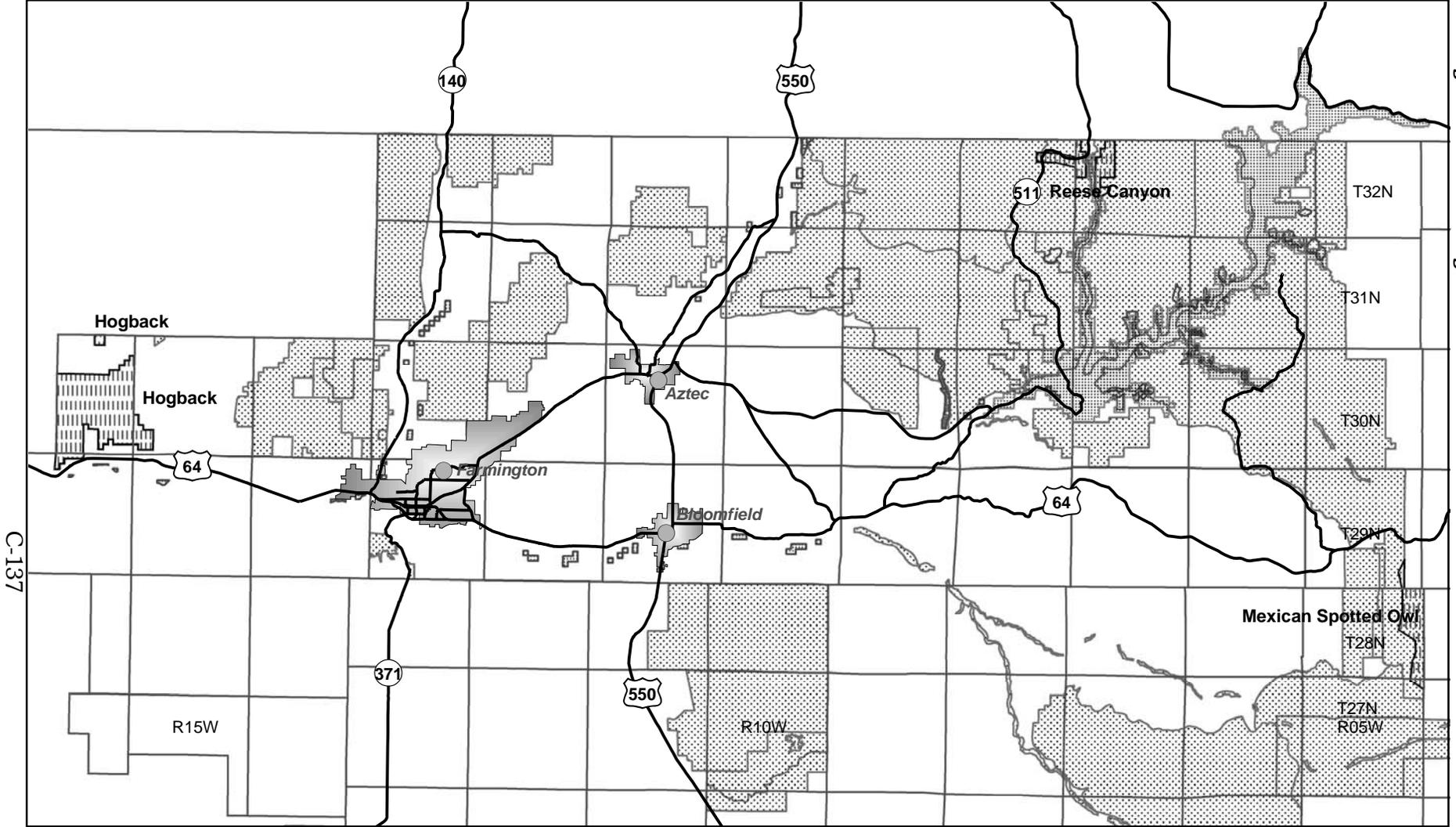


6. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

BLM policy mandates that lands supporting habitat for federally listed endangered, threatened, or proposed species should be retained in federal ownership and that sensitive species should be managed so they will not need to be listed under the Endangered Species Act in the future. The areas in this section have been designated by

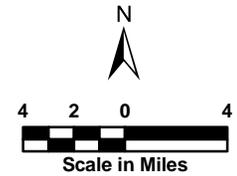
the FFO to provide protection of habitat for federal and state listed threatened and endangered species. Some of these areas are also riparian areas, but they are included in this section because the primary purpose for designation is to protect habitat of threatened or endangered species.



C-137

Legend

- Major Road
- Township and Range
- ACEC
- T&E Species
- River Tracts
- Bald Eagle
- USBR
- Urban Area



Map C-34: Threatened and Endangered Species ACECs

BALD EAGLE ACEC

Site Description:

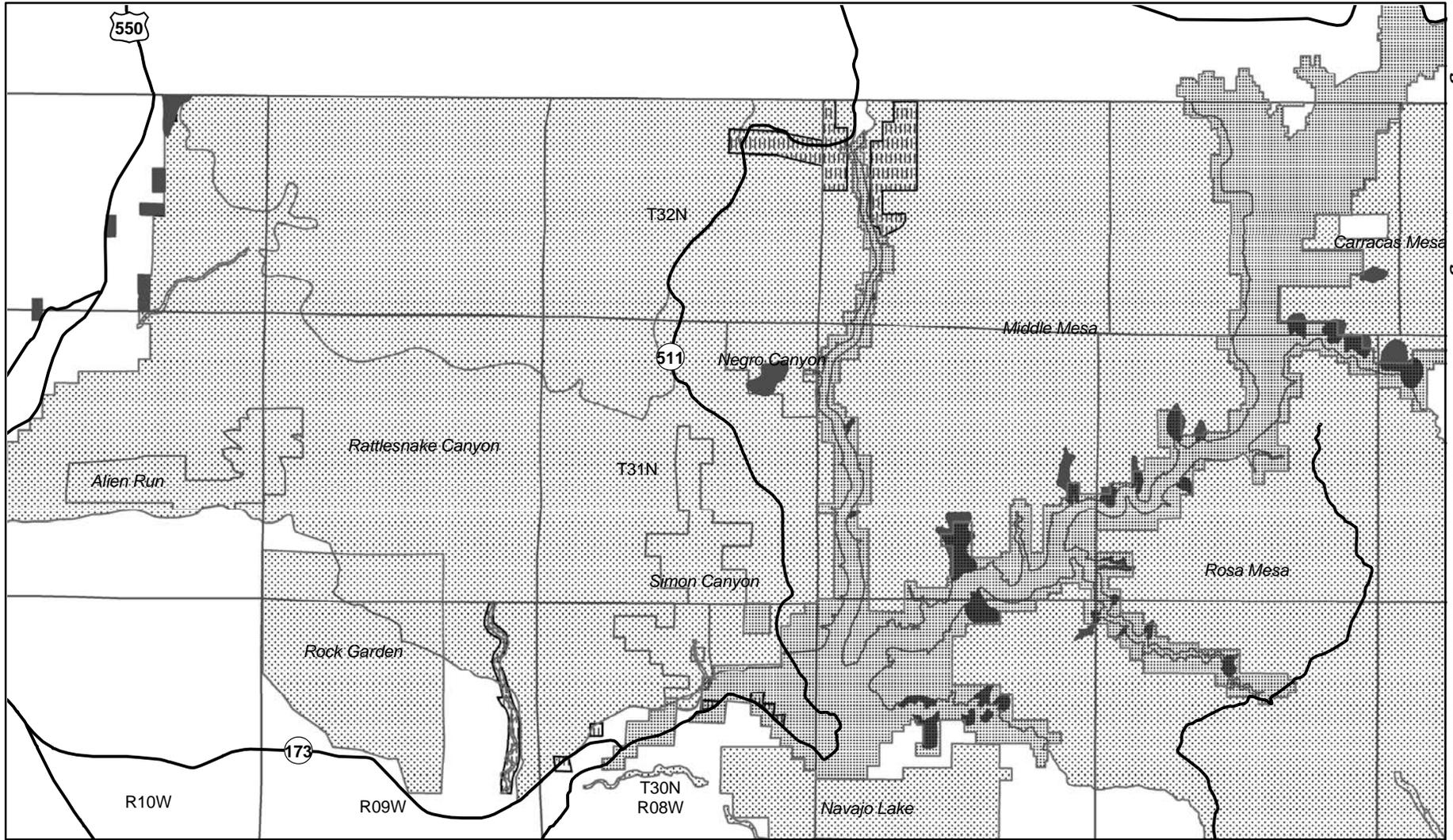
The Bald Eagle ACEC Activity Plan (BLM 1992) was finalized in 1992, and identified 37 units totaling 4,141 acres that are part of the ACEC on FFO and USBR land. Most units are used as day use areas, although three nocturnal roost sites have been identified. Most units have a core area with a buffer zone that typically extends out one-quarter mile from the core area. Most units are around Navajo Reservoir on BLM and USBR land, although state land is included in some units.

Management Goal:

The major objective of this ACEC is to protect the most important bald eagle wintering habitat, as well as protecting the bald eagles that use these areas in the winter.

Management Prescriptions:

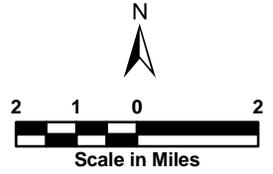
1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint including timing limitations from 11/1 through 3/31 in buffer areas, and to allow no disturbance to the core areas at any time of year as outlined in the 1992 Activity Plan.
 2. Manage new oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint, including timing limitations from 11/1 through 3/31 in buffer areas. Manage new oil and gas leases under No
- Surface Occupancy in core areas as outlined in the 1992 Activity Plan. In addition, new leasing will be subject to noise limitations where appropriate.
3. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
 4. Acquire non-federal minerals.
 5. Acquire non-federal inholdings.
 6. Land ownership not available for disposal.
 7. ROWs permitted on a case-by-case basis with special management constraints and mitigation in designated buffer areas. Closed in core areas.
 8. OHV limited to existing roads and trails.
 9. Designate Animas Units and Navajo Lake Units as Class II VRM Area.
 10. Close to wood cutting and gathering except for administrative purposes with approval of wildlife staff.
 11. Any vegetative management must benefit the purpose of the ACEC. Every effort will be made to control fire to protect the large standing ponderosa pine and Douglas fir.
 12. Open to livestock grazing.
 13. Continue monitoring on regular basis.
 14. Designate noise receptor points at eagle roosts and core areas. Stricter standards may apply.



C-139

Legend

-  Major Road
-  Township and Range
-  ACEC
-  T&E Species
-  Bald Eagle
-  USBR



Map C-35: Bald Eagle ACECs

THE HOGBACK ACEC

Site Description:

There are a total of 10,367 acres within the boundary of The Hogback ACEC, of which 960 acres are state land and 9,497 acres contain federal minerals. The Hogback ACEC is located in the western corner of the Resource Area. The Hogback ACEC remains an important area of both regional and national significance for conservation and study of rare plants. All known populations of *Astragalus humillimus* and *Sclerocactus mesae-verdae* that occur on lands managed by FFO are within the Hogback ACEC. In addition, this area also contains several other plant species, which are rare or endemic to New Mexico. The ACEC also contains the southernmost range extension of several species including small-leaf mahogany (*Cercocarpus intricatus*) and singleleaf ash (*Fraxinus anomala*). As such it is of significant scientific value as an area for studying ecotonal relationships.

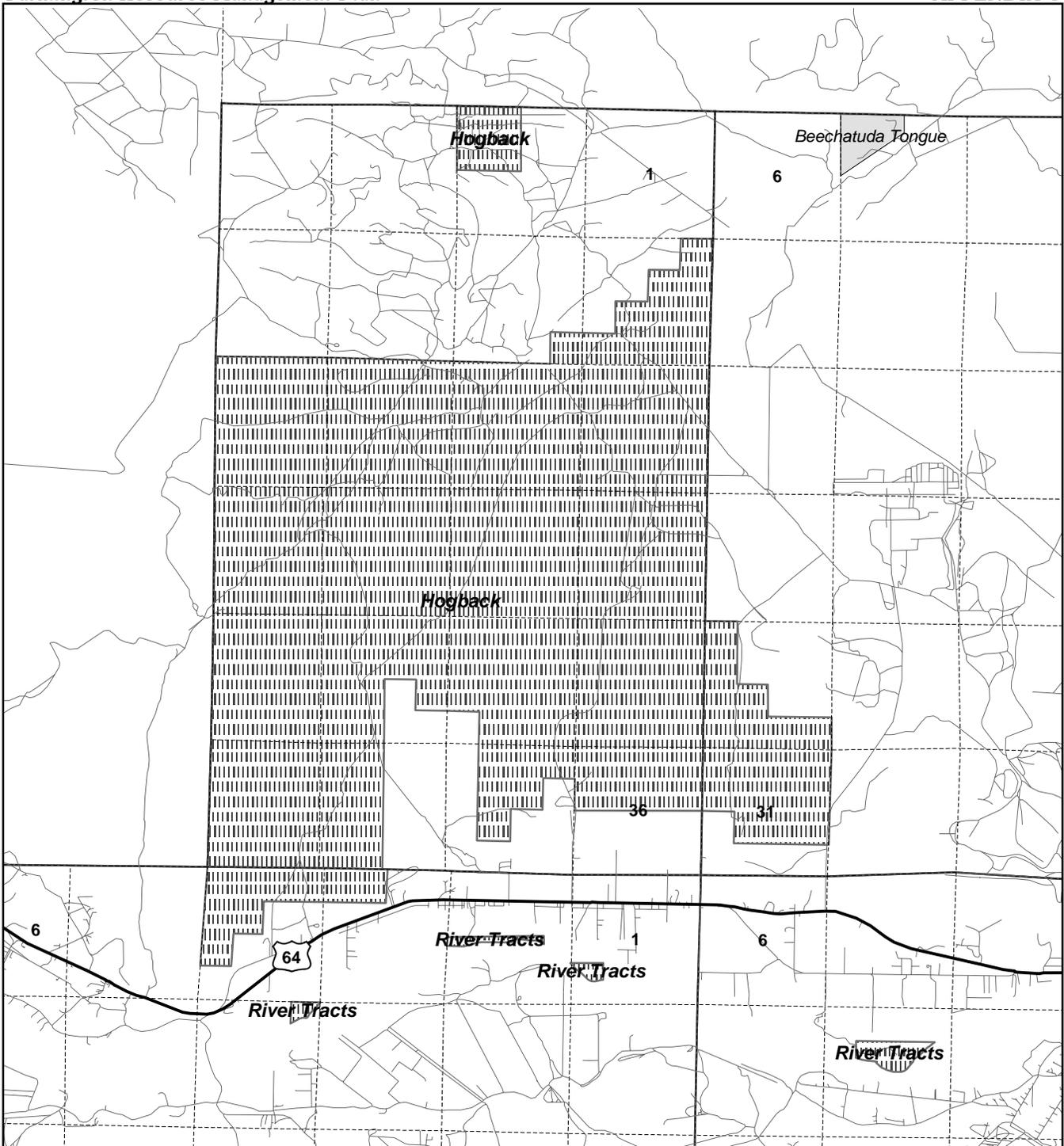
Management Goal:

The main objective of this special management area is to meet BLM responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act to protect the habitat for threatened,

endangered, proposed, or other sensitive plant species.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint.
2. Discretionary closure on new oil and gas leasing.
3. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
4. Acquire non-federal minerals.
5. Acquire non-federal inholdings and acquire easements.
6. Land ownership not available for disposal.
7. ROWs permitted on a case-by-case basis with special management constraints and mitigations.
8. OHV limited to existing roads and trails.
9. Designate as Class II, III VRM Area.
10. Close to wood cutting and gathering except for administrative purposes with approval of wildlife staff.
11. Apply limited fire suppression and include invasive weed management.
12. Open to grazing permits.
13. Continue monitoring on regular basis.



Legend

- Major Road
- Township and Range
- Section Line
- Road
- SDA
- T&E Species



Map C-36: The Hogback ACEC

MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL ACEC

Site Description:

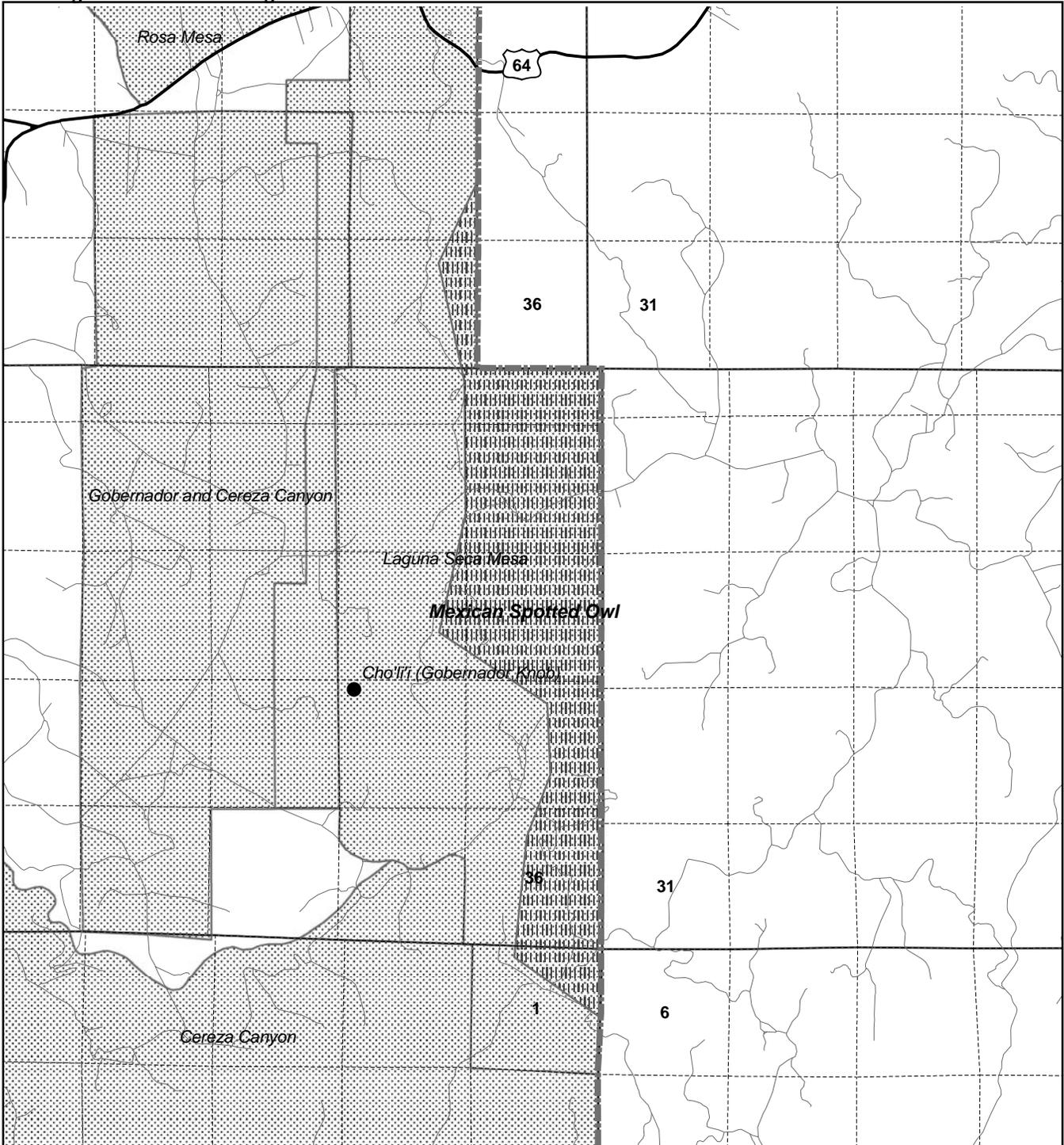
There are a total of 2,758 acres within the boundary of the Mexican Spotted Owl ACEC, of which 2,618 acres are public land (BLM) and 2,758 acres contain federal minerals. The 2,618 acres of federal land within the MSO ACEC were designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Mexican spotted owl critical habitat in 2001 (USFWS 2001). The boundaries of the MSO ACEC are the boundaries of the designated critical habitat and are wholly within the boundaries of the Laguna Seca Mesa wildlife SDA, and management prescriptions outlined under the wildlife SDA will apply to the MSO ACEC. In addition, the MSO ACEC will be managed in accordance with the MSO recovery plan of 1995.

Management Goal:

Manage to protect Mexican spotted owl critical habitat as designated by the USFWS.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under No Surface Occupancy constraint on 90 acres of mixed conifer habitat designated as currently suitable nesting MSO habitat as outlined in the 1995 MSO Recovery Plan. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint on remaining acreage.
2. Manage new oil and gas leases under No Surface Occupancy constraints on 90 acres of mixed conifer habitat designated as currently suitable nesting MSO habitat as outlined in the 1995 MSO Recovery Plan. Manage new oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint on remaining acreage.
3. Open for locatable minerals.
4. Acquire inholdings within the ACEC.
5. Retain all public lands.
6. ROWs permitted on a case-by-case basis with special management constraints and mitigations.
7. OHV limited to maintained roads, designated routes, and trails.
8. Designate IV VRM Area.
9. Allow the cutting/collection of firewood with a valid permit except in 90 acres of designated mixed conifer habitat.
10. Management of the ACEC emphasizes protection of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest stands from any man-caused disturbance, catastrophic wildfires by thinning and fuel wood reduction projects, and the adherence to the MSO Recovery Plan of 1995 and to any revisions of the recovery plan that may be completed in the future.
11. Open to livestock grazing.
12. Designate 90 acres of the mixed conifer habitat as Noise Sensitive Area. If nesting owls are found, additional noise receptors may be designated.



Legend

- Major Road
- Township and Range
- Section Line
- Road
- SDA
- T&E Species
- Carson NF



Map C-37: Mexican Spotted Owl ACEC

REESE CANYON RNA

Site Description:

There are a total of 2,344 acres within the boundary of the Reese Canyon RNA, of which 2,299 acres are public land (BLM) and 2,338 acres contain federal minerals.

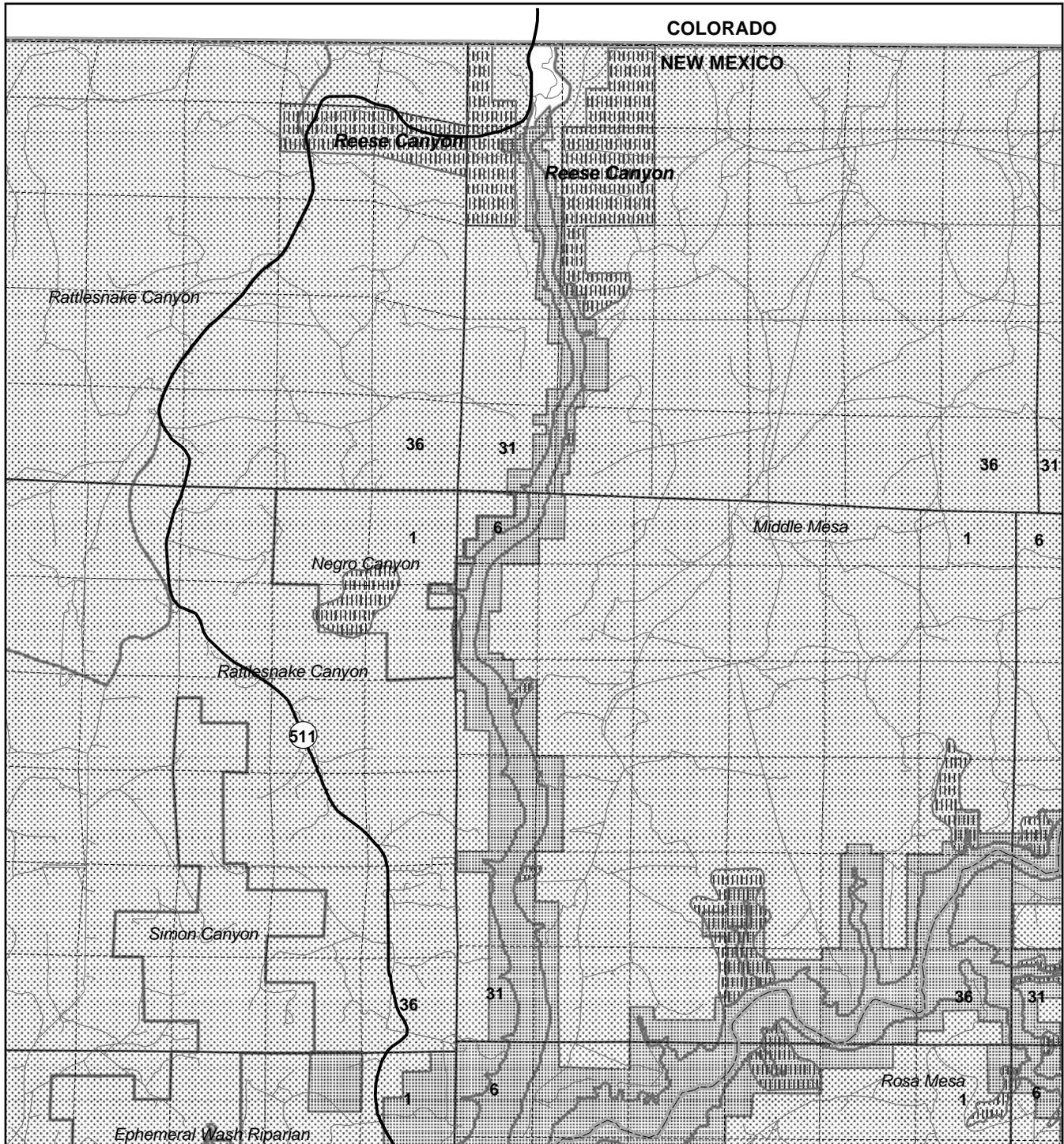
Reese Canyon RNA contains habitat for species federally listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Management Goal:

The Reese Canyon RNA provides opportunities for the reintroduction of sensitive plants and the protection of wintering bald eagles.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint.
2. Discretionary closure on new oil and gas leasing.
3. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
4. Land ownership not available for disposal.
5. ROWs permitted with special management constraints and mitigation.
6. OHV limited to maintained roads for the entire area.
7. Designate as Class II VRM Area.
8. Close to wood cutting and gathering except for administrative purposes with approval of wildlife staff.
9. Any vegetative management must benefit the purpose of the RNA. Apply limited fire suppression.
10. Open to livestock grazing.
11. Designate noise receptor points at identified cliff habitat for the protection of wintering bald eagles.



Legend

-  Major Road
-  Township and Range
-  Section Line
-  San Juan/Rio Arriba County Boundary
-  Road
-  SDA
-  T&E Species
-  USBR



Map C-38: Reese Canyon RNA

RIVER TRACTS ACEC

Site Description:

The San Juan Basin River Management Plan was completed in January of 1987. At that time, the major emphasis for the HMP was to preserve riverine habitats for wildlife and recreation. Since 1987, riparian habitat management by federal agencies across the west has come under intense scrutiny because of the rarity and importance of this habitat type. In addition, the river riparian habitat managed by the FFO supports potential habitat for endangered and sensitive species. The river tracts warrant the protections afforded by the designation of the River Tracts ACEC.

Since 1996, all of the river tracts listed in the 1987 San Juan Basin River Management Plan were evaluated. Some of the river tracts were not mapped correctly, and after recent land surveys some tracts did not have river frontage or did not support riparian vegetation. There are 30 river tracts that warrant inclusion into the River Tracts ACEC:

- Animas River tracts: 1, 2, and 8.
- La Plata River tracts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.
- San Juan River tracts: Archuleta, Blanco, Bloomfield, Bradshaw, Bull Calf, Desert Hills, Gallegos, Jewett Valley, Kutz, La Plata, Santa Rosa, Schneider, Simon Canyon, South Bloomfield, Subdivision, Valdez, and Wheeler.

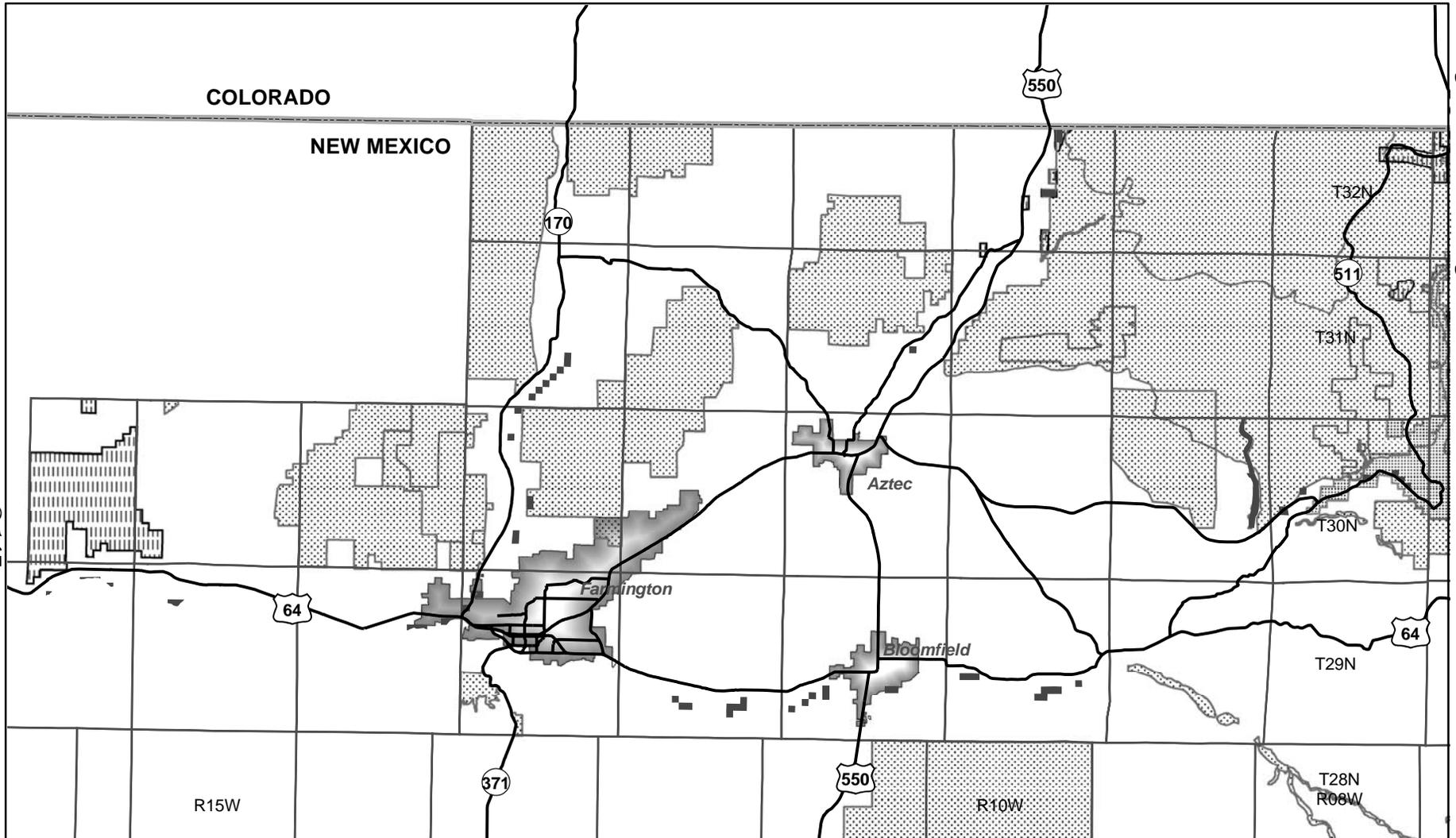
As river properties are acquired through land exchanges, other tracts may be added to this list in the future.

Management Goal:

The main goal is to protect and rehabilitate the riparian and wetland habitats consistent with the Riparian and Aquatic HMP of 2000.

Management Prescriptions:

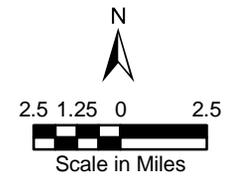
1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under special management constraints or site requirements on APD.
2. Manage new oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint.
3. Manage grazing activities in accordance with the August 2000 Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management EIS/HMP.
4. Off road vehicles limited to roads (designated maintained county roads, designated unmaintained county roads, and active oilfield access roads).
5. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
6. Close to wood cutting and gathering.
7. Apply limited fire suppression and develop plans for fuel reduction and protective fire breaks where appropriate.
8. Acquire by exchange parcels of river bottomlands that are adjacent to existing river tracts to increase total acreage of riverine habitat under protective management.
9. When appropriate, designate occupied federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species habitats as noise sensitive receptors.
10. Obtain legal access to river tracts where possible.
11. Analyze invasive, non-native vegetation for the development of vegetation manipulation projects to improve the native riparian vegetation community.



C-147

Legend

- Major Road
- Township and Range
- ACEC
- T&E Species
- River Tracts
- USBR
- Urban Area



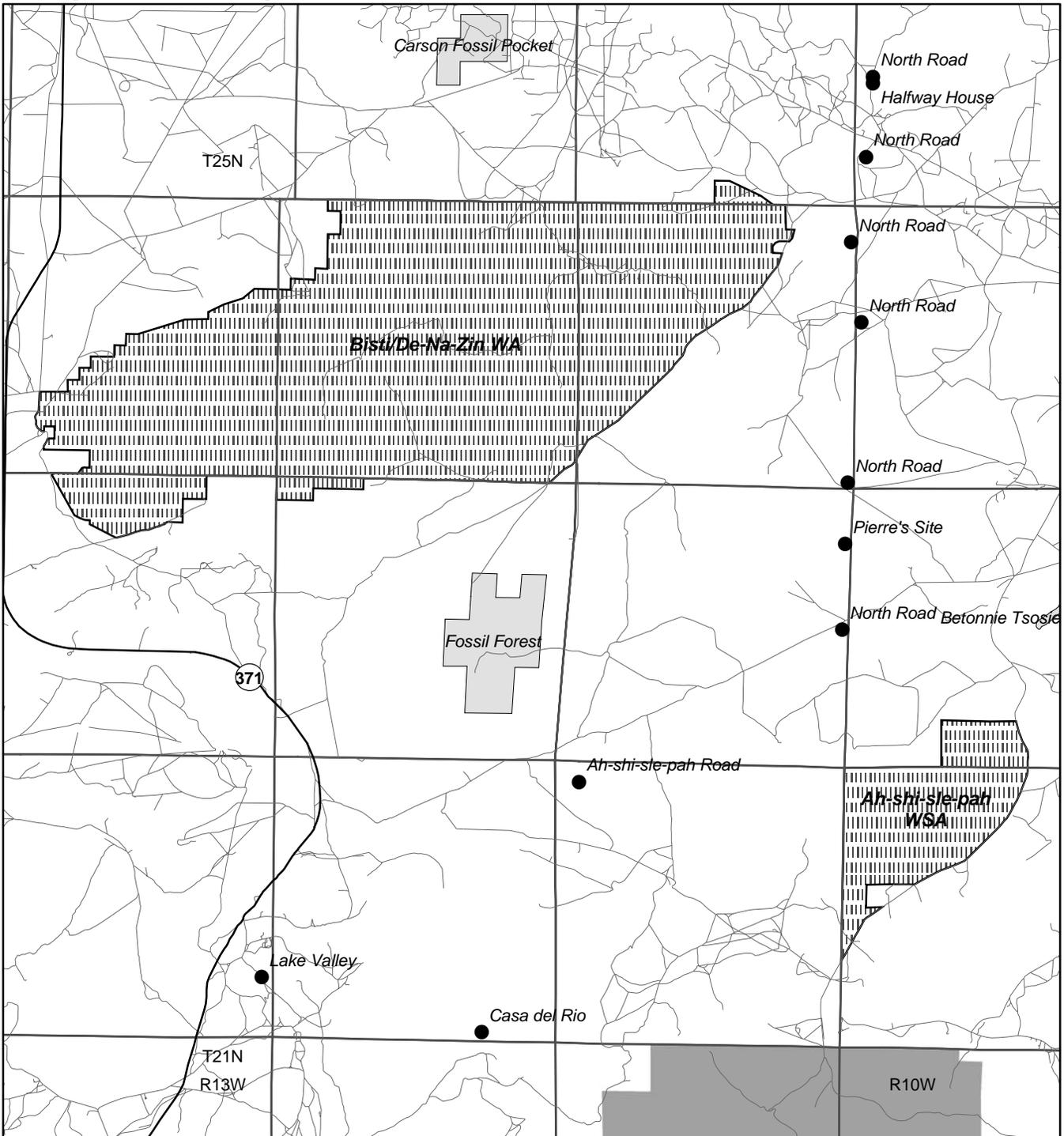
Map C-39: River Tracts

7. WILDERNESS AREAS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

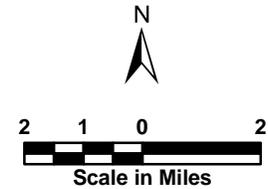
The FFO area includes one congressionally designated Wilderness Area and one Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The Ah-shi-slepah WSA is awaiting Congressional decision regarding its wilderness status. These areas have been designated to preserve important natural landscapes in the FFO area that are uncommon in the region, including remote wind-eroded sandstone and shale badlands, striking geologic features with high scenic value,

petrified wood, cultural resources, significant paleontological resources, wildlife, and solitude. They also provide recreational, educational, and scientific opportunities for local, in-state, out-of-state, and international visitors. Because of its close proximity, the Wilderness Areas often receive use from people who visit Chaco Culture National Historical Park in the southern part of the FFO area.



Legend

- Major Road
- Township and Range
- Cultural SDA
- SDA
- Wilderness
- National Park Service



Map C-40: Wilderness Areas

AH-SHI-SLE-PAH WSA

Site Description:

There are approximately 6,592 acres within the boundary of the Ah-shi-sle-pah Wilderness Study Area (WSA), of which 6,516 acres are public land (BLM) and 6,552 acres contain federal minerals. The Ah-shi-sle-pah WSA is located in northwest New Mexico 3 miles north of Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

The geologic structures of the Ah-shi-sle-pah WSA consist of the Fruitland Formation and the Kirtland Shale, which contain alternating layers of sandstones and gray, tan and olive variegated shales. These soft, unconsolidated sediments have eroded into a variety of forms. Outcrops are exposed as badlands and are characterized by highly rugged terrain, including spires, towers, and mushroom formations. The visual qualities of the Ah-shi-sle-pah WSA result from the broken, coarse terrain and coloration. Browns, tans and grays are highlighted by maroon and purple banding.

The Ah-shi-sle-pah WSA contains geologic and paleontological values that afford intrinsic educational and scenic opportunities. Fossils of dinosaurs, crocodiles, fish, turtles, and early mammals, as well as petrified wood can be found in the WSA.

The majority of the unit is badlands, but Ah-shi-sle-pah Wash near the center of the WSA adds rolling topography dissected by intermittent drainages. The southern portion of the WSA and a thin band along the eastern border are open and rolling uplands, and support shortgrass and sagebrush vegetation.

Wildlife species that may be encountered in the WSA include coyotes, upland game species such as scaled quail and mourning doves, bull snakes and rattlesnakes, lizards, and cottontail rabbits. Ferruginous hawks periodically nest in the area.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the Ah-shi-sle-pah WSA are related to its topography. The expansive rolling hills and the intricacy of the dissected badlands provide the WSA with varied opportunities for dispersed recreation. The badlands offer the opportunity for hiking, camping, horseback riding, sightseeing, and photography. The WSA is used primarily for day hiking, with some overnight use occurring. Sightseeing opportunities related to the inherent scenic, geologic, and paleontological values exist throughout the WSA. The area is currently closed to motorized/mechanized vehicle travel.

Management Goal:

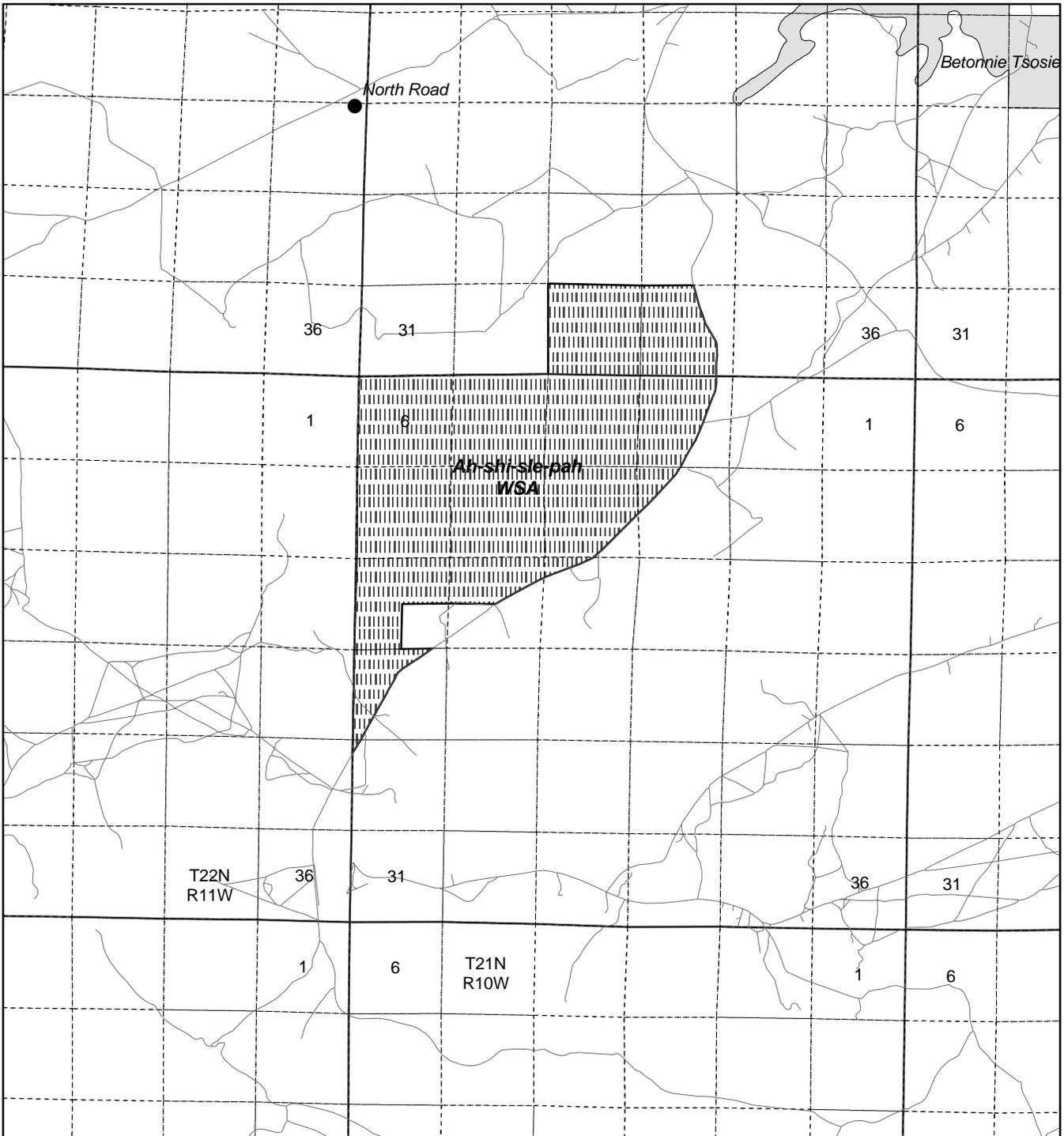
The management goal for Ah-shi-sle-pah WSA is to preserve the natural, solitude, and primitive recreation values in the interim until Congressional determination on wilderness status is made.

In addition to WSA status, Ah-shi-sle-pah was designated an ACEC in this planning process. Should Congress find Ah-shi-sle-pah unsuitable as wilderness, the ACEC designation recognizes and allows for effective management of the significant paleontological and visual resources, natural values, and primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities found there.

Management Prescriptions:

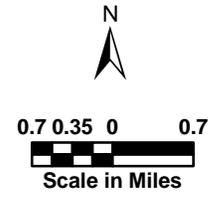
1. Continue management for existing oil and gas leases under BLM guidelines for WSAs until Congressional determination on wilderness status.
2. Nondiscretionary closure on new oil and gas leasing.
3. Manage leasables and salables under BLM guidelines for WSAs until Congressional determination on wilderness status.
4. Manage locatables under BLM guidelines for WSAs until Congressional determination on wilderness status.

5. Land ownership is subject to Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Act.
6. Preclude ROW placement.
7. Close to motorized and mechanized equipment.
8. Implement VRM Class I objectives.
9. Close to wood cutting and gathering.
10. Closed to vegetative gathering and sales. Vegetative treatments for the control of noxious weeds may occur in accordance with existing laws, using nonimpairment concept.
11. Continue current permitting for livestock grazing.
12. Apply semi-primitive non-motorized ROS objectives.
13. No shooting in developed areas.
14. Collection of paleontological resources prohibited except by permit. Permits granted only for scientific endeavors. Collection of all other resources is prohibited except where otherwise authorized by law or policy.
15. Identify as Noise Sensitive Area. Stricter standards may apply.



Legend

-  Road
-  Township and Range
-  Section Line
-  Cultural SDA
-  SDA
-  Wilderness



Map C-41: Ah-shi-sle-pah Wilderness Study Area

BISTI/DE-NA-ZIN WILDERNESS AREA

Site Description:

There are approximately 44,792 acres within the boundary of the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area, of which 38,381 acres are public land (BLM) and approximately 39,047 acres contain federal minerals. Visitor use at the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area increases annually. The area provides recreational, educational, and scientific opportunities for local, in-state, out-of-state, and international visitors. Because of its close proximity, the wilderness often receives use from people who visit Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area provides an opportunity for the public to enjoy a variety of recreational activities and challenges, including hiking, backpacking, photography, viewing of petrified wood, fossils, and wildlife, and enjoying solitude.

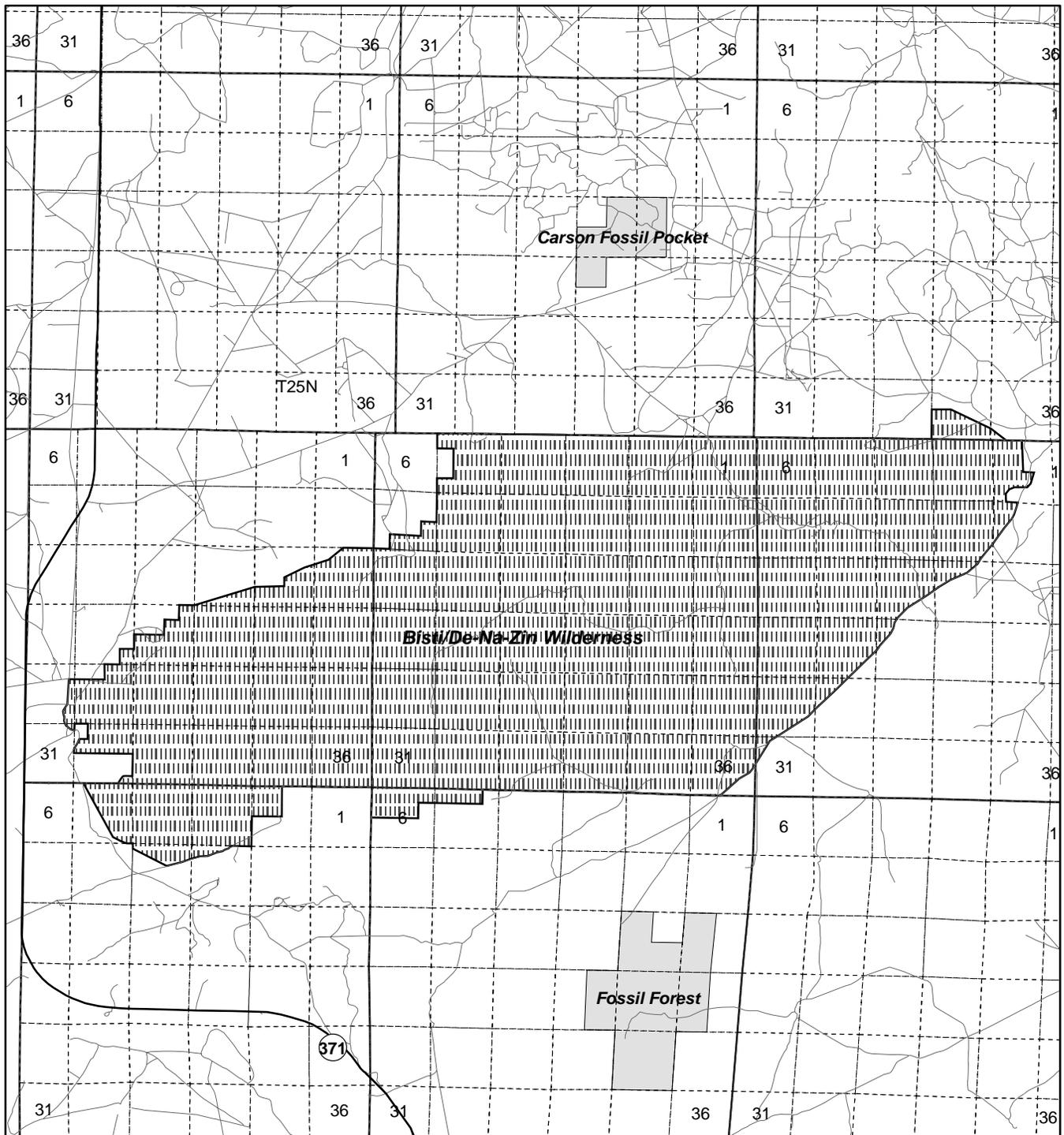
The Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness receives frequent exposure by word-of-mouth, Internet sites, art galleries, brochures, newspaper and magazine articles, and receives use from schools, professionals, and nonprofit organizations. It is anticipated that this exposure will create more interest in, and use of the area.

Management Goal:

The management goals are to preserve the natural character, solitude, and primitive recreation opportunities, and to preserve and protect the important scientific and educational resource values.

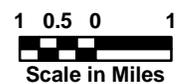
Management Prescriptions:

1. Development of existing leased acreage would occur as directed by enabling legislation.
2. Nondiscretionary closure on new oil and gas leasing.
3. Closed to the development of leasable and salable minerals.
4. Locatable minerals are withdrawn.
5. Acquire non-BLM inholdings and adjacent land to increase manageability of wilderness.
6. Land ownership not available for disposal.
7. Preclude ROW placement.
8. Closed to motorized and mechanized equipment.
9. Implement VRM Class I, objectives and Federal Class II air quality standards.
10. Closed to wood cutting and gathering.
11. Closed to vegetative gathering and sales. Vegetative treatments for the control of noxious weeds may occur in accordance with existing laws, using the minimum tool concept.
12. Continue current permitting for livestock grazing. Should permits be voluntarily relinquished or exchanged new grazing permits would not be issued.
13. Apply semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized ROS objectives.
14. No shooting in developed areas.
15. Collection of paleontological resources prohibited except by permit. Permits granted only for scientific endeavors. Collection of all other resources is prohibited except where otherwise authorized by law or policy.
16. BLM authorized access to inholdings in the northern portion of the Bisti/De-Na-Zin may be permitted using the route to the former life estate located in T. 24 N., R. 11 W., Section 7. Authorization would require the inholder to secure all necessary permits and leases, and would require appropriate environmental analysis and implementation of all mitigation measures necessary to minimize impacts to the wilderness area.
17. Identify as Noise Sensitive Area. Stricter standards may apply.



Legend

-  Road
-  Township and Range
-  Section Line
-  SDA
-  Wilderness Area



Map C-42: Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area