

Exchange Properties H.R. 3301



Seven B Ranch, Lower San Pedro River (5/16/05), alt. 2400 ft.

This 3072 acre BHP-Billiton-owned cattle ranch consists of seven miles of bone dry San Pedro riverbed- a poor land exchange value to the nation's citizens. Even worse, BHP's proposed 35,000 residence and mixed use development at San Manuel critically imperils San Pedro stream flow for the 25 miles downstream all the

way to the San Pedro's confluence with the Gila River. BHP offered the 7B instead of offering the lush Willow Flycatcher habitat it owns just upstream of the 7B. Worse, this proposed legislation offers no protection for the riparian dewatering BHP's real estate development will incur at the endangered species mitigation properties owned by BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, TNC, and the Salt River Project downstream of the 7B.



J Slash X ranch, Turkey Creek 147 acres, 5200 ft. altitude

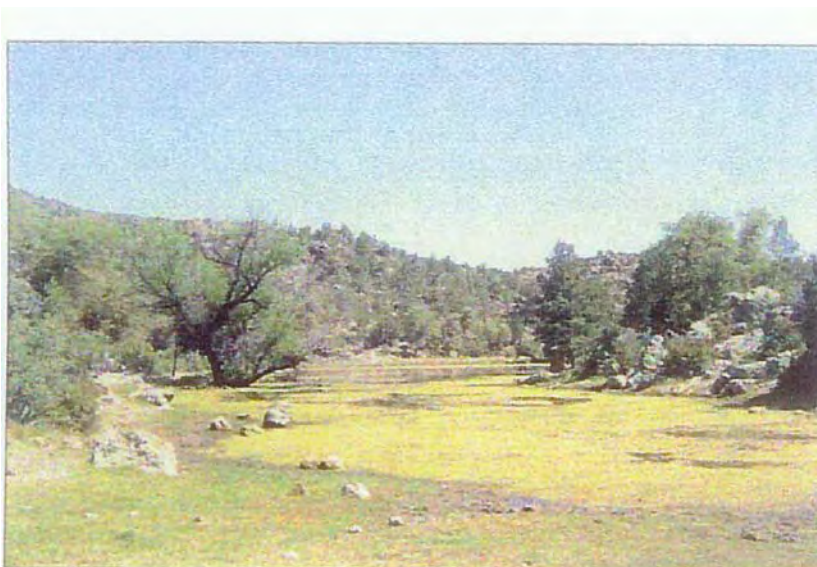
Four years ago the Pitcher Fire burned much of this 147-acre ranch including both its riparian hardwoods and the ranch's adjacent ponderosa forest. With decades of overgrazing, one finds little mature riparian vegetation here. The stream flow currently is intermittent, even in the summer after the record 2005 wet spring. This proposed Congressional land exchange offers no plan or financing for protection or fencing at the J Slash X, 6-L and LX Bar swap properties. These "abandoned" USFS inholdings have undergone severe riparian habitat destruction, soil erosion and other land abuses from livestock (from permittees who live on ranches elsewhere).



LX Bar Ranch,
148 acres,
alt. 3000
ft., **Tangle Creek.**

Like Resolution Copper's 7-mile long bone dry, bare sand, San Pedro riverbed offer, this ranch also has a bone-dry river bottom for the full one

mile length of the ranch. It is devoid of sufficient water to support cottonwood, willow, sycamore or ash riparian vegetation even if it were not grazed. Only three forlorn medium-to-small sycamores exist near the dry creek. There is one willow at a nearly dry, filthy, algae-filled stock pond near the abandoned homestead. Like the Cave Creek and Turkey Creek swap properties, this cattle-devastated inholding will continue to be grazed after it is traded to the Forest Service because the proposed land exchange offers no fencing, or forest service plan for biological protections. The proposed acquisition of this property would be of little or no real benefit to the Tonto National Forest or the public at large.



J-I Ranch near Superior,
266-acres, alt. 4600 ft.

Like the other three Resolution Copper Company swaps to the Tonto National Forest, this ranch is of little or no real benefit to the Tonto National Forest or the public at large. It has hoof and feces impacted stock ponds and a brief half-mile ephemeral stream with

mature sycamore and oak vegetation. One stock tank is described as "perennial" in Resolution Copper's promotional literature to Congress. It describes that pond as a site for a replacement campground for the Oak Flat Campground and that this "stock pond area would be highly desirable for dispersed camping opportunities." This stock tank and its one willow tree (the only riparian habitat tree species there) is not suitable habitat for fish, wildlife or birdlife.

The adjacent USFS grazing allotment lands operated by the J-I Ranch should be closed to grazing though it would hardly be comparable mitigation for the many serious environmental harms of the proposed mine and land exchange



6L Ranch, 150 acres, alt. 3000 ft., Cave Creek

The proposed acquisition of the 6L property would be of little benefit to the Tonto National Forest or the public at large, as is also true of the Turkey Creek, Tangle Creek, and J-I ranch land swap properties. The 6L is limited in size, and heavily disturbed by past settlement & chronic overgrazing. The area's rich archeological resources are protected by the de-facto non-motorized access created by the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area to the south, and the roadless forest lands that surround it on all sides. The existing resource values of the area will not change nor be enhanced as a result of a change in ownership.