



# **STATEWIDE CONSERVATION PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT**

**REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVITIES IN ARIZONA**

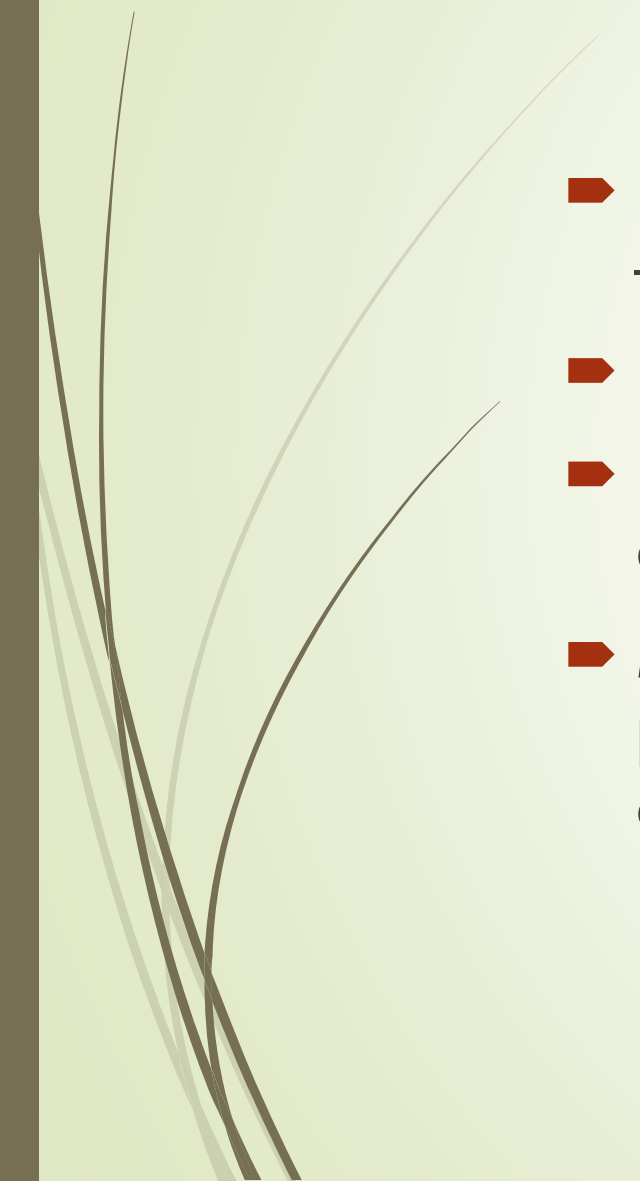


# PURPOSE of the Conservation PA

- ▶ To develop alternate procedures to implement Section 106 related to large scale vegetation management and rangeland management activities on Federal, State, Tribal, County, and private lands to meet legal responsibilities for routine management activities or undertakings whose effects on historic properties are similar and repetitive throughout Arizona
- ▶ To streamline the Section 106 process and expedite project approvals through multiple levels of coordination and use of standardized protocols
- ▶ To encourage grouping of individual projects to a landscape scale to allow for robust sample inventory surveys



# Process without the Conservation PA?

- ▶ Use of existing PAs, if any, which may be limited in scope – fewer exemptions, limited protocols
  - ▶ Individual consultation – project by project basis
  - ▶ Development of agreement document to resolve adverse effects
  - ▶ Mitigation of adverse effects tends to follow standard practice, which is avoidance of all sites, or mitigation of all sites
- 

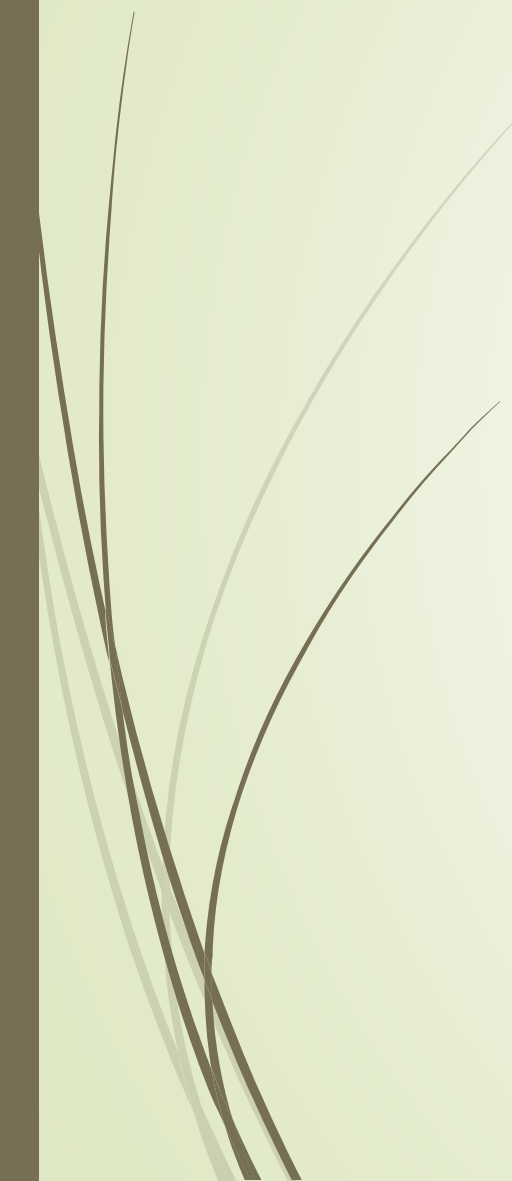


# What the PA Covers:

- ▶ Rangeland Management Protocol
  - ▶ Grazing permits and lease renewals
  - ▶ Installation, maintenance, and decommissioning of fencing, storage tanks, troughs, erosion control structures, corral and holding pens, water pipelines, wildlife guzzlers, cattle guards; wells, water haul sites; dirt tank construction and cleaning; road maintenance (culverts, ditches, signage, plating); reseeding or planting
- ▶ Vegetation Management Protocol
  - ▶ Prescribed fire treatments,
  - ▶ hand thinning treatments, mechanical thinning treatments, chemical thinning treatments, and
  - ▶ use of grazing animals



# What the PA does for Agencies

- ▶ Establishes an agreed-upon protocol to satisfy regulatory requirements thereby removing redundancy and duplicative processes
  - ▶ Establishes communication protocol
  - ▶ Allows for single consultation for project effect, level of effort, inventory results
  - ▶ Streamlines inventory requirements by grouping projects together and encouraging robust sampling
  - ▶ Identifies exempted practices and includes a wide range of screened undertakings
  - ▶ Identifies Standard Conditions for No Adverse Effect findings, eliminating need for agreement document
- 



# Exempted Undertakings – activities with no or limited ground disturbance

- ▶ Activities, enhancements, practices limited to planning, specific vegetation or wildlife monitoring activity, or management
- ▶ Pond repair/replacement projects within previously disturbed construction area of existing pond
- ▶ Stocking native fish
- ▶ Routine maintenance of existing designated trails
- ▶ Activities within active stream beds
- ▶ Aerial or hand broadcast seeding
- ▶ Install bear feeding stations, bird nesting platforms, temporary animal traps
- ▶ Fishery habitat management activities confined to stream beds or below high water mark in lakes, ponds, reservoirs



# Screened Undertakings

- ▶ Activities, enhancements, and practices applied by aerial application of chemical or biological agents
- ▶ All types of fence construction and associated corner braces
- ▶ Activities that involve less than 1 square meter of cumulative ground disturbance
- ▶ Activities where previous natural or human disturbance has modified the landscape so extensive that the likelihood of finding historic properties is negligible
- ▶ Road maintenance
- ▶ Maintenance of existing structural range improvements; minor routine or preventive operation and maintenance activities on facilities and other range improvement structures
- ▶ Install/repair sign posts and monuments
- ▶ Aerial pesticide and /or herbicide applications
- ▶ Inventory activities with minor ground disturbance
- ▶ Conservation activities/enhancements and practices implemented in areas of agricultural development and within existing depth of tillage
- ▶ Activities involving construction, repair, improvements to non-historic buildings/structures



# Screened Undertakings, continued

- ▶ Drainage water management projects that employ non-historic existing water control structures
- ▶ Permitted activities or acquisition of easements, rights-of-way, and leases that do not authorize surface disturbance or have potential to affect historic properties
- ▶ Tenant-type maintenance of historic buildings
- ▶ Seismic activities on the surface of regularly maintained roads
- ▶ Hand-removal of woody vegetation
- ▶ Broadcast seeding equipment attached to rubber tired or rubber tracked vehicle
- ▶ Vegetation removal where brush is cleared using shearing, chipping, grinding, or shredding machinery attached to rubber-tired/tracked vehicle under certain conditions related to tree canopy and surface ground cover
- ▶ Gathering fuel wood
- ▶ Alteration of non-historic structures
- ▶ Removal of recent structures and materials and reclamation of the site






# Standard Measures for Resolving Adverse Effects

- Historic properties treatment plan for archaeological sites
- Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record documentation
- No agreement document
- SOI and other professional standards



## What the PA Does **Not** Do:

- ▶ Invalidate other Agreements
  - ▶ Give up an agency's government-to-government responsibilities, although coordination is recommended so as not to overwhelm tribes
  - ▶ Allow for practices to be conducted on Tribal land unless the Tribe is an invited signatory
- 



# Take Away Points

- Planning is key
- This is NOT more red tape...the PA contains a lot of information for agencies to use in decision-making, and it's all up front
- This PA does not negate any other agreement document or protocols – this is just another choice
- This PA encourages applicants to seek bigger grants for larger (landscape size) projects across multiple land jurisdictions
- There's always room for improvement; please comment!
- This is SHPO consultation NOW; we've already agreed.