

APPENDIX H

CHANGES IN LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT IN EL MALPAIS NCA AND PLAN AREA

Administrative Changes

In 1987, the BLM completed a major land exchange with the New Mexico State Land Office. Approximately 27,000 acres of public land in Torrance County were exchanged for approximately 29,000 acres of State land in Cibola County.

The State had leased all the acquired acres for grazing. The BLM agreed to honor these leases until their expiration, and then to incorporate them into public land grazing. The majority of the acquired lands were already within BLM grazing allotments and were easily incorporated.

However, in two situations, the acquired State lands were completely surrounded by large blocks of private land, with no other BLM public land available in the grazing area. As a result, the two State lessees did not already have public land grazing privileges. Each person was found to be qualified for these privileges, and was issued a grazing lease, one on the Chical (#222) and one on the Palomas (#457) Allotment.

In another administrative change, the BLM in April 1995 combined the Cerro Chato (#200) and the Los Cerros (#210) Allotments to form a single allotment. The combined allotment is now referred to as the Los Cerros (#210) Allotment.

Other Changes

As specified in both the Rio Puerco and the Socorro RMPs, the AFO initiated intensive monitoring studies on the I category allotments. Based on the studies, the AFO reviewed grazing preferences and issued decisions in 1992 to establish new preferences. Using New Mexico Department of Game and Fish estimates of big game populations (antelope, deer, and elk) for each of the I allotments, the AFO allocated sufficient wildlife forage. Table H-1 displays the grazing preference at the onset of the monitoring studies and after the decisions (including the wildlife allocations) were issued.

In addition to adjusting grazing preferences, the AFO has made other changes in grazing management in the Plan Area. These are listed in Table H-2.

TABLE H-1
ADJUSTMENTS IN GRAZING PREFERENCE
IN THE PLANNING AREA (1992)

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Grazing Preference (AUMs) ^a		Wildlife Forage Allocation (AUMs)
		Before Monitoring	After Monitoring	
203	El Malpais	14,899	14,899	2,332
205	Los Pilares	2,446	1,716	483
207	Cerro Brillante	4,086	3,572	238
208	Loma Montosa	672	997	87
209	Techado Mesa	5,294	4,768	1,470
210	Los Cerros ^b	5,670	5,420	349
Totals		33,067	31,372	4,959

Notes: ^a Grazing preference is the total number of AUMs grazed by livestock on the public lands (43 CFR 4100.0-5). An AUM is an Animal Unit Month, or the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow or its equivalent for one month (43 CFR 4100.0-5)

^b AUMs are the combined total for Los Cerros and the former Cerro Chato Allotments.

TABLE H-2
ONGOING GRAZING MANAGEMENT PLANNING
FOR ALLOTMENTS OVERLAPPING THE PLANNING AREA

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Management Change
205	Los Pilares	Grazing Plan (1993) ^a
208	Loma Montosa	No grazing, June through September (1992)
209	Techado Mesa	Grazing Plan (1993) ^a
210	Los Cerros ^b	Grazing Plan (1995) ^a

Notes: ^a Includes pasture use schedule that provides for regular rest from livestock grazing use.

^b Plan includes the former Cerro Chato Allotment.