



SECTION 4



SECTION 4

PLAN MAINTENANCE AND EVALUATION

PLAN MAINTENANCE

The RMP for the Mimbres Resource Area provides general guidance for managing public land in the Mimbres Resource Area. The useful life-expectancy of the RMP is 20 years. To ensure the document maintains viability and usefulness for the extended life-expectancy, maintenance of the RMP must be accomplished. Plain maintenance includes correcting the text, updating data bases, and updating maps.

Plan maintenance is different from the two other methods of modifying land use plans (plan amendment and revision). The following three definitions are provided to clarify the differences of these types of plan modifications and to provide a better understanding of what constitutes plan maintenance.

MAINTENANCE

Plan maintenance is a minor change in data or plan material; will not change a land-use decision; no National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document is required; no public involvement is needed; and documentation is informal. For example, a change in a word or correction of a typographical error would come under this category.

AMENDMENT

Plan amendments are usually major changes in plan material; will change one or more decisions; will need NEPA compliance; will need public involvement; must be formally documented; and need to be signed off by the approving authority (State Director).

REVISIONS

Plan revisions are a total review and possible rewrite of the plan material accomplished after the useful life of the RMP has expired; many decisions could change; NEPA compliance and public involvement

are required; formal documentation is required; and basically the same steps used in the preparation of an RMP are required.

MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

The performance of proper plan maintenance requires a commitment from the Area Manager, Staff Chiefs, and Resource Specialists. To encourage staff commitment, plan maintenance procedures should be uncomplicated and easily performed. The RMP for the Mimbres Resource Area will use a "forms-by-number" system to provide a simple structure of maintenance including documentation procedures of land-use plans. To implement this "forms-by-number" system, the entire RMP will be placed in a binder entitled "Mimbres RMP" to allow insertion of the forms. A Plan Maintenance Log, NM 3-1617-4 (see Figure 4-1), will also be added to the beginning of the RMP. The Plan Maintenance Log Sheet will contain the change numbers, including the page number and the change sequence for that page.

To use the system, the individual identifying the need for change completes Form NM 3-1617-3 (see Figure 4-2). When an individual initiates a change, Form NM 3-1617-3 is given to the Staff Chief for review. After review and concurrence of the Area Manager, the Staff Chief will incorporate the change into the RMP. The change number is recorded on the Plan Maintenance Log (Form NM-3-1617-4) at the front of the RMP. The original RMP material to be changed will be lined through neatly on the hard copy. The change number will be plainly written in the margin on each original page and Form NM 3-1617-3 will be placed in the RMP at the end of the section.

The plan maintenance section should assist the Area Manager and staff in keeping the plan usable until it is amended or revised. If the plan is not kept up-to-date, a very valuable planning data source will be lost. When implemented, the "forms-by-number" system will assist in meeting the planning regulations

covering plan maintenance. In addition, the system will ensure that the Area Manager has a usable plan for day-to-day program direction and annual work plan development.

PLAN EVALUATION

A formal evaluation of overall plan adequacy must be accomplished at a minimum at the end of every fifth year after plan completion. To assist in this process, a yearly evaluation will be completed in the Annual RMP Update. The purpose of the yearly evaluation is to measure "what is" versus "what should be."

Thus, the effectiveness of plan implementation will be measured by the level achieved in accomplishing plan decisions, program objectives, and completing the land allocation decisions identified in Section 2.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The yearly evaluation will be documented in the annual RMP Update along with the Rangeland Program Summary updates and other pertinent information. The evaluation will focus on implementation of plan decisions listed in Section 2.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS CRUCES DISTRICT

RMP/MFP CHANGE SHEET

CHANGE # _____

Plan Name: _____

Area of Change _____
(i.e., Rationale, Analysis, etc.)

RMP Document and Page No. _____

Change:

Reason:

SIGN & APPROVE AS APPROPRIATE

Program Leader: _____ **Date:** _____

Area Manager: _____ **Date:** _____

District Manager: _____ **Date:** _____