



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Truxton Cañon Agency
13067 East Highway 66, P. O. Box 37
Valentine, Arizona 86437-0037

RECEIVED

Town Clerk

SEP 05 2006

Town of Payson

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Office of the Superintendent
(928) 769-3306

SEP - 1 2006

Payson Town Hall
303 N. Beeline Highway
Payson, Arizona 85541

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Truxton Canon Agency, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the fee to trust transfer of two parcels adjacent to the Tonto Apache Reservation (Reservation) in Payson, Arizona. The parcels total approximately 293 acres and are located within Sections 9 and 10 of Township 10 North, Range 10 East in Payson, Gila County, Arizona (Figure 1).

The BIA has received an application from the Tonto Apache Tribe to transfer approximately 293 acres of tribally owned fee lands to trust status; the land would be held in trust by the U.S. government for the sole benefit of the Tribe. The Tribe is currently in the process of acquiring these lands from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) under a land exchange agreement (Tonto Apache Land Exchange, AZA 31337). A Decision Notice and finding of No Significant Impact was approved on May 19, 2006. The USFS's EA analyzed the effects of transferring federal land to private ownership (fee status).

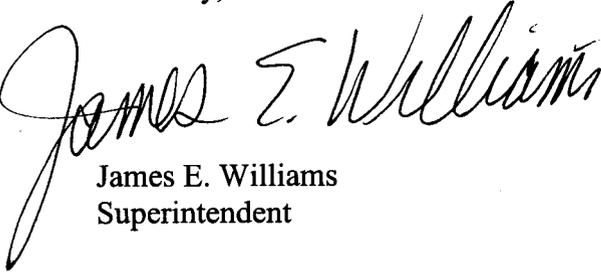
The BIA is conducting a resource evaluation within the guidelines of BIA's Revised National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) Handbook (59 IAM 3-H), which provide guidance for compliance with NEPA, as implemented by regulations issued by the Council of Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The BIA's EA will analyze the effects of transferring private land (fee status) to federal ownership in trust status for the Tribe.

The BIA is soliciting your input on the EA and would like to address any issues you may have regarding this project. Please send your comments to the address above, by September 18, 2006. If you have any direct questions or are interested in obtaining a copy of the EA, you may contact Mr. Robert Begay, Truxton Canon Agency, (928) 769-3303, or Ms. Amy Heuslein, Western Regional Office, (602) 379-6750.

SEP 21 2006 Sp. 1

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Copy to
Buz Fred
Jerry Sam
Laron
of Orig. to
Silvia

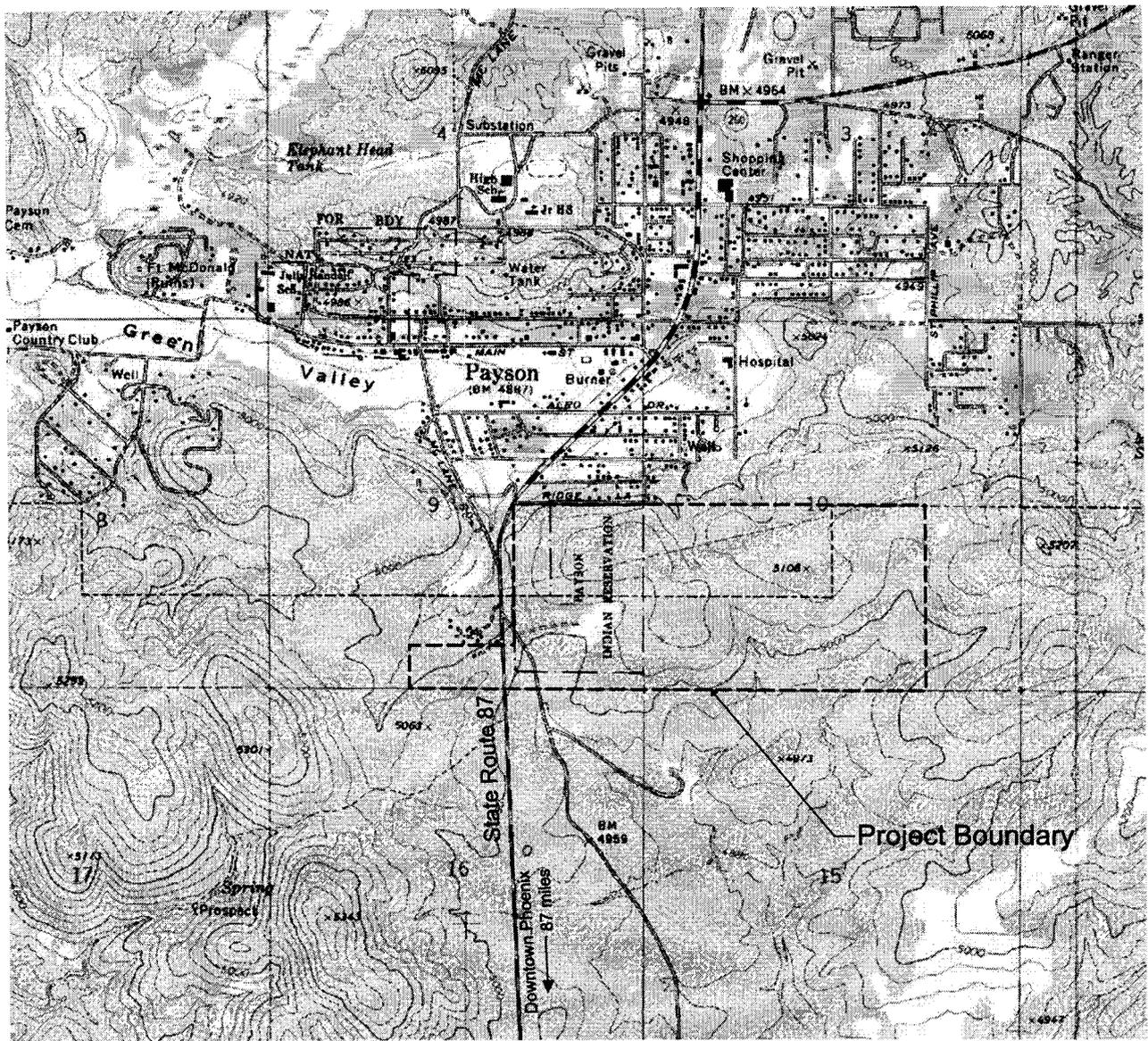
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

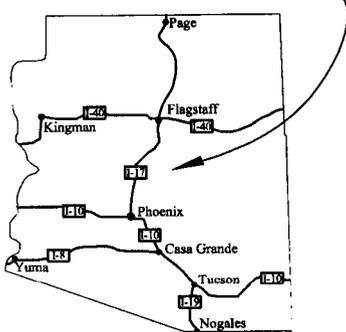
James E. Williams
Superintendent

cc: A. Heuslein, Western Regional Office
K. Danks, Real Estate Services
N.Sanders, Del Sol Group
Robyn Interpreter/Sparks Tehan Ryley

Ecl. Project Location Map



PROJECT LOCATION



Tonto Apache
Fee to Trust Transfer
Environmental Assessment
Figure 1. Project Location

USGS QUAD NAME: Payson South
 TOWNSHIP/RANGE: T10N, R10E
 Section 9, 10
 COUNTY: Gila
 SCALE: 1" = 2300'

