

## **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.”*

Exhibit F includes a county by county summary of recreation uses, as well as the potential impacts the Project may have on recreation. For further information on recreation, refer to the FEIS included as Exhibit B-1. For further information on visual resources, refer to Exhibit E.

The Applicant has no current plans to develop recreational facilities within the Project area. Existing designated and dispersed recreation opportunities will remain available for existing recreation uses and opportunities. Where the Project crosses existing roads or trails, permanent access to and along these features for recreation use would not be affected. The following is a list of recreation features within the Project study area, listed by county.

### **GREENLEE COUNTY**

Within the Project study corridor in Greenlee County, there are no designated recreation facilities, though Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-managed lands provide dispersed recreation opportunities such as rock-hounding, hiking, camping, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) driving.

### **GRAHAM COUNTY**

Within the portion of the Project study corridor in Graham County, dispersed recreation opportunities, including camping, hiking, picnicking, and OHV driving, can be found on ASLD, BLM, and United States Forest Service (USFS)-managed lands, and are described in more detail below.

The Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area is located on BLM lands within Graham County, approximately 15 miles north of Bowie, Arizona. The BLM Safford Field Office manages the Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) to provide recreation opportunities including natural hot tub facilities, OHV driving, camping, picnicking, and fishing (BLM 2015). No impacts to recreation opportunities at the Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area are expected from the Project, as it is not crossed by the Project.

The USFS Coronado National Forest (CNF) manages a portion of the corridor that travels southeast of the Pinaleño Mountains, wherein dispersed recreation opportunities such as camping, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, and fishing are available. No impacts to recreation opportunities within the CNF-Pinaleño Mountains are expected from the Project, as the CNF is not crossed by the Project.

## **COCHISE COUNTY**

Dispersed recreation opportunities exist on privately held and ASLD, BLM, and USFS-managed land within the portion of the Project study corridor in Cochise County. Publicly available recreation opportunities found on private lands include several private orchards and farms in the regions northwest of Willcox, Arizona, available for produce picking; and The Nature Conservancy's Three Links Farm, which is located approximately 13 miles north of Benson, Arizona, and is encumbered with a conservation easement that restricts use of the riparian corridor to passive recreation, such as wildlife viewing and hiking.

In addition, the CNF manages two portions of the Project study corridor located in Cochise County, one southeast of the Winchester Mountains, and a second east of the Rincon Mountains, both providing dispersed recreation opportunities, such as camping, hiking, backpacking, and equestrian activities. There are also dispersed recreation opportunities along the San Pedro River, including hiking, bicycling, equestrian, fishing, birding, and other wildlife watching activities. No impacts to these dispersed recreation opportunities within Cochise County are expected from the Project.

## **PIMA COUNTY**

Within the portion of the Project study corridor in Pima County, dispersed recreation opportunities exist on privately held, ASLD, and USFS-managed land, including camping, hiking, biking, picnicking, and OHV driving. Dispersed recreation opportunities exist along the San Pedro River, including hiking, bicycling, equestrian, fishing, birding, and other wildlife watching activities. No impacts to these dispersed recreation opportunities are expected from the Project. A portion of the CNF-managed Rincon Mountain Wilderness is within the Project study corridor in Pima County, east of the Rincon Mountains. The Rincon Mountain Wilderness provides dispersed primitive recreation opportunities, including hiking, backpacking, camping, and other non-motorized recreation. The proposed transmission lines would not cross the Rincon Mountain Wilderness, and no impacts to recreation opportunities within the Rincon Mountain Wilderness are expected from the Project.

Conservation parcels owned and managed by Pima County and The Nature Conservancy are located within the Project study corridor, and provide dispersed recreation opportunities, including hiking trails and four-wheel drive roads. No impacts to these dispersed recreation opportunities are expected from the Project.

A portion of the Redington Scenic Road passes through private and ASLD land within the Pima County portion of the Project study corridor, and would be crossed by the Project. The Redington Scenic Road is a Pima County-designated scenic route that travels between the Santa Catalina and Rincon Mountains, and provides scenic vistas characteristic of southern Arizona landscapes. While the Project would cross Redington Scenic Road, the transmission line would span the roadway and no direct impacts to dispersed recreation opportunities accessible along Redington Scenic Road, such as hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing, are expected from the Project.

## PINAL COUNTY

Within Pinal County, dispersed recreation opportunities can be found on ASLD, BLM, and USFS-managed lands, including camping, hiking, biking, picnicking, and OHV driving. The CNF manages a portion of land traversed by the Project study corridor in Pinal County, north of the Catalina Mountains, as well as a portion of the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) where dispersed recreation opportunities, such as hiking, biking, backpacking, and wildlife viewing, can be found.

Designated recreation facilities within the Project study corridor include several Pinal County-designated existing multi-use (e.g., biking, hiking, walking, and off-highway vehicle) corridors near the Pinal Central Substation, the majority of which run adjacent to existing washes; the Pinal County Fairgrounds and Event Center, which is located adjacent to the Pinal Central Substation, and hosts carnival, music, livestock, and food-based entertainment and recreation opportunities; the Tierra Grande Golf Course, located less than one mile southwest of the Pinal Central Substation; and the CAP canal, located approximately seven miles east of the Pinal Central Substation, which includes a recreation corridor on the east side of the canal, within the Project study area. No impacts to recreation opportunities within these designated facilities are expected from the Project.

The AZT, a congressionally designated National Scenic Trail, travels through a portion of the Project study corridor within Pinal County. The AZT provides recreation opportunities including hiking, backpacking, equestrian activities, mountain biking, trail running, and sightseeing. While the Project will cross a segment of the AZT, the transmission line will span the trail segment and no direct impacts to recreation opportunities on the AZT are expected from the Project.

A portion of Oracle State Park, managed by the Arizona State Parks, is located within the Pinal County portion of the Project study area. Oracle State Park provides recreation opportunities including historic exhibits, hiking, biking, picnicking, equestrian activities, and wildlife viewing. Within Oracle State Park are numerous hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, including a portion of the AZT. No impacts to recreation opportunities within Oracle State Park are expected from the Project.

Portions of the Pinal Pioneer Parkway (SR79) including a designated roadside table, and the Mount Lemmon Highway National Scenic Byway, are crossed by the Project study corridor. These designated scenic roadways provide scenic recreation opportunities to travelers. The Pinal Pioneer Parkway would be crossed by the Project, but the transmission line will span the roadways and no direct impacts to scenic roadways are expected from the Project. While the Mount Lemmon Highway is within the Project study area, the Project would not cross this scenic roadway.

The Picacho Reservoir is within the Project study corridor, located approximately 4.5 miles east of the Pinal Central Substation, and offers fishing and bird viewing opportunities. While the water level in the reservoir is seasonal, there is a primitive boat ramp, and camping is permitted around the reservoir. The Project would not affect the current recreation that takes place in and around the Picacho Reservoir.

Additional designated recreation opportunities within the Pinal County portion of the Project study corridor include various parks and schools within the communities of San Manuel and Oracle, Arizona, the closest of which is approximately two miles from the proposed route. A golf course associated with the Saddlebrook Ranch community development, located north of the intersection of SR77 and SR79, is within the Project study corridor. No impacts to recreation opportunities provided by these community facilities are expected from the Project.

According to the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan, there are two proposed/regional parks within the Pinal County portion of the Project study area. At this time, these parks are in the conceptual stage and no development has taken place. The first regional park is proposed north of Picacho Peak State Park and includes the Picacho Mountains. This proposed park within Pinal County would provide passive oriented recreation opportunities, including wildlife viewing and hiking. The second planned regional park is located west of Highway 79 and east of the proposed regional park near Picacho Peak State Park. This proposed park would also provide passive recreational opportunities to support the future development that may occur in the area. No impacts to the recreation facilities or use of these proposed parks are expected from the Project, because the Proposed Route, in these areas, is colocated with existing infrastructure.