

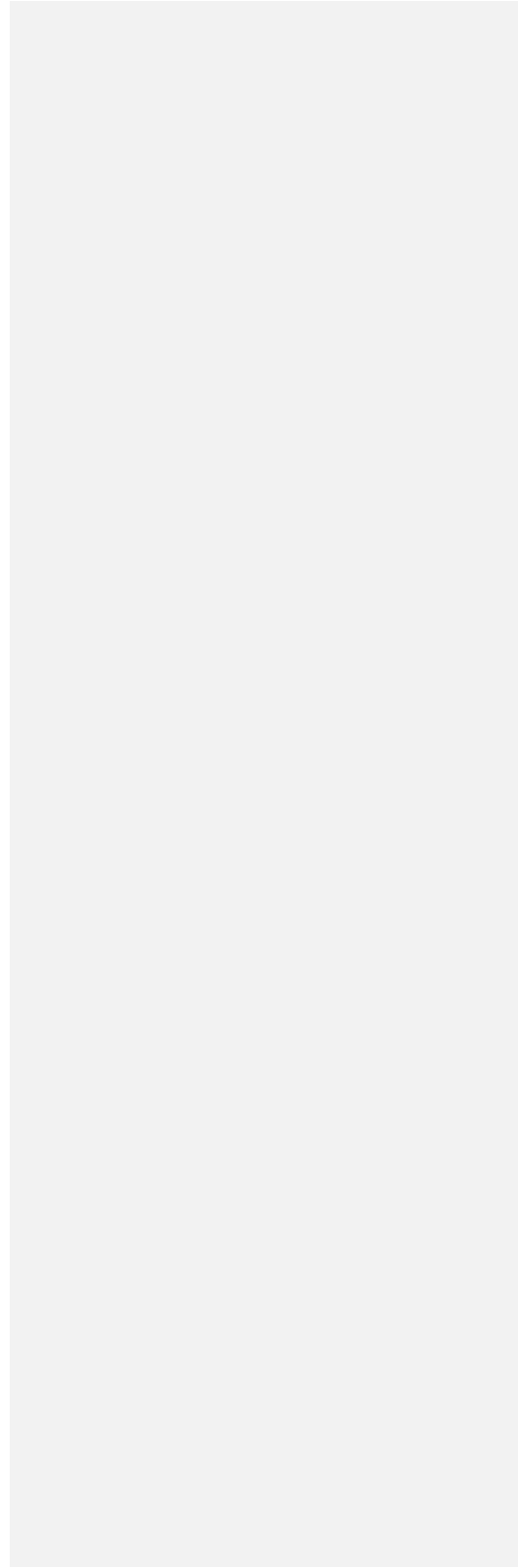
INTERNAL DRAFT

Chapter 2

Alternatives

INTERNAL DRAFT

This page intentionally left blank.



Chapter 2. Alternatives

This chapter presents the alternatives for the RMP/EIS. The BLM RPFO has formulated these alternatives for managing Decision Area public lands and resources. These alternatives address issues and concerns raised during the scoping period (see **Chapter 1**), planning criteria, and the guidance applicable to resource uses. The alternatives consist of a range of management actions anticipated to achieve the goals and objectives. Some management actions are constant across all alternatives, whereas others vary by alternative. In the description of alternatives (**Section 2.2**), management actions that apply to all alternatives are listed for each resource topic immediately following the goals and objectives for each resource topic. Management actions that vary across alternatives highlight different priorities for resource use and protection, while meeting the purpose of and need for the RMP. This Proposed RMP/Final EIS analyzes each alternative in **Chapter 4** to examine the potential impacts of the proposed decisions.

To the extent possible, the alternatives (Alternatives A, B, C, ~~and D, and E~~) are crafted using input from public scoping comments, public comment on the Draft RMP/EIS, and cooperating agencies. Other alternatives have been considered for detailed analysis but do not meet the purpose of and need for this RMP or are not technically feasible or economically practical to carry forward. These alternatives are eliminated from detailed analysis and are briefly discussed at the end of this chapter (**Section 2.4**).

Chapter 2 has been organized in the following manner:

- **Section 2.1** provides a brief summary of the major components of each alternative.
- **Section 2.2** provides the detailed alternative management strategies proposed under all ~~five-four~~ alternatives, including management common to all alternatives. Resources and resource uses are described in alphabetical order.
- **Section 2.3** refers to **Appendix T**, which provides a comparative summary of the environmental impacts associated with each alternative.
- **Section 2.4** outlines those alternatives the BLM initially considered, but later eliminated, and the justifications for their dismissal from further evaluation.

Evaluation of a reasonable range of alternatives is required by NEPA and CEQ (40 CFR 1502.14), as well as BLM planning regulations. As is also required in the CEQ regulations, one alternative consists of “No Action,” which is the same as the continuation of existing management under the current RPFO RMP (BLM 1986a, as amended). The range of alternatives has been developed to:

- Meet the purpose of and need for the RMP;
- Satisfy statutory requirements; and
- Address key planning issues identified both internally and externally.

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives were developed to consider a range of allowable uses and management actions that would achieve, with varying emphases, the BLM’s goals and objectives. The BLM identified goals and objectives through reconciliation of national laws, regulations, and policies, and public scoping. Goals and objectives provide overarching direction for BLM actions in meeting the agency’s legal, regulatory, policy, and strategic requirements. Goals are broad statements of desired outcome (e.g., maintain ecosystem health and productivity, promote community stability, and ensure sustainable development) that usually are not quantifiable. Objectives identify specific desired outcomes for resources. Objectives are usually quantifiable and measurable and may have established time frames for achievement, as appropriate.

2. Alternatives (Description of Alternatives)

42 The alternatives were developed in response to the issues and management concerns identified during
43 internal and external scoping and to meet National Administration priorities. The alternatives were used to
44 explore the different methods of meeting the BLM's goals and objectives, while addressing unresolved
45 conflicts associated with the alternative uses of available resources and meeting the purpose and need. Also
46 considered in the development of alternatives were the planning criteria, federal laws and regulations, and
47 BLM policies.

48 Management decisions are proactive measures or limitations intended to guide BLM activities on BLM-
49 administered lands or subsurface mineral estate in the Planning Area (i.e., the Decision Area). Two types of
50 management decisions are included in the following sections of **Chapter 2**: management common to all
51 alternatives and management by alternative.

52 The first type of management decision, management common to all alternatives, includes the goals,
53 objectives, and continuing management guidance that apply regardless of which alternative is selected. Land
54 use plans must identify the actions anticipated to achieve desired outcomes, including actions to maintain,
55 restore, or improve land health (allowable uses). These actions include proactive measures (e.g., measures
56 that will be taken to enhance watershed function and condition), as well as measures or criteria that will be
57 applied to guide day-to-day activities occurring on public land. Land use plans also establish administrative
58 designations such as ACECs, recommend proposed withdrawals, establish land tenure zones, and
59 recommend or make findings of suitability for congressional designations (such as components of the
60 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System [NWSRS]).

61 The RMP must set the stage for identifying site-specific resource use levels. Site-specific use levels are
62 normally identified during the subsequent implementation planning or the permit authorization process. At
63 the land use plan level, it is important to identify reasonable development scenarios for allowable uses, such
64 as mineral leasing, locatable mineral development, recreation, timber harvest, utility corridors, and livestock
65 grazing, to enable the orderly implementation of future actions. These scenarios provide a context for the
66 land use plan's decisions and an analytical base for the NEPA analysis. The BLM may also establish criteria in
67 the land use plan to guide the identification of site-specific use levels for activities during plan implementation.

68 The second type of management decision, management by alternatives, represents the range of options
69 considered across alternatives. An example of this type of management decision is to designate a specific
70 area with cultural values as an ACEC. The management decisions associated with designating the ACEC vary
71 across alternatives; for example, the acreage of the ACEC may change under different alternatives, or one
72 alternative may include the option of not designating the area as an ACEC.

73 Allowable uses identify the types of uses and where they would be allowed, restricted, or prohibited on all
74 BLM-administered surface and federal mineral estate in the Decision Area. Alternatives may include specific
75 land use restrictions to meet goals and objectives, and may exclude certain land uses to protect resource
76 values. Because the alternatives identify whether particular land uses are allowed, restricted, or prohibited,
77 the alternatives discussed in this chapter often include a spatial (map) component.

78 The alternatives in this chapter meet the RMP's purpose and need, as well as goals and objectives. They also
79 establish the framework for evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed management decisions in
80 **Chapter 4**. The [five-four](#) alternatives presented in detail in **Section 2.2** of this chapter are as follows:

- 81 • Alternative A is the No Action Alternative, and is often referred to as the "existing management
82 situation." It is required by NEPA to serve as a baseline for comparison against the other alternatives.
83 It retains the current management under the current RPFO RMP (BLM 1986a), as amended, as well
84 as current BLM policy and guidance. Resource uses and values would receive emphasis at present
85 levels, and current management strategies would continue to be applied. Decisions from the 1986

2. Alternatives (Description of Alternatives)

86 RMP that have been implemented would continue, and those that have not been implemented would
87 be carried forward in the future.

- 88 • Alternative B maximizes efforts to protect, maintain, restore, or improve components of the
89 ecosystem using natural processes. This would be achieved primarily through increased management
90 emphasis on the use of special designations to address unique or critical resource concerns, while
91 allowing for resource uses in areas without special designations. In some areas, commodity
92 production or resource uses would be excluded to protect sensitive resources. For example, under
93 Alternative B, livestock grazing would be prohibited in all proposed special designations.
- 94 • Alternative C is the Preferred Alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS (BLM 2012) [and the Proposed RMP](#).
95 [As defined by the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1 \(BLM 2005a\), the Proposed RMP](#)
96 [meets all statutory requirements and responds to the purpose of and need for the RMP by best](#)
97 [resolving the issues pertinent to the planning effort. Also, the Proposed RMP is the best combination](#)
98 [of decisions to achieve the goals and policies of the BLM as reflected through the US Department of](#)
99 [the Interior's \(USDI's\) Strategic Plan, New Mexico State Director, and Administration guidance.](#)
100 Management under this alternative would balance the protection, restoration, and enhancement of
101 natural and cultural values with resource use and development. This balance would be achieved
102 within the limits of ecosystem sustainability and within the constraints of applicable laws and
103 regulations. Measures to protect sensitive resources would be implemented, but they would be less
104 restrictive than proposed management decisions under Alternative B. For example, under
105 Alternative C, livestock grazing¹ would be available on Decision Area lands, including special
106 designations where protected resource values would be compatible with livestock grazing.
- 107 • Alternative D emphasizes resource uses and commodity production with the least constraints, while
108 still complying with applicable laws, regulations, and BLM policies. For example, under Alternative
109 D, the RPFO would maximize livestock grazing on Decision Area lands by reinstating suspended
110 animal unit months (AUMs) where applicable, and using year-long and seasonal grazing to maximize
111 flexibility in management. In addition, the RPFO would reduce ACEC acreage and increase areas
112 open to fuelwood harvesting.
- 113 • ~~Alternative E is the Proposed RMP. As defined by the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1~~
114 ~~(BLM 2005a), the Proposed RMP meets all statutory requirements and responds to the purpose of~~
115 ~~and need for the RMP by best resolving the issues pertinent to the planning effort. Also, the~~
116 ~~Proposed RMP is the best combination of decisions to achieve the goals and policies of the BLM as~~
117 ~~reflected through the US Department of the Interior's (USDI's) Strategic Plan, New Mexico State~~
118 ~~Director, and Administration guidance.~~

119 Some of the decisions in this RMP/EIS are carried forward from the existing RPFO RMP (BLM 1986a) because
120 the decisions are still valid and do not need to change. These decisions are common to all alternatives; thus,
121 a range of alternative decisions is not necessary for these resources or uses. These documents can be found
122 on the New Mexico planning site, <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/64954/570>. This RMP/EIS
123 also incorporates management decisions from the following RMP amendments and programmatic EISs:

- 124 • Final EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000)
- 125 • ROD for New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing (BLM
126 2001b)
- 127 • Plan Maintenance Record—Updated Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire
128 Management Policy for the RMP Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management on Public Land in New

¹ The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing would be...” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Description of Alternatives)

- 129 Mexico and Texas ROD September 2004, Fort Stanton-Snowy River National Conservation Area
130 RMP, Prehistoric Trackways National Monument RMP and the Taos RMP (BLM 2017)
- 131 • ROD and RMP Amendments for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States (BLM and Forest
132 Service 2008)
 - 133 • ROD for the Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides Programmatic EIS (BLM 2007b)
 - 134 • ROD for Vegetation Treatments Using Aminopyralid Fluroxypyr and Rimsulfuron on Bureau of Land
135 Management Lands in 17 Western States PEIS (BLM 2016)
 - 136 • Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact
137 (Forest Service 1993)
 - 138 • [Decision Record for the Continental Divide Trail Reroute—Cuba Reroute \(BLM 2018a\)](#)
 - 139 • Decision Record for Vehicle Use in the Ignacio Chavez Special Management Area (SMA; BLM 1996)
 - 140 • Approved RMP Amendments/ROD for Designation of Energy Corridors on BLM Administered
141 Lands in the 11 Western States (BLM 2009b)
 - 142 • Final Programmatic EIS for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States (BLM and DOE
143 2012)

144 In some instances, varying levels of management from different resource programs overlap. For example,
145 BLM guidance directs that WSAs be managed as VRM Class I, the highest standard for VRM. At the same
146 time, management for the Petaca Pinta ACEC, which overlaps the Petaca Pinta WSA in Alternative A,
147 prescribes VRM Class II for the ACEC. Because of the overlap, the ACEC would be managed as VRM Class
148 I unless and until Congress releases the WSA from Wilderness consideration and the BLM prescribes other
149 management. In such instances where varying management levels overlap, the stricter management
150 prescriptions would apply. If such prescriptions were excepted, then the less strict management would
151 prevail.

152 GIS has been used to perform acreage calculations and to generate the maps in **Appendix S**. Not all
153 management actions can be mapped. If some management decisions were not mapped in the Draft EIS (e.g.,
154 disposal acres), then the text associated with that decision prevails. Calculations are dependent on the quality
155 and availability of data, and most calculations in this RMP are rounded to the nearest 100 acres. Given the
156 scale of the analysis, the compatibility constraints between datasets, and lack of data for some resources, all
157 calculations are approximate and serve for comparison and analytic purposes only. Likewise, the maps in
158 **Appendix S** are provided for illustrative purposes and subject to the limitations discussed above. The BLM
159 may receive additional or updated data; therefore, acreages may be recalculated and revised at a later date.

160 2.1.1 Brief Summary and Highlights of the Proposed RMP and Alternatives

161 Four alternatives, including a no action alternative, were analyzed in detail in the 2012 Draft RMP/EIS ([BLM](#)
162 [2012](#)). Alternatives were developed to include different combinations of management direction to address
163 issues and resolve conflicts among resources and resource uses. Each Draft RMP/EIS alternative provided a
164 framework for multiple-use management of the full spectrum of resources, resource uses, and resource
165 programs within the Decision Area.

166 The BLM ~~identified/developed~~ Alternative ~~CE~~ as the Proposed RMP ~~by selecting components of the Draft EIS~~
167 ~~alternatives because it best resolves the issues pertinent to the planning effort. The resource prescriptions~~
168 ~~within Alternative E were pulled directly from the range of Draft EIS alternatives (Alternatives A, C, or D),~~
169 ~~in accordance with the BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1). Alternative E is primarily comprised of~~
170 ~~Alternatives A and D. Approximately 75 percent of Alternative E's framework is the same as Alternative D,~~
171 ~~with exceptions for Lands and Realty, Mineral Resources, Recreation and Visitor Services, and Special~~
172 ~~Designations (except for Wild and Scenic Rivers), which are the same as Alternative A. The only resource~~
173 ~~decision from Alternative C that was brought into Alternative E is Wild and Scenic Rivers. The combination~~
174 ~~of the three alternatives is now presented as Alternative E.~~

175 The BLM chose not to supplement the EIS because Alternative ~~E-C~~ is ~~an within the spectrum of alternatives~~
 176 already analyzed in the Draft EIS (Section 5.3.2, on page 30 of the NEPA Handbook [H-1790-1]). ~~Alternative~~
 177 ~~E selects components of the Draft EIS alternatives.~~

178 This Proposed RMP/Final EIS proposes Alternative ~~EC~~, which ~~is selects management decisions from the~~
 179 ~~Draft RMP/EIS alternatives~~ analyzed in detail, to balance resource use and extraction. In ~~identifying developing~~
 180 the Proposed RMP (Alternative ~~CE~~), the BLM made ~~minor clarifications/modifications~~ based on its internal
 181 review, new information and best available science, the need for clarification in the RMP, and ongoing
 182 coordination with stakeholders. The BLM also received substantive public comments on the Draft RMP/EIS
 183 (**Appendix R**), which it considered in ~~identification/development~~ of the Proposed RMP. Changes in BLM
 184 regulations, policy, and guidance were also considered. Goals, objectives, and management actions by
 185 resource are presented in the following sections. Footnotes are utilized to clarify textual and data updates
 186 since the Draft RMP/EIS.

187 **2.2 ALTERNATIVES BY RESOURCE AREA**

188 **2.2.1 Air Resources (Including Air Quality and Climate)**

189 **2.2.1.1 Goals²**

- 190 • Maintain and improve air quality by complying with all applicable air quality laws, rules, and
 191 regulations, including the Clean Air Act of 1963 (CAA) and FLPMA.
- 192 • Avoid or reduce negative impacts on air quality due to wildland fire management.
- 193 • Consider the impacts of BLM-authorized activities on greenhouse gas emissions in the Planning Area.

194 **2.2.1.2 Objectives**

- 195 • Maintain the quality of air resources and limit impacts on air quality to meet state and federal
 196 Ambient Air Quality Standards for criteria pollutant concentration levels and National Emission
 197 Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.
- 198 • Meet prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) pollutant concentration standards associated with
 199 management actions in compliance with the applicable increment (Class I or II).
- 200 • Comply with Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Regulations when planning activities within
 201 the county boundaries.
- 202 • Carry out prescribed burns and wildfires in compliance with NMED Smoke Management Program
 203 Guidance.
- 204 • Estimate the contribution of BLM-authorized activities on the emission of greenhouse gases in the
 205 Planning Area and evaluate them in the context of national and global emissions.

206 **2.2.1.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 207 • The BLM would manage all BLM-authorized activities to maintain air quality within State of New
 208 Mexico and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), meet PSD Class II standards, protect
 209 the air quality values in Class I areas, and protect air and atmospheric values consistent with FLPMA's
 210 "multiple use" mission.
- 211 • The BLM would use BMPs and site-specific mitigation measures to reduce emissions, when
 212 appropriate, based on site-specific conditions.
- 213 • A project-specific analysis would consider use of quantitative air quality analysis methods (i.e.,
 214 modeling), when appropriate as determined by the BLM, consistent with BLM and applicable
 215 Department of the Interior policies and guidance.

² Some goals or objectives changed between the Draft EIS and Final EIS because, as written in the Draft EIS, they were redundant with BLM policy or best practices. These changes are within the range of alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS.

216 **2.2.2 Cave and Karst Resources**

217 **2.2.2.1 Goal**

- 218 • Manage cave and karst resources to preserve and protect for appropriate uses for present and
219 future generations, according to current laws and regulations.

220 **2.2.2.2 Objectives**

- 221 • Establish inventory programs for high potential cave and karst areas within the Decision Area.
222 • Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of cave and karst resources.
223 • Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for scientific research of cave and karst
224 resources.
225 • Manage identified caves and karsts to protect resources to include geologic formations, wildlife,
226 vegetative species, and other special characteristics.

227 **2.2.2.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 228 • The BLM would inventory and manage caves identified by the RPFO consistent with the Federal
229 Cave Resource Protection Act and 43 CFR 37.
230 • The BLM would manage the Pronoun Cave Complex as described in the Special Designations
231 section.

232 **2.2.3 Cultural Resources**

233 **2.2.3.1 Goals**

- 234 • Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for
235 appropriate use by present and future generations.
236 • Reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or anthropogenic
237 deterioration or potential conflicts with other resource uses by ensuring that all authorizations for
238 land use and resource use would comply with Section 106 of the NHPA.
239 • Increase stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of cultural resources.
240 • Establish and maintain working relationship with Native American tribes.
241 • Protect and interpret National Historic Trail routes and historic settings, remnants, and artifacts for
242 public use and enjoyment.

243 **2.2.3.2 Objectives**

- 244 • Develop project plans or protective measures for special areas or cultural resources in areas of high
245 risk for development or at high risk for adverse impacts.
246 • Increase proactive cultural resource management as funding and staffing become available, which
247 could include, but is not limited to, detailed documentation of sites, nominating outstanding cultural
248 sites for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), inventories, and ethnographic
249 studies.
250 • Establish cultural resource inventory priority areas in the RMP implementation strategy document.
251 • Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for scientific research involving cultural
252 resources.
253 • Maintain and improve educational opportunities and public outreach programs focused on cultural
254 resources.
255 • Develop and maintain interpretation of cultural resources in areas of high public interest and access.
256 • Consult with Native American tribal governments on proposed land uses that have the potential to
257 impact cultural resources identified as having tribal interests or concerns, or that could affect
258 traditional uses.

- 259 • Maximize opportunities for cooperation with tribal governments for managing cultural resources
- 260 and public education.
- 261 • Identify historic trail routes within the Planning Area and identify physical remains within the
- 262 Decision Area.
- 263 • Preserve the associated high-potential historic sites and route segments, physical remnants, and
- 264 contributing features.
- 265 • Interpret the historic aspects of the trails for the protection of the resource.
- 266 • Enhance understanding and enjoyment of these trails in cooperation with trail-administering agencies
- 267 and nonprofit partners.

268 **2.2.3.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 269 • The BLM would comply with all pertinent statutes, regulations, formal agreements, Executive
- 270 Orders, and policies as they apply to cultural resource management for all actions resulting from
- 271 decisions in this RMP (FLPMA, Section 103(c), 201(a), and (c); NHPA, Sections 106, Section 110(a);
- 272 and Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14(a)).
- 273 • The BLM would manage Native American burial sites, associated funerary items, and sacred objects
- 274 in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the
- 275 Archaeological Resources Protection Act.
- 276 • The BLM would consider Native American requests to practice traditional activities on public lands
- 277 on a case-by-case basis and would be allowed where practical and appropriate. The BLM would
- 278 allow reasonable access to specific sacred sites under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.
- 279 • The BLM would honor trust responsibilities as they apply to public lands within the Decision Area.
- 280 • The BLM would use BMPs and site-specific mitigation measures, when appropriate, based on site-
- 281 specific conditions to avoid and/or minimize impacts on cultural resources. BMPs may include, but
- 282 not be limited to, livestock enclosure fencing, vegetation treatments to reduce surface visibility,
- 283 erosion control projects, road closures, rerouting trails, and other appropriate measures.
- 284 • The BLM would allocate known and yet-to-be discovered sites and segments of historic trails
- 285 (including those listed in **Chapter 3**) to cultural resource use categories following BLM Manual
- 286 Section 8130 and the relevant management documents developed for individual historic trails.
- 287 • The BLM would comply with NHPA Section 106 for any projects that may occur within the Mount
- 288 Taylor Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) or other NRHP-eligible TCPs.
- 289 • Stipulations would be applied as detailed in **Appendix H**.

290 **2.2.3.4 Alternatives**

291 **Table 2-1** lists general cultural resources management decisions by alternative, while **Table 2-2** provides
292 specific cultural resource site management decisions by alternative.

293

Table 2-1: General Cultural Resources Management Decisions by Alternative

Item	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Draft RMP/EIS Preferred Proposed RMP)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Site Surveillance	Conducted by BLM staff only.	Conducted by BLM staff, Site Watch, and other BLM volunteer programs.	Conducted by BLM staff, Site Watch, and other BLM volunteer programs.	Site surveillance would no longer be conducted.	Conducted by BLM staff, Site Watch, and other BLM volunteer programs.
NRHP	No similar action.	The BLM would prioritize detailed documentation and nomination of local, state, and nationally significant sites for listing on the NRHP as funding and staffing allow.	The BLM would prioritize detailed documentation and nomination of local, state, and nationally significant sites for listing on the NRHP as funding and staffing allow.	The BLM would conduct no detailed documentation and nomination of significant sites.	The BLM would prioritize detailed documentation and nomination of local, state, and nationally significant sites for listing on the NRHP as funding and staffing allow.
Inventory	No similar action.	The BLM would prioritize proactive inventory of geographic areas of increasing public visitation that have been determined to impact cultural resources.	The BLM would prioritize proactive inventory of geographic areas with little existing inventory and high public use as funding and staffing allow.	The BLM would not conduct proactive inventory.	The BLM would prioritize proactive inventory of geographic areas with little existing inventory and high public use as funding and staffing allow.
Site Protection, Stabilization, or Restoration	No similar action.	The BLM would prioritize proactive site protection/stabilization/restoration projects on local, state, and nationally significant sites as funding and staffing allow.	The BLM would prioritize proactive site protection/stabilization/restoration projects on state and nationally significant sites as funding and staffing allow.	The BLM would not carry out proactive site protection, stabilization, or restoration projects.	The BLM would prioritize proactive site protection/stabilization/restoration projects on state and nationally significant sites as funding and staffing allow.

294

Table 2-2: Cultural Resource Sites Management Decisions by Alternative

Cultural Site	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Ojo Pueblo and Fort Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ojo Pueblo: 0 acres Fort Site: 0 acres There is currently no special management for the Ojo Pueblo and Fort Site areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ojo Pueblo: 500 acres Fort Site: 700 acres Fluid leasable minerals: No surface occupancy (NSO) 1,000 acres Salable minerals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed: 700 acres Open³ (for noncommercial use only): 300 acres Locatable minerals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry: 700 acres Open: 300 acres Motorized vehicle travel: limited to designated primitive roads and trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ojo Pueblo: 500 acres Fort Site: 700 acres Fluid leasable minerals: Controlled surface use (CSU) 1,000 acres Salable minerals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed: 700 acres Open⁴ (for noncommercial use only): 300 acres Locatable minerals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry: 1,000 acres Open: 0 acres Motorized vehicle travel: limited to designated primitive roads and trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ojo Pueblo: 0 acres Fort Site: 0 acres No special management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ojo Pueblo: 0 acres Fort Site: 0 acres No special management.

³ This was changed from “avoid” in the Draft EIS to “open” in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy to manage salable mineral development as either open or closed. Managing an area to “avoid” salable mineral development would have the same effects as managing the area as “open” to salable mineral development. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁴ This was changed from “avoid” in the Draft EIS to “open” in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy to manage salable mineral development as either open or closed. Managing an area to “avoid” salable mineral development would have the same effects as managing the area as “open” to salable mineral development. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Cultural Resources)

Cultural Site	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Azabache Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 acres • 1986 RMP designated Azabache Station as an SMA, but it is no longer managed as such because this type of designation no longer applies. • Develop an activity plan. • Fluid leasable minerals: NSO • Salable minerals: Closed • Locatable minerals: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry • Motorized vehicle travel: Closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 acres • Activity plan would not be developed. • Nominate site to the NRHP. • Fluid leasable minerals: NSO • Salable minerals: Closed • Locatable minerals: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry • Motorized vehicle travel: Closed⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 acres • Activity plan would not be developed. • Nominate site to the NRHP. • Fluid leasable minerals: NSO • Salable minerals: Closed • Locatable minerals: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry • Motorized vehicle travel: Closed⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 acres • The area would be managed with standard terms and conditions for all resources and resource uses. • Fluid leasable minerals: CSU⁷ • Salable minerals: Open • Locatable Minerals: Open • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing primitive roads and trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 acres • The area would be managed with standard terms and conditions for all resources and resource uses. • Fluid leasable minerals: CSU • Salable minerals: Open • Locatable Minerals: Open • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing primitive roads and trails

⁵ The Draft EIS listed this area as limited because that is the management for the specific area. However, other management that overlaps this area prescribes closed for the area. Therefore, the area would actually be managed as closed; this was changed to closed in the Final EIS. The Draft EIS analysis did not specifically discuss this area and is therefore unchanged.

⁶ The Draft EIS listed this area as limited because that is the management for the specific area. However, other management that overlaps this area prescribes closed for the area. Therefore, the area would actually be managed as closed; this was changed to closed in the Final EIS. The Draft EIS analysis did not specifically discuss this area and is therefore unchanged.

⁷ The Draft EIS listed this area as open because that is the management for the specific area. However, other management that overlaps this area prescribes CSU for the area. Therefore, the area would actually be managed as CSU; this was changed to CSU in the Final EIS. The Draft EIS analysis did not specifically discuss this area and is therefore unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Cultural Resources)

Cultural Site	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Big Bead Mesa National Historic Landmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 acres • Develop an activity plan • Fluid leasable minerals: NSO • Salable minerals: Closed • Locatable Minerals: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing primitive roads and trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 acres • No overnight camping allowed • Hiking access to the mesa top allowed by permit only • Work with the Pueblo of Laguna to acquire access • Monitor the site biannually • Fluid leasable minerals: NSO • Salable minerals: Closed • Locatable minerals: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing primitive roads and trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 acres • No overnight camping allowed • Hiking access to the mesa top allowed by permit only • Work with the Pueblo of Laguna to acquire access • Monitor the site annually • Fluid leasable minerals: NSO • Salable minerals: Closed • Locatable minerals: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing primitive roads and trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 acres • No overnight camping allowed • Work with the Pueblo of Laguna to acquire access • Monitor the site quarterly • Fluid leasable minerals: NSO • Salable minerals: Closed • Locatable minerals: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry • Motorized vehicle travel: Access to the mesa top allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 acres • No similar camping, hiking, access, or monitoring allocations • Fluid leasable minerals: NSO • Salable minerals: Closed • Locatable minerals: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to designated roads and trails

2. Alternatives (Cultural Resources)

Cultural Site	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Headcut Prehistoric Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 900 acres • Designated as an SMA in the 1986 RMP, but it would no longer be managed as such because this type of designation no longer applies. • Allow further approved scientific study • Fluid leasable minerals: Open • Salable minerals: Open • Maintain existing conditions until completion of a comprehensive management plan. <p>The planned actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire non-public lands from willing sellers • Develop an activity plan • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing primitive roads and trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,300 acres • Acquire non-public lands from willing sellers • Fluid leasable minerals: CSU within the former SMA boundary and one half-section to the south • Salable minerals: Closed • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing primitive roads and trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,300 acres • Acquire non-public lands from willing sellers • Fluid leasable minerals: CSU within the former SMA boundary and one half-section to the south • Salable minerals: Open • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing primitive roads and trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 900 acres • Acquire non-public lands from willing sellers • Fluid leasable minerals: Open under standard terms and conditions • Salable minerals: Open • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing primitive roads and trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 900 acres • Acquire non-public lands from willing sellers • Fluid leasable minerals: Open under standard terms and conditions • Salable minerals: Open • Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to designated primitive roads and trails

2. Alternatives (Cultural Resources)

Cultural Site	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Mesa Portales	There is currently no special management for Mesa Portales.	Manage Mesa Portales as part of the Cañon Jarido ACEC, as described in the Special Designations section	Manage Mesa Portales as part of the Cañon Jarido ACEC, as described in the Special Designations section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,400 acres Not managed as an ACEC, but special management for the cultural site would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Motorized vehicle travel: Limited to existing routes. The area would be a priority area for route designation and closure of redundant routes that impact cultural sites. – Fluid leasable minerals: CSU 	No special management for Mesa Portales

296 Source: BLM GIS 2020

INTERNAL DRAFT

297 **2.2.4 Fire Management**

298 Fire management goals and objectives are in priority order in accordance with BLM policy.

299 **2.2.4.1 Goals**

- 300 • Manage wildland fire and fuels for the protection of firefighter and public health, safety, property,
301 and resource values.
- 302 • Manage vegetation communities to maintain areas in Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) 1. Those
303 vegetation communities in FRCC 2 and 3 would be managed to restore such communities toward
304 FRCC 1. (Refer to **Appendix S, Map 2-1.**)
- 305 • Manage hazardous fuels in areas of urban and industrial interface to reduce the risk of catastrophic
306 wildfire.
- 307 • Work collaboratively with communities at risk within the wildland urban interface (WUI) to develop
308 plans for risk reduction.
- 309 • Implement emergency stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration efforts to protect and sustain
310 resources, public health and safety, and community infrastructure.

311 **2.2.4.2 Objectives**

- 312 • Prevent the loss of life or improved property from wildland fire.
- 313 • Manage wildfire with minimal damage to other resources.
- 314 • Utilize the full range of fire and fuels management strategies to reduce hazardous fuels.
- 315 • Establish fire management strategies for each fire management unit throughout the Decision Area.
- 316 • When possible, utilize fires to meet resource objectives, enabling fire to act in its natural role as a
317 disturbance.
- 318 • Maintain a landscape of diverse plant communities and successional stages similar to those created
319 by historical fire regimes.
- 320 • Implement wildfire rehabilitation efforts to protect and sustain ecosystems, protect public health
321 and safety, and help communities protect infrastructure.
- 322 • Cooperate with adjacent landowners (federal, state, tribal, and private) in fire management activities
323 across jurisdictional boundaries.

324 **2.2.4.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 325 • The BLM would implement the Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management
326 Policy (National Interagency Fire Center 2009).
- 327 • Under all alternatives, the BLM would carry forward the most current guidance for the
328 implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and direction and guidance approved
329 by the Fire and Fuels RMP Amendment (BLM 2004a), and incorporate them by reference into this
330 RMP/EIS.
- 331 • The BLM would manage naturally ignited wildfires to accomplish specific resource management
332 objectives when accomplishment of protection and resource objectives has a reasonable probability
333 of success.
- 334 • The RPFO would follow the BMPs outlined in Table 2.7 in Chapter 2 of the Fire and Fuels RMP
335 Amendment (BLM 2004a).
- 336 • To reduce hazards and restore ecosystems, the BLM would authorize fuels management actions
337 that include management of wildfires to meet resource objectives; prescribed fire; and mechanical,
338 manual, chemical, biological, and seeding treatments.

- 339 • The BLM would treat up to approximately 23,171 acres of vegetation on lands in the RPFO on an
340 annual basis (BLM 2004a):
 - 341 – 5,122 acres treated mechanically
 - 342 – 16,621 acres treated by prescribed burn
 - 343 – 1,428 acres treated chemically
- 344 • The BLM would update and amend the RPFO FMP (BLM 2011), as necessary, to meet the direction
345 and objectives of this RPFO RMP. The FMP establishes fire suppression objectives with minimum
346 and maximum suppression targets for each fire management unit (**Appendix S, Map 2-2**) within
347 the RPFO.
- 348 • The RPFO would continue to participate in the Cibola, Santa Fe, and Gila/Las Cruces Zone
349 Operating Plans established under the “New Mexico Master Cooperative Wildland Fire
350 Management Response Agreement” between the State of New Mexico, the US Department of
351 Agriculture, and the US Department of the Interior. This agreement provides for reciprocal fire
352 protection services among participating agencies with wildland fire protection responsibilities.
- 353 • The BLM would retain and/or create snags in areas that have less than one to two snags per acre in
354 ponderosa and/or piñon-juniper forest types.
- 355 • The BLM would utilize management of wildfires to meet resource objectives, maintain and enhance
356 resources, and, when possible, allow wildfire to function in its natural ecological role.
- 357 • The BLM would use hazardous fuels reduction treatments to restore ecosystems; protect human,
358 natural, and cultural resources; and reduce the threat of wildfire to communities.
- 359 • Fire suppression priorities are:
 - 360 – Firefighter and public safety
 - 361 – Resource benefit and values to be protected
- 362 • A fire regime is the term given to the general pattern in which fires naturally occur in a particular
363 ecosystem over an extended period of time. Although fire frequency and severity are the most
364 commonly used descriptors, many other aspects have been studied, such as fire spread patterns, fire
365 seasonality, and post-fire patch dynamics.

366 **2.2.5 Forests and Woodlands**

367 **2.2.5.1 Goals**

- 368 • Manage forests and woodlands for ecosystem health, including, but not limited to, wildlife habitat,
369 watershed process, and riparian restoration and enhancement, consistent with the Federal Land
370 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579) and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of
371 2003 (Public Law 108-148), as amended.
- 372 • Keep forested areas in close proximity to economically disadvantaged communities available for
373 fuelwood harvesting, as appropriate, with consideration for forest stocking levels, forest health,
374 demand for fuelwood, accessibility, and long-term sustainability of harvesting.

375 **2.2.5.2 Objectives**

- 376 • Use forest management activities, including, but not limited to, silvicultural treatments and forest
377 restoration treatments, to improve forest health, and reestablish the appropriate species
378 distribution and spatial patterns of forest vegetation.
- 379 • Provide forest products to meet public needs consistent with maintaining ecosystem health and
380 other resource management objectives.
- 381 • Identify and determine the feasibility of maintaining and restoring forests with late-succession (old-
382 growth) characteristics under direction provided by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 or
383 the most current applicable legislation.

- 384
- 385
- 386
- 387
- 388
- Reduce the incidence and impacts of timber trespass and tree theft. This includes, but is not limited to, collaborating with other agencies, adjusting allowable forest product sale quantities and sale locations, adjusting prices for forest commodities, and increasing the presence of law enforcement.
 - Prevent unnecessary hardship with management decisions on individuals and families who use fuelwood as the primary source for cooking food and heating their homes.

389 **2.2.5.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

390 *Forest Restoration and Management Activities Common to All Alternatives*

- 391
- 392
- 393
- 394
- 395
- 396
- 397
- 398
- 399
- 400
- 401
- 402
- 403
- 404
- 405
- 406
- 407
- 408
- All forest management activities would comply with the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b) and all applicable BMPs.
 - Forest management activities would consider the New Mexico Forest Restoration Principles (NMFRRP 2006), the New Mexico Forest Practices Guidelines (NMSF 2008), the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Health Plan (NMFVHPC 2004), and other applicable best management practices.
 - Silvicultural treatments may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:
 - Mechanical treatments, such as mastication, mowing, chopping, chipping/grinding (brush cutter), or cutting
 - Manual treatments such as hand-cutting (chainsaw or handsaw) and hand-piling of slash
 - Prescribed fire, including broadcast, under burn, and hand-pile burn
 - Chemical application or biological treatments such as insects or goats/sheep
 - Biomass removal from forest restoration and fuels treatment projects
 - Seeding, including aerial or ground application (manual or mechanical)
 - Wildland fire for resource benefit
 - Identified areas may be treated in phases over a period of several years and may involve multiple and varied silvicultural treatments that emphasize forest stand diversity and large tree retention.
 - Treatments would implement, when appropriate, other resource management objectives such as erosion control and wildlife habitat improvement.

409 *Fuelwood Management Activities Common to All Alternatives*

- 410
- 411
- 412
- 413
- 414
- 415
- 416
- 417
- 418
- 419
- 420
- The BLM would continue to sell permits for harvest of woodland products to the public, consistent with the availability of woodland products, long-term sustainability of harvesting, and the protection of sensitive resource values, including seasonal restrictions on harvesting when appropriate for fuelwood collection for resource protection.
 - The BLM would continue to make downed woody material available for recreational purposes (i.e., campfires) without a permit in accordance with BLM regulations.
 - Fuelwood permit stipulations for vehicular travel would be consistent with **Section 2.2.18, Travel Management**.
 - The BLM would allow Native American noncommercial traditional use of forest and woodland products for the collection of herbs, medicines, traditional use items, or items necessary for traditional, religious, or ceremonial purposes through permits.

421 **2.2.5.4 Alternatives**

422 **Table 2-3** lists forest and woodland management by alternative.

Table 2-3: Forest and Woodland Management Decisions by Alternative

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Draft RMP/EIS Preferred Proposed RMP)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
No similar action (BLM 1981):	The BLM would not treat woodland encroachment in grassland, sagebrush, and other vegetative communities.	The BLM would treat woodland encroachment in grassland, sagebrush, and other vegetative communities where it is determined that the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey Ecological Site Descriptions or the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (2001b) are not being met for the site.	The BLM would treat woodland encroachment in grassland, sagebrush, and other vegetative communities where it is determined that the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (2001b) are not being met for the site.	The BLM would treat woodland encroachment in grassland, sagebrush, and other vegetative communities where it is determined that the NRCS Web Soil Survey Ecological Site Descriptions or the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (2001b) are not being met for the site or to achieve other resource objectives.
No similar action (BLM 1981):	The BLM would retain and/or create snags in areas determined to be snag deficient.	The BLM would retain and/or create snags in areas determined to be snag deficient.	The BLM would implement no specific snag management activities.	The BLM would retain and/or create snags in areas determined to be snag deficient.
No similar action (BLM 1981):	The BLM would prioritize treatments through concentrating forest management activities in areas of FRCC 1 (maintenance emphasis).	The BLM would prioritize treatments through concentrating forest management activities in areas of FRCC 2 and 3 (restoration emphasis).	The BLM would prioritize treatments through concentrating forest management activities in areas of FRCC 2 and 3 (restoration emphasis).	The BLM would prioritize treatments through concentrating forest management activities in areas of FRCC 2 and 3 (restoration emphasis).
No similar action (BLM 1981):	The BLM would create vegetation mosaics in forests and woodlands only through the use of prescribed fire without prior silvicultural treatments.	The BLM would create vegetation mosaics in forests and woodlands through silvicultural treatments to provide diversity of species composition and spatial distributions and as a way to prepare forests for the reintroduction of fire.	The BLM would create vegetation mosaics in forests and woodlands through silvicultural treatments to provide diversity of species composition and spatial distributions and as a way to prepare forests for the reintroduction of fire.	The BLM would create vegetation mosaics in forests and woodlands through silvicultural treatments to provide diversity of species composition and spatial distributions and as a way to prepare forests for the reintroduction of fire.

2. Alternatives (Forests and Woodlands)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Draft RMP/EIS Preferred Proposed RMP)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
No similar action	No Ponderosa pine would be removed during fluid minerals development	No Ponderosa pine would be removed during fluid minerals development	No similar action	No similar action
<p>Fuelwood would be available to the public through home use sales from approximately 12,200 acres of piñon-juniper woodland of public land. Small amounts of fuelwood would be made available to the public as a result of wildlife habitat improvement projects, ponderosa pine stand maintenance projects, ROW clearings, and as dead and down wood. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-3.)</p>	<p>The BLM would allow forest product harvest (including, but not limited to, green and dead and down fuelwood/firewood, vigas, latillas, wood pellets, fuelwood, biomass, posts, nuts, berries, piñon nuts, and wildings) on approximately 120,600 acres, which is area-wide with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest product harvesting would be prohibited in riparian areas, ACECs, Wilderness areas, WSAs, VRM Class I areas, SRMAs, and lands with Wilderness characteristics. • Forest product harvest would be prohibited where soil erosion hazard rating is severe or very severe for roads, trails, or off-road routes. 	<p>The BLM would permit forest product harvest (including, but not limited to, green and dead and down fuelwood/firewood, vigas, latillas, wood pellets, fuelwood, biomass, posts, nuts, berries, piñon nuts, and wildings) on approximately 547,800 acres, which is area-wide, with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest product harvesting would be prohibited in riparian areas, ACECs, Wilderness areas, WSAs, and lands with Wilderness characteristics managed to protect Wilderness characteristics. • On lands with Wilderness characteristics managed to minimize impacts on Wilderness characteristics, access for forest product removal would be limited to existing routes. • Small amounts of fuelwood could be removed and made available as a result of wildlife habitat improvement projects, ponderosa 	<p>The BLM would permit forest product harvest (including, but not limited to, green and dead and down fuelwood/firewood, vigas, latillas, wood pellets, fuelwood, biomass, posts, nuts berries, piñon nuts, and wildings) on approximately 633,700 acres, which is area-wide with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest products harvesting would be prohibited in Wilderness areas and WSAs.⁸ <p>The BLM would identify and designate specific fuelwood areas. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-6.)</p>	<p>The BLM would permit forest product harvest (including, but not limited to, green and dead and down fuelwood/firewood, vigas, latillas, wood pellets, fuelwood, biomass, posts, nuts berries, piñon nuts, and wildings) on approximately 633,700 acres,⁹ which is area-wide with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest products harvesting would be prohibited in Wilderness areas, WSAs, and the Bluewater-Creek segment that is suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. <p>The BLM would identify and designate specific fuelwood areas. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-7.)</p>

⁸ The Draft EIS also included “and lands managed to protect Wilderness characteristics.” This was an error, as the Chamisa E lands with Wilderness characteristics unit identified as “protect Wilderness characteristics” in the Draft EIS was in error and was changed to “emphasize multiple use” in the Final EIS. On-the-ground management and effects for the Chamisa E unit are the same as for Alternative A. The Final EIS analysis was corrected.

⁹ ~~Draft EIS Alternative D excluded forest product harvest on lands managed to protect Wilderness characteristics, which was an error; the Chamisa E lands with Wilderness characteristics unit identified as “protect Wilderness characteristics” in Draft EIS Alternative D was an error and was changed to “emphasize multiple use” in the Final EIS Alternative D. The Chamisa E lands with Wilderness characteristics acres were included in the Draft EIS Alternative D acres.~~

2. Alternatives (Forests and Woodlands)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Draft RMP/EIS Preferred Proposed RMP)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
	The BLM would periodically identify and designate specific fuelwood areas. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-4.)	<p>pine stand maintenance projects, ROW clearings, and as dead and down wood.</p> <p>The BLM would identify and designate specific fuelwood areas in approximately 544,300 acres of BLM land in the Decision Area. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-5.)</p>		

424

Source: BLM GIS 2020

INTERNAL DRAFT

425 **2.2.6 Protection of Public Health, Safety, and Environment**

426 **2.2.6.1 Goal**

- 427 • Protect public health and safety and environmental resources through complying with federal and
428 state hazardous materials laws and regulations; maintaining the health of ecosystems through
429 assessment, cleanup, and restoration of contaminated sites; and integrating environment protection
430 and compliance into all BLM activities.

431 **2.2.6.2 Objectives**

- 432 • Ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, where applicable.
433 • Protect human health and safety as the first priority in the management of wildfires.
434 • Ensure compliance with the CAA, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive
435 Environmental Response, and Compensation and Liability Act, where applicable.

436 **2.2.6.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 437 • The BLM would comply with applicable abandoned mine lands (AML) policies, including discouraging
438 recreational activity within and near AML sites.
439 • The BLM would enforce NSO for fluid leasable minerals, close to extraction of salable minerals,
440 install no range improvements, and allow no motorized vehicle use on reclaimed uranium mines and
441 associated tailings piles and spoil piles.
442 • The BLM would enforce limitations on recreational OHV use in active mineral extraction areas, as
443 necessary, to preserve public health and safety.
444 • The BLM would inspect and monitor dams meeting dam safety criteria per BLM Manual 9177.
445 • The BLM would work with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division and industry to plug orphan
446 wells.
447 • The BLM would identify and clean up unauthorized dumping sites and hazardous materials spills in
448 the Decision Area in compliance with applicable state, local, and federal regulations. The BLM would
449 conduct the proper investigations and pursuit of illegal dumping activities, and enforce all applicable
450 illegal dumping laws to ensure the highest protection of environmental quality and cost
451 avoidance/cost recovery for illegal dumping activities.
452 • The BLM would monitor fluid leasable minerals operations for compliance, according to the annual
453 Automated Fluid Mineral Support System.
454 • The BLM would implement emergency stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration efforts to protect
455 and sustain resources, public health and safety, and community infrastructure. Temporary closure
456 or restrictions on public land use (e.g., camping and gathering firewood) would be enacted at the
457 discretion of the RPFO Manager as necessary to resolve management conflicts and protect persons,
458 property, and public lands and resources. A closure or restriction order would be considered only
459 after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. Appropriate NEPA analysis
460 would be conducted before the BLM closes public lands to certain uses or restricts specific uses
461 under 43 CFR 3864.1, 3851.2-1, and 6302.19.
462 • The BLM would work with local and tribal entities to prevent solid waste dumping on public land
463 through cooperative education, outreach, and visibility programs.

464 **2.2.7 Lands and Realty**

465 **2.2.7.1 Goals**

- 466 • Manage the acquisition, disposal, and use of public lands to meet the needs of internal and external
467 customers and to preserve important resource values.
468 • Acquire land through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect critical resource areas and
469 provide increased public recreation opportunities.
470 • Retain and acquire lands within the BLM administration to accomplish resource goals and objectives.
471 • Manage the disposal of public lands to preserve important resource values.
472 • Land disposals would be planned to ensure no net loss of wetland values.

- 473 • Manage land use authorizations to benefit public use and preserve resource values.
- 474 • Accept donations of land to consolidate BLM-administered lands and protect resource areas.
- 475 • Improve legal public use of BLM-administered lands by acquiring rights-of-way for roads and trails.

476 **2.2.7.2 Objectives**

- 477 • Implement land tenure adjustments to improve administration of public lands by disposing of
- 478 isolated, unmanageable parcels and acquiring inholdings within federal land boundaries.
- 479 • Acquire and maintain access to public lands where needed to improve management efficiency and
- 480 facilitate multiple use.
- 481 • Retain public lands if they provide access to other federal lands, unless access rights for public use
- 482 can be reserved in the patent.
- 483 • Prioritize land acquisitions if they are within or adjacent to specially designated areas such as ACECs,
- 484 SRMAs, or National Landscape Conservation System units.
- 485 • Prioritize land acquisitions for important wildlife or wetlands/riparian habitats within or adjacent to
- 486 existing BLM-administered lands.
- 487 • Acquire land within the city limits of Rio Rancho and Albuquerque from landowners willing to
- 488 dispose of them, which would serve to provide for Veterans National Cemeteries and other
- 489 Veterans services, and if adverse effects can be mitigated.
- 490 • Manage acquired lands or interest in lands the same as surrounding or adjacent public lands.
- 491 • Encourage new ROW applicants to stay within already established corridors.
- 492 • Recognize existing authorized easements, permits, leases, ROWs, and withdrawals as valid existing
- 493 rights.
- 494 • Continue to give environmental review to all landownership adjustment cases and ROW
- 495 applications on a case-by-case basis and coordinate, to the fullest extent possible, with all potentially
- 496 affected interest groups and agencies.

497 **2.2.7.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

498 *Land Tenure*

499 The RPFO would use the following criteria for considering disposal or acquisition of lands:

- 500 • Existing parcels identified for disposal in the 1986 Rio Puerco RMP are brought forward into this
- 501 RMP.
- 502 • Public lands would not be disposed of if NRHP-eligible properties cannot be avoided, minimized, or
- 503 mitigated at a reasonable cost.
- 504 • Lands within WSAs would not be disposed of unless released from WSA status, and disposal would
- 505 meet the other management objectives within the RMP/EIS.
- 506 • Land disposals would be planned to ensure no net loss of wetland values.
- 507 • Section 15 (Taylor Grazing Act) livestock grazing allotments less than 100 acres would be considered
- 508 for disposal.
- 509 • Isolated parcels that are small in size and considered “unmanageable” lands by the RPFO would be
- 510 considered for disposal.
- 511 • Under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, state, county, municipal, and qualified nonprofit
- 512 organizations would have the opportunity to obtain, in whole, public lands identified for disposal.
- 513 • Where possible, public lands identified for disposal would be exchanged for nonfederal or tribal
- 514 lands that have been identified for acquisition to enhance BLM resource management programs.
- 515 • Lands identified for disposal would be disposed of at or above fair market value (excluding those
- 516 lands disposed of under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act or the Color of Title Act).
- 517 • Lands identified for disposal that have no legal public access and only one adjacent landowner would
- 518 be offered in noncompetitive sales at fair market value.

- 519 • Valuable wildlife habitat and cultural resources on public land that is otherwise suitable for disposal
- 520 would be considered for exchange only with state or local agencies or nonprofit private
- 521 organizations with wildlife and cultural resource management responsibilities.
- 522 • Public lands would not be disposed of if they provide access to large blocks of other federal lands,
- 523 unless access rights for public use can be reserved in the patent.
- 524 • Exchange of lands between the BLM and the State of New Mexico would occur when the exchange
- 525 improves the management potential of state and federal land.
- 526 • Public lands not identified for disposal would be considered for exchange and Recreation and Public
- 527 Purposes Act disposals on a case-by-case basis after consultation and coordination with federal,
- 528 state, county, and local governments and agencies, and after public and environmental review.
- 529 • Public lands that are congressionally designated Wilderness would be retained in public ownership.
- 530 • Lands identified for disposal under Sections 203, 206, and 209 of FLPMA and identified as such in
- 531 this plan are hereby classified for disposal under Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, as
- 532 amended (43 USC 315f).
- 533 • Lands and/or interest in lands (such as minerals and conservation easements) acquired through
- 534 future land tenure adjustments would take on the management of the surrounding public lands.
- 535 • The BLM would acquire land only from owners willing to dispose of them.
- 536 • Exchanges are developed on a case-by-case basis. As such, no quantification of disposal and
- 537 acquisition acreages can be made before the specific exchange proposal is developed.
- 538 • The BLM would retain lands that would otherwise be disposed of if adverse impacts on NRHP-
- 539 eligible properties cannot be avoided, minimized, or mitigated at a reasonable cost.
- 540 • Acquired lands or interest in lands would take on the management of the surrounding or adjacent
- 541 public lands.
- 542 • WSAs and Wilderness areas would be exclusion areas for any ROWs (FLPMA, Section 501 (a)).
- 543 • Prior to executing any land tenure adjustment, lands proposed for sale, exchange, disposal, or
- 544 transfer would have environmental site assessments conducted as per BLM policy and other
- 545 applicable regulations.
- 546 • All Recreation and Public Purposes lands would be available for disposal.
- 547 • Any lands specifically acquired for Veterans services would be withdrawn and administratively
- 548 transferred to the Veteran's Administration.
- 549 • Reserved federal interests in split-estate lands anywhere in the Decision Area may be considered
- 550 for conveyance out of federal ownership.

551 *Land Use Authorizations*

- 552 • Existing authorized easements, permits, leases, ROWs, and withdrawals would be recognized as
- 553 valid existing rights.
- 554 • WSAs and Wilderness areas would be exclusion areas for any ROWs (FLPMA, Section 501 (a)).
- 555 • ROWs associated with extraction of fluid leasable minerals and other surface-disturbing activities
- 556 would comply with stipulations identified in the RMP/EIS.
- 557 • The BLM would complete all environmental compliance surveys, including the appropriate level of
- 558 effort to identify historic properties under NHPA Section 106, prior to land disposal, acquisition,
- 559 transfer, exchange, lease, permit, or grant.
- 560 • All ROW applications would continue to receive environmental review on a case-by-case basis and
- 561 would be coordinated, to the fullest extent possible, with all potentially affected interest groups and
- 562 agencies.
- 563 • The BLM would consider agency requests for withdrawals on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the
- 564 BLM would consider agency requests for withdrawal extensions or modifications on a case-by-case
- 565 basis. All withdrawals have been or would be reviewed according to the requirements of laws and
- 566 existing guidance. Withdrawn areas returned to BLM administration would be managed consistently
- 567 with land use plan decisions for the surrounding area, as appropriate.

- 568 • Designated Section 368 corridors determined in the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS
569 (BLM 2009b) include corridor 80-273 in the Planning Area, which would be managed according to
570 existing policy (Appendix B of the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS; BLM 2009b).

571 **2.2.7.4 Alternatives**

572 *Land Tenure*¹⁰

573 The BLM conducted an inventory of the public lands within the Decision Area to determine whether there
574 were any tracts that met one or more of the following FLPMA Section 203 criteria for disposal out of federal
575 ownership:

- 576 • Such tract because of its location or other characteristics is difficult and uneconomic to manage as
577 part of the public lands, and is not suitable for management by another federal department or agency;
578 or
579 • Such tract was acquired for a specific purpose and the tract is no longer required for that or any
580 other federal purpose; or
581 • Disposal of such tract will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to, expansion
582 of communities and economic development, which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land
583 other than public land and which outweigh other public objectives and values, including, but not
584 limited to, recreation and scenic values, which would be served by maintaining such tract in federal
585 ownership.

586 **Appendix Q** provides a list of public land tracts within the Decision Area identified as meeting one or more
587 of these FLPMA Section 203 criteria for disposal, with reference to the FLPMA criteria used for this
588 determination.

589 This RMP step is an identification of tracts meeting the criteria, not a decision to dispose of public lands. Any
590 future decision regarding whether to dispose of a certain parcel of public land under any particular authority,
591 whether by sale under FLPMA Section 203; exchange under FLPMA Section 206; or patent under the
592 Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, as amended, for instance, would require site-specific
593 consideration and analysis, including, but not limited to, considerations of access, popular recreational uses,
594 cultural resources or habitat for species, and whether such a parcel, isolated from other public lands, might
595 be better suited for private ownership.

596 Draft RMP/EIS Alternatives C and D identified checkerboard areas for landownership adjustment, but did
597 not include these acreages in the total acreage considered for disposal. This Proposed RMP/Final EIS
598 Alternative **E-C** (the Proposed RMP) is proposing these lands for disposal and includes updated acreage in
599 Alternatives C and D to include these. The types of impacts of this change are the same because the results
600 of the BLM considering these areas for disposal or exchange is largely the same. **Table 2-4** identifies the
601 total amount of lands that meet FLPMA Section 203 criteria for disposal out of federal ownership.

602 *Land Use Authorizations*

603 **Table 2-5** describes actions the RPFO would take when siting ROWs. The term “exclude” means that the
604 project would not be approved for construction within the resource area. “Avoid” indicates that the RPFO
605 would attempt to site the project outside the particular resource area; however, the project could be
606 considered within the resource area if no other viable alternative is available. All areas not excluded or avoided
607 are considered open.

¹⁰ This was added since the Draft EIS to clarify BLM policy regarding disposal. As stated in this section, the types of impacts of this change are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

Table 2-4: Priority Land Tenure Adjustment Decision by Alternative

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Approximately 55,900 ^{54,900} acres of scattered and isolated public land were identified as potentially available for disposal. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-87.)	Parcels identified for disposal total 57,000 acres. These lands meet the referenced criteria. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-98.)	Parcels identified for disposal total 117,300 ^{131,900} acres. ¹¹ These lands meet the referenced criteria. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-109.)	Parcels identified for disposal total 131,900 ^{120,400} acres. ¹² These lands meet the referenced criteria. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-119.)	Parcels identified for disposal total 129,500 ^{129,500} acres. ¹³ These lands meet the referenced criteria. (Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-12.)
Approximately 683,300 ^{682,300} acres were identified for retention.	Approximately 681,200 acres would be retained in BLM ownership.	Approximately 620,900 ^{606,300} acres would be retained in BLM ownership.	Approximately 606,300 ^{617,800} acres would be retained in BLM ownership.	Approximately 611,800 ^{611,800} acres would be retained in BLM ownership.
Consider direct transfer of land in Torrance County to the NPS or other such agency if the transfer would provide for the protection of cultural and paleontological resources of national, state,	Proposed priority areas for landownership adjustment: [*] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Area in Unit 5—cultural resources are located on the properties that have to be protected or 	Proposed priority areas for landownership adjustment: [*] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All BLM-administered land in Torrance County Lands within the Baca-Prewitt Chapter of Navajo Nation—acquire land through exchange to expand Bluewater Canyon ACEC 	Proposed priority areas for landownership adjustment: [*] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All BLM-administered land in Torrance County Lands within the Baca-Prewitt Chapter of Navajo Nation—acquire land (through exchange) 	Proposed priority areas for landownership adjustment: [*] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All BLM-administered land in Torrance County Lands within the Baca-Prewitt Chapter of Navajo Nation—acquire land through exchange to

¹¹ Draft EIS Alternatives C and D identified “checkerboard areas (for consolidation)” for landownership adjustment (see the third row of this table) but did not include those acreages in the total acres considered for disposal. This Final EIS updates the acreage in Alternatives C and D to include these checkerboard areas. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged [because the results of the BLM considering these areas for disposal or exchange is largely the same. These “checkerboard areas \(for consolidation\)” are priority for exchange \(see the third row of this table\).](#) Final EIS Alternative E also proposes these lands for disposal.

¹² Draft EIS Alternatives C and D identified “checkerboard areas (for consolidation)” for landownership adjustment (see the third row of this table) but did not include those acreages in the total acres considered for disposal. This Final EIS updates the acreage in Alternatives C and D to include these checkerboard areas. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged [because the results of the BLM considering these areas for disposal or exchange is largely the same. These “checkerboard areas \(for consolidation\)” are priority for exchange \(see the third row of this table\).](#) Final EIS Alternative E also proposes these lands for disposal.

¹³ Draft EIS Alternatives C and D identified “checkerboard areas (for consolidation)” for landownership adjustment (see the third row of this table) but did not include those acreages in the total acres considered for disposal. This Final EIS updates the acreage in Alternatives C and D to include these checkerboard areas. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged. Final EIS Alternative E also proposes these lands for disposal.

2. Alternatives (Lands and Realty)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
<p>regional, or local significance; the protection of valuable wildlife habitat; and the protection of other natural resources.</p>	<p>mitigated prior to disposal-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crest of Montezuma—may consider transferring management jurisdiction to another public land management agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checkerboard areas (for consolidation) • All land holdings¹⁴ in Placitas, including along with the isolated 200-acre parcel and the Wesley property, would be available for disposal- • Golden Area in Unit 5 – cultural resources are located on the properties that have to be protected or mitigated prior to disposal. • Crest of Montezuma—may consider transferring management jurisdiction to another public land management agency • 11-acre parcel near the intersection of (the) Rio Puerco and Interstate 40 	<p>to expand Bluewater Canyon ACEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checkerboard areas (for consolidation) • Golden Area in Unit 5—cultural resources are located on the properties that have to be protected or mitigated prior to disposal. • All land holdings in Placitas • Crest of Montezuma—may consider transferring management jurisdiction to another public land management agency • 11-acre parcel near the intersection of Rio Puerco and Interstate 40 • All land holdings in Placitas 	<p>expand Bluewater Canyon ACEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checkerboard areas (for consolidation) • Crest of Montezuma—may consider transferring management jurisdiction to another public land management agency • 11-acre parcel near the intersection of (the) Rio Puerco and Interstate 40 • All land holdings in Placitas

Commented [AA1]: This bullet was in DEIS Alt C but had previously been deleted in the preliminary FEIS. Based on BLM RPFO Dawn Chavez's 11/8/2021 email to EMPSi, this was added back in.

609
610
611

Source: BLM GIS 2020

*Note: This list does not include all BLM-administered lands eligible for disposal within the Decision Area.

¹⁴ Draft EIS Alternative C stated “Placitas – isolated 200-acre parcel and the Wesley property.” This Final EIS clarifies that all BLM-administered lands in the Placitas area would be considered for disposal per Secretarial Order 3373. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged because the results of the BLM considering these areas for disposal or exchange is largely the same.

Table 2-5: Rights-of-Way Management Decisions by Alternative

Alternative A (No Action) ¹	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
<p>Manage the following areas as ROW avoidance areas for new land use authorizations (44,700 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural sites (eligible for the NRHP) • TCPs • VRM Class II <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-1310.)</p>	<p>Manage the following areas as ROW avoidance areas for new land use authorizations (68,200 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural sites (eligible for the NRHP) • Habitat for BLM sensitive plant and animal species (includes rare plants) • Habitat for federal candidate species • Habitat for federally listed/proposed threatened and endangered species for which critical habitat has not been designated • Habitat state listed as crucial/sensitive • National Scenic and Historic Trails (as delineated by SRMA, ACEC, or VRM areas) • TCPs • VRM Class II • Wetlands and riparian areas • Withdrawn lands <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-1411.)</p>	<p>Manage the following areas as ROW avoidance areas for new land use authorizations (406,000 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACECs • Cultural sites (eligible for the NRHP) • Critical habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species (threatened and proposed) • Habitat for BLM sensitive plant and animal species (includes rare plants) • Habitat for federal candidate species • Habitat for federally listed/proposed threatened and endangered species for which critical habitat has not been designated • Habitat state listed as crucial/sensitive • National Scenic and Historic Trails (as delineated by SRMA, ACEC, or VRM areas) • TCPs • VRM Class II • Wetlands and riparian areas • Withdrawn lands <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-1512.)</p>	<p>Manage the following areas as ROW avoidance areas for new land use authorizations (423,800/535,300 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACECs • Cultural sites (eligible for the NRHP) • Critical habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species (designated and proposed) • Habitat for BLM sensitive plant and animal species (includes rare plants) • Habitat for federal candidate species • Habitat for federally listed/proposed threatened and endangered species for which critical habitat has not been designated • Habitat state listed as crucial/sensitive National Scenic and Historic Trails (as delineated by SRMA, ACEC, or VRM areas) • TCPs • VRM Class II • Wetlands and riparian areas • Withdrawn lands <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-1613.)</p>	<p>Manage the following areas as ROW avoidance areas for new land use authorizations (26,900 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACECs • Cultural sites (eligible for the NRHP) • Critical habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species (designated and proposed) • Habitat for federal candidate species • Habitat for federally listed/proposed threatened and endangered species for which critical habitat has not been designated • National Scenic and Historic Trails (as delineated by SRMA, ACEC, or VRM areas) • TCPs • VRM Class II <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-17.)</p>

2. Alternatives (Lands and Realty)

Alternative A (No Action) ¹	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
<p>Manage the following areas as ROW exclusion areas for new land use authorizations (103,300 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Espinazo Ridge (formerly known as Ball Ranch), Cabezon Peak, Jones Canyon, and Ojito ACECs, and Juana Lopez Research Natural Area (RNA) VRM Class I Wilderness areas WSAs <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-1310.)</p>	<p>Manage the following areas as ROW exclusion areas for new land use authorizations (592,400 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACECs Critical habitat or federally listed threatened and endangered species (designated and proposed) Eligible WSRs Lands with Wilderness characteristics VRM Class I <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-1411.)</p>	<p>Manage the following areas as ROW exclusion areas for new land use authorizations (237,400 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible WSRs Lands with Wilderness characteristics VRM Class I Wilderness areas WSAs <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-1512.)</p>	<p>Manage the following areas as ROW exclusion areas for new land use authorizations (97,800-209,600 acres¹⁵):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible WSRs VRM Class I Wilderness areas WSAs <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-1613.)</p>	<p>Manage the following areas as ROW exclusion areas for new land use authorizations (97,900 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible WSRs VRM Class I Wilderness areas WSAs <p>(Refer to Appendix S, Map 2-17.)</p>

613
614

Source: BLM GIS 2020

¹Not all Alternative A ROWs are mapped.

¹⁵ Acres of Alternative D exclusion areas were changed from the Draft EIS to Final EIS to correct a Draft EIS error. This change is within the range of alternatives considered in the Draft EIS. The Final EIS analysis was corrected.

615 **2.2.8 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

616 The BLM has identified lands with Wilderness characteristics for management consideration in this planning
617 effort. Wilderness characteristics include the combination of size (the area has at least 5,000 acres or is of
618 sufficient size to be managed as Wilderness), naturalness (the area generally appears to have been affected
619 primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human work substantially unnoticeable), and outstanding
620 opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

621 **2.2.8.1 Goal**

- 622 • Protect Wilderness characteristics on those lands with Wilderness characteristics (as defined in
623 **Section 3.9**) that are identified for protection through this RMP.

624 **2.2.8.2 Objectives**

- 625 • Minimize surface-disturbing activities such that the natural quality of the area is maintained.
626 • Maintain opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation where they occur in these areas.

627 **2.2.8.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 628 • Land areas identified as having Wilderness characteristics that would be protected or impacted
629 minimally would be a priority for acquisition.

630 **2.2.8.4 Alternatives**

631 Descriptions of each set of management actions are described below. **Table 2-6** indicates which alternatives
632 would apply which set of management actions.

633 *Protect Wilderness Characteristics*

634 Lands with Wilderness characteristics that would be managed to protect Wilderness characteristics would
635 apply the following prescriptions:

- 636 • Close to extraction of leasable minerals.
637 • Close to mineral material sales.
638 • Withdraw from locatable mineral entry.
639 • Retain public lands in federal ownership.
640 • Prohibit forest product removal.
641 • Close to travel, except for authorized use.
642 • Allow no new ROWs.
643 • Allow no new wildlife and range developments that are inconsistent with the maintenance of
644 Wilderness characteristics.
645 • Allow for the maintenance of existing wildlife and range developments.
646 • Allow no new recreational developments.
647 • Allow surface-disturbing activities on a case-by-case basis when necessary for reclamation,
648 emergencies, or valid existing rights. Include mitigation to minimize impacts on Wilderness
649 characteristics.
650 • Manage as VRM II.

651

Table 2-6: Summary of Management Decisions for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics by Alternative

Unit	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Map 2-1814)	Alternative C (<u>Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred</u>) (Appendix S, Map 2-1915)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Map 2- 2016)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) (Appendix S, Map 2-21)
Chamisa E (2,200 acres)	No similar action (lands with Wilderness characteristics were not addressed in the 1986 RMP, as amended)	Protect Wilderness characteristics	Protect Wilderness characteristics	Emphasize multiple use ¹⁶	Emphasize multiple use
Ignacio Chavez A (2,500 acres)		Protect Wilderness characteristics	Minimize impacts on Wilderness characteristics	Emphasize multiple use ¹⁷	Emphasize multiple use
Ignacio Chavez B (1,500 acres)		Protect Wilderness characteristics	Minimize impacts on Wilderness characteristics	Emphasize multiple use	Emphasize multiple use
Ignacio Chavez C (70 acres)		Protect Wilderness characteristics	Minimize impacts on Wilderness characteristics	Emphasize multiple use	Emphasize multiple use
Petaca Pinta A (40 acres)		Protect Wilderness characteristics	Protect Wilderness characteristics	Emphasize multiple use	Emphasize multiple use
Volcano Hill (23,800 acres)		Protect Wilderness characteristics	Protect Wilderness characteristics	Emphasize multiple use	Emphasize multiple use
Cimarron Mesa (7,300 acres)		Protect Wilderness characteristics	Emphasize multiple use	Emphasize multiple use	Emphasize multiple use
Total acres Wilderness characteristics prioritized	0	37,410	26,040	0	0
Total acres minimize impacts	0	0	4,070	0	0
Total acres multiple use emphasized	37,410 ¹⁸	0	7,300	37,410	37,410

652

Source: BLM GIS 2020

¹⁶ This was changed from “protect” in the Draft EIS to “emphasize multiple use” in the Final EIS to correct a Draft EIS error. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as for Alternative A, so this change is within the range of alternatives considered in the Draft EIS. The Final EIS analysis was corrected.

¹⁷ This was changed from “not protected” in the Draft EIS to “emphasize multiple use” in the Final EIS to reflect current policy and nomenclature. The on-the-ground management and effects are the same. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

¹⁸ Although Alternative A does not directly manage lands with Wilderness characteristics, those lands are de facto managed as multiple use. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

653 *Minimize Impacts on Wilderness Characteristics*

654 Lands with Wilderness characteristics that would be managed to minimize impacts on Wilderness
655 characteristics would apply the following prescriptions:

- 656 • Close to extraction of leasable minerals.
- 657 • Evaluate surface-disturbance activities, including extraction of salable minerals, on a case-by-case
658 basis. Include mitigation to minimize impacts on Wilderness characteristics.
- 659 • Retain public lands in federal ownership.
- 660 • Manage forest product removal consistent with Wilderness characteristics by assuring new routes
661 are not established and that harvested areas are followed by prescribed fire to eliminate evidence
662 of stumps.
- 663 • Manage vehicle use as limited to designated routes upon approval of a travel management plan
664 (TMP). In areas with overlapping designations, the more restrictive travel designation prevails.
- 665 • Make available current authorized livestock grazing in lands with Wilderness characteristics.
- 666 • Allow construction of new range improvements that are consistent with maintenance of Wilderness
667 characteristics.
- 668 • Manage as VRM II.

669 *Manage to Emphasize Multiple Uses*

670 Lands with Wilderness characteristics that would emphasize multiple uses over protecting Wilderness
671 characteristics would be managed according to the prescriptions in each resource section.

672 **2.2.9 Livestock Grazing**

673 **2.2.9.1 Goals**

- 674 • Manage to achieve the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock
675 Grazing Management (BLM 2001b) and other desired resource conditions through the
676 implementation of the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b).
- 677 • Achieve healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems that support the livestock industry, while
678 providing for other multiple resource values such as wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, clean
679 water, and functional watersheds.

680 **2.2.9.2 Objectives**

- 681 • Integrate livestock grazing management planning (allotment management plans/coordinated RMPs)
682 and actions with other resource program objectives.
- 683 • Determine if existing livestock management practices are meeting land use planning and resource
684 objectives through the collection of monitoring data.
- 685 • Develop grazing prescriptions throughout the Decision Area to be consistent with the New Mexico
686 Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b),
687 which include meeting required forage and cover requirements for species of wildlife that could
688 occur within an allotment based on the quality and quantity of habitat present. Areas to prioritize
689 such action include those with high wildlife value (i.e., riparian areas, threatened and endangered
690 species habitat, and special designation areas for wildlife).

691 **2.2.9.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 692 • The BLM would follow the current New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines
693 for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b) for all future livestock grazing activities.
- 694 • The RPFO would comply with the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in 17
695 Western States Programmatic EIS (BLM 2007b) and the ROD for Vegetation Treatments using

- 696 Aminopyralid, Fluroxypyr, and Rimsulfuron on BLM Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic EIS
697 (BLM 2016).
- 698 • On all allotments (**Appendix S, Map 2-2217**), the BLM would allow allotment boundary
699 adjustments, joining and splitting, and modification of the livestock grazing season subject to
700 appropriate NEPA review and analysis.
 - 701 • There are 164,776 acres and 19,342 AUMs within BLM grazing allotments currently managed by the
702 Bureau of Indian Affairs, but located in the RPFO, which would continue to be managed by the
703 Bureau of Indian Affairs (**Appendix S, Map 2-2217**). There are also allotments within the BLM
704 Farmington Field Office that are managed by the RPFO (these would be in the Farmington Field
705 Office RMP, not this RPFO RMP).
 - 706 • Permittees and interested members of the public would be notified by letter of any changes in
707 selective management categorization.
 - 708 • Unless otherwise stated in the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque
709 Field Office (BLM 2000), livestock grazing would be unavailable in enclosures constructed within
710 riparian areas or uplands using Habitat Stamp Program (HSP) funds.
 - 711 • Range improvements would be proposed and implemented as necessary to meet the goals and
712 objectives of this RMP/EIS to include subsequent revisions and amendments.
 - 713 • The BLM will work with permit holders to apply adaptive management principles, such as reducing
714 the number of AUMs or changing the season of use, based on forage availability or degraded
715 ecological sites based on quantitative data. This may be implemented on an annual or long-term
716 basis.
 - 717 • Voluntary relinquishments of livestock grazing permits and preference, in whole or in part, submitted
718 by a permittee in writing to the BLM, would be handled on a case-by-case basis.
 - 719 • Relinquished permits and the associated preference would remain available for application by
720 qualified applicants after the BLM considers if such action would meet rangeland health standards
721 and is compatible with achieving land use plan goals and objectives.

722 **2.2.9.4 Alternatives**

723 **Table 2-7** lists livestock grazing management by alternative.

Table 2-7: Livestock Grazing Management Decisions by Alternative¹⁹

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
648,400 acres available	485,800 acres available	643,300 480,200 acres available	643,400 acres available	643,300 acres available
89,617* AUMs available Currently 15 ²⁰ allotments are in non-use status (classified as vacant with no permit issued to graze livestock). The 15 allotments total 5,094 acres providing a total of 520 AUMs of available forage.	67,602* AUMs available The RPFO would manage 15 vacant allotments totaling 5,094 acres as unavailable for livestock grazing. Forage occurring on these allotments would be devoted to other resource benefits.	89,097* AUMs available The 15 vacant allotments totaling 5,094 acres and 520 AUMs would be made unavailable for livestock grazing and be converted to a forage reserve. Grazing on the forage reserve can be used on a case-by-case basis for management purposes. The decisions in the 2000 Ojo Pueblo cultural site Environmental Assessment (EA) would be carried forward, and the grazing Allotment No. 434 will continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing.	89,102* AUMs available The 15 vacant allotments totaling 5,094 acres and 520 AUMs would be made unavailable for livestock grazing and be converted to a forage reserve. Grazing on the forage reserve can be used on a case-by-case basis for management purposes. The decisions in the 2000 Ojo Pueblo cultural site EA would be carried forward, and the grazing Allotment No. 434 will continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing.	89,097* AUMs available The 15 vacant allotments totaling 5,094 acres and 520 AUMs would be made unavailable for livestock grazing and be converted to a forage reserve. Grazing on the forage reserve can be used on a case-by-case basis for management purposes. The decisions in the 2000 Ojo Pueblo cultural site EA would be carried forward, and the grazing Allotment No. 434 will continue to be unavailable for livestock grazing.

¹⁹ Several rows of this table were deleted since the Draft EIS because they were unnecessary for inclusion in an RMP, as they did not contain management decisions. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

²⁰ The Draft EIS stated that 22 allotments totaling 16,833 acres providing a total of 1,907 AUMs, which utilized incorrect data. This has been corrected in the Final EIS.

2. Alternatives (Livestock Grazing)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
In the southeast portion of Sandoval County there are eight allotments with permitted grazing.	Eight active allotments in the southeast portion of Sandoval County would be unavailable for livestock grazing and would be available for other resource benefits that preclude livestock grazing.	The eight allotments in the southeast portion of Sandoval County would remain permitted for livestock grazing use. Two allotments (00120-Tejon, 00924-Wessely Lease) would continue to be authorized under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act until such time these lands are disposed.	All eight allotments within the southeast portion of Sandoval County would remain active and would be available for forage.	All eight allotments within the southeast portion of Sandoval County would remain active and would be available for forage.
Eighteen allotments are classified as Section 15 lands, each having total acreage less than 100 acres and are available to livestock grazing.	Eighteen Section 15 allotments with acreages less than 100 total acres would be unavailable for livestock grazing and would be devoted to a public purpose that precludes livestock grazing.	Eighteen Section 15 allotments with acreages less than 100 acres total would be unavailable for livestock grazing in cases where they could not be lumped into larger BLM allotment tracts. Livestock grazing would continue to be authorized under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act until such time these lands are disposed.	Eighteen Section 15 allotments with acreages less than 100 acres would remain available for livestock grazing, would possibly be offered in exchange to the adjacent producer for private lands in an attempt to consolidate BLM-administered lands, or would possibly be sold to the producer.	Eighteen Section 15 allotments with acreages less than 100 acres would remain available for livestock grazing, would possibly be offered in exchange to the adjacent producer for private lands in an attempt to consolidate BLM-administered lands, or would possibly be sold to the producer.
Maintain 1,149 AUMs in suspension until monitoring data determine the forage is available on a long-term sustainable basis.	Make 1,149 AUMs that are currently suspended unavailable to livestock grazing.	Maintain 1,149 AUMs in suspension until monitoring data determine the forage is available on a long-term sustainable basis.	Maintain 1,149 AUMs in suspension until monitoring data determine the forage is available on a long-term sustainable basis.	Maintain 1,149 AUMs in suspension until monitoring data determine the forage is available on a long-term sustainable basis.

2. Alternatives (Livestock Grazing)

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
<p>Current management complies with the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000).</p>	<p>All riparian areas would be unavailable to livestock grazing</p>	<p>Livestock grazing would be allowed in riparian areas if it meets the Riparian Sites Standards of the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b). Livestock grazing in riparian areas would follow the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000).</p>	<p>Livestock grazing would be allowed in riparian areas if it meets the Riparian Sites Standards of the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b). Livestock grazing in riparian areas would follow the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000).</p>	<p>Livestock grazing would be allowed in riparian areas if it meets the Riparian Sites Standards of the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b). Livestock grazing in riparian areas would follow the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000).</p>
<p>Livestock grazing would be available on special designation areas (ACECs, WSAs, RNA, National Trails, and Wilderness) and former SMAs scattered throughout the Decision Area. Eligible WSR segments would be unavailable for livestock grazing (Appendix S, Map 2-2318).</p>	<p>Livestock grazing would be unavailable on special designation areas (ACECs, WSRs, WSAs, RNA, National Trails, and Wilderness), except the CDNST (Appendix S, Map 2-2419).</p>	<p>Livestock grazing²¹ would be available on special designation areas (ACECs, WSAs, RNA, National Trails, and Wilderness) where grazing would not conflict with resources protected by the special designation. Suitable WSR segments would be unavailable for livestock grazing (Appendix S, Map 2-2520).</p>	<p>Livestock grazing would be available on special designation areas (ACECs, WSRs, WSAs, RNA, National Trails, and Wilderness) where grazing would not conflict with resources protected by the special designation (Appendix S, Map 2-2621).</p>	<p>Livestock grazing would be available on special designation areas (ACECs, WSAs, RNA, National Trails, and Wilderness). Suitable WSR segments would be unavailable for livestock grazing (Appendix S, Map 2-27).</p>

725
726

Source: BLM GIS 2020
*Total does not include suspended AUMs

²¹ The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing...” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

727 **2.2.10 Mineral Resources**

728 **2.2.10.1 General**

729 *Goals*

- 730 • Provide opportunities for environmentally responsible exploration and development of mineral and
731 energy resources subject to appropriate BLM policies, laws, and regulations.

732 *Objectives*

- 733 • Identify requirements and BMPs necessary to avoid or minimize adverse effects on cultural and
734 natural resources in mineral operations permits.
735 • Where no alternative to road construction exists, keep roads (including roads in riparian areas) to
736 the minimum necessary for the approved mineral activity.

737 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

738 The RPFO would manage mineral and energy development on split-estate lands in the following ways:

- 739 • The applicant may be required on split-estate lands to conduct surveys; perform other work,
740 including data recovery; or otherwise provide information needed for cultural resources and
741 threatened and endangered species, when determined necessary by the BLM. The federal mineral
742 lessee or operator has the right to enter the property for this purpose, since it may be a necessary
743 prerequisite to development of the dominant mineral estate. Nevertheless, the lessee or operator
744 should seek to reach agreement with the private surface owner about the time and method by
745 which any survey, or mitigation work would be conducted.
746 • Private surface owners have the right to determine how archaeological resources are used after
747 completion of the federal action.
748 • The BLM must fulfill the requirements of NEPA, the NHPA, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the
749 Clean Water Act of 1972 (CWA), and other applicable laws regarding surface resources.
750 • For leasable minerals, within 10 days of receiving the application, the BLM, in coordination with the
751 operator and surface managing agency, including the private surface owner in the case of split-estate
752 minerals, will schedule a date for the on-site inspection (unless the on-site inspection has already
753 been conducted as part of the Notice of Staking).

754 *Full Federal Ownership Management Common to All Alternatives*

- 755 • WSAs and designated Wilderness would be designated as closed to mineral leasing and
756 development. WSAs are open to locatable mineral entry and development, in accordance with 43
757 CFR 8302. Sale and free use of mineral materials in WSAs would not be allowed because it would
758 not be compatible with the non-impairment criteria. The non-impairment criteria require the BLM
759 to manage lands under Wilderness review in such a manner so as not to impair the suitability of
760 such areas for preservation as Wilderness.
761 • Where public lands are sold or exchanged under 43 USC 682(B) (Small Tracts Act), 43 USC 869
762 (Recreation and Public Purposes Act), 43 USC 1718 (Sales), or 43 USC 1716 (Exchanges), all mining
763 prescriptions would continue to be applicable as under federal ownership unless a subsequent land
764 use planning decision expressly recommends withdrawal from locatable mineral entry or other
765 change in mineral resource allocation.
766 • Areas closed to mineral development or recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry
767 under this RMP/EIS would not apply to valid, existing rights.
768 • Minerals decisions for ACECs and SRMAs are included where the management decisions for specific
769 ACECs and SRMAs are discussed in **Section 2.2.16**, Special Designations.

- 770 • For additional information, see the following maps in **Appendix S**:
- 771 – **Map I-2**, Rio Puerco Decision Area and Salable Minerals Decision Area
- 772 – **Map I-3**, Rio Puerco Decision Area and Locatable Minerals Decision Area
- 773 – **Map I-4**, Rio Puerco Decision Area and Leasable Minerals Decision Area

774 **2.2.10.2 Salable Minerals**

775 *Goal*

- 776 • Manage salable mineral permitting and development on Decision Area lands, while reducing impacts
- 777 on other resource values.

778 *Objectives*

- 779 • Facilitate the evaluation of public lands for salable mineral potential.
- 780 • Facilitate reclamation of lands disturbed by mineral exploration and development to maintain health
- 781 and diversity of public lands.

782 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

- 783 • Disposals of salable minerals are discretionary actions; therefore, disposal would be considered on
- 784 a case-by-case basis. Stipulations to protect important resource values would be based on
- 785 interdisciplinary review of individual proposals. Salable mineral extraction operations on BLM-
- 786 administered lands would be conducted in compliance with BLM mineral materials disposal
- 787 regulations (43 CFR 3600).
- 788 • Riparian areas would be closed to salable mineral extraction and disposal.
- 789 • All actions pertaining to salable minerals are discretionary and subject to the NEPA decision-making
- 790 process.

791 *Alternative Highlights²²*

792 **Table 2-8** and the list that follows show salable mineral management decisions by alternative.

793 Areas Closed to Salable Mineral Extraction

794 All ~~alternatives~~ Alternatives

- 795 • Big Bend Mesa National Historic Landmark
- 796 • Ojito Wilderness
- 797 • WSAs

798 *Alternative A*

- 799 • Azabache Station cultural site
- 800 • Pelon Watershed, Querencia Watershed Study Area
- 801 • ACECs: Guadalupe Ruin and Community, Elk Springs, Espinazo Ridge [formerly known as Ball
- 802 Ranch], Ojito, San Luis Mesa Raptor Area

²² The Placitas area, which was not specifically called out in the Draft EIS, is called out in the Final EIS based on public comment on the Draft EIS. The Placitas area was included in the Draft EIS open/closed to salable mineral calculations, and salable minerals management of the Placitas area is the same in the Final EIS as the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

803

Table 2-8: Salable Mineral Management Decisions (Acres) by Alternative

Management Decision	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Open to Salable Mineral Extraction in Decision Area	1,295,800 (Appendix S, Map 2-2822)	1,224,800 (Appendix S, Map 2-2923)	1,238,600 (Appendix S, Map 2-3125)	1,294,400 (Appendix S, Map 2-3327)	1,310,300 (Appendix S, Map 2-35)
Open to Salable Mineral Extraction in Placitas Area	7,500	500 (Appendix S, Map 2-3024)	800 (Appendix S, Map 2-3226)	7,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-3428)	7,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-36)
Open to Salable Mineral Extraction in Decision Area (For Noncommercial Use Only)	13,600 (Appendix S, Map 2-2822)	300 (Appendix S, Map 2-2923)	35,800 (Appendix S, Map 2-3125)	15,400 (Appendix S, Map 2-3327)	600 (Appendix S, Map 2-35)
Closed to Salable Mineral Extraction in Decision Area	106,000 (see list of closed areas below) (Appendix S, Map 2-2822)	190,200 190,300 (see list of closed areas below) (Appendix S, Map 2-2923)	140,900 141,000 (see list of closed areas below) (Appendix S, Map 2-3125)	105,600 (see list of closed areas below) (Appendix S, Map 2-3327)	104,400 (see list of closed areas below) (Appendix S, Map 2-35)
Closed to Salable Mineral Extraction in Placitas Area	10	7,400 7,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-3024)	6,700 (Appendix S, Map 2-3226)	10 (Appendix S, Map 2-3428)	10 (Appendix S, Map 2-36)

804

Source: BLM GIS 2020

805 Alternative B

- 806 • Azabache Station cultural site, Fort Site cultural site, Headcut Prehistoric community cultural site
- 807 • All lands with Wilderness characteristics
- 808 • Boca del Oso ERMA: Cabezon Peak Recreation Management Zone (RMZ), Chamisa WSA RMZ,
- 809 Ignacio Chavez RMZ, San Miguel Dome RMZ
- 810 • CDNST ERMA
- 811 • Crest of Montezuma ERMA
- 812 • Petaca Pinta ERMA: Cerro Verde RMZ, Pronoun Cave RMZ, Volcano Hill RMZ
- 813 • San Juan Basin Badlands ERMA: Torreon West RMZ, Torreon East RMZ
- 814 • Riparian areas
- 815 • All ACECs
- 816 • Bluewater Creek suitable WSR segment

817 Alternative C

- 818 • Azabache Station cultural site, Fort Site cultural site
- 819 • Lands with Wilderness characteristics: Chamisa E, Volcano Hill
- 820 • Riparian areas
- 821 • Boca del Oso ERMA: Ancestral Way RMZ, Cabezon Peak RMZ, Chamisa WSA RMZ, Ignacio Chavez
- 822 RMZ
- 823 • Crest of Montezuma ERMA
- 824 • Petaca Pinta ERMA: Volcano Hill RMZ
- 825 • San Juan Basin Badlands ERMA: Torreon West RMZ, Torreon East RMZ
- 826 • ACECs: Bluewater Canyon, Bony Canyon, Cabezon Peak, Cañon Tapia, Guadalupe Ruin and
- 827 Community, Elk Springs ACEC and Juana Lopez RNA, Ignacio Chavez Grant, Legacy Uranium Mines,
- 828 Petaca Pinta, Pronoun Cave Complex, Torreon Fossil Fauna
- 829 • Bluewater Creek suitable WSR segment

830 Alternative D

- 831 • Boca del Oso ERMA: Cabezon Peak RMZ, Chamisa WSA RMZ, Ignacio Chavez RMZ
- 832 • Riparian areas
- 833 • ACECs: Bluewater Canyon, Bony Canyon, Cabezon Peak, Elk Springs ACEC and Juana Lopez RNA,
- 834 Guadalupe Ruin and Community, Legacy Uranium Mines, Petaca Pinta

835 ~~Alternative E~~

- 836 ~~• Riparian areas~~
- 837 ~~• ACECs: Bluewater Canyon, Elk Springs ACEC and Juana Lopez RNA, Espinazo Ridge, Legacy~~
- 838 ~~Uranium Mines~~
- 839 ~~• Bluewater Creek suitable WSR segment~~

840 **2.2.10.3 Locatable Minerals**

841 *Goal*

- 842 • Manage mining claim location, prospecting, and mining operations in a manner that will not cause
- 843 unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

844 *Objectives*

- 845 • Facilitate the evaluation of public lands for locatable mineral potential.
- 846 • Facilitate reclamation of lands disturbed by mineral exploration and development to maintain health
- 847 and diversity of public lands.

- 848 *Management Common to All Alternatives*
- 849 • Riparian areas would be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.
 - 850 • Existing operations would continue to be subject to the stipulations developed for the notice or the
 - 851 plan of operations. The BLM would evaluate all operations authorized by the mining laws in the
 - 852 context of its requirement to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of federal lands and
 - 853 resources. Consistent with the rights afforded claimants under the mining laws, operations
 - 854 conducted after this RMP/EIS would be required to conform to the surface-disturbing stipulations
 - 855 developed in this RMP/EIS and as required by current regulations and guidance.
 - 856 • Operations on BLM-administered lands open to mineral entry must be conducted in compliance
 - 857 with the BLM’s surface management regulations (43 CFR 3715, 3802, 3809, and 3814).

858 *Alternative Highlights*²³

859 **Table 2-9** shows locatable mineral management decisions by alternative.

860 **Table 2-9: Locatable Mineral Management Decisions (Acres) by Alternative**²⁴

Management Decision	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Open to Locatable Mineral Entry	1,351,900 (Appendix S, Map 2-3729)	1,118,000 (Appendix S, Map 2-3830)	1,133,300 (Appendix S, Map 2-4032)	1,343,100 (Appendix S, Map 2-4234)	1,353,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-44)
Open to Locatable Mineral Entry in Placitas Area	7,500	500 (Appendix S, Map 2-3931)	500 (Appendix S, Map 2-4133)	7,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-4335)	7,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-45)
Recommended for Withdrawal from Locatable Mineral Entry	5,400 (Appendix S, Map 2-3729)	239,200 (Appendix S, Map 2-3830)	224,000 (Appendix S, Map 2-4032)	14,200 (Appendix S, Map 2-4234)	3,800 (Appendix S, Map 2-44)
Recommended for Withdrawal Locatable Mineral Entry in Placitas Area	10	7,400 (Appendix S, Map 2-3931)	7,000 (Appendix S, Map 2-4133)	10 (Appendix S, Map 2-4335)	10 (Appendix S, Map 2-45)
Withdrawn from Locatable Mineral Entry	11,700 (Appendix S, Map 2-29)	11,700 (Appendix S, Map 2-30)	11,700 (Appendix S, Map 2-32)	11,700 (Appendix S, Map 2-34)	11,700

861 Source: BLM GIS 2020

²³ The Placitas area, which was not specifically called out in the Draft EIS, is called out in the Final EIS based on public comment on the Draft EIS. The Placitas area was included in the Draft EIS locatable mineral calculations, and locatable minerals management of the Placitas area is the same in the Final EIS as the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

²⁴ The numbers in Alternative E may be different from those reflected in Alternative A (from the 1986 RMP, BLM 1986) due to land tenure adjustments mentioned in Chapter 1.

862 **2.2.10.4 Solid Leasable Minerals (Coal)²⁵**

863 *Goals*

- 864 • Manage leasable mineral development, while reducing impacts on other resource values.
865 • Support the domestic need for energy resources.

866 *Objectives*

- 867 • Make coal available for leasing, and respond to coal leasing and exploration applications in a timely
868 manner.
869 • Make other solid leasable minerals available for leasing, and respond to applications in a timely
870 manner.
871 • Facilitate the reclamation of lands disturbed for leasable mineral exploration and development by
872 working closely with proponents to design projects that can achieve final reclamation objectives
873 through appropriate site location, design, construction, maintenance, and final reclamation
874 procedures.
875 • Maintain opportunities to explore and develop coal resources within the Decision Area.

876 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

877 The RPFO is open to solid leasable mineral development unless specifically identified as closed by statute or
878 administratively unavailable for the life of the plan for mineral leasing. The BLM would manage these open
879 areas on a case-by-case basis. An appropriate NEPA review will be conducted before a nominated lease is
880 offered for sale. Leasing is discretionary even if an area is open to development. Stipulations are added at
881 the leasing stage depending on inventory and analysis. Leasing stipulations are defined in the glossary
882 (**Appendix U**).

- 883 • The BLM would require on-site inspections to determine if threatened and endangered species,
884 waters of the US, and cultural resources are present or have the potential to be present.
885 • The RPFO may apply the same lease stipulations on split-estate lands as on BLM-administered lands
886 with similar resource conditions.
887 • In total, 6,600 acres are in the area of maximum development potential; however, these would not
888 be available for further consideration for coal leasing according to the screening process. This is
889 because the small amount of coal is low grade and not economically worth recovering. Refer to
890 **Appendix S, Map 2-4636**.

891 *Alternative Highlights²⁶*

892 Alternative A (No Action)

- 893 • The Placitas area would be open to solid leasable mineral development.

894 Alternatives B, C (Proposed RMP), and D

- 895 • ~~The Placitas area would not be available for further consideration for coal leasing according to the~~
896 ~~screening process.~~

²⁵ The Leasable Minerals section of the Draft EIS is split into Solid Leasable Minerals and Fluid Leasable Minerals in the Final EIS for clarification purposes. Management allocations in the Final EIS are the same as the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

²⁶ The Placitas area, which was not specifically called out in the Draft EIS, is called out in the Final EIS based on public comments on the Draft EIS. The Placitas area was included in the Draft EIS leasable mineral calculations, and leasable minerals management of the Placitas area is the same in the Final EIS as the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

897 Alternative C (Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)

- 898 ~~• The Placitas area would not be available for further consideration for coal leasing according to the~~
899 ~~screening process.~~

900 Alternative D

- 901 ~~• The Placitas area would not be available for further consideration for coal leasing according to the~~
902 ~~screening process.~~

903 Alternative E (Proposed RMP)

- 904 • ~~No similar action. (There are no solid leasable minerals [coal] decisions in the Placitas area because~~
905 ~~that area has no coal potential.) The Placitas area would not be available for further consideration~~
906 ~~for coal leasing according to the screening process.~~

907 **2.2.10.5 Fluid Leasable Minerals (Oil, Gas, and Geothermal)²⁷**

908 *Goals*

- 909 • Manage leasable mineral development, while reducing impacts on other resource values.
910 • Support the domestic need for energy resources.

911 *Objectives*

- 912 • Facilitate oil and gas development by making federal mineral estate available to oil and gas leasing
913 with appropriate leasing stipulations to protect other resources, and by monitoring the effectiveness
914 of leasing stipulations in meeting resource objectives.
915 • Facilitate oil and gas development by responding to applications for permits to drill in a timely
916 manner.
917 • Promote environmentally responsible development of fluid minerals by requiring the incorporation
918 of fluid mineral BMPs into proposed development actions and carrying out inspection and
919 enforcement activities to monitor the effectiveness of such measures.
920 • Maintain opportunities to explore and develop federal oil and gas resources and other leasable
921 minerals.
922 • Maintain opportunities for the collection of subsurface geological (geophysical) data to aid in the
923 exploration of oil and gas resources.
924 • Follow the decisions made under the Final Programmatic EIS, Geothermal Leasing in the Western
925 United States (BLM and Forest Service 2008).

926 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

927 The RPFO is open to fluid leasable mineral development unless specifically identified as closed by statute or
928 administratively unavailable for the life of the plan for mineral leasing. The BLM would manage these open
929 areas on a case-by-case basis. An appropriate NEPA review will be conducted before a nominated lease is
930 offered for sale. Leasing is discretionary even if an area is open to development. Stipulations are added at
931 the leasing stage depending on inventory and analysis, and they are nondiscretionary based on the presence
932 of the resource or impacts identified.

²⁷ The Leasable Minerals section of the Draft EIS is split into Solid Leasable Minerals and Fluid Leasable Minerals in the Final EIS for clarification purposes. Management allocations in the Final EIS are the same as the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged. In addition, geothermal resources were discussed under Renewable Energy in the Draft EIS but are discussed under the Fluid Leasable Minerals section of the Final EIS for clarification purposes. Management allocations for geothermal resources in the Final EIS are the same as the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

- 933 • The BLM would require onsite inspections to determine if threatened and endangered species,
 934 waters of the US, and cultural resources are present or have the potential to be present.
 935 • The RPFO would apply the same lease stipulations on split-estate lands as on BLM lands with similar
 936 resource conditions.
 937 • Those lands currently open to oil and gas leasing would continue to be open to geophysical
 938 operations. Those lands open to oil and gas leasing, but subject to an NSO restriction, may be open
 939 to geophysical operations should site-specific NEPA analysis disclose a finding of no significant
 940 impact. No geophysical exploration notice of intent would be approved in areas closed to oil and
 941 gas leasing.
 942 • Interim reclamation will be conducted after the construction and drilling phase and during the
 943 production phase of oil and gas development to obtain site stabilization and to prevent or mitigate
 944 impacts on BLM-managed resources.
 945 • All spills or leakages of oil, gas, produced water, toxic liquids, or waste materials, blowouts, fires,
 946 personal injuries, and fatalities will be reported to BLM by the operator in accordance with
 947 regulations outlined in 43 CFR 3162.5-1(c) and as prescribed in applicable orders or notices.
 948 • All actions pertaining to fluid leasable minerals are discretionary and subject to the NEPA decision-
 949 making process.
 950 • The BLM coordinates with both the operator and surface owner, in accordance with the
 951 requirements of Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 1, and generally provides the surface owner's
 952 lands the same level of resource protection as would be required on BLM-administered public lands.
 953 The BLM does not have the authority to regulate a surface owner's use of the surface estate, but
 954 does have the authority to regulate the activities of federal mineral lessees and mining claimants.
 955 The BLM can require mitigation and reclamation measures, but will not apply standards or conditions
 956 that exceed those that would normally be applied to federal surface, even when requested by the
 957 surface owner. The BLM can enforce those measures that are included in leasing stipulations or
 958 applications for permits to drill.

959 *Alternative Highlights*²⁸

960 **Table 2-10** shows fluid leasable mineral management decisions by alternative.

961 **2.2.10.6 Fluid Leasable Mineral Stipulations**

962 The stipulations below, common to all alternatives, were created by the BLM headquarters or the New
 963 Mexico State Office and are available to be applied to parcels as resource specialists deem appropriate. The
 964 purpose of mineral lease stipulations is to provide adequate protection for other resources beyond the
 965 standard lease terms and conditions. The standard lease terms state that the BLM require reasonable
 966 measures consistent with lease rights, which may include, but are not limited to, modification to siting or
 967 design of facilities, timing of operations, and specification of interim and final reclamation measures. Measures
 968 are deemed consistent as long as they do not require relocation of proposed operations by more than 200
 969 meters; require that operations be sited off the leasehold; or prohibit new surface-disturbing operations for
 970 a period in excess of 60 days in any lease year (43 CFR 3101.1-2).

971 When a parcel is nominated for leasing, RPFO resource specialists would review the location of the parcels
 972 and choose appropriate stipulations to provide adequate protection for other resources within the parcel.
 973

²⁸ The Placitas area, which was not specifically called out in the Draft EIS, is called out in the Final EIS based on public comment on the Draft EIS. The Placitas area was included in the Draft EIS leasable mineral calculations, and leasable minerals management of the Placitas area is the same in the Final EIS as the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

974

Table 2-10: Fluid Leasable Mineral Management Decisions (Acres) by Alternative

Management Decision	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Open with standard terms and conditions	1,285,200 (Appendix S, Map 2-4737)	1,080,000 1,079,900 (Appendix S, Map 2-4838)	1,085,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-5040)	1,097,500 1,097,400 (Appendix S, Map 2-5242)	1,259,700 (Appendix S, Map 2-54)
<i>Open with standard terms and conditions in Placitas Area</i>	9,100	600 (Appendix S, Map 2-4939)	600 (Appendix S, Map 2-5141)	600 (Appendix S, Map 2-5343)	8,600 (Appendix S, Map 2-55)
Open with moderate constraints (CSU) (refer to Appendix H for stipulations by alternative)	18,700 (Appendix S, Map 2-4737)	149,400 (Appendix S, Map 2-4838)	176,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-5040)	209,900 210,000 (Appendix S, Map 2-5242)	14,800 (Appendix S, Map 2-54)
<i>Open with moderate constraints (CSU) in Placitas Area</i>	0	900 700 (Appendix S, Map 2-4939)	9,100 8,900 (Appendix S, Map 2-5141)	9,100 (Appendix S, Map 2-5343)	0 (Appendix S, Map 2-55)
Open with major constraints (NSO) (refer to Appendix H for stipulations by alternative)	6,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-4737)	44,000 (Appendix S, Map 2-4838)	31,100 (Appendix S, Map 2-5040)	7,600 (Appendix S, Map 2-5242)	40,900 (Appendix S, Map 2-54)
<i>Open with major constraints (NSO) in Placitas Area</i>	0	8,100 8,500 (Appendix S, Map 2-4939)	0 300 (Appendix S, Map 2-5141)	0 (Appendix S, Map 2-5343)	500 (Appendix S, Map 2-55)
Closed	59,300 60,000 (Appendix S, Map 2-4737)	99,000 (Appendix S, Map 2-4838)	79,200 (Appendix S, Map 2-5040)	57,300 (Appendix S, Map 2-5242)	56,900 (Appendix S, Map 2-54)
<i>Closed in Placitas Area</i>	0	0 (Appendix S, Map 2-4939)	0 (Appendix S, Map 2-5141)	0 (Appendix S, Map 2-5343)	0 (Appendix S, Map 2-55)

975

Source: BLM GIS 2020

976 The lease stipulations are legally binding to the lessee once the lease is issued, and they remain in place for
 977 the life of the lease. Site-specific measures can be addressed when drilling is proposed via conditions of
 978 approval. Reclamation activities would attempt to reclaim the resources to the conditions associated with
 979 the goals and objectives in the Decision Area.

- 980 • Bureau of Reclamation—Section 7 Consultation (WO-BOR-7): No surface-disturbing activities
 981 would be allowed on lands administered by the US Bureau of Reclamation that contain riparian and
 982 aquatic habitat that may be suitable for special status species until a biological evaluation has been
 983 completed that meets requirements of the USFWS.
- 984 • Cultural Resource and Tribal Consultation Stipulation: The lessee would be notified that the BLM
 985 may not allow activities that could impact historic properties, the effects to which cannot be avoided,
 986 minimized, or mitigated.
- 987 • Endangered Species Act—Section 7 Consultation (WO-ESA-7): All development activities proposed
 988 under the authority of the lease are subject to compliance with Section 7 of the ESA. Ground-
 989 disturbing activity would not be approved that may affect any threatened and endangered species or
 990 critical habitat until requirements such as conferences or consultations have been completed.
 991 Compliance could also require modification or disapproval of proposals.
- 992 • Lease Notice—Cultural Resources (NM-11-LN): All development activities proposed under the
 993 authority of the lease are subject to compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA and Executive Order
 994 13007. Compliance could require intensive cultural resource inventories, Native American
 995 consultation, and mitigation measures to avoid or resolve adverse effects. Costs of compliance with
 996 these laws, regulations, and policy will be the responsibility of the lessee.
- 997 • Lease Notice—Coal Protection (NM-8-LN): Federal coal resources exist on the lease. Operations
 998 authorized by the lease may be altered or modified by the Authorized Officer in order to conserve
 999 and protect the mineral resources and to provide for simultaneous operations.
- 1000 • Lease Notice—Drainage (NM-10-LN): When all or part of the lands within a lease are subject to
 1001 drainage by wells on adjacent leases, the lessee would be required within 6 months of lease issuance
 1002 to submit to the Authorized Officer plans for protecting the lease from drainage.
- 1003 • Lease Notice—Split Estate: APDs or project plans of development (PODs) on split-estate lands
 1004 would not be approved unless the operator a) certifies that a surface owner agreement has been
 1005 reached or b) certifies in a statement that an agreement could not be reached. The operator must
 1006 obtain a bond sufficient to cover the anticipated damages to the surface owners' crops or surface
 1007 improvements (43 CFR 3814).
- 1008 • Controlled Surface Use—Highway Material Site Right-of-Way (NM-4-CSU): For leases containing a
 1009 highway material site ROW, the lessee must operate the lease following specific requirements that
 1010 ensure the state highway department would have access to the site.
- 1011 • No Surface Occupancy—Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (NM-6-NSO): No occupancy or
 1012 other surface disturbance would be allowed within 305 meters (1,000 feet) of the Continental Divide
 1013 National Scenic Trail (CDNST).
- 1014 • No Surface Occupancy—Occupied Structures and Dwellings (NM-12-NSO): All or a portion of the
 1015 lease contains occupied dwellings or structures. Surface occupancy of these lands would not be
 1016 allowed. These lands can be accessed remotely by directionally drilling outside the NSO zone.
- 1017 • No Surface Occupancy—Pooling Purposes Only (NM-9-NSO): No surface occupancy or use is
 1018 allowed on the lease. The purpose of the lease is solely for participation in a unit or for pooling
 1019 purposes.

1020 **Appendix H**, Table H-1 identifies general fluid mineral leasing stipulations that would apply to resource
 1021 categories by alternatives. Fluid mineral leasing stipulations assigned to special designations and recreation

1022 management areas per alternative are identified in the recreation and special designation sections of this
1023 chapter. **Appendix H**, Table H-2 summarizes stipulations in ACECs.

1024 **2.2.11 Paleontological Resources**

1025 **2.2.11.1 Goals**

- 1026 • Protect paleontological resources from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict
- 1027 with other resource uses and resource development.
- 1028 • Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of paleontological resources.

1029 **2.2.11.2 Objectives**

- 1030 • Refine and keep current the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system with locality data as
- 1031 they become available.
- 1032 • Develop project- or site-specific treatment plans or other protective measures for high potential
- 1033 areas where development and risk of adverse impacts are present.
- 1034 • Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for scientific research of paleontological
- 1035 resources.
- 1036 • Develop and maintain interpretation of paleontological resources in areas of high public interest and
- 1037 access.
- 1038 • Maintain and enhance educational opportunities and public outreach programs through assistance
- 1039 agreements and other partnerships.

1040 **2.2.11.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 1041 • The BLM would complete/require assessment and mitigation for paleontological resources for
- 1042 proposed actions, including, but not limited to, land disposal actions, surface-disturbing activities,
- 1043 and OHV open areas. Actions may include inventories, monitoring, or data recovery.
- 1044 • The BLM would apply regulations implementing Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Lands Act—
- 1045 Paleontological Resource Preservation Act, to all alternatives.
- 1046 • The BLM would use the PFYC system to identify criteria or use restrictions to ensure that areas
- 1047 containing, or that areas likely to contain, vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate of
- 1048 plant fossils are identified and evaluated prior to authorizing surface-disturbing activities.
- 1049 • Vertebrate fossils may be collected only by qualified individuals under a permit issued by the BLM
- 1050 New Mexico State Office. Vertebrate fossils include bones, teeth, eggs, and other body parts of
- 1051 animals with backbones, such as dinosaurs, fish, turtles, and mammals. Vertebrate fossils also include,
- 1052 but are not limited to, trace fossils, such as footprints, body imprints, burrows, gizzard stones
- 1053 (gastroliths), and dung (coprolites).
- 1054 • Fossils collected under a permit would remain the property of the federal government and must be
- 1055 placed in an approved repository (such as a museum or university) identified at the time of permit
- 1056 issuance.
- 1057 • The BLM would require permits for excavation activities.

1058 **2.2.11.4 Alternatives**

1059 In addition to those goals, objectives, and management actions located in this section, above, there are also
1060 management actions associated with special designations and mineral leasing that provide the range of
1061 alternatives for paleontological resources. These are located in this **Appendix H**, Fluid Mineral Lease
1062 Stipulations, and **Section 2.2.16**, Special Designations.

1063 **2.2.12 Recreation and Visitor Services**

1064 **2.2.12.1 General**

1065 *Goals*

- 1066 • Provide for multiple recreation uses of the public lands.
- 1067 • Sustain a wide range of recreation opportunities and potential experiences for visitors and residents.
- 1068 • Support local economic stability and sustain the recreation resource base, while protecting sensitive
- 1069 resource values.
- 1070 • Develop and maintain cooperative relationships with national, state, tribal, and local recreation
- 1071 providers, tourism entities, and local recreational groups.
- 1072 • Develop and maintain appropriate recreational facilities, balancing public demand, protection of the
- 1073 public resources, and fiscal responsibility.

1074 *Objectives*

- 1075 • Support and collaborate with local governments, recreational and public groups, and service
- 1076 providers to provide recreation opportunities for visitors to achieve quality-of-life benefits from the
- 1077 public lands.
- 1078 • Emphasize and support collaborative public outreach, awareness events, and programs that promote
- 1079 public service and stewardship.
- 1080 • Encourage sustainable travel and tourism development with gateway communities and provide
- 1081 community-based conservation support for visitor services.
- 1082 • Build and maintain additional recreation facilities consistent with the planning process. In the absence
- 1083 of a recreation area management plan (RAMP), facilities may be considered through the NEPA
- 1084 process where they support the objectives of the various management areas.
- 1085 • Consider constructing campground facilities; however, they would be located to avoid wetlands,
- 1086 riparian areas, cultural resources, floodplains, VRM Class II areas, and special status plant and animal
- 1087 species habitats. If avoidance were not possible, mitigation would be implemented.
- 1088 • Continue to manage and maintain for recreation use in all existing developed recreation sites.
- 1089 • Continue to allow existing ROWs within all recreational facilities.

1090 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

- 1091 • In accordance with 43 CFR 8365.1–5: Except on developed recreation sites and areas, or where
- 1092 otherwise prohibited and/or posted, it is permissible to collect from the public lands reasonable
- 1093 amounts of the following for noncommercial purposes:
 - 1094 1. Commonly available renewable resources such as flowers, berries, nuts, seeds, cones, and
 - 1095 leaves;
 - 1096 2. Nonrenewable resources such as rocks, mineral specimens, common non-vertebrate fossils,
 - 1097 and semiprecious gemstones;
 - 1098 3. Petrified wood, as provided under 43 CFR 8365.1–5 subpart 3622, unless prohibited and
 - 1099 posted;
 - 1100 4. Mineral material, as provided under 43 CFR 8365.1–5 subpart 3604; and
 - 1101 5. Forest products for use in campfires on the public lands. Other collection of forest products
 - 1102 shall be in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR 5500.
- 1103 • Gathering (removing or disturbing) may be allowed for a reasonable amount of a common resource
- 1104 for noncommercial personal use in Wilderness and WSAs, either by hand or with the use of
- 1105 nonmotorized hand tools, resulting in only minimal surface and in a manner that preserves
- 1106 Wilderness character. Collection of common rock and mineral specimens is normally allowed. Note,
- 1107 however, that state law may further restrict the collection of some resources. The collection of
- 1108 archaeological resources without a permit is prohibited.

2. Alternatives (Recreation and Visitor Services)

- I 109 • Geocaching is a recognized sport in the Decision Area. If monitoring shows that placement of a
I 110 geocache is causing resource damage by evidence of social trails or vandalism to cultural sites, the
I 111 BLM would work with the geocachers to either relocate or remove the geocache. Geocaches are
I 112 prohibited in Wilderness, but may be allowed in WSAs, as long as the use meets the non-impairment
I 113 standards.
- I 114 • The BLM would not require a permit for dead and down firewood collected on public land to be
I 115 used for camping on public land, consistent with restrictions identified in the Forests and Woodlands
I 116 section.
- I 117 • Where damage to the long-term sustainability of natural or cultural resources by recreational use
I 118 is anticipated or observed, the BLM would seek to limit or control recreational use by managing the
I 119 nature and extent of the recreational use, by providing site improvements that make the activity
I 120 more sustainable, or by a combination of management controls and facility development. Such
I 121 management actions would seek to reduce or eliminate the adverse impact, while maintaining the
I 122 economic benefits associated with a wide range of recreation uses.
- I 123 • In providing recreation opportunities and managing recreation use and visitor services, the BLM
I 124 would consider the need to protect riparian resources, special status species, and wildlife habitats.
I 125 Management methods may include limitation of visitor numbers, camping and travel controls,
I 126 implementation of fees, alteration of when use takes place, and other similar actions to be approved
I 127 through normal BLM procedures.
- I 128 • The BLM would work with agency and government officials and permit holders to develop
I 129 procedures, protocols, permits, or other types of authorization, as appropriate.
- I 130 • The BLM would restrict camping and campfires in areas that have a threat of high fire danger and/or
I 131 during fire restrictions.
- I 132 • No dispersed camping would be allowed within 46 meters (150 feet) of riparian areas. When
I 133 planning and/or establishing designated campgrounds near riparian areas, sensitive wildlife habitat
I 134 needs would be incorporated into all planned construction and design.
- I 135 • Temporary closure or restrictions on the use of public lands (e.g., camping) can be enacted at the
I 136 discretion of the RPFO Manager to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property,
I 137 and public lands and resources. A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other
I 138 management strategies and alternatives have been explored. NEPA analysis is required prior to the
I 139 BLM closing the public lands to certain uses or restricting specific uses of public lands under the
I 140 authorities of 43 CFR 8364.1, 8351.2-1, and 6302.19. Most closures and restrictions implemented
I 141 by the BLM fall into these categories.
- I 142 • The RPFO would provide visitor information and outreach programs that emphasize the value of
I 143 public land resources and low-impact recreation techniques, while also providing information about
I 144 recreation activities, experiences, and benefits.
- I 145 • The RPFO would not allow fireworks use on public lands.
- I 146 • In conformance with Prevention Order NM910-20-01, exploding targets (such as those containing
I 147 Tannerite) are not allowed in the Decision Area.
- I 148 • The RPFO would provide public information concerning the prevention of the spread of invasive
I 149 and exotic weeds, as well as wildlife species and their habitat, especially in riparian areas.
- I 150 • The RPFO would manage developed sites as necessary under the authority of 43 CFR 8360, inclusive
I 151 of published closures, restrictions, and supplemental rules developed for Decision Area lands to
I 152 protect visitor health and safety, reduce visitor conflicts, and provide for the protection of
I 153 government property and resources.
- I 154 • Apply stipulations described in **Appendix H (H.2.7)**.

1155 **2.2.12.2 Special Recreation Permits**

1156 *Goal*

- 1157 • Issue special recreation permits (SRPs) in an equitable manner for specific recreation uses of public
1158 lands and related waters, as a means to minimize user conflicts, control and monitor visitor use,
1159 protect recreation resources, and provide for public, private, nonprofit, and commercial recreation
1160 use.

1161 *Objective*

- 1162 • Complete processing requirements for requested SRPs.

1163 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

- 1164 • The BLM would issue SRPs as a discretionary action as a means to help meet management objectives,
1165 provide opportunities for economic activity, facilitate recreation use of the public lands, control and
1166 monitor visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety
1167 of visitors. The BLM would apply cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs where appropriate.
1168 • All SRPs would contain stipulations appropriate for the type of activity and may include additional
1169 stipulations necessary to protect lands or resources, reduce user conflicts, or minimize health and
1170 safety concerns.
1171 • The BLM would allow no competitive mechanized or motorized events in WSAs.
1172 • The BLM would limit permitted competitive events to designated areas.
1173 • The BLM would determine requirements for solid and human waste disposal on a case-by-case basis.

1174 *Alternatives*

1175 **Table 2-11** shows SRP guidance by alternative.

1176

Table 2-11: Special Recreation Permit (SRP) Guidance by Alternative

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
<p>Continue to issue and manage SRPs (e.g., four-wheel drive vehicle tours, horseback trips, bear hunting camps, and survival school) to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities and provide business opportunities for private enterprise. Continue to permit competitive and noncompetitive OHV events. Continue to permit large, noncommercial overnight groups, including organized groups.</p>	<p>An SRP group permit would be required if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group consists of 4 or more vehicles and/or 20 or more people staying 2 or more consecutive nights in the same public land location, with the exception of legal hunting²⁹ The group consists of 15 or more vehicles and/or 30 or more people using public land as day use³⁰ 	<p>An SRP group permit would be required if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group consists of 4 or more vehicles and/or 20 or more people staying 2 or more consecutive nights in the same public land location, with the exception of legal hunting³¹ The group consists of 15 or more vehicles and/or 30 or more people using public land as day use³² 	<p>An SRP group permit would be required if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group consists of 20 or more vehicles and/or 50 or more people for day use The group consists of 10 or more vehicles and/or 25 or more people staying overnight for 2 or more nights in the same public land location 	<p>Continue to issue and manage SRPs (e.g., four-wheel drive vehicle tours, horseback trips, outfitter guide hunting camps, and educational groups) to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and provide business opportunities for private enterprise. Continue to permit competitive and noncompetitive OHV events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to permit large, noncommercial overnight groups, including organized groups.

1177

²⁹ The last clause of this statement, “with the exception of legal hunting,” was added to Alternative B since the Draft EIS to clarify intended management. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

³⁰ The last Alternative B bullet, “SRP fees may be waived only for research and/or scientific, therapeutic, or administrative use directly related to management of the permit area, or if the event or activity is co-sponsored by BLM,” was deleted since the Draft EIS to clarify BLM policy. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

³¹ The last clause of this statement, “with the exception of legal hunting,” was added to Alternative B since the Draft EIS to clarify intended management. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

³² The last Alternative B bullet, “SRP fees may be waived only for research and/or scientific, therapeutic, or administrative use directly related to management of the permit area, or if the event or activity is co-sponsored by BLM,” was deleted since the Draft EIS to clarify BLM policy. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

1178 **2.2.12.3 Special Recreation Management Areas**

1179 *Objective*

- 1180 • Objectives of each SRMA are defined in **Appendix P**.³³

1181 *Recreational Setting Characteristics (RSC)*³⁴

1182 Proposed (or desired) RSCs are a description of the physical, social, and operational characteristics that
1183 define an SRMA's future function and condition. RSCs for each SRMA are included in **Appendix P**,³⁵
1184 Recreation and Visitor Services Management Framework for Special and Extensive Recreation Management
1185 Areas.

1186 *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

- 1187 • The BLM would manage all public lands within SRMAs for retention in federal ownership consistent
1188 with the land tenure decisions identified in the RMP/EIS.
- 1189 • If use and conditions warrant, the BLM may restrict camping to designated sites through
1190 Supplementary Rulemaking (see 43 CFR 8365.1–6).
- 1191 • The BLM would manage all SRMAs according to VRM class for each respective alternative to protect
1192 scenic values and settings important to recreation (refer to **Appendix P**³⁶).
- 1193 • Recreation management areas with complex implementation issues may require a subsequent
1194 implementation-level RAMP.
- 1195 • **Appendix P**³⁷ describes more specifically the recreation values and management of the SRMAs.

1196 *Alternatives*

1197 **Table 2-12** shows SRMAs by alternative. **Table 2-13** highlights key SRMA management prescriptions by
1198 alternative; refer to **Appendix P**³⁸ for a comprehensive list of SRMA management prescriptions by
1199 alternative.

³³ **Appendix P**, Description of Recreation Management Areas, was added since the Draft EIS to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services), which was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

³⁴ In the Draft EIS, this section included a list of the RSCs for the CDNST SRMA, which was the only SRMA considered in the Draft EIS (under Alternatives B, C, and D). Since the Draft EIS, four new SRMAs (Endurance Trails SRMA), San Ysidro Trials Area, White Ridge Bike Trails, and Cimarron Mesa) were added to Alternatives B, C, and D to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. This new policy required changing these four areas from ERMA zones in the Draft EIS to SRMAs in the Final EIS to meet the new policy's clarifying definitions for SRMAs. The management prescriptions of the corresponding ERMA zones in the Draft EIS and the SRMAs in the Final EIS are the same; therefore, on-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

³⁵ **Appendix P**, Description of Recreation Management Areas, was added since the Draft EIS to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

³⁶ **Appendix P**, Description of Recreation Management Areas, was added since the Draft EIS to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

³⁷ **Appendix P**, Description of Recreation Management Areas, was added since the Draft EIS to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

³⁸ **Appendix P**, Description of Recreation Management Areas, was added since the Draft EIS to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

1200

Table 2-12: Special Recreation Management Areas (Acres) by Alternative

SRMA Name	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Map 2-5644)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Map 2-5745)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Map 2-5846)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) (Appendix S, Map 2-59)
Cimarron Mesa	0	18,300*	18,300*	18,300*	17,700
CDNST	0	11,000	11,000	11,000	0
Endurance Trails SRMA	0	17,400*	17,400*	17,400*	17,400
San Ysidro Trials Area	0	4,400*	4,400*	4,400*	4,400
White Ridge Bike Trails	0	2,800*	2,800*	2,800*	2,800
Total	0	53,900	53,900	53,900	26,300

1201 Source: BLM GIS 2020

1202 * In the Draft EIS, this was an ERMA zone (in Alternatives B, C, and D). Since the Draft EIS, this area was changed to an SRMA to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1,
1203 Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. This new policy required changing these four areas from ERMA zones in
1204 the Draft EIS to SRMAs in the Final EIS to meet the new policy's clarifying definitions for SRMAs. The management prescriptions of the corresponding ERMA zones in the Draft
1205 EIS and the SRMAs in the Final EIS are the same; therefore, on-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is
1206 unchanged.

1207

Table 2-13: Management Prescriptions for SRMAs by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Cimarron Mesa*	Not managed as an SRMA (open to motorized vehicle use)	The 7,300 acres of the SRMA with wilderness characteristics would be closed to motorized and mechanized travel. Motorized travel in the remaining area would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails.	Open OHV area	Open OHV area	Open OHV area
CDNST	Not managed as an SRMA ³⁹	Refer to the Special Designations, Congressionally Designated Trails section for management prescriptions	Refer to the Special Designations, Congressionally Designated Trails section for management prescriptions	Refer to the Special Designations, Congressionally Designated Trails section for management prescriptions	Not managed as an SRMA
Endurance Trails SRMA*	Not managed as an SRMA (races would continue to be a permitted activity per regulations in 43 CFR 2930; courses would be rotated on a 3-year basis).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Races would continue to be a permitted activity per regulations in 43 CFR 2930; courses would be rotated on a 3-year basis. No new trails would be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Races would continue to be a permitted activity per regulations in 43 CFR 2930; courses would be rotated on a 3-year basis. New trails would be considered on a case-by-case basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Races would continue to be a permitted activity per regulations in 43 CFR 2930; courses would be rotated on a 3-year basis. New trails would be considered on a case-by-case basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Races would continue to be a permitted activity per regulations in 43 CFR 2930; courses would be rotated on a 3-year basis. New trails would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

³⁹ The Draft EIS listed management prescriptions for the CDNST under Alternative A, which may have implied that it is an SRMA under Alternative A; however, it is not an SRMA under Alternative A. Management prescriptions were listed under Alternative A to show how the CDNST is currently being managed, not to imply it is an SRMA. The CDNST was not analyzed as an SRMA under Alternative A in Draft EIS Chapter 4. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Recreation and Visitor Services)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
San Ysidro Trials Area*	Not managed as an SRMA (The San Ysidro Trials motor bike area would continue to meet both competitive and play needs. This area would be closed to motorized travel, unless permitted.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed to motorized travel, except for authorized use. Gates would remain locked, but nonmotorized and mechanized travel would be allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized travel would be limited only to the access road, except for the continued authorized use of both designated play areas and designated event areas. Mechanized travel would be allowed on designated roads and trails. The existing gates into the area would remain locked, but available for access from the BLM RPFO.⁺ One petroglyph site at San Ysidro would be allocated to public use for interpretation after site “hardening” activities. The BLM would add the site to the list of sites monitored by Site Stewards volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized travel would be limited only to the access road, except for the continued authorized use of both designated play areas and designated event areas. Mechanized travel would be allowed on designated roads and trails. The existing gates into the area would remain locked, but available for access from the BLM RPFO.⁺ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized travel would be limited to designated routes, except for the continued authorized use of both designated play areas and designated event areas. Mechanized travel would be allowed on designated roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP. The existing gates into the area would remain locked, but available for access from the BLM RPFO.⁺
White Ridge Bike Trails*	Not managed as an SRMA (White Ridge Bike Trails allow authorized use of bike trails and limited use of trails for equestrian use [semi-primitive, nonmotorized].)	Motorized travel would be limited to roads, primitive roads, and trails, as posted.	Motorized travel would be limited to roads, primitive roads, and trails, as posted.	Motorized travel would be limited to roads, primitive roads, and trails, as posted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Ridge Bike Trails allow authorized use of bike trails and limited use of trails for equestrian use (semi-primitive, nonmotorized). Mechanized use would be limited to existing trails.

* In the Draft EIS, this was an ERMA zone (in Alternatives B, C, and D). Since the Draft EIS, this area was changed to an SRMA to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. This new policy required changing these four areas from ERMA zones in the Draft EIS to SRMAs in the Final EIS to meet the new policy’s clarifying definitions for SRMAs. The management prescriptions of the corresponding ERMA zones in the Draft EIS and the SRMAs in the Final EIS are the same; therefore, on-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁺Implementation decision.

1208
1209
1210
1211
1212
1213

1214 **2.2.12.4 Extensive Recreation Management Areas**

1215 *Objective*

- 1216 • Manage ERMA-specific outcomes-focused objectives and the management framework for each
1217 ERMA as specified in **Appendix P**.⁴⁰

1218 *Management Common to All Action Alternatives*

- 1219 • **Appendix P**⁴¹ describes more specifically the recreation values and management of the ERMA.

1220 *Alternatives*

1221 ERMA are administrative units that require specific management considerations, in order to address
1222 recreation use, demand, or recreation and visitor services program investments, to support and sustain the
1223 principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions, commensurate with the
1224 management of other resources and resource uses in the area. **Table 2-14** shows ERMA by alternative.
1225 Refer to **Appendix P**⁴² for a comprehensive list of ERMA management prescriptions by alternative.

1226 San Juan Basin Badlands ERMA (Alternatives B, C, and D, and E)

1227 The San Juan Basin Badland ERMA is located in a remote area of the northwest corner of the RPFO in an area with mesas
1228 and scenic badlands. In Alternatives B, C, and D, the ERMA would consist of three⁴³ zones: Torreon Fossil
1229 Fauna East and West, Ceja Pelon, and Chijuilla. ~~In Alternative E, the ERMA would consist of two zones: Ceja
1230 Pelon and Chijuilla.~~ Refer to **Appendix P** for more information.

1231 **Objective Statement:** Offer dispersed recreational opportunities in the San Juan Basin Badlands
1232 ERMA, including hiking, wildlife viewing, paleontological interpretation, OHV use, and other activities.

1233 Petaca Pinta ERMA (Alternatives B, C, and D)

1234 The Petaca Pinta ERMA is located in a remote area southwest of Los Lunas and Belen, New Mexico. There
1235 are four⁴⁴ zones within the ERMA: Pronoun Cave, Cerro Verde, Volcano Hill, and Sandy Wash. The Volcano
1236 Hill zone roughly corresponds to the area of the same name identified as lands with Wilderness
1237 characteristics. The Petaca Pinta WSA is adjacent to this ERMA. Management of the Petaca Pinta ERMA
1238

⁴⁰ **Appendix P**, Description of Recreation Management Areas, was added since the Draft EIS to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁴¹ **Appendix P**, Description of Recreation Management Areas, was added since the Draft EIS to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁴² **Appendix P**, Description of Recreation Management Areas, was added since the Draft EIS to reflect BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁴³ The Draft EIS included an additional zone, the Endurance Trails SRMA (A–C) zone, in this ERMA (in Alternatives B, C, and D). However, according to BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services), which was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published, this zone was changed to an SRMA in the Final EIS according to clarifying definitions for SRMAs. The management prescriptions of the ERMA zone in the Draft EIS and the SRMA in the Final EIS are the same; therefore, on-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁴⁴ The Draft EIS included an additional zone, the Cimarron Mesa zone, in this ERMA (in Alternatives B, C, and D). However, according to BLM policy (Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services) that was issued in 2014 after the Draft EIS was published, this zone was changed to an SRMA in the Final EIS according to clarifying definitions for SRMAs. The management prescriptions of the ERMA zone in the Draft EIS and the SRMA in the Final EIS are the same; therefore, on-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

1239

Table 2-14: Extensive Recreation Management Areas (Acres) by Alternative

ERMA	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Map 2-5644)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Map 2-5745)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Map 2-5846)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) (Appendix S, Map 2-59)
San Juan Basin Badlands	0	53,700	53,700	53,700	47,800
Petaca Pinta	0	50,900	50,900	50,900	0
Boca del Oso	0	106,400	106,400	106,400	0
San Ysidro	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	0
Herrera	0	18,400	18,400	18,400	0
Crest of Montezuma	0	900	900	900	0
Total	0	232,800	232,800	232,800	47,800

1240

Source: BLM GIS 2020

1241 would focus on dispersed recreational activities including hiking, wildlife viewing, and OHV use. Refer to
1242 **Appendix P** for more information.

1243 **Objective Statement:** Promote the dispersed recreational activities in the Petaca Pinta ERMA to
1244 include hiking, wildlife viewing, and OHV use in nonrestricted areas.

1245 Boca del Oso ERMA (Alternatives B, C, and D)

1246 The Boca del Oso ERMA is located in southwestern Sandoval County and southeastern McKinley County
1247 in an area of the field office with numerous WSAs. There are eight zones within the Boca del Oso ERMA:
1248 Chamisa WSA, Ignacio Chavez, Cabezon Peak, San Luis Mesa, San Miguel Dome, Azabache, Ancestral Way,
1249 and Cerro. In addition to ACECs, these zones contain other areas with special management prescriptions,
1250 including special cultural resource areas and lands with Wilderness characteristics. Refer to **Appendix P**
1251 for more information.

1252 **Objective Statement:** Focus and promote the protection of Wilderness values and dispersed
1253 recreational activities in the Boca del Oso ERMA, including hiking, hunting, horseback riding, wildlife
1254 viewing, cross-country skiing, and other activities. The BLM would promote interpretation through
1255 advance technologies.

1256 San Ysidro ERMA (Alternatives B, C, and D)

1257 The San Ysidro ERMA is located in Sandoval County north and west of the Village of San Ysidro. The area,
1258 located near the Rio Salado and Highway 550, is characterized by gypsum-rich soils, unique geologic features,
1259 and springs. Refer to **Appendix P** for more information.

1260 **Objective Statement:** Balance use of dispersed recreation activities in the San Ysidro ERMA, including
1261 areas managed for motorized travel, mechanized travel, hiking, horseback riding, and other activities.

1262 Herrera ERMA (Alternatives B, C, and D)

1263 The Herrera ERMA is located west of Albuquerque and north of Interstate 40. There are three zones within
1264 the Herrera ERMA: Bony Canyon, Prospect, and La Mesita. Refer to **Appendix P** for more information.

1265 **Objective Statement:** Focus management of the Herrera ERMA on OHV (e.g., dune buggy, dirt bike,
1266 all-terrain vehicles, and utility vehicles) use and paleontological interpretation and study.

1267 Crest of Montezuma ERMA (Alternatives B, C, and D)

1268 The Crest of Montezuma ERMA is located in southeastern Sandoval County north of the Sandia Ranger
1269 District of the Cibola National Forest and east of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant and the Village
1270 of Placitas. Refer to **Appendix P** for more information.

1271 **Objective Statement:** Assess the recreational potential and coordinate efforts with surrounding high-
1272 density communities and applicable agencies. Recreational opportunities include hunting, hiking, and
1273 horseback riding, while managing in conjunction with forestry and wildlife protection.

1274 **2.2.13 Renewable Energy**

1275 **2.2.13.1 Goal**

- 1276
- Promote renewable energy on public lands where compatible with land management goals.

1277 **2.2.13.2 Objectives**

- 1278
- Incorporate BMPs, including the USFWS's "Guidelines for Wind Power" and provisions contained
1279 in the Final Programmatic EIS on Wind Energy Development (BLM 2005b), into authorization of any
1280 ROWs for wind or solar energy development.
 - Follow the decisions made under the Final Programmatic EISs on Wind Energy, and the
1281 Programmatic EIS for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States (BLM and DOE 2012).
1282

- 1283 • Pursue renewable energy projects if the area has been identified as having medium to high potential
1284 in a previous study.

1285 **2.2.13.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 1286 • Proposals for renewable energy projects on public land would undergo site-specific environmental
1287 analysis as part of the ROW process.
1288 • Designated Section 368 corridors determined in the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS
1289 (BLM 2009b) include corridor 80-273 in the Planning Area, which would be managed according to
1290 existing policy (Appendix B of the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS; BLM 2009b).

1291 **2.2.13.4 Alternatives**

1292 **Table 2-15** describes actions the RPFO would take when siting wind and solar⁴⁵ projects on Decision Area
1293 lands. Resource areas, such as Wilderness areas, critical habitat, and floodplains, are identified. Each
1294 alternative explains how a wind or solar project would be treated within a particular area. The term
1295 “exclude” means that the renewable energy project would not be approved for construction within the
1296 resource area. The term “avoid” indicates that the RPFO would attempt to site the project outside the
1297 particular resource area; however, the project could be constructed within the resource area if no other
1298 viable alternative is available.

⁴⁵ Geothermal resources were discussed under Renewable Energy in the Draft EIS but are discussed under the Fluid Leasable Minerals section of the Final EIS for clarification purposes. Management allocations for geothermal resources in the Final EIS are the same as the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

1299

Table 2-15: Renewable Energy (Wind and Solar) Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource/Area	Alternative A (No Action) ⁴⁶ (Appendix S, Maps 2-60-47 and 2-61-48)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Maps 2-62-49 and 2-63-50)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Maps 2-64-51 and 2-65-52)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Maps 2-66-53 and 2-67-54)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) (Appendix S, Maps 2-68 and 2-69)
100-year floodplains	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude
ACECs	Depends on the ACEC; some avoid, others exclude ROWs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluewater Canyon: Exclude • Cabezon Peak: Exclude • Cañon Tapia: Avoid • Elk Springs: Avoid • Espinazo Ridge: Exclude • Jones Canyon: Exclude • Ojito: Exclude • Pronoun Cave Complex: Avoid • San Luis Raptor: Avoid • Torreon Fossil: Avoid • Juana Lopez RNA: Exclude 	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude
Active floodplains	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude

⁴⁶ In the Draft EIS, where Alternative A stated “no specific management decisions,” that was changed to “open” in the Final EIS. This is to clarify that, in the absence of specific management decisions for renewable energy, an area is open to renewable energy ROWs by default. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged

2. Alternatives (Renewable Energy)

Resource/Area	Alternative A (No Action) ⁴⁶ (Appendix S, Maps 2-60-47 and 2-61-48)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Maps 2-62-49 and 2-63-50)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Maps 2-64-51 and 2-65-52)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Maps 2-66-53 and 2-67-54)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) (Appendix S, Maps 2-68 and 2-69)
Cave/karst areas	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid
Critical habitat for federally threatened and endangered species (designated and proposed)	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude
Cultural sites (eligible for the NRHP)	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid
Eligible WSRs	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude
Habitat for BLM sensitive plant and animal species (includes rare plants)	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid
Habitat for federal candidate species	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid
Habitat for federally listed/proposed threatened and endangered species for which critical habitat has not been designated	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid
Habitat state listed as crucial/sensitive	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid
Lands with Wilderness characteristics managed to protect Wilderness characteristics	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Open (there are no lands with Wilderness characteristics managed to protect Wilderness characteristics under Alternative D)	Open (there are no lands with Wilderness characteristics managed to protect Wilderness characteristics under Alternative E)

2. Alternatives (Renewable Energy)

Resource/Area	Alternative A (No Action) ⁴⁶ (Appendix S, Maps 2-60-47 and 2-61-48)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Maps 2-62-49 and 2-63-50)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Maps 2-64-51 and 2-65-52)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Maps 2-66-53 and 2-67-54)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) (Appendix S, Maps 2-68 and 2-69)
National Scenic and Historic Trails	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude
Soils, highly erodible (per sensitive soils definition) and all slopes >15%	Open	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Open
TCPs	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid
VRM Class I	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude
VRM Class II	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid
Wetlands and riparian areas	Open	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Open
Wilderness areas	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude
WSAs	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude	Wind: Exclude Solar: Exclude
Withdrawn lands	Open	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Wind: Avoid Solar: Avoid	Open
Total Acres—Open	Solar: 578,300 Wind: 578,300	Solar: 9,800 Wind: 9,800	Solar: 27,300 Wind: 27,300	Solar: 37,600 Wind: 37,600	Solar: 543,400 Wind: 543,400
Total Acres—Avoid	Solar: 49,100 Wind: 49,100	Solar: 214,000 Wind: 218,800	Solar: 289,500 Wind: 456,000	Solar: 448,400 Wind: 473,400	Solar: 45,100 Wind: 80,300
Total Acres—Exclude	Solar: 104,200 Wind: 104,200	Solar: 507,800 Wind: 503,000	Solar: 414,800 Wind: 248,300	Solar: 245,700 Wind: 220,600	Solar: 143,100 Wind: 107,900
Total Acres	Solar: 731,600 Wind: 731,600	Solar: 731,600 Wind: 731,600	Solar: 731,600 Wind: 731,600	Solar: 731,600 Wind: 731,600	Solar: 731,600 Wind: 731,600

Source: BLM GIS 2020

1301 **2.2.14 Riparian Resources**

1302 **2.2.14.1 Goal**

- 1303 • Protect and restore riparian/wetland areas, and avoid or minimize the disturbance, loss, or
1304 degradation of riparian, wetland, and associated floodplains; preserve and enhance natural and
1305 beneficial values; and provide for fish, wildlife, and special status species habitats.

1306 **2.2.14.2 Objectives**

- 1307 • Implement management strategies that restore degraded riparian communities; protect natural flow
1308 requirements; protect water quality; manage for stable, non-eroding banks; and manage for year-
1309 round flows where applicable.
- 1310 • Manage riparian areas for a minimum of Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) and strive to meet an
1311 advanced ecological status as defined in BLM Manual 1737, and ensure stream channel morphology
1312 and functions are appropriate for local soil type, climate, and landform. All riparian areas must meet
1313 the Riparian Sites Standard outlined in the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and
1314 Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b). PFC is an element of the Fundamentals
1315 of Rangeland Health and required by the Riparian Sites Standards and regulations in 43 CFR 4180.
- 1316 • Implement riparian/wetland restoration projects with objectives of maintaining species diversity
1317 (wildlife and vegetation) and protecting or recovering special status species that heavily depend on
1318 these habitats. Emphasize projects aimed at increasing riparian/wetland areas for the benefit of these
1319 species.

1320 **2.2.14.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 1321 • The BLM would carry forward adaptive management strategies and permit conditions developed in
1322 accordance with the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field
1323 Office (BLM 2000).
- 1324 • The BLM would continue to manage southwestern willow habitat in the Decision Area, inventory
1325 new habitat, and update existing habitat in accordance with the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
1326 Management Plan (BLM 1998) and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan (USFWS
1327 2002). The BLM would also seek out guidance from USFWS specialists and new scientific literature
1328 that pertains to arising issues involving Southwestern willow flycatcher management not covered in
1329 these documents.
- 1330 • The BLM would maintain all properly functioning springs and associated riparian/wetland habitats at
1331 the PFC level. The BLM would assess and reassess PFC for all riparian areas in the Decision Area.
1332 Those features in the Nonfunctional and Functional At-Risk categories would be managed to
1333 improve them to PFC. The RPFO would use exclosures or implement grazing management practices
1334 to maintain and/or improve to PFC. Other activities would be limited as necessary to achieve or
1335 maintain PFC (BLM WO IM 2010-101).
- 1336 • The BLM would prioritize restoration activities in riparian systems that contain Southwestern willow
1337 flycatcher habitat, are Functioning at-Risk, or are Nonfunctioning. Saltcedar is now considered
1338 suitable Southwestern willow flycatcher nesting habitat; therefore, projects involving treatment of
1339 saltcedar in known Southwestern willow flycatcher habitat would require consultation with the
1340 USFWS.
- 1341 • The BLM would address riparian habitat values for all surface- and vegetation-disturbing actions
1342 within or close to riparian areas.
- 1343 • Any management actions for riparian areas would include appropriate tribal consultation regarding
1344 potential TCPs.
- 1345 • Mitigation to reduce impacts on floodplains and riparian areas may include, but are not limited to:
1346 I. Where feasible and consistent with user safety, developed travel routes would be located
1347 or relocated away from sensitive riparian and wetland areas.

- 1348
1349
1350
1351
1352
1353
1354
1355
1356
1357
1358
1359
1360
1361
1362
1363
1364
1365
1366
1367
1368
1369
1370
1371
1372
1373
1374
1375
1376
1377
1378
1379
1380
1381
1382
1383
1384
1385
2. Dispersed camping would be prohibited within 46 meters (150 feet) of riparian areas. Designated campgrounds established in proximity to riparian areas would be designed or placed to ensure adequate spatial and visual restrictions that would allow sensitive wildlife to exist undisturbed.
 3. Stream crossings would be limited in number dictated by the topography, geology (see **Appendix S, Map 3-4**), and soil type. Any necessary stream crossings would be designed to minimize sedimentation, soil erosion, and compaction (to minimize longitudinal routes along streambanks, crossings would be designed perpendicular to the stream).
 4. Where necessary, recreational use would be controlled by changing location or kind of activity, season, intensity, distribution, and/or duration.
 5. Livestock grazing actions would be implemented to meet riparian objectives, including vegetation use limits, fencing, herding, change of livestock class, temporary closures, seasonal use, and/or alternate development or relocation of water sources.
 6. Any water diversions from riparian areas by the BLM or non-BLM entities would be designed and constructed to protect ecological processes and functions.
 7. Weed management stipulations and education would be implemented to reduce the spread of noxious weeds within riparian corridors.
 8. Riparian areas would be closed to motorized travel.
 - The BLM would continue to apply integrated species management to accomplish riparian restoration through biological, chemical, mechanical, and manual methods (e.g., saltcedar control and willow plantings).
 - The BLM would acquire riparian lands and water resources (from willing sellers), and work with cooperating adjacent landowners to preserve and maintain multi-jurisdictional riparian areas for increased habitat quality and instream flow.
 - The BLM would plan land disposals to ensure no net loss of wetland values.
 - The BLM would prohibit woodland harvest in riparian areas, except where permitted for restoration to benefit riparian values.
 - The BLM would manage riparian areas to ensure a multi-aged, multilayered structure, allowing for retention of snags and diseased trees.
 - The BLM would close riparian areas to extraction of salable minerals and recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.
 - The BLM would avoid aerial application of fire retardant or foam within 91 meters (300 feet) of waterways and any ground application of wildland fire chemicals into waterways. Waterways include any body of water, including lakes, rivers, stream, springs, and ponds, regardless of whether they contain aquatic life. This includes all wildland fire chemicals, including water enhancers.
 - Unless otherwise stated in the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000), livestock grazing would be unavailable in enclosures constructed within riparian areas or uplands using HSP funds.

1386 **2.2.14.4 Alternatives**

1387 **Table 2-16** lists riparian resource management by alternative.

1388

Table 2-16: Riparian Resource Management by Alternative

Activity	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Surface-disturbing Activities	Management would follow the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000) (1,300 acres).	Surface-disturbing activities would be prohibited within 200 meters (656 feet) of the channels of ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams, or within 200 meters (656 feet) of the outer margins of riparian and wetland areas (144,100 acres).	Surface-disturbing activities would be subject to restrictions within 200 meters (656 feet) of the channels of ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams, or within 200 meters (656 feet) of the outer margins of riparian and wetland areas (144,100 acres).	No similar action.	Management would follow the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000) (1,300 acres).

2. Alternatives (Riparian Resources)

Activity	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Livestock Grazing	Current management would follow the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000).	Livestock grazing would be unavailable in riparian areas.	Livestock grazing would be available in riparian areas that meet the Riparian Sites Standards of the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b). Livestock grazing ⁴⁷ in riparian areas would follow the adaptive management strategies and permit conditions developed in accordance with the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000).	Livestock grazing would be available in riparian areas that meet the Riparian Sites Standards of the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b). Livestock grazing ⁴⁸ in riparian areas would follow the adaptive management strategies and permit conditions developed in accordance with the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000).	Livestock grazing would be available in riparian areas that meet the Riparian Sites Standards of the New Mexico Standards and Guidelines for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b). Livestock grazing⁴⁹ in riparian areas would follow the adaptive management strategies and permit conditions developed in accordance with the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000).

1389

⁴⁷ The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁴⁸ The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁴⁹ ~~The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.~~

1390 **2.2.15 Soil and Water Resources**

1391 **2.2.15.1 Goals**

- 1392 • Protect and improve surface water and groundwater quality and overall watershed condition by
1393 initiating watershed improvement projects and efforts within the BLM's Soil, Water, and Air
1394 Program, and through collaboration and support to other BLM programs and land use activities.
1395 • Protect and improve soil stability and soil productivity through the reduction of and prevention of
1396 accelerated erosion and sedimentation.

1397 **2.2.15.2 Objectives**

- 1398 • Develop and implement watershed projects for the protection, maintenance, restoration, or
1399 enhancement of watershed resources in the Decision Area. Types of projects include, but are not
1400 limited to, upland and channel erosion control projects, vegetation treatments, dam maintenance
1401 and construction, restoration/reclamation of abandoned project sites, headcut and gully treatments,
1402 and roadwork.
1403 • Work with partners, including academic, federal, state, and local entities, to implement BMPs for
1404 areas affecting water bodies on current versions of the impaired waters list (NMED 2020) and/or
1405 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) lists.
1406 • Implement BMPs to minimize erosion and reduce point and non-point source pollution from
1407 authorized land use activities or treatments. BMPs include, but are not limited to, those identified in
1408 the most current version of the New Mexico Nonpoint Source Management Program (NMED
1409 2019); BMPs are also listed in other BLM planning documents, such as statewide fire planning (BLM
1410 2004a) and other management decisions (e.g., mitigation measures under the Riparian section).
1411 • Include BMPs in transportation planning for eliminating and restoring unneeded roads, relocating
1412 poorly situated roads, and implementing proper road location and design. The BLM would identify
1413 roads that have a significant impact on watershed stability, investigate road closures, and establish
1414 criteria for closing roads based on erosion concerns.
1415 • Avoid surface disturbance in areas identified as having "sensitive soils" unless impacts are mitigated.
1416 • Apply environmental BMPs to all extraction of fluid leasable minerals authorizations in accordance
1417 to Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2007-021 and the most current version of the
1418 Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development
1419 (commonly referred to as the Gold Book) (BLM 2007c).
1420 • Implement BMPs from Technical Reference 1730-2 on Biological Soil Crusts (BLM 2001c) to protect
1421 or restore the functions of biological soil crusts.

1422 **2.2.15.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 1423 • The BLM would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, executive
1424 orders, and management policies of the BLM for managing watershed resources.
1425 • The BLM would use the most current published soil survey information on soil properties and
1426 interpretations for decision-making in the Decision Area. The RPFO would work with the US
1427 Department of Agriculture-NRCS to update soil surveys and Ecological Site Descriptions.
1428 • The BLM would inventory, monitor, and evaluate soil and water resources to determine existing
1429 conditions, make cause/effect determinations of resource activities on watershed resources, and
1430 recommend appropriate actions.
1431 • The BLM would work with partners, including academic, federal, state, and local entities, to collect
1432 watershed resources data and manage watershed resources within the legal authorities of the BLM.

I433 **2.2.16 Special Designations**I434 **2.2.16.1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

I435 The term “Area of Critical Environmental Concern” means an area within the public lands where special
 I436 management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is
 I437 required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish
 I438 and wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural
 I439 hazards (FLPMA, 43 USC 1702(a)).

I440 Where ACECs overlap WSAs, the stricter (WSA) management prescriptions would apply unless and until
 I441 Congress releases the WSA from Wilderness consideration.

I442 If the alternative chosen designates the ACECs listed below, the following goals, objectives, and management
 I443 actions would be common to all designated ACECs.

I444 *Goal—General*

- I445 • Manage areas as ACECs where special management attention is required to protect and prevent
 I446 irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; or
 I447 other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

I448 *Management Common to All Action Alternatives—General*

- I449 • The BLM would remove the SMA designations implemented in the 1986 RMP, as amended.
- I450 • In those areas where ACECs overlap with WSAs, the WSA management prescriptions would take
 I451 precedence.
- I452 • The BLM would exclude solar energy sites from ACECs.
- I453 • Unless specified below, ACECs would be avoidance areas for all ROWs, including wind energy and
 I454 communication sites.
- I455 • The BLM would designate ACECs managed for scenic values as VRM Class II.
- I456 • If the RMP alternative selected removes ACEC designation and the area falls within an SRMA, the
 I457 BLM would manage the area as an SRMA.
- I458 • The BLM would update ACEC protection plans to reflect the management goals and prescriptions
 I459 as described in each individual ACEC section.

I460 **Table 2-17** shows ACECs by alternative.

I461 *Bluewater Canyon ACEC*

I462 As described in the Bluewater Canyon ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1982), the ACEC is 100 acres. The area
 I463 was designated as an ACEC based on riparian habitat, wildlife, scenic resources, cultural resources, and
 I464 recreation activities.

I465 GoalsI466 *Wildlife and Riparian Resources*

- I467 • Manage the ACEC for riparian restoration and enhancement for the benefit of wildlife species.

I468 *Scenic Resources*

- I469 • Manage Bluewater Canyon ACEC as VRM Class II.

1470

Table 2-17: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Acres) by Alternative

ACEC	Alternative A (No Action) (Appendix S, Map 2-7055)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Map 2-7156)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Map 2-7257)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Map 2-7358)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) (Appendix S, Map 2-74)
Bluewater Canyon	100	800	800	800	400
Bony Canyon	0	500	500	500	0
Cabezon Peak	5,100	14,600	14,600	6,200	5,100
Cañon Jarido	0	6,100	6,100	1,800	0
Cañon Tapia	600	600	600	0	0
Cerro Verde	0	4,600	4,600	0	0
Elk Springs ACEC and Juana Lopez RNA	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 0	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 40	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 40	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 40	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 40
Espinazo Ridge	1,500	7,200	7,200	1,500	1,500
Guadalupe Ruin and Community	0	400	400	400	0
Ignacio Chavez	0	42,700	42,700	0	0
Jones Canyon	400	700	400	400	400
Legacy Uranium Mines	0	50	50	50	50
Ojito	13,700	13,700	3,900	0	0
Petaca Pinta	0	12,100	12,100	12,100	0
Pronoun Cave Complex	1,100	1,300	1,100	0	0
San Luis Mesa Raptor Area	9,000	9,000	9,000	0	0
San Miguel Dome	0	4,400	4,400	0	0
Torreón Fossil Fauna	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900
Total	46,000	133,290	122,990	38,290	21,690

1471

Source: BLM GIS 2020

1472 Objectives

1473 Wildlife and Riparian Resources

- 1474 • Maintain Bluewater Canyon riparian area at PFC level and strive to meet an advanced ecological
- 1475 status in accordance with BLM Manual 1737 (BLM Manual 1737-11, Riparian Area Management,
- 1476 1998).
- 1477 • Where possible, enhance riparian conditions consistent with the Southwest Willow Flycatcher
- 1478 Recovery Plan (USFWS 2002).
- 1479 • Emphasize frequent noxious weed monitoring and control measures to preserve the native plant
- 1480 community.
- 1481 • Continue monitoring activities for breeding birds and special status species.
- 1482 • Continue to prohibit motorized vehicle use and exclude livestock grazing within the ACEC.

1483 Scenic Resources

- 1484 • Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
- 1485 should be low.
- 1486 • Ensure that although management activities may be seen, they should not attract the attention of
- 1487 the casual observer.
- 1488 • Ensure any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the
- 1489 predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

1490 Alternatives

1491 **Table 2-18** shows Bluewater Canyon ACEC management by alternative. Items listed under Alternative A
1492 are described in more detail in the Bluewater Canyon Final ACEC Plan Element (BLM 1983). Under
1493 Alternatives B, C, and D, the ACEC would be expanded to include all of Section 6, the BLM land in Section
1494 5, and all lands between Bluewater Lake and the canyon.

1495 *Bony Canyon ACEC*

1496 The Bony Canyon ACEC is a new ACEC that the BLM is proposing under Alternatives B, C, and D.

1497 Goals

- 1498 • Protect paleontological resources in the Bony Canyon area from human-caused deterioration, or
- 1499 potential conflict with other resources uses and resource development. These include significant
- 1500 Jurassic vertebrate fossils.
- 1501 • Facilitate the scientific study and documentation of paleontological resources in Bony Canyon.

1502 Objectives

- 1503 • Manage as a proprietary area to prevent unauthorized removal of paleontological resources.
- 1504 • Monitor the area to ensure that unauthorized activities are not degrading the resources.
- 1505 • Develop a site-specific maintenance plan or other protective measures for this area.
- 1506 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicle access, and
- 1507 livestock grazing.
- 1508 • Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for scientific research of paleontological
- 1509 resources.
- 1510 • Maintain and enhance educational opportunities and public outreach programs.

1511 Alternatives

1512 **Table 2-19** shows Bony Canyon ACEC management by alternative.

1513

Table 2-18: Bluewater Canyon ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Item/Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	100	800	800	800	100
Cultural Resources	Survey for possible archaeological sites. Restore and interpret, to the degree feasible, any archaeological sites for unique cultural values. Protect sites from future deterioration by proper maintenance and regular patrolling of the area, if deemed necessary.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action	Survey for possible archaeological sites. Restore or interpret, to the degree feasible, any archaeological sites for unique cultural values. Protect sites from future deterioration by proper maintenance and regular patrolling of the area, if deemed necessary.
Fire Management	Do not permit any large mechanized firefighting equipment in the ACEC. Application of fire-retardant chemicals are to be prohibited except with permission of the Area Manager.	Mechanized firefighting equipment and chemical, forestry management, and fire hazard reduction would be allowed.	Mechanized firefighting equipment and chemical, forestry management, and fire hazard reduction would be allowed.	Mechanized firefighting equipment and chemical, forestry management, and fire hazard reduction would be allowed.	Do not permit any large mechanized firefighting equipment in the ACEC. Application of fire-retardant chemicals are to be prohibited except with permission of the Area Manager.
Forest Product Removal	No intensive forestry management or fire hazard reduction is to be practiced in the area. The area would be closed to forest and vegetative product removal and permit sales.	Permits for the removal of vegetative or forest products would be prohibited.	Permits for the removal of vegetative or forest products would be prohibited.	Forest product removal would be allowed outside riparian areas.	No intensive forestry management or fire hazard reduction is to be practiced in the area. The area would be closed to forest and vegetative product removal and permit sales.
Land Tenure Adjustment	Acquire non-public lands.	Any new land acquisitions adjacent to Bluewater Canyon would be managed as an ACEC.	Any new land acquisitions adjacent to Bluewater Canyon would be managed as an ACEC.	Any new land acquisitions adjacent to Bluewater Canyon would be managed as an ACEC.	Acquire non-public lands.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Item/Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Leasable Minerals	Fluid minerals in the canyon would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals within the ACEC would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals within the ACEC would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals within the ACEC would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals in the canyon would be leased with an NSO stipulation.
Livestock Grazing	Prohibit livestock grazing within the canyon, though livestock grazing may occur on the upper rims. Both ends of the canyon would be fenced and the canyon would have a pass made to allow people to continue down the trail. Grazing would be allowed on the rim of the canyon on the north side at Blackjack Arroyo Allotment #00450 and on the south side at Reynold Draw Allotment #00429. ⁵⁰	Lands within the ACEC would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.	Prohibit livestock grazing within the canyon, though livestock grazing may occur on the upper rims. Both ends of the canyon would be fenced and the canyon would have a pass made to allow people to continue down the trail. Grazing would be allowed on the rim of the canyon on the north side at Blackjack Arroyo Allotment #00450 and on the south side at Reynold Draw Allotment #00429.⁵¹
Locatable Minerals	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	Recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.

⁵⁰ Formerly Volton S. Tietjen Allotment #0194.

⁵¹ ~~Formerly Volton S. Tietjen Allotment #0194.~~

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Item/Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Recreation	Installation of a parking lot with picnic tables on the rim where a trail would start leading to the canyon bottom. Recreation developments would be made contingent on the BLM's ability to fund and supervise them.	Camping would be prohibited within 46 meters (150 feet) of the riparian zone.	Camping would be prohibited within 46 meters (150 feet) of the riparian zone.	Camping would be prohibited within 46 meters (150 feet) of the riparian zone.	Installation of a parking lot with picnic tables on the rim where a trail would start leading to the canyon bottom. Recreation developments would be made contingent on the BLM's ability to fund and supervise them.
Salable Minerals	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.
Travel	Designate the public land in the canyon as "closed to off road vehicles." Designate the remaining portion of the ACEC (above 2,134-meter [7,000-foot] contour) as "limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails."	Nonmotorized travel would be allowed in the ACEC; the ACEC would be closed to motorized travel except for authorized use.	Nonmotorized travel would be allowed in the canyon (51 acres); motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails outside the canyon (890 acres).	Nonmotorized travel would be allowed in the canyon (51 acres); motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails outside the canyon (890 acres).	Designate the public land in the canyon as "closed to off road vehicles." Designate the remaining portion of the ACEC (above 2,134 m [7,000-foot] contour) as "limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails."
VRM	Manage the ACEC as VRM II.	Manage the ACEC as VRM II.	Manage the ACEC as VRM II.	Manage the ACEC as VRM II.	Manage the ACEC as VRM II.
Wildlife and Riparian	Manage the area to prevent degradation of any wildlife habitat. Trout fishing may be improved by increasing the pool to riffle ratio and increased vegetation along the stream edges to create shade.	Manage the area to prevent degradation of any wildlife habitat. Trout fishing may be improved by increasing the pool to riffle ratio and increased vegetation along the stream edges to create shade.	Manage the area to prevent degradation of any wildlife habitat. Trout fishing may be improved by increasing the pool to riffle ratio and increased vegetation along the stream edges to create shade.	Manage the area to prevent degradation of any wildlife habitat. Trout fishing may be improved by increasing the pool to riffle ratio and increased vegetation along the stream edges to create shade.	Manage the area to prevent degradation of any wildlife habitat. Trout fishing may be improved by increasing the pool to riffle ratio and increased vegetation along the stream edges to create shade.

1515

Table 2-19: Bony Canyon ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Item/Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	0	500	500	500	0
Leasable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	Fluid minerals within the quarry area (2 acres) would be leased with an NSO stipulation. The remainder of the ACEC (1,148 acres) would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Fluid minerals within the quarry area (2 acres) would be leased with an NSO stipulation. The remainder of the ACEC (1,148 acres) would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Fluid minerals within the quarry area (2 acres) would be leased with an NSO stipulation. The remainder of the ACEC (1,148 acres) would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Not managed as an ACEC	Livestock grazing would be designated as unavailable within the ACEC.	Livestock grazing ⁵² would be available within the ACEC.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.	Not managed as an ACEC
Locatable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC
Paleontology	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would include an RNA to allow excavation for vertebrate fossils to continue.	The ACEC would include an RNA to allow excavation for vertebrate fossils to continue.	The RNA would allow excavation for vertebrate fossils to continue.	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	Not managed as an ACEC
Travel	Not managed as an ACEC	Travel in the ACEC would be limited to authorized use only, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Travel in the ACEC would be limited to authorized use only, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Motorized use would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Not managed as an ACEC

1516

⁵² The Draft EIS stated "livestock grazing..." This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

1517 *Cabazon Peak ACEC*
1518 As described in the Cabazon Peak ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1987a), the ACEC is 5,100 acres. The area
1519 was designated as an ACEC based on cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational values.

1520 Goals

1521 Wildlife and Special Status Species

1522 • Manage the ACEC for protection of raptor nesting sites, raptor prey base, and rare plants.

1523 Geologic Resources

1524 • Protect the geologic resources within Cabazon Peak ACEC, which include a unique concentration
1525 of volcanic necks, from human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses
1526 and resource development.

1527 • Promote awareness of geologic resource values.

1528 Traditional Cultural Values

1529 • Promote sensitivity to the traditional cultural significance of Cabazon Peak.

1530 Objectives

1531 Wildlife and Special Status Species

1532 • Protect raptor prey base (specifically prairie dog colonies) by discouraging shooting and poisoning
1533 efforts through internal bureau directives, coordination with livestock grazing permittees, and public
1534 education.

1535 • Protect rare plant species populations through prescriptive livestock grazing practice. Conduct rare
1536 plant surveys, and follow up by coordinating with livestock grazing permittees on strategic placement
1537 of livestock waters, pipelines, mineral supplements, and other range improvement projects.

1538 • Apply species-specific spatial and temporal raptor nesting protection measures to projects causing
1539 noise disturbance within proximity of active raptor nests.

1540 • Collaborate with the Seeds of Success program to conserve rare plant populations.

1541 Geologic Resources

1542 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicles, and
1543 livestock grazing.

1544 • Maintain or expand interpretation signs along trails.

1545 • Maintain interpretational materials for public information, including brochures, websites, and other
1546 information.

1547 Scenic Values

1548 • Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
1549 should be low.

1550 • Ensure that management activities may be seen but not attract the attention of the casual observer.

1551 • Ensure that any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in
1552 the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

1553 Traditional Cultural Values

1554 • Maximize opportunities for cooperation with tribal governments and culturally affiliated Native
1555 American tribes for managing cultural resources and public education and regarding implementation
1556 of decisions from this plan and existing or revised site-specific plans.

1557 Alternatives

1558 **Table 2-20** shows Cabazon Peak Canyon ACEC management by alternative.

1559

Table 2-20: Cabezon Peak ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Item/Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP ^{draft} RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	5,100	14,600	14,600	6,200	5,100
Geographic Description	Boundary lies partially within the current boundary of the Cabezon WSA.	The BLM would maintain the ACEC designation and expand it to include Cerro Guadalupe, Cerro Chato, Cerro Santa Clara, and Cerro Quate to include prairie dog reintroduction area and geologic features.	The BLM would maintain the ACEC designation and expand it to include Cerro Guadalupe, Cerro Chato, Cerro Santa Clara, and Cerro Quate to include prairie dog reintroduction area and geologic features.	The BLM would expand the ACEC to include Cerro Guadalupe.	The boundary lies partially within the current boundary of the Cabezon WSA.
Leasable Minerals ⁵³	The Cabezon WSA is closed to fluid mineral leasing. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be open to fluid mineral leasing with a CSU ⁵⁴ stipulation.	The Cabezon WSA is closed to fluid mineral leasing. If Congress released the WSA, fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	The Cabezon WSA is closed to fluid mineral leasing. If Congress released the WSA, fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	The Cabezon WSA is closed to fluid mineral leasing. If Congress released the WSA, fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	The Cabezon WSA is closed to fluid mineral leasing. If Congress released the WSA, fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.
Livestock Grazing	Livestock grazing ⁵⁵ would be available.	Lands within the ACEC would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Livestock grazing ⁵⁶ would be available.	Livestock grazing would be available. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.	Livestock grazing would be available.

⁵³ The ACEC is overlain by a WSA, and the WSA management is in effect until such time as Congress acts on the WSA. The Final EIS clarifies this. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁵⁴ The Draft EIS stated "closed" because the ACEC is overlain by a WSA, which is closed to fluid mineral leasing, and the WSA management is in effect until such time as Congress acts on the WSA. The underlying ACEC management is open to fluid mineral leasing with a CSU stipulation. The Final EIS clarifies this. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁵⁵ The Draft EIS stated "livestock grazing would be allowed within the ACEC." This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁵⁶ The Draft EIS stated "livestock grazing would be allowed within the ACEC." This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Item/Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Locatable Minerals	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.
Salable Minerals ⁵⁷	The Cabezon WSA is closed to salable mineral extraction. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be open to extraction of salable minerals ⁵⁸ .	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The Cabezon WSA is closed to salable mineral extraction. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be open to extraction of salable minerals.
Scenic Resources and VRM ⁵⁹	The Cabezon WSA is managed as VRM I. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be managed as VRM II. ⁶⁰	The Cabezon WSA is managed as VRM I. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be managed as VRM II.	The Cabezon WSA is managed as VRM I. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be managed as VRM II.	The Cabezon WSA is managed as VRM I. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be managed as VRM II.	The Cabezon WSA is managed as VRM I. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be managed as VRM II.

⁵⁷ The ACEC is overlain by a WSA, and the WSA management is in effect until such time as Congress acts on the WSA. The Final EIS clarifies this. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁵⁸ The Draft EIS stated that “extraction of salable minerals would be avoided.” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are open or closed to salable mineral extraction. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁵⁹ The ACEC is overlain by a WSA, and the WSA management is in effect until such time as Congress acts on the WSA. The Final EIS clarifies this. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁶⁰ The Draft EIS stated “protect visual values.” This was changed in the Final EIS to explicitly state the VRM Class applicable to this area. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Item/Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Travel	The Cabezon WSA is closed to motorized and mechanized travel. If Congress released the WSA, control visitor use. Manage semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural recreational opportunities. Prevent motorized vehicle use in semi-primitive nonmotorized portion.	The Cabezon WSA is closed to motorized and mechanized travel. If Congress released the WSA, the BLM would close the cherry-stem route that provides access to the Cabezon Peak trailhead. No maintenance would be allowed on this route. Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	The Cabezon WSA is closed to motorized and mechanized travel. If Congress released the WSA, the cherry-stem route that provides access to the Cabezon Peak trailhead would be open to motorized travel but limited to authorized use.	The Cabezon WSA is closed to motorized and mechanized travel. If Congress released the WSA, the cherry-stem route that provides access to the Cabezon Peak trailhead would be open to motorized travel but limited to authorized use. No maintenance would be allowed on this route. Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	The Cabezon WSA is closed to motorized and mechanized travel. If Congress released the WSA, access route to the trailhead would remain open to motorized travel, while the rest of the ACEC would be limited to authorized use only.
Wildlife and Special status Species	Protect raptor habitat and rare cactus species. Prevent surface disturbance.	The BLM would implement prairie dog stipulation as described in the Special status Species section. The BLM would protect raptor habitat and rare cactus species.	The BLM would implement prairie dog stipulation as described in the Special status Species section. The BLM would protect raptor habitat and rare cactus species	The BLM would implement prairie dog stipulation as described in the Special status Species section. The BLM would protect raptor habitat and rare cactus species	Protect raptor habitat and rare cactus species. Prevent surface disturbance.

Note: Alternative A management decisions are described in more detail in the Cabezon Peak ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1987a).

1560

- 1561 *Cañon Jarido ACEC*
1562 The 1986 RMP established Cañon Jarido as an SMA. In Alternatives B, C, and D, the BLM would designate
1563 the area as an ACEC.
- 1564 Goals
1565 Wildlife and Riparian
1566
 - Manage ACEC for deer/elk winter range habitat and riparian area restoration and enhancement.
- 1567 Cultural Resources
1568
 - Promote stewardship, conservation, scientific research, protection, and appreciation of traditionally
1569 and scientifically significant Ancestral Pueblo and Navajo archaeological sites.
- 1570 Scenic Values
1571
 - Manage Cañon Jarido ACEC as VRM Class II.
- 1572 Objectives
1573 Wildlife and Riparian
1574
 - Conduct habitat improvement projects for the protection and enhancement of crucial wintering
1575 habitat for deer/elk winter range such as forest treatments and rainfall water catchments. Prevent
1576 establishment of new roads and decommission roads where possible.
 - Maintain Cañon Jarido and Kinaird Arroyo riparian areas at the PFC level and strive to meet an
1577 advanced ecological status, as defined in BLM Manual 1737.
1578
- 1579 Cultural Resources
1580
 - Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for appropriate scientific research
1581 involving cultural resources.
 - Maintain and improve educational opportunities and public outreach programs.
 - Coordinate with affiliated tribes regarding implementation of decisions from this plan and existing
1583 or revised site-specific plans.
1584
- 1585 Scenic Values
1586
 - Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
1587 should be low.
 - Ensure that management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual
1588 observer.
 - Ensure that any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the
1589 predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
1590
1591
- 1592 Alternatives
1593 **Table 2-21** shows Cañon Jarido ACEC management by alternative.

1594

Table 2-21: Cañon Jarido ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (<i>Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred</i>)	Alternative D	Alternative E (<i>Proposed RMP</i>)
Acres	0	6,100	6,100	1,800	0
Geographic Description	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would designate Cañon Jarido as an ACEC and would expand the ACEC to include Mesa Portales.	The BLM would designate Cañon Jarido as an ACEC and would expand the ACEC to include Mesa Portales.	The BLM would designate Cañon Jarido as an ACEC. See Table 2-2 for management of Mesa Portales under Alternative D.	<i>Not managed as an ACEC</i>
Leasable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC; however, the area is managed as open to fluid minerals leasing with timing limitation (TL) and CSU stipulations.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	<i>Not managed as an ACEC.</i>
Livestock Grazing	Not managed as an ACEC	Livestock grazing would be unavailable within the ACEC.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.	<i>Not managed as an ACEC</i>
Salable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	Extraction of salable minerals would be open for noncommercial uses.	Extraction of salable minerals would be open for noncommercial uses.	<i>Not managed as an ACEC</i>
Scenic and VRM	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	<i>Not managed as an ACEC</i>
Travel	Not managed as an ACEC	Motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. The BLM would prioritize areas for travel management to designate routes to minimize conflict with sites, with no motorized travel in riparian areas, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. The BLM would prioritize areas for travel management to designate routes to minimize conflict with sites, with no motorized travel in riparian areas, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. The BLM would prioritize areas for travel management to designate routes to minimize conflict with sites, with no motorized travel in riparian areas, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	<i>Not managed as an ACEC</i>

1595

1596 *Cañon Tapia ACEC*

1597 As described in the Cañon Tapia ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1987b), the ACEC is 600 acres. The area was
1598 designated as an ACEC based on cultural and natural resources.

1599 Goal

- 1600 • Promote stewardship, conservation, protection and appreciation of traditionally and scientifically
1601 significant cultural resources.

1602 Objectives

- 1603 • Improve access and management through consolidation of public ownership.
1604 • Maintain and improve educational opportunities and public outreach programs.
1605 • Maximize opportunities for cooperation with tribal governments for managing cultural resources
1606 and public education, and regarding implementation of decisions from this plan and existing or
1607 revised site-specific plans.
1608 • Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for appropriate scientific research
1609 involving cultural resources.

1610 Alternatives

1611 **Table 2-22** shows Cañon Tapia ACEC management by alternative.

1612 *Cerro Verde ACEC*

1613 The Cerro Verde ACEC is a new ACEC that BLM is proposing under Alternatives B and C.

1614 Goals

1615 Geologic Resources

- 1616 • Protect geologic resources (including a unique shield volcano with associated basalt flows) from
1617 human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses and resource
1618 development.

1619 Scenic Values

- 1620 • Manage Cerro Verde ACEC as VRM Class II.

1621 Wildlife

- 1622 • Manage ACEC for the protection of pronghorn antelope population.

1623 Objectives

1624 Geologic Resources

- 1625 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicles, and
1626 livestock grazing.

1627 Scenic Values

- 1628 • Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
1629 should be low.
1630 • Ensure that management activities may be seen but not attract the attention of the casual observer.
1631 • Ensure that any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the
1632 predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

1633

Table 2-22: Cañon Tapia ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	600	600	600	0	0
Cultural Resources	Complete cultural resource inventory and evaluation. Promote public awareness.	The BLM would promote public awareness of cultural values.	The BLM would promote public awareness of cultural values.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Geographic Description	The ACEC contains both public and private lands (BLM 1987b).	The BLM would maintain Cañon Tapia as an ACEC (600 acres).	The BLM would maintain Cañon Tapia as an ACEC (600 acres).	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Land Tenure	Consolidate federal ownership and public access.	Consolidate federal ownership and public access.	Consolidate federal ownership and public access.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Leasable Minerals	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Lands within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing ⁶¹ .	Lands within the ACEC would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Lands within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Locatable Minerals	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	Extraction of salable minerals would be open but avoided in the ACEC.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Travel	Manage according to semi-primitive, nonmotorized recreation objectives. Control and monitor visitor use.	Motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

1634 Note: Under Alternatives D and E, the BLM would remove the ACEC designation and would manage Cañon Tapia as part of the Ancestral Way zone within the Boca del Oso
1635 ERMA (Section 2.2.12.4.4.3).

⁶¹ The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing . . .” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

1636 Wildlife

- 1637 • Conduct habitat improvement projects for the protection and enhancement of pronghorn antelope habitat.
- 1638
- 1639 • Continue to maintain existing rainfall catchments designed for wildlife.
- 1640 • Modify fences for pronghorn antelope passage (smooth bottom wire 18 inches above ground level).
- 1641 • Prevent establishment of new roads and decommission roads where possible.

1642 Alternatives

1643 **Table 2-23** shows Cerro Verde ACEC management by alternative.

1644 *Elk Springs ACEC and Juana Lopez Research Natural Area*⁶²

1645 The Juana Lopez RNA is located within the boundary of the Elk Springs ACEC and has its own management prescriptions. The following planning components apply only to the Elk Springs ACEC (outside of the Juana Lopez RNA).

1648 Goals

1649 Geologic Resources

- 1650 • Protect geologic resources, especially the Juana Lopez Member of the Mancos Shale stratigraphic reference section locality, from human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses and resource development.
- 1651
- 1652

1653 Scenic Values

- 1654 • Manage Elk Springs ACEC as VRM Class II.

1655 Wildlife

- 1656 • Provide quality winter range for the Jemez elk and deer herds with optimal cover and forage, thus alleviating big game depredations on adjacent private lands.
- 1657

1658 Objectives

1659 Geologic Resources

- 1660 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicles, and livestock grazing.
- 1661

1662 Scenic Values

- 1663 • Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.
- 1664
- 1665 • Ensure that management activities may be seen but not attract the attention of the casual observer.
- 1666 • Ensure that any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
- 1667

1668 Wildlife

- 1669 • Improve vegetation condition ratings for composition, density, and vigor, utilizing prescribed fire, mechanical treatments, herbicides, and erosion control measures.
- 1670
- 1671 • Assess habitat for and treat noxious weeds.
- 1672 • Coordinate with adjacent private landowners on habitat improvements.
- 1673 • Continue maintenance of existing and development of new rain catchment wildlife drinkers.

1674 Alternatives

1675 **Table 2-24** shows Elk Springs ACEC and Juana Lopez RNA management by alternative.

⁶² Differentiation/inclusion of the Juana Lopez RNA was added since the Draft EIS to clarify that this area is included within the Elk Springs ACEC and to more explicitly outline management applicable to the RNA. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

1676

Table 2-23: Cerro Verde ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	0	4,600	4,600	0	0
Geographic Description	Not managed as an ACEC	The Cerro Verde area, within the Petaca Pinta ERMA, between the Volcano Hill and Cimarron Mesa lands with Wilderness characteristics would be designated as an ACEC.	The Cerro Verde area, within the Petaca Pinta ERMA, between the Volcano Hill and Cimarron Mesa lands with Wilderness characteristics would be designated as an ACEC.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Leasable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Not managed as an ACEC	Lands within the ACEC would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Lands within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Locatable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	Extraction of salable minerals would be open for noncommercial uses.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Scenic Resources and VRM	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Travel	Not managed as an ACEC	Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

1677

1678

Table 2-24: Elk Springs ACEC and Juana Lopez Research Natural Area Management Decisions by Alternative⁶³

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 0	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 40	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 40	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 40	ACEC: 8,600 RNA: 40
Geographic Description	ACEC: 8,600 acres RNA: 0 acres	ACEC: The ACEC would be expanded to include acquisitions of previously non-public lands and the overlapping Legacy Uranium Mine ACEC would be removed, resulting in the same acreage as Alternative A. RNA: 40 acres	ACEC: The ACEC would be expanded to include acquisitions of previously non-public lands and the overlapping Legacy Uranium Mine ACEC would be removed, resulting in the same acreage as Alternative A. RNA: 40 acres	ACEC: The ACEC would be expanded to include acquisitions of previously non-public lands and the overlapping Legacy Uranium Mine ACEC would be removed, resulting in the same acreage as Alternative A. RNA: 40 acres	ACEC: The ACEC would be expanded to include acquisitions of previously non-public lands and the overlapping Legacy Uranium Mine ACEC would be removed, resulting in the same acreage as Alternative A. RNA: 40 acres
Geologic Resources	ACEC: No specific geologic resources management is included in current RMP. RNA: Manage the Juana Lopez as an RNA.	ACEC: No similar management. RNA: The BLM would maintain the Juana Lopez RNA.	ACEC: No similar management. RNA: The BLM would maintain the Juana Lopez RNA.	ACEC: No similar management. RNA: The BLM would maintain the Juana Lopez RNA.	ACEC: No similar management. RNA: The BLM would maintain the Juana Lopez RNA.
Land Tenure	ACEC and RNA: The BLM would consolidate federal ownership of lands located within ACEC and RNA.	ACEC and RNA: The BLM would consolidate federal ownership of lands located within ACEC and RNA.	ACEC and RNA: The BLM would consolidate federal ownership of lands located within ACEC and RNA.	ACEC and RNA: The BLM would consolidate federal ownership of lands located within ACEC and RNA.	ACEC and RNA: The BLM would consolidate federal ownership of lands located within ACEC and RNA.

⁶³ Differentiation/inclusion of the Juana Lopez RNA was added since the Draft EIS to clarify that this area is included within the Elk Springs ACEC and to more explicitly outline management applicable to the RNA. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Leasable Minerals	ACEC: Fluid minerals in the ACEC would be leased with a timing limit stipulation between December and May. RNA: Fluid minerals in the Juana Lopez RNA would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	ACEC and RNA: Closed to fluid mineral leasing	ACEC and RNA: Closed to fluid mineral leasing	ACEC and RNA: Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation	ACEC and RNA: Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation
Livestock Grazing	ACEC and RNA: Lands would be available for livestock grazing. ⁶⁴	ACEC and RNA: Lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	ACEC and RNA: Lands would be available for livestock grazing.	ACEC: Lands would be available for livestock grazing. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use. RNA: The BLM would include the Juana Lopez RNA in the adjacent livestock grazing allotment.	ACEC and RNA: Lands would be available for livestock grazing.
Locatable Minerals	ACEC: Open to locatable mineral entry RNA: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry	ACEC and RNA: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry	ACEC and RNA: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry	ACEC: Open to locatable mineral entry RNA: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry	ACEC: Open to locatable mineral entry RNA: Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry
Salable Minerals	ACEC and RNA: Closed to extraction of salable minerals	ACEC and RNA: Closed to extraction of salable minerals	ACEC and RNA: Closed to extraction of salable minerals.	ACEC and RNA: Closed to extraction of salable minerals	ACEC and RNA: Closed to extraction of salable minerals
Scenic Resources and VRM	ACEC and RNA: VRM II	ACEC and RNA: VRM II	ACEC and RNA: VRM II	ACEC and RNA: VRM II	ACEC and RNA: VRM II

⁶⁴ The Draft EIS stated “Implement existing Allotment management Plans on the Los Pinos Arroyo and Coal Creek Allotments.” This was changed in the Final EIS to clarify whether the area is currently managed as available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Travel	ACEC and RNA: Limit motorized vehicle use to existing primitive roads and trails. Close to motorized vehicle use from approximately December to May depending on weather and wildlife conditions.	ACEC and RNA: Motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. Close to motorized vehicle use from approximately December to May depending on weather and wildlife conditions.	ACEC and RNA: Motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. Close to motorized vehicle use from approximately December to May depending on weather and wildlife conditions.	ACEC and RNA: Motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. Close to motorized vehicle use from approximately December to May depending on weather and wildlife conditions.	ACEC and RNA: Motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. Close to motorized vehicle use from approximately December to May depending on weather and wildlife conditions.
Wildlife, Vegetation, and Riparian Resources	<p>ACEC and RNA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow no surface disturbance from November 16 to May 14 (fluid minerals and all other activities) to protect and reduce stress to wintering big game. Ensure adequate forage allocation for wildlife on all adjacent BLM lands and coordinate population needs with the Forest Service. Develop an area specific Habitat Management Plan or include an area specific subsection in the Upper Rio Puerco Habitat Management Plan. Work in cooperation with the NMDGF in 	ACEC and RNA: The BLM would designate as crucial winter range for elk and mule deer and provide quality winter range for the Jemez elk and deer herds by providing optimal coverage and forage.	ACEC and RNA: The BLM would designate as crucial winter range for elk and mule deer and provide quality winter range for the Jemez elk and deer herds by providing optimal coverage and forage.	ACEC and RNA: The BLM would designate as crucial winter range for elk and mule deer and provide quality winter range for the Jemez elk and deer herds by providing optimal coverage and forage.	ACEC and RNA: The BLM would designate as crucial winter range for elk and mule deer and provide quality winter range for the Jemez elk and deer herds by providing optimal coverage and forage.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
	<p>planning management activities for the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing wildlife water developments and develop new water sources in critical areas. • Increase quality and quantity of key forage species through maintenance of existing seeding and chaining projects and through burning, cutting, thinning, and herbicide treatments of sagebrush and piñon-juniper trees in new areas. • Determine areas where erosion control structures can be placed to control loss of habitat due to gully and sheet erosion. • Develop a watershed protection plan for the area. 				

1679 Note: Management decisions under Alternative A (No Action) are described in more detail in the Elk Springs ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1991).

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

1680 *Espinazo Ridge ACEC (formerly known as Ball Ranch ACEC)*
1681 As described in the Ball Ranch ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1987c), the ACEC is 1,500 acres. The area was
1682 designated as an ACEC based on natural and paleontological resources.

1683 Goals

1684 Special Status Species and Riparian Resources

- 1685 • Manage the ACEC for riparian restoration and enhancement and for the protection of rare plant
1686 populations.

1687 Geologic and Paleontological Resources

- 1688 • Facilitate the scientific study and documentation of paleontological resources in the Espinazo Ridge
1689 ACEC.
1690 • Protect geologic and paleontological resources from human- and natural-caused deterioration or
1691 potential conflict with other resource uses and resource development.

1692 Scenic Values

- 1693 • Manage Espinazo Ridge ACEC as VRM Class II.

1694 Cultural Resources

- 1695 • Promote stewardship, conservation, protection, and appreciation of cultural resources consistent with
1696 the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Site Protection Act.

1697 Objectives

1698 Special Status Species and Riparian Resources

- 1699 • Conduct riparian functional assessment, determine appropriate management prescriptions for
1700 managing to PFC, and strive toward meeting an advanced ecological status for the benefit of wildlife
1701 species.
1702 • Conduct rare plant surveys and manage livestock grazing to protect rare plant species.
1703 • Collaborate with the Seeds of Success program to conserve rare plant populations.

1704 Geologic and Paleontological Resources

- 1705 • Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for scientific research of paleontological
1706 resources.
1707 • Maintain and enhance educational opportunities and public outreach programs.
1708 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicles, and
1709 livestock grazing.
1710 • Protect paleontological resources by closing the area to casual collection of paleontological resources.

1711 Scenic Values

- 1712 • Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
1713 should be low.
1714 • Ensure that management activities may be seen but not attract the attention of the casual observer.
1715 • Ensure that any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the
1716 predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

1717 Cultural Resources

- 1718 • Improve management through consolidation of public ownership.
1719 • Maintain and improve educational opportunities and public outreach programs.
1720 • Maximize opportunities for cooperation with tribal governments for managing cultural resources and
1721 public education and for implementation of decisions from this plan and existing or revised site-specific
1722 plans. Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for appropriate scientific research
1723 involving cultural resources.

1724 Alternatives

1725 **Table 2-25** shows Espinazo Ridge ACEC management by alternative.

1726

Table 2-25: Espinazo Ridge ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	1,500	7,200	7,200	1,500	1,500
Geographic Description	The ACEC is approximately 1,500 acres, all of which is BLM administered.	The BLM would expand the Espinazo Ridge ACEC to include 12 sections and would include cultural values in the designation (7,200 acres).	The BLM would expand the Espinazo Ridge ACEC to include 12 sections and would include cultural values in the designation (7,200 acres).	The BLM would not expand the Espinazo Ridge ACEC (1,500 acres).	The BLM would not expand the Espinazo Ridge ACEC (1,500 acres).
Leasable Minerals	The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation, except for the Espinazo Ridge Pueblo, which would be leased with a NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation throughout the ACEC.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation throughout the ACEC.
Livestock Grazing	Lands within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.	Lands within the ACEC would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC, except grazing would be excluded from Espinazo Ridge Pueblo, if acquired.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.	Lands within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.
Locatable Minerals	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry. The Espinazo Ridge Pueblo would be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry, if acquired. The BLM would open the rest of the ACEC to locatable	The BLM would open the entire ACEC to locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
			mineral entry in certain locations.		
Salable Minerals	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be open to extraction of salable minerals, except for the Espinazo Ridge Pueblo, which would be closed.	The ACEC would be open to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.
Scenic Resources and VRM	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.
Travel	Control visitor use of the ACEC.	Motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. The BLM would maintain controlled access, as designated through the approval of the TMP. These existing gates into the area would remain locked with access available from the BLM RPFO.*	Motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. The BLM would maintain controlled access, as designated through the approval of the TMP. These existing gates into the area would remain locked with access available from the BLM RPFO.*	Motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails. The BLM would maintain controlled access, as designated through the approval of the TMP. These existing gates into the area would remain locked with access available from the BLM RPFO.*	Motorized travel would be limited to designated primitive roads and trails. The BLM would maintain controlled access, as designated through the approval of the TMP. These existing gates into the area would remain locked with access available from the BLM RPFO.*

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Wildlife, Special status Species and Riparian Resources	Establish monitoring studies for rare and endemic plants in the ACEC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BLM would prioritize rare plant survey and monitoring, and work with agency partners to implement population augmentation projects, if appropriate. The BLM would modify authorized surface-disturbing activities to minimize or eliminate impacts on known locations of special status plants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BLM would prioritize rare plant survey and monitoring, and work with agency partners to implement population augmentation projects, if appropriate. The BLM would modify grazing prescriptions and surface-disturbing activities to minimize or eliminate impacts on known locations of special status plants. The BLM would design placement of water developments and salt and mineral supplements for livestock at least 152 meters (500 feet) away from known locations of special status plants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BLM would prioritize rare plant survey and monitoring. The BLM would design placement of water developments and salt and mineral supplements for livestock at least 91 meters (300 feet) away from known locations of special status plants. The BLM would consider the concentration of browsing/grazing animals on known locations of special status plants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BLM would prioritize rare plant survey and monitoring. The BLM would modify grazing prescriptions and surface-disturbing activities to minimize or eliminate impacts on known locations of special status plants. The BLM would design placement of water developments and salt and mineral supplements for livestock at least 300 feet away from known locations of special status plants. The BLM would consider the concentration of browsing/grazing animals on known locations of special status plants.

Note: The Espinazo Ridge ACEC was formerly known as Ball Ranch ACEC. Additional description of the management decisions under Alternative A (No Action) are described in the Ball Ranch ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1987c).

*Implementation decision.

1727
1728
1729

1730 *Guadalupe Ruin and Community ACEC*

1731 The 1986 RMP established the Guadalupe Ruin as an SMA. In Alternatives B, C, and D, the BLM would
1732 designate the Guadalupe Ruin and Community area (400 acres) as an ACEC and would manage it under the
1733 cultural resource scientific and cultural goal category.

1734 Goals

1735 Cultural Resources

- 1736 • Promote stewardship, conservation, protection, and appreciation of significant Chacoan and other
1737 Ancestral Pueblo archaeological sites.

1738 Scenic Values

- 1739 • Manage Guadalupe Ruin and Community ACEC as VRM Class II.

1740 Objectives

1741 Cultural Resources

- 1742 • Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for appropriate scientific research
1743 involving cultural resources.
1744 • Maintain and improve educational opportunities and public outreach programs.
1745 • Maintain and improve opportunities for public interpretation of appropriate sites.
1746 • Maximize opportunities for cooperation with tribal governments for managing cultural resources
1747 and public education and for implementation of decisions from this plan and existing or revised site-
1748 specific plans.

1749 Scenic Values

- 1750 • Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
1751 should be low.
1752 • Ensure that management activities may be seen but not attract the attention of the casual observer.
1753 • Ensure that any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the
1754 predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

1755 Alternatives

1756 **Table 2-26** shows Guadalupe Ruin and Community ACEC management by alternative.

1757

Table 2-26: Guadalupe Ruin and Community ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	0	400	400	400	0
Cultural Resources	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would allocate only Guadalupe Ruin for interpretation and public visitation (any additional sites would not be allocated or developed for public use and interpretation).	The BLM would allocate three additional sites for interpretation and public visitation. Sites selected for public visitation would meet the following criteria: (1) Low resource vulnerability to effects from heritage tourism. (2) Potential for site protection through physical, administrative, or other means of mitigation or "site hardening." (3) Community or public support and interest. (4) Partnership opportunities.	The BLM would allocate six additional sites for interpretation and public visitation. Sites selected for public visitation would meet the following criteria: (1) Community or public support and interest. (2) Partnership opportunities.	Not managed as an ACEC
Geographic Description	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would designate Guadalupe Ruin and Community as an ACEC.	The BLM would designate Guadalupe Ruin and Community as an ACEC.	The BLM would designate Guadalupe Ruin and Community as an ACEC.	Not managed as an ACEC
Leasable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Not managed as an ACEC	Lands within the ACEC would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.	Not managed as an ACEC

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Locatable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	Not managed as an ACEC
Scenic Resources and VRM	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	Not managed as an ACEC
Travel	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would close the 40-acre fenced area to motored vehicle use except for authorized use. Motorized vehicle use would be limited to designated primitive roads and trails in the remainder of the area.	The BLM would close the 40-acre fenced area to motored vehicle use except for authorized use. Motorized vehicle use would be limited to designated primitive roads and trails in the remainder of the area.	The BLM would close the 40-acre fenced area to motored vehicle use except for authorized use. Motorized vehicle use would be limited to designated primitive roads and trails in the remainder of the area.	Not managed as an ACEC

1758

1759 *Ignacio Chavez ACEC*

1760 The Ignacio Chavez area was designated as an SMA (43,182 acres) and a WSA (32,200 acres) in the Rio
1761 Puerco RMP (BLM 1986a). In Alternatives B and C, the BLM would designate this area as an ACEC (42,700
1762 acres) and would manage it for wildlife and scenic values.

1763 Goals

1764 Wildlife and Special Status Species

- 1765
- Manage the ACEC for the protection of multiple wildlife and special status species values.

1766 Scenic Values

- 1767
- Manage Ignacio Chavez ACEC as VRM Class II.

1768 Objectives

1769 Wildlife and Special Status Species

- 1770
- Conduct special status species surveys/monitoring for any sensitive animal species and four sensitive
1771 plant species.
 - Continue to conduct habitat improvement projects, including wildlife water development, a limiting
1772 factor in the Ignacio Chavez ACEC.
 - Due to resource conflicts between livestock grazing and wildlife habitat management, assessments
1773 of rangeland health should be conducted to determine the efficiency of livestock grazing operations
1774 and the possible need for changes to grazing prescriptions.

1777 Scenic Values

- 1778
- Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
1779 should be low.
 - Ensure that management activities may be seen but not attract the attention of the casual observer.
1780
 - Ensure that any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the
1781 predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
1782

1783 Alternatives

1784 **Table 2-27** shows Ignacio Chavez ACEC management by alternative.

1785

Table 2-27: Ignacio Chavez ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	0	42,700	42,700	0	0
Geographic Description	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would designate the ACEC boundary (32,200 acres).	The BLM would designate the ACEC boundary (32,200 acres).	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Leasable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Not managed as an ACEC	Livestock grazing would be unavailable within the ACEC.	Livestock grazing would be available within the ACEC.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Locatable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Scenic Resources and VRM	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Travel	Not managed as an ACEC	Travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, with motorized seasonal closures of BLM Road 1103: July 1 to September 15 and November 30 to April 15. Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use during closed periods. The BLM would allow mechanical use on all designated primitive roads within the ACEC year-round.	Travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, with motorized seasonal closures on BLM Road 1103: November 30 to April 15. Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use during closed periods. When BLM 1103 road maintenance is complete, the road would be open year-round. The BLM would allow mechanized travel on existing primitive roads year-round.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

1786

1787 *Jones Canyon ACEC*

1788 As described in the Jones Canyon ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1989), the ACEC is 400 acres. The area was
1789 designated as an ACEC based on cultural resources, scenic values, riparian habitat, and recreational use. The
1790 following are components of the Proposed Action as described in the EA for the Protection Plan.

1791 Goals

1792 Cultural Resources

- 1793 • Promote stewardship, conservation, protection, and appreciation of traditionally and scientifically
1794 significant Ancestral Pueblo and historic cultural resources.

1795 Scenic Values

- 1796 • Manage Jones Canyon ACEC as VRM Class II.

1797 Objectives

1798 Cultural Resources

- 1799 • Improve access and management through consolidation of public ownership.
1800 • Maintain and improve educational opportunities and public outreach programs.
1801 • Maximize opportunities for cooperation with tribal governments for managing cultural resources
1802 and public education and for implementation of decisions from this plan and existing or revised site-
1803 specific plans.
1804 • Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for appropriate scientific research
1805 involving cultural resources.

1806 Scenic Values

- 1807 • Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
1808 should be low.
1809 • Ensure that management activities may be seen but not attract the attention of the casual observer.
1810 • Ensure that any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the
1811 predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

1812 Alternatives

1813 **Table 2-28** shows Jones Canyon ACEC management by alternative.

1814 *Legacy Uranium Mines ACEC*

1815 The Legacy Uranium Mines ACEC is a new ACEC that the BLM is proposing under Alternatives B, C, [and](#)
1816 [D](#), [and](#) [E](#).

1817 Goals

- 1818 • Promote public health and safety by preventing disturbance of reclaimed Legacy Uranium Mines.
1819 • Protect environmental quality, specifically vegetative, soil, water, and air resources.

1820 Objectives

- 1821 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development and placement of ROWs.
1822 • Monitor the integrity of remedial actions.

1823 Alternatives

1824 **Table 2-29** shows Legacy Uranium Mines ACEC management by alternative.

Table 2-28: Jones Canyon ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	400	700	400	400	400
Geographic Description	The ACEC is 400 acres of BLM controlled surface.	The BLM would maintain the ACEC designation and expand the boundary ½ mile to the north.	The BLM would maintain the size of the ACEC designation at 400 acres.	The BLM would maintain the size of the ACEC designation at 400 acres.	The BLM would maintain the size of the ACEC designation at 400 acres.
Scenic Resources and VRM	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.
Cultural Resources	Complete cultural resource inventory and evaluation. Promote public awareness.	The BLM would promote public awareness.	The BLM would promote public awareness.	The BLM would promote public awareness.	The BLM would promote public awareness.
Land Tenure	Consolidate federal ownership and public access.	The BLM would consolidate federal ownership and public access.	The BLM would consolidate federal ownership and public access.	The BLM would consolidate federal ownership and public access.	The BLM would consolidate federal ownership and public access.
Travel	Manage according to semi-primitive, nonmotorized recreation objectives. Control visitor use.	Travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Travel would be limited to primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.
Livestock Grazing	Livestock grazing would be available.	Livestock grazing would be unavailable.	Livestock grazing would be available.	Livestock grazing would be available. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.	Livestock grazing would be available.
Leasable Minerals	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.
Salable Minerals	Extraction of salable minerals would be open.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	Extraction of salable minerals would be open for noncommercial use.	Extraction of salable minerals would be open for noncommercial use.	Extraction of salable minerals would be open for noncommercial use.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Locatable Minerals	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would open the ACEC to locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.

1826 Note: Management decisions for Alternative A (No Action) are described in more detail in the Jones Canyon ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1989).

INTERNAL DRAFT

1827

Table 2-29: Legacy Uranium Mines ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	0	50	50	50	50
Leasable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.
Livestock Grazing	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing ⁶⁵ .	The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.	The ACEC would be available for livestock grazing. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.
Locatable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.
ROWs	Not managed as an ACEC	ROWs would be avoided.	ROWs would be avoided.	ROWs would be avoided.	ROWs would be avoided.
Salable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.
Scenic Resources and VRM	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM IV. ⁶⁶	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM IV. ⁶⁷	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM IV. ⁶⁸	BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM IV.

⁶⁵ The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁶⁶ The Draft EIS stated “VRM would be managed to VRM of surrounding land.” This was changed in the Final EIS to clarify the VRM class currently applicable to the area. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁶⁷ The Draft EIS stated “VRM would be managed to VRM of surrounding land.” This was changed in the Final EIS to clarify the VRM class currently applicable to the area. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁶⁸ The Draft EIS stated “VRM would be managed to VRM of surrounding land.” This was changed in the Final EIS to clarify the VRM class currently applicable to the area. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Travel	Not managed as an ACEC	Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.

1828

INTERNAL DRAFT

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

1829 *Ojito ACEC*

1830 The ACEC is currently 13,700 acres (BLM 1987d). Because a portion of the Ojito WSA, which is within the
1831 Ojito ACEC, was designated as the Ojito Wilderness in 2005, the alternatives below include reducing the
1832 acreage of the Ojito ACEC to exclude the Wilderness area.

1833 Goals

1834 Geologic and Paleontological Resources

- 1835 • Protect the unique geologic and paleontological resources, including the Tierra Amarilla Anticline
1836 and sandstone tinajas, from human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource
1837 uses and resource development.
- 1838 • Promote awareness of geologic and paleontological resource values.

1839 Scenic Values

- 1840 • Manage Ojito ACEC as VRM Class II.

1841 Wildlife and Special Status Species

- 1842 • Manage the ACEC for the protection of raptor nesting habitat, pronghorn antelope, other wildlife
1843 and special status plant species.

1844 Cultural Resources

- 1845 • Promote stewardship of Ancestral Pueblo and historic cultural resources.

1846 Objectives

1847 Geologic and Paleontological Resources

- 1848 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicles, and
1849 livestock grazing.
- 1850 • Expand interpretation signs along trails.
- 1851 • Develop updated interpretational materials for public information, including brochures, websites,
1852 and other information.
- 1853 • Promote educational visits to the area.

1854 Scenic Values

- 1855 • Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
1856 should be low.
- 1857 • Ensure that management activities may be seen but not attract the attention of the casual observer.
- 1858 • Ensure that any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the
1859 predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

1860 Wildlife and Special Status Species

- 1861 • Conduct rare plant surveys (especially prior to new decisions), monitor population trends, and
1862 manage livestock grazing to protect rare plant species.
- 1863 • Survey and monitor bluffs and mesa edges for nesting raptors and protect and enhance suitable
1864 nesting habitat.
- 1865 • Manage suitable habitat for pronghorn antelope and use interdisciplinary planning to incorporate
1866 pronghorn antelope habitat objectives into livestock grazing prescriptions for joint management.
- 1867 • Collaborate with the Plant Conservation Program to conserve rare plant populations, by (but not
1868 limited to) collecting seed to use in restoration projects, and collect genetic material or seeds of at-
1869 risk populations of rare species in the event of population decline or disturbance.

1870 Cultural Resources

- 1871 • Maintain and improve educational opportunities and public outreach programs.
- 1872 • Coordinate with affiliated tribes regarding implementation of decisions from this plan and existing
- 1873 or revised site-specific plans.
- 1874 • Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for appropriate scientific research
- 1875 involving cultural resources.

1876 Alternatives

1877 **Table 2-30** shows Ojito ACEC management by alternative.

1878 *Petaca Pinta ACEC*

1879 The 1986 Rio Puerco RMP established the Petaca Pinta SMA (13,789 acres) and WSA (11,700 acres). Under
1880 Alternatives B, C, and D the BLM would designate the area as an ACEC (12,100 acres) and manage it for
1881 wildlife and scenic values.

1882 Goals

1883 Scenic Values

- 1884 • Manage Petaca Pinta ACEC as VRM Class II.

1885 Wildlife Resource Values

- 1886 • Manage the ACEC for wildlife resources values.
- 1887 • Manage piñon-juniper and sagebrush habitats for breeding birds.

1888 Objectives

1889 Scenic Values

- 1890 • Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape
- 1891 should be low.
- 1892 • Ensure that management activities may be seen but not attract the attention of the casual observer.
- 1893 • Ensure that any changes repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the
- 1894 predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

1895 Wildlife Resource Values

- 1896 • Establish wildlife water catchments for game and non-game species habitat enhancement.
- 1897 • Develop an activity plan for management of the ACEC.
- 1898 • Conduct surveys and monitoring of migratory bird species to determine the current level of use in
- 1899 Petaca Pinta ACEC habitats.
- 1900 • Carry out vegetation management treatments outside of the breeding season of birds occupying
- 1901 habitat within Petaca Pinta ACEC, unless nest searches have been conducted and have not identified
- 1902 any active nests within the treatment boundary.
- 1903 • Conduct surveys and monitoring before and after vegetation treatments and other management
- 1904 activities to determine the impact of such activities on bird and wildlife populations. Timing of
- 1905 monitoring would be determined based on a site-specific analysis.
- 1906 • Use adaptive management principles to adjust management techniques to meet the resource
- 1907 objectives of the ACEC.

1908 Alternatives

1909 **Table 2-31** shows Petaca Pinta ACEC management by alternative.

1910

Table 2-30: Ojito ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
ACEC Acres	13,700	13,700	3,900	0	0
Geographic Description	The ACEC is 13,700 acres.	The BLM would maintain the ACEC (13,700 acres) designation.	The BLM would change the ACEC boundary to exclude the Ojito Wilderness Area and WSA ⁶⁹ .	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Leasable Minerals	The ACEC would be open to fluid mineral leasing with TL and CSU stipulations, with the exception of Las Milpas Gas Storage Area, which is closed to fluid mineral leasing. ⁷⁰	Fluid minerals in the ACEC would be leased with a CSU stipulation, except for the Tierra Amarilla Anticline, which would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	Fluid minerals in the area would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Lands within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing. ⁷¹	Lands within the ACEC would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Lands within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

⁶⁹ "And WSA" was added since the Draft EIS to clarify management. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁷⁰ The Draft EIS stated "The Tierra Amarilla Anticline and Querencia Watershed Study Area would be closed to mineral leasing." This was changed in the Final EIS to be consistent with the 1992 RMP (BLM 1992) and to correct the misstatement in the Draft EIS. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁷¹ The Draft EIS stated "Implement existing Allotment Management Plans." This was changed in the Final EIS to clarify whether the area is currently managed as available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Locatable Minerals	The Querencia Watershed Study Area and Las Milpas Gas Storage Area would be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry. ⁷² The rest of the ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The area would be open to locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	The Querencia Watershed Study Area would be closed to extraction of salable minerals. The rest of the ACEC would be open to salable mineral extraction. ⁷³	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be open to extraction of salable minerals for noncommercial use.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Scenic Resources and VRM	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM II.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM I.	The BLM would manage the ACEC as VRM I.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Travel	Control visitor use. Close the Querencia Watershed Study Area and the Las Milpas pipeline and well areas to all but authorized users.	Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	Motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

⁷² The Draft EIS stated “The Tierra Amarilla Anticline and Querencia Watershed Study Area would be recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.” This was changed in the Final EIS to be consistent with the 1992 RMP (BLM 1992) and to correct the misstatement in the Draft EIS. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁷³ The Draft EIS stated “The Tierra Amarilla Anticline and Querencia Watershed Study Area would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.” This was changed in the Final EIS to be consistent with the 1992 RMP (BLM 1992) and to correct the misstatement in the Draft EIS. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Wildlife, Special status Species, Vegetation and Riparian Resources	Protect rare cactus species. Implement the Upper Rio Puerco Habitat Management Plan.	The BLM would implement raptor stipulations, prioritize rare plant surveys, and follow the Protection Plan for Ojito (BLM 1987d) to manage wildlife and special status species.	The BLM would implement raptor stipulations, prioritize rare plant surveys, and follow the Protection Plan for Ojito (BLM 1987d) to manage wildlife and special status species.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

1911 Note: Alternative A (No Action) management decisions are described in more detail in the Protection Plan for Ojito, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (BLM 1987d).

1912 **Table 2-31: Petaca Pinta ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative**

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	0	12,100	12,100	12,100	0
Leasable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Not managed as an ACEC	Lands within the ACEC would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Lands within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing ⁷⁴ .	Lands within the ACEC would be available for livestock grazing. Any suspended AUMs would be reinstated to active use.	Not managed as an ACEC
Locatable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	The ACEC would be closed to extraction of salable minerals.	Not managed as an ACEC

⁷⁴ The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing . . .” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Scenic Resources and VRM ⁷⁵	Not managed as an ACEC	The Petaca Pinta WSA is managed as VRM I. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be managed as VRM II.	The Petaca Pinta WSA is managed as VRM I. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be managed as VRM II.	The Petaca Pinta WSA is managed as VRM I. If Congress released the WSA, the ACEC would be managed as VRM II.	Not managed as an ACEC
Travel ⁷⁶	Not managed as an ACEC	The Petaca Pinta WSA is closed to motorized and mechanized travel. If Congress released the WSA, motorized travel would be limited to existing roads and trails.	The Petaca Pinta WSA is closed to motorized and mechanized travel. If Congress released the WSA, motorized travel would be limited to existing roads and trails.	The Petaca Pinta WSA is closed to motorized and mechanized travel. If Congress released the WSA, motorized travel would be limited to existing roads and trails.	Not managed as an ACEC

1913

⁷⁵ The ACEC is overlain by a WSA, and the WSA management is in effect until such time as Congress acts on the WSA. The Final EIS clarifies this. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁷⁶ The ACEC is overlain by a WSA, and the WSA management is in effect until such time as Congress acts on the WSA. The Final EIS clarifies this. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

1914 *Pronoun Cave Complex ACEC*

1915 The Pronoun Cave ACEC is an existing ACEC of 1,100 acres. The area was designated as an ACEC based
1916 on natural and geological resources.

1917 Goals

1918 Geologic and Paleontological Resources

- 1919 • Protect geologic and paleontological resources from human-caused deterioration or potential
1920 conflict with other resource uses and resource development.
- 1921 • Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of cave resources.
- 1922 • Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of paleontological resources.

1923 Wildlife Resources

- 1924 • Manage the cave complex for the protection of hibernating or roosting bat species.

1925 Objectives

1926 Geologic and Paleontological Resources

- 1927 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicles, and
1928 livestock grazing.
- 1929 • Foster partnership with local universities for geologic and cave studies.
- 1930 • Develop partnerships with local organized caving groups.
- 1931 • Identify management prescriptions for specific caves.
- 1932 • Maintain partnership with New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science for research and
1933 curation of paleontological specimens.
- 1934 • Identify management prescriptions for specific caves.

1935 Wildlife Resources

- 1936 • Survey for hibernating and roosting bats and control access of recreational cavers and researchers
1937 to prevent human-assisted spread of the fungal agent causing white-nose syndrome and manage the
1938 bats consistent with BLM policy.

1939 Alternatives

1940 **Table 2-32** shows Pronoun Cave Complex ACEC management by alternative.

1941

Table 2-32: Pronoun Cave Complex ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	1,100	1,300	1,100	0	0
Geographic Description	Designated as SMA and ACEC in the 1986 RMP, but it is no longer managed as such because this type of designation no longer applies	The BLM would expand the ACEC to include updated inventory of cave resources.	The BLM would maintain the ACEC designation with no expansion.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Leasable Minerals	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Fluid minerals in the ACEC would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Fluid minerals in the ACEC would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Lands would be available for livestock grazing.	Lands would be available for livestock grazing.	Lands would be available for livestock grazing ⁷⁷ .	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Locatable Minerals	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	The ACEC would be open to salable mineral extraction.	The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral extraction.	The ACEC would be open to noncommercial salable mineral extraction.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Travel	Motorized vehicle use would be limited to existing roads and trails.	The ACEC would be closed to all travel except for authorized use.	Motorized travel would be limited to designated primitive roads and trails.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Wildlife and Geologic Resources	There are no restrictions to cave access.	Caves would be closed to recreation for protection of bat species.	Caves would be closed to recreation during winter hibernation period (October 1–April 30) for protection of bat species.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

1942

⁷⁷ The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing. . .” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

1943 *San Luis Mesa Raptor Area ACEC*

1944 As described in the San Luis Mesa Raptor ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1987e), the ACEC is 9,000 acres.
1945 The area was designated as an ACEC based on natural and cultural resources.

1946 Goals

1947 Geologic Resources

- 1948 • Protect geologic resources, including the exemplary exposure of Mancos Shale and Point Lookout
1949 Sandstone outcrops, from human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource
1950 uses and resource development.

1951 Wildlife Resources

- 1952 • Manage San Luis Mesa and surrounding prairie for raptor nesting and prey base habitat.

1953 Objectives

1954 Geologic Resources

- 1955 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicles, and
1956 livestock grazing.

1957 Wildlife Resources

- 1958 • Conduct regular nesting raptor surveys.
1959 • Apply spatial and temporal mitigation measures to projects involving noise and surface-disturbing
1960 impacts.
1961 • Protect raptor prey base populations within the ACEC and surrounding habitat (specifically prairie
1962 dog habitat).
1963 • Implement and coordinate with private landowners for public education and outreach efforts, to
1964 discourage prey base shooting and poisoning in the area.
1965 • Adopt recommendations outlined in Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines
1966 (Raptor Research Foundation, Inc. 1981) when issuing ROW permits for power lines within the
1967 ACEC.

1968 Alternatives

1969 **Table 2-33** shows San Luis Mesa Raptor Area ACEC management by alternative.

1970

Table 2-33: San Luis Mesa Raptor Area ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	9,000	9,000	9,000	0	0
Geographic Description	The ACEC is 9,000 acres (BLM 1987e).	The BLM would maintain the ACEC designation.	The BLM would maintain the ACEC designation.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Leasable Minerals	Fluid minerals would be leased with a TL stipulation from February 1 to July 1 and with an NSO stipulation in the Empedrado Watershed Study Area.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Lands would be available for livestock grazing.	Lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Lands would be available for livestock grazing ⁷⁸ .	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Locatable Minerals	Recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral extraction. ⁷⁹	The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral extraction.	The ACEC would open to noncommercial salable mineral extraction.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Travel	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

⁷⁸ The Draft EIS stated “livestock grazing” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁷⁹ The Draft EIS stated “Allow no surface disturbance in the Empedrado Watershed Study Area.” This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are open or closed to salable mineral extraction. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Wildlife Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate annually with the NMDGF to inventory, monitor, and document nest site locations and reproductive success. • Coordinate with the NMDGF and power industry biologists to inventory all power lines in the ACEC. • Provide non-game and waterfowl habitat for raptor prey around existing and future water impoundments. • Restrict human activities and surface disturbances around nest sites from February 1 to July 15. • Protect nests from harassment, vandalism, photographers, or illegal take. • Discourage land use practices and development that adversely alter or eliminate the character of hunting habitat or prey base. 	The BLM would implement prairie dog and raptor stipulations.	The BLM would implement prairie dog and raptor stipulations.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

1971

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

1972 *San Miguel Dome ACEC*

1973 There is currently no special designation for the San Miguel Dome area. Under Alternatives B and C, the
1974 BLM would designate the San Miguel Dome area as an ACEC (4,400 acres) managed for geologic values and
1975 biologic soil crusts. Under Alternatives ~~D and E~~, the BLM would not designate the San Miguel Dome area as
1976 an ACEC but would manage the area as part of the Boca del Oso ERMA ~~in Alternative D~~.

1977 Goals

1978 Geologic Resources

- 1979 • Protect the unique geologic resources of the San Miguel Dome, which include Cretaceous
1980 formations of the Mesa Verde Group representing a retreating ocean, from human-caused
1981 deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses and resource development.

1982 Biological Soil Crusts

- 1983 • Manage the ACEC for the protection of significant biological soil crust populations, in accordance
1984 with BLM Technical Reference 1730-2 Biological Soil Crusts: Ecology and Management (BLM 2001c).

1985 Objectives

1986 Geologic Resources

- 1987 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicles, and
1988 livestock grazing.

1989 Biological Soil Crusts

- 1990 • Discourage livestock use of the area by strategically placing water sources and mineral supplements
1991 away from San Miguel Dome.

1992 Alternatives

1993 **Table 2-34** shows San Miguel Dome ACEC management by alternative.

1994 *Torreón Fossil Fauna ACEC*

1995 As described in the Torreón Fossil Fauna ACEC Protection Plan (BLM 1993), the ACEC is 5,900 acres. The
1996 area was designated as an ACEC based on paleontological resources.

1997 Goals and Objectives

1998 Paleontological Resources

- 1999 • Protect the unique paleontological resources of the Torreón Fossil Fauna ACEC from human-caused
2000 deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses and resource development. These
2001 paleontological resources include early mammals from the Paleocene-aged Nacimiento formation,
2002 which is considered the type of locality for the Puercan and Torrejonian Land-Mammal ages.
2003 Torreón Fossil Fauna ACEC is the largest intact section of this resource in North America.

2004 Objectives

2005 Paleontological Resources

- 2006 • Limit surface and subsurface disturbance due to mineral development, motorized vehicles, and
2007 livestock grazing.
2008 • Maintain and enhance opportunities for scientific research on paleontological resources.

2009 Alternatives

2010 **Table 2-35** shows Torreón Fossil Fauna ACEC management by alternative.

Table 2-34: San Miguel Dome ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	0	4,400	4,400	0	0
Geographic Description	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would designate the San Miguel Dome area as an ACEC.	The BLM would designate the San Miguel Dome area as an ACEC.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Leasable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Livestock Grazing	Not managed as an ACEC	Lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Lands would be available for livestock grazing.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Locatable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Salable Minerals	Not managed as an ACEC	The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral extraction.	The ACEC would be open to noncommercial salable mineral extraction.	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC
Travel	Not managed as an ACEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP. Pedestrian access would be allowed only on designated hiking trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP. Pedestrian access would be allowed only on designated hiking trails. 	Not managed as an ACEC	Not managed as an ACEC

2013

Table 2-35: Torreon Fossil Fauna ACEC Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP/Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900
Leasable Minerals	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	The ACEC would be closed to fluid mineral leasing.	Fluid minerals would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.	Fluid minerals would be leased with a CSU stipulation.
Livestock Grazing	Lands would be available for livestock grazing.	Lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Lands would be available for livestock grazing ⁸⁰ .	Lands would be available for livestock grazing ⁸¹ , and any suspended AUMs would be reinstated.	Lands would be available for livestock grazing⁸².
Locatable Minerals	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The BLM would recommend the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The ACEC would be open to locatable mineral entry.
Paleontological Resources	The ACEC would be managed to protect the area for scientific study of the Torreon Fauna Type Locality.	No invertebrate fossil or casual petrified wood collection would be allowed.	No invertebrate fossil or casual petrified wood collection would be allowed.	Invertebrate fossil and petrified wood collections would be allowed.	The ACEC would be managed to protect the area for scientific study of the Torreon Fauna Type Locality.
Salable Minerals	The ACEC would be open to salable mineral extraction.	The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral extraction.	The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral extraction.	The ACEC would be open to salable mineral extraction.	The ACEC would be open to salable mineral extraction.

⁸⁰ The Draft EIS stated "livestock grazing . . ." This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁸¹ The Draft EIS stated "livestock grazing . . ." This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁸² ~~The Draft EIS stated "livestock grazing . . ." This was changed in the Final EIS to reflect BLM policy regarding accurate terminology for whether areas are available or unavailable to livestock grazing. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.~~

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Travel	Travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	The ACEC would be closed to motorized travel except for authorized use, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Travel would be limited to the single access route only, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Travel would be limited to the single access route only, as designated through the approval of the TMP.	Travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.

2014

INTERNAL DRAFT

2015 **2.2.16.2 Congressionally Designated Trails**2016 *Goals*

- 2017 • Manage trails for long-term recreational values and to enhance the public experience.
- 2018 • Reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflicts with
- 2019 other resource uses.

2020 *Objectives*

- 2021 • Interpret and develop sites associated with trails, as needed.
- 2022 • Maintain setting for trail segments as an aspect of integrity by utilizing viewshed management tools.
- 2023 • Maintain activity plans for trails segments and associated sites identified as high risk for adverse
- 2024 impacts.

2025 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

2026 Management of the CDNST would reference the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Comprehensive
 2027 Plan (Forest Service 2009). This plan requires the BLM to design land and RMPs to integrate all resource
 2028 management activities in a land use unit into a coordinated system. This system should reflect the interaction
 2029 of management activities in achieving long-range objectives and goals for public land management. See
 2030 sections III and IV in the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan.

2031 *Alternatives*

2032 Management decisions associated with the CDNST are listed in **Table 2-36**. The width of the CDNST
 2033 corridor varies across alternatives and depends on whether the corridor is for an area where the trail route
 2034 has been identified. See **Appendix S, Maps 2-75-59 and through 2-60-79**, for the locations of existing and
 2035 potential CDNST routes. For some resource uses, management decisions do not vary across alternatives,
 2036 but the size of the area in which the management decisions apply varies.

2037 **2.2.16.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers**2038 *Goal*

- 2039 • Develop interim management restrictions to protect the quality of wild, scenic, and recreational
 2040 values of waterways eligible or suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.

2041 *Objectives*

- 2042 • Maintain the existing condition of the river eligible (Alternative A) or suitable (Alternatives B, or C,
 2043 or E) for inclusion in the NWSRS.
- 2044 • Provide a basis for Congress to determine whether the eligible or suitable waterway should be
 2045 included in the NWSRS.

2046 *Alternatives*

2047 **Table 2-37** shows WSR management of Bluewater Creek by alternative. Refer to **Appendix S, Map**
 2048 **2-80-61**, and **Appendix N**, Rio Puerco Field Office Final Eligibility/Suitability Report for Wild and Scenic
 2049 Rivers.

2050

Table 2-36: CDNST Management Decisions by Alternative

Item	Alternative A (No Action) (Appendix S, Map 2-7559)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Map 2-7660)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Map 2-7759)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Map 2-7859)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) ⁸² (Appendix S, Map 2-779)
Acres	11,500 14,400	38,200 34,400	23,200 14,400	11,500 14,400	14,400
Corridor Width—Existing Route	1,000 feet from trail (2,000 foot wide corridor)	0.5 mile from trail (1 mile wide corridor)	1,000 feet from trail (2,000 foot wide corridor)	1,000 feet from trail (2,000 foot wide corridor)	1,000 feet from trail (2,000-foot wide corridor)
Corridor Width—Areas without identified route	No corridor width specified	0.5 mile from trail (1 mile wide corridor)	0.5 mile from trail (1 mile wide corridor)	No corridor width specified	No corridor width specified
Forest Product Removal	The trail corridor is open to forest product removal.	The trail corridor would be closed to forest product removal.	The trail corridor would be open to forest product removal.	The trail corridor would be open to forest product removal.	The trail corridor would be open to forest product removal.
Leasable Minerals	Fluid minerals within the trail corridor are leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals within the trail corridor would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals within the trail corridor would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals within the trail corridor would be leased with an NSO stipulation.	Fluid minerals within the trail corridor would be leased with an NSO stipulation.
Locatable Minerals	The trail is open to locatable mineral entry.	The trail would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The trail would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The trail would be open to locatable mineral entry.	The trail would be open to locatable mineral entry.

⁸² Since Draft EIS publication, the CDNST alignment was changed by the Forest Service. The public had the opportunity to comment on the new alignment via the Forest Service EA process (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=39547>). The new alignment is reflected in Alternative E in the Final EIS. (Alternatives A, B, C, and D include the same alignment as analyzed in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.) The BLM does not make decisions on the alignment but does determine management of the trail. Management of the CDNST would not change in Alternative E from what was analyzed in Alternatives A, B, C, and D.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Item	Alternative A (No Action) (Appendix S, Map 2-7559)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Map 2-7660)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Map 2-7759)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Map 2-7859)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) ⁸³ (Appendix S, Map 2-79)
Recreation	Continue making improvements to sites and areas as necessary and supported by activity- and project-level planning to balance demand for recreation opportunities and protection of the recreation resource base.	SRPs would not be granted for CDNST activities.	Special events requiring a permit would be considered per regulations and policy under BLM's SRP program (see 43 CFR 2930).	Special events requiring a permit would be considered per regulations and policy under BLM's SRP program (see 43 CFR 2930).	Special events requiring a permit would be considered per regulations and policy under BLM's SRP program (see 43 CFR 2930).
Renewable Energy	No similar action	Renewable energy projects would be excluded within the corridor.	Renewable energy projects would be excluded within the corridor.	Renewable energy projects would be excluded within the corridor.	Renewable energy projects would be excluded within the corridor.
ROWS	No similar action	Manage as ROW avoidance for new land use authorizations	Manage as ROW avoidance for new land use authorizations	Manage as ROW avoidance for new land use authorizations	Manage as ROW avoidance for new land use authorizations
Salable Minerals	The trail corridor is open to salable mineral extraction.	The trail corridor would be closed to salable mineral extraction.	The trail corridor would be open to salable mineral extraction.	The trail corridor would be open to extraction of salable minerals.	The trail corridor would be open to extraction of salable minerals.
Travel	The trail corridor is open to motorized and mechanized travel	The trail corridor would be closed to motorized and mechanized travel	Motorized and mechanized travel would be limited to designated roads and trails	Motorized and mechanized travel would be limited to designated roads and trails	Motorized and mechanized travel would be limited to designated roads and trails, as designated through the approval of the TMP.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Item	Alternative A (No Action) (Appendix S, Map 2-7559)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Map 2-7660)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Map 2-7759)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Map 2-7859)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) ⁸³ (Appendix S, Map 2-79)
VRM Class	The corridor is managed as VRM IV.	The corridor would be managed as VRM II, with the exception of WSA and Wilderness areas, which would be VRM I. ⁸⁴	The corridor would be managed as VRM I within WSAs and Wilderness, VRM II and III in higher-quality viewshed areas, and VRM IV in areas that cannot be protected at a higher level, such as highway crossings. See Map 91 .	The corridor would be managed as VRM I within WSAs and Wilderness, VRM II and III in higher-quality viewshed areas, and VRM IV in areas that cannot be protected at a higher level, such as highway crossings. See Map 91 .	The corridor would be managed as VRM I within WSAs and Wilderness, VRM II and III in higher-quality viewshed areas, and VRM IV in areas that cannot be protected at a higher level, such as highway crossings. See Map 91.

2051

⁸⁴ The Draft EIS stated that the “corridor would be managed as the prevailing VRM Class.” This was changed in the Final EIS to specify the prevailing VRM class. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

Table 2-37: Wild and Scenic River Management Decisions by Alternative (Bluewater Creek)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D ⁸⁵	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Acres	100	100	100	0	100
Determination	The Bluewater Creek segment is eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS with a wild classification. The following interim protective management guidelines would be applied pending congressional action (all interim protective management is subject to valid existing rights).	The Bluewater Creek segment is suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS with a wild classification. The following interim protective management guidelines would be applied pending congressional action (all interim protective management is subject to valid existing rights).	The Bluewater Creek segment is suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS with a wild classification. The following interim protective management guidelines would be applied pending congressional action (all interim protective management is subject to valid existing rights).	The Bluewater Creek segment is not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. No interim management guidelines would be applied.	The Bluewater Creek segment is suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS with a wild classification. The following interim protective management guidelines would be applied pending congressional action (all interim protective management is subject to valid existing rights).
Cultural Resources	Survey for possible archaeological sites. Restore and/or interpret, to the degree feasible, any archaeological sites for unique cultural values. Protect sites from future deterioration by proper maintenance and regular patrolling of the area, if deemed necessary.	Survey for possible archaeological sites. Restore and/or interpret, to the degree feasible, any archaeological sites for unique cultural values. Protect sites from future deterioration by proper maintenance and regular patrolling of the area, if deemed necessary.	Survey for possible archaeological sites. Restore and/or interpret, to the degree feasible, any archaeological sites for unique cultural values. Protect sites from future deterioration by proper maintenance and regular patrolling of the area, if deemed necessary.	No similar action (the segment is not suitable under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Survey for possible archaeological sites. Restore and/or interpret, to the degree feasible, any archaeological sites for unique cultural values. Protect sites from future deterioration by proper maintenance and regular patrolling of the area, if deemed necessary.

⁸⁵ The Draft EIS showed the same acres under Alternative D as under Alternatives B and C, which implied that Bluewater Creek is suitable under Alternative D; however, the Alternative D management decisions included in this table originated from Bluewater Canyon ACEC management under Alternative D, not from the Bluewater Creek segment being suitable under Alternative D. This was clarified in the Final EIS to show 0 acres as suitable under Alternative D and to refer the reader to the Bluewater Canyon ACEC Alternative D management. On-the-ground management and effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D ⁸⁵	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Fire Management	Do not permit any large mechanized firefighting equipment in the eligible corridor. Application of fire-retardant chemicals is to be prohibited, except with permission of the Area Manager.	Mechanized firefighting equipment and chemical, forestry management, and fire hazard reduction would be allowed	Mechanized firefighting equipment and chemical, forestry management, and fire hazard reduction would be allowed	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Do not permit any large mechanized firefighting equipment in the eligible corridor. Application of fire-retardant chemicals is to be prohibited, except with permission of the Area Manager.
Forest Product Removal	No intensive forestry management is to be practiced in the area, nor is fire hazard reduction. The area would be closed to forest and vegetative product removal and permit sales.	Permits for the removal of vegetative or forest products would be prohibited	Permits for the removal of vegetative or forest products would be prohibited	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Permits for the removal of vegetative or forest products would be prohibited
Lands and Realty— Land Tenure Adjustment	Acquire non-public lands, if landowners are willing to dispose of those lands	Any new land acquisitions adjacent to Bluewater Creek would be managed as suitable	Any new land acquisitions adjacent to Bluewater Creek would be managed as suitable	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Any new land acquisitions adjacent to Bluewater Creek would be managed as suitable
Lands and Realty— ROWs	ROW avoid (west half) and open (east half)	Exclude new ROWs for utilities or road usage	Exclude new ROWs for utilities or road usage	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Exclude new ROWs for utilities or road usage

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D ⁸⁵	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Fluid Leasable Minerals	NSO	NSO	NSO	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	NSO
Livestock Grazing	Make livestock grazing unavailable within the canyon, though livestock grazing may occur on the upper rims. Both ends of the canyon would be fenced and the canyon would have a pass made to allow people to continue down the trail. Grazing would be available on the rim of the canyon on the north side at Blackjack Arroyo Allotment #00450 and on the south side at Reynold Draw Allotment #00429 ⁸⁶ .	Manage the suitable corridor as unavailable for livestock grazing.	Manage the suitable corridor as unavailable for livestock grazing.	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Manage the suitable corridor as unavailable for livestock grazing.
Locatable Minerals	Open to locatable mineral entry	Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry	Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry

⁸⁶ Formerly Volton S. Tietjen Allotment #0194.

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D ⁸⁵	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Recreation	Installation of a parking lot with picnic tables on the rim where a trail would start leading to the canyon bottom. Recreation developments would be made contingent on BLM's ability to fund and supervise them.	Camping would be prohibited within 46 m (150 feet) of the riparian zone	Camping would be prohibited within 46 m (150 feet) of the riparian zone	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Camping would be prohibited within 46 m (150 feet) of the riparian zone
Salable Minerals	Closed to salable mineral extraction	Closed to salable mineral extraction	Closed to salable mineral extraction	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Closed to salable mineral extraction
Travel	Designate the public land in the canyon as "closed to off road vehicles." Designate the remaining portion of the eligible corridor (above 2,134-m [7,000-foot contour]) as "limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails"	Nonmotorized travel would be allowed in the suitable corridor; the area would be closed to motorized travel except for authorized use	Nonmotorized travel would be allowed in the suitable corridor; the area would be closed to motorized travel except for authorized use	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Nonmotorized travel would be allowed in the canyon; motorized travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails outside the suitable corridor
Visual	Manage the eligible corridor as VRM II (west half) and undesignated (east half)	Manage the eligible corridor as VRM II	Manage the eligible corridor as VRM II	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Manage the eligible corridor as VRM II

2. Alternatives (Special Designations)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D ⁸⁵	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Wildlife and Riparian	Manage the eligible corridor to prevent degradation of any wildlife habitat. Trout fishing may be improved by increasing the pool to riffle ratio and increased vegetation along the stream edges to create shade.	Manage the suitable corridor to prevent degradation of any wildlife habitat. Trout fishing may be improved by increasing the pool to riffle ratio and increased vegetation along the stream edges to create shade.	Manage the suitable corridor to prevent degradation of any wildlife habitat. Trout fishing may be improved by increasing the pool to riffle ratio and increased vegetation along the stream edges to create shade.	No similar action (the segment is not suitable segment under this alternative). (See also the Bluewater Canyon ACEC, which overlaps the Bluewater River segment.)	Manage the suitable corridor to prevent degradation of any wildlife habitat. Trout fishing may be improved by increasing the pool to riffle ratio and increased vegetation along the stream edges to create shade.

2053

INTERNAL DRAFT

2054 **2.2.16.4 Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas**

2055 *Goals*

- 2056 • Manage WSAs so as not to impair Wilderness characteristics until designated or released from
2057 further consideration by Congress.
2058 • Manage Wilderness to preserve Wilderness character.⁸⁷

2059 *Objective*

- 2060 • Monitor Wilderness Areas and WSAs to identify, prevent, and/or reclaim unauthorized uses.

2061 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

2062 Refer to **Appendix S, Map 2-81-62** for a map of Wilderness areas and WSAs.

- 2063 • The BLM would manage WSAs for the nonimpairment of each WSA's Wilderness characteristics
2064 under BLM Manual 6330.
2065 • WSAs are managed to allow only uses that are both temporary and do not create surface
2066 disturbance, except for emergencies, public safety, impact restoration, valid existing rights,
2067 grandfathered uses, or to protect or enhance Wilderness characteristics (as defined in BLM Manual
2068 6330).⁸⁸
2069 • The BLM manages designated Wilderness areas with a separate Wilderness management plan tiered
2070 to the RMP. The Ojito Wilderness Management Plan will be drafted upon completion of this
2071 RMP/EIS. For the RMP/EIS, the Ojito Wilderness Area (11,000 acres) would be managed consistent
2072 with the Wilderness Act. Wilderness is managed to preserve Wilderness character, while
2073 prohibiting roads, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, aircraft landing, mechanical
2074 transportation, structures, installations, and commercial enterprises. The exceptions are special
2075 provisions found in the Wilderness Act or enabling legislation and those activities that are the
2076 minimum necessary for the administration of the area as Wilderness. Based on enabling legislation,
2077 Wilderness areas are withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public
2078 land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and operation of the mineral materials
2079 leasing laws.⁸⁹
2080 • Only Congress can release a WSA from Wilderness consideration. Should any WSA, in part or in
2081 whole, be released from Wilderness consideration, those lands would be managed according to the
2082 underlying or adjacent (non-Wilderness) land prescriptions of the RMP.
2083 • The BLM would designate WSAs and Wilderness areas as VRM Class I, in accordance with federal
2084 policy.
2085 • The BLM would monitor Wilderness areas and WSAs to identify and/or prevent unauthorized
2086 uses.⁹⁰
2087 • For Wilderness and WSAs, the BLM would maximize partnership and cooperative management
2088 opportunities (e.g., cooperate with private landowners to install trail markers, provide public access,

⁸⁷ This sentence was added since the Draft EIS. This was included in the Draft EIS objective, so effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁸⁸ This is worded differently than the Draft EIS to clarify what is allowed in WSAs. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁸⁹ This is worded differently than the Draft EIS to clarify what is allowed in Wilderness. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁹⁰ This was added since the Draft EIS to clarify what is required by policy. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2089 and work with other government agencies that have similar designations on lands near or adjacent
2090 to BLM special designations).⁹¹

2091 **2.2.17 Special Status Species**

2092 Special status species are, collectively, federally listed, proposed, and BLM sensitive species. This includes
2093 both federal candidate species and delisted species within 5 years of delisting. BLM sensitive species are
2094 species that require special management consideration to avoid potential future listing under the ESA and
2095 that have been identified in accordance with procedures set forth in BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species
2096 Management. See **Appendix J** for specific list information.

2097 **2.2.17.1 Goals**

- 2098 • Conserve and/or recover ESA-listed species and the ecosystems on which they depend so that ESA
2099 protections are no longer needed for these species.
- 2100 • Initiate proactive conservation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to BLM sensitive species
2101 to minimize the likelihood and need for listing these species under the ESA.

2102 **2.2.17.2 Objectives**

- 2103 • Implement projects to maintain, protect, and enhance special status species habitats, including, but
2104 not limited to, designated critical habitat of federally listed species.
- 2105 • Prescribe mitigation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to BLM sensitive species to minimize
2106 the likelihood of and need for listing of these species under the ESA.
- 2107 • Allow, initiate, and participate in scientific research of federally threatened, endangered, candidate,
2108 proposed, and BLM sensitive species and their habitats. Goals for research should be aimed at
2109 determining population trends, habitat condition, and suitability and should follow objectives and
2110 guidance provided by the USFWS, recovery plans, and relevant scientific literature.
- 2111 • Where existing data on listed species is limited or unavailable for RPFO-administered lands, conduct
2112 surveys and inventories of known or potential habitat for species occupation, consult with the
2113 USFWS when new information on listed species is discovered on RPFO-administered land, and
2114 proceed with management as directed by the USFWS, species recovery plans, and BLM guidance
2115 and directives.
- 2116 • Regularly monitor BLM sensitive plant and animal species to determine population trends and
2117 develop, where necessary and appropriate, projects to restore, enhance, or create habitat for these
2118 species in order to minimize the likelihood of and need for listing them under the ESA.
- 2119 • Where existing data on BLM sensitive species is limited or unavailable for RPFO-administered lands,
2120 conduct surveys and inventory known or potential habitat for species occupation. When new
2121 information on BLM sensitive species is discovered on RPFO-administered land, proceed with
2122 management as directed by BLM sensitive species management guidance and other applicable land
2123 or species management policies and BMPs.
- 2124 • Avoid or mitigate actions that have the potential to degrade BLM sensitive species populations or
2125 habitat or that would result in a significant decline of the species or its potential to occur in suitable
2126 habitat.
- 2127 • Mitigate habitat losses for special status species, as required by policy and law.

2128 **2.2.17.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 2129 • The BLM would support and implement current and future special status species recovery and
2130 conservation plans, strategies, and agreements in coordination/consultation with the USFWS, the

⁹¹ This was added since the Draft EIS to clarify what is required by policy. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

- 2131 NMDGF, the New Mexico State Forestry Division, and other interested entities. The BLM would
2132 be an active participant in recovery implementation teams.
- 2133 • The BLM would consider the protection of habitat for listed and BLM sensitive plant and animal
2134 species prior to authorizing any actions that could alter or disturb such habitat.
 - 2135 • The BLM would permit no management action on public lands that would jeopardize the continued
2136 existence of plant or animal species that are listed or candidate species or are proposed for listing
2137 as threatened or endangered under the ESA.
 - 2138 • The BLM would require surveys for listed, candidate, proposed, and sensitive species prior to taking
2139 any action that could affect these species' habitat or potential habitat. Population and/or habitat
2140 monitoring should be ongoing for all special status species and should utilize established and, where
2141 possible, USFWS-recommended protocols. Any special status species survey must be conducted by
2142 BLM-approved biologists, botanists, or ecologists.
 - 2143 • When possible, the BLM would actively pursue cooperative agreements with other agencies or
2144 entities to inventory and/or monitor existing or potential habitat for special status species.
 - 2145 • The BLM would prioritize planning and implementation assessment and monitoring plans for
2146 federally listed threatened, endangered, and candidate species.
 - 2147 • The BLM would allow translocations and population augmentation of special status species to aid in
2148 conservation and recovery efforts. It would implement necessary habitat manipulations, if deemed
2149 appropriate, and would monitor to ensure successful translocation efforts.
 - 2150 • The BLM would coordinate with the USFWS in all black-footed ferret and Gunnison's prairie dog
2151 recovery decisions/actions.

2152 **2.2.17.4 Migratory Birds**

2153 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

- 2154 • The BLM would implement Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect
2155 Migratory Birds, during all activities to protect habitat for migratory birds. Management would
2156 emphasize birds listed on the current USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern, Partners-in-Flight
2157 priority species (as updated), and New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners' Species Conservation
2158 Level One List. The BLM would adhere to BLM MOU WO-230-2010-04: Memorandum of
2159 Understanding between the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management and the US
2160 Fish and Wildlife Service to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds.
- 2161 • As specific habitat needs and population distribution of Birds of Conservation Concern and Partners-
2162 in-Flight priority species are identified, the BLM would use adaptive management strategies to further
2163 conserve habitat and avoid impacts on these species. Adaptive management is defined as "a system
2164 of management practices based on clearly identified outcomes, monitoring to determine if
2165 management actions are meeting outcomes, and, if not, facilitating management changes that will
2166 best ensure that outcomes are met or to re-evaluate the outcomes" in the H-1601-I Land Use
2167 Planning Handbook.
- 2168 • The BLM would prioritize the maintenance and/or improvement of lowland riparian, wetlands, and
2169 low and high desert scrub communities.
- 2170 • The BLM would minimize the spread of invasive and nonnative plants, especially cheatgrass, saltcedar,
2171 and Russian olive, and would strive for a dense understory of native species in riparian areas with a
2172 reduction in saltcedar and improvement of cottonwood and willow regeneration.
- 2173 • The BLM would implement BMPs for raptor protection, including requiring all new power lines to
2174 be built to "electrocution-proof" specifications. To avoid collisions with migrating birds, the
2175 mitigating measures identified by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (2006) or the most
2176 current standards would be incorporated into all new power lines. Existing lines that are identified
2177 as causing electrocution and/or collision problems may also be modified where feasible. The BLM
2178 would also implement BMPs for the development of wind energy projects.

- 2179 • Refer to <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/migratory-bird-treaty-act.php>
2180 for a current list of the migratory birds that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty
2181 Act.

2182 **2.2.17.5 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)**

2183 All agencies of the US government are authorized and obligated to proactively promote conservation and
2184 recovery of the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (Section 2 of the ESA). In addition to the ESA,
2185 policies protecting the southwestern willow flycatcher include the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, FLPMA,
2186 National Forest Management Act, CWA, and New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act.

2187 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

2188 The BLM would follow the most current version of the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan
2189 (USFWS 2002). Recovery actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 2190 • Increasing and improving occupied, suitable, and potential breeding habitat
- 2191 • Increasing metapopulation stability
- 2192 • Improving demographic parameters
- 2193 • Minimizing threats to wintering and migration habitat
- 2194 • Surveying and monitoring
- 2195 • Conducting research
- 2196 • Providing public education and outreach
- 2197 • Ensuring implementation of laws, policies, and agreements that benefit the southwestern willow
2198 flycatcher
- 2199 • Tracking recovery progress
- 2200 • Monitoring southwestern willow flycatcher habitat for presence or absence annually during the
2201 breeding season (May 15–July 17)
- 2202 • Continuing PFC assessments in riparian areas and initiating riparian restoration projects in areas
2203 deemed functional at-risk or nonfunctional; monitoring should be ongoing and include continual use
2204 of the PFC assessment; if an area is rated as functional, habitat enhancement projects should be
2205 conducted on a case-by-case basis
- 2206 • Consulting with the USFWS regarding invasive species treatments within potential southwestern
2207 willow flycatcher habitat
- 2208 • Following the guidance for managing southwestern willow flycatcher when managing for the yellow-
2209 billed cuckoo.
- 2210 • Coordinating with partners to monitor tamarix beetle (*Diorhabda*).

2211 **2.2.17.6 Black-footed Ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)**

2212 All agencies of the US government are authorized and obligated to proactively promote conservation and
2213 recovery of the endangered black-footed ferret (Section 2 of the ESA). In addition to the ESA, policies
2214 protecting the black-footed ferret include the FLPMA, National Forest Management Act, and New Mexico
2215 Wildlife Conservation Act.

2216 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

- 2217 • The BLM would follow the most current version of the Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Plan (USFWS
2218 2013) and would coordinate with the USFWS on black-footed ferret and prairie dog management
2219 and reintroduction efforts (the prairie dog is the primary prey of the black-footed ferret).
- 2220 • The BLM would identify recovery areas based on prairie dog inventory data and known historical
2221 range. The BLM would continue to inventory prairie dog habitat and monitor population levels to
2222 determine possible ferret reintroduction sites.

- 2223 • In cooperation with the USFWS and other cooperators, the BLM would implement a plague
2224 management plan, utilizing the most current scientific information and techniques prior to and/or at
2225 the time of reintroduction of the black-footed ferret.

2226 **2.2.17.7 Gunnison's Prairie Dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*)**

2227 *Management Common to All Alternatives*

2228 Prairie dogs, including Gunnison's prairie dog, are the primary prey of the black-footed ferret. The following
2229 management actions are in conformance with Gunnison's Prairie Dog Conservation Strategy (NMDGF
2230 2008):

- 2231 • The BLM, with the assistance of federal and state partners, would design and implement a plague
2232 management plan to increase prairie dog survivorship and build population strength, numbers, and
2233 acreage suitable for black-footed ferret reintroduction.
- 2234 • The BLM would designate suitable habitat for prairie dog translocation and also would identify focal
2235 areas to allow for habitat connectivity.
- 2236 • The BLM would monitor to assess population trends of the species and the effectiveness of
2237 translocations.
- 2238 • The BLM would comply with NHPA Section 106 consultation and NEPA requirements prior to
2239 prairie dog reintroductions.

2240 *Alternatives*

2241 **Table 2-38** lists Gunnison's prairie dog management by alternative.

2242 **2.2.17.8 Plant Species**

2243 The BLM is mandated by law to assist with the conservation and recovery of species listed as threatened or
2244 endangered or proposed for listing under the ESA. Federal actions that may affect the well-being of these
2245 species require consultation with the USFWS. BLM policy requires that authorized actions do not contribute
2246 to the need to list any other special status species under the provisions of the ESA. The intent is to avoid
2247 the need for future listings of species as threatened or endangered.

2248 *Alternatives*

2249 **Table 2-39** lists special status plant management by alternative.

2250

Table 2-38: Gunnison Prairie Dog Management Decisions by Alternative

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
No similar action	The BLM would protect prairie dogs on BLM-administered land by restricting (prairie dog) shooting in identified augmented prairie dog areas year-round.	The BLM would protect prairie dogs on BLM-administered land, during the breeding season (March 15 to June 15) by restricting (prairie dog) shooting in identified augmented prairie dog areas.	The BLM would enforce no restrictions on prairie dog shooting.	The BLM would coordinate with internal and external stakeholders and agencies prior to implementing any restrictions on prairie dog shooting.
No similar action	Activities determined to adversely impact prairie dogs and/or associated species or habitat would be strictly controlled within 0.5 mile of the prairie dog town.	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities would be strictly controlled within 0.25 mile of prairie dog towns if an activity would adversely impact prairie dogs and/or associated species.	Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities would be strictly controlled within prairie dog towns if an activity would adversely impact prairie dogs and/or associated species.	Activities determined to adversely impact prairie dogs and/or associated species or habitat would be strictly controlled within the prairie dog town.

2251

2252

Table 2-39: Special Status Plant Species Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Livestock Grazing	No similar action	The BLM would require that placement of any approved water developments or supplemental feed for livestock must be no less than 402 meters (1,320 feet) away from known locations of special status plants. The BLM would consider the concentration of browsing/grazing animals on known locations of special status plants and take action as deemed necessary and appropriate.	The BLM would require that placement of any approved water developments or supplemental feed for livestock must be no less than 152 meters (500 feet) away from known locations of special status plants. The BLM would consider the concentration of browsing/grazing animals on known locations of special status plants.	The BLM would design placement of water developments and salt and mineral supplements for livestock at least 91 meters (300 feet) away from known locations of special status plants. The BLM would consider the concentration of browsing/grazing animals on known locations of special status plants.	The BLM would design placement of water developments and salt and mineral supplements for livestock at least 91 meters (300 feet) from known locations of special status plants. The BLM would consider the concentration of browsing/grazing animals on known locations of special status plants.
Soils	No similar action	Habitat areas for special status plant species that are designated by the US Department of Agriculture-NRCS as having "low" or "not rated" reclamation opportunity would be closed to oil and gas leasing.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action

2253

2254 **2.2.18 Travel Management**

2255 **2.2.18.1 Goals**

- 2256 • Provide for a range of motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities and administrative access
- 2257 across public lands, while protecting resources, promoting use safety, and minimizing user conflicts.
- 2258 • Authorize uses.

2259 **2.2.18.2 Objectives**

- 2260 • Establish a comprehensive approach to travel planning and management.
- 2261 • Implement comprehensive travel management planning, utilizing strategies for motorized,
- 2262 mechanized, and nonmotorized recreation with designations of open, closed, or limited (as defined
- 2263 in 43 CFR 8340.0-5).
- 2264 • Work collaboratively with the public, including tribal, state, and local governments; user groups; and
- 2265 individuals to develop an appropriate transportation system on BLM-administered public lands,
- 2266 including motorized and nonmotorized recreational trails.

2267 **2.2.18.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

2268 The following limited management prescriptions would be until the TMP is complete:

- 2269 • Unless otherwise restricted by management actions identified by specific resource or special
- 2270 designation, the standard limitation would be “limited to designated routes” (i.e., restricted by
- 2271 implementation-level decisions to the use of specific roads, primitive roads, trails, and other identified
- 2272 routes). Where no route-specific decisions exist at the time the RMP decisions are made, the
- 2273 designation of an OHV Limited Area would limit all OHV use to the same manner and degree
- 2274 occurring at the time of the designation in the RMP. The OHV Limited Area designation would prohibit
- 2275 any new surface disturbance, such as cross-country travel, unless subsequently authorized through
- 2276 another implementation-level decision. After the RMP decision has been issued, the RPFO would need
- 2277 to determine the specific type of limitations that would apply to the areas with OHV limited area
- 2278 designations through the TMP process.
- 2279 • The BLM would not restrict travel related to mining claim operations, except by regulations and
- 2280 requirements found in 43 CFR 3809, as amended.
- 2281 • The BLM would not restrict travel performed in conformance with existing leases, permits, ROW
- 2282 stipulations, or other land use authorizations.
- 2283 • Where OHVs are causing or would cause considerable adverse effects on soil, vegetation, wildlife,
- 2284 wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, Wilderness
- 2285 suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the BLM would immediately close the affected
- 2286 areas to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until they are satisfactorily mitigated and
- 2287 suitable measures are implemented to prevent recurrence.
- 2288 • For designation for OHV, the BLM would consider the long-term sustainability of resources, such as
- 2289 wildlife habitat, cultural resource values, Wilderness values, watersheds, visual quality, recreational
- 2290 values, and other resource uses.
- 2291 • Motorized vehicle travel on designated primitive roads and trails would be allowed where the existing
- 2292 route is as wide as or wider than the vehicle. Motorized vehicle travel along single-track routes would
- 2293 be limited to two-wheeled vehicles that would not promote the expansion of those routes into two-
- 2294 track routes.
- 2295 • Changes to a transportation network (e.g., new routes, reroutes, or closures) in “limited” areas may
- 2296 be made through activity-level planning or with the appropriate site-specific NEPA analyses. Project
- 2297 proposals for all resource programs that require changes to the travel and transportation network
- 2298 will also include proposed modifications to the associated TMP. Analysis of any TMP modifications can
- 2299 occur within project NEPA analyses. Modifications to area OHV designations (open, closed, or limited)
- 2300 require an amendment to the RMP through the OHV designation process. “Closed” or “limited”
- 2301 designations would not affect the use of military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicles for

2302 emergency purposes; vehicles whose use is expressly authorized by the RPFO manager or otherwise
 2303 officially approved; vehicles in official use; and combat or combat support vehicles when used in times
 2304 of national defense emergencies.⁹²

2305 *Travel Management Planning*

- 2306 • In the development of future TMPs, baseline road and trail network(s) would be identified using
- 2307 existing inventories, the most recent National Agriculture Imagery Program digital aerial photograph
- 2308 layer, and comparable (in time) digital ortho quads and US Geological Survey topographic maps.
- 2309 • At the implementation phase of future TMPs, the RPFO would 1) establish a process to identify and
- 2310 sign routes available for travel; 2) produce a map or maps for all travel modes; 3) identify limitations
- 2311 for specific roads and trails; 4) develop criteria to select or reject specific roads and trails for travel;
- 2312 and 5) develop guidelines for monitoring and maintenance of the route network.
- 2313 • The BLM would prioritize selection of future activity-level travel planning areas, based on 1) the degree
- 2314 of conflicts with other resources/uses; 2) the proximity of areas to population centers and residential
- 2315 areas; 3) special designations; and 4) areas and associated boundaries where private and other federal
- 2316 lands are contiguous with public lands.
- 2317 • Future activity-level travel planning would consider specific route-by-route designations based on types
- 2318 of desired use (i.e., motorized, mechanized, nonmotorized, and nonmechanized) and motorized vehicle
- 2319 type and size limitations (e.g., greater than 50-inch wheel base for full-size vehicles, less than 50-inch
- 2320 wheel base for all-terrain vehicles [ATVs]).
- 2321 • Transportation planning would include BMPs for eliminating and restoring unneeded roads, relocating
- 2322 poorly situated roads, and implementing proper road location and design. The BLM would identify
- 2323 roads that have a significant impact on watershed stability and would investigate road closures and
- 2324 establish criteria for closing roads based on erosion concerns.
- 2325 • At a minimum, future travel planning criteria in the TMP would incorporate 43 CFR 8342.1,
- 2326 Designation Criteria.
- 2327 • The BLM Authorized Officer shall designate all public lands as open, limited, or closed to OHVs. All
- 2328 designations shall be based on the protection of the resources of the public lands, the promotion of
- 2329 the safety of all the users of the public lands, and the minimization of conflicts among various uses of
- 2330 the public lands and in accordance with the following criteria:
- 2331 – Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other
- 2332 resources of the public lands and to prevent impairment of Wilderness suitability.
- 2333 – Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of
- 2334 wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and
- 2335 their habitats.
- 2336 – Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other
- 2337 existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands and to ensure the
- 2338 compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise
- 2339 and other factors.
- 2340 – Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated Wilderness areas or primitive areas.
- 2341 Areas and trails shall be located in natural areas only if the BLM Authorized Officer determines
- 2342 that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic,
- 2343 or other values for which such areas are established (see 43 CFR 8342.1 Designation Criteria).

2344 **2.2.18.4 Alternatives**

2345 **Table 2-40** lists travel management decisions by alternative.

⁹² This was added since the Draft EIS to clarify what is required by policy. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2346

Table 2-40: Travel Management Decisions by Alternative

Management	Alternative A (No Action) (Appendix S, Map 2-8263)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Map 2-8364)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Map 2-8465)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Map 2-8566)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) (Appendix S, Map 2-86)
Open*	301,900 acres	4,600 acres	18,300 acres	18,300 +9,500 acres	+8,300 acres
Limited ⁹³	Limited to existing routes: 327,600 acres	Limited to designated primitive roads and trails: 550,500 acres	Limited to designated primitive roads and trails: 589,300 acres	Limited to designated primitive roads and trails: 615,500 +14,300 acres	Limited to designated primitive roads and trails: 615,500 acres
OHV Closed	102,100 acres	176,600 acres	124,000 acres	97,800 acres	97,800 acres
BLM Road 1103	Travel would be limited to existing primitive roads and trails, with motorized seasonal closures of BLM Road 1103. Management would be the same as amended in the Ignacio Chavez SMA Plan Amendment (BLM 1996) for vehicle use.	Motorized seasonal closures of BLM Road 1103 would occur from July 1 to September 15 and November 30 to April 15. During closure periods, motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	Motorized seasonal closures of BLM Road 1103 would occur from November 30 to April 15. BLM Road 1103 would open year-round when maintenance is completed. During closure periods, motorized travel would be limited to authorized use.	Motorized vehicle use would be allowed on BLM Road 1103 and access roads to Seco, Ned, Medio, Toro, and Heifer tanks.	OHV use would be allowed on BLM Road 1103 but limited to authorized use on access roads to Seco, Ned, Medio, Toro, and Heifer tanks.

2347

2348

2349

Source: BLM GIS 2020

*Areas designated as open were selected based on minimal conflicts with resource and resource use. Additionally, opportunities for OHV use and efficient management of designated areas were considered.

⁹³ The Draft EIS stated, for Alternatives B, C, and D, that travel would be "limited to existing [routes]. . ." This was specific to the interim period between completion of this RMP and completion of the future TMP. To clarify this, this was changed in the Final EIS to state that travel in Limited areas would be "limited to designated [routes]. . ." The TMP would designate specific routes that would be allowed for travel in Limited areas.

2350 **2.2.19 Vegetative Communities**

2351 **2.2.19.1 Goals**

- 2352 • Manage vegetation resources for ecological diversity, stability, and sustainability, including the desired
- 2353 mix of vegetation types, structural stages, and landscape/riparian function. Provide for livestock
- 2354 grazing and for native plant, fish, and wildlife habitat requirements.
- 2355 • Manage for vegetation restoration, including control of undesirable and invasive plant infestations
- 2356 (native and nonnative species) to achieve healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems that support
- 2357 resource values, including, but not limited to, wildlife habitat and functional watersheds.

2358 **2.2.19.2 Objectives**

- 2359 • Restore and maintain vegetative communities within the Decision Area to desired states within
- 2360 reference and conditions, as noted in US Department of Agriculture-NRCS Ecological Site
- 2361 Descriptions.
- 2362 • Maintain, protect, and enhance special status plant and animal habitats in such a manner that the
- 2363 potential need to consider any of these species for listing as threatened or endangered under the
- 2364 ESA does not arise.
- 2365 • Restore riparian habitat to desired future conditions, as prescribed by the EIS for Riparian and
- 2366 Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000).
- 2367 • Provide opportunities for seed gathering of various native vegetation types, while protecting other
- 2368 resources.
- 2369 • Emphasize vegetative treatments within areas identified as not meeting New Mexico Standards for
- 2370 Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b).
- 2371 • Control noxious, invasive, and nonnative plant species and prevent the introduction of new invasive
- 2372 species by implementing a comprehensive weed program (per national guidance and local weed
- 2373 management plans in cooperation with state, federal, and affected counties), including coordination
- 2374 with partners, prevention and early detection/rapid response, education, inventory and monitoring,
- 2375 and principles of integrated pest management.
- 2376 • Conduct a full inventory of saltcedar/Russian olive infested areas and reduce where appropriate
- 2377 using allowable vegetation treatments.
- 2378 • Continue to work with partners under cooperative agreements, assistance agreements, and MOUs
- 2379 to treat noxious and invasive plant species on Decision Area lands.

2380 **2.2.19.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 2381 • The BLM would utilize adaptive management prescriptions for all resource uses during times of
- 2382 extended drought. Adaptive Management is defined as “a system of management practices based on
- 2383 clearly identified outcomes, monitoring to determine if management actions are meeting outcomes,
- 2384 and, if not, facilitating management changes that will best ensure that outcomes are met or to re-
- 2385 evaluate the outcomes” in the H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook.
- 2386 • The BLM would follow the most recent RPFO Drought Action Plan.
- 2387 • The BLM would complete NEPA analyses for future vegetation treatments and treatments of
- 2388 noxious/invasive plant species.
- 2389 • The BLM would prioritize vegetative treatments in areas not meeting management goals and
- 2390 objectives.
- 2391 • Restoration and rehabilitation would use native seed mixes wherever possible. Nonnative species
- 2392 may be used as necessary for emergency stabilization or to prevent infestation by invasive nonnative
- 2393 weed species.
- 2394 • Where appropriate, the BLM would replant riparian vegetation subsequent to wildland fire or other
- 2395 disturbance in riparian areas.

- 2396
- 2397
- 2398
- 2399
- 2400
- 2401
- 2402
- 2403
- 2404
- 2405
- 2406
- 2407
- 2408
- 2409
- 2410
- The BLM would use integrated pest management tools to manage vegetative communities. These tools are outlined in BLM Handbook H-1740-2.
 - The RPFO would not use chaining as a management tool.
 - All vegetation treatments would comply with guidance identified in the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic EIS (BLM 2007b) and the ROD for Vegetation Treatments using Aminopyralid, Fluroxypyr, and Rimsulfuron (BLM 2016).
 - The BLM would comply with NHPA Section 106 for any projects that may occur within the Mount Taylor TCP or other NRHP-eligible TCPs.
 - The BLM would apply environmental BMPs to all extraction of fluid leasable minerals authorizations in accordance to Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2007-021 and the most current version of the Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development (commonly referred to as the Gold Book) (BLM 2007c).
 - Unless otherwise stated in the EIS for Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management in the Albuquerque Field Office (BLM 2000), livestock grazing would be unavailable, in enclosures constructed within riparian areas or uplands using HSP funds.

2411 **2.2.19.4 Alternatives**

2412 The BLM vegetation alternatives rely heavily on the management outlined in the following:

- 2413
- 2414
- 2415
- 2416
- Plan Maintenance Record - Updated Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy for the RMP Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management on Public Land in New Mexico and Texas ROD September 2004, Fort Stanton-Snowy River National Conservation Area RMP, Prehistoric Trackways National Monument RMP and the Taos RMP (BLM 2017)

2417 Many of the vegetation resources goals, objectives, and management actions are intertwined with other

2418 resources, such as range, wildlife, and fire. Also, additional support for the vegetation range of alternatives

2419 can be found in the Riparian Resources (**Section 2.2.14**), Wildlife and Fisheries Resources (**Section**

2420 **2.2.21**), Fire Management (**Section 2.2.4**), Forest and Woodlands (**Section 2.2.5**), Livestock Grazing

2421 (**Section 2.2.9**), and Mineral Resources (**Section 2.2.10**). **Table 2-41** lists vegetative community

2422 management decisions by alternative.

2423

Table 2-41: Vegetative Community Management Decisions by Alternative

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
No similar action	The BLM would not plan or implement vegetation treatments, allowing for natural vegetative processes to occur with no restrictions and or limitations to vegetative progression through all vegetative stages of succession.	The BLM would plan and implement vegetation treatments that would enhance or benefit areas not meeting the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b).	The BLM would plan and implement vegetation treatments that would increase overall harvest to all available vegetative products.	The BLM would plan and implement vegetation treatments as needed to meet management objectives.

2424

INTERNAL DRAFT

2425 **2.2.20 Visual Resources**

2426 **2.2.20.1 Goals**

- 2427 • Manage public lands in a manner that protects the quality of scenic values.
2428 • Recognize and manage visual resources for overall multiple use.

2429 **2.2.20.2 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 2430 • The BLM would designate ACECs managed for scenic values as VRM Class II.
2431 • The BLM would manage WSAs and designated Wilderness areas as VRM Class I.
2432 • VRM classifications in Wilderness would override other VRM classifications where other specially
2433 designated areas (e.g., ACECs) are in the same area.
2434 • The BLM would incorporate visual design considerations into surface-disturbing projects, regardless
2435 of size of the potential impact or VRM class.
2436 • The BLM would exclude lands with Class I VRM classifications from all ROWs (including renewable
2437 energy), which means no projects would be approved for construction.
2438 • The BLM would avoid lands with Class II VRM classifications for all ROWs (including renewable
2439 energy), which means the RPFO would attempt to site the project outside the particular area;
2440 however, the project could be constructed within the area if no other viable alternative is available
2441 and mitigation measures are implemented.

2442 **2.2.20.3 Alternatives**

2443 **Table 2-42** lists VRM management decisions by alternative.

2444

Table 2-42: VRM Management Decisions by Alternative (Acres)

VRM Class	Alternative A (No Action) (Appendix S, Map 2-8767)	Alternative B (Appendix S, Map 2-8868)	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred) (Appendix S, Map 2-8969)	Alternative D (Appendix S, Map 2-9070)	Alternative E (Proposed RMP) (Appendix S, Map 2-91)
Undesignated	368,900	0	0	0	0
Class I	97,800-96,600	97,800-97,400	97,800-97,500	97,800-97,500	-97,800
Class II	55,200	306,000	68,400	21,400	-16,600
Class III	58,300	27,900	69,900	83,200	-74,800
Class IV	152,600	300,300	495,900	529,500	-542,400

Source: BLM GIS 2020

2445

2446 **2.2.21 Wildlife and Fisheries Resources**

2447 **2.2.21.1 Goals**

- 2448 • Manage for the biological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to sustain vegetation, fish, wildlife, and special status species, with emphasis on ecosystem health and species biodiversity.
- 2449
- 2450 • Manage all BLM actions or authorized activities to sustain plant, fish, and wildlife populations and their habitats to avoid contributing to the listing of or jeopardizing the continued existence or recovery of special status species and their habitats.
- 2451
- 2452

2453 **2.2.21.2 Objectives**

- 2454 • Maintain a diversity and distribution of plant species, habitats, seral stages, and types (e.g., age, structure, cover, classes, and density), including forests and woodlands, grasslands, mountain shrublands, sagebrush, riparian/wetland areas, and desert shrublands.
- 2455
- 2456
- 2457 • Maintain forest stands at optimal health (using Forest Health Indicators in Land Health Standards for Forested Public Land) by maintaining properly functioning communities.
- 2458
- 2459 • Gather and maintain internal BLM and external support for managing invasive and noxious pest species using an integrated pest management approach for the detection, control, or eradication of new infestations. Coordinate detection and control activities across jurisdictional and political boundaries and include provisions for noxious and invasive species management for all BLM-funded or authorized actions.
- 2460
- 2461
- 2462
- 2463
- 2464 • Maintain or improve the continuity and productivity of wildlife habitats to support NMDGF wildlife population objectives consistent with BLM land use objectives.
- 2465
- 2466 • Maintain and improve seasonal habitats of fish, wildlife, and special status species on a landscape scale through interdisciplinary planning and use of the most current scientific literature on landscape restoration treatments.
- 2467
- 2468
- 2469 • Manage crucial, high-value, and non-fragmented habitats as management priorities for protection and/or restoration. Emphasize areas specially designated for protection due to rare biological values (e.g., critical elk winter range).
- 2470
- 2471
- 2472 • Minimize adverse impacts and mitigate unavoidable impacts on plants, fish, wildlife, and special status species and their habitats from BLM actions and authorized activities (under NEPA and other applicable land use and species management policy).
- 2473
- 2474
- 2475 • Cooperate and coordinate with external entities, including other federal agencies, state agencies, and nongovernmental organizations on projects that benefit and protect wildlife and/or contribute to the scientific community.
- 2476
- 2477

2478 **2.2.21.3 Management Common to All Alternatives**

- 2479 • The BLM would prioritize land disposal or exchanges of wildlife habitat on public lands with agencies that have wildlife management responsibilities.
- 2480
- 2481 • The BLM would design all range and watershed improvements to achieve range, watershed, and wildlife objectives for maintaining, improving, or enhancing habitats.
- 2482
- 2483 • Fences would be built to BLM specifications and would accommodate wildlife movement, which includes constructing wire fences to accommodate migration of big game species and modifying any existing fences that demonstrate specific impediment to wildlife movement.
- 2484
- 2485
- 2486 • The BLM would install wildlife escape ramps in all new and existing water tanks or troughs. RPFO resource specialists would work collaboratively with BLM range program specialists and grazing permittees to retrofit existing tanks and troughs with escape ramps. Rangeland improvement project development would be coordinated with the interdisciplinary team.
- 2487
- 2488
- 2489
- 2490 • The BLM would require all new power lines to be built to “electrocution-proof” specifications for protection of migratory birds and their habitat. Mitigation measures identified by the Avian Power
- 2491

- 2492 Line Interaction Committee (2006) or the most recent guidelines would be incorporated into the
2493 planning and construction of all new power lines.
- 2494 • The BLM would follow the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan (USFWS 2013) for guidance on
2495 reintroduction of the ferret into suitable established reintroduction habitat. Prairie dog
2496 augmentation and related subsequent black-footed ferret reintroduction activities would be
2497 coordinated with the USFWS.
 - 2498 • The BLM would coordinate with the NMDGF and other partners to help accomplish the population
2499 and habitat goals and objectives of big game herd management that are consistent with and meet
2500 the goals and objectives of the BLM's wildlife habitat management.
 - 2501 • The BLM would coordinate predator management with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-
2502 Wildlife Services and the NMDGF.
 - 2503 • The BLM would continue to coordinate with, and provide support to, the NMDGF for
2504 introduction/reintroduction of native or naturalized fish or wildlife species into historical or suitable
2505 habitats as determined appropriate.
 - 2506 • The BLM would manage raptors under the auspices of BMPs, which would include implementation
2507 of spatial and seasonal buffers. These BMPs implement the Guidelines for Raptor Protection from
2508 Human and Land-use Disturbances (USFWS 1999), with modifications allowed as long as protection
2509 of nests is ensured. The RPFO would support and implement current and future animal species
2510 conservation plans, strategies, and agreements. The BLM would coordinate actions with the
2511 NMDGF and other involved entities, along with supporting population and habitat monitoring.
 - 2512 • The BLM would continue involvement with the HSP, as authorized by the Sikes Act.
 - 2513 • The BLM would implement guidelines from Technical Reference 1730-2 to protect or restore the
2514 functions of biological soil crusts.
 - 2515 • The BLM would prevent excessive use and degradation of riparian areas from livestock grazing using
2516 behavioral management, wildlife-friendly fencing, and/or upland water developments.
 - 2517 • The BLM would construct and maintain rainfall catchments to provide water for wildlife where
2518 needed. It would evaluate the effectiveness of old water catchments and remove, replace, or relocate
2519 those that are defunct or obsolete.
 - 2520 • The BLM would identify and manage crucial big game fawning/calving habitat and develop objectives
2521 to meet vegetation height requirements for improved fawning/calving success.

2522 **2.2.21.4 Management Common to All Action Alternatives (Alternatives B, C, ~~and D, and E~~)**

- 2523 • To protect wildlife habitat values, the BLM would not allow fluid mineral development during
2524 seasonal closure periods for big game crucial wintering and fawning habitat.
- 2525 • General project disturbance mitigation measures for project-related disturbance (i.e., surface and
2526 noise) would be applied at the project level on a case-by-case basis. These mitigation measures are
2527 being analyzed in the wildlife alternatives (below) and would pertain to surface- and noise-disturbing
2528 activities other than oil and gas development.

2529 **2.2.21.5 Alternatives**

2530 **Table 2-43** lists wildlife and fisheries management decisions by alternative.

2531

Table 2-43: Wildlife and Fisheries Management Decisions by Alternative

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Big game winter range and wildlife projects	No similar action	Big game winter range and wildlife project areas that are also designated by the US Department of Agriculture-NRCS as having "low" or "not rated" reclamation opportunity would be closed to oil and gas leasing.	No similar action	No similar action	No similar action
Big Game Winter Range	No similar action	General Project Disturbance Restrictions—Big Game Winter Range, November 15 to April 30 —Prohibit locatable, salable, and leasable mineral development activities ⁹⁴ from November 15 to April 30 within winter range for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits.	General Project Disturbance Restrictions—Big Game Winter Range, November 15 to April 30 —Prohibit locatable, salable, and leasable mineral development activities ⁹⁵ from November 15 to April 30 within winter range for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits.	General Project Disturbance Restrictions—Big Game Winter Range, November 15 to April 30 —Prohibit locatable, salable, and leasable mineral development activities ⁹⁶ from November 15 to April 30 within winter range for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits.	General Project Disturbance Restrictions—Big Game Winter Range, November 15 to April 30—Prohibit locatable, salable, and leasable mineral development activities from November 15 to April 30 within winter range for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits.

⁹⁴ The Draft EIS states "Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities . . ." This was clarified in the Final EIS to clarify which specific activities would be prohibited. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁹⁵ The Draft EIS states "Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities . . ." This was clarified in the Final EIS to clarify which specific activities would be prohibited. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁹⁶ The Draft EIS states "Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities . . ." This was clarified in the Final EIS to clarify which specific activities would be prohibited. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Wildlife and Fisheries Resources)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Big Game Fawning or Calving Range	No similar action	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Big Game Fawning or Calving Range, Mule Deer May 1 to August 31; Elk May 1 to June 30; Pronghorn May 1 to July 15— Prohibit locatable, salable, and leasable mineral development activities ⁹⁷ in each species-dependent time frame within fawning/calving habitat for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Big Game Fawning or Calving Range, Mule Deer May 1 to August 31; Elk May 1 to June 30; Pronghorn May 1 to July 15— Prohibit locatable, salable, and leasable mineral development activities ⁹⁸ in each species-dependent time frame within fawning/calving habitat for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Big Game Fawning or Calving Range, Mule Deer May 1 to August 31; Elk May 1 to June 30; Pronghorn May 1 to July 15— Prohibit locatable, salable, and leasable mineral development activities ⁹⁹ in each species-dependent time frame within fawning/calving habitat for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Big Game Fawning or Calving Range, Mule Deer May 1 to August 31; Elk May 1 to June 30; Pronghorn May 1 to July 15— Prohibit activities determined to adversely impact big game fawning or calving range in each species-dependent time frame within fawning/calving habitat for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. Travel on identified designated roads may include these timing restrictions or limited site visits.

⁹⁷ The Draft EIS states “activities determined to adversely impact big game fawning or calving” This was clarified in the Final EIS to clarify which specific activities would be prohibited. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁹⁸ The Draft EIS states “activities determined to adversely impact big game fawning or calving” This was clarified in the Final EIS to clarify which specific activities would be prohibited. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

⁹⁹ The Draft EIS states “activities determined to adversely impact big game fawning or calving” This was clarified in the Final EIS to clarify which specific activities would be prohibited. Effects are the same as those described in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS analysis is unchanged.

2. Alternatives (Wildlife and Fisheries Resources)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Livestock grazing and mule deer habitat	Design and implement livestock grazing systems to protect mule deer habitat by scheduling non-use or rest during critical periods in essential winter ranges and fawning areas.	The BLM would not authorize livestock grazing in fawning areas to promote growth of adequate neonatal hiding cover and nutritious native forbs for maternal consumption during gestation and lactation periods.	Livestock grazing should be deferred: 1) in fawning areas during the fawning period where spatial overlap among livestock and deer is expected; and 2) in crucial winter range in late summer, fall, and winter to avoid excessive use of desirable shrubs.	Livestock grazing should be deferred: 1) in fawning areas during the fawning period where spatial overlap among livestock and deer is expected; and 2) in crucial winter range winter, late summer, and fall to avoid excessive use of desirable shrubs.	Livestock grazing should be deferred: 1) in fawning areas during the fawning period where spatial overlap among livestock and deer is expected; and 2) in crucial winter range in late summer, fall, and winter to avoid excessive use of desirable shrubs.
Livestock Grazing and Winter Range	No similar action	No similar action	In cooperation with the Range Program, the BLM would develop livestock grazing systems in crucial big game winter range and fawning areas that promote adequate forage and cover requirements for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn. The BLM would avoid passive, season-long livestock grazing and consider spatial and temporal effects of livestock grazing on wildlife habitat.	No similar action	The BLM would cooperatively develop livestock grazing systems in crucial big game winter range and fawning areas that promote adequate forage and cover requirements for mule deer, elk, and pronghorn. The BLM would avoid passive, season-long livestock grazing and consider spatial and temporal effects of livestock grazing on wildlife habitat.

2. Alternatives (Wildlife and Fisheries Resources)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Noxious Weeds	No similar action	The BLM would treat noxious weeds in crucial winter range areas to prevent replacement of nutritious native forbs and browse with nonnative species of lower nutritional value using mechanical methods or prescribed fire only. No chemical applications would occur in crucial big game winter range or fawning/calving habitat.	The BLM would treat noxious weeds in crucial big game winter range areas to prevent replacement of nutritious native forbs and browse with nonnative species of lower nutritional value using mechanical methods or prescribed fire first and chemical application only when mechanical treatment or prescribed fire is not appropriate.	The BLM would treat noxious weeds in crucial big game winter range areas to prevent replacement of nutritious native forbs and browse with nonnative species of lower nutritional value using mechanical methods or prescribed fire first and chemical application only when mechanical treatment or prescribed fire is not appropriate.	The BLM would treat noxious weeds in crucial big game winter range areas to prevent replacement of nutritious native forbs and browse with nonnative species of lower nutritional value using mechanical methods or prescribed fire first and chemical application only when mechanical treatment or prescribed fire is not appropriate.
Prairie Dog Towns	No similar action	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Prairie Dog Towns, 0.5 mile —Activities determined to adversely impact prairie dogs and/or associated species or habitat would be strictly controlled within 0.5 mile of the prairie dog town.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Prairie Dog Towns, 0.25 mile —Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities would be strictly controlled within 0.25 mile of the prairie dog towns if an activities would adversely impact prairie dogs and/or associated species.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—within Prairie Dog Towns —Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities would be strictly controlled within prairie dog towns if an activity would adversely impact prairie dogs and/or associated species.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—within Prairie Dog Towns—Activities determined to adversely impact prairie dogs and/or associated species or habitat would be strictly controlled within the prairie dog town.
Raptor Nests	No similar action	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Raptor Nests, March 1 to June 30 —No surface disturbance would be allowed within 1.0 mile of any occupied or unoccupied raptor nest.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Raptor Nests, March 1 to June 30 —No surface disturbance would be allowed within 0.5 mile of any occupied or unoccupied raptor nest.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Raptor Nests, March 1 to June 30 —No surface disturbance would be allowed within 0.25 mile of any occupied or unoccupied raptor nest.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Raptor Nests, March 1 to June 30—No surface disturbance would be allowed within 0.25 mile of any occupied raptor nest.

2. Alternatives (Wildlife and Fisheries Resources)

Resource	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C (Proposed RMP Draft RMP/EIS Preferred)	Alternative D	Alternative E (Proposed RMP)
Wildlife Habitat Projects	No similar action	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Wildlife Habitat Projects —Surface disturbance would not be allowed within up to 200 meters (656 feet) of existing or planned wildlife habitat improvement projects. Large-scale vegetation manipulation projects such as prescribed burns would be expected.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Wildlife Habitat Projects —Surface disturbance would not be allowed within up to 200 meters (656 feet) of existing or planned wildlife habitat improvement projects. Large-scale vegetation manipulation projects such as prescribed burns would be expected.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Wildlife Habitat Projects —Surface disturbance would not be allowed within up to 200 meters (656 feet) of existing or planned wildlife habitat improvement projects. Large-scale vegetation manipulation projects such as prescribed burns would be expected.	General Project Disturbance Mitigation—Wildlife Habitat Projects—Surface disturbance would not be allowed within up to 200 meters (656 feet) of existing or planned wildlife habitat improvement projects. Large-scale vegetation manipulation projects such as prescribed burns would be expected.

2532

INTERNAL

2533 **2.3 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS**

2534 **Appendix T** summarizes the environmental impacts associated with the alternatives. For the detailed
2535 impacts analysis for each topic, refer to **Chapter 4**.

2536 **2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED ANALYSIS**2537 **2.4.1 No Grazing Alternative**

2538 NEPA requires that agencies study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to a recommended course
2539 of action in any proposal that involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.
2540 Livestock grazing was not identified as an issue during external scoping (BLM 2008a). During internal scoping,
2541 potential resource conflicts between livestock grazing and riparian resources, wildlife resources, and special
2542 status species were identified. These resource conflicts were addressed through varying management
2543 decisions for these resources across alternatives.

2544 A range of livestock grazing alternatives was defined in two ways. First, under Alternative B, livestock grazing
2545 would be eliminated (unavailable) in WSAs and ACECs (162,600 acres fewer than under current levels). This
2546 would preclude resource conflicts between livestock grazing and other resources in these areas.

2547 Second, under Alternatives ~~C and D~~, variable grazing levels would be available via adaptive
2548 management according to the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock
2549 Grazing Management (BLM 2001b). Management prescriptions for each allotment or pasture would depend
2550 on the current condition of the area, and management would be adjusted in response to the findings of
2551 periodic monitoring.

2552 Adaptive management of allotments that do not meet the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health
2553 and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2001b) might include reducing AUMs, implementing
2554 grazing rotation, requiring prescribed rest periods, varying the duration or timing of grazing, adding or
2555 relocating water developments, or eliminating grazing in certain areas. The appropriate adaptive management
2556 prescription for each allotment is determined in site-specific environmental analyses, such as grazing permit
2557 renewal EAs. Through adaptive management, a range of available livestock grazing acres and AUMs could be
2558 reached under Alternatives C and D.

2559 Riparian, wildlife, and special status species resource management decisions relative to livestock grazing vary
2560 as well. Under Alternative B for riparian resources, livestock grazing within riparian areas would be
2561 prohibited; grazing would be available under Alternatives C and D only in riparian areas that meet the
2562 Riparian Sites Standards of the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock
2563 Grazing Management (BLM 2001b).

2564 For special status species, water developments and mineral supplements for livestock management would
2565 be located a certain distance from known special status plant populations, with the buffer distance varying
2566 across alternatives. The wildlife resource alternatives address livestock grazing by spatially or temporally
2567 limiting grazing in big game winter range and fawning or calving habitat. The range of management decisions
2568 for these resources addresses the identified resource conflicts.

2569 **2.4.2 Wild Horse Preserve, Sanctuary, State Park, or Herd Management Area
2570 Alternative**

2571 In 1971, Congress enacted the Wild-Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, 16 USC 1331 et seq.
2572 (the Wild Horse Act). The Wild Horse Act required the BLM to inventory public lands to identify areas
2573 where wild horses were located in 1971. During this inventory effort, the BLM identified herd areas, the
2574 geographic areas used by wild horse herds as habitat in 1971. Using these herd areas, the BLM established
2575 herd management areas for the maintenance of wild horse herds. The BLM is required to managing wild

2. Alternatives (Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis)

2576 horses so that the distribution of animals is limited to herd areas where herds existed in 1971 (43 CFR
2577 4710.4).

2578 Following passage of the Wild Horse Act, the BLM inventoried all public lands in New Mexico for wild horses
2579 and identified herd areas. The BLM determined that there were no wild horses or herd areas within the
2580 Planning Area; therefore, the 1986 RPFO RMP did not establish any herd management areas.

2581 Because there are no herd areas or herd management areas in the Planning Area, this RMP does not address
2582 the Wild Horse and Burro Program. Any unclaimed or unbranded horses currently within the Planning Area
2583 are not subject to management under the Wild Horse Act. The BLM does not have the authority to designate
2584 a herd area or herd management area in a location where wild horses were not present in 1971. Such
2585 authority lies exclusively with Congress. The feral and unclaimed horses in the Planning Area are trespassing
2586 on BLM-administered lands, are not a part of the BLM's inventory or management program as a result of
2587 the Wild Horse Act, and will not be considered as a part of the BLM's resource management program in
2588 this RMP/EIS process.

2589 The public scoping comments indicate a desire for the BLM to establish a wild horse state park or wild horse
2590 sanctuary. The BLM lacks authority to designate public land as a state park. As described above, there is no
2591 herd area within the Planning Area. The BLM's regulations call for it to manage herds so that the distribution
2592 of animals is limited to herd areas where herds existed in 1971; therefore, a wild horse sanctuary within the
2593 Planning Area would be contrary to the BLM's wild horse management practice. Any establishment of a wild
2594 horse herd management area within the Planning Area would be similarly contrary to the BLM's regulations.

2595 2.4.3 Placitas ACEC

2596 ACEC designations highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent
2597 irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, and scenic values; fish or wildlife resources; or other
2598 natural systems or process; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards (BLM 1988). In order
2599 to be considered for an ACEC designation, the area must meet one or more of the following relevance
2600 criteria:

- 2601 • A significant historical, cultural, or scenic value (including, but not limited to, rare or sensitive
2602 archaeological resources and religion or cultural resources important to Native Americans)
- 2603 • A fish and wildlife resource (including, but not limited to, habitat for endangered, threatened, or
2604 sensitive species or habitat essential for maintain species diversity)
- 2605 • A natural process or system (including, but not limited to, endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant
2606 species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities that are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian;
2607 or rare geological features)
- 2608 • Natural hazards (including, but not limited to, areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides,
2609 unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs); a hazard caused by human action may meet the
2610 relevance criteria if it is determined through the RMP process that it has become part of a natural
2611 process
- 2612 • The values, resources, systems, processes, or hazards described in the relevance section must have
2613 substantial significance and values to meet the importance criteria; this generally means that the
2614 value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:
 - 2615 – Has more than locally significant qualities that give it special worth, consequence, meaning,
2616 distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource
 - 2617 – Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary,
2618 unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change
 - 2619 – Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or
2620 to carry out the mandates of FLPMA

2. Alternatives (Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis)

- 2621 – Has qualities that warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about
2622 safety and public welfare
2623 – Poses a significant threat to the human life and safety of property

2624 Each potential ACEC within the Decision Area has been reviewed, following the ACEC relevance and
2625 importance criteria summarized above and outlined in BLM Manual 1613. The proposed Placitas ACEC was
2626 raised during the public scoping period, based on the local residents' interest in cultural resources in the
2627 area. This public scoping comment was considered by the RPFO through the application of the ACEC
2628 relevance and important criteria analysis. The Placitas ACEC does not meet the relevance criteria for fish
2629 and wildlife, natural process, or natural hazards. In addition, the historic, cultural, and scenic values of the
2630 area do not meet importance criterion of "having more than locally significant qualities that give it worth,
2631 consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared with any similar resource."
2632 As a result, the Placitas ACEC is not considered under detailed analysis in this RMP/EIS.

2633 While the Placitas area does contain cultural resources, many that are on BLM-administered lands are not
2634 eligible for listing on the NRHP, based on BLM staff review of existing survey data. Those that are eligible
2635 would be protected (although not necessarily preserved in place) under Section 106 of the NHPA if any
2636 undertakings with the potential to affect cultural resources were proposed. The BLM does own a small piece
2637 of the NRHP-listed San Jose de Las Huertas. It is of national significance under the NHPA and is also
2638 protected under the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act of 2004. Undertakings with the
2639 potential to adversely affect this site would be subject to consultation, not only with the New Mexico State
2640 Historic Preservation Officer but also with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; therefore,
2641 designation of the potential Placitas ACEC is not necessary to protect the site.

2642 **2.4.4 Las Huertas Creek Wild and Scenic River Evaluation**

2643 The potential for Las Huertas Creek to be eligible or suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS was raised during
2644 internal scoping by members of the RPFO RMP Interdisciplinary Team. The RPFO considered the
2645 recommendation of Las Huertas Creek for designation in accordance with all applicable policies and manuals.
2646 Program guidance is also provided to aid in fulfilling requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, including
2647 BLM Manual 8351 Section 1623.41A2d and the Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and
2648 Management of River Areas (NPS and Forest Service 1982). This guidance provides the line manager and
2649 program staff professionals with specific policies related to the WSR eligibility determination process,
2650 integration of WSR studies within the RMP process, WSR river protection and management, environmental
2651 analyses, legislative reporting, and other matters.

2652 In order to be considered eligible for determination of suitability for congressional designation into the
2653 NWSRS, a river is evaluated using the following process:

- 2654 • Identify segments to be inventoried (only sections falling under BLM jurisdiction)—Las Huertas
2655 Creek is approximately 16 miles long, approximately 1 mile of which crosses BLM-administered
2656 land.
2657 • Determine if segments are free flowing and have any outstandingly remarkable values—Las Huertas
2658 Creek has been determined to be free flowing but does not have any outstandingly remarkable
2659 values. The outstandingly remarkable values considered and rationale are as follows:
2660 – Scenic—The Las Huertas Creek landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water color, and
2661 related factors do not result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions within the
2662 geographic region. The rating area is not Scenic Quality A, as defined in the BLM Visual Resource
2663 Management Manual (BLM 1986b).
2664 – Recreation—Las Huertas Creek is not eligible because it does not provide a critically important
2665 regional recreation opportunity. The creek is not a significant component of a regional

2. Alternatives (Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis)

2666 recreation opportunity spectrum setting. The portion of Las Huertas Creek in the Planning Area
2667 consists of a dry wash with intermittent water during heavy rainstorms and during snowmelt
2668 runoff from the Sandia Mountains. Recreation consists of people who enjoy looking at and
2669 collecting river rock. The creek wash is flat, with no boundary sides.

- 2670 – Wildlife populations—Las Huertas Creek does not contain nationally or regionally important
2671 populations of resident or indigenous wildlife species dependent on the creek's environment,
2672 particularly when considering unique species or populations of state, federally listed, or
2673 candidate threatened and endangered species.
- 2674 – Wildlife habitat—The area of Las Huertas Creek does not provide high-quality habitat for
2675 wildlife of national or regional significance or a critical link in habitat conditions for state, federally
2676 listed, or candidate threatened and endangered species.
- 2677 – Cultural—The sites within the RPFO portion of Las Huertas Creek are not rare and do not
2678 have exceptional human-interest values. The sites do not have national or regional importance
2679 for interpreting prehistory.

2680 Segments that are free flowing and have at least one outstandingly remarkable value are considered eligible.
2681 Las Huertas Creek is free flowing but does not have at least one outstandingly remarkable value; therefore,
2682 the creek is not considered eligible for further evaluation as to its suitability for inclusion in the NWSRS.

2683

This page intentionally left blank.

INTERNAL DRAFT