

***SECTION 5***



## SECTION 5 ACECs/SMA

### INTRODUCTION

This section contains general descriptions of the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Special Management Areas (SMAs)--Trails, Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and National Natural Landmarks (NNLs).

The narratives for each ACEC, SMA, RNA and NNL include a general description, the management goals, the management prescriptions (planned actions) and individual land status and location maps. No maps are included for the cultural resources ACECs and RNAs because these sites are sensitive and could be subject to increased vandalism.

The descriptive narratives of the ACECs, SMAs, RNAs and NNLs vary due to the management attention each area needs to receive. Management prescriptions are developed that are as detailed as possible to avoid the time and expense of preparing activity plans for each ACEC, SMA, RNA, and NNL following completion of the RMP.

Dominant values are identified for ACECs and SMAs. These are the principal values for which the area will be managed. Discretionary management actions may be approved if they are shown to aid in the maintenance or enhancement of the identified values.

In some cases, the need to develop site-specific grazing plans for individual ACECs or RNAs has been identified. It should also be noted that regulations require a Plan of Operations for all mining activities that take place within an ACEC, if that ACEC is open to mining. Therefore, this requirement is not listed separately in the management prescriptions for each ACEC.

The ACECs, SMAs, RNAs, and NNLs for the Mimbres Resource Area are shown in Table 5-1. Also see Map 5-1 for the general location of each ACEC, SMA, RNA, and NNL.

### AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

ACECs are defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) as ". . . areas within the public land where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural system or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards." The regulations require that potential ACECs must meet both of the following criteria:

*RELEVANCE* An area meets the "relevance" criteria if it contains one or more of the following:

1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archaeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).
2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).
3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).
4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.

**IMPORTANCE** The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.
2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy National priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.
4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

Biological ACECs were identified with the assistance of a report prepared by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in January 1990 titled "Potential Biological Special Management Areas in the Mimbres Resource Area." This report was prepared by The Nature Conservancy New Mexico Field Office for the BLM under the BLM's Challenge Cost-Share Program.

The report evaluated and identified potential biological ACECs based upon the relevance and importance criteria outlined above. Biological ACECs include riparian, special status animal or plant species, or plant communities.

Cultural ACECs were identified with the assistance of the "1990 Ropes Review: Identification of Research and Funding Priorities in the Mimbres Resource Area." This report was prepared under the Challenge Cost-Share Program with New Mexico State University.

## SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

### *TRAILS*

Two SMAs for trails are designated in this RMP-- Butterfield Trail and Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The narratives for each SMA include a general description, management goals, and management prescriptions (planned actions). Also a detailed description of the Continental Divide Trail is included along with a description of the Florida Mountains side trail. See Map 5-18 for locations of these trails.

### *RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (RNAs) AND NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK (NNL)*

Four RNAs and one NNL are designated in this RMP. RNA designations will focus on encouraging and facilitating active research in those areas. The narratives for each RNA and NNL contain a general description, management goals, and management prescriptions (planned actions).

TABLE 5-1  
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN(ACECs)/  
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (SMAs)

PAGE NO.	AREA	ACRES	VALUES
	<b>ACECs</b>		
5-5	Alamo Hueco Mountains	13,020	B, S, C, P, SS
5-7	Apache Box	2,630	B, S, C, SS, RIP
5-9	Bear Creek	1,480	RIP
5-11	Big Hatchet Mountains	29,180	B, S, SS, REC
5-13	Central Peloncillo Mountains	12,750	B, S, RES, SS
5-15	Cooke's Range	17,160	B, S, C, H, REC
5-19	Cowboy Spring	6,740	B, SS
5-21	Dona Ana Mountains	1,490	B, S, C, REC
5-23	Florida Mountains	15,660	S, B
5-25	Gila Lower Box	6,490	SS, RIP, REC
5-27	Gila Middle Box	840	SS, RIP
5-29	Granite Gap	1,750	B, S, SS, REC
5-31	Guadalupe Canyon	4,170	B, SS, RIP
5-33	Los Tules	20	C
5-35	Northern Peloncillo Mountains	760	B, SS
5-37	Old Town	320	C, REC
5-38	Organ/Franklin Mountains	56,480	B, S, C, SS, RIP, REC
5-41	Rincon	840	C
5-43	Robledo Mountains	9,190	B, S, REC
5-45	San Diego Mountain	640	C
5-46	Uvas Valley	1,570	B
	<b>SMAs</b>		
5-47	Butterfield Trail	15,690	H, C, REC
5-49	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail	48,450	S, REC
5-53	Aden Lava Flow RNA	3,930	B, S, G, RES
5-55	Antelope Pass RNA	8,710	B, RES
5-56	Kilbourne Hole NNL	5,480	G, REC
5-57	Paleozoic Trackways RNA	720	P, RES, REC
5-59	Lordsburg Playa RNA	4,510	P, RES

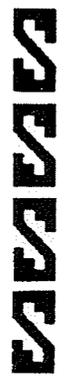
Source:

BLM Files, 1990.

Notes:

B=Biological; S=Scenic; G=Geological; RES=Research; C=Cultural; P=Paleontological; SS=Special Status Species; RIP=Riparian; H=Historical; REC=Recreation





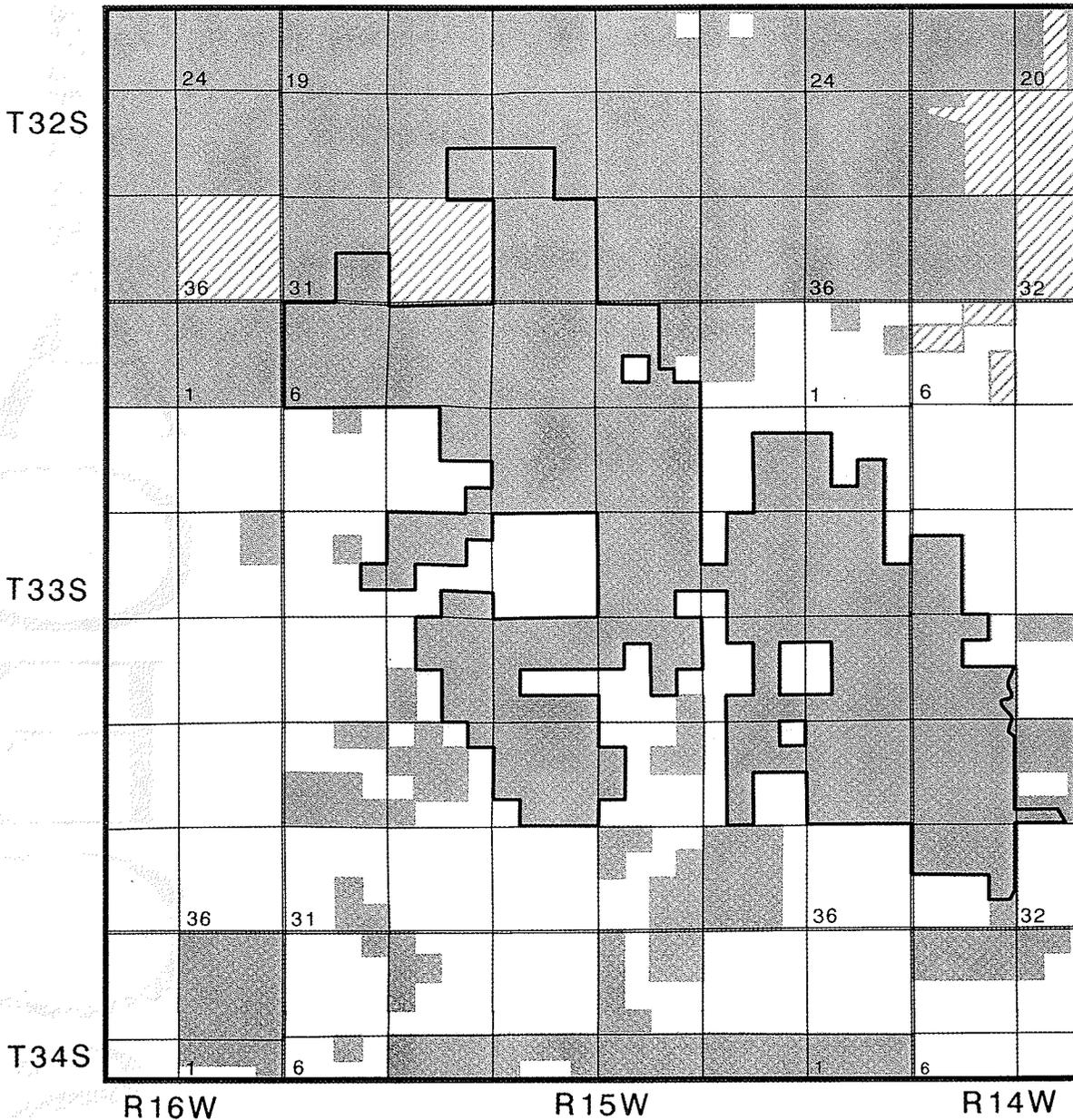
# ACCENT



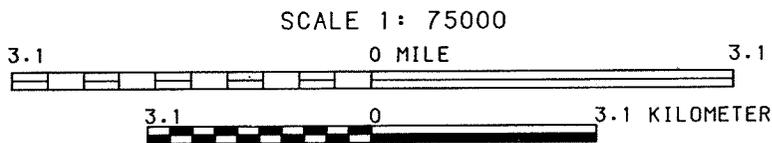
BRAND - ZWILLING J.A. HENCKELS CO. MADE IN GERMANY

knapsack  
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**ALAMO HUECO MOUNTAINS - ACEC**  
**MAP 5-2**



**Legend**

- ACEC BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS

# ALAMO HUECO MOUNTAINS ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Alamo Hueco Mountains ACEC is located in southeast Hidalgo County approximately 80 miles southeast of Lordsburg, New Mexico. The size of the ACEC is 13,020 acres. The Alamo Huecos are volcanic mountains featuring open grasslands or shrub/grasslands on the foothills and lower slopes leading to shrub/grass communities higher up, with distinct riparian communities in the more pronounced drainages. The area features diverse plant and animal communities, cultural and paleontological resources, and scenic qualities.

The Alamo Hueco Mountains ACEC meets the BLM's ACEC relevance criteria because the site contains numerous State-listed and Federal candidate plant and animal species, desert bighorn sheep habitat, cultural and paleontological values, and scenic values. The area meets the BLM's ACEC importance criteria because its values are of more than local significance, vulnerable to adverse change and require special management and protection.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological (especially bighorn sheep and riparian), scenic, cultural, and paleontological values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access to boundary, with parking areas (½ acre) and trailheads.
- Set carrying capacity for all lands within the Section 15 portion of the grazing allotment and develop grazing activity plan.
- Consider chemical brush control in some portions where necessary to meet desired plant community objectives.
- Manage as Class II for air quality.
- Exclude heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Carry forward all provisions of existing HMP.
- Conduct/encourage archaeological and paleontological surveys.
- Manage as VRM Class I.
- Upon acquisition of private land, consult and coordinate with the grazing permittee to develop and implement projects for the protection and enhancement of springs and riparian areas. Projects may consist of small enclosures (10 acres or less), spring developments, pasture fencing, construction of livestock water sources away from riparian areas, relocation of existing water troughs away from riparian areas, and revegetation of riparian areas. Up to a total of 10 miles of fence could be constructed.
- Manage for ROS primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized classes.

# APACHE BOX ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Apache Box ACEC is located in northwest Grant County approximately 18 miles south of Mule Creek. The size of the ACEC is 2,630 acres. Apache Box is a sheer-walled narrow canyon with cliffs over 500 feet high and a nearly pristine riparian area found in the bottom of the box. Also within the ACEC are found several Federal and State-listed and Federal candidate plant and animal species, numerous cultural resources, a globally rare plant community, and high scenic values.

The Apache Box meets the BLM's ACEC relevance criteria because of the Federal and State-listed species, rare plant communities, and cultural and scenic values. The area meets the importance criteria because it has qualities that make it unique, threatened and vulnerable to adverse change warranting special management protection.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological, scenic, cultural, special status species, and riparian values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all adjacent State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market

value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.

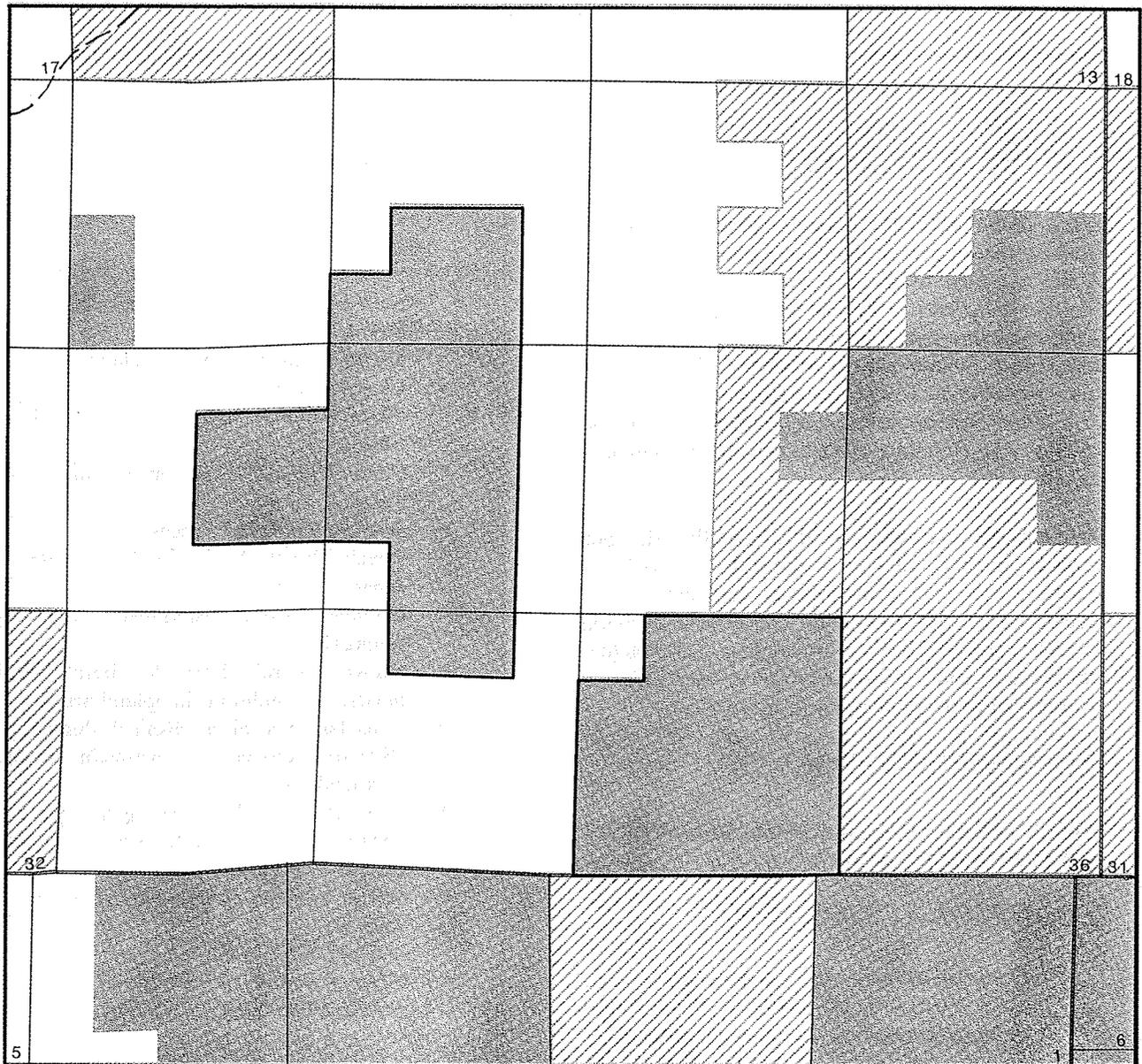
- Close to vehicle use (except for administrative use).
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Withdraw from locatable mineral entry.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid and non-energy mineral leasing.
- Conduct validity exam on existing mining claims.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Develop livestock grazing plan to protect or enhance riparian values.
- Exclude heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Allow natural fires to burn within prescribed conditions in upland areas.
- Consider selected mechanical thinning of alligator juniper to maintain natural grassland areas.
- Conduct Class III archaeological survey.
- Install protective grates in three rock shelters to exclude pothunters.
- Safety/"no shooting" restriction February 1-August 15.
- Manage as VRM Class I.
- Manage for ROS primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized classes.

R-16W

R-15V

T 15S

T 16S

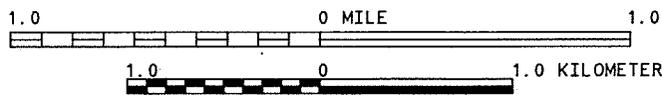


### BEAR CREEK - ACEC

MAP 5-3

### Legend

- ACEC BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS
- COUNTY ROAD



# BEAR CREEK ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Bear Creek ACEC is located in central Grant County approximately 15 miles northwest of Silver City, New Mexico. The size of the area is 1,480 acres. Bear Creek is a riparian area about a mile and a half long. The uplands above the riparian area are comprised of a pinyon/juniper woodland which give way to the riparian area which includes small cliffs and a box canyon. The riparian area contains a perennial stream with an Arizona sycamore/Fremont cottonwood plant community.

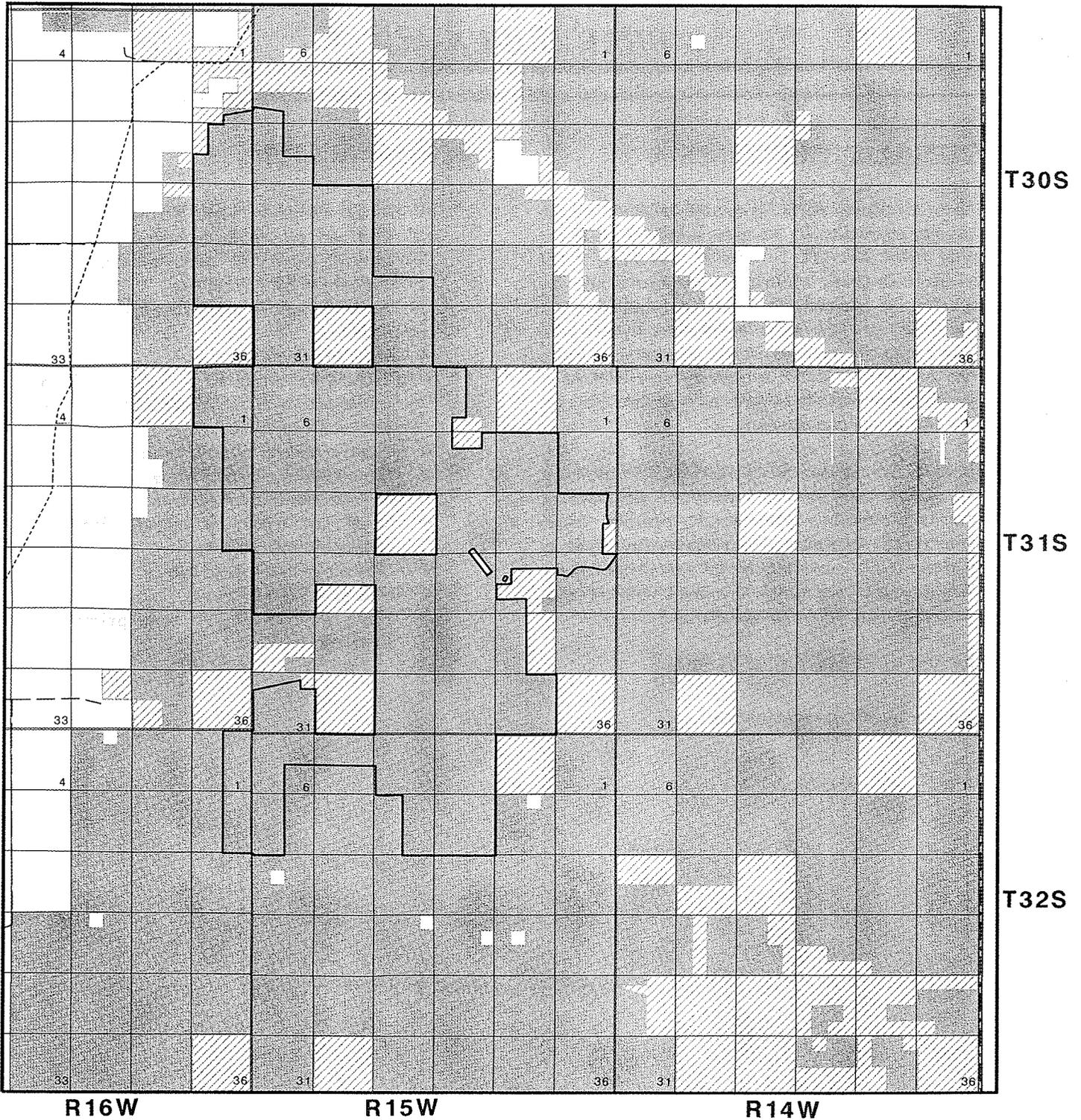
Bear Creek meets the BLM's ACEC relevance criteria because of the scarcity of the Arizona sycamore/Fremont cottonwood riparian plant community. Few examples of this system remain in New Mexico. The area meets the importance criteria because it has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect riparian values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

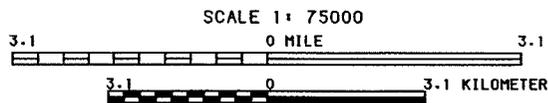
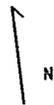
- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private lands between the two parts of the ACEC through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Close to vehicle use.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire administrative access.
- Install gap fences to exclude livestock grazing (½ mile of fence).
- Conduct archaeological survey.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.



**BIG HATCHETS MOUNTAINS - ACEC**

MAP 5-4

- Legend**
- ACEC BOUNDARY
  - PUBLIC LAND
  - STATE LAND
  - OTHER LANDS



# BIG HATCHET MOUNTAINS ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Big Hatchet Mountains ACEC is located in southeast Hidalgo County approximately 15 miles south of Hatchita, New Mexico. The size of the ACEC is 29,180 acres. The Big Hatchets are comprised of limestone and reach an elevation of 8,860 feet at Big Hatchet Peak. The mountain range runs northwest to southeast with diverse vegetation types at different elevations and aspects. There are several Federal and State-listed plants and animals found in the mountain range.

The Big Hatchet Mountains meet the BLM's relevance criteria because of the several Federal and State-listed plants and animals, desert bighorn sheep habitat, and diverse vegetation types found throughout the area. The area meets the importance criteria because it has qualities of more than local significance that make it rare, unique and vulnerable to adverse change and require special management and protection.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological (especially bighorn sheep) and scenic values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value,

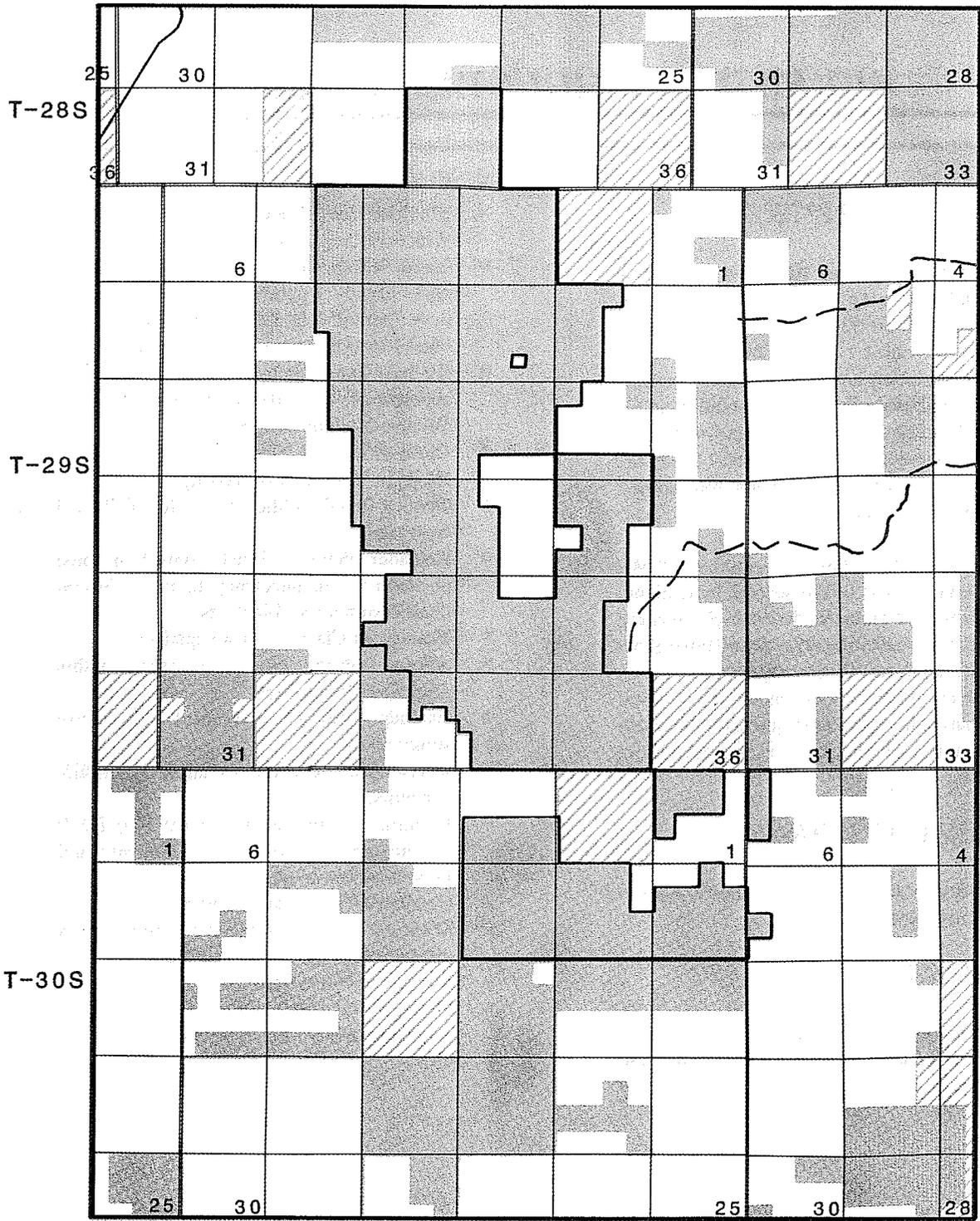
provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.

- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails except for the central portion of the area (around Big Hatchet Peak) which is closed to vehicle use (4,160 acres).
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access to north and west sides.
- Consider chemical brush control in some portions where necessary to meet desired plant community objectives.
- Manage as Class II for air quality.
- Allow natural fires to burn within prescribed conditions.
- Exclude heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Revise present AMP to address wildlife concerns.
- Continue all provisions of existing HMP (maintenance of water developments and prescribed burning).
- Conduct archaeological survey.
- Manage for primitive recreation opportunities (no developed facilities).
- Manage as VRM Class I.
- Manage for ROS primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized classes.

R-22W

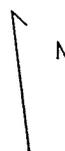
R-21W

R-20W

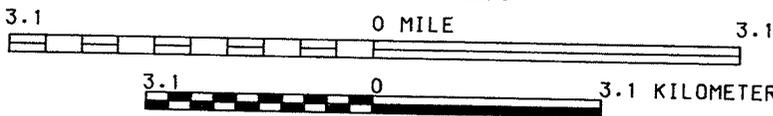


# CENTRAL PELONCILLO MOUNTAINS

## MAP 5-5



SCALE 1: 75000



### Legend

- ACEC BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS

# CENTRAL PELONCILLO MOUNTAINS ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Central Peloncillo Mountain ACEC is located in southwest Hidalgo County approximately 25 miles southwest of Animas, New Mexico. The size of the area is 12,750 acres. This area consists of the most rugged and remote portion of the Peloncillo Mountains. The area is dominated by a major ridge which runs north/south with peaks, smaller hills and ridges, all separated by canyons of various sizes. The location and orientation of these mountains provide a natural passage for unique wildlife from Mexico into the U.S.

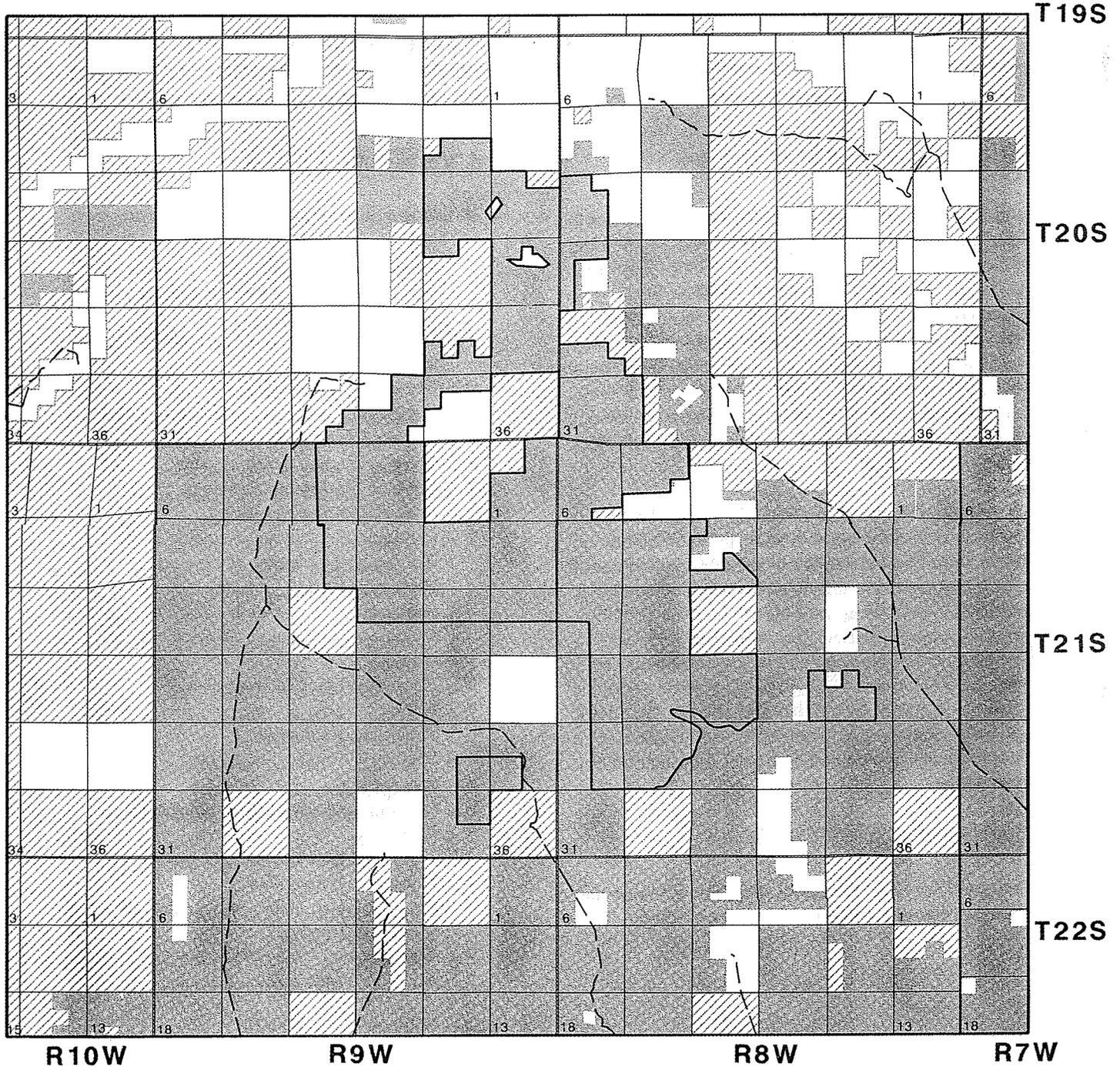
The Central Peloncillo Mountains meet the BLM's relevance criteria because they provide habitat for several State-listed plants and animals, support one of the most extensive and well-developed examples of Madrean evergreen woodland in New Mexico, provide opportunities for scientific research of vegetation and wildlife, and have outstanding scenic values. The area meets the importance criteria because it has qualities that are of more than local significance, unique, exemplary, and vulnerable to adverse change warranting special management and protection.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological (bighorn sheep and habitat diversity), research, and scenic values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Continue to exclude livestock from Owl Canyon and Scholes Allotments, develop livestock grazing management plan for remainder in conjunction with the permittees, and change all allotments to "I" category.
- Develop prescribed burn plan.
- Allow natural fires to burn within prescribed conditions.
- Exclude heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Continue provisions of existing HMP.
- Manage for primitive recreation opportunities (no developed facilities).
- Manage as VRM Class I.
- Revise existing ACEC management plan for Scholes Allotment.
- Manage for ROS primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized classes.



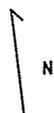
**COOKE'S RANGE - ACEC**  
**MAP 5-6**

SCALE 1: 75000



**Legend**

- ACEC BOUNDARY ———
- PUBLIC LAND [stippled box]
- STATE LAND [hatched box]
- OTHER LANDS [white box]
- COUNTY ROAD - - - -



# COOKE'S RANGE ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Cooke's Range ACEC is located in north central Luna County approximately 15 miles northeast of Deming, New Mexico. The size of the ACEC is 17,160 acres, including Fort Cummings, and the Pony Hills and Massacre Peak Petroglyph sites. The Cooke's Range is dominated by Cooke's Peak which rises to 8,408 feet. The range spreads out from the peak to the north and south and consists of lower peaks and numerous steep ridges.

Fort Cummings is located on the east side of the Cooke's Range and was established in 1863 to protect travellers on the emigrant trail from Apache depredations. It was occupied intermittently from 1863 to the 1890's. The original post was rectangular in shape and surrounded by a 10 foot high adobe wall. Fort Cummings could well be the primary New Mexico Apache wars military installation during the late 1860's and again in the early 1880's. The fort is considered to have local and regional significance. A cultural resource management plan was recently prepared and approved for the fort. Although much of the fort is on privately-owned land, other structures associated with the army post are on public land managed by BLM. Approximately 40 acres are privately-owned.

The Massacre Peak and Pony Hills petroglyph sites are located west of Fort Cummings on the south end of the Cooke's Range. Both are representative of the Mimbres culture and consist of numerous petroglyphs pecked onto sandstone outcrops. The petroglyphs include zoomorphic, anthropomorphic, and geometric figures. These sites are subject to vandalism and removal of panels with chisels. Both sites have high educational and interpretive potential.

Cooke's Range meets the BLM's relevance criteria because it provides habitat for several State-listed and State-sensitive plants. The area is also rich in cultural resources, has the only population of Arizona cypress in New Mexico, and has excellent scenic values. The area meets the importance criteria

because it has qualities that are of more than local significance, rare, sensitive, and vulnerable to adverse change warranting special management and protection.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological, scenic, and cultural values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

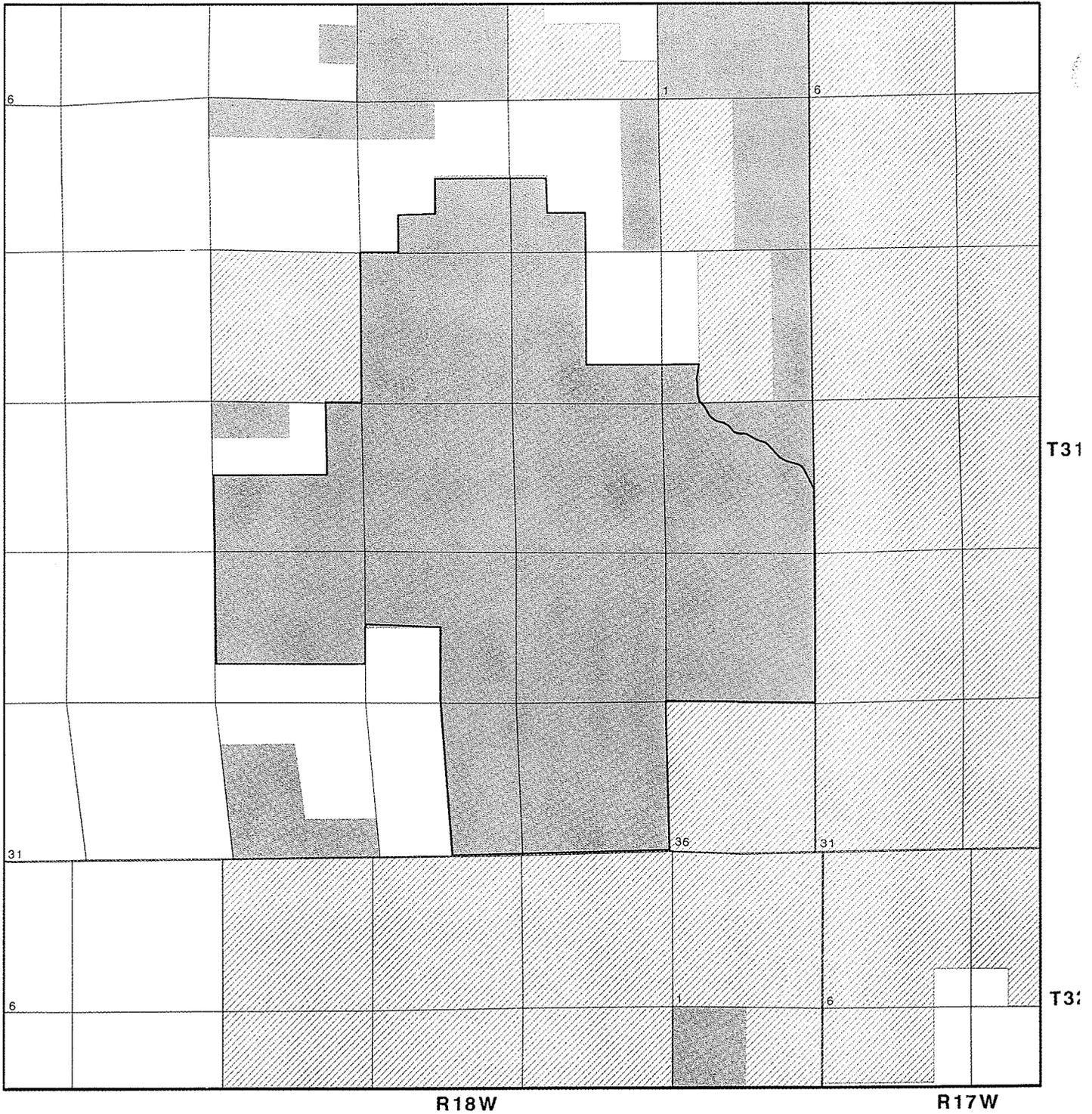
- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at Fair Market Value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Develop livestock grazing activity plan.
- Consider chemical brush control in some portions where necessary to meet desired plant community objectives.
- Develop prescribed burn plans.
- Exclude heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Allow natural fires to burn within prescribed conditions.
- Incorporate provisions of existing Cultural Resource Management Plan for Fort Cummings.
- Conduct archaeological surveys.
- Develop stabilization plans for historic mining towns.
- Interpret the petroglyphs through signs and tours.
- Manage for primitive recreation opportunities.
- Manage as VRM Class I.

## COOKE'S RANGE ACEC (concluded)

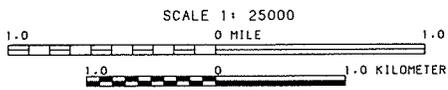
- Consult and coordinate with the livestock permittee to develop and implement projects for the protection and enhancement of springs and riparian areas. Projects may consist of small exclosures (10 acres or less), spring developments, construction of livestock water sources away from riparian

areas, relocation of existing water troughs away from riparian areas, and revegetation of riparian areas. Up to a total of 1 mile of fence could be constructed.

- Manage for ROS primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized classes.
- Close to fuelwood sale or collection.



**COWBOY SPRINGS - ACEC**  
 MAP 5-7



**Legend**

- ACEC BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS

# COWBOY SPRING ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Cowboy Spring ACEC is located in south-central Hidalgo County, approximately 50 miles south of Lordsburg, New Mexico. The ACEC is 6,740 acres. It is characterized by mid-elevation hills interspersed with long shallow canyons that support seasonal flows. The hills and canyons support dense grass stands, sacahuista, and Madrean evergreen woodland communities dominated by Emory oak. The canyon bottoms support riparian wildlife species including frog and turtle populations despite the lack of perennial surface water. Several State endangered species also occur in the proposed ACEC including the white-eared hummingbird and the thick-billed kingbird.

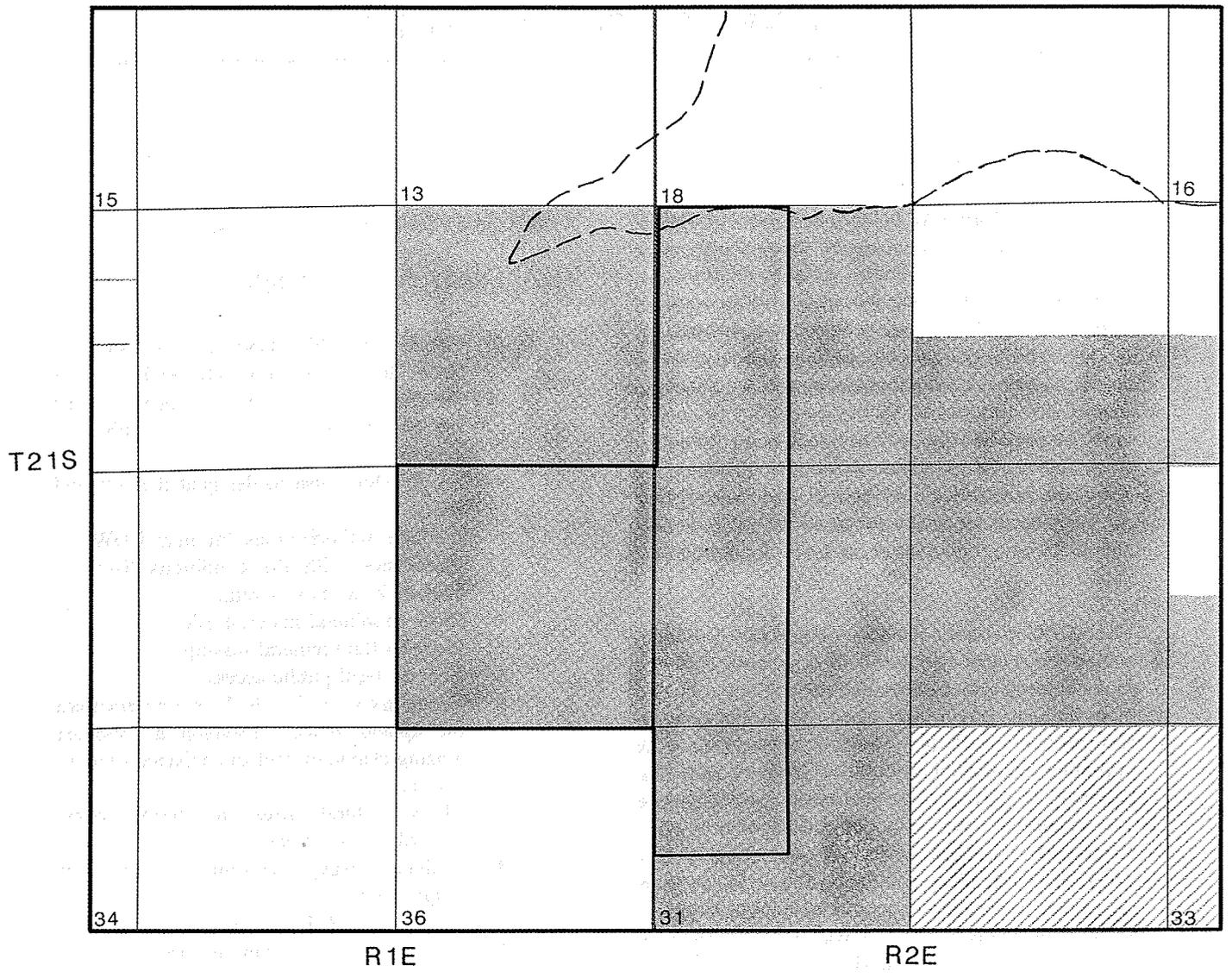
The ACEC meets the relevance criteria by providing habitat for a diverse fauna and flora typical of the Mexican highlands and unusual for public land. The biota includes endangered plant and animal species, and protection of the Cowboy Springs area is important for maintaining species diversity on public land in New Mexico. The area meets the importance criteria because the diverse and unusual biota is more than locally significant since this habitat type is very poorly represented on public land, and it has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy a National priority when it was recommended as suitable for wilderness designation by the BLM Director.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

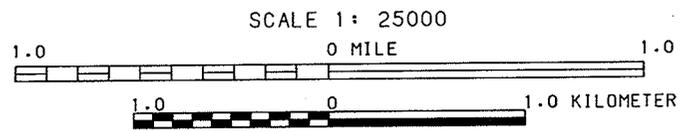
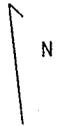
Manage for protection of biological values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire adjacent State trust land through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Maintain current livestock grazing practices for upland areas. Develop a livestock grazing plan to protect and enhance riparian values.
- Allow natural fires to burn within prescribed conditions.
- Exclude heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS primitive class.



**DONA ANA MOUNTAINS - ACEC**  
**MAP 5-8**



**Legend**

- ACEC BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS
- COUNTY ROAD

# DONA ANA MOUNTAINS ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Dona Ana Mountains ACEC is located in central Dona Ana County approximately 5 miles north of Las Cruces. The ACEC is 1,490 acres. They are characterized by steep jagged peaks rising abruptly from the desert floor. Vegetation is mostly grasses and shrubs, with some scattered juniper trees. The peaks are highly scenic, and are within the view of most of the northern Mesilla Valley and the northeast portion of Las Cruces. The ACEC features a high diversity of cacti in addition to the scenic qualities. The State endangered Dona Ana Mountains *sonorella* (a land snail) occurs only in these mountains.

The Dona Ana Mountains ACEC meets the relevance criteria because of both the scenic quality and the significant wildlife resources including the *sonorella* and its habitat. The area meets the importance criteria because the proximity to Las Cruces and the high recreation use levels of the area make the relevant resources vulnerable to adverse change.

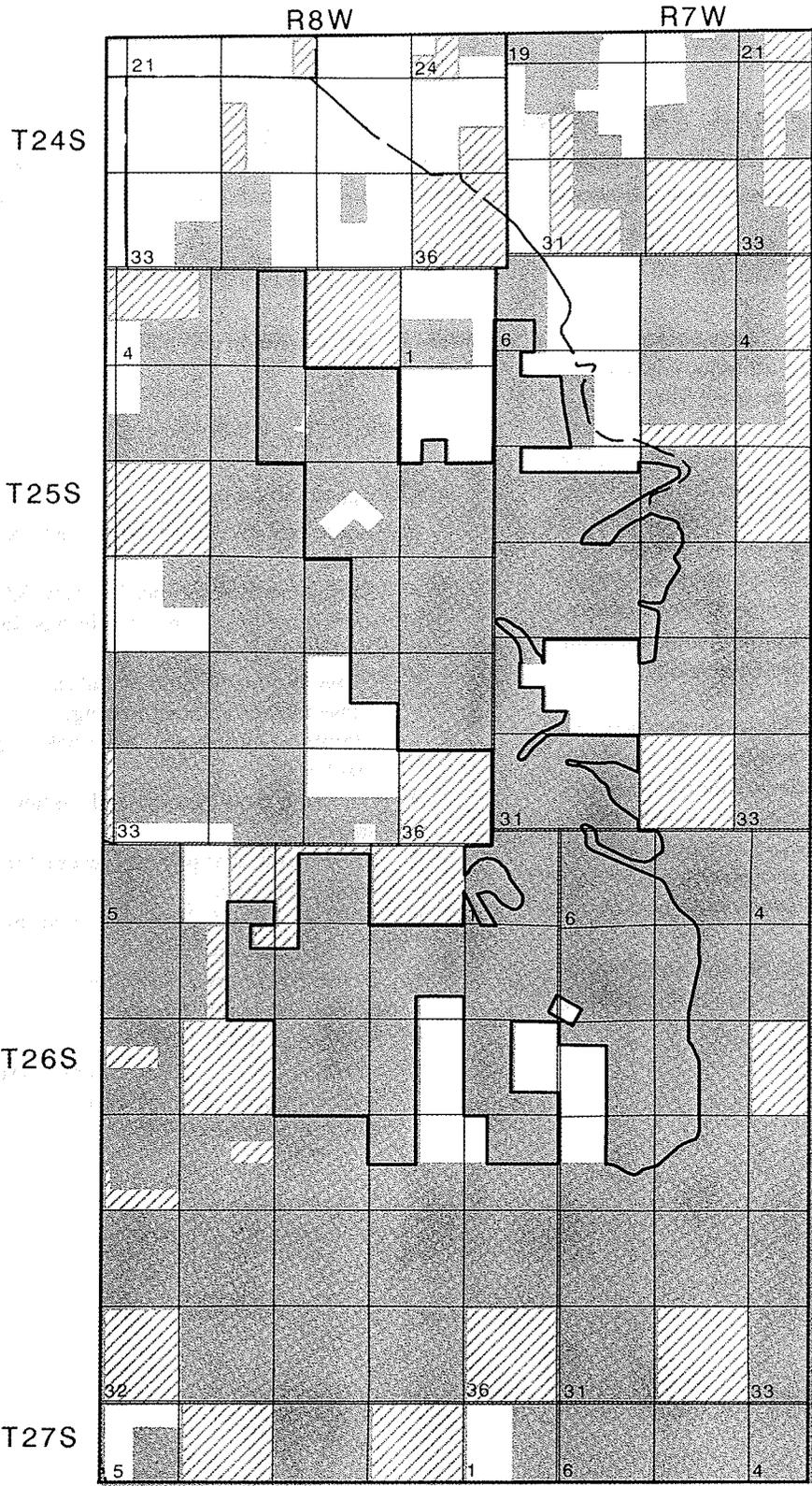
Scenic quality is also of more than local significance and is enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of motorists on I-25 annually.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage for protection of biological, scenic, and cultural values.

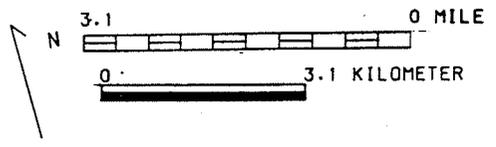
## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Maintain current livestock grazing practices.
- Exclude feral goats and other exotic animals.
- Close roads that provide access for illegal plant collecting.
- Manage for primitive and semi-primitive recreational opportunities.
- Develop primitive campsites in the "bowl" on north side (10 acres).
- Manage as VRM Class I.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural classes.



**FLORIDA MOUNTAINS - ACEC**  
**MAP 5-9**

SCALE 1: 75000



- Legend**
- ACEC BOUNDARY ———
  - PUBLIC LAND [stippled pattern]
  - STATE LAND [diagonal hatching]
  - OTHER LANDS [white]
  - COUNTY ROAD - - - -

# FLORIDA MOUNTAINS ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Florida Mountains ACEC is located in central Luna County approximately 8 miles southeast of Deming. The ACEC is 15,660 acres. The Floridas are characterized by spectacular jagged spires and multi-colored cliffs of Precambrian granite overlain in places by Ordovician limestone. The mountains support vegetation types ranging from lower Sonoran to Upper Sonoran life zones, with tremendous diversity created by the myriad aspects within the steep cliffs. The area features spectacular scenery as well as State-listed endangered plant and animal species. Several springs in the mountain range form small riparian zones that increase the values of surrounding wildlife habitat and enhance biodiversity within the mountain range.

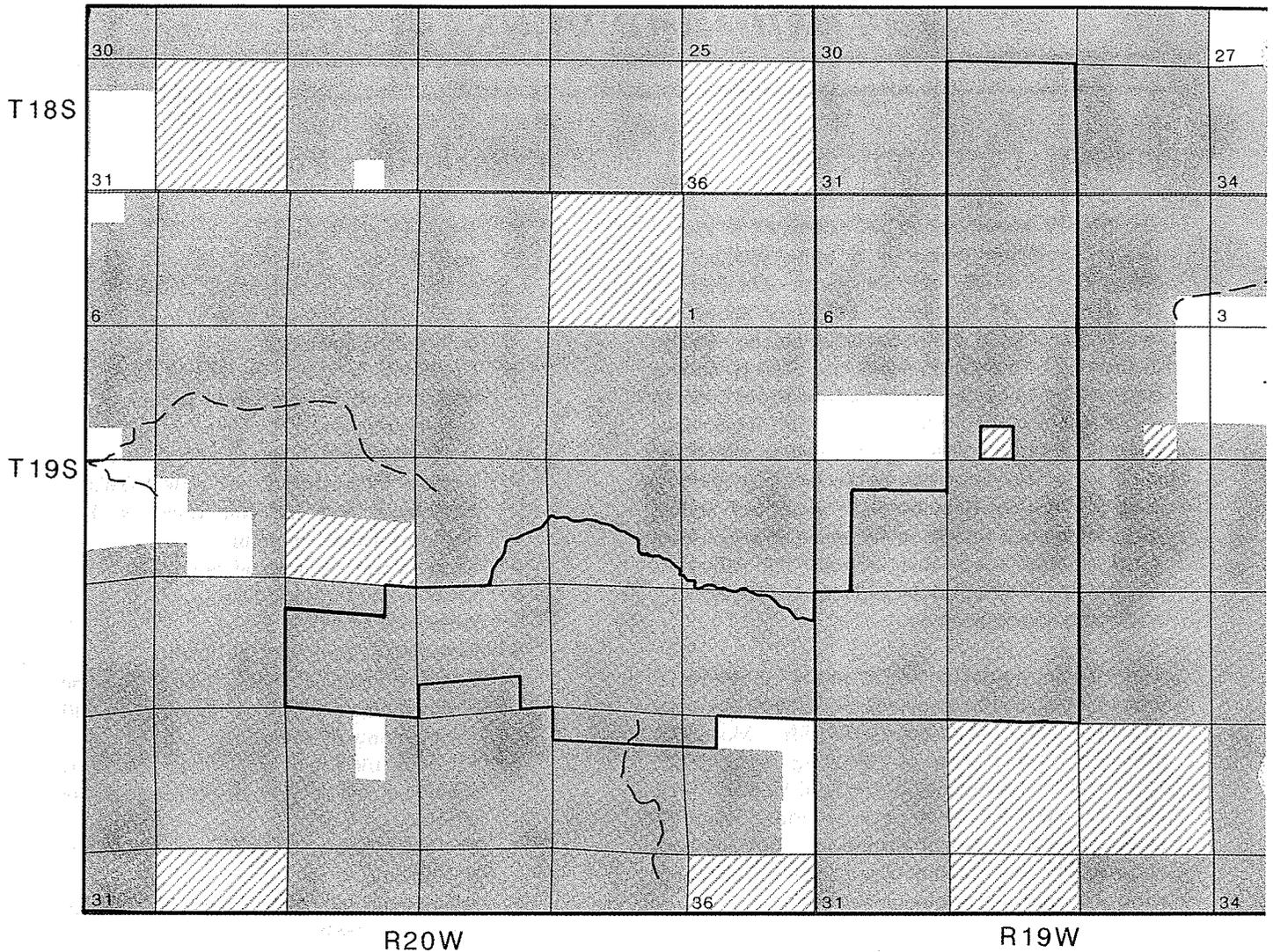
The Florida Mountains ACEC meets the relevance criteria of significant scenic values, wildlife resources including the State-listed Florida Mountains *oreohelix*, natural systems including endemic and relict plant communities, and natural hazards. The Floridas meet the importance criteria because of significant values of more than local significance and endangered species both of which could be vulnerable to adverse change from mining or ibex use.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

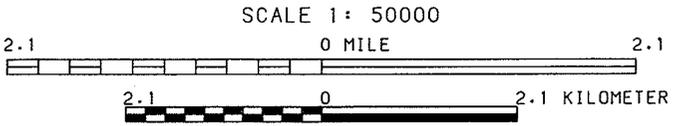
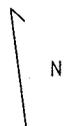
Manage for protection of scenic and biological values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails, except for the central portion of the area (encompassing the higher peaks) which is closed to vehicle use (5,900 acres).
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Manage as Class II for air quality.
- Consider chemical brush control in some portions where necessary to meet desired plant community objectives.
- Allow natural fire to burn within prescribed conditions where private property is not affected.
- Exclude heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Incorporate all provisions of Florida Mountains HMP.
- Manage for primitive and semi-primitive recreational opportunities.
- Develop parking areas/signing (1 acre).
- Develop trails and primitive hunter camps (2 acres).
- Manage as VRM Class I.
- Manage for ROS primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, and semi-primitive motorized classes.



**GILA LOWER BOX - ACEC**  
**MAP 5-10**



- Legend**
- ACEC BOUNDARY ———
  - PUBLIC LAND [stippled box]
  - STATE LAND [diagonal hatching box]
  - OTHER LANDS [white box]
  - STATE HIGHWAY - - - - -
  - COUNTY ROAD - · - · - -

# GILA LOWER BOX ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Gila Lower Box ACEC is located in northwest Hidalgo County approximately 30 miles north of Lordsburg, New Mexico. The size of the area is 6,490 acres. The site is characterized by cliffs and steep canyon sides rising above a significant riparian area. The riparian area itself has stands of Arizona sycamore, Fremont cottonwoods, willows, and associated riparian vegetation. There are several State-listed and Federal candidate animal species which occur or have habitat within the area. The area also provides seasonal habitat for numerous species of raptors.

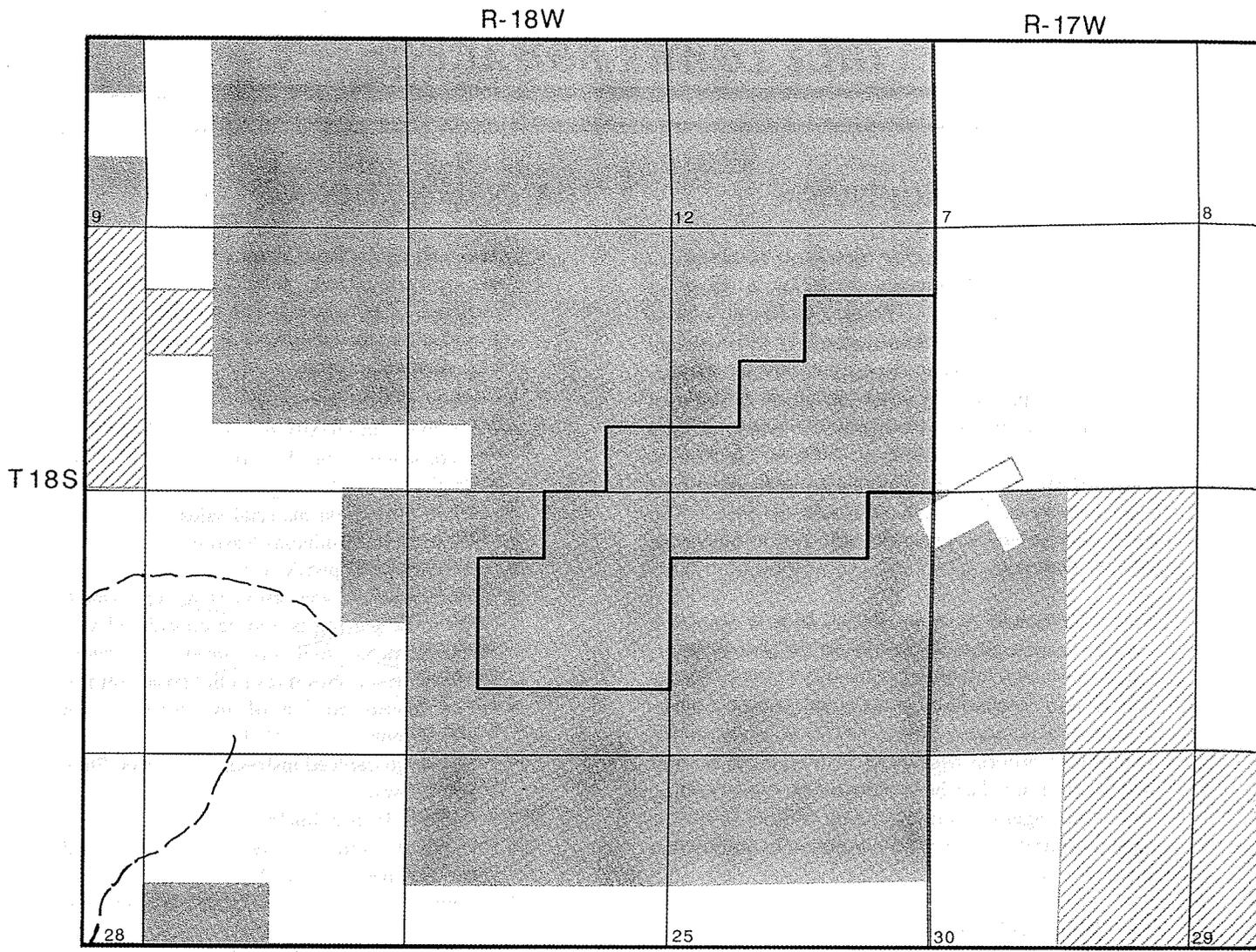
The Gila Lower Box meets the BLM's relevance criteria because it provides habitat for several State-listed and Federal candidate species. The Gila Lower Box is also the largest and most significant riparian area in the Resource Area. The area meets the importance criteria because it is of more than local significance and has been recognized as warranting special management and protection in order to restore and rehabilitate the degraded condition of the riparian area.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect riparian values.

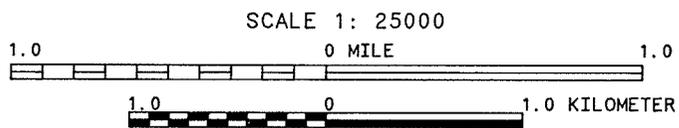
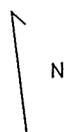
## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Close to vehicle use.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Once riparian vegetation is re-established, livestock grazing would be considered as a management tool to meet vegetation management objectives in the river bottom.
- The fenced portion of the river bottom would remain unallotted.
- Secure guaranteed instream flow when State law allows.
- Exclude feral animals.
- Develop primitive recreation site and parking areas (5 acres).
- Sign main entrances and provide maps and brochures.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Continue annual monitoring program.
- Manage for ROS primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized classes.



# GILA MIDDLE BOX ACEC

MAP 5-11



**Legend**

ACEC BOUNDARY	———
PUBLIC LAND	▒
STATE LAND	▨
OTHER LANDS	□
COUNTY ROAD	- - - -

# GILA MIDDLE BOX ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Gila Middle Box ACEC is located in southwestern Grant County about 27 miles north of Lordsburg and 20 miles west of Silver City. The size of the area is 840 acres. It was designated as an ACEC in 1984. The middle box is a narrow, rugged canyon with steep walls. The canyon bottom supports a rich riparian community that includes extremely high species diversity including the most specious bird community in New Mexico. The canyon provides habitat for State endangered mammals and reptiles, and State and Federal endangered fish and birds. The river is the longest free-flowing river in the United States.

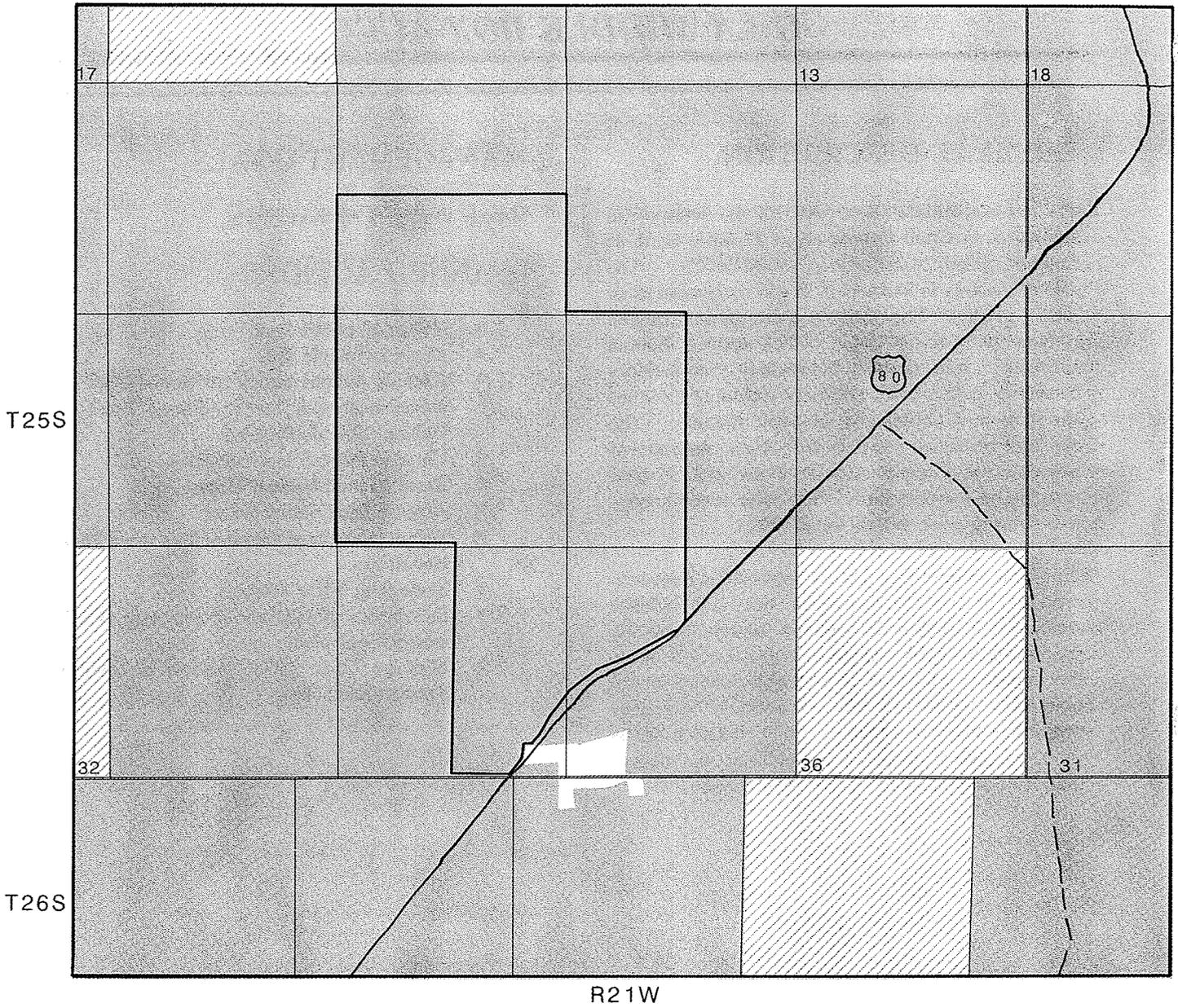
The Gila Middle Box ACEC meets the relevance criteria by having significant fish and wildlife resources including endangered species, and by supporting a sensitive riparian ecosystem. It meets the importance criteria by having a distinctive and regionally significant biotic assemblage which is vulnerable to adverse change. Any alteration of the river or riparian community could have an adverse impact on the endangered species in the area.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect riparian values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

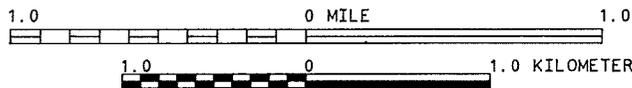
- Retain all public land.
- Close to vehicle use.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Secure guaranteed instream flow when State law allows.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Incorporate provisions of existing ACEC management plan.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.



**GRANITE GAP - ACEC**

MAP 5-12

SCALE 1: 25000



**Legend**

- ACEC BOUNDARY ———
- PUBLIC LAND [stippled pattern]
- STATE LAND [diagonal hatching]
- OTHER LANDS [white]
- COUNTY ROAD - - - -

# GRANITE GAP ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Granite Gap ACEC is located in west central Hidalgo County approximately 24 miles southwest of Lordsburg, New Mexico. The size of the area is 1,750 acres. Granite Gap is a low saddle in the Peloncillo Mountains. To the northwest, Granite Peak rises above the gap while the Peloncillo Mountain range continues south. The Gap itself is in an area of rocky limestone ridges which exhibit diverse vegetation communities. The area has several State-listed animal species including a small herd of desert bighorn sheep. Authorities also feel that this area has a higher cactus diversity than any other area in New Mexico.

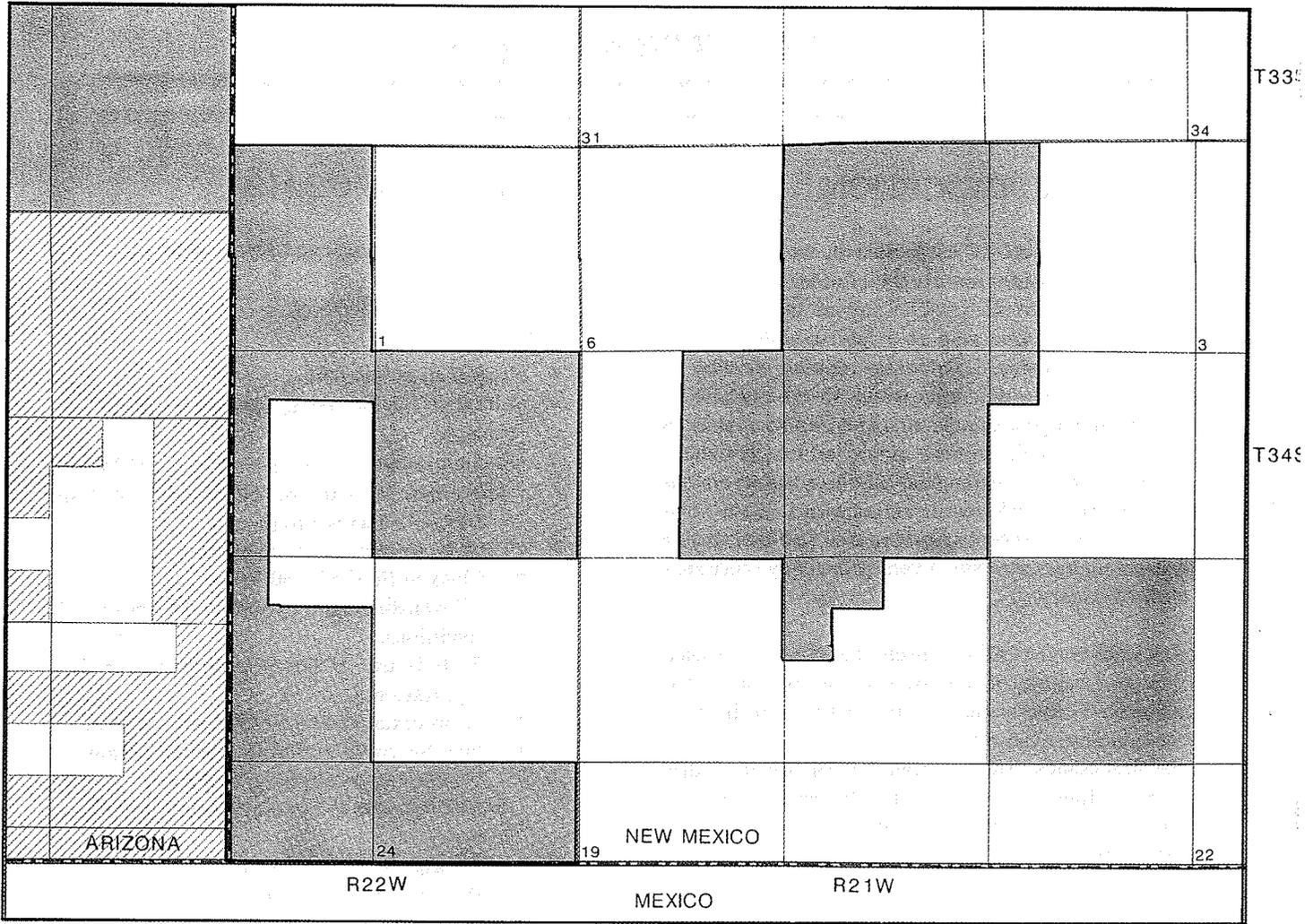
The Granite Gap ACEC meets the BLM's relevance criteria because of the occurrence of State-listed animals, its diverse cactus community, desert bighorn sheep habitat, and its scenic values. The area meets the importance criteria because it has qualities that make it fragile, unique, and vulnerable to adverse changes warranting special management and protection.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological and scenic values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Allow natural fires to burn under prescribed conditions.
- Exclude use of heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Incorporate provisions of existing HMP.
- Monitor camping during javelina season.
- If resource conflicts appear to be developing, consider establishing designated sites.
- Manage as VRM Class I.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive class.

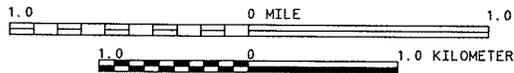


### GUADALUPE CANYON - ACEC

MAP 5-13



SCALE 1: 25000



#### Legend

- ACEC BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS

# GUADALUPE CANYON ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Guadalupe Canyon ACEC is located in the southwestern corner of Hidalgo County. The size of the area is 4,170 acres. The canyon begins in the Guadalupe Mountains of southwest New Mexico, runs southwest into Arizona and continues into Mexico. The canyon bottom has a riparian zone which is characterized by stands of Arizona sycamore, Fremont cottonwood, and associated riparian vegetation. The area is well known for its high number of State-listed and State-sensitive plant and animal species, the National significance of its avifauna diversity, and the unique riparian area and associated vegetation. This area adjoins a proposed ACEC in Arizona.

The Guadalupe Canyon ACEC meets the BLM's relevance criteria because it has significant and diverse wildlife and vegetation resources, special status species occurrence, and valuable riparian resources. The area meets the importance criteria because it has qualities of more than local significance that make it rare, unique, exemplary, and vulnerable to adverse changes warranting special management and attention.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological and riparian values. Management will also be coordinated with the adjacent Guadalupe Canyon ACEC in the Safford District, Arizona.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Withdraw from locatable mineral entry.
- Maintain existing C&MU classification for minerals until protective withdrawal established.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Investigate relocating the road out of the bottom.
- Comply with the revised AMP (and riparian management objectives).
- Allow natural fires to burn under prescribed conditions.
- Exclude use of heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Manage for primitive or semi-primitive recreation opportunities.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized and semi-primitive motorized classes.
- Close to fuelwood sale or collection.

# LOS TULES ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Los Tules ACEC is a large pithouse village situated on the western edge of Las Cruces. The ACEC is 20 acres. Los Tules got its name from the abundant cattails (tules) which once grew along the Rio Grande. Los Tules was partially excavated in 1940 by Donald Lehmer of the University of Arizona. Los Tules became the type site for defining the Jornada Branch of the Mogollon culture (A.D. 200 - A.D. 1400). Lehmer excavated several pithouses at the site and the results were published in 1948. Today the site is half on BLM-administered land and half on private land. Private subdivisions are beginning to encroach on the site (Raasaf Hills). The site covers approximately 40 acres.

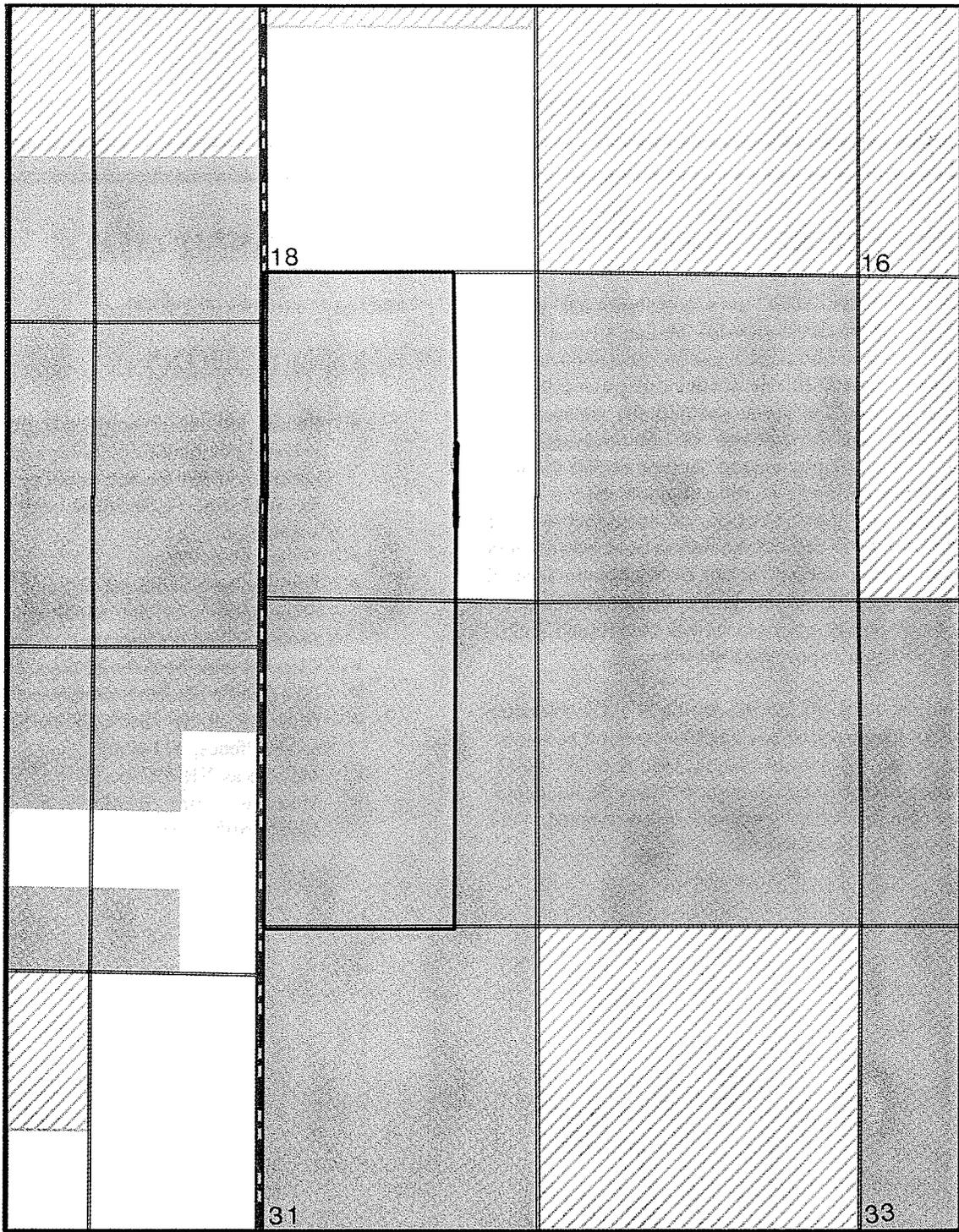
The Los Tules ACEC meets the BLM's relevance criteria because it is a significant cultural resource. The Los Tules Site meets the BLM's ACEC importance criteria because it is a fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, endangered, threatened, and vulnerable cultural resource.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect cultural values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire adjacent private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Close to vehicle use.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Designate NSO for fluid mineral leasing.
- Fence or cover site with sterile fill (3/4 mile of fence; 1/4 acre).
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.



ARIZONA

NEW MEXICO

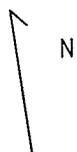
R21W

# NORTHERN PELONCILLO MOUNTAINS - ACEC

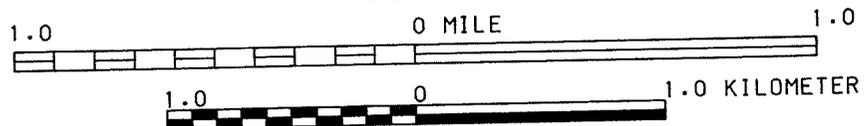
MAP 5-14

### Legend

- ACEC BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS



SCALE 1: 25000



# *NORTHERN PELONCILLO MOUNTAINS ACEC*

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Northern Peloncillo Mountain ACEC is located in west central Hidalgo County approximately 20 miles west of Lordsburg, New Mexico. The size of the area is 760 acres. This area is the northern extension of the Peloncillo Mountains which occur in New Mexico. The area is comprised of narrow canyons, cliffs, and a few minor peaks. This area is considered as habitat for desert bighorn sheep.

The Northern Peloncillo Mountains ACEC meets the BLM's relevance criteria because it has significant wildlife values. The area meets the importance criteria because it has qualities that are sensitive and vulnerable to adverse change warranting special management and protection.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Allow natural fires to burn within prescribed conditions.
- Exclude use of heavy equipment for fire suppression.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- If designated wilderness, ACEC designation would terminate and ACEC management prescriptions would be incorporated into WMP.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.

# OLD TOWN ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Old Town ACEC is a Mimbres village site situated on a high bluff overlooking the Mimbres River valley. The site is 15 miles northwest of Deming, New Mexico. The size of the area is 320 acres. The site is well known to the general public in the Deming area, and the site has been extensively shovel pothunted for the past 100 years. It has been estimated that 1,000 whole Mimbres vessels have been stolen from the site. Little professional archaeological excavation had occurred until the summer of 1989 when the BLM sponsored an archaeological field school from Texas A&M University. The field school is now affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin. The field school determined the site to have been a two story cobble masonry pueblo with an underlying pithouse village. The main site area is approximately 5 acres in size, but the outlying associated site features cover a much larger area.

Old Town is one of several very large Classic Mimbres villages spaced fairly evenly along the main branch of the Mimbres River. Many smaller Mimbres sites are found between these very large compounds. It is estimated that over 90 percent of Mimbres villages have been destroyed by pothunters utilizing heavy machinery. Old Town suffers primarily from shovel pothunting although an avocational archaeologist once cross-sectioned a portion of the site with a bulldozer. Old Town is mentioned as a possible driving tour site in the recent Mimbres Culture National Monument National legislation. Old Town is still vulnerable to shovel and machine pothunting.

The Old Town ACEC meets the BLM's relevance criteria because it is a significant historic and cultural resource. The Old Town ACEC meets the BLM's ACEC importance criteria because it is a fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, endangered, threatened, and vulnerable cultural resource.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect cultural values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land.
- Close to vehicle use.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Cooperate with National Park Service (through Mimbres Culture National Monument legislation) to manage and interpret the site.
- Enlarge existing enclosure to include all features and living areas (1 mile of fence).
- Continue research (extract information from site and document status and location of excavated materials).
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.

# ORGAN/FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Organ and Franklin Mountains ACEC has been proposed for designation as a National Conservation Area (NCA). The ACEC is 56,480 acres. These mountains run north and south through southeastern Dona Ana County. The Organs are characterized by jagged gray spires of quartz monzonite in the northern portion of the range, and massive blocks of red rhyolite interspersed with volcanic tuffs in the southern portion. Springs occur in major canyon bottoms and support valuable riparian ecosystems including rare endemic plants. Significant riparian areas include Ice Canyon, Fillmore Canyon, Indian Hollow, and Achenback Canyon. The ACEC also includes Bishop's Cap and the northern Franklin Mountains, which are composed of diverse limestones. Each limestone type supports a unique cactus community, and several cactus communities contain Federal or State endangered species. The two mountain ranges comprise some of the most spectacular scenery in southern New Mexico, with extensive viewsheds containing both interstate highways and large metropolitan populations.

The ACEC meets the relevance criteria because of the significant scenic values, endangered wildlife species including the Organ Mountain chipmunk and the desert bighorn sheep, numerous endangered plant species including the Organ Mountain evening primrose and Sneed's pincushion, national register eligible prehistoric and historic sites such as La Cueva and Dripping Springs and natural hazards including cliffs. The proposed ACEC meets the importance criteria because of the national significance of the resources and the fragility and sensitivity of these resources and their vulnerability to adverse change, particularly from mining, recreation uses, and illegal plant collecting.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological, scenic, riparian, special status species, and cultural values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails except for the scenic ACEC portion which is closed to vehicle use (8,840 acres).
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program except within existing utility corridors. The east-west corridor near Vado and the ones running north and south will be confined to a width of ¼ mile. The corridor in the Anthony Gap area will be confined to a width of ½ mile.
- Withdraw from locatable mineral entry.
- Maintain existing C&MU classification for minerals until protective withdrawal established.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Manage as Class II for air quality.
- Manage mountainous portions (generally above 5,000 feet) as VRM Class I; manage other portions as VRM Class III or IV.
- Manage in accordance with Organ Mountains Coordinated Resource Management Plan.
- Prohibit dogs and pets and require hiking on designated trails only in upper Ice Canyon above the drift fence.
- Manage for ROS primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive, and roaded natural classes.
- Monitor the area in accordance with the concepts of limits of acceptable change with emphasis on the most biologically or culturally sensitive areas.



T21S

T22S

T23S

T24S

T25S

T26S

T27S

R6E

R5E

R4E

R3E

R2E

TEXAS

NEW MEXICO

ORGAN/FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS - ACEC

MAP 5-15

N

SCALE 1: 75000  
0 MILE

0 3.1 KILOMETER

Legend

- ACEC BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD

# RINCON ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Rincon Petroglyph ACEC consists of numerous petroglyphs pecked onto large boulders on the south side of an unnamed mountain 1 mile north of Rincon, New Mexico. The size of the area is 840 acres. The petroglyphs are scattered over an extremely large area approximately 1.0 mile x 0.75 mile in size. The petroglyphs are occasionally clustered in steep sided canyon areas and on the top of the mountain. Some of the petroglyphs have been damaged by the construction of communication sites on top of the mountain. Most of this damage has occurred on the State trust land portion of the site. Mining prospects and treasure hunting have damaged other portions of the rock art. The petroglyphs are believed to be representative of the Jornada Mogollon culture (A.D. 200 - A.D. 1400). Because of the proximity of the site to I-25 and the communities of Hatch and Rincon, it is believed to have interpretive potential.

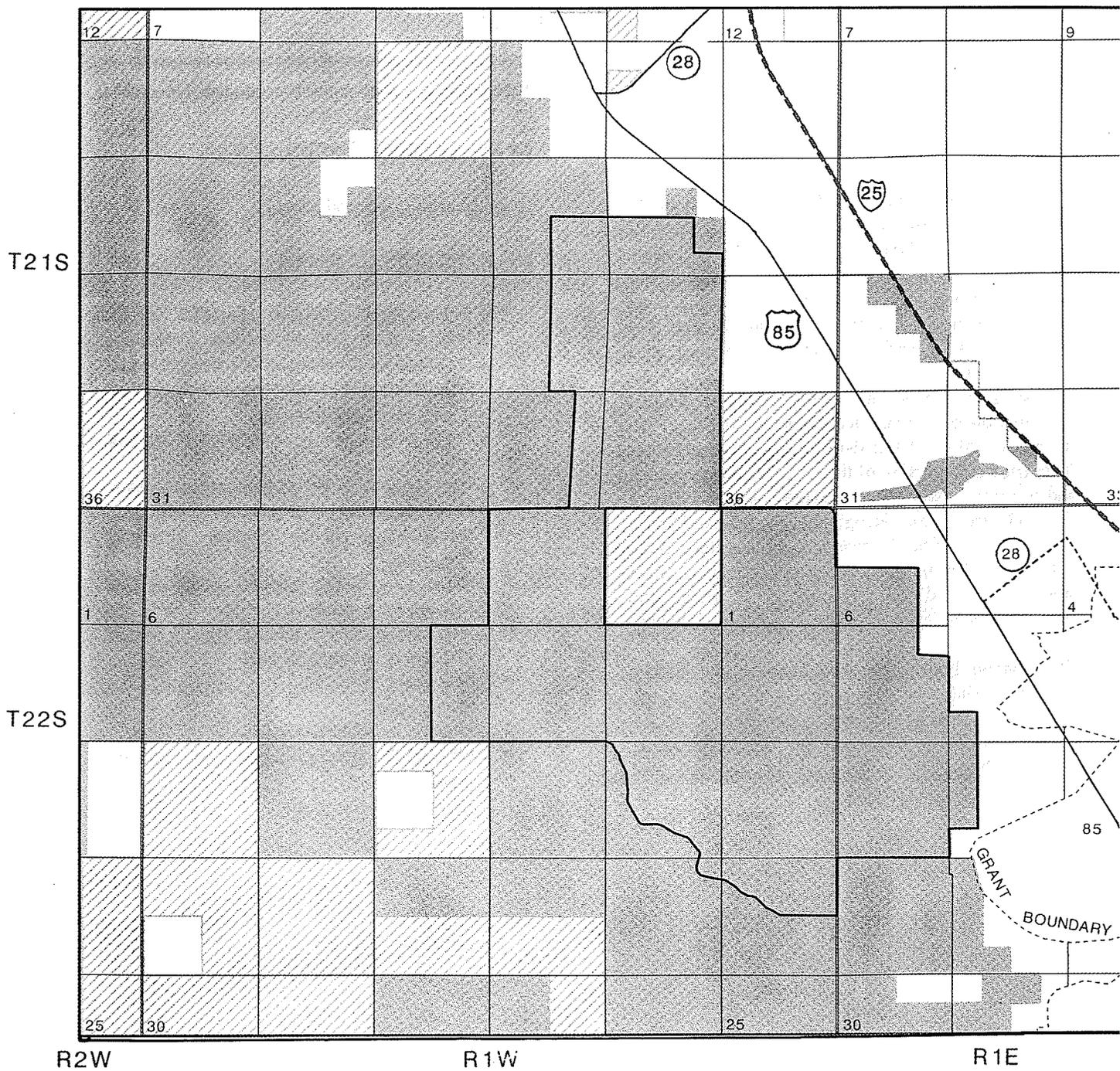
The Rincon Petroglyph ACEC meets the BLM's relevance criteria because it is a significant cultural resource. The ACEC meets the BLM's ACEC importance criteria because it is a fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, endangered, threatened, and vulnerable cultural resource.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect cultural values.

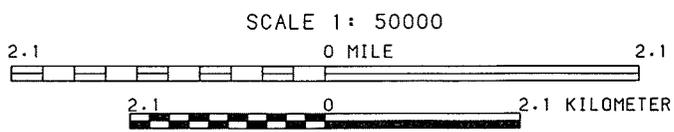
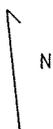
## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust land in south half of Section 32 through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude new ROW authorizations outside existing sites in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales outside existing rock quarry.
- Designate NSO for mineral leasing within 100 feet of petroglyph site.
- Evaluate potential to interpret the petroglyphs.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for semi-primitive nonmotorized class.



# ROBLEDO MOUNTAINS - ACEC

MAP 5-16



- Legend**
- ACEC BOUNDARY ———
  - PUBLIC LAND [stippled pattern]
  - STATE LAND [diagonal hatching]
  - OTHER LANDS [white]
  - GRANT BOUNDARY - - - - -

# ROBLEDO MOUNTAINS ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Robledo Mountains ACEC is located 8 miles northwest of Las Cruces in central Dona Ana County. The ACEC is 9,190 acres. The Robledos are composed of a massive block of Paleozoic sedimentary rocks and Cenozoic igneous rock. The Robledos also provide a spectacular scenic quality to the inhabitants of the northern Mesilla Valley. The Robledos support a high diversity of cacti including the State endangered button cactus and Scheer's pincushion cactus, and provide important habitat for uncommon reptiles. The Madrean alligator lizard occurs in a relict population here that represents the easternmost limit of the species' range. Other reptiles reach the northern or western limits of their range here, such as the Trans-Pecos rat snake. Recent genetic research has shown that peripheral populations of animals along the edge of a species' range often contain very different genotypes from most of the populations of that species, making those peripheral populations very important for allowing adaptability to environmental change that is crucial for species survival. Finally, some of the earliest known prehistoric habitation sites in southern New Mexico are in the Robledo Mountains.

The Robledo Mountains ACEC meets the relevance criteria of having significant paleontological, cultural, and scenic values and endangered plant species. They meet the importance criteria of more than locally significant resources in terms of scenic quality which is enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of travelers on I-25 annually, and for preservation of biodiversity which is distinctive.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological and scenic values and to protect, research, and interpret paleontological values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Maintain current livestock grazing practices.
- Allow natural fires to burn under prescribed conditions.
- Manage for primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities (no developed facilities).
- Manage as VRM Class I.
- Manage for ROS primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized and semi-primitive motorized classes.

# SAN DIEGO MOUNTAIN ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The San Diego Mountains ACEC consists of several hundred petroglyphs pecked into brown igneous boulders in a large canyon on the north side of San Diego Mountain. San Diego Mountain is located approximately 7 miles north of Radium Springs. The size of the area is 640 acres. These petroglyphs are believed to be representative of the Jornada Mogollon culture (A.D. 200 to A.D. 1400). The petroglyph element forms are animals, humans, fish, and abstract motifs. The rock art and the surrounding canyon are relatively undisturbed. The site can only be accessed by walking, as the canyon bottom is narrow, boulder strewn, and rugged. San Diego Mountain Petroglyph Site is the least disturbed of all rock art sites within the Mimbres Resource Area. Recently, an avocational archeo-astronomer in association with Human Systems Research documented an archeo-astronomical feature at the site. This feature needs further documentation. It is believed that several associated habitation sites are located near the petroglyphs but an intensive archaeological survey has never been conducted.

The San Diego Mountain ACEC meets the BLM's relevance criteria because it is a significant cultural resource. The ACEC meets the BLM's ACEC importance criteria because it is a fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, endangered, threatened, and vulnerable cultural resource.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect and research cultural values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire adjacent private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Manage for research rather than interpretive value.
- Encourage or conduct rock art research.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.

# UVAS VALLEY ACEC

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Uvas Valley ACEC is located in northeast Luna County approximately 8 miles southeast of Nutt, New Mexico. The size of the area is 1,570 acres. The area is mostly flat interspersed with swales and rolling hills on the west side of the area. The area has almost pure stands of black grama on the western portion of the area. The grasslands that are in existence today reflect careful stewardship by the grazing permittees.

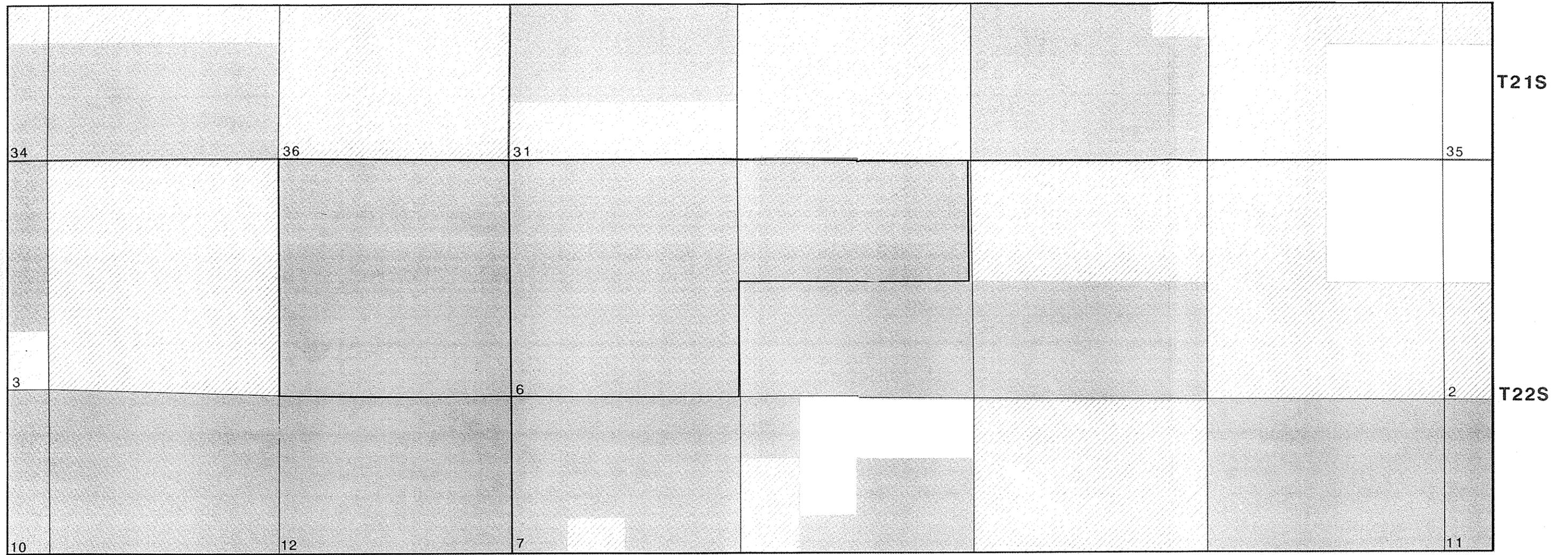
The Uvas Valley ACEC meets the BLM's relevance criteria because this may well be the best remaining example of black grama grassland other than an existing ACEC on McGregor Range. The area meets the importance criteria because it has more than locally significant qualities and is rare and sensitive to adverse changes warranting special management and protection.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Revise existing AMP for livestock grazing to reflect current grazing practices.
- Exclusion of livestock grazing following a wildfire would be in accordance with the revised AMP.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Consider chemical brush control in some portions where necessary to meet desired plant community objectives.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.



R6W

R5W

**UVAS VALLEY - ACEC**  
MAP 5-17

SCALE 1: 15000



**Legend**

- ACEC BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS

XXXXXXXXXX

MSMA

XXXXXXXXXX

# ***BUTTERFIELD TRAIL***

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## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

In 1857, John Butterfield was awarded a mail contract to establish the Butterfield Overland Mail Company. The Butterfield stage carried mail and passengers from St. Louis, Missouri to San Francisco, California. In New Mexico, the "Butterfield Trail" ran east/west across southern New Mexico from El Paso, Texas to the Doubtful Canyon station north of Steins, New Mexico and then into Arizona. Stage stations of adobe and rock masonry were built at watering points along the trail. The U.S. Government ordered closure of the line in March of 1861 in response to Texas secession from the Union. Before and after 1861, the route of the Butterfield Trail was utilized as the southern emigrant trail to California.

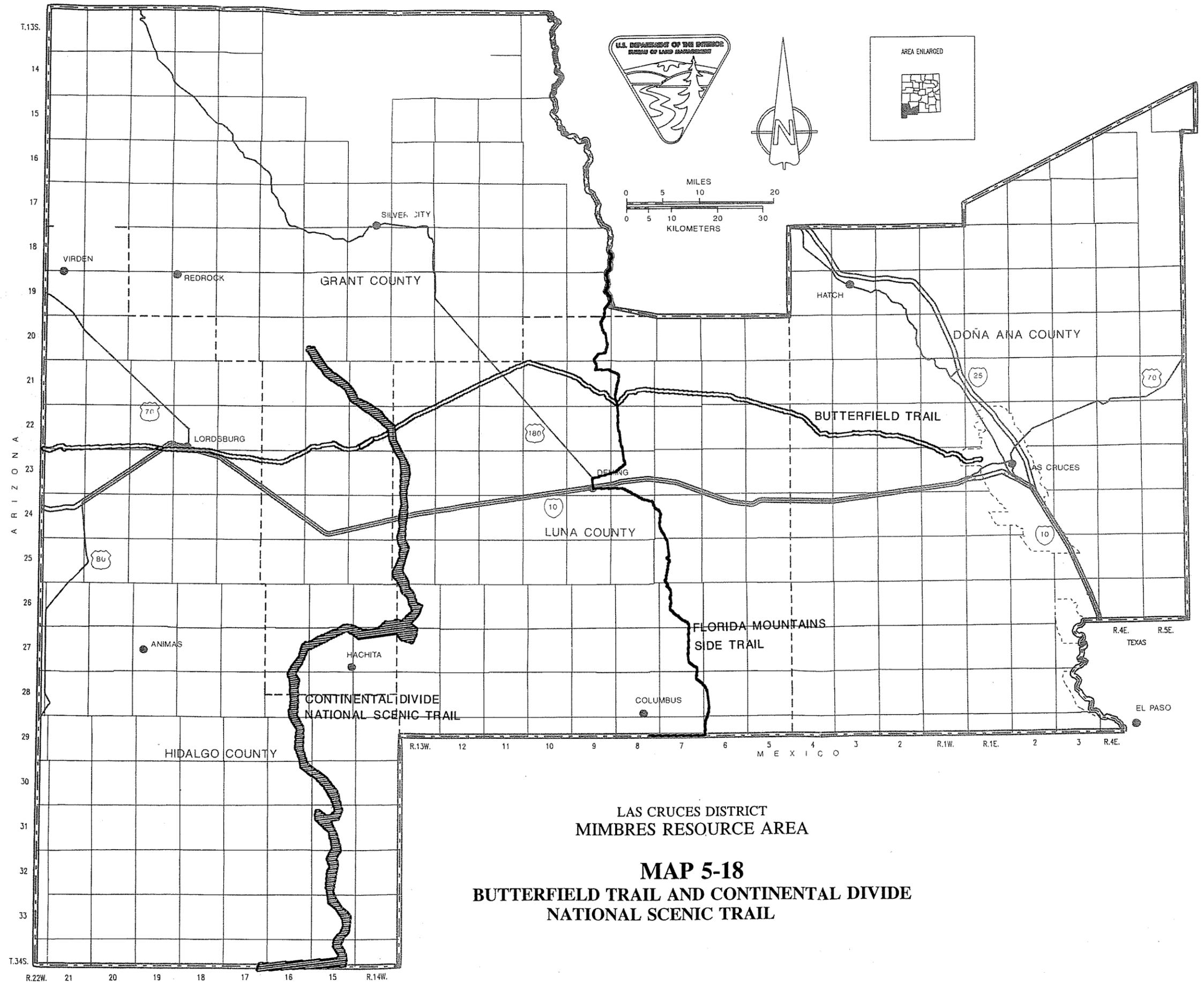
The Butterfield Trail and associated stage station localities are considered to have significant regional, historical, and archaeological significance. The remains of the trail and stations are fragile and nonrenewable cultural resources which are deserving of preservation, research, and interpretation to the general public. The size of the area is 15,690 acres.

## **MANAGEMENT GOALS**

Manage to protect and interpret historical values.

## **PLANNED ACTIONS**

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings (with emphasis on stage stations) through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Restrict authorizations for ROWs.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Designate NSO for mineral leasing within ¼ mile of trail.
- Manage in accordance with existing Cultural Resource Management Plan.
- Interpret with emphasis on passive interpretation such as signing.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive motorized class.



# *CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL*

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail was established as part of the National Scenic Trail System by Public Law 95-625, and the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, which amended the National Trails Act of 1968. Congress established a scenic corridor 50 miles on either side of the actual continental divide, with the treadway or corridor for the trail to be proposed through the planning of the respective land managing agencies.

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail contains significant scenic values along the length of the trail. It has National significance and could soon have International significance if Mexico follows through with plans to continue the trail south of the border. The size of the area is 48,450 acres.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to maintain scenic and primitive recreation values in accordance with the enabling legislation.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails that cross the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.
- Restrict authorizations for ROWs.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Designate NSO for mineral leasing within ½ mile of the trail.
- Designate the trail (Forest Service lead).
- Mark and/or construct the route.
- Develop four trailheads/parking areas (1 acre).
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.

## TRAIL ROUTE DESCRIPTION

### *ZONE OF CONCERN*

The zone of concern for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail includes all public land within 50 airline miles of the Continental Divide. This zone includes most of the public land in Luna, Grant, and Hidalgo Counties with the exception of public land in northeastern Luna County.

The route identified would be adhered to as much as possible in the development of the trail, but trail development would not necessarily be limited to the corridor. If deviation from the identified corridor is necessary because of water needs or to facilitate easement acquisition, this would be addressed through the plan amendment process.

### *RIGHTS-OF-WAY*

For easements across non-Federal lands, a 30-foot width will be pursued.

### *TREADWAY*

Because of the open nature of the public land and the low level of use along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in the Resource Area, no tread construction is anticipated. The route will be marked at irregular intervals frequently enough to allow easy orientation if this approach is formally approved by the Chief of the Forest Service upon designation.

### *CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL*

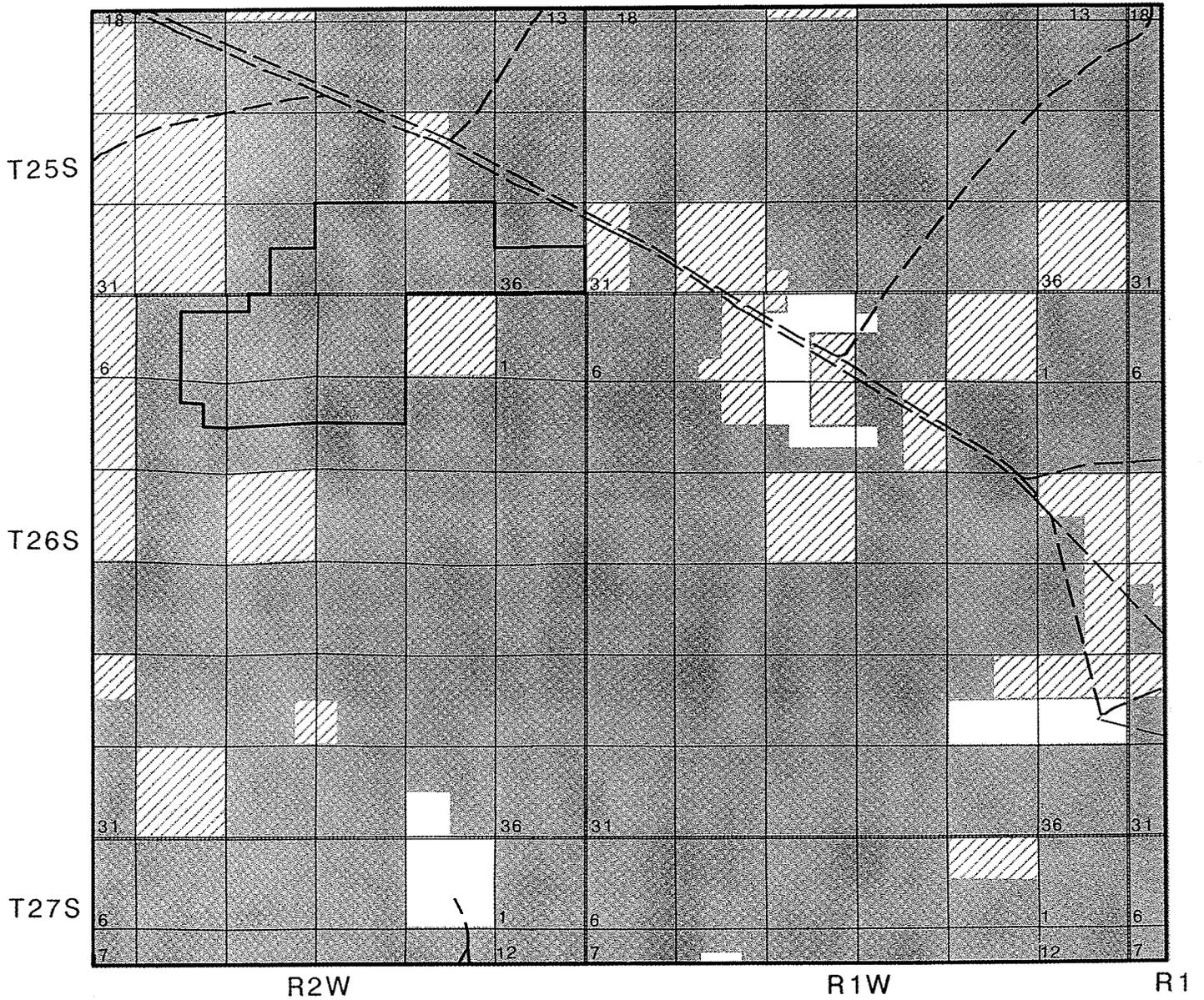
The route is from the designated Continental Divide National Scenic Trail on the Gila National Forest south of the Burro Mountains along the Divide to the Little Hatchet Mountains, south along the ridgeline of the Little Hatchet Mountains, up Thompson Canyon to Big Hatchet Peak and then south along the east

side of U-Bar Ridge and the west side of the Alamo Hueco Mountains to the Antelope Wells Port of Entry following public land as much as possible. This route is 130 miles long, with 93 miles on public land. The BLM would need to acquire easements for the trail across 16 miles of State trust land and 21 miles of private land. This route provides views of the Burro, Florida, Big Hatchet, Pyramid, Animas, and Alamo Hueco Mountains. This route averages approximately 10 miles deviation from the Continental Divide, with the northern half of the route very close to the Divide, and the southern half approximately 18 miles from the Divide on the average. This route provides gentle grades over much of the route with steep mountaintop hiking in the Cedar, Little Hatchet, and Big Hatchet Mountains. This route also provides spectacular views of the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexico, with the best views from the top of Big Hatchet Peak.

### *FLORIDA MOUNTAINS (SIDE TRAIL)*

The Florida Mountains route will be considered as a potential official side trail to the Continental Divide

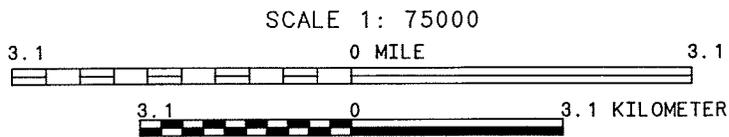
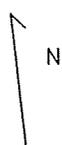
National Scenic Trail based on the final decision of the Gila National Forest to leave open the option of designating the Mimbres Mountain Route as a side trail, which could be connected to the Florida Mountain route. This route was selected to follow public land as much as possible, and runs down the length of the Cooke's Range, through Deming, southeast along the ridgeline of the Little Florida Mountains, and south along the east side of the Florida Mountains to the port of entry at Columbus. The route is 93 miles long, with 57 miles on public land. The BLM would need to acquire trail easements across 14 miles of State trust land and 22 miles of private land. It would connect the southern end of the Black Range to the Columbus port of entry. This route would provide views of the Black Range, the Cooke's Range, and the Florida Mountains. This route averages over 40 miles deviation from the Continental Divide, with over 50 miles deviation in the southern portion. It would pass close to Fort Cummings and prehistoric sites associated with the proposed Cooke's Range ACEC. This route provides gentle, steep, and precipitous grades including some cliffs.



# ADEN LAVA FLOW

## RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

### MAP 5-19



### Legend

- RNA BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS
- COUNTY ROAD

# ADEN LAVA FLOW RNA

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

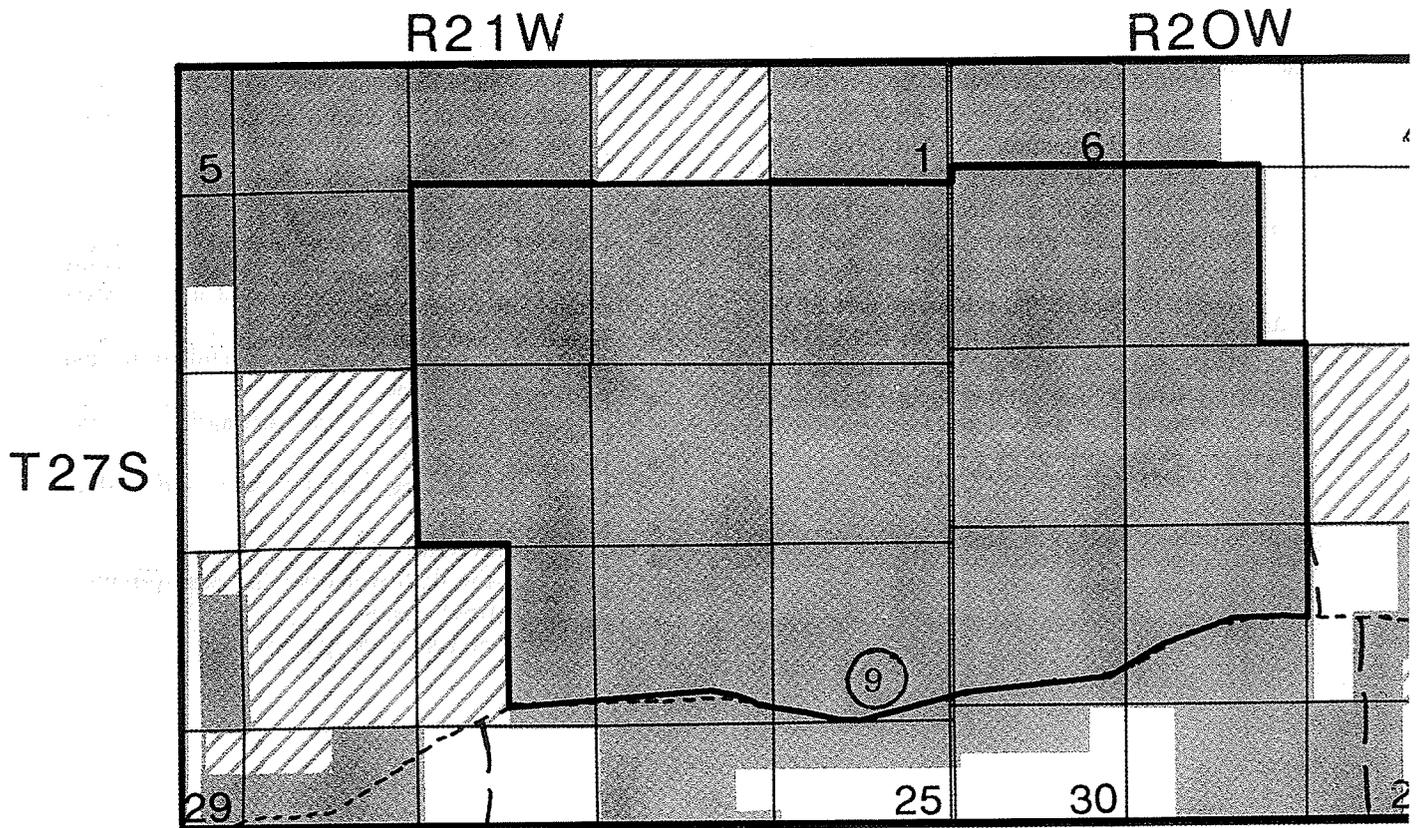
The Aden Lava Flow Research Natural Area (RNA) is located in central Dona Ana County, approximately 20 miles southwest of Las Cruces, New Mexico. The existing RNA designation is 3,930 acres. The lava flow is a nearly flat landform with steep walled depressions which vary in size and shape. The area also contains crevices, pressure ridges, and lava tubes. The most prominent feature of the lava flow is Aden Crater located in the northwest part of the area and is currently designated as an RNA. The area has significant scenic and geologic values as well as interesting wildlife and wildlife habitat features.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological, scenic, geological, and research values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral materials sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing
- Consider chemical brush control in some portions where necessary to meet desired plant community objectives.
- Research and interpret paleontological and geological features.
- Establish research permitting/information exchange process.
- Designate parking area (¼ acre) and trail to Crater.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized classes.
- Develop grazing activity plan.



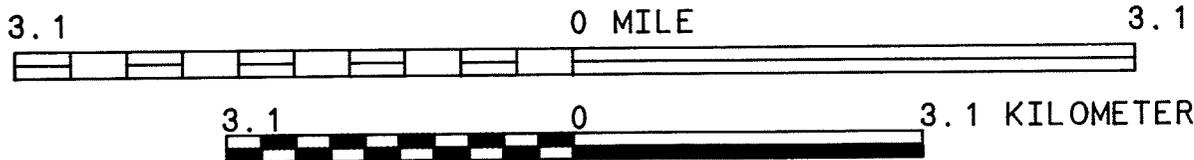
# ANTELOPE PASS

## RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

### MAP 5-20

#### Legend

- RNA BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD



# ANTELOPE PASS RNA

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Antelope Pass RNA is located in west central Hidalgo County approximately 35 miles south of Lordsburg, New Mexico and 6 miles west of Animas, New Mexico. The size of the RNA is 8,710 acres. Antelope Pass is a low east-west gap across the Peloncillo Mountains and features several State-listed and Federal candidate plant and animal species as well as a great diversity of lizard species (19 known species, 2 of which are State-listed or Federal candidate species).

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological and research values, especially lizard diversity and Dixon's whiptail habitat.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Herpetological collecting would be in accordance with NMDGF regulations.
  - Close to vehicle use north of the El Paso Natural Gas ROW road and west of the road connecting Hidalgo county roads C065 and C079. Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails in the remainder of the area.
  - Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program except within the existing utility corridor. The corridor will be confined to a width of ¼ mile.
  - Close to mineral material sales.
  - Close to fluid mineral leasing.
  - Consider chemical brush control in some portions where necessary to meet desired plant community objectives.
  - Manage as VRM Class II.
  - Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized and semi-primitive motorized classes.
- Retain all public land.
  - Allow natural fires to burn within prescribed conditions.

# KILBOURNE HOLE NNL

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Kilbourne Hole is a volcanic maar in southwestern Dona Ana County, approximately 20 miles southwest of Las Cruces. The NNL designation encompasses 5,480 acres. The hole is a crater that formed when a volcanic bubble burst on the surface of the earth. Kilbourne Hole has been designated as a National Natural Landmark by the BLM and the National Park Service because it is the best known example of a maar in the Chihuahuan desert region.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect geological values.

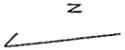
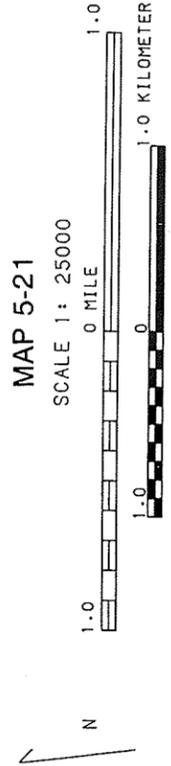
## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land; acquire all State trust and private land inholdings through exchange or purchase at fair market value, provided that the landowner is in agreement with such acquisition.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Consider chemical brush control in some portions where necessary to meet desired plant community objectives.
- Establish safety/"no shooting" restriction within the rim.
- Interpret geological features by signing.
- Establish primitive facilities (parking area, tables, toilets)(2 acres).
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive motorized class.



**R1W**  
**KILBOURNE HOLE**  
**NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK**

- Legend**
- NNL BOUNDARY
  - ▨ PUBLIC LAND
  - ▤ STATE LAND
  - OTHER LANDS
  - - - COUNTY ROAD



# PALEOZOIC TRACKWAYS RNA

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Paleozoic Trackways site is located on public land in the Robledo Mountains in central Dona Ana County in south-central New Mexico, approximately 5 miles northwest of Las Cruces. The RNA is 720 acres. The Robledos are composed of Paleozoic sedimentary rocks (lower Ordovician to lower Permian) and Cenozoic (younger) clastic, volcanic and intrusive rocks. The southern and central part of the range exposes the upper part of the Hueco formation and the interfingering Abo Tongue of Wolfcampian age (approximately 280 million years old). These exposures are known as the Abo-Hueco transitional zone made up of primarily cyclic deposits of nonmarine fine sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone alternating with marine calcareous shale and limestone. Analysis of this transitional zone indicates a tidal flat, shoreline environment.

Preserved in these deposits of seaward-facing fossiliferous limestone and laminated layers of siltstone and mudstone, are the footprints and trackways of vertebrate and invertebrate animals that lived 240 to 280 million years ago. They are considered by scientists who have examined them to be the largest, and scientifically, the most important Paleozoic fossil footprint discovery ever made in the western United States, and possibly the world. The trackways are extremely diverse and varied, and appear to represent a very broad spectrum of ancient

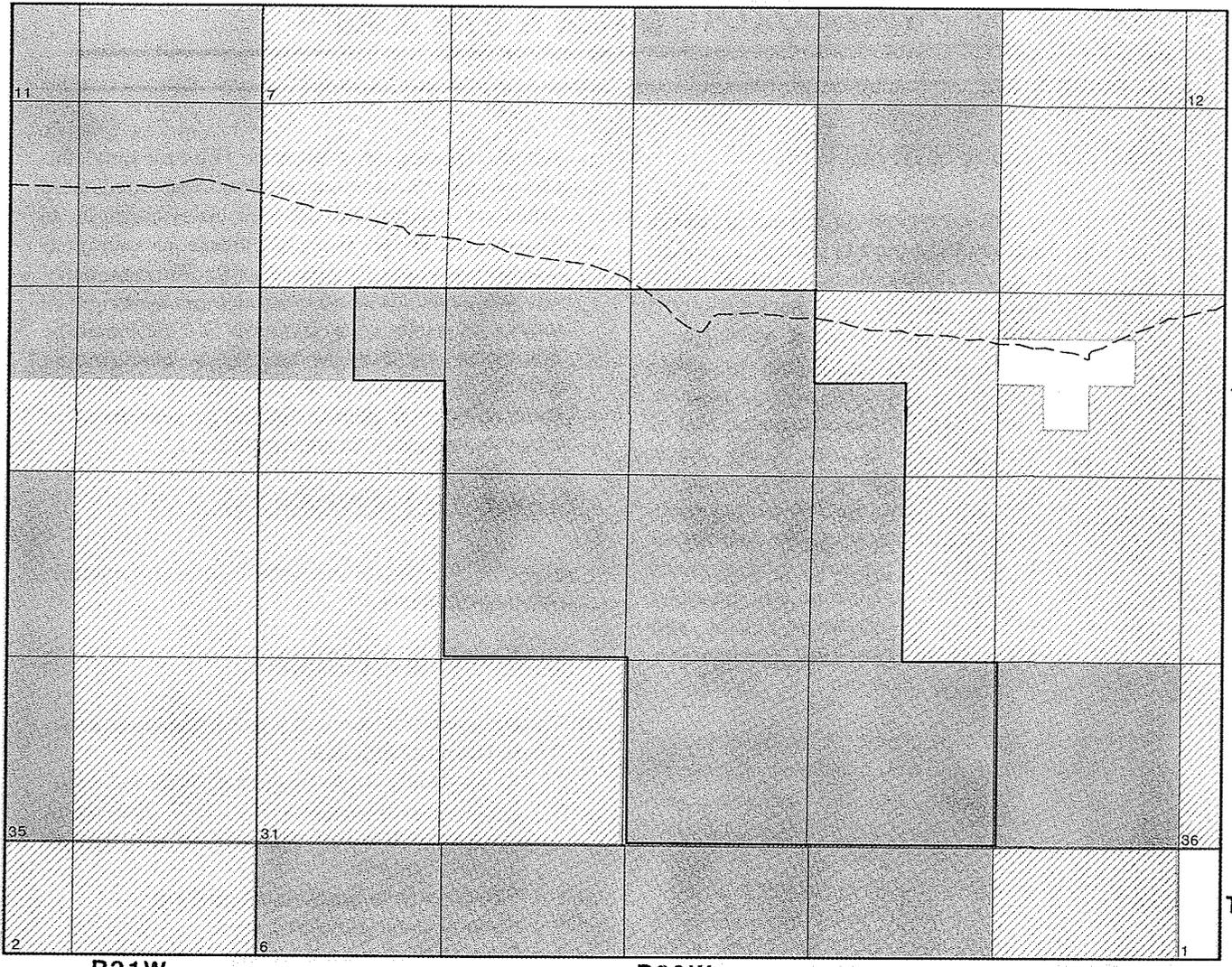
animal life, ranging from large (11 foot long) fin-backed reptiles through medium and small-sized amphibians to insects and other invertebrates. In addition, there are perfectly preserved rain drop impressions and water ripple marks. The potential of this site to produce information and specimens new to science is virtually a certainty. The Paleozoic Trackways site exhibits world-class qualities and reflects a critical need for study, protection, preservation, and display for future generations of scientists and members of the public.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect, research, and interpret paleontological values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Designate 720 acres as a research natural area.
- Retain all public land.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Withdraw from locatable mineral entry.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid mineral leasing.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Manage in accordance with recommendations provided in trackways study legislation.
- Interpret in accordance with study legislation.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.



R21W

R20W

T22

T23

**LORDSBURG PLAYA**

RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

MAP 5-22

SCALE 1: 25000



**Legend**

- RNA BOUNDARY
- PUBLIC LAND
- STATE LAND
- OTHER LANDS
- COUNTY ROAD



# LORDSBURG PLAYA RNA

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Lordsburg Playa RNA is actually the central of three playa lakes located 10 miles west of Lordsburg in west-central Hidalgo County. The RNA is 4,510 acres. The playa is a flat, dry lake bed that is devoid of vegetation except around the edges. The playa is a relatively pristine and undisturbed relict of the large Pleistocene lakes that covered many of the intermountain basins of the southwestern United States during the last glacial period. The soil is a very heavy clay that is inundated during periods of high runoff. A State sensitive saltbush occurs here. The historic Butterfield Trail crosses the southern portion of the playa. The playa provides an important stop-off or wintering site for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl in some wet years.

## MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage to protect biological and research values.

## PLANNED ACTIONS

- Retain all public land.
- Close to vehicle use or by special permit.
- Exclude authorizations for new ROWs in accordance with the conditions listed in Section 2 Lands Program.
- Close to mineral material sales.
- Close to fluid and nonenergy mineral leasing.
- Manage as VRM Class II.
- Monitor grazing impacts on important ecological criteria, including but not limited to *Atriplex griffithsii*.
- Manage for ROS semi-primitive nonmotorized class.
- Manage grazing and authorize range improvements in accordance with the allotment management plan for the Box M allotment.