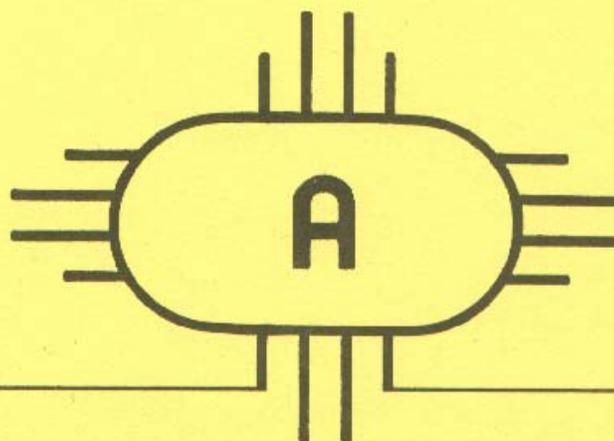
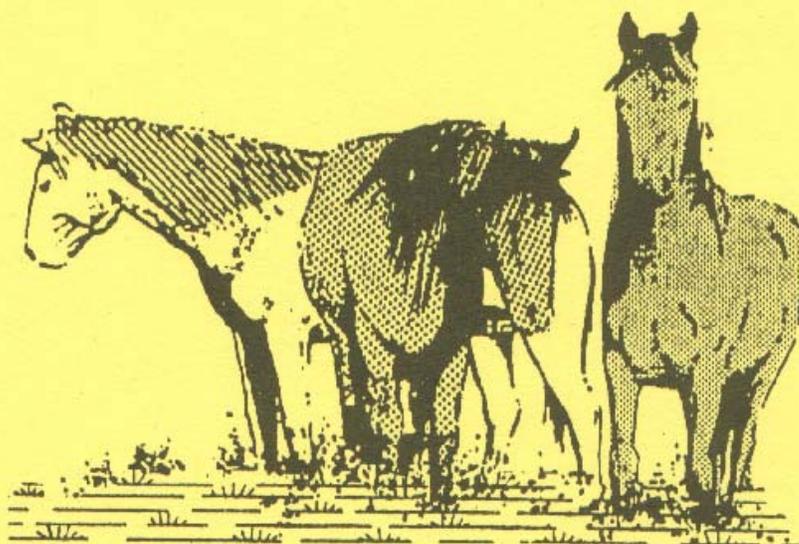


Appendices

- A Plan Implementation Steps
- B Mineral Resources Policy & Fluid Leasing Procedures
- C Allotment Categorization
- D Access Analysis Methodology
- E Visual Resource Management Classes
- F Federal Coal Lands Review Process
- G Lands and Minerals Disposal Policy



Plan Implementation Steps



INTRODUCTION

The following steps have been determined to be those needed to implement the Approved Socorro Resource Management Plan (RMP). An annual RMP report will contain a similar section to identify those implementation steps that have been completed and those scheduled for completion in the upcoming fiscal year. These steps are also identified so the public can become further involved in the implementation of those actions that are of interest.

Implementation Steps

MINERALS:	Develop Fluid Leasing Stipulations Implement Fluid Leasing Stipulations Restrict Disposals in Coal Area Continue Coal Leasing Review Process Designate Saleable Pits for Sand and Gravel Sales Maintain Saleable Minerals Availability
RANGE:	Establish Livestock Conversion Ratios Implement Livestock Conversion Ratios Develop AMPs and/or Review and Revise AMPs Implement AMPs Monitor Utiliz./Determine Forage Alloc./Implement Grazing Management Systems Maintain or Improve Range Conditions Implement Allotment Categorization Establish Study Plots Monitor Study Plots Establish Seeding Trials Monitor Seeding Trials Develop Harvey Plot SMA Plan Implement Harvey Plot SMA Plan Dispose of Isolated Parcels of Public Land Block Lands on 8 Allotments Through Exchange Process Develop Soaptree SMA Plan Implement Soaptree SMA Plan Develop Land Treatment Plans—East Implement Land Treatment Plans—East Acquire Legal Access Across Private and State Lands Designate Six ACECs Develop San Pedro ACEC Plan Implement San Pedro ACEC Plan Develop Sawtooth ACEC Plan Implement Sawtooth ACEC Plan
WILD HORSE:	Revise Wild Horse Management Plan

Implementation Steps

LANDS/ACCESS:

Develop ROW Avoid and Exclusion Restrictions
Implement ROW Avoid and Exclusion Restrictions
Develop Access Plan A
Implement Access Plan A
Develop Access Plan B
Implement Access Plan B
Develop Access Plan C
Implement Access Plan C
Develop Access Plan D
Implement Access Plan D
Develop Access Plan E
Implement Access Plan E
Develop Access Plan F
Implement Access Plan F
Develop Access Plan G
Implement Access Plan G
Develop Access Plan H
Implement Access Plan H
Develop Access Plan I
Implement Access Plan I
Continue Implementing RGORP
Dispose of Public Lands Within Community of Aragon, NM
Implement Blocking of Public Lands in Retention Zones
Implement Disposal of Isolated Tracts in Disposal Areas
Acquire Nonpublic Lands to Support Wildlife Programs
Develop Rehabilitation Plan for MCA Mill Site
Rehabilitate MCA Mill Site
Implement Clean—up of Luis Lopez Site

FORESTRY:

Establish Christmas Tree Areas
Develop Woodland Management Plans
Implement Woodland Management Plans
Establish No Woodcutting Restrictions in Moderate or High Erosion Areas

SOILS AND WATER:

Monitor and Restrict Activities on Critical Erosion Areas
Develop Watershed Plans
Implement Watershed Plans
Develop Water Monitoring Plans
Implement Water Monitoring Plans
Reduce Erosion on Allotments
Develop Road Maintenance Plan (Ladron)
Implement Road Maintenance Plan (Ladron)
Develop Fence Lake SMA Plan
Implement Fence Lake SMA Plan
Develop Puertecito SMA Plan
Implement Puertecito SMA Plan
Develop Stallion SMA Plan
Implement Stallion SMA Plan

FIRE:

Develop Fire Management Plans
Implement Fire Management Plans

Implementation Steps

WILDLIFE:

- Develop Fencing Standards
- Implement Fencing Standards
- Install Escape Ramps in All Troughs
- Construct Antelope Panels to Facilitate Movement of Antelope
- Develop Water for Wildlife
- Design and/or Modify Livestock Management Practices
- Develop Land Treatment Plans—West
- Implement Land Treatment Plans—West
- Protect Wildlife Habitat
- Protect and Enhance Riparian Habitat
- Conduct Wildlife Studies
- Develop Prescribed Burn Plans
- Implement Prescribed Burn Plans
- Ensure All Power line Construction is “Electrocution Proof”
- Develop Iron Mine Ridge SMA Plan
- Implement Iron Mine Ridge SMA Plan
- Develop Taylor Canyon SMA Plan
- Implement Taylor Canyon SMA Plan
- Suppress Fires in Riparian Areas
- Develop Pelona SMA Plan
- Implement Pelona SMA Plan
- Develop Ladron ACEC Plan
- Implement Ladron ACEC Plan
- Develop Agua Fria ACEC Plan
- Implement Agua Fria ACEC Plan
- Develop Walnut Canyon SMA Plan
- Implement Walnut Canyon SMA Plan
- Develop Horse Mountain ACEC Plan
- Implement Horse Mountain ACEC Plan

CULTURAL:

- Manage Archeological Sites
- Nominate National Register Sites
- Develop Zuni Salt Lake SMA Plan
- Implement Zuni Salt Lake SMA Plan
- Develop Newton Site SMA Plan
- Implement Newton Site SMA Plan
- Develop Mockingbird Gap SMA Plan
- Implement Mockingbird Gap SMA Plan
- Develop Teypama SMA Plan
- Implement Teypama SMA Plan
- Develop Cultural Resource Survey Plan
- Implement Cultural Resource Survey Plan
- Develop Mogollon Pueblo SMA Plan
- Implement Mogollon Pueblo SMA Plan
- Develop Town of Riley SMA Plan
- Implement Town of Riley SMA Plan
- Develop Playa Pueblos SMA Plan
- Implement Playa Pueblos SMA Plan
- Develop Fort Craig SMA Plan
- Implement Fort Craig SMA Plan

Implementation Steps

CULTURAL: (continued)

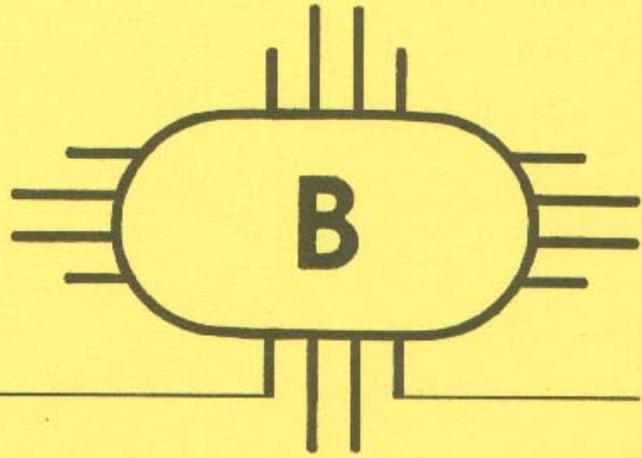
Develop Tinajas ACEC Plan
Implement Tinajas ACEC Plan
Develop Rio Salado SMA Plan
Implement Rio Salado SMA Plan

RECREATION:

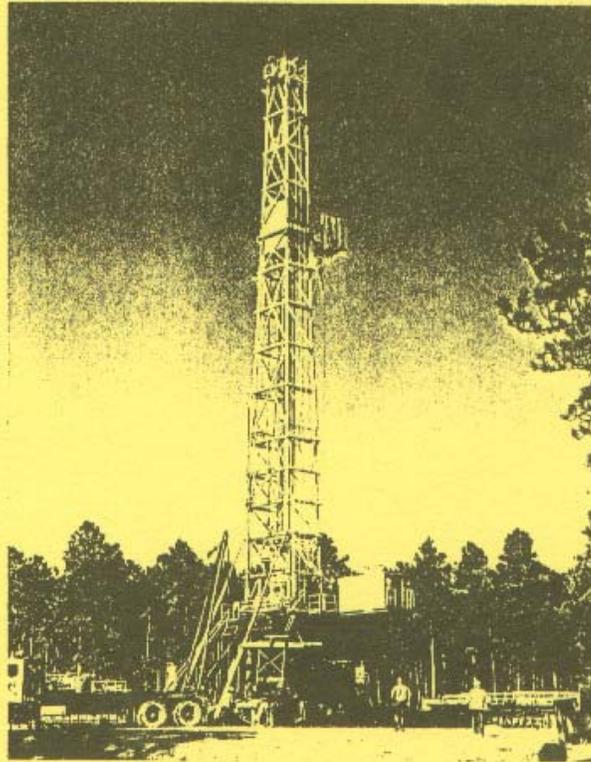
Manage and Update VRM Classes
Complete ROS Inventory
Develop the Box SMA Plan
Implement the Box SMA Plan
Exclude Datil Well Campground From Woodcutting
Develop San Lorenzo Canyon SMA Plan
Implement San Lorenzo Canyon SMA Plan
Designate ORV Areas
Implement ORV Designations
Develop Cerro Pomo SMA Plan
Implement Cerro Pomo SMA Plan
Acquire Nonpublic Land in Ladron
Coordinate Management of San Lorenzo Canyon (BLM—US FWS)
Develop Datil Well SMA Plan
Implement Datil Well SMA Plan

WILDERNESS:

Develop CDNST SMA Plan
Implement CDNST SMA Plan



Mineral Resources Policy & Fluid Leasing Procedures



**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT —
MINERAL RESOURCES**

This statement sets forth BLM policy for management of mineral and energy resources on public lands. It reflects the provisions of three important acts of Congress: the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, and the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980. This policy statement represents a commitment by BLM to implement the policies of these statutes consistent with BLM's other statutory obligations.

The Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 declares that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of a stable domestic minerals industry and the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 reiterates that the 1970 Mining and Minerals Policy Act be implemented and directs that public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other resources. FLPMA also provides for improved inventory, planning, and decision processes.

The 1980 National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act restates the need to implement the 1970 act and requires the Secretary of the Interior to improve the quality of minerals data in Federal land use decision making. In April 1982, the President delivered to Congress the first annual report required by the 1980 act, which provided specific guidance to implement these acts.

The BLM recognizes that public lands are an important source of the Nation's mineral and energy resources, some of which are critical and strategic. BLM is responsible for making public lands available for orderly and efficient development of these resources under principles of balanced multiple—use management.

The following principles will guide BLM in managing mineral resources on public lands:

1. Except for Congressional withdrawals, public lands shall remain open and available for mineral exploration and development unless withdrawal or other administrative action is clearly justified in the national interest.

2. BLM actively encourages and facilitates the development by private industry of public land mineral resources in a manner that satisfies national and local needs and provides for economically and environmentally sound exploration, extraction, and reclamation practices.
3. BLM will process mineral patent applications, permits, operating plans, mineral exchanges, leases, and other use authorizations for public lands in a timely and efficient manner.
4. BLM's land use plans and multiple—use management decisions will recognize that mineral exploration and development can occur concurrently or sequentially with other resource uses. The Bureau further recognizes that land use planning is a dynamic process and decisions will be updated as new data are evaluated.
5. Land use plans will reflect geological, energy and mineral values on public lands through more effective geology, energy and mineral resource data assessment.
6. BLM will supervise salable and leasable mineral operations to ensure proper resource recovery and evaluation, production verification, diligence and inspection and enforcement of the lease, sale or permit terms. BLM will receive Fair Market Value for mineral commodities where the laws provide.
7. The Bureau will maintain effective professional, technical, and managerial personnel knowledgeable in mineral exploration and development.

These principles will be implemented immediately and further clarified where necessary through specific guidance to the field.

/s/ Robert Burford

Director, Bureau of Land Management

Special Fluid Leasing Procedures and Stipulations

Special stipulations are conditions of lease issuance which the local office of the BLM or other agency provide for additional and more stringent environmental protection by allowing for denial of operations within the terms of the lease contract. Without special stipulations, proposed operations can be modified but not denied (except under certain specific, nondiscretionary statutes). Special stipulations will be used whenever mitigating measures deprive a lessee of basic lease rights. Because of this effect on lease rights, lessees must be aware of and acknowledge in writing all special stipulations prior to acceptance of a lease offer by BLM.

BLM policy is that the use of special stipulations should be considered appropriate only when they are both necessary and justifiable. The contractual controls existing in the lease (the standard terms, regulations, and formal operational orders) provide substantial latitude within which the BLM may require modification of the siting, design and timing of operations on leaseholds, and interim and final reclamation measures. They do not, however, allow the BLM to require modifications to proposed operations that would prevent economic extraction of otherwise commercial deposits of oil and gas. A special stipulation is justifiable if there are resources, values, uses, and/or users present that 1) cannot coexist with oil and gas operations, or 2) cannot be adequately managed and/or accommodated on other lands for the duration of the operation, and 3) would provide greater benefits to the public than those of oil and gas operations.

The content and accurate wording of special stipulations is very important since stipulations become part of the lease contract. If the special stipulations are ambiguous, potential lessees will be uncertain as to the value of the lease. Also, if poorly written, the BLM may fail to retain, within the terms of the lease, the right to deny operations. Therefore, to the extent feasible, special stipulations are to specify the reason for the stipulation, the lands involved, and the probable effect of the stipulations on lease activities. Special stipulations should also include a provision for waiver in the event that circumstances or relative resource values change, or in the event that the lessee demonstrates that operations can be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts.

The existing and consolidated fluid leasing stipulations to be used in the Plan follow in this appendix. There are seven existing SRA stipulations (Soc—1 through Soc—7) and two State of New Mexico stipulations (NM—5 and NM—7) currently being used in the SRA. For the purpose of this document, to avoid repetitious verbiage, and to be more concise, a set of three new SRA fluid leasing stipulations has been developed. One State of New Mexico stipulation (NM—5) has also been carried forward.

The process through which the 29 Special Management Areas (SMAs) were identified included special stipulations to protect their values from fluid minerals leasing and development. These have been updated to reflect the consolidated stipulations.

The analysis of potential impacts on fluid leasing was done on an interdisciplinary basis. The rationale through which stipulations were assigned consisted of consideration of the resource value, consideration of the fluid mineral potential, and a determination as to which constraints could afford maximum protection while allowing for fluid mineral development. In those areas where resource values and fluid mineral exploration and development were found to be mutually exclusive, and where protection of resource values was clearly in the public interest, the No Surface Occupancy (SRA—3) stipulation was assigned.

Public lands may be affected by discretionary and nondiscretionary closures which are presented in a lease as special stipulations. A discretionary closure includes those lands where the BLM has determined that oil, gas, and/or geothermal leasing, even with the most restrictive stipulations (including No Surface Occupancy for the entire leasehold), would not adequately protect other resources, values, or land uses. An example of this type of closure is the Ladrón Mountain area in northwestern

Socorro County. Nondiscretionary closures include those lands that must be closed to oil, gas, and/or geothermal leasing for reasons beyond the discretion of the BLM. These are lands specifically precluded from fluid mineral leasing by law, regulations, Secretarial or Executive Order, or that have been otherwise formally closed by decisions reached beyond the scope of the BLM. The White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) military extension area is excluded from leasing by a nondiscretionary closure.

Lands which are currently under lease will be subject to existing fluid leasing stipulations. However, new leases will be subject to the consolidated fluid leasing stipulations.

Activities normally deferred to activity planning, or other planning completed subsequent to the RMP, include drill site location; field development and facility layout plans; unitization and communitization plans; transportation, power or pipeline routing plans (other than for major designated corridors); and others. Many of these activities are addressed after an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) is received. Between one and three APDs are expected per year for the life of this RMP.

All future geophysical exploration, leasing, and development proposals are to be reviewed for conformance with the RMP to ensure the availability of land for these activities and to ensure compliance with applicable mitigating measures as identified in the RMP. In certain cases geophysical exploration may be restricted or excluded. Any site-specific reviews required by operating orders, regulations, or to ensure NEPA compliance will also need to be performed at appropriate times.

EXISTING FLUID LEASING STIPULATIONS

Soc—1: Watersheds subject to critical erosion.

In order to minimize damage in watersheds classified as having critical erosion potential, off-road use and any surface disturbance will be allowed only after close coordination and explicit written concurrence of the authorized officer of the Federal surface management agency.

Soc—2: Areas with known threatened and endangered (T&E) plant species.

The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. All surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the surface management agency, for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells.

After the surface management agency has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on these lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the surface management agency will furnish further data on such areas.

Soc—3: Area with commercial quality timber.

In order to minimize disruption of commercial quality ponderosa pine stands and to facilitate future management of the timber resource, exploration, drilling, and other development activity will be allowed only after coordination with and written approval of the surface management agency. Exceptions to this limitation may be specifically authorized in writing by the Supervisor of the USGS with the written concurrence of the surface management agency.

Soc—4: Areas with known habitat for T&E species.

The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. All surface use or occupancy within such areas will be

strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the USGS and the surface management agency, for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells.

After the surface management agency has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on these lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the surface management agency will furnish further data on such areas.

Soc—5: Areas with Class I or Class II visual resource values.

All or part of the lands in this lease are included in a potential Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) for visual resources. No surface disturbing activities will be allowed which strongly impact scenic values (form, line, color, texture) without prior written approval of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

Soc—6: Areas with cultural resources which have been, or have potential to be, designated for the National Register of Historic Places.

The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. All surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the USGS and the surface management agency, for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells.

After the surface management agency has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on these lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the surface management agency will furnish further data on such areas.

Soc—7: Lands classified under the Classification and Multiple Use (C&MU) Act or the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act.

The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. All surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the USGS and the surface management agency, for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells.

After the surface management agency has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on these lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the surface management agency will furnish further data on such areas.

NM—5 Lands within the White Sands Missile Range Extension Area.

Missile firing shutdown — The lease is located within the WSMR Extension Area. Persons operating the leasehold will be requested to evacuate the leasehold on those days that missiles are being fired.

NM—7: Wilderness Protection Stipulation.

By accepting this lease, the lessee acknowledges that the lands described in this lease are being inventoried or

evaluated for their wilderness potential by the BLM under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 90 Stat. 2743 (43 USC Sec. 1782), and that exploration or production activities which are not in conformity with Section 603 may never be permitted. Expenditures in leases on which exploration drilling or production are not allowed will create no additional rights in the lease, and such leases will expire in accordance with law.

Activities will be permitted under the lease so long as BLM determines they will not impair wilderness suitability. This will be the case either until the BLM wilderness inventory process has resulted in a final wilderness inventory decision that an area lacks wilderness characteristics, or in the case of a wilderness study area until Congress has decided not to designate the lands included within this lease as wilderness. Activities will be considered nonimpairing if the BLM determines that they meet each of the following three criteria:

(a) It is temporary. This means that the use or activity may continue until the time when it must be terminated in order to meet the reclamation requirement of paragraphs (b) and (c) below. A temporary use that creates no new surface disturbance may continue unless Congress designated the area as wilderness, so long as it can easily and immediately be terminated at that time, if necessary to management of the area as wilderness.

(b) Any temporary impacts caused by the activity must, at a minimum, be capable of being reclaimed to a condition of being substantially unnoticeable in the wilderness study area (or inventory unit) as a whole by the time the Secretary of the Interior is scheduled to send his recommendations on that area to the President, and the operator will be required to reclaim the impacts to that standard by that date. If the wilderness study is postponed, the reclamation deadline will be changed. A full schedule of wilderness studies will be developed by the Department upon completion of the intensive wilderness inventory. In the meantime, in areas not yet scheduled for wilderness study, the reclamation will be scheduled for completion within 4 years after approval of the activity. (Obviously, if and when the Interim Management Policy ceases to apply to an inventory unit dropped from wilderness review following a final wilderness inventory decision of the BLM State Director, the reclamation deadline previously specified will cease to apply). The Secretary's schedule for transmitting his

recommendations to the President will not be changed as a result of any unexpected inability to complete the reclamation by the specified date, and such inability will not constrain the Secretary's recommendations with respect to the area's suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

The reclamation will, to the extent practicable, be done while the activity is in progress. Reclamation will include the complete recontouring of all cuts and fills to blend with the natural topography, the replacement of topsoil, and the restoration of plant cover at least to the point where natural succession is occurring. Plant cover will be restored by means of reseeded or replanted, using species previously occurring in the area. If necessary, a temporary watering system will be required. The reclamation schedules will be based on conservation assumptions with regard to growing conditions, so as to ensure that the reclamation will be complete, and the impacts will be substantially unnoticeable in the area as a whole, by the time the Secretary is scheduled to send his recommendations to the President ("substantially unnoticeable" is defined in Appendix F of the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review).

(c) When the activity is terminated, and after any needed reclamation is complete, the area's wilderness values for other purposes, as to significantly constrain the Secretary's recommendation with respect to the area's suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness. The wilderness values to be considered are

those mentioned in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, including naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation, and ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. If all or any part of the area included within the leasehold estate is formally designated by Congress as wilderness, exploration and development operations taking place or to take place on the part of the lease will remain subject to the requirements of this stipulation, except as modified by the Act of Congress designating the land as wilderness. If Congress does not specify in such act how existing leases like this one will be managed, then the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 will apply, as implemented by rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of the Interior.

CONSOLIDATED FLUID LEASING STIPULATIONS

SRA—1: The lessee is given notice that; (a) all or part of the lease area contains special values, (b) is needed for special purposes, or (c) requires special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. Any surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan which is satisfactory to the BLM for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells.

After the BLM has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on these lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the BLM will furnish further data on such areas. (insert legal descriptions)

Reason(s) for Restriction (choose one or more)

- A. Minimize damage to watersheds having critical erosion potential.
- B. Prevent damage to cultural resources.
- C. Class I and II visual resource areas.
- D. T&E Species Habitat.
- E. Riparian Habitat.
- F. Other resource values.

Duration of Restriction:

SRA—2: In order to (choose from A or B below), surface disturbing activities will be allowed only during the period (time period). Exceptions to this limitation in any year may be specifically authorized in writing by the authorized office of the BLM. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows: (insert legal descriptions)

A. Minimize disruption of critical seasonal wildlife habitat (* Type of Habitat).

*Type of Habitat

1. Antelope fawning ground.
2. Bald eagle wintering area.
3. Elk calving ground.
4. Other habitat as required.

B. Minimize undue or unnecessary surface degradation due to use under seasonal adverse weather conditions.

SRA—3: No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands, is allowed in order to protect: (see below) (insert legal descriptions)

- A. Ecological study plots.
- B. Demonstration areas.
- C. Cultural resources.
- D. Other resources values.

NM—5: All or portions of the land contained in this lease are located within the WSMR Safety Evacuation Area and shall be evacuated on those days that missiles are to be fired. Prior to beginning exploration activities, the lessee shall contact the Corps of Engineers in Albuquerque and the Master Planning Branch at WSMR in order to be advised of the terms of the safety evacuation agreement and missile firing schedules.