

## **EXHIBIT F RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AND ASPECTS**

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As stated in Arizona Corporation Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure R14-3-219:

“State the extent, if any, the proposed site or route will be available to the public for recreational purposes, consistent with safety considerations and regulations and attach any plans the applicant may have concerning the development of the recreational aspects of the proposed site or route.”

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### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

Lands designated for public recreational purposes within the project study area include dispersed recreation, designated trails for hiking, and off-highway vehicle use. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a system used by USFS to inventory and classify land in terms of recreation experiences, opportunities, and settings. ROS settings within the project study area include Semi Primitive Motorized and Roded Modified. Generally, the Semi Primitive Motorized designation includes areas with primitive roads, which would require high-clearance vehicles to access natural areas. The Roded Modified designation in the project study area pertains to Box Canyon Road, which is passable by low-clearance vehicles primarily to access trails, campsites, and other areas of interest.

Within the regional study area, the Pima County Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan has identified a proposed new mountain park, the Santa Rita Mountain Park, adjacent to the northeastern corner of the CNF. The proposed park is outside the project study area and will not be affected by the project. The Eastern Pima County Trail System Master Plan has identified a network of several first, second, and third priority trails. The trail system is part of an extensive system of planned trails, including trails for equestrian use, biking, and hiking, as well as rest areas. The planned trails are all located outside the project study area.

As described in Exhibit E, several USFS Concern Level 1 routes—including the Arizona Trail, a designated National Scenic Trail, FR 4051, FR 231, Box Canyon Road, and FR 229—are identified for recreational use.

The land associated with SRER is currently owned by ASLD and leased by the University of Arizona for long-term ecological research. There are no existing or future plans to formally designate land within the SRER for public recreational purposes, although unauthorized recreation likely occurs on the range.

### **Potential Impacts Associated with the Alternatives**

#### **Preferred Route and Alternative Routes 1, 2, and 3**

The Preferred Route and alternative routes 1, 2, and 3 would not cross any existing or planned trails for Pima County. The Arizona Trail and FR 229 would not be crossed by the Preferred Route or alternative routes 1, 2, or 3. In areas designated by the ROS as Semi Primitive Motorized and Roded Modified, the introduction of the project, specifically the transmission

line facilities, may potentially diminish the natural character of the landscape. However, it is anticipated that the project would be consistent with the designations of the ROS, based on the forest land use plan being amended for the Rosemont EIS.

#### **Alternative Route 4**

Alternative Route 4 would not cross any existing or planned trails for Pima County. Alternative Route 4 would not cross the Arizona Trail or FR 229. A portion of Box Canyon would be paralleled/crossed by Alternative Route 4; however, the project would be consolidated with an existing 46kV transmission line. Box Canyon Road would be crossed near FR 231, which would be paralleled for a short duration by Alternative Route 4. In areas designated by the ROS as Semi Primitive Motorized and Roaded Modified, the introduction of the project, specifically the transmission line facilities, may potentially diminish the natural character of the landscape. However, it is anticipated that the project would be consistent with the designations of the ROS, based on the forest land use plan being amended for the Rosemont EIS.

#### **REFERENCES**

Pima County Office of Conservation Science and Environmental Policy. Pima County Multiple Species Conservation Plan. December 23, 2008. Pima County, Arizona.

Pima County. Pima County Comprehensive Plan Update Policies and Land Use Intensity Legend Version V. Adopted November 2009. Pima County, Arizona

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Adopted August 4, 1986. Washington, D.C.: Forest Service.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2010. Coronado National Forest Working Draft Land and Resource Management Plan. March 2010.