

10. AGUA FRIA — 10,770 Acres

General Description: The Agua Fria ACEC is located in Catron County approximately 4 miles north of US Highway 60 and 20 air miles west of Quemado. The ACEC contains 10,770 acres of which 10,170 are public lands, 80 acres are State lands, and 520 acres are private lands.

Agua Fria ACEC varies in elevation from 6,400 feet up to 7,600 feet. The majority of the ACEC is characterized as an area of mesas and open grasslands enhanced by volcanic features and vertical sandstone cliffs.

The major vegetation associations include pinyon—juniper hills, Russian thistle—alkali sacaton valleys, and blue—grama—snakeweed hills.

There are 306 potentially occurring wildlife species in the Agua Fria ACEC. Game species include mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, and an occasional elk. Other species include cottontails, jackrabbits, coyotes, kit fox, bobcats, porcupines, skunks, red—tailed hawks, prairie falcons, golden eagles, and various species of songbirds, reptiles, and amphibians. The ACEC has also been identified by the FWS as providing potential habitat for bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and black—footed ferrets. Wintering bald eagles are known to utilize this ACEC.

Agua Fria Canyon and the associated rimrocks and cliffs provide habitat for a great number of raptor species including golden eagles and prairie falcons. The canyon bottom provides the foraging/hunting areas and the rimrock and cliffs provide the nesting sites for these raptor species.

The Agua Fria ACEC is a long—wide, grass—covered valley bottom bordered with vertical basalt and sandstone cliffs. The area exhibits the diversity of color, vegetation, relief, shape and geology characteristic of desert woodlands. Numerous panoramas and vistas exist throughout the ACEC, providing unique visual resources.

Portions of the Eagle Peak (NM-020-019) and Mesita Blanca (NM-020-018) are located within the Agua Fria ACEC. Both of these WSAs have been recommended as “unsuitable” for wilderness designation. However, these WSAs will continue to be managed under the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review (USD1, BLM, as amended, 1983) until Congress decides for or against wilderness designation on these areas.

Recreation uses in this ACEC include backpacking, hiking, camping, photography, big game hunting, rock hounding, sightseeing, and exploring.

The Agua Fria ACEC contains a large number of archaeological sites ranging from petroglyphs, to campsites, to villages. These sites represent human habitation from the Archaic period (6,000 BC to Christian Era) to the homesteading era.

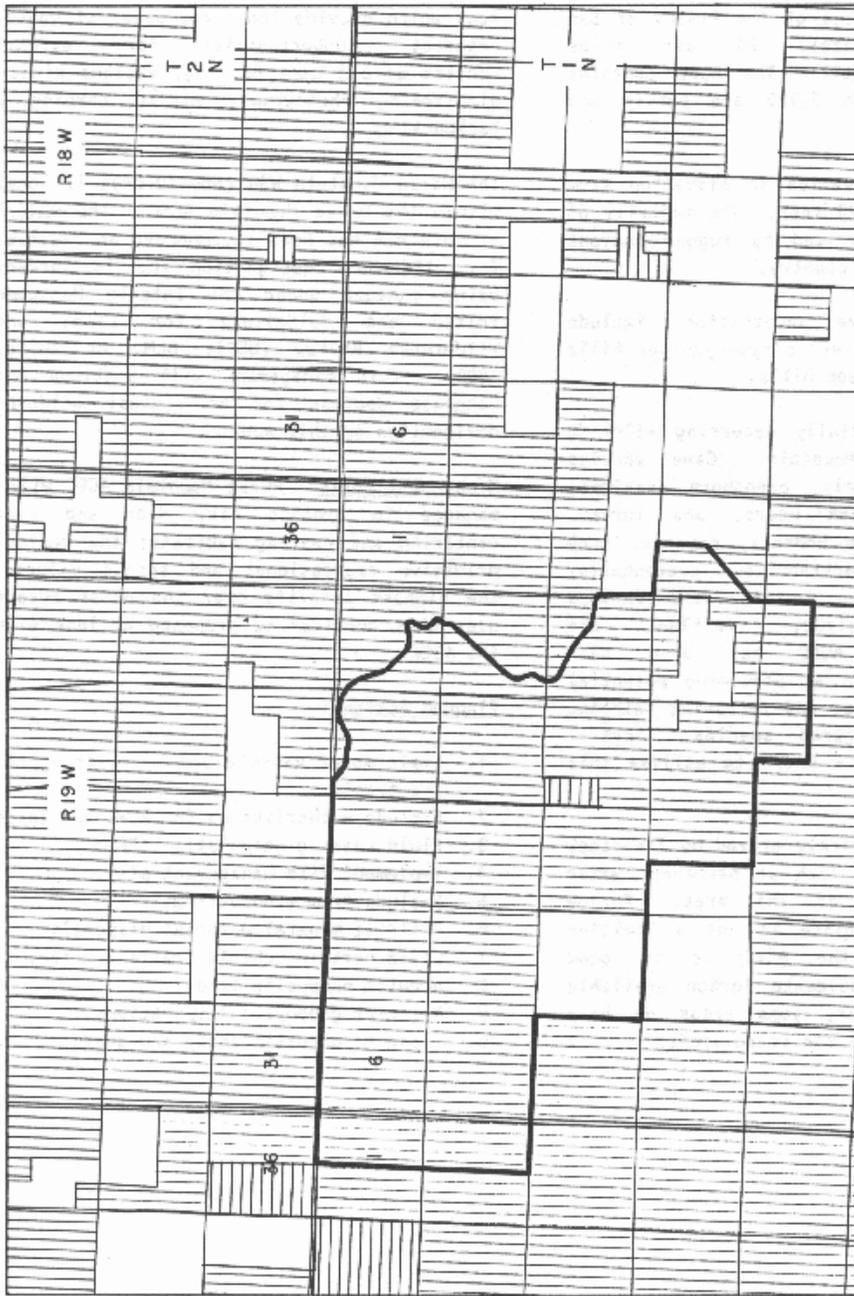
The cultural resources and volcanic features present in the ACEC offer opportunities for archaeological and geologic research.

Also, opportunities for environmental education exist based on the wildlife, vegetation, geology, and cultural resources present in the ACEC.

Management Goals: Agua Fria ACEC will be managed to protect raptor wintering and nesting habitats; improve recreational opportunities and geologic and scenic values. Management will emphasize wildlife habitat uses and protect the geologic and scenic values as the highest priority over the other resource uses when considering proposed actions within the ACEC.

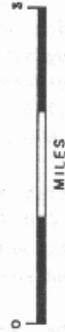
Planned Actions:

1. Limit motor vehicle use to existing roads and trails.
2. Restrict authorization for ROWs and leases.
3. Exclude from woodcutting.
4. Restrict mineral material disposals.
5. Acquire nonpublic lands.
6. Fluid Leasing Stipulation SRA—2.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 LAS CRUCES DISTRICT - SOCORRO RESOURCE AREA
 AGUA FRIA
 AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

- LEGEND
- PUBLIC LAND
 - STATE LAND
 - PRIVATE LAND
 - SMA BOUNDARY



11. HORSE MOUNTAIN - 7,720 Acres

General Description: The Horse Mountain ACEC is located in Catron County, at the northwest edge of the western end of the Plains of San Augustine, approximately 25 air miles west—southwest of Datil. The ACEC contains 7,720 acres of which 5,120 are public and 2,600 are State.

Horse Mountain ACEC varies in elevation from 7,650 feet up to 9,490 feet. The majority of the ACEC is characterized by rugged canyons and rough mountainous country.

The major vegetative associations include ponderosa pine mountains, pinyon—juniper hills and blue grama—snakeweed hills.

There are 299 potentially occurring wildlife species on Horse Mountain. Game species include mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, mountain lions, black bears, and turkey. Other species include bobcats, coyotes, gray fox, porcupines, jackrabbits, cottontails, squirrels, chipmunks, raptors, and various species of songbirds, reptiles, and amphibians. This ACEC has also been identified by the FWS as providing potential habitat for bald eagles and peregrine falcons, both Federally—endangered species. Several species of raptors are known to utilize this ACEC.

Much of the ACEC is rarely grazed by livestock due primarily to the lack of permanent water and inaccessibility of the area. Forage availability for wildlife is not a limiting factor. Much of the ACEC is in good condition, and has adequate forage available for wildlife; however, some areas do have considerable potential for improvement.

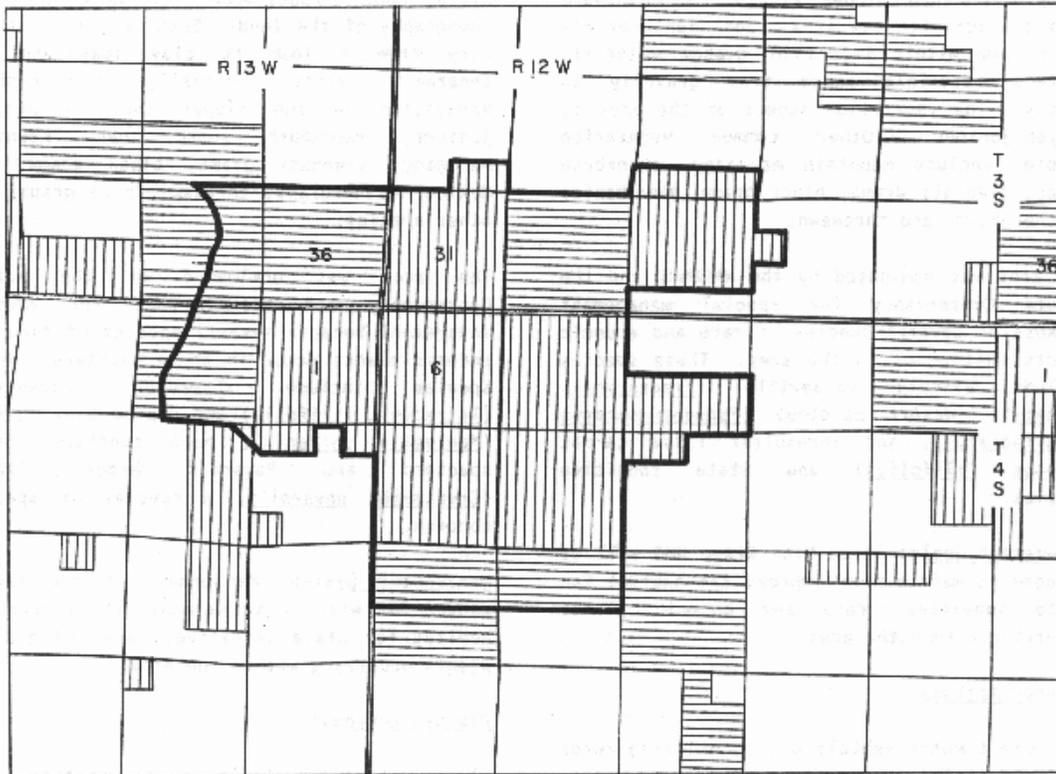
The Horse Mountain ACEC is an isolated mountainous area and the view from the summit offers a spectacular 360 degree panorama. There are also isolated outcrops of volcanic rock which provide localized areas of geologic interest. Opportunities for recreation consist of big game hunting, various kinds of sightseeing, photography, hiking, camping, and backpacking.

The Horse Mountain WSA (NM—020—043) is located within the Horse Mountain ACEC. The majority of this WSA has been recommended as “suitable” for wilderness designation and is currently being managed under the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review (USDI, BLM, as amended, 1983). This management will continue until Congress decides for or against wilderness designation on this area.

Management Goals: Horse Mountain ACEC will be managed to protect elk, deer and raptor wintering and nesting habitats; the geologic, primitive recreational and scenic values as the highest priority over the other resource uses when considering proposed actions within the ACEC.

Planned Actions:

1. Limit motor vehicle use to existing roads and trails.
2. Exclude authorization for ROWs and leases.
3. Fluid Leasing Stipulation SRA—3.
4. Implement fire management plan.
5. Exclude from woodcutting.
6. Restrict mineral material disposals.
7. Close certain vehicle trails—2 miles.
8. Acquire nonpublic lands.
9. Restrict geophysical operations.
10. Close to domestic sheep and goats.

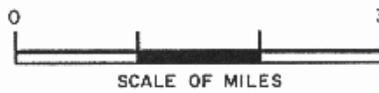


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 LAS CRUCES DISTRICT - SOCORRO RESOURCE AREA

HORSE MOUNTAIN
 AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

LEGEND

-  PUBLIC LAND
-  STATE LAND
-  PRIVATE LAND
-  SMA BOUNDARY



12. IRON MINE RIDGE — 1,440 Acres

General Description: The Iron Mine Ridge SMA contains approximately 1,440 acres and is located northeast of Bingham, New Mexico. Steep hills and slopes within the Chupadera Mesa characterize the area. Soil textures are of a loam within layers of gypsum material. Surface materials range from gravelly to cobbly. The vegetation aspect of the area is pinyon—juniper. Other common vegetation species include mountain mahogany, skunkbush sumac, sideoats grama, black grama, New Mexico feathergrass, and threeawn.

The area was nominated by the NMEMNRD and the Nature Conservancy for special management because of several species of rare and endemic plants that occur in the area. These species include Wrights spiderlily (Tradescantia Wrightii), desert parsley, (Pseudocymopterus longiradiatus), and threadleaf false carrot (Aletes filifolius) and State sensitive species.

Management Goals: Iron Mine Ridge SMA will be managed to maintain or improve the habitat for State sensitive, rare and endemic plants occurring within the area.

Planned Actions:

1. Limit motor vehicle use to existing roads and trails.
2. Restrict authorization for ROWs and leases.
3. Fluid Leasing Stipulation SRA—1 and NM—5.
4. Exclude from woodcutting.
5. Restrict mineral material disposals.

13. The Taylor Canyon – 320 Acres

General Description: SMA contains approximately 320 acres, and is located east of Bingham, New Mexico. Steep hills and footslopes characterize the topography of the land. Surface soil textures vary from a loam to clay loam and are generally stony, gravelly or cobbly. Vegetation on the slopes includes pinyon, juniper, skunkbush sumac, oak, mountain mahogany, sideoats grama, black grama, New Mexico feathergrass, threeawn, blue grama, and other species.

The area was nominated by the Nature Conservancy and the NMEMNRD for special management because several species of rare and endemic plants occur in these habitats. These species include threadleaf horsebrush (Tetradymia filifolia) and gypsum blazing star (Mentzelia perrenis), both sensitive State species; and Payson's hidden flower (Cryptantha pavsonii), a species of special concern.

Management Goals: Management of the Taylor Canyon SMA will be to maintain or improve the habitat for State sensitive, rare and endemic plants occurring within the area.

Planned Actions:

1. Limit motor vehicle use to existing roads and trails.
2. Restrict authorization for ROWs and leases.
3. Fluid Leasing Stipulation SPA—i and NM—S.
4. Restrict mineral material disposals.

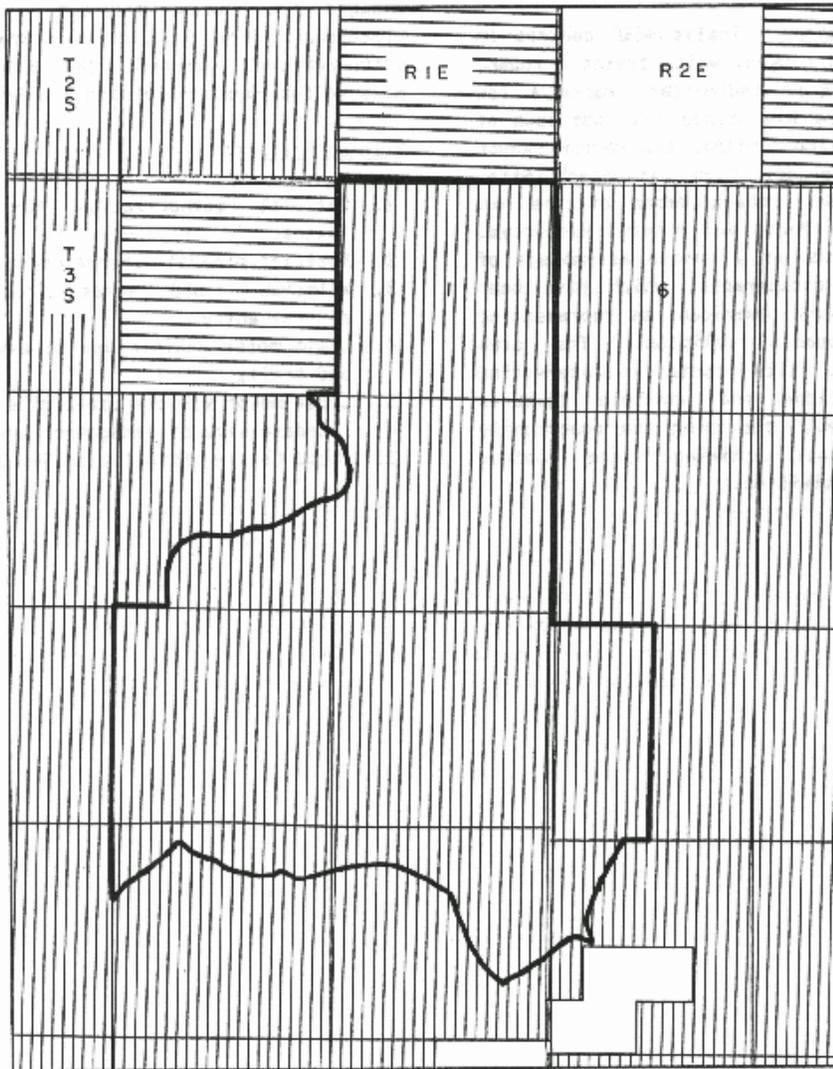
14. TINAJAS — 3,520 Acres

General Description: Tinajas ACEC centers on a narrow incised canyon, which drains a rough, broken landscape of sedimentary rocks a few miles east of the Rio Grande near the town of Socorro, New Mexico. Within the narrow canyon lies the Arroyo del Tajo Pictograph Site, discovered by Dr. Robert Weber of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources. This site consists of a unique assemblage of pigment—painted pictographs, which have been identified by Native Americans as representing elements of pueblo religion. The area surrounding the site contains interesting geologic formations and sinkhole features known as “Tinajas,” providing the opportunity for recreational hiking and other nondisturbing activities.

Management Goals: Tinajas ACEC will be managed to preserve and protect the pictographs for public interpretation and socio—cultural values. The area will be managed for recreational and scenic values.

Planned Actions:

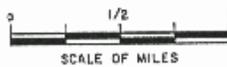
- 1.Restrict authorization for ROWs and leases.
- 2.Restrict mineral material disposals.
- 3.Withdraw 1,500 acres from locatable mineral entry.
- 4.Limit motor vehicle use to existing roads and trails.
- 5.Close motor vehicle use—2 miles.
- 6.Increase size of management area.
- 7.Fluid Leasing Stipulation SRA—3 and NM—5



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 LAS CRUCES DISTRICT - SOCORRO RESOURCE AREA

TINAJAS
 AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

- LEGEND
-  PUBLIC LAND
 -  STATE LAND
 -  PRIVATE LAND
 -  SMA BOUNDARY



15. FORT CRAIG — 160 Acres

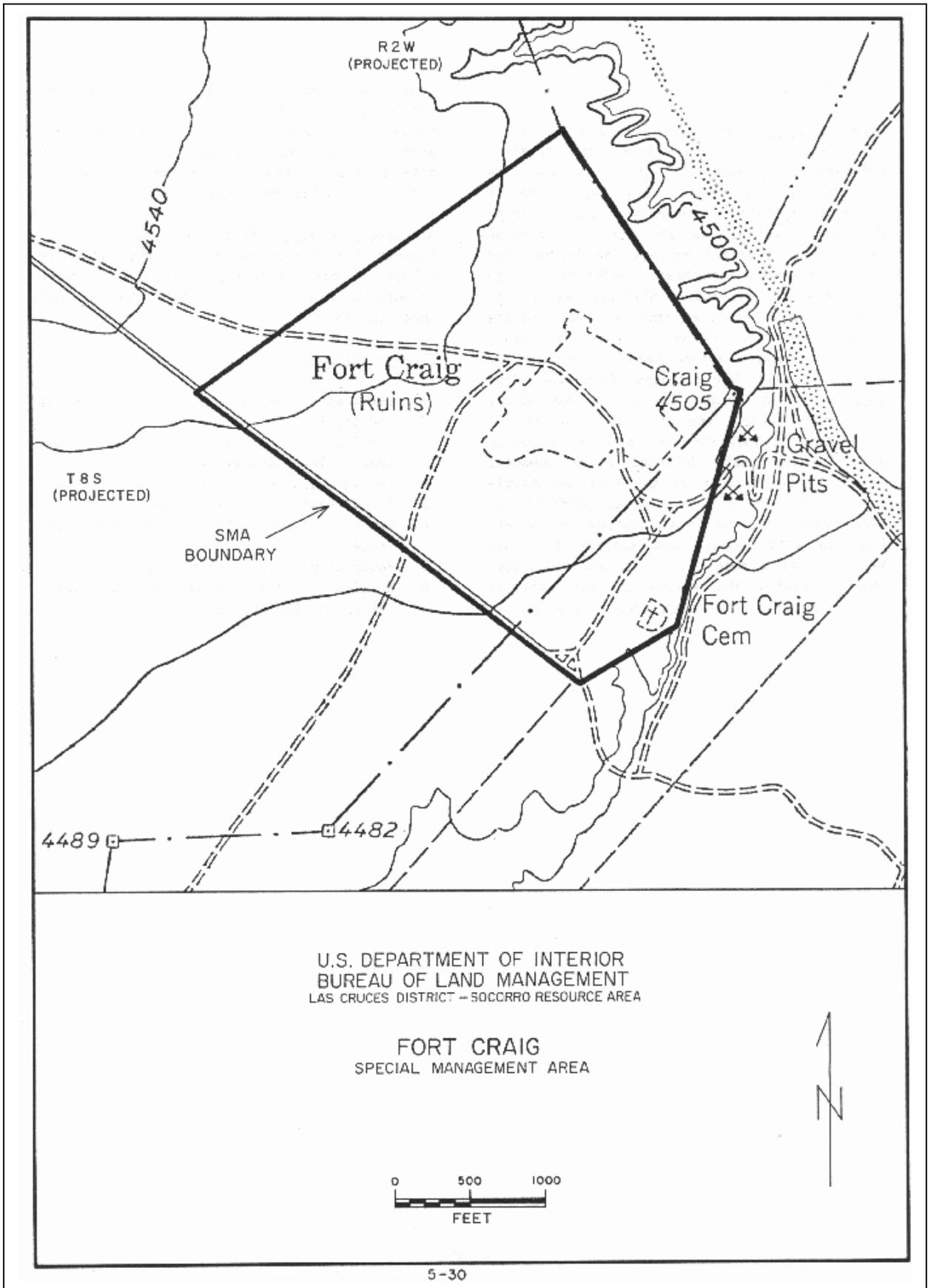
General Description: Fort Craig was founded in 1854 as one of the first and largest, military strongholds in the New American Territory of New Mexico. Its purpose was to establish a military presence in the region to discourage Apache warfare and to provide retaliatory potential against the Apaches for their incursions into Mexico under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildago. Military excursions from the Fort played an important role in the campaigns against Geronimo, Victorio, Nana, and other notable Apache leaders. During the American Civil War, troops from the Fort engaged a Confederate column at the nearby area of Valverde. The tactics and events of the Battle of Valverde are topics of study of a U.S. Army Staff College, which conducts regular field classes at the Fort and battle site. The Fort was constructed primarily of adobe obtained from local sources, which are high in silt content and subject to rapid erosion. As a result of this and vandalism, which predates the return of the Fort to public ownership through the Archeological

Conservancy, most of the Fort's structural remains are reduced to low mounds. The Fort, however, retains great potential for archeological investigation and is a notable site of public interpretation and visitation. Fort Craig is listed on the NRHP.

Management Goals: Fort Craig SMA will be managed for protection of cultural resource values, public interpretation, and future scientific use and to improve recreational opportunities.

Planned Actions:

1. Limit motor vehicle use to existing roads and trails.
2. Acquire all minerals.
3. Acquire legal access.
4. Continue grazing closure.
5. Fluid Leasing Stipulation SRA—3.
6. Restrict authorization for ROWs and leases.
7. Restrict mineral material disposals.
8. Develop visitor facilities and public interpretation values.



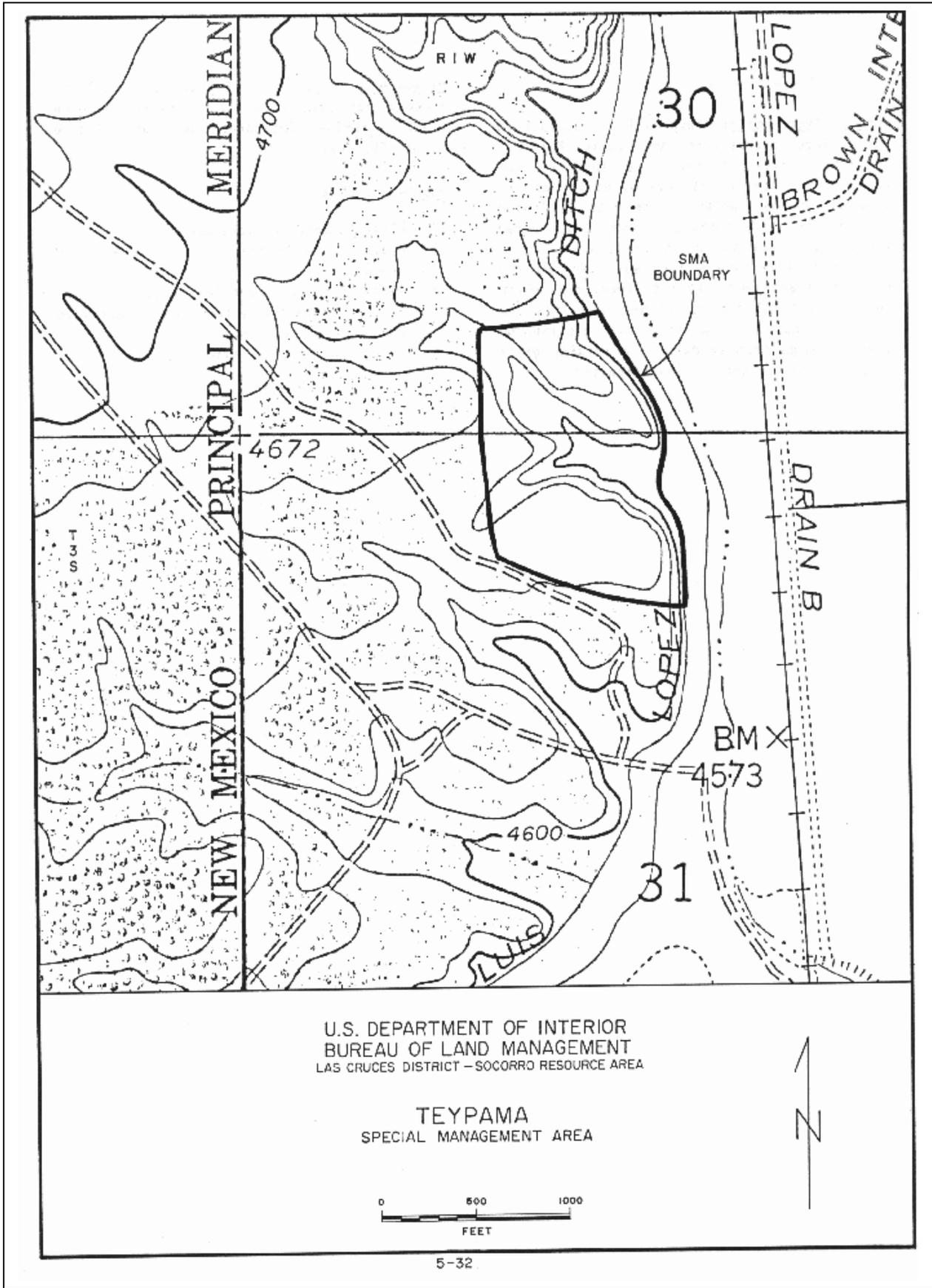
16. TEYPAMA — 17 Acres

General Description: Teypama Piro pueblo ruin is a late prehistoric and early historic habitation site of the Piro Indians, who occupied the central Rio Grande Valley at the time of Spanish contact. The site is listed on the NRHP, and consists of over two hundred rooms with kivas and a central plaza. It is located on a terrace of the west bank of the Rio Grande and overlooks the flood plain, where the agricultural economy of the occupants was no doubt based. The site has experienced severe damage from vandals, but retains great potential for scientific investigation.

Management Goals: The Teypama SMA will be managed for protection of cultural resource values, public interpretation, and future scientific use.

Planned Actions:

1. Close to motor vehicle use.
2. Restrict authorization for ROWs and leases.
3. Restrict mineral material disposals.
4. Exclude livestock grazing on 17 acres by expanding the exclosure.
5. Fluid Leasing Stipulation SRA—3.



17. NEWTON SITE — 40 Acres

General Description: The Newton Site consists of a 150 to 200 room pueblo, a large, double-walled kiva or plaza, and associated outlying room blocks. The site was occupied from about A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1325 and represents an important locus for scientific investigation, lying on the southern periphery of the “Acoma Culture Province,” and the extreme eastern periphery of the major occupation of the same era, of the Upper Little Colorado drainage. The site has been heavily disturbed by vandals and by uncontrolled student excavations prior to acquisition by the Federal Government, but retains good potential for scientific investigation.

Management Goals: Newton Site SMA will be managed to preserve and protect for public interpretation and future scientific use.

Planned Actions:

1. Nominate to NRHP.
2. Limit motor vehicle use to existing roads and trails.
3. Restrict authorization of ROWs and leases.
4. Fluid Leasing Stipulation SRA—1.
5. Restrict mineral material disposals.
6. Exclude from woodcutting.
7. Stabilize ruins.

18. PLAYA PUEBLOS –320 Acres

General Description: This SMA consists of two major prehistoric pueblo ruins probably associated with the Tompiro prehistoric culture area. These sites are notable in addition to their size (200 plus rooms each) because of the fact that they are not located on water courses, but rather seem to have exploited wide, shallow internal drainages (playas), and, if early ceramic assessments are correct, were occupied over extraordinarily long time periods. Ceramic sequences for one of the sites suggest occupation from about A.D. 1150 through the 1700s. One of the ruins has been extensively vandalized, but retains good scientific potential, while the other remains virtually intact.

Management Goals: Playa Pueblos SMA will be managed to preserve and protect for public interpretation and future scientific use.

Planned Actions:

1. Limit motor vehicle use to existing roads and trails.
2. Restrict authorization for ROWs and leases.
3. Acquire nonpublic lands.
4. Restrict mineral material disposals.
5. Fluid Leasing Stipulation SRA—1 and
6. NM—5.
6. Exclude livestock grazing.
7. Fence and stabilize ruins.
8. Include in thematic Tompiro National Register Nomination.
9. Close certain vehicle trails — 0.04 miles.

19. RIO SALADO — 6,400 Acres

General Description: The Rio Salado SMA consists of approximately 6,400 acres of public land, and is located 8 miles west of Ladron Mountain. The area was nominated as an SMA because of the cultural values and the unusual plant community contained within.

The Rio Salado cultural resource district consists of approximately 30 known archeological sites representative of developmental and early puebloan occupation along the middle Rio Salado drainage, which hold considerable potential for elucidation of cultural dynamics in the region. The area is composed of complex campsites/processing sites, and small habitation sites ranging in age from Basketmaker III/Pueblo I, through late Pueblo II, with an unexplained absence of later puebloan material (which awaits investigation).

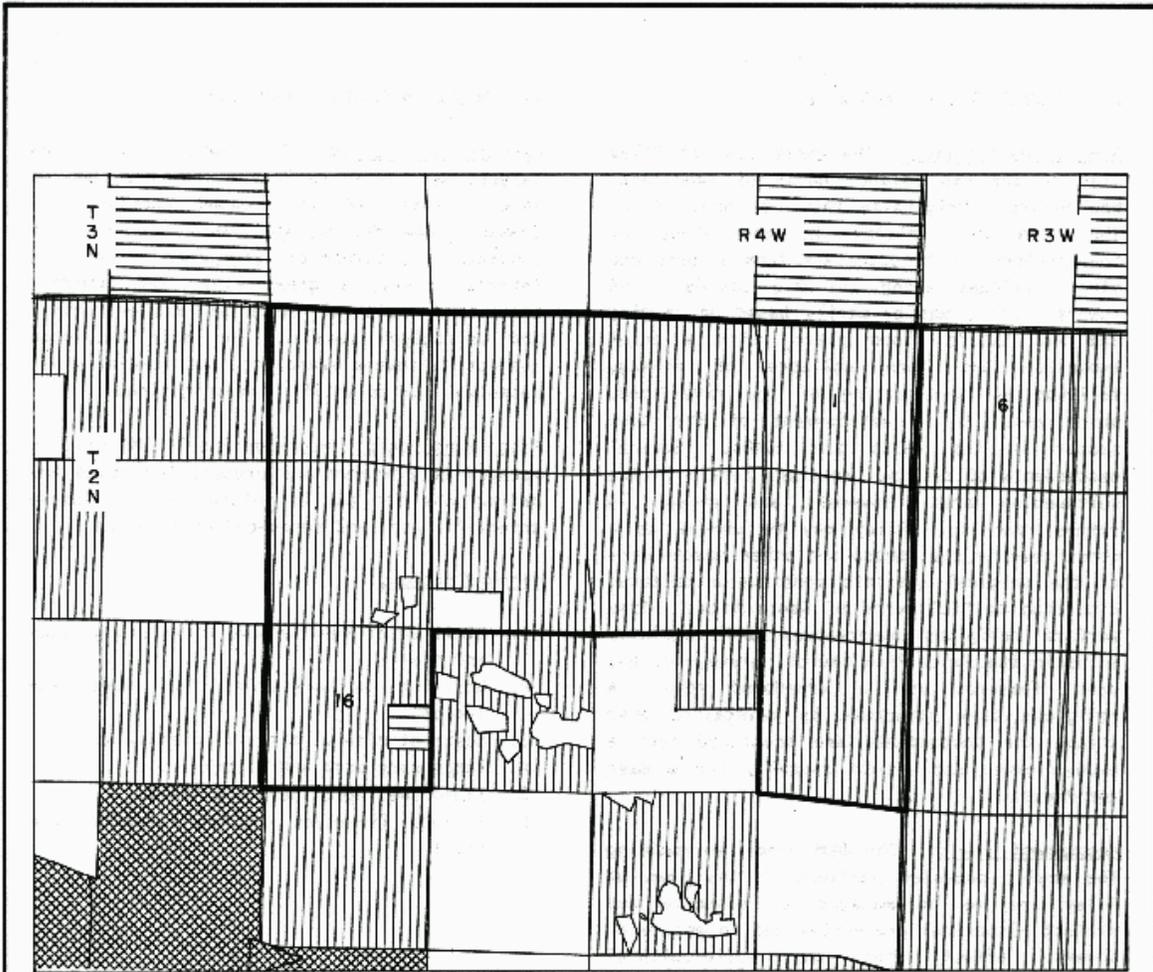
The Riley Caves consists of two, small limestone cave formations which have been recommended for special management by the NMEMNRD. The larger of the two caves supports a small population of cave fauna and geologic features of interest. The caves are located on the high ridges north of the Rio Salado and west of Sierra Ladrones.

The NMEMNRD and the Nature Conservancy focused attention on the area because it is habitat to a variety of flora. In this area is a combination of geological substrates and an overlapping and intermixing of the Great Basin and Chihuahuan floras that result in an unusual plant community. Several Chihuahuan desert species reach their northernmost extension here and several Great Basin species reach their southernmost boundaries.

Management Goals: Rio Salado SMA will be managed to preserve and protect for cultural properties, rare and endemic plants, and natural cave features.

Planned Actions:

1. Limit motor vehicle use to existing roads and trails.
2. Restrict authorization for ROWs and leases.
3. Restrict mineral material disposals.
4. Fluid Leasing Stipulation SRA—I.
5. Nominate as district to NRHP.
6. Exclude from woodcutting.
7. Restrict geophysical operations.
8. Implement present CRMP for 20 acres.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 LAS CRUCES DISTRICT - SOCORRO RESOURCE AREA

RIO SALADO
 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

LEGEND

-  PUBLIC LAND
-  STATE LAND
-  PRIVATE LAND
-  FOREST SERVICE LAND
-  SMA BOUNDARY

