient due to large amount of federally managed land and resources situated in Gila County. It is imperative that the citizens of Gila County retain unimpeded their rights to access federally managed land and resources for productive economic purposes.

6. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

7. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County

8. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

9. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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III. Gila County Policy Statement on Federal Land Access and Resource Use

1. The policy of Gila County is that its citizens shall retain and exercise meaningful access to federally managed land and economic use of the land's resources, including, but not limited to, the fish and wildlife, ecosystems, habitats, watersheds and water resources, historic and scientific sites, natural scenic sites, mineral resources, forests and timber resources, rangelands and recreational areas and other sites and resources.

2. Since prehistoric times, successive generations of Gila County residents have continuously accessed federally managed land and utilized its resources, including, but not limited to, its fish and wildlife, ecosystems, habitats, watersheds and water resources, historic and scientific sites, natural scenic sites, mineral resources, forests and timber resources, rangelands and recreational areas and other sites and resources.

3. Federally managed lands shall remain open to multiple use and sustained yield according Federal laws and regulations. Gila County discourages the closure of access to federally managed lands, including historic roadways, the withdrawal of lands from access, or the withdrawal land from entry to any multiple use activity.

4. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

5. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County.

6. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

7. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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IV. Gila County Policy Statement on Fish, Wildlife, and Ecosystems

1. The policy of Gila County is to sustain a healthy and balanced ecosystem with bio-diverse populations of native flora, fauna and aquatic life. Adequate native habitat shall be preserved to support flora, fauna, aquatic life, soils, rangelands, forests, watersheds and water resources for the benefit of the residents of Gila County and the ecosystem.

2. The ecosystem, including its flora, fauna, aquatic life, soils, rangelands, forests, watersheds and habitat, shall be managed for the sustainable use of its resources.

3. Since prehistoric times, successive generations of Gila County residents have continuously accessed federally managed land and utilized its resources, including, but not limited to, the fish and wildlife, ecosystems, habitats, watersheds and water resources, historic and scientific sites, natural scenic sites, mineral resources, forests and timber resources, rangelands and recreational areas and other sites and resources.

4. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

5. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County

6. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

7. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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V. Gila County Policy Statement on Natural Scenic Sites

1. The policy of Gila County is to preserve its natural scenic site, providing, that said sites are unique in their character and values to the extent they cannot be experienced or replicated elsewhere in the region.

2. Since prehistoric times, successive generations of Gila County residents have continuously accessed federally managed land and utilized its resources, including, but not limited to, the fish and wildlife, ecosystems, habitats, watersheds and water resources, historic and scientific sites, natural scenic sites, mineral resources, forests and timber resources, rangelands and recreational areas and other sites and resources.

3. Access and use of natural scenic sites is essential to experiencing fully the physical, spiritual and psychological aspects of those sites and is essential to sustaining the cultures, customs, traditions and economic heritage of Gila County.

4. The unique character of the site(s) shall be determined and documented by qualified scientists. Such sites shall be preserved or mitigated as required by law.

5. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

6. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County

7. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

8. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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VI. Policy Statement on Historic Sites

1. The policy of Gila County is to preserve or mitigate historic sites qualified for the National Registry of historic places. These sites shall be preserved or mitigated through documented analysis by qualified historians and scientists. This is intended to include both historic and prehistoric sites.

2. Since prehistoric times, successive generations of Gila County residents have continuously accessed federally managed land and utilized its resources, including, but not limited to, the fish and wildlife, ecosystems, habitats, watersheds and water resources, historic and scientific sites, natural scenic sites, mineral resources, forests and timber resources, rangelands and recreational areas and other sites and resources.

3. Access to and use pre-historic and historic sites is essential to experiencing fully the physical, spiritual and psychological aspects of those sites and is essential to sustaining the cultures, customs, traditions and economic heritage of Gila County.

4. The site qualifications and uniqueness character of the site(s) shall be determined and documented by qualified historians scientists. Such sites shall be preserved or mitigated as required by law.

5. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

6. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County.

7. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

8. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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VII. Policy Statement on Mineral Resources

1. It is the policy of Gila County to develop its mineral resources for the benefit of its communities and citizens as well as for the benefit of society in general.

2. The minerals mined in Gila County are the basis of modern civilization and have incalculably benefitted both local communities and modern society. Mining and mineral processing is the first step in producing energy, conducting electricity, manufacturing next-generation transportation and creating advanced technologies for computer sciences, medical devices, space exploration and other futuristic needs of modern society.

3. Since prehistoric times, successive generations of Gila County residents have engaged in the exploration, development and exploitation of mineral resources. Prehistoric Native Americans mined and traded turquoise and other mineral resources essential to the physical and spiritual well being of their cultures such as building construction, tools, weaponry and pottery. Historic mining began with the arrival of Spanish expeditions in the sixteenth century. Mining in the modern era began in the 1860's, and its influence was primarily responsible for the creation of Gila County.

4. The Federal and State mine permitting process shall be followed, with Gila County participating as coordinating agency and as a full partner in the process. Resource impacts shall be mitigated, including, but not limited to impacts to biological, geological, cultural and water resources.

5. Mining and mineral processing sites shall be reclaimed to support post mining land uses as required by law, such as wildlife habitat, fisheries, livestock grazing, outdoor recreation, solar or wind power production or other commercial enterprises.

6. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

7. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County.

8. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

9. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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VIII. Policy Statement on Rangeland Resources

1. The policy of Gila County is to promote healthy rangelands and rangeland resources for the benefit of its communities and citizens as well as for the benefit of society in general. Healthy rangelands are dependent on healthy ecosystems and the harvesting of rangeland resources for wildlife, livestock grazing and other purposes.

2. Since prehistoric times, successive generations of Gila County residents have harvested the rangeland resources for the production of baskets, clothing and foodstuffs. Rangeland resources have been utilized for livestock grazing since the Spanish incursion of the 17th century and after the Pueblo uprising of 1680 and the rise of the Native American horse culture, livestock grazing became an important element of both the Spanish and Native American cultures. The ranching industry was established in the late 1860's to supply beef, horses and other animals to military posts, mining districts and logging camps. Since that time, ranching and livestock grazing have been integral to Gila County's culture, customs, traditions, economy and tax base.

3. Sustainable harvesting of rangeland resources is essential to establishing healthy rangeland resources, including watershed, timber and wildlife resources.

4. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

5. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County. If either Federal or State law explicitly prohibits coordination of Federal planning and decision making with Gila County, then the County must be afforded the status of cooperating and/or consulting agency and must be included in the planning and decision making process as a partner of equal standing with the state and/or federal agencies.

6. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

7. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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IX. Policy Statement on Recreation

1. The policy of Gila County is to foster outdoor recreation and tourism for the benefit of its communities and citizens as well as the benefit of society in general. Gila County generally opposes the levying of fees for recreational uses of federal lands.

2. Since prehistoric times, successive generations of Gila County residents have accessed federally managed lands for the purpose of engaging in recreational opportunities in its deserts, forests, mountains and waterways. Outdoor recreation is now both a personal endeavor and an important aspect of the economy and tax base.

3. Recreational activities include, but are not limited to, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, birding, touring, viewing, four wheeling, biking, motor biking, photographing, rock climbing, rock hounding, flying, swimming, boating and rafting. These outdoor activities may be organized or unorganized, or commercial or non-commercial in nature. Gila County discourages the levying of recreational fees on federally managed land.

4. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

5. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County.

6. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

7. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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X. Policy Statement on Forest Management and Timber Resources

1. Gila County's policy is to promote healthy forests for the benefit of its communities and citizens and for the benefit of society in general. Healthy forests are dependent on healthy ecosystems and the production and harvesting of timber products from the forests.

2. Since prehistoric times, successive generations of Gila County residents have produced wood products from the forest for fuel, sustenance, shelter, tools, weapons and other items. By the 1860s pioneers had developed commercial logging operations to support military outposts, transportation infrastructure, mining, ranching, and the rise of permanent communities.

3. As has been evidenced by the devastating wildfires in Gila County over the past two decades, proper forest management must incorporate programmatic forest thinning and timber harvesting together with aggressive fire prevention and fire suppression practices. Each of these elements is critically important to the survival of some communities in Gila County and to the survival of the ecosystem in certain parts of the County.

4. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

5. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County.

6. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

7. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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XI. Policy Statement on Watershed Resources

1. Gila County's policy is to promote healthy watersheds for the benefit of its citizens and communities and citizens and for the benefit if society in general. Healthy watersheds are essential to healthy ecosystems and the production of natural resources.

2. Since prehistoric times, successive generations of Gila County residents have utilized the watersheds' resources for their survival. Prehistoric people irrigated crops and drew drinking and domestic use water from the water courses. By the 1860s waterways were being developed to support mining, farming, ranching and frontier communities. In the early twentieth century, groundwater began supplanting surface water as the primary source of water resources.

3. Healthy watersheds are essential to provide for health fish, flora, fauna, livestock and people. Erosion mitigation must be implemented to prevent excessive flooding and high sediment loads. Riparian habitats must be protected and enhanced to stabilize banks and provide for important habitat.

4. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

5. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County.

6. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

7. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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XII. Policy Statement on Land Exchanges

1. Gila County's policy is to encourage land exchanges that result in no net loss of lands in private ownership and no net gain of lands in federal ownership. "Loss" or "gain" metrics shall include an evaluation of gross acres, tax base impact, economic value, resource values, highest and best use, strategic location and other metrics that provide for a comprehensive view of net loss or gain.

2. Only about 4% of Gila County's land base is in private ownership. Gila County's citizens, tax base and economy are disproportionately affected, usually negatively, by federal land management decisions.

3. The loss of water rights through land exchanges is generally opposed and discouraged.

4. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

5. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County

6. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

7. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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XIII. Policy Statement on Water Rights

1. Gila County's policy is to support and protect the water rights of its resident claimants from expropriation by down stream users through political or judicial processes that favor downstream urban dwellers and discriminate against Gila County claimants and residents.

2. Gila County opposes the dewatering its uplands and valleys to the benefit of downstream water users in the metropolitan areas.

3. Since prehistoric times successive generations of Gila County residents have accessed the land for the purpose of beneficially using its water resources. The access and use of water resources was and is a matter of survival. The right to lawfully divert and beneficially use water is a right basic to the sustenance of all Gila County residents, communities, industries and biological resources.

4. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

5. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County

6. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

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XIV. Policy Statement on the Economy and Tax Base

1. Gila County's policy is to promote a vibrant, diverse and growing economy and tax base sufficient to provide residents of Gila County with the quality services they require.

2. Since prehistoric times successive generations of Gila County residents have developed viable economic systems based upon federal land access and use of the land's resources, including, but not limited to economic activities based on mining, ranching, timber harvesting, farming, outdoor recreation and water production.

3. The Salado people, for example, developed trade systems at least as early as the 12th century that were based upon resources provided by the land such as turquoise, copper and food stuffs. During the 18th and 19th century horse culture era, Native Americans commonly traded minerals, furs and other resources for European manufactured articles, guns, livestock and other valuables.

4. The mining and ranching frontiers developed a new economy based on natural resource development, production, harvesting, manufacturing and merchandising. The new economy vastly improved the standard of living of County's citizens by increasing life expectancy, literacy and leisure activities, while reducing mortality rates due to childbirth, malnourishment or disease.

5. Commercial outdoor recreation and tourism have developed enterprises that are entirely dependent on land access. Retirement communities are also closely linked to land where retirees can recreate and enjoy its abundant resources. The service economy is also an important economic sector, but it generally provides wages lower than the higher wage mining and manufacturing sectors. Government employment is also an important economic sector, but the growth of government at the expense of wealth creating economic sectors (mining, agriculture and forestry) is not sustainable for the long term.

6. Historically Gila County has experienced high unemployment rates and a loss of its younger generations to more vigorous metropolitan economies where better opportunities can be found. Gila County's tax base is disproportionately penalized by the large amount of federal acreage situated in the County. The dearth of private land has disadvantaged the real property tax base, and regulatory restrictions on livestock grazing and constructing permanent improvements on federally managed land has further penalized the County's tax base.

7. Federal land access and sustainable resource use are imperative to the perpetuation and growth of Gila County's diverse cultures, customs, economy and tax base.

8. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County.

9. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

10. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

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XV. Policy Statement on Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILTS)

1. Gila County policy is that PILT payments owed to the County by the Federal government for federally managed land on a per acre basis should be equal to the average per acre primary property tax value generated to Gila County by private property.

2. Over the past decade privately owned properties in Gila County, comprising approximately 124,077 acres, have produced on average $133.91 per acre in primary property taxes annually.

3. Over the past decade federally managed lands in Gila County, comprising approximately 1,777,234 acres, have produced on average $1.10 per acre in PILT payments annually.

4. Although 57% of Gila County's land base is comprised of federally managed lands subject to PILT payments, PILT payments over the past decade have averaged only 11.55% of Gila County's total primary property taxes per annum.

5. The disparity in PILT payments for federally managed lands ($1.10 per acre) versus the primary property tax generated by privately owned lands ($133.91 per acre) has significantly reduced Gila County's tax base, placed an unfair tax burden on private property and eroded the quality of life and services available to residents of Gila County.

6. When Federal PILT payments to Gila County are less than the average per acre value generated to the County by its taxable property base, the County should be fairly compensated and not made subject to financial discrimination based upon its status as a Federal land county. The underpayment of PILT to Gila County should be addressed by the Federal government either by paying a PILT per acre equal to the average primary property tax per acre or by granting Federal land to the County that can evolve to the private property tax rolls.

7. Gila County's PILT account with the Federal government should be "trued-up" every ten years, and, if the PILT payment average is less than the average value per acre generated to the County by primary property taxes, the deficit should be brought into balance by a transfer of fee title to the County for Federal lands selected by the County from federally managed lands in Gila County. The gross deficit value should be discounted to account for suitability differences that may exist between the average private acre and the average federal acre that may affect Federal acres' ability to generate tax revenues. This provides an allowance for unbuildable mountain tops, cliff sides, river bottoms etc.

8. Between 2000 and 2010, private lands in Gila County generated annually an average of $133.91 in primary property tax revenues to the County, while PILT payments to Gila County averaged only $1.10 per acre annually during that same time period. Every acre of Federal land has generated $132.81 less revenue to the County annually than an acre of private land. The disparity between the tax revenue generated by private land and PILT payments generated by Federal land produces an annual deficit of approximately 236 million dollars to Gila County and underscores the low value of Federal Land and the high value of private property. Over a ten year period, the deficit to Gila County grows rapidly to over 2.36 billion dollars.

9. Because all federal acres may not be equally buildable and suitable for generating tax revenues as are private lands, their revenue generating capacity is discounted by seventy-five percent, which yields a federal land deficit of 59 million dollars annually or 590 million dollars over ten years.

10. Due to the amount of federally managed land situated in Gila County and the gross inequity of the PILT program, Gila County residents have been and continue to be made subject to economic discrimination and deprivation by the Federal government.

11. Equity requires that the Federal government should grant to Gila County fee ownership to federally managed lands on a recurring ten year basis that are equal in appraised value to the amount of the discounted ten year deficit between the average primary property tax generated by private lands and average PILT payment per acre made on federally managed lands. The County should select federally managed lands for the deficit payment, and after fee title is granted, shall be required to place those lands into private ownership over the next ten year period.

12. Federal and State agencies must coordinate with Gila County any and all plans, policies or decisions, including PILT plans or decisions, that in any manner whatsoever affect land access or resource usage in Gila County.

13. Decisions affecting access to federally managed lands and resources must be based on reliable and sound science. At the request of Gila County, land and resource management decisions made by Federal or State agencies shall be subject to peer review by private sector and/or academic scientists.

14. Gila County will work diligently with all Federal and State agencies as a coordinating agency of equal standing to ensure that this policy statement is implemented and followed through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, understanding or other arrangements.

TABL

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Analysis of Gila County, AZ, Private Property Tax Revenues v. Federal Land PILT Payments 2000 - 2009

Tax Fiscal Year	Prop Tax Levy	Private Acres	Ave $ Per Ac
FY 2000/01	11,410,889.00	124,077	91.97
FY 2001/02	13,532,616.00	124,077	109.07
FY 2002/03	13,861,975.00	124,077	111.72
FY 2003/04	15,298,550.00	124,077	123.30
FY 2004/05	16,136,287.00	124,077	130.05
FY 2005/06	17,098,264.00	124,077	137.80
FY 2006/07	17,928,052.00	124,077	144.49
FY 2007/08	18,621,508.00	124,077	150.08
FY 2008/09	20,124,472.00	124,077	162.19
FY 2009/10	22,143,286.00	124,077	178.46
Average Tax, Private Acres & Revenue Per Acre	**16,615,589.90**	**124,077**	**133.91**

PILT Year	Amount $$	Fed Acres	Ave $ per Ac
2000	1,046,543.00	1,774,229	0.59
2001	1,498,572.00	1,773,893	0.84
2002	1,574,039.00	1,782,052	0.88
2003	1,798,227.00	1,782,615	1.01
2004	1,849,029.00	1,783,407	1.04
2005	1,884,123.00	1,775,216	1.06
2006	1,826,289.00	1,775,512	1.03
2007	1,896,351.00	1,775,370	1.07
2008	3,049,527.00	1,775,022	1.72
2009	3,133,057.00	1,775,022	1.77
Average PILT, Fed Ac. & Revenue Per Ac.	**1,955,575.70**	**1,777,234**	**1.10**

Average PILT Revenue Per Ac.	**1.10**
Annual Loss Per Ac. PILT V Tax Revenue	**132.81**
Annual Ave. Deficit PILT v Private Tax Revenue	**236,039,876.34**
10 Year Ave. PILT Deficit	**2,360,398,763.40**

Discount Annual Ave. PILT Deficit by 75%	**59,009,969.09**
Discount 10 Year Average PILT Deficit by 75%	**590,099,690.85**

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Appendix A

August 6, 2010

Email from Randy Slapnicka, Gila County Planning and Zoning Commissioner:

"I will not be attending (workshop with the Board of Supervisors, scheduled for August 10, 2010 at 10:00 am), I was late to the game for LURPP. I support this issue to the point that I believe that there should be a congressional mandate, that any county should not have less than 10% private land. We should be able to buy or use the Town site law to acquire land from the federal government in order to have enough private tax payers to run a county. I am in total support of LURPP and would like to see further ideas to help this county with our budget. I think that those commissioners that spent the time and effort on the document, did an excellent job!! Thank You!!"

July 31st, 2010

Meeting held in Young at the Community Center had one person attend. She had no comments and was given a copy of the LURPP.

July 21st, 2010

Meeting held in Payson at the Gila Community College had no one from the public in attendance.

July 21, 2010

Email from Luetta DuBois - wrote: "I've read thru the LURPP proposal. I wish you well on getting the federal government's attention. The last time I heard the Constitution starts with WE the People...not WE the government.

I would like to see it brought to their attention that they are the stewards and managers of the land NOT THE OWNERS. We the people have that privilege, but somewhere along the line that has been forgotten.

I think you are on the right track but will find it a major challenge to convince the government it is we who pay their salary and we who employ them not the other way around.

Las but not least I think the PILT needs to be increased to reflect and eliminate the huge disparity in taxes being paid by public lands vs private lands.

Globe 15th, 2010

Meeting held at the Gila County Courthouse had one person in attendance and was there to support the document and stated that the sub-committee had done a good job on the document.

July 6th, 2010

Meeting held in Tonto Basin at the Tonto Basin School had many in attendance with one person requesting that everyone read the document and submit comments. It was stated that "at the end of the day, someone, probably the Board of Supervisors will decide which views are included and which are excluded." Another stated that they had problems with land swaps and didn't want the county to have another situation as they currently have with the bridge in Tonto Basin, without the bridge in Tonto Basin it endangers people's lives.

Again, I wish you well."

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