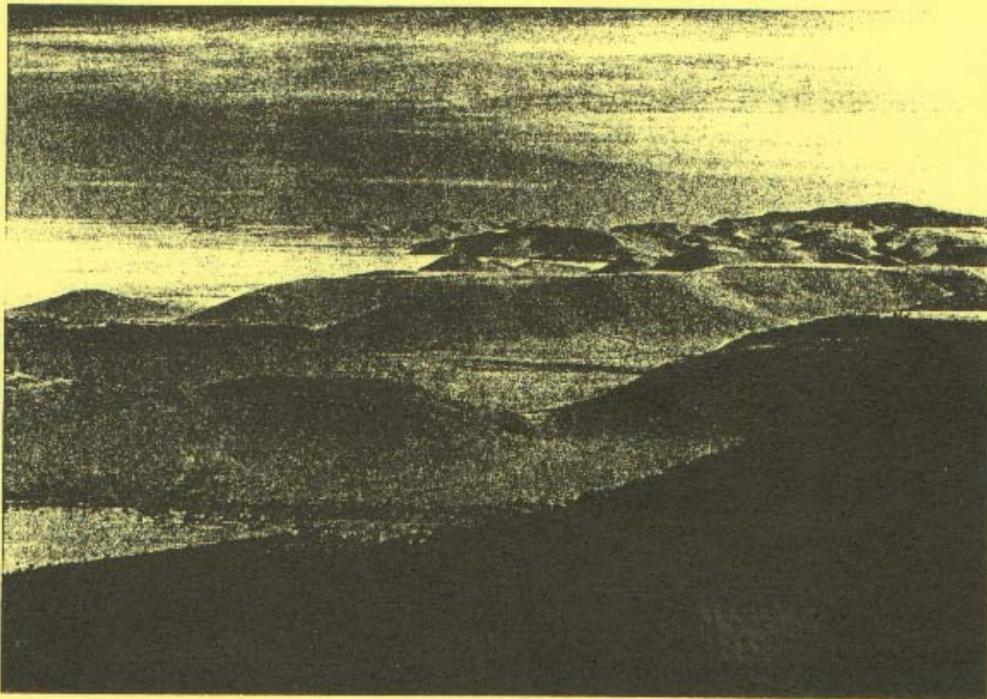


Lands and Minerals Disposal Policy



South of Horse Springs

LANDS AND MINERALS DISPOSAL POLICY

Surface Estate Disposal Policy

All surface estate disposal actions require the preparation of a mineral report to assess the mineral potential of the property prior to disposal.

Any potential interference with mineral development will be considered through the disposal process. The creation of a split surface—mineral estate causing surface interference with Federal mineral development will be avoided to the extent possible. Any surface disposal action within the Rio Grande Valley area will closely analyze potential impacts to Federal mineral material development. In addition, all surface estate patents within areas of known coal potential will carry a reservation of surface owner consent rights under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamations Act of 1977.

The following procedures will be followed for the various types of surface estate land disposal actions in the Socorro Resource Area (SRA).

Exchanges

Disposal by exchange must meet the criteria outlined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) Sec. 206, whereby it is determined that the public interest will be well served by making the proposed exchange. Exchanges within retention zones may be possible if it is clearly determined that it is in the best interest of the public. The following principles will guide the SRA in its land exchange program.

1. The SRA will continue to strive to process mutually benefiting, public interest, land exchanges in a timely and efficient manner.
2. Acquisition, through exchange rather than purchase, of lands or interests in lands required for resource management programs, will always be the preferred method of acquisition as this will reduce the expansion of Federal real estate holdings and help to assure the integrity of State and local tax bases.

3. Comments from the State, local governments, and the general public shall be sought and considered before completion of each exchange.

4. Patent and deed reservations and conditions will be kept to the absolute minimum necessary to complete the transaction. Rights of third parties holding rights—of—way and other legal interests in the exchanged lands will be protected.

5. The generally preferred rule is for both surface and subsurface (mineral) estates to be traded in an exchange. However, due to third party encumbrances, or difficulties in the valuation process, it may be preferable to complete certain exchanges with reservations. Such exceptions to the generally preferred rule are to be made on a case—by—case basis.

6. Exchanges shall be utilized to consolidate or unite the surface and subsurface estates for both the Federal Government and non—Federal owners in split or mixed—estate situations.

7. Exchanges may be utilized to effect ownership and management area boundary changes or adjustments and to form more logical and efficient land and resource management areas for both the BLM and non—Federal owners.

8. Whenever the law permits, expenses incurred by BLM on exchange actions for the benefit of other Federal agencies shall be recovered from such benefiting agency. The BLM shall not attempt to recover nominal costs.

9. When an exchange involves the cancellation of a grazing permit or lease, the compensation for rangeland improvements and 2—year notification requirements of Section 402(g) of FLPMA and 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4110 will be met.

10. The acquisition of nonpublic lands containing unique or unusual historic,

cultural, mineral, recreational, scientific, scenic or wildlife habitat values will be pursued when formulating any exchange proposal.

Sales

Property selected for sale must be identified as being potentially suitable for disposal in an approved land—use plan and must meet one or more of the criteria outlined in FLPMA Sec. 203. In addition, if the tract is 2,500 acres or more, procedures outlined in Sec. 203(c) must also be followed. The disposal criteria is as follows:

- o Such tract because of its location or other characteristics is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency; or
- o Such tract was acquired for a specific purpose, and the tract is no longer needed for that or any other Federal purpose; or
- o Disposal of such tract will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to expansion of communities and economic development, which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land and which outweighs other public objectives and values, including but not limited to recreation and scenic values, which would be served by maintaining such tract in Federal ownership.

Anticipated environmental impacts to existing resources such as minerals, wildlife, recreation, range, cultural resources, wilderness values, floodplains, paleontological values, visual resources, areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC), wetlands, threatened or endangered (T&E) species and habitats, wild and scenic rivers, prime or unique farmlands, and social and economic conditions, will be considered during the preparation of each environmental assessment (EA). The EA and land report will be used together to determine whether or not the subject parcel is truly suitable to be offered for sale. Once this determination has been made, a fair market appraisal of the property will be completed to set the minimum acceptable bid.

Also, assessed during the preparation of the land report is a determination as to what method of sale will be used if the tract is in fact deemed suitable for sale. Several factors are considered in determining the method of sale which include, but are not limited to: the needs of State and/or local governments, adjoining landowners' interests and concerns, public policies, historical uses, and equitable distribution of the land. The SRA policy for determining the sale method is as follows:

1. Competitive Bidding is the preferred method of sale and will be used where clearly there will be a number of interested parties bidding for the land and they could make practicable use of the land regardless of adjoining landownership. Competitive bidding will also be used where the land is clearly within a developing or urbanizing area and land values are increasing due to their location and interest on the competitive market. If there are no overriding bases for modifying competition or direct sale, the land will be offered through competitive bidding. Normal practice for competitive sales is to first offer the land for sale by sealed bid; if unsold, offer for sale over—the—counter.

2. Modified Competitive Bidding may be used to permit the existing grazing user or adjoining landowner to meet the high bid or to limit the number of persons permitted to bid on the land. These sales will normally be for lands not located near urban expansion areas or with rapidly increasing land values, when there is a need to avoid jeopardizing existing use of adjacent land, to assure compatibility of the possible uses with adjacent lands, and avoid dislocation of existing users. This procedure will allow for limited competitive bidding to protect ongoing use.

3. Direct (without competition) Sales may be used when, in the opinion of the authorized Officer, the public interest would best be served. Examples include but are not limited to:

- o A tract identified for transfer to State or local governments or nonprofit organizations; or

- o A tract identified for sale that is an integral part of a project of public importance and speculative bidding would jeopardize the timely completion and economic viability of the project; or
- o There is a need to recognize authorized use such as an existing business which would be threatened if the tract were purchased by other than the authorized user; or
- o A tract is surrounded by land in non—Federal ownership and does not have public access; or
- o The lands support inadvertent unauthorized use or occupancy.

4. When lands have been offered for sale under direct or modified bidding procedures and they remain unsold, then the land will be re—offered by the competitive bidding procedure. In no case will the land be sold for less than fair market value.

Public participation and intergovernmental coordination will be sought and encouraged during the development of each sale schedule. Where a decision is made to dispose of land within a grazing allotment, permittees and lessees shall be given 2—years prior notification before their grazing preference may be cancelled in whole or part. A permittee or lessee may unconditionally waive the 2—year prior notification.

The lands may be disposed at any time, provided a condition of the exchange or sale allows the existing grazing user to continue grazing livestock on the land for at least 2 years from the date the 2—year notice is received.

The condition of the disposal will include the same terms and conditions as the permit/lease in regard to numbers, kind of livestock, season—of—use, animal unit months, and maintenance of range improvements. Fees must be the same as the Federal grazing fees.

Grazing permittees/lessees will receive fair market value (less salvage value) for their interest in authorized permanent rangeland improvements located on public lands in accordance with 43 CFR 4120.6—6. If floodplain tracts are designated for disposal, the patent will contain language indemnifying the United States against any claims for loss or injury due to flooding.

Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Patents

The SRA will continue to issue patents to qualified governmental and nonprofit entities for public parks and recreational sites under the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act throughout the life of the RMP. These patents may be issued at less than fair market value as outlined in 43 CFR 2740. Applications for patent of public lands under the R&PP Act will be processed as an SRA priority under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will always be subject to public review. Current policy dictates that no sanitary landfill sites will be patented in the SRA pursuant to the R&PP Act. R&PP applications may be entertained, in either retention or disposal zones; yet, a determination must always be made that the disposal action is in the public’s best interest.

Mineral Estate Disposal Policy

Disposal of the mineral estate is possible under Sections 206 and 209 of FLPMA. It is the policy of the BLM to avoid disposing of the surface estate while retaining the mineral estate unless there are areas of “known mineral value”, as defined in 43 CFR 2720.0.5. In areas of “known mineral value”, the mineral estate (and the surface estate if substantial interference to development will result) should be retained except as described below.

Prior to any land disposal a “mineral value” determination must be made following a field reconnaissance by a BLM mineral examiner. A mineral report must be written to evaluate the leasable, locatable, and saleable mineral potential of each proposed sale or exchange. Under FLPMA, the conclusion of the mineral examiner will include an opinion as to whether the lands have “known mineral values”. If professional judgment concludes that the land

does not contain “known mineral values,” the surface and subsurface estate may be conveyed, subject to any existing mining claim(s) or mineral leases.

A mining claim of record under Section 314 of FLPMA generally prevents an exchange or sale. If the land is under mining claim, the surface should be retained under Federal ownership or the claim examined for validity. However, a validity examination may be waived and the BLM may proceed with the sale or exchange of both the surface and the mineral estate, subject to the existing mining claim(s) if:

- o The land meets the criteria for disposal as determined through land—use planning, and
- o The land has no “known mineral value” as determined by a BLM geologist or mining engineer, and
- o The prospective patentee is willing to accept defeasible title, preserving whatever rights the mining claimant may have. Conveyance of the surface and mineral estate would be subject to “existing mining claim(s),” allowing the mining claimant to apply for and receive full fee patent if a valid discovery were made prior to the date of transfer under Sections 206 or 209, or alternatively, receive patent to the mineral estate only if discovery were made after the original conveyance.

The BLM will proceed with a sale or exchange only after reasonable efforts have been made to secure relinquishment of the mining claim(s). If the mining claimant opposes the action, the Notice of Realty Action (NORA) protest procedures will apply.

For a direct sale or an exchange, the proponent must be informed early and fully of the potential title conflicts and rights of the mining claimant under the law. The BLM should then proceed only if these conditions are acceptable to the proponent. For a proposed competitive sale, the field office must carefully consider the effect on sale price, likelihood of success, and interests to be served if the sale is made subject to the rights of the mining claimant. If it is clearly in the public interest to proceed, the BLM must secure purchaser waiver of any liability against the United States in the event of subsequent title litigation.

In cases where lands are patented without a reservation of locatable minerals, a FLPMA patentee is believed to have standing to bring private contest (43 CFR 4.450) against the mining claim(s). Should he or she do so, the burden is upon the patentee to prove lack of discovery. If the patentee is successful, or if the claims are abandoned or relinquished, the land will not be open to further location, and the patentee will receive full title to the involved locatable minerals.

Mining claim locations and mineral leases for lands in which the surface title has passed under FLPMA disposal authority may be made only after regulations providing for such locations or leasing have been promulgated. Because these regulations have not as yet been issued, lands disposed of under FLPMA are subject to de facto withdrawal. Lands disposed of under FLPMA are not withdrawn from mineral material sales or free—use permits.

All minerals must be reserved if the Federal lands are conveyed out of Federal ownership pursuant to FLPMA disposal authority, except in the limited instances that follow:

1. Sales

a. If the public lands proposed for sale are determined to have “known mineral values” for locatable, leasable, or saleable minerals, one of the following courses of action may be taken:

(1) Reject the offer to purchase or cancel the offer of sale.

(2) Dispose of the surface estate and reserve all of the mineral interests to the United States.

(3) Dispose of the surface and convey all or part of the mineral interests under terms set forth in Section 209(b) of FLPMA.

b. If the lands have no “known mineral values,” the mineral interests may be simultaneously disposed of with the surface estate under authority of Section 209(b) of FLPMA.

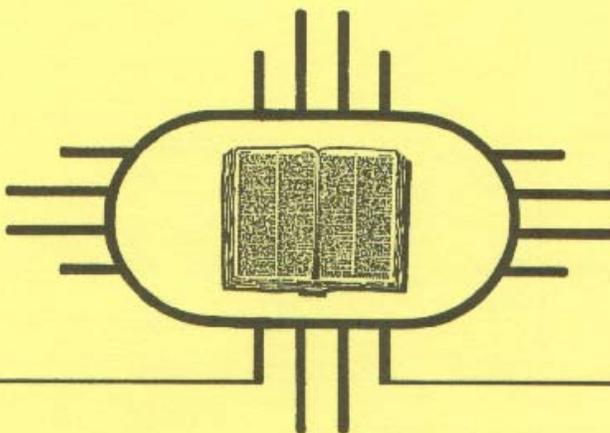
2. Exchanges

a. Public lands which do not have “known mineral values” may be offered in exchange without any mineral reservation. This will apply whether or not the non—Federal party in an exchange controls the minerals under his or her land.

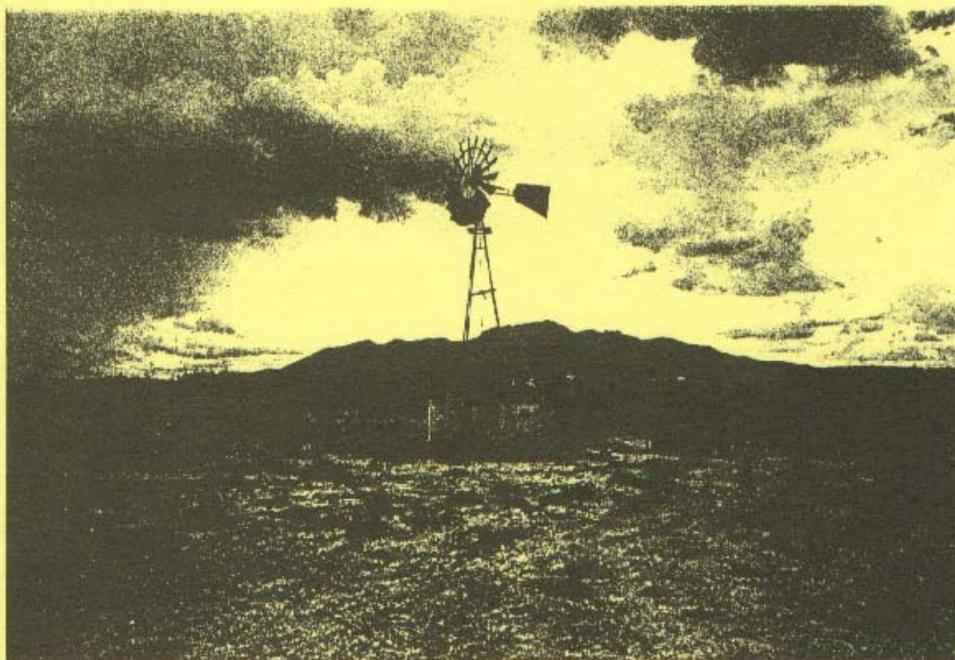
b. If the public lands have some potential for mineral development, reserving the mineral interests is not mandatory as long as the values can be equalized by the payment of money and so long as the payment does not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land.

In any case, normally it is desirable to keep surface and mineral ownership together in an exchange, whenever possible, to eliminate future problems associated with split estate ownership.

c. If the public lands in an exchange are determined to have “known mineral values” for locatable, leasable, or saleable minerals, it may be in the public interest to cancel the offer, depending upon the significance of the deposits. The leasable minerals alone can be reserved if significant.



Glossary



Canada Colorado Allotment

ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	NMBMMR	New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Minerals Resources
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	NMDG&F	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act	NMEMNRD	New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
AMP	Allotment Management Plan	NMIMT	New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act	NMSHD	New Mexico State Highway Department
AT	Access Tract	NMSO	New Mexico State Office
AUM	Animal Unit Months	NOI	Notice of Intent
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs	NRDC	Natural Resources Defense Council
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	ONA	Outstanding Natural Area
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	ORV	Off—Road Vehicle
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	PMOA	Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement
C&MU	Classification and Multiple Use	PRIA	Public Rangeland Improvement Act
CMA	Cooperative Management Agreement	PRLA	Preference Right Lease Application
CRMP	Cultural Resource Management Plan	PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
EA	Environmental Assessment	RAMP	Recreation Area Management Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	RAP	Resource Area Profile
EMS	Existing Management Situation	R&PP	Recreation and Public Purposes
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	RMP	Resource Management Plan
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area	RN	Roaded Natural
ES	Environmental Statement	RNA	Research Natural Area
ESA	Endangered Species Act	ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ESP	Experimental Stewardship Plan	SACA	San Augustine Coal Area
FM	Federal Aviation Administration	SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	SCS	Soil Conservation Service
FS	Forest Service	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service	SHS	Standard Habitat Site
HMAP	Herd Management Area Plan	SMA	Special Management Area
HMP	Habitat Management Plan	SPM	Semi—Primitive Motorized
IHICS	Integrated Habitat Inventory Classification System	SPNM	Semi—Primitive Nonmotorized
3PA	Joint Powers Agreement	SRA	Socorro Resource Area
KGRA	Known Geothermal Resource Area	SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
KGS	Known Geological Structure	SRP	Salt River Project
MFP	Management Framework Plan	T&E	Threatened or Endangered
MFPA	Management Framework Plan Amendment	URA	Unit Resource Analysis
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
MRG	Middle Rio Grande	USD1	United States Department of Interior
MRGORP	Middle Rio Grande Occupancy Resolution Program	USGS	United States Geological Survey
NSA	Management Situation Analysis	VRM	Visual Resource Management
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	WHMA	Wild Horse Management Area
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act	WSA	Wilderness Study Area
NIIMS	National Interagency Incident Management System		

Activity Plan — A site—specific plan for the management of one or more resources; e.g., an Allotment Management Plan. Activity plans implement decisions made in the Resource Management Plan.

Actual Livestock Use — A report of the actual livestock grazing use submitted by the permittee or lessee.

Allotment — An area of land where one or more permittees graze their livestock. An allotment generally consists of public land, but may include parcels of private or State lands as well. An allotment may consist of one pasture or of several pastures. The number of livestock and season of use are stipulated for each allotment.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP) — An activity plan which applies to livestock grazing on public lands prepared in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the permittee(s), lessee(s), and other involved or affected parties. An AMP prescribes the manner and levels livestock grazing will occur; it describes the type, location, ownership, and contribution of rangeland improvements; it defines the objectives or goals for the activity plan including monitoring.

Allowable Cut — Amount of wood allowed to be cut each year on a sustained—yield basis.

Animal Unit Month (AUM) — A grazing unit consisting of the amount of forage required for one mature cow for one month. The relative numbers of sheep, horses, etc., will be based upon the equivalent amount of forage required for one mature cow.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) — An area within the public lands where special management attention is required: (1) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values, to fish and wildlife resources, or to other natural systems or processes; or (2) to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Candidate Species — Species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as appropriate for listing as threatened or endangered (T&E).

Class of Livestock — Age and/or sex—group of a kind of livestock: for example: cows with calves, yearlings, steers, ewes, ewes with lambs, etc.

Color—of—Title Act of 1928 — Of primary interest to this document is Class 1 of that Act, which specifies that an occupant on Federal land can acquire title to the land if it can be shown that the claimant or the claimant's predecessors in interest had a chain of title, acquired in good faith, going back at least twenty years and had cultivated or otherwise made valuable improvements to the land. Class 2 of the Act allows the Federal Government to transfer title to lands held in good faith prior to January 1, 1901, on which taxes had been paid since that time.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Treadway — The actual trail established and marked as the route of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. It can exist as part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail system only after formal designation by the appropriate agency head and the publishing of notice in the Federal Register.

Demand — In economics, the functional relationship between the price of a given commodity and the quantity that buyers would be willing and able to purchase in a given market during a specified time period.

Ecological Condition — The present composition of the vegetation of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community. Four condition classes express the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amount of plants resemble the potential natural community usually expressed in a percentage.

Experimental Stewardship Plan (ESP) — A program, authorized by the Public Rangeland Improvement Act (PRIA) of 1978, which provides incentives to or rewards for, holders of grazing permits and leases whose stewardship results in an improvement of the range condition of lands under permit or lease.

This program explores innovative grazing management policies and systems which might provide incentives to improve range conditions.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) — This Act of Congress established public land policy for the management of all lands administered by the BLM. FLPMA specifies several key directions for the BLM, notably that management be on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield; land—use plans be prepared to guide management actions; public lands be managed for the protection, development, and enhancement of resources; public lands generally be retained in Federal ownership; and public participation be included in reaching management decisions.

Fuelwood — Wood used for fuel; firewood.

Grazing Lease — A document authorizing grazing use of public lands lying outside grazing districts. Leases are authorized under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act.

Grazing Permit — A document authorizing grazing use of public lands lying within grazing district boundaries. Permits are authorized under Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act.

Grazing Preference — The total number of AUMs of livestock grazing on public lands apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee or lessee.

Grazing System — The systematic sequence of grazing use and nonuse on an allotment to reach identified multiple—use goals or objectives by improving the quality and quantity of the vegetation.

Habitat Management Plan (HMP) — A written and officially approved activity plan for a specific geographical area of public land which identifies wildlife habitat and related objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

Intensive Recreation Management Area — A portion of the public land which should receive more intensive recreation management in response to public issues or management

concerns. Management objectives for these areas must be related to reduced resource damage, solving visitor safety and health problems, mitigating conflicts, or providing the public with recreation opportunities not otherwise available.

Kind of Livestock — Kinds of domestic livestock grazing on rangeland. Includes cattle, horses, sheep, goats, or a combination of these animals.

Leasable Minerals — Those minerals or fluids that can be acquired under lease from the Federal Government. These include oil, gas, geothermal, coal, phosphate, sodium, potash, oil shale, sulfur, and all other minerals on acquired lands.

Locatable Minerals — Minerals or mineral materials subject to disposal under the Mining Law of 1872 (as Amended). These generally include metallic minerals of high intrinsic value, such as gold and silver, and other uncommon varieties not subject to lease or sale, such as sodium bentonite, high—calcium limestone, and perlite.

Management Framework Plan (MFP) — A planning decision document that established land—use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives for each class of land use or protection for a given planning area. The MFP was the BLM's land—use plan, and was prepared in three steps: (1) resource recommendations, (2) impact analysis and alternative development, and (3) decision making. Since 1982, BLM land—use plans have been developed under an altered planning system and are called Resource Management Plans (RMPs), this document being one example.

Management Situation Analysis (MSA) — An unpublished, companion document to this RMP that provides the background documentation for the development of alternatives. The MSA consists of the Resource Area Profile (RAP), Existing Management Situation (EMS), Existing Resource Situation, and Opportunity Analysis.

Multiple Use — The management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are used in the combination that

will best meet the present and future needs of the American people. These resources include, but are not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife, and fish, as well as natural, scenic, scientific, and historical values. The goal of multiple use is the harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the lands and the quality of the environment. Consideration is given to the relative values of the resources, but not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output (see FLPMA).

National Scenic Trail — A trail designated under the National Trail System Act. It must be an extensive trail, located for its outdoor recreational potential, and for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities in its vicinity.

No Surface Occupancy — A fluid mineral leasing stipulation that prohibits occupancy or disturbance of all or part of the lease surface in order to protect special values. Lessees may exploit the oil and gas or geothermal resources in this lease by directional drilling from sites outside the “no surface occupancy” area.

Off—Road Vehicle (ORV) — Any motorized vehicle capable of or designed for travel on or immediately over natural terrain. Excluded are: (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle when used for an emergency; (3) any vehicle with expressed official approval; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) combat or combat support vehicles used during a national defense emergency.

Off—Road Vehicle (ORV) Designations

Closed — “Closed areas and trails” are designated areas and trails where the use of motorized vehicles (except by authorized users) is permanently or temporarily prohibited.

Limited — “Limited areas and trails” are designated areas and trails where motorized vehicles are subject to restrictions deemed appropriate by an authorized officer. Restrictions may limit the number or types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use, and similar

matters. Limited areas and trails may be designated for special or intensive use such as organized events and may be subject to, but not limited to, rules set forth in 43 CFR 8341.2. ORV use related to mining claim operations will not be restricted, except by regulations and requirements found in 43 CFR 3809, as amended on March 2, 1983. ORV use performed in conformance with existing leases, permits, rights—of—way stipulations, or other land—use authorizations will not be impinged upon.

Open — “Open areas and trails” are designated areas and trails where motorized vehicles may be operated subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in 43 CFR 8341 and BLM Manual 8343.

Patent — As it relates to the public land laws, the instrument (or deed) by which the Federal Government conveys title to the public lands.

Perlite — Volcanic glass having numerous concentric cracks and a higher water content than obsidian. When it is heated to a high temperature, perlite expands to form a light, fluffy material which is used for building plaster aggregate, filter aids, insulation, and soil conditioner.

Public lands — Any land and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

- lands located on the Outer Continental shelf
- lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, or Eskimos
- lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but surface is private.

Raptors — Birds of prey, such as hawks, owls, and eagles. One of the behavior characteristics of these animals is to return, year after year, to the same nesting area. Accordingly, the nesting sites of these protected species should be retained with minimal human disturbance.

Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP Act)

— An Act which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, under specific conditions, to sell or lease public domain lands to State and local governments for recreation and other public purposes, or to qualified nonprofit organizations for public or quasi—public purposes, such as recreation, education, and health.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) — A framework for stratifying and defining classes of Outdoor recreation opportunity environments.

Right—of—Way Corridor — A narrow band or strip of land designated as suitable for the placement of linear facilities such as roads, transmission lines, and pipelines.

Riparian Habitat or Area — A zone of transition from the aquatic to terrestrial ecosystems, whose presence is dependent upon surface and/or subsurface water, and which reveals through its existing or potential soil vegetation complex the influence of that water. Riparian habitat may be associated with features such as lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, potholes, springs, bogs, wet meadows, muskegs, and ephemeral, intermittent or perennial streams.

Riprap — Broken rock used for revetment, the protection for bluffs or structures exposed to wave action, foundations, etc. Foundation or wall of broken rock thrown together irregularly.

Saleable Minerals — Common variety mineral materials (sand, gravel, etc.) which are disposed of by sale by the Federal Government under the Material Disposal Act of 1947.

Scenic Quality — The relative worth of a landscape from a visual point—of—view.

Scenic Quality Rating — The relative scenic quality (A, B, or C) assigned to a landscape by applying the scenic quality evaluation key factors. A is the highest rating, B is intermediate, and C is the lowest.

Section 4 Permit — A permit issued by the BLM for the permittee to construct a project on public lands as defined in the Taylor Grazing Act.

Seismic Exploration — The use of seismic techniques, usually involving explosions, to map subsurface geologic structures with the aim of locating economic deposits.

Silviculture — Cultivation of forest trees; art of producing and tending a forest; application of the knowledge of silvics in treatment of a forest; theory and practice of controlling forest establishment, composition, and growth.

Slash — Residue left on ground after tree felling and tending, and/or that residue accumulating there as the result of storm, fire, girdling, or poisoning.

Slash Disposal — Treatment or handling of slash, particularly so as to reduce fire or insect hazard.

Special Management Area (SMA) — An area requiring special management by BLM to protect one or more resource values. An SMA may include nonpublic lands that BLM wishes to acquire or to bring under a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) to better manage the valued resource. At a minimum, an activity plan will be prepared for an SMA. SMAs may be given designations under various existing labels, such as ACEC or Research Natural Area (RNA).

Split Estate — Lands where surface and mineral estates have been severed and are under different ownership (i.e., private surface with public minerals).

Stand — A group of growing trees of a particular species in a given area.

Sustained Yield — The achievement and maintenance, in perpetuity, of a high level of annual or periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use. Amount of resource harvested normally equals the amount grown since the previous harvest.

Threatened and Endangered Species — Plants and animals listed by the U.S. FWS or the State of New Mexico as T&E.

Transmission Line — Any electrical transmission line of 69 kilovolt capacity or greater or any gas line of 6—inch diameter or greater.

Trend — Changes in vegetative and soil characteristics resulting directly from environmental factors, primarily climate and grazing.

Vegetative Land Treatments — Methods used to control the growth and spread of undesirable vegetation. Control can be by chemical (herbicides) or mechanical means or by fire.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) — The system by which BLM classifies and manages the visual resource of the public lands. Based on their scenic qualities, sensitivities, and the distances from which they are viewed, the lands are classified into management units. The system includes actions taken to identify visual values, to establish objectives for managing these values, and to achieve the visual management objectives.

Wetlands — Areas with shallow standing water or seasonal to year—long saturated soils (includes bogs, marshes, and wet meadows).

Wilderness — Definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891): A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean ... an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) have outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive

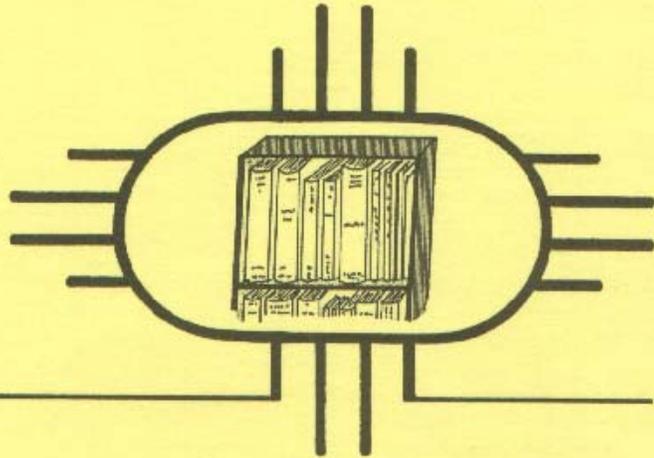
and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values.

Wilderness Management Policy — Policy document prescribing the general objectives, policies, and specific activity guidance applicable to all designated BLM wilderness areas. Specific management objectives, requirements, and decisions implementing administrative practices and visitor activities in individual wilderness areas are developed and described in the wilderness management plan for each unit.

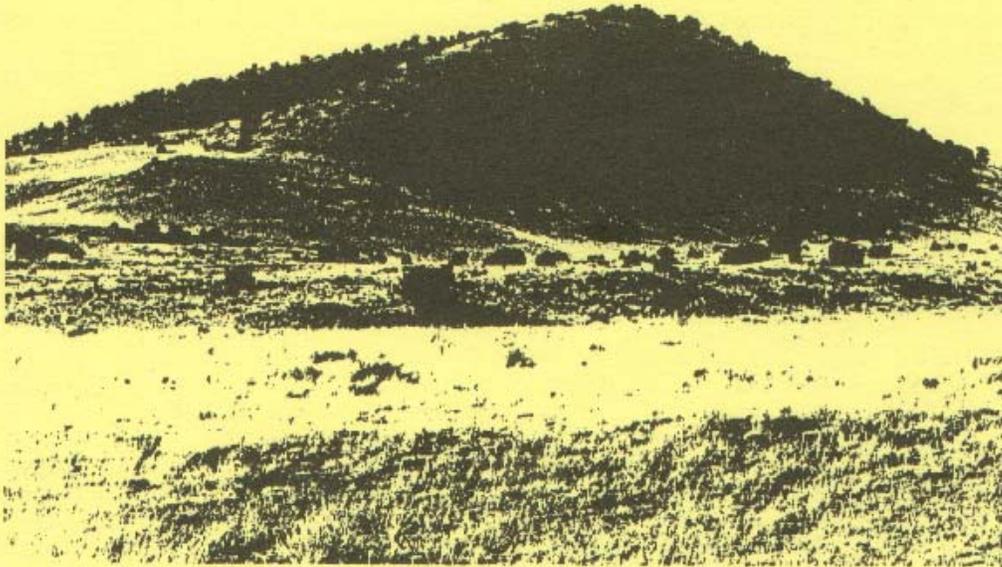
Wilderness Study Area (WSA) — A roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have characteristics described in Section 603 of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Withdrawal — Actions which restrict the use of public land and segregate the land from the operation of some or all of the public land or mineral laws. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction of management to other Federal agencies.

Woodland — Forest land not capable of producing 20 cubic feet of timber per acre per year; e.g., pinyon—juniper stands.



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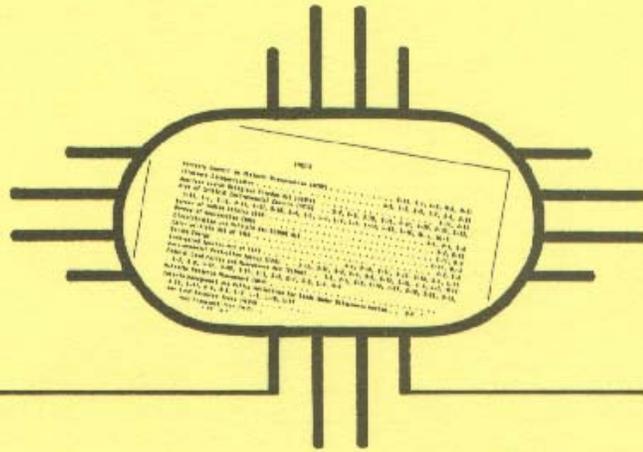
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