



Preparation Plan
for the Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan Revision/
Environmental Impact Statement

March 2008



**PREPARATION PLAN
FOR THE
RIO PUERCO
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

March 2008

Bureau of Land Management
Albuquerque District
Rio Puerco Field Office
Albuquerque, New Mexico

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPS	Economic Profile System
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area
FEAST	Forest Economic Analysis Spreadsheet Tool
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
FMP	Fire Management Plan
FMU	Fire Management Unit
FY	Fiscal Year
GIS	Geographic Information System
ID Team	Interdisciplinary Team
IM	Instruction Memorandum
IMP	Interim Management Policy (for wilderness)
IMPLAN	Impact Analysis for Planning
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NMSO	New Mexico State Office (BLM)
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
RPFO	Rio Puerco Field Office (BLM)
SMA	Special Management Area
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load (water quality)
VRM	Visual Resources Management
WO	Washington Office (BLM)

Section A—Introduction and Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rio Puerco Field Office (RPFO) manages the public lands located in central and north-central New Mexico. The *Planning Area* for this Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision encompasses 9,503,707 acres, not all of which are public lands. This acreage includes all of Bernalillo, Cibola, Torrance, and Valencia Counties, most of Sandoval County, and portions of McKinley County. (Refer to Maps 1 and A-1 through A-5 for the location of the Planning Area and Units. Map 1 is on page 2, while Maps A-1 through A-5 are found in Appendix A.) The RMP Revision *Decision Area*, which includes only the public lands managed by the RPFO, consists of 997,027 surface acres and 2,929,972 acres of federal mineral estate. RPFO surface lands fall

within four ecoregions, the Arizona and New Mexico Mountains, Southern Colorado Rockies, Colorado Plateau and Southern Short-grass Prairie.

The existing Rio Puerco RMP was approved in 1986, after a 3-year planning process, and maintained and reprinted in 1992. The key issues addressed were the following.

- *Fuelwood Supply*
- *Land Ownership Adjustments*
- *Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Designations*
- *Rights-of-Way Corridors*
- *Special Management Areas*
- *Vegetative Uses*
- *Coal Leasing Suitability Assessment*

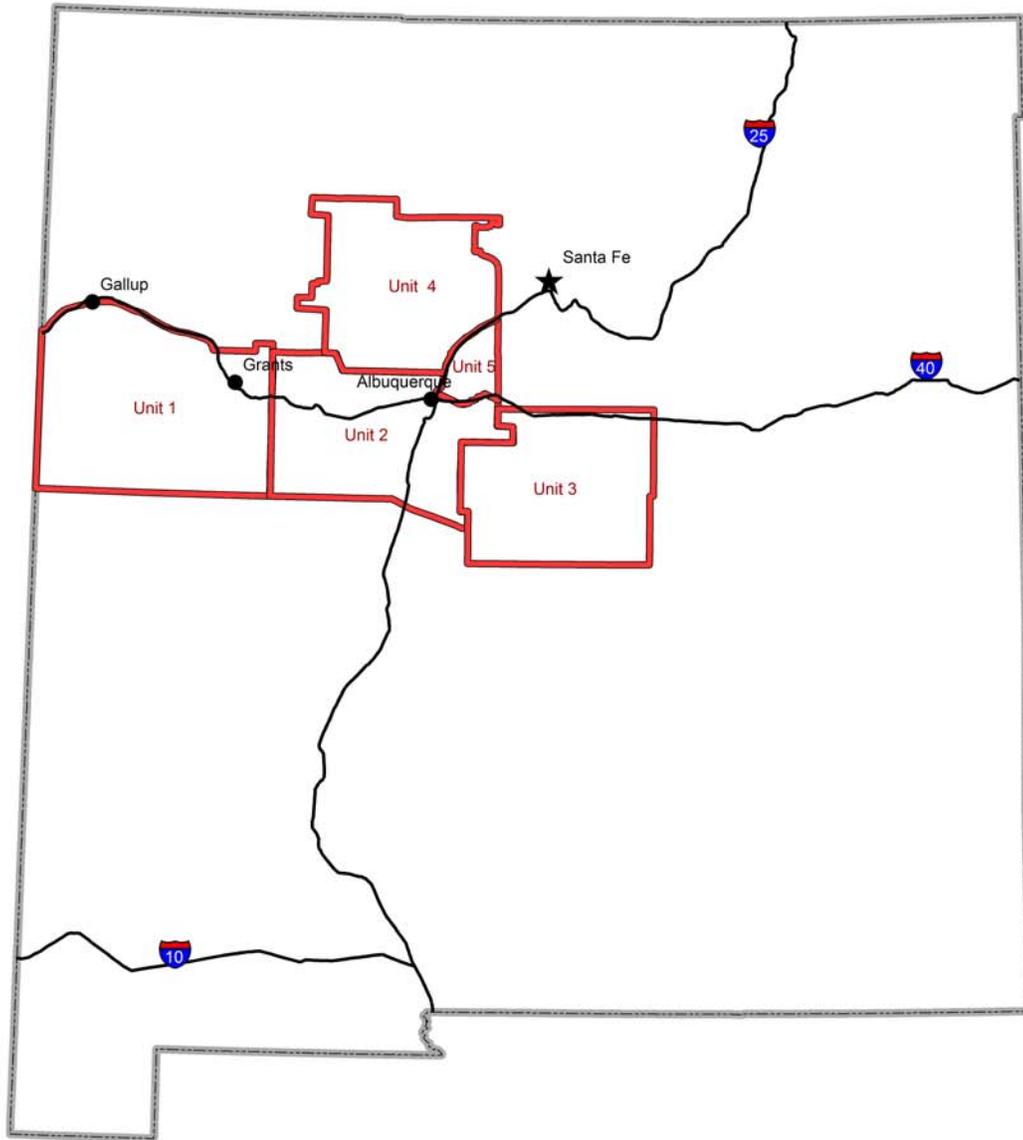
Since 1986, the RMP has been amended several times, as shown in Table A below.

TABLE A

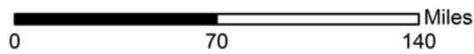
AMENDMENTS TO THE RIO PUERCO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Amendment	Year	Purpose
Final EIS for Vegetative Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States	1991	Programmatic EIS analyzing impacts of various vegetative treatment methods
Oil & Gas Leasing & Development RMP Amendment/EIS (Albq. District)	1991	Established open & closed areas for oil & gas leasing; determined levels of control for open areas
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Decision Notice & Finding of No Significant Impact	1993	Reflected impact analysis & decision making for Central NM section of the Cibola Planning Segment of trail across public land
Decision Record for Vehicle Use in the Ignacio Chavez Special Management Area (SMA)	1996	Reflected impact analysis & decision making for this use in the SMA
El Malpais Plan/EIS	2000	Management plan for the El Malpais National Conservation Area
New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health & Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management	2000	Identified (1) measurable indicators of public land health conditions; & (2) management tools, methods, strategies & techniques designed to maintain or achieve functional conditions
Riparian & Aquatic Habitat Management EIS	2000	Suggested means of achieving proper functioning condition for all riparian areas, & protecting/restoring habitat for threatened & endangered species
Fire and Fuels RMP Amendment/Environmental Assessment for BLM Lands in New Mexico & Texas	2004	Statewide amendment providing updated guidance for fire & fuels management practices
Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument RMP/EIS	2006	Management plan for Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument
Final Programmatic EIS—Vegetative Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States/Programmatic Environmental Report	2007	Assess, on a national level, the BLM’s use of herbicides & the environmental effects of using non-herbicide treatment methods (i.e., fire; mechanical or manual or biological controls)

Map 1 - Rio Puerco Resource Management Planning Area



● Communities
— Interstates
□ RMP Planning Units



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

This Preparation Plan identifies the preliminary issues and management concerns, planning criteria, data needs, planning and analysis process, preparers, roles of the public and other agencies, and budget needs for revising the existing RMP.

Management issues and concerns in the Planning Area apply to nearly all resource programs and aspects of public land management. Based on analysis, the RMP will incorporate appropriate management decisions from the existing RMP and amendments, as well as new and updated decisions.

RPFO staff will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing the effects of proposed management decisions. The RMP Revision/EIS will be developed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and associated planning regulations [at Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1601-1610], and the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and associated Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (at 40 CFR 1500). This process will be consistent with the National Fire Plan, Standards for Public Land Health, and the National Energy Policy.

In developing the RMP Revision, RPFO staff will use a collaborative approach, giving all interested parties opportunities for input. They will prepare the Revision in close consultation and collaboration with appropriate federal, state, tribal, county, and local governments and agencies.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this RMP Revision is to establish updated and new guidance, objectives, policies and management actions. The need for this RMP Revision is to respond to new federal government (BLM) policies and initiatives, changing resource conditions and demands, and related issues that have emerged since the last RMP was completed. The Revision will be comprehensive in nature and will address issues within the Planning Area. In the document, BLM staff will identify the current management situation, desired future conditions to be maintained or

achieved, and management actions needed to achieve objectives. Following the completion of the Revision, agency staff will develop an implementation plan.

In 2006, a formal land use plan evaluation was completed for the Rio Puerco Planning Area. Key findings from the evaluation indicated that significant changes have occurred in the Planning Area during the past 20 years, especially in the vicinity of Albuquerque. Consequently, the evaluation team recommended that the existing RMP be updated through a plan revision, rather than a plan amendment, for the following reasons.

- Public Land-Urban Interface (BLM Community Growth Theme)—Especially around Albuquerque, this is partially based on population growth with associated new or expanding subdivisions that are now adjacent to or near BLM-managed surface lands and/or mineral estate.
- Energy and Mineral Development—Decisions for managing these resources need to be updated to meet current demands and trends in the local economy, as well as to address the BLM's goals and objectives for healthy public lands.
- Emerging National and BLM Policies—The Revised RMP will have more specific, quantifiable objectives to conform to new BLM and national policies and guidance for management decisions [e.g., the National Energy Policy Act of 2005; standards for public land health and rangeland resources that apply to soil, air and riparian areas; Clean Water Act requirements; environmental justice; listings of special-status plant and animal species; Restore New Mexico goals and objectives (for land and habitat restoration on a landscape scale)].
- Coordination with Tribal, State, and Local Governments—Many of these entities did not have land use plans when the existing RMP was developed. During the Revision process, the BLM will consider these plans within the context of current agency policy and regulations.
- New Data—Information now available could greatly affect the decisions in the

RMP Revision, including data on population growth, land use development trends, and changes in the local industrial and economic sectors.

- Land Tenure Decisions—These need to be updated to address community growth matters mentioned above, as well as fragmented BLM parcels that complicate management.
- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use—These designations applied to BLM lands must meet new planning guidance. Additionally, an overall transportation and travel management plan must be developed.
- Special Designations—Opportunities exist to designate new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, for example, to protect and conserve unique cultural and natural resources.

Many of these findings were used in formulating the issues and management concerns discussed in Section B.

Section B—Preliminary Planning Issues and Management Concerns

The process for developing, amending, or revising an RMP begins with identification of planning issues (40 CFR 1502.7 and 43 CFR 1610.4-1). *Planning issues* express opportunities, conflicts and problems associated with the management of public lands. Issues also reflect new data, new or revised policies, and changes in resource uses that affect a Planning Area.

Management concerns are topics or points of dispute that involve a resource management activity or land use. While some of these concerns may overlap the issues, a management concern is generally more important to an individual or group, whereas a planning issue has the potential to be a more widespread source of conflict or opportunity.

The issues and management concerns presented below are preliminary, based on the best available information. For each issue, planning questions are identified. The questions and

information for each issue or concern will be refined during public scoping and throughout the planning process.

BLM staff, individuals, and user groups have identified preliminary issues, which reflect conflicts and/or deficiencies with the existing RMP. Some of these preliminary issues will be included in the Notice of Intent announcing the start of the planning and EIS scoping process.

The RPFO will prepare a Scoping Report summarizing issues and concerns identified by the public. Addressing management concerns in the RMP/EIS helps to ensure a comprehensive examination of BLM's land use management.

After public scoping, known issues, along with any additional issues raised by the public, will be placed into one of three categories.

- Issues to be resolved in the plan;
- Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
- Issues beyond the scope of the plan.

[Note: At this time no issues or management concerns have been identified relative to wild-life; threatened, endangered or special-status plant or animal species. If such issues or management concerns are raised during the planning process, they will be addressed.]

Preliminary Planning Issues

Issue 1—Land Tenure Adjustment

Conflicts regarding land tenure adjustment drive disposal, acquisition and retention of public lands. The checkerboard ownership patterns of the RPFO Planning Area create conflicts with access and management of resources. Field Office Resource Specialists and Managers will consider the particular resource value of each parcel of public land and the most effective management. In addition, BLM staff will consider the holdings of the New Mexico State Land Office. Questions associated with this issue include the following.

- What lands should be acquired?
- What lands should be retained in federal ownership?
- What lands should be identified for disposal?
- What areas should be considered for right-of-way corridors?
- What easements should be acquired?
- What communication sites are needed, and where should they be placed?
- What areas should be excluded from use for communication sites?
- What areas could be considered for use for Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP)?
- What areas should be excluded from R&PP uses?

Issue 2—Mineral and Energy Development

Special attention is needed to address mineral and energy development conflicts (i.e., oil and gas, saleable and locatable minerals, geothermal resources, wind energy, and related transportation networks) with other land and resource uses and values. Areas must be identified in which energy development is suitable, unsuitable, or should be restricted. Questions to be answered include the following.

- What areas should be considered for traver-tine development?
- What areas should be considered for sand and gravel development?
- What areas should be considered for development of landscaping materials?
- What known and potential areas for uranium development should be considered?
- What areas have potential for oil and gas exploration?
- What areas have potential for energy resource development?
- What areas are suited to biomass energy development?
- What areas should be considered for wind and/or solar energy development?
- What areas should be considered for geothermal development?
- What areas should be excluded from energy and mineral development?

Issue 3—Recreation and Visitor Services

As the population in the area continues to increase, the demand for recreational uses of public land and visitor services has also increased. The public has expressed interest in using several RPFO areas for hiking, camping and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. Additionally, BLM guidelines for specially designated areas have changed, so previously designated areas must be reevaluated to comply with these new requirements. Questions associated with this issue are as follows.

- What types of recreational uses should be allowed in specially designated areas of public land?
- What areas should be designated for special recreation management areas (SRMAs)? What would be the specific strategy for managing the SRMAs?
- To what extent, and where (general areas), should the BLM develop facilities and generally improve recreation access opportunities to meet public demand, to provide for public health and safety, and to direct use away from areas of conflict?

Issue 4—Visual Resources Management (VRM)

BLM guidance requires that visual resource values in the Planning Area be managed in accordance with objectives assigned under VRM classes. These classes will be designated in the Planning Area based on an inventory of visual resources and management considerations for other uses. Questions to be considered include the following.

- What level of protection is needed to meet VRM objectives?
- Should some areas be given a special designation for VRM values?
- Are scenic objectives properly established?
- Do scenic objectives need to be modified or established for some areas?
- Has sufficient inventory been done to identify VRM classes for the entire Planning Area?

- Should development be limited or excluded from some areas in order to maintain scenic values?

Issue 5—Special Area Designations

The BLM’s Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1) requires that application of the following administrative designations be considered when developing RMPs.

- Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Back Country Byway
- National Recreation Area
- National Trail
- Research Natural Area
- Special Recreation Management Area
- Wild and Scenic River

In the Rio Puerco RMP (1986, maintained and reprinted 1992), the 23 areas listed in Table B were designated as Special Management Areas (SMAs). Under current BLM guidance, SMAs are not recognized as valid area designations. The agency will analyze and evaluate the correct designation for each listed area and other prospective special areas. [Note: Some of these special areas have been designated by Congressional legislation, as footnoted below the table.]

Issue 6—Travel and Trails Management

BLM guidance requires that travel management areas and the designation of off-highway vehicle (OHV) management areas must be included as decisions made at the land use plan level. Travel management decisions significantly interrelate with other resource and use decisions in the RMP Revision, especially because of the area’s growing urban population and increasing demand for off-highway vehicle use. Travel management must be considered consistently with all resource program goals and objectives, primary travelers, objectives for allowing travel, setting characteristics such as VRM classes, and the primary means of travel allowed while still meeting objectives and maintaining setting characteristics. Areas must be classified as open, limited, or closed to motorized travel. Questions associated with this issue are as follows.

- What access needs exist in the RPFO (including those identified by users or interest groups)?
- What easements should be acquired?
- Which roads should be closed?
- What right-of-way exclusion areas are needed?
- What areas will be open, limited, or closed to motorized vehicle travel?
- How will classification of use be determined (e.g., foot, vehicle, horseback)?
- Where should travel management areas be delineated? What would be acceptable modes of access and travel for each travel management area?

Issue 7—Public Land-Urban Interface

This issue is defined by the conflicts that occur between the management of public lands and the development of population centers or related infrastructure adjacent to those lands. Frequently referred to as “Wildland Urban Interface” (WUI), the term “public land-urban interface” more correctly identifies its broader context. Public land-urban interface issues are prevalent around the cities of Albuquerque and Rio Rancho and the Village of Placitas. Some of the affected areas in need of further analysis include the Candy Kitchen subdivision (east of Ramah), the Cuba/Torreon area, Placitas, and the Sedora holdings (west of Los Lunas). Associated public land-urban interface concerns include fire management, mineral development, recreation and visual resources management. Questions associated with this issue are similar to those raised for other issues.

- What areas should be considered for right-of-way corridors?
- What easements should be acquired?
- What areas are suitable for communication sites, and where should they be excluded?
- What areas should be considered for use for Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP), and where should such uses be excluded?
- What areas have potential for oil and gas exploration?

TABLE B

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS ON RIO PUERCO FIELD OFFICE LANDS (Source: 1986 RMP; 1992 Reprint)

-
- Azabache Station
 - Ball Ranch
 - Big Bead Mesa
 - Bluewater Canyon
 - Cabezon Peak
 - Cañon Jarido
 - Cañon Tapia
 - Continental Divide Trail
 - El Malpais*
 - Elk Springs
 - Guadalupe Ruin and Community
 - Headcut Prehistoric Community
 - Historic Homesteads
 - Ignacio Chavez
 - Jones Canyon
 - Ojito*
 - Pelon Watershed
 - Petaca Pinta
 - Pronoun Cave Complex
 - San Luis Mesa Raptor Area
 - Tent Rocks*
 - Torrejon Fossil Fauna
 - 1870s Wagon Road Trail
-

Note: * These areas have been specially designated by acts of the U.S. Congress; those special designations will not be altered by this RMP.

- What areas have potential for energy resource development?
- What areas should be mined (i.e. for sand, gravel, travertine, uranium)?
- What types of recreational uses should be allowed in specially designated areas of public land?
- Should development be limited or excluded from some areas to protect scenic and other values?

Management Concerns

Air Quality

In the RMP Revision, BLM staff will summarize relevant background air quality and climate information associated with this Planning Area. The document will identify (1) all potentially affected Class I areas; (2) actions that could be taken to protect these areas; and (3) area-wide criteria or restrictions that will be applied to any activity authorized by the Rio Puerco FO to ensure compliance with all local, state, federal, or tribal air quality standards and implementation plans. Potential authorized activities that may impact air quality include, but are not limited to, fuels management, energy/mineral development, and OHV use.

Cave Resources

As part of RMP development, BLM staff will determine whether or not caves on Rio Puerco Field Office public lands meet the criteria for significance as set forth at 43 CFR 37.11(c). If so, the RPFO will describe management objectives and prescriptions. Cave-specific wildlife may also be addressed under wildlife resources and caves may be managed as wildlife habitat.

Cultural Resources and Traditional Cultural Values

Through the RMP Revision, BLM staff will do the following.

1. Describe the cultural resource values located within the Planning Area;
2. Establish goals for their management, including
 - a. Preservation and protection of significant cultural resources,
 - b. Reduction of imminent threats, and
 - c. Resolution of potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration or from other resource uses; and
3. Address the allocation of recorded sites to use categories as identified in BLM Manual 8110.

In addition to assigning use categories to known cultural resources, BLM staff will also carry out the following.

1. Develop a strategy for how those cultural resources assigned to use categories may realize their use potential;
2. Categorize geographic areas as high/medium/low priority for future proactive inventory of cultural properties; and
3. Specify that all authorizations for land and resource use will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

[Note: Item 3 will be consistent with and subject to the objective established in the RMP for proactive use of cultural properties in the public interest (National Historic Preservation Act, Sec. 106, 101 (d)(6), 110(a)(2)(E); national BLM-ACHP-NCSHPO Programmatic Agreement of March 1997—from Appendix C, page 10 of H-1610-1.]

A Class I Overview of the Planning Area is being prepared to compile and analyze cultural resource data and literature. This overview also will provide a management-oriented synthesis of the resulting information that includes priorities and strategy for accomplishing needed inventory. The information and recommendations in the Class I Overview will be used to determine use categories, site use potential, and high/medium/low priority categories. In addition to the Class I Overview, information received through good-faith consultation will address American Indian tribal concerns for the management of traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, and will be given appropriate consideration in the planning process.

During the RMP Revision process, BLM staff will consider the use of these cultural resources for scientific, educational, recreational, traditional or experimental purposes. Management actions will be prescribed within the RMP Revision for the protection, stabilization and/or interpretation of cultural resources. The RMP Revision will also be used as an additional tool in the future to consult with tribal groups regarding traditional cultural values in the Planning Area and appropriate management strategies to protect, preserve and enhance those values. The BLM will partner with experienced staff at the

State Historic Preservation Office to continue ongoing efforts, expand the knowledge of traditional uses within the Planning Area, and identify opportunities to enhance public stewardship of cultural resources through interpretive programs, local and regional partnerships and the use of volunteers.

Engineering

The RMP Revision will provide guidance for the building and maintenance of resource improvements for watershed, wildlife, recreation and livestock grazing, and will be consistent with resource management objectives for grazing allotments and use areas (BLM Manual 9101).

Environmental Justice

BLM staff will determine if actions proposed in the RMP Revision would adversely and disproportionately impact minority populations, low-income communities, and local American Indian tribes (Executive Order No. 12898, Environmental Justice). The agency will also consider aggregate, cumulative, and synergistic effects, including the results of actions taken by other parties. While the analysis of environmental justice is specifically concerned with disproportionate effects on these three populations, the social and economic analysis produced under NEPA will consider all potential social and economic effects, positive and negative, on any distinct group. The BLM will provide opportunities for full involvement of minority and low-income groups and communities in the planning and NEPA processes. The agency will also avoid disproportionate distribution of adverse impacts, especially those related to the environmental and health issues of these groups and communities.

Lands and Realty

In the RMP Revision, BLM staff will identify land use authorizations under 43 CFR 2800, 2880, and 2920, including but not limited to: transportation and utility needs, land acquisitions adjacent to the El Malpais NCA, and Recreation and Public Purposes needs. Staff working in the lands and realty program will also attempt to consolidate public land parcels so as to improve resource manageability.

Paleontological Resources

Through the RMP Revision, the BLM will manage paleontological resources in accordance with the management classes established in the 8270 Handbook and current policy guidance issued in various Washington Office Instruction Memoranda. The BLM's objectives for these resources are to manage them for scientific, educational and recreational values, and to mitigate adverse impact to them. Because fossils are associated with geological units, a classification based on geologic formations will allow land use decisions to be made that balance various uses with significant fossil resources.

Recreation and Visitor Services

The BLM's proposals for managing recreation and tourism in the Rio Puerco RMP Revision will follow Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2006-060, "Incorporating Benefits-Based Management within Recreation and Visitor Services Program Policy Changes." In developing the RMP Revision, agency staff will determine how many SRMAs will be identified within the Planning Area. For each SRMA, the following aspects of recreation management will be addressed: management of resources, visitors, and facilities; marketing (outreach, interpretation, environmental education and other visitor services; monitoring (social and environmental); and administration (regulatory; permits and fees, concessions). Public lands within the Planning Area not identified as an SRMA will be designated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) and managed in a custodial manner with much less emphasis on the actions described above.

Social and Economic Concerns

The Rio Puerco Field Office manages land within six counties, near cities such as Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Gallup, but also near smaller towns or communities such as Belen, Bernalillo, Bosque Farms, Corrales, Cuba, Edgewood, Estancia, Grants, Jemez Springs, Los Lunas, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, Milan, Moriarty, Mountainair, Placitas, San Ysidro, Tijeras, and Willard. The concerns among residents from potential public land management decisions vary in the Planning Area, and will be

considered during the RMP Revision process. Land allocation decisions (e.g., for land tenure, commercial uses, outfitter and guide permits) could potentially impact communities and will be analyzed. An Economic Strategy Workshop will be held to help rural communities develop a better grasp of regional economic changes and give those citizens an opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities with specialists.

Many social and economic management concerns relate to public land-urban interface areas. These areas have developed as the result of rapid expansion of housing and other urban-related developments into areas previously available for less intensive uses (e.g., livestock grazing, recreation, energy transport) that caused fewer conflicts between users. Current user conflicts often result from incompatible personal contacts and cultural differences related to resource values.

The RMP Revision decisions will have regional, state and national impacts and interest as they relate to energy resources and traditional cultural values held by local American Indian tribes. This will likely include cultural resource values (1) as they relate to the use or conservation of resources, and (2) as they are affected by population growth, changes in employment and income, and changes in personal values.

The plan will rely on Appendix D of the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (2005) to guide the social and economic analysis for the Planning Area. This analysis will identify, describe and analyze social and economic conditions and trends including (but not limited to) demographics, social organization, attitudes, employment, income and environmental justice. Economic Profile System county-level data and Economic Profile System Community (EPSC)-level data will be updated and available from the Sonoran Institute. The IMPLAN input-output database and model will be used to describe the affected economic environment and predict economic impacts.

Soil Resources

BLM staff will use available soil data to make required decisions for the resources and resource uses analyzed in the RMP. State Soil Geographical Data (STATSGO) and Soil Survey

Geographical Data (SSURGO) are available for all counties in the Planning Area.

Soils will be managed to maintain or improve soil health and productivity and minimize impacts to soil resources through the actions of management activities. Best Management Practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures will be implemented at the site-specific activity/project level to prevent or reduce soil erosion and compaction, especially, for soils with severe erosion susceptibility. If soil impacts cannot be mitigated or effectively controlled then the activity/project could be relocated or denied.

Vegetative Communities

For the RMP Revision, BLM will use vegetative community data to make required decisions. BMPs and mitigation measures will be implemented at the site-specific activity/project level to address invasive species and noxious weed issues. Brush management will be employed in communities where species such as big sagebrush, piñon and juniper trees are invasive. Saltcedar is a special-category, listed noxious weed that infests the riparian areas of the Rio Puerco and is targeted for eradication from the Field Office management areas. Cheatgrass is also a new special-category, listed noxious weed that infests the Upper Rio Puerco and will be targeted for large-scale treatment.

Noxious weeds are a mandatory item in the BLM's NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) addressed in all EAs/EIS's developed in the Field Office. Specifically, all activities authorized or conducted on BLM land are reviewed for their potential to spread weeds and are modified if needed.

The BLM will carry out the Invasive and Noxious Weed Program through the RMP Revision under the following laws: the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, Section 1453 ("Management of Undesirable Plants on Federal Lands"); the Carlson-Foley Act; the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997 (Section 124); and the Plant Protection Act of 2000. In addition, Executive Order 13112 (1999) directs all federal agencies to control the spread of noxious weeds.

Locally, IM NM-010-99-01 ("Noxious Weed Prevention Schedule") directs RPFO weed control efforts, which include determination of the best management options for preventing the introduction or spread of noxious weeds by using a combination of the four general categories of weed management—cultural control, physical control, biological control, and herbicides. The goals and strategies identified in Partners Against Weeds (PAWS, 1996) also will be implemented for noxious weed management in the RPFO. These preventive measures will be applied to actions such as range improvements, fire rehabilitation, and road maintenance, as well as BLM authorized actions including rights-of-way, oil and gas activities, grazing permits, and recreation permits.

The RPFO will continue and expand its cooperation with other federal agencies, state and county governments, organizations, and private landowners in the fight against weeds. The RPFO is working with four local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Cuba, Lava, Valencia and East Torrance) to manage noxious weeds where populations have been identified, and to prevent their spread across administrative boundaries.

Visual Resource Management (VRM)

Under the RMP Revision, the BLM will manage visual resource values in accordance with visual resource management objectives (management classes). Based on an assessment of changing conditions, agency staff will update the existing VRM inventory (1979) for the Decision Area. The intent is to balance the need for development with protecting scenic values. The BLM will identify (1) areas in which maintaining the landscape (e.g., limited to no energy development, fuels reduction, utility corridors, road and trail development, or recreational facility development) is deemed more important than developing the landscape, and (2) areas in which such development activities may be allowed. In assigning management classes, fragmented ownership will be an important consideration so as to avoid managing scenic values on small land parcels where BLM ownership is too limited to affect the overall landscape.

Water Quality

In the RMP Revision, BLM staff will identify standard procedures for water quality permitting and compliance required by federal and State of New Mexico laws. The BLM will work closely with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) regarding water quality planning and management. Data to be examined will include (but not be limited to) the NMED's identified impaired streams [(303(d)), riparian condition, land jurisdiction, water quality, and water quantity data. BLM staff will develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect or improve water quality, including those developed for watersheds as a result of the 303(d)/Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process, Standards for Public Land Health, and existing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the State of New Mexico.

The RMP Revision will identify drinking wells on public land in the Planning Area that require protection under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977, as amended. In addition, municipal watersheds near public land in the Planning Area will be identified. The RMP Revision will summarize active and potential water rights adjudications and concerns.

Wildfire and Prescribed Fire Management

The RMP Revision will incorporate the update (2001) of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (1995); the National Fire Plan and associated policies and guidelines (including multi-agency collaboration for fire, fuels management and budgeting); and the BLM's *Resource Management Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management on Public Land in New Mexico and Texas* (2004). In addition to incorporating these plans, the BLM has the opportunity to do the following.

1. Identify broad treatment levels within the RPFO's Fire Management Units (FMUs),
2. Identify general restrictions on fire management practices (suppression and fuels management), if any are needed to protect other resource values, and
3. Restore fire-adapted ecosystems.

The fire management portion of the RMP Revision will be monitored through local Fire Management Plan (FMP) evaluation and accomplishments. As prescribed by requirements of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, BLM staff will also address emergency stabilization and rehabilitation activities on landscapes and in communities affected by wildland fire through the use of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Additionally, the RMP Revision will be consistent and in compliance with applicable New Mexico State smoke management requirements.

Section C—Preliminary Planning Criteria

The BLM planning regulations (at 43 CFR 1610.4-2) require development of planning criteria to guide preparation of an RMP. **Planning criteria** are the standards, rules, and other guidelines developed by managers and interdisciplinary teams, with public input, for use in forming judgments about plan-level decision making, analysis and data collection. These criteria are used to establish the parameters or "ground rules" for making planning decisions and simplifying RMP actions. The criteria may be adjusted during RMP development based on management concerns and the results of the public scoping process. Preliminary planning criteria for the Rio Puerco RMP Revision are as follows.

- The RMP Revision will be in compliance with FLPMA, NEPA, and all other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
- Land use decisions in the RMP Revision will apply to the surface and subsurface estate managed by the BLM.
- For program-specific guidance for decisions at the land use planning level, the process will follow the BLM's policies in the Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1.
- Broad-based public participation and collaboration will be an integral part of the planning process.
- BLM staff will strive to make decisions in the plan compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, and federal agencies and local American Indian tribes, as long as the decisions are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law and regulations applicable to public lands.

- In the RMP Revision, the BLM will recognize the state's responsibility and authority to manage wildlife. The BLM will consult with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
- The RMP Revision will recognize valid existing rights.
- The RMP Revision/EIS will incorporate, where applicable, management decisions brought forward from existing planning documents.
- BLM staff will work cooperatively and collaboratively with cooperating agencies and all other interested groups, agencies, and individuals.
- The BLM and cooperating agencies will jointly develop alternatives for resolution of resource management issues and management concerns.
- The planning process will incorporate the New Mexico *Standards for Healthy Public Land and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management*. Changes in grazing management will only be considered in Unit 5.
- Areas with special or unique resource values will be evaluated for potential administrative designations, including Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or other appropriate designations.
- Any free-flowing river and its associated land corridor found to be eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System will be addressed in the RMP Revision/EIS by developing alternatives for protective management.
- Wilderness Study Areas will continue to be managed under the BLM's *Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review* (IMP) until the Congress either designates all or portions of the WSAs as wilderness or releases the lands from further wilderness consideration. The BLM no longer designates additional WSAs through the RMP Revision process, nor manages any lands other than existing WSAs in accordance with the Wilderness IMP. Areas with wilderness characteristics, however, will be considered in the RMP Revision as described in Appendix C of the Land Use Planning Handbook. Any recently acquired lands will be evaluated for wilderness characteristics.
- Forest management strategies will be consistent with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.
- Fire management strategies will be consistent with the Albuquerque District Fire Management Plan (2004).
- In the RMP Revision, the BLM will consider public welfare and safety when addressing hazardous materials and fire management.
- GIS and metadata information will meet Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards, as required by Executive Order 12906. All other applicable BLM data standards will also be followed.
- The planning process will provide for ongoing consultation with American Indian tribal governments and strategies for protecting recognized traditional uses.
- Planning and management direction will focus on the relative values of resources and not the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or economic output.
- In the plan, the BLM will consider the quantity and quality of non-commodity resource values.
- Where practicable and timely for the planning effort, the best available scientific information, research, and new technologies will be used.
- Actions must comply with all applicable regulations and must be reasonable, achievable, and allow for flexibility while supporting adaptive management principles.
- The Economic Profile System (EPS) will be used as one source of demographic and economic data for the planning process. EPS data will provide baseline data and contribute to estimates of existing and projected social and economic conditions.

Section D—Data and Geographic Information System (GIS) Needs

Based on staff members' review of the preliminary issues described in Section C above, the data needs are identified in Table D (refer to Appendix B).

Geographical Information System (GIS) maps are the building blocks to quantify resources and

display information during alternative formulation. Existing resource information available will be used in formulating resource objectives and management alternatives. Additionally, the data will be used as the basis for analyzing unresolved conflicts for the issues discussed in Section B of this Preparation Plan [e.g., land tenure adjustment, recreation, mining (of sand, gravel, uranium), VRM, special area designations, travel management, public land-urban interface]. Most of this information needs to be compiled and put into digital format for use in the planning process and developing resource maps. This must be done before actual analysis can begin.

Any new data generated during the RMP Revision will be used to address planning issues and will meet applicable established standards. Existing data for the resource disciplines addressed above under Section B will be compiled and entered into GIS. Information already in a digital format must be to the same standards required for newly entered data. Assumptions for developing the geospatial data base are identified below.

Geospatial Data Development

The BLM will develop the geospatial database for this planning effort within the context of existing BLM data management strategies currently under development. Database development tasks performed by the BLM will incorporate goals, objectives, mandatory policies, and procedures identified in national federal governmental guidance and instructions regarding the use, development, and sharing of geospatial data and its management including the following.

- Data Stewards for Data Subject Areas
- Executive Order 12906 of 1994—
“Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)”
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16 and the expected revision
- OMB Information Initiative of 2000—
“Collecting Information in the Information Age”
- OMB Information Quality Guidelines—
Public Law 106-554; H.R. 5658

- Incorporate goals, objectives, mandatory policies, and procedures identified in Washington Office BLM planning guidance and other instructions regarding data management
- BLM H-1601-1, Land Use Planning Handbook
- BLM IM No. 2001-038 (11/30/2000)—
“Development/Approval of Preparation Plans for New Planning Starts”
- BLM IM No. 2001-029 (11/13/2000)—
“Interim Data Management Guidance”
- BLM IM No.2001-202 (8/3/2001)—
“Interim Guidance for Data Management in Land Use Planning.”

Guidelines for Geospatial Database Development

The following guidelines will be followed as the BLM develops data for this planning effort.

- Existing data will be used where possible; new data will be collected only where absolutely necessary.
- All new data will be collected to established data standards. Existing data will be converted to accepted and established data standards.
- The development of redundant data will be avoided by extensive coordination with BLM data partners.

The following strategy for data standards will be used.

- Established data standards will be used where available.
- Data standards will be developed where needed in coordination with all above.
- Data standards from other agencies will be adopted where appropriate.
- Data standards will be jointly developed and documented with the BLM’s statewide data partners as appropriate. Data category standards teams, which include state data stewards, resource specialists, and GIS specialists from the BLM and other agencies, will be used as needed. National BLM data stewards will be included in the review process as appropriate.
- All geospatial data used in this planning effort will be documented with metadata that

is compliant with Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards.

GIS Applications

ArcGIS is the BLM's standard software for GIS mapping and analysis. This application has been in use for about 5 years and is being used for all major planning projects.

Data Standards

The term *data standards* refers to how data should look, what the attributes should look like, in what geographic projection the data should be, and the level of data accuracy. All GIS data used for the RMP Revision/EIS will comply with state and national BLM data standards.

Metadata

Metadata, or “data about data,” is information about data and/or geospatial services, such as content, source, vintage, spatial scale, accuracy, projection, responsible party, contact phone number, method of collection, and other descriptions. Reliable metadata development, structured in a standardized manner, is essential to ensuring that data are used appropriately, and any resulting analysis is credible. For GIS data to be used for planning and environmental analysis, metadata must be created and appropriately maintained. [Note: Information about metadata can be found at the following website—<http://fgdc.er.usgs.gov/metadata/metadata.html>]

Challenges

Most of the available datasets were created before data standards existed. Data was collected in different formats and stored in various locations. The challenge occurs in finding all the data, compiling it into a single file structure, converting data to accepted and established standards, and creating a seamless dataset. The workload associated with formatting and manipulating this data is beyond the capabilities of the existing RPFO GIS support staff, so BLM staff from other offices or contractors will be used. Data standards need to be developed and implemented with existing and future data collection.

General GIS Status and Needs

- The folder structure template developed by RPFO will be used to organize GIS data.
- Grazing allotment information will be updated.
- Metadata will be included with GIS layers and updated by Resource Specialists if needed.
- As new data is collected and converted to GIS, metadata must be completed by the appropriate person(s).
- Resource Specialists will make contact with their program leads in the New Mexico State Office (NMSO) regarding data standards.
- The RPFO GIS Specialist will coordinate with the BLM statewide GIS representative.
- GIS standards and criteria will be met.
- Appropriate standards for data collection, analysis and storage will be applied.
- Existing data will be redone to standards and reformatted.

Section E—Participants in the Process

RMP/EIS Team Organization

The Rio Puerco RMP Team (which includes a Management Team, a Core Team, an Interdisciplinary Team and a Support Team) is made up of current employees of the Rio Puerco Field Office, three from the New Mexico State Office, one from Colorado, one from the Amarillo Field Office, and one from the Socorro Field Office. Team members have been selected based on the expertise and local knowledge they bring to the planning effort. The RMP Revision/EIS will be prepared primarily by this team.

The Management Team will be responsible for the following tasks.

- Help to determine and provide planning-level decisions.
- Lead and participate in public participation meetings and related collaboration.
- Provide budgeting, staffing, and informational management support to facilitate the RMP Revision process.

Core Team members will be responsible for the following tasks.

- Provide planning-specific guidance.
- Write the RMP Revision Preparation Plan.
- Solicit internal review and comment on the RMP Revision/DEIS/FEIS documents during their preparation.
- With the Management Team, conduct the public participation and collaboration phases of the process.
- Support the Team Lead by participating proactively in evaluation of team function and supplying feedback during the planning process, including regular meetings and planning activities.

The Interdisciplinary Team will be responsible for the following tasks.

- Provide resource-specific expertise and knowledge in the writing and overall development of the plan.
- Write, edit, and review specific resource sections of the AMS and RMP Revision/DEIS/FEIS documents in ePlanning and related computer programs.
- Participate in public participation meetings and related collaboration.

The Support Team will provide the following.

- GIS expertise (including maps for display and analysis purposes).
- Document formatting and desktop publishing expertise.
- Maintenance of the Administrative Record for the RMP Revision process.

Team member names, roles and specific responsibilities are identified in Table E below.

[Note: Labor costs for staff and contracted assistance are shown in Table I below (in Section I, “Budget”).]

Section F—Format and Process for the Plan

Format

The format and contents of the RMP Revision and EIS will comply with the following.

- NEPA (at 42 USC 4321-4347)
- The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (at 40 CFR Part 1500)
- Section 203 of FLPMA (at 43 USC 1711 & 1712)
- Resource Management Planning regulations (at 43 CFR Subpart 1610)
- The DOI Manual Part 516, Chapter 4 “Environmental Impact Statements”
- The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1)
- The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1)
- Current BLM guidance in WO and New Mexico State Office Instruction Memoranda (IMs) and Information Bulletins (IBs)

Decisions in the existing RMP and amendments will be reviewed and brought forward as appropriate. Also, the RMP Revision/EIS will incorporate existing BLM management decisions from fire management plans, livestock grazing allotment management plans, wildlife habitat management plans, conservation/recovery plans for special status species, recreation area management plans, the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, and other applicable plans. Any NEPA analysis prepared for such decisions will also be brought forward if it meets current standards.

The RMP Revision will describe the current management situation and then identify desired future conditions to be maintained or achieved, management actions necessary to achieve objectives, a schedule and a cost estimate for implementing the identified management actions.

The BLM’s ePlanning platform will help organize the process for plan development and serve as a repository for data. It will also serve as a tool to generate planning documents and reports, and allow managers to keep apprised of the plan’s progress.

TABLE E

PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS

Management Staff/ Team Specialist	Position Title	Responsibility
NM State Office Linda S.C. Rundell	State Director	The New Mexico State Director approves the Preparation Plan, the Draft RMP Revision/EIS, Proposed RMP Revision/Final EIS, & Record of Decision (ROD). The State Director is the approving official for all land use plans, including ensuring quality control sign-off, & consistency with laws, regulations, & policies.
Ron Dunton	Deputy State Director, Resources	The Deputy State Director coordinates & resolves land use planning & management issues when needed with the District & Field Managers, & provides recommendations for resolving those issues to the State Director throughout the planning process.
Mark Spencer	State Planning & Environmental Coordinator	Coordinates assignments & scheduling of any needed personnel from the New Mexico State Office or additional support from other Field Offices through the Deputy State Director. Coordinates timely reviews by State Office reviewers in cooperation with the Team Leader in accordance with the plan schedule. Ensures consistent & accurate interpretation of policies & State Director guidance & that process review is focused on plan content, quality & substance. Provide technical assistance to the Field Office when needed, including ongoing review of planning documents under development. Provide orientation, planning/NEPA procedural guidance & training for the planning team. Serve as main contact with the Washington Office (WO) for briefings with the BLM Director & Secretariat.
State Office Review Team		Provide technical assistance when needed, & document review comments to ensure consistency with relative program legal requirements & policies, including, but not limited to: special-status species; recreation; travel management; vegetation; wildlife; soil, air, & water; & cultural resources.
Washington Office Megan Stouffer	Planning & Environmental Analyst	Coordinates overall review of preliminary RMP documents & briefings w/the NMSO, Rio Puerco FO & WO; provides policy guidance to BLM New Mexico Staff as needed.
Cooperating Agencies	Local, State, & Federal Agencies & Tribal Governments (by invitation)	Review & comment on Preliminary Draft & Proposed RMPs, as well as alternatives developed.

Management Staff/ Team Specialist	Position Title	Responsibility
Management Team Edwin J. Singleton	Albuquerque District Manager	Has the authority for final approval of the document.
Thomas E. Gow	Rio Puerco Field Office Manager	<p>Responsible for preparation, content, & completion of the RMP Revision/EIS. Participates in all planning team meetings. Resolves, if needed, all Interdisciplinary Team unresolved issues & provides direction for moving forward on the project. Reviews the draft document at various stages of the planning process to ensure plan quality.</p> <p>Contributes to establishing the scope & level of detail of the planning effort. Provides input to key portions of the planning/NEPA process, particularly updating of issues & planning criteria, MSA direction, alternative formulation, & selection of the preferred alternative. With the Core Team & IDT, helps develop issues & questions, keeps the New Mexico State Director up-to-date on project progress, & maintains the project schedule. Ensures that the final product responds to the issues & concerns, & contains decisions that can be implemented.</p> <p>With the Team Leader, updates all local interest groups, key individuals, & Cooperating Agencies informed of the project.</p> <p>With the Team Leader, ensures that the RMP Revision meets BLM State Director policies & guidance.</p> <p>Supervises the Team Leader. Informs the Team Leader when needed new directions are required to maintain RMP Revision quality & the project's schedule.</p> <p>Coordinates with Assistant Field Managers to set priorities in relation to other workloads & provides overall direction to Core Team & IDT members.</p> <p>With the District Manager, recommends to the State Director approval of Preparation Plan, the Draft RMP Revision/EIS, the Proposed RMP Revision/Final EIS, & Record of Decision.</p>

Management Staff/ Team Specialist	Position Title	Responsibility
<u>Management Team,</u> concl'd Dave Sitzler	Ass't Field Office Manager (Multi- Resources)	Ensures availability of Core Team & Interdisciplinary Team members for completion of all phases of the RMP Revision within assigned dates. Participates in planning team meetings if the Field Manager is not available. Participates in all reviews. In consultation w/Field Manager, sets priorities in relation to other workloads & provides overall direction to Core Team & IDT members on their staff with the Team Leader.
Danita Burns	Ass't Field Office Manager (Renewable Resources)	Ensures availability of Core Team & Interdisciplinary Team members for completion of all phases of the RMP Revision within assigned dates. Participates in planning team meetings if the Field Manager is not available. Participates in all reviews. In consultation w/Field Manager, sets priorities in relation to other workloads & provides overall direction to Core Team & IDT members on their staff with the Team Leader.
<u>Core Team</u> Joe Blackmon	Team Leader	<p>Directs the effort through the planning/NEPA process, including document preparation, & ensures that plan quality & schedules are met.</p> <p>Primary spokesperson for the planning/NEPA effort. Directs all public involvement connected with the project in cooperation with other programs & External Affairs. Directs the day-to-day activities of the IDT in the planning process.</p> <p>Coordinates among various agencies, cooperating agencies, industry & interest groups, the planning team, & the general public.</p> <p>Coordinates critical internal & external support needs. Arranges contracting to assist the BLM in the land use planning process.</p> <p>Works with the IDT to provide information for protest responses.</p> <p>Ensures the planning process is conducted & the EIS & RMP Revision are prepared within the technical & procedural quality standards that meet the requirements of NEPA, CEQ, BLM, & departmental guidelines.</p>

Management Staff/ Team Specialist	Position Title	Responsibility
Core Team , concl'd Sabrina Flores	Technical Coordinator; Social & Economic Features	Collects & distributes information w/in the team; controls all data coming into & out of the team. Works closely with all the resource personnel, Team Leader & as well as any contractors. Main team contact for ePlanning training & implementation.
Kent Hamilton	Planning & NEPA Coordinator	Provides NEPA guidance & resource planning support to Team Leader & Interdisciplinary Team.
TBD	Writer-Editor	Performs technical editing & formatting of public documents for resource & team personnel.
TBD	External Affairs Officer	Advises & assists Team Leader & ID Team with all aspects of public relations activities, including the preparation of press releases, helping to respond to press inquiries, writing the Communications Plan, website information, & coordinating w/the External Affairs Staff in the State Office.
Interdisciplinary (ID) Team Mike Bilbo (SFO)	Cave & Karst Resources	All Resource Specialists will carry out the following duties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as program lead for his/her resource section & issues. • Prepare & write sections of the RMP Revision document. • Ensure program technical & policy adequacy. • Review & comment on the entire RMP Revision at its various stages. • Keep the Team Leader informed on all assignments. • When requested, provide written responses to public comments received throughout the RMP Revision development process.
Dave Borland (NMSO)	Forestry & Woodland Products, Wildland Fire Ecology/Management	See above.
Susan Caplan (NCS—Denver)	Air Quality	See above.
Marcia deChadenedes (NMSO)	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail	See above.
Donna Dudley	Recreation, Visual Resources, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Wilderness/ Wilderness Study Areas	See above.
Steve Fischer	Vegetative Communities	See above.
John Gilmore	Geology, Minerals, Renewable Energy	See above.

Management Staff/ Team Specialist	Position Title	Responsibility
<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u> , concl'd Pat Hester	Paleontological Resources	See above.
John Hawkos	Back Country Byways, Transportation & Access	See above.
Andy Iskra	Fish & Wildlife, Special-Status Species, T&E Consultation	See above.
Signa Larralde	American Indian Tribal Interests, Cultural Resources	See above.
Elaine Lopez	Facilities	See above.
Dave Mattern	Air Quality, Soil Resources, Wa- ter Resources	See above.
Joe Mirabal	Public Safety	See above.
Brett O'Haver	Livestock Grazing	See above.
Danny Randall	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, National Recreation Areas	See above.
Arlene Salazar	Land Tenure Adjustments, Land Use Authorizations, Utility Corridors/Communication Sites, Withdrawals	See above.
Sarah Schlanger	El Camino Rael & other National Historic Trails	See above.
Paul Tanner (AmFO)	Wild Horses & Burros	See above.
<u>Support Team</u> M'Lee Beazley (ADO)	Visual Information Special- ist/Desktop Publishing	Performs desktop publishing functions, for- mating for web publishing, & preparation for printing. Advises the team in those disciplines.
Dawn Chavez (RPFO)	Geographic Information Systems Specialists	Serves as data administrator for the RMP Re- vision, working closely w/the Technical Coor- dinator. Coordinates w/NMSO GIS on data standards, metadata, & requirements. Provides GIS expertise to the ID Team. Participates in team meetings & provides data when needed to move forward w/documents, as well as mak- ing proposed planning decisions. Organizes GIS data going to & coming from any contrac- tors. Is a member of the Core Team.
Sarah W. Spurrier (RPFO)	Records Administrator	Maintains the Administrative Record (AR). Works w/Core & ID Teams to ensure that data is controlled, including the AR. Ensures that minutes are kept for meetings in a standard format & archived accordingly. Is a member of the Core Team.
<u>National Science & Technology Center</u> Mary Beth Stultz & Leah Baker	ePlanning Project Coordinators	Provide (1) a platform to allow for electronic organization of the RMP process; (2) templates to capture & track the information throughout the process in accordance w/BLM directives, manuals & handbooks; (3) training to team members & contractors as required; (4) solu- tions to technical difficulties as they arise.

RMP Revision/EIS Process

Development of the RMP Revision will occur in the following phases.

- Making pre-scoping preparations and organizing the staff.
- Identifying issues and data gaps, conducting scoping, and completing a Scoping Report.
- Completing the Analysis of the Management Situation.
- Formulating alternatives, doing impact analysis, and identifying mitigation measures, monitoring and evaluation requirements.
- Preparing and releasing the Draft RMP Revision/EIS.
- Conducting public review and comment on Draft RMP Revision/EIS.
- Preparing and releasing the Proposed RMP Revision/Final EIS.
- Administering the protest period and Governor's consistency review.
- Completing and releasing the approved RMP Revision/EIS/ROD.

Document Outline

The Rio Puerco RMP Revision will be submitted with the basic chapter outline shown in Figure F (below), which is in compliance with the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook.

Alternative Formulation

A full range of alternatives will be developed to address the issues, based on and in response to public input, governmental and tribal consultation, and the RMP Revision's planning criteria, purpose and need, goals and objectives, and assessment of resources and uses. As required by regulation, Alternative A (No Action) will be based on the existing management situation.

Internal Review of the Plan

Internal review will consist of Field Office management updates, ID team meetings, and briefings with senior managers from the New Mexico State Office. The Rio Puerco RMP Team will provide periodic reports to the Management Team detailing progress, process impediments and solicitations of feedback. Review of the RMP Revision's purpose and need statements,

selection of alternatives, Preliminary Draft and Proposed RMPs/EIS's, and the preliminary Record of Decision will be presented by the Field Manager and Team Leader to the State Director and executive staff at the State Office, as well as to the Field Solicitor. Any potential legal issues that may surface during the planning process will be brought to the immediate attention of the State Office and Field Solicitor by the Team Leader, Field Manager and/or State Planning and Environmental Coordinator for guidance. Additionally, the preliminary Draft/Proposed RMP Revisions will be submitted by the State Office to the Washington Office's (WO) 200 Division and the WO Solicitor for concurrent review.

Accountability

Team members working on the RMP/EIS are accountable for completing their specific tasks on time. Managers and supervisors will be made aware of the project's progress by the Team Leader and State Planning and Environmental Coordinator. Situations in which a delay seems imminent will be resolved immediately between the Team Leader and team members through collaboration. If the delay cannot be resolved, it is the Field Manager's responsibility to resolve it and/or notify the State Office, if needed, for immediate follow-up. If a delay in schedule cannot be avoided, the SO will also promptly notify WO 200.

Form of Input from the Interdisciplinary Team and Reviewers

Input from the team will be accomplished primarily through team meetings and posting material either in the hard-copy Administrative Record or in the electronic files that reside on the common computer server in the ADO. Reviewers can access reports, meeting minutes, and other pertinent documents in either of these locations. Input from reviewers can be made via e-mail to the Technical Coordinator with a copy to the Records Administrator. When implemented, the ePlanning computer program will be used to distribute and assign resource-specific sections to authors, edit and review sections, and to compile the RMP Revision/EIS for the Administrative Record and publication.

**FIGURE F
DOCUMENT OUTLINE**

<p><u>Front Matter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dear Reader Letter • Cover Sheet • Table of Contents • Summary 	<p><u>Chapter 1— Introduction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose & Need • Planning Area/Map • Scoping/Issues • Planning Criteria • Planning Process • Related Plans • Policy 	<p><u>Chapter 2— Alternatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gen'l Description • Mgmt. Common to All Alternatives • No Action Alternative • Action Alternatives • Alts. Not Analyzed • Comparison of Alts. • Comparison of Impacts 	<p><u>Chapter 3— Affected Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Resources • Resource Uses • Special Designations • Social & Economic Features
	<p><u>Chapter 4— Environmental Consequences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Resources • Resource Uses • Special Designations • Social & Economic Features 	<p><u>Chapter 5— Consultation & Coordination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific Actions Taken to Consult & Coordinate • Additional Collaboration • Responses to Comments (FEIS) • List of Preparers 	
<p><u>Back Matter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Appendices • List of Abbreviations & Acronyms • Glossary • References 			

Implementation of the Plan

An RMP implementation strategy workshop will be held within 4 months of the signing of the ROD. The strategy will provide a means to track the effectiveness of plan implementation and tie planning decisions to management priorities and budgetary requirements. The RMP will be evaluated and maintained during the implementation process using the planning cycle (i.e., plan development—plan implementation—plan monitoring—plan evaluation). Based on analysis of the data gathered during the planning cycle, the plan will be amended or revised as needed.

Section H—Public Participation and Collaboration Plan

Goals and Objectives

- To ensure comprehensive engagement of citizens and agencies in a continuing dialogue about the management and planning uses of the public lands and resources managed by the Rio Puerco Field Office.
- To be adaptable and make adjustments during the planning process.
- To be a source of information and facilitate discussions concerning community and agency needs.
- To ensure that there is a representation of concerned parties in developing the RMP Revision/EIS.

Public and Agency Participation and Consultation

The list of tribal governments, interest groups, and federal, state, and local government agencies to be consulted is shown in Table H. The RMP Team anticipates that discussions with these entities will focus predominantly on the issues and management concerns listed above in Section C. Additional issues and concerns may be raised during public participation and agency consultations. Supplemental information needed to conduct the consultations and participation will be generated during the RMP Revision process. A preliminary list of issues and an explanation of the Rio Puerco RMP Revision

process will be sent to those listed in Table H (at a minimum). The RMP Team expects to issue the Notice of Availability and distribute the Draft RMP Revision/EIS in August of 2009, and to conduct a 90-day public comment period that will end in November 2009.

All public participation will occur as outlined in the Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1. In addition, the requirements for a workshop on economic conditions and strategies (as provided for in WO IM No. 2003-169) will be completed. All public participation requirements associated with NEPA will be met.

Community-based planning will form the foundation for preparation of the RMP Revision, and will, where appropriate, be based on the principles and practices in the “Guide to Collaborative Planning” (Appendix A of H-1601-1). Resource Planning Regulations at 43 CFR 1610.2(d) require the Field Manager to maintain a list of known interested and affected publics. Stakeholders will be identified throughout the process. A mailing list of organizations, agencies, interest groups, and interested members of the public will be compiled and maintained by RPFO.

Upon approval of the Prep Plan, collaborative planning workshops will be scheduled at appropriate locations within the Planning Area and a project website will be developed for the field office. These workshops will address Community-Based Partnerships, Place-Based NEPA, and the Economic Profile System. Additional public input will be solicited through public scoping meetings, direct mailings, and professional and personal communications.

Public Participation Opportunities

Public participation opportunities for the major stages of the planning process are listed below. Every effort will be made to ensure meaningful public involvement throughout the process. The BLM New Mexico State Office and Rio Puerco Field Office websites will provide information and solicit comments from interested members of the public. The following is a summary of public participation opportunities for this planning effort.

Identify Issues, Planning Criteria and Management Concerns

- Information regarding the preparation of this RMP Revision/EIS will be disseminated by a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register*, press releases, mailings and the BLM's website. These sources will notify the public of upcoming scoping meetings, public comment meetings, and deadlines.
- Public scoping meetings will be organized and facilitated by BLM staff and/or a contractor to gather input on issues and disseminate information on management concerns and planning criteria.
- Communication will be enhanced by the use of ePlanning for tracking and analysis of comments.

Formulate Alternatives

- Public meetings will provide the mechanism to discuss alternatives and ensure that issues are adequately addressed. Whenever possible, these meetings will be designed using methods that facilitate and enhance interaction between the public and BLM (e.g., roundtable discussions, charettes, workshops).

Issue the Draft RMP Revision/EIS

- A Notice of Availability will be published in the *Federal Register* for the Draft RMP Revision/EIS. This notice and news releases to local and regional media will begin a 90-day comment period.
- Public meetings to gather verbal (recorded) and/or written comments will be held in locations across the Planning Area.

Publish the Proposed RMP Revision/Final EIS

- A Notice of Availability will be published in the *Federal Register* for the Proposed /FEIS. This notice and news releases to local and regional media will begin a 30-day protest period.
- The Proposed RMP Revision/FEIS will be made available for inspection by the public

both online and at designated locations in and near the Planning Area, with copies provided to those who request them.

- The BLM will solicit comments during the State Governor's consistency review (60 days).

Respond to Protests

- In cooperation with the BLM New Mexico State Office and the Washington Office, the RPFO will resolve protests using the established BLM process.

Publish the Approved RMP Revision

- The RPFO will publish the approved RMP Revision/EIS and Record of Decision.
- The agency will also notify the public via news articles, e-mail, websites, and mail of the availability of the approved RMP Revision/EIS.

Cooperating Agency Participation

Before the planning process is formally begun, the BLM will ask federal and state regulatory agencies, local governments, and tribal governments to be cooperating agencies on this project. Training on the RMP process and the role of cooperating agencies will be held for those agencies. Possible cooperating agencies are included but not limited to those identified in Table H.

Consultation with Other Federal Agencies

Development of the RMP Revision requires consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. BLM staff will prepare a Biological Assessment in coordination with the FWS, and the FWS will provide the BLM with a Biological Opinion regarding the Proposed RMP Revision. The Rio Puerco Field Office will coordinate with neighboring BLM offices to ensure that planning decisions do not conflict, to the extent possible, with those made for adjoining planning areas.

TABLE H

COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND GROUPS

American Indian Groups

Comanche Indian Tribe

Fort Sill Apache Tribe

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Mescalero Apache Tribe

White Mountain Apache Tribe

Hopi Tribe

Initial contact w/all tribes in New Mexico
& neighboring states w/traditional
use areas in New Mexico

Navajo Nation

Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Dept.

Navajo Chapters

Alamo

Baca/Haystack

Break Springs

Cañoncito Bank

Casamero Lake

Counselor

Little Water

Ojo Encino

Pueblo Pintado

Ramah

Red Rock

To'hajiilee

Torreon

Tsayatoh

Whitehorse Lake

Pueblos

Acoma

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

San Felipe

Sandia

Santa Ana

Santo Domingo

Zia

Zuni

Southern Ute Tribe

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Interest Groups

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

All-Indian Pueblo Council

American Indian Chamber of Commerce of NM

Archaeological Conservancy

Audubon Society of Central NM

Center for Environmental Research

Coalition of AZ-NM Counties

Commission of Wilderness Supporters

Conserv America

Forest Guardians

National Audubon Society

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Wildlife Federation

Native Plant Society

Natural Resources Defense Council

New Mexico (NM) Cattle Growers Association

NM Four Wheelers

NM Garden Clubs, Inc.

NM Land Use Alliance

NM Mining Association

NM Mountain Club

NM Museum of Natural History & Science

NM Nature Conservancy

NM Northern Chapter Wilderness Watch

NM Oil & Gas Association

NM Public Interest Research Group

NM Range Improvement Task Force

NM Trials Association

NM Trout

NM Volunteers for the Outdoors

NM Wilderness Alliance

NM Wilderness Coalition

NM Wilderness Study Committee

NM Wildlife Federation

Northern NM Stockman's Association

Public Lands Action Network

Sandia Mtn. Wildlife Association

Sierra Club

Sierra Club, Albuquerque Chapter

Southern Pueblos Council

SW Center for Biological Diversity

SW Off Road Enterprises

SW Region, National Speleological Society

SW Research & Information Center

Ten Southern Pueblos Council

The Nature Conservancy

The Wilderness Society

Wild Horse Observers Association

Wildlife Society

TABLE H (continued)

**Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing,
and Shooting Roundtable**

American Sportfishing Association
Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Bear Trust International
Boone and Crockett Club of America
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
Campfire Club of America
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Conservation Force
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses
National Rifle Association of America
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Trapper's Association
National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc.
North American Bear Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
Orion the Hunters Institute
Pheasants Forever
Pope and Young Club
Public Lands Foundation
Quail Unlimited
Quality Deer Management Association
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Sand County Foundation
Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers
Institute
Texas Wildlife Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
Whitetails Unlimited
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute

Federal Government Agencies

Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Forest Service
Cibola National Forest

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Reclamation
National Park Service
Bandelier National Monument
El Malpais National Monument
El Morro National Monument
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey

Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

State Government Agencies

Governor of New Mexico
Attorney General
Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources
Bureau of Mines
Dept. of Agriculture
Dept. of Cultural Affairs
Dept. of Energy & Natural Resources
Forestry Division
Parks & Recreation Division
Dept. of Finance & Administration
Dept. of Game & Fish
Dept. of Health & Human Services
Dept. of Indian Affairs
Dept. of Tourism
Dept. of Transportation
Environment Department
Farm & Livestock Bureau
Oil Conservation Division
Soil & Water Conservation Division
State Engineer
State Historic Preservation Office
State Land Office
State Monuments

Local Concerns

Las Huertas Watershed Group (Placitas)
Las Placitas Association
Livestock Water Associations
Placitas Board of Realtors
San Luis Domestic Water Association

TABLE H (concluded)

Local & Regional Governments/Agencies

Counties

Bernalillo
Catron
Cibola
McKinley
Sandoval
Santa Fe
Socorro
Torrance
Valencia

Cities/Towns/Villages

Albuquerque
Bernalillo
Corrales
Cuba
Estancia
Gallup
Grants
Ojo Encino
Placitas
Rio Rancho
San Luis
San Ysidro
Torreon

Private Companies

Jemez Electric Cooperative
La Farge
Public Service Co. of NM

Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Claunch
Cuba
East Torrance
Edgewood
Lava
Pinto
Valencia

U.S. Congress

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Heather Wilson

Coordination and Consultation with American Indian Tribes

Government-to-government coordination and consultation with local American Indian Tribes (as listed in Table H) will begin upon issuance of the Notice of Intent, which begins the scoping period.

Collaboration with the Resource Advisory Council (RAC)

Under guidance from the New Mexico State Office, the Rio Puerco RMP Team will work collaboratively with the New Mexico State Resource Advisory Council (RAC) throughout the process. In particular, collaboration will occur during issue identification, alternative formulation, and impact analysis.

Target Dates for Public Participation Activities and Availability of Information

A Notice of Intent will be published through the *Federal Register* in late February or early March 2008 announcing a 30-day scoping period. The Core Team and BLM Managers will hold scoping meeting during this period in at least three locations within the Planning Area. These locations will be announced in the local news media at least 15 days before the meetings, which will allow for information sharing and give the public an opportunity to provide input into the planning process. After the meetings, the RMP Team will review and analyze the scoping comments, prepare and distribute a public Scoping Report.

Public review of the Draft RMP Revision/EIS will take place during a 90-day period in which written comments may be submitted (August 2010 through November 2010). Also during this

period, the Core Team and Managers will conduct public meetings in several geographic areas to discuss the document. Substantive comments will be responded to through changes in the document or correspondence.

The Notice of Availability for the Proposed RMP Revision/Final EIS will be published in the *Federal Register* in November 2011. Following publication of that notice, a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review and 30-day public protest period will occur.

Provision for Updating the Plan during Preparation

Using the information gained in the RMP Revision process, the Rio Puerco RMP Team will ensure that adjustments are made to the plan in progress.

Public Participation Activities

FLPMA and NEPA require participation throughout the planning and environmental impact statement development process. Some public participation activities for the RMP Revision/EIS will include the following.

- Public meetings and workshops
- Newsletters
- Public bulletin boards
- Direct contact with civic groups and community leaders
- Internet and computer technology to be used for public information and input
 - Newsletter on BLM website
 - Blog or public Internet board
 - E-mail updates on the RMP Revision process
 - Use of the ePlanning computer system

Section I—Budget

Budget estimates for plan development and completion are shown in Table I. Completing the RMP Revision on schedule will be dependent upon funding of contracts in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 and continued funding for the effort in FYs 2010, 2011 and 2012.

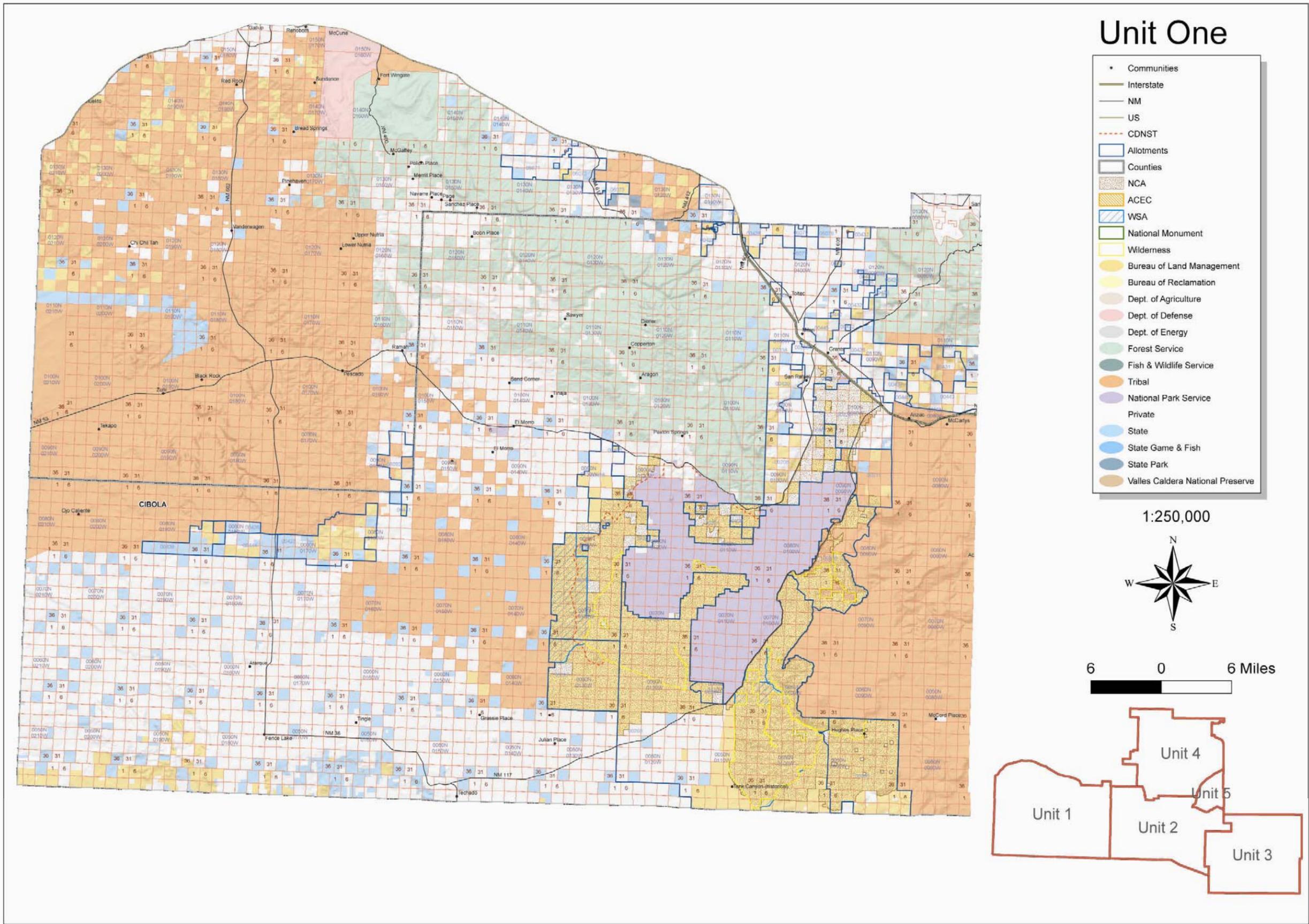
**TABLE I
BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budgeted Item or Activity	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Project Total
<u>Labor</u>							
Workmonths	59	30	132	118	86	33	458
Workmonth Cost (@ \$6,000 per WM)	354,000	180,000	792,000	708,000	516,000	198,000	2,748,000
Labor Total							2,748,000
<u>Contracts</u>							
Writer-Editor			20,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
Minerals (Potential Report)			150,000				150,000
(RFD)			46,000				46,000
Transportation			55,000				55,000
Cultural (Class I Overview)			50,000				50,000
(Partial Inventory)			30,000				30,000
(Check Ojito Trails)			30,000				30,000
Social & Economic Features			80,000	75,000			155,000
Forestry			40,000				40,000
Contracts Total			563,000	85,000	10,000	10,000	606,000
<u>Services</u>							
Printing		1,000		15,000	15,000	15,000	46,000
Notices		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000
Meeting Rooms		2,000	2,000	2,000			6,000
Services Total		4,000	3,000	18,000	16,000	16,000	57,000
<u>Equipment & Supplies</u>							
GPS		8,000	20,000				28,000
GIS		8,000	20,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	43,000
Equipment & Supplies Total		16,000	40,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	71,000
Non-Labor Total		20,000	606,000	113,000	36,000	36,000	734,000
Grand Total	354,000	200,000	1,398,000	821,000	552,000	234,000	3,482,000

APPENDICES

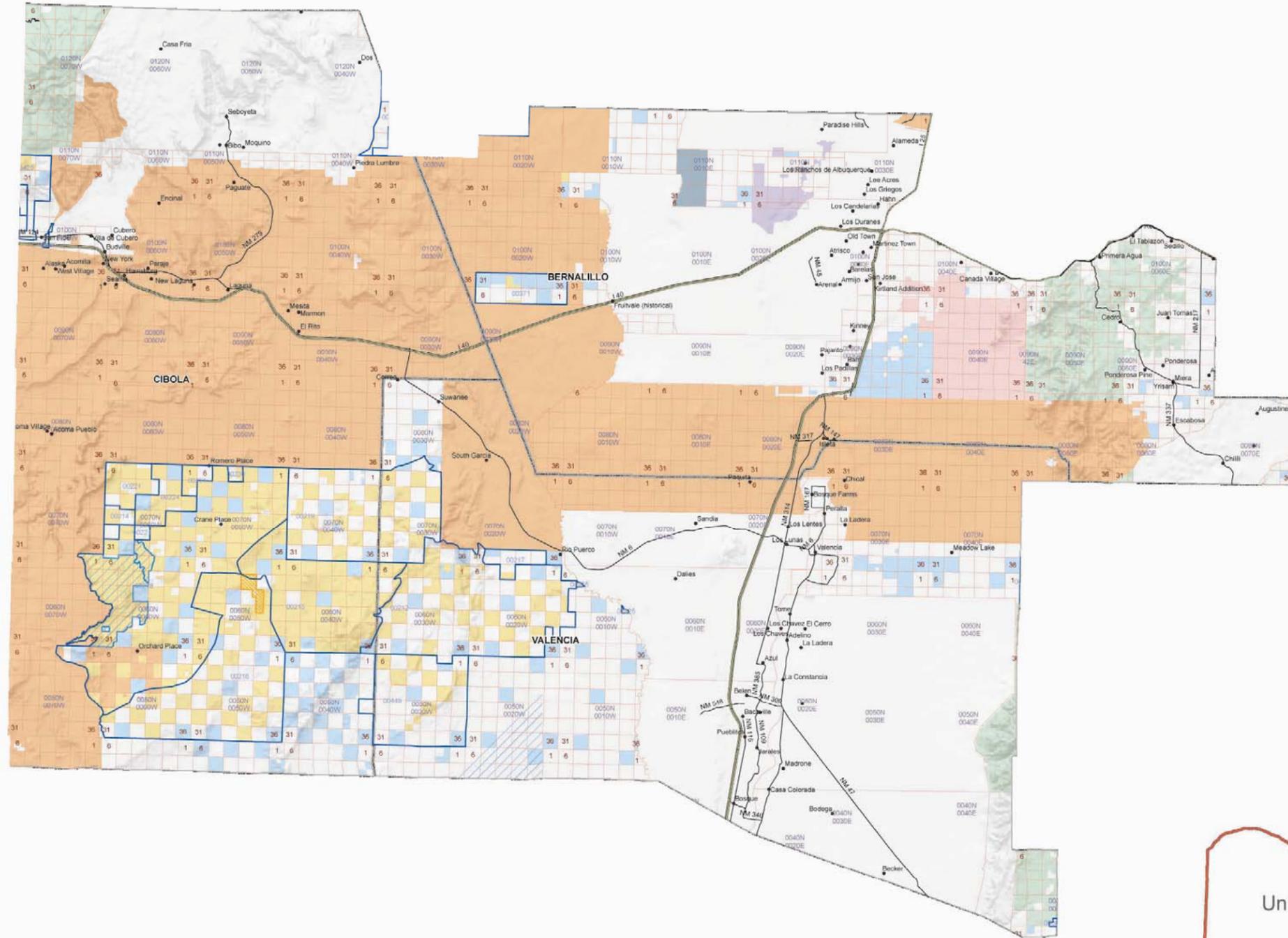
APPENDIX A

Planning Unit Maps

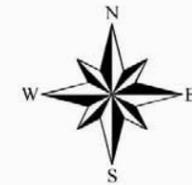


Unit Two

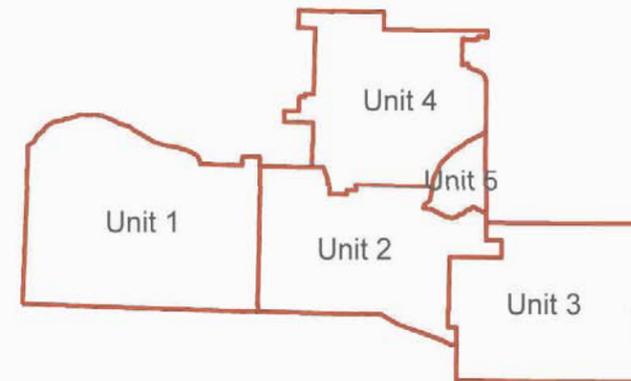
- Communities
 - Interstate
 - NM
 - US
 - - - - - CDNST
 - Allotments
 - ▨ NCA
 - ▨ ACEC
 - ▨ WSA
 - ▨ National Monument
 - ▨ Wilderness
 - ▨ Counties
-
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Dept. of Agriculture
 - Dept. of Defense
 - Dept. of Energy
 - Forest Service
 - Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Tribal
 - National Park Service
 - Private
 - State
 - State Game & Fish
 - State Park
 - Valles Caldera National Preserve



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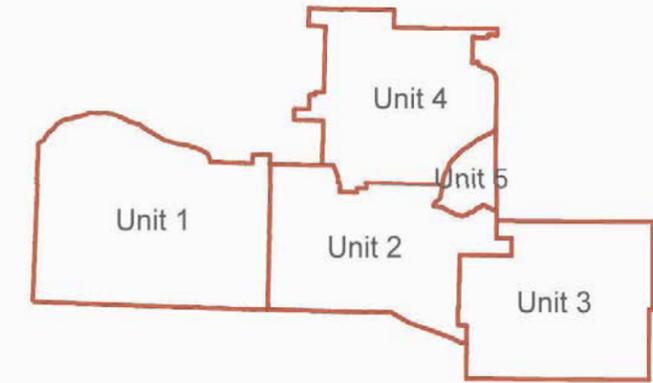
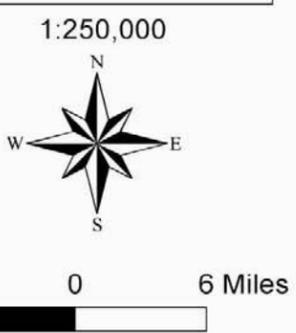
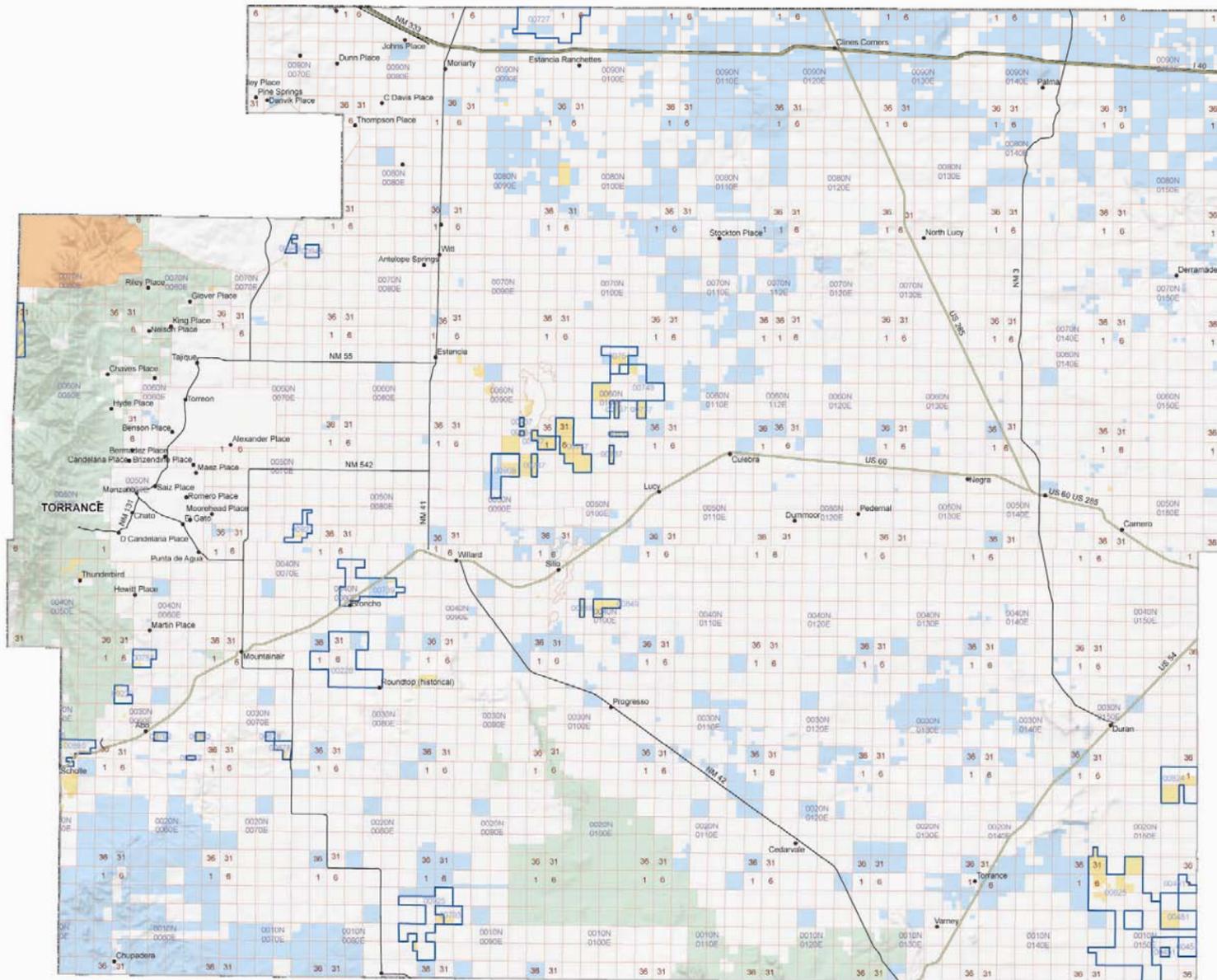
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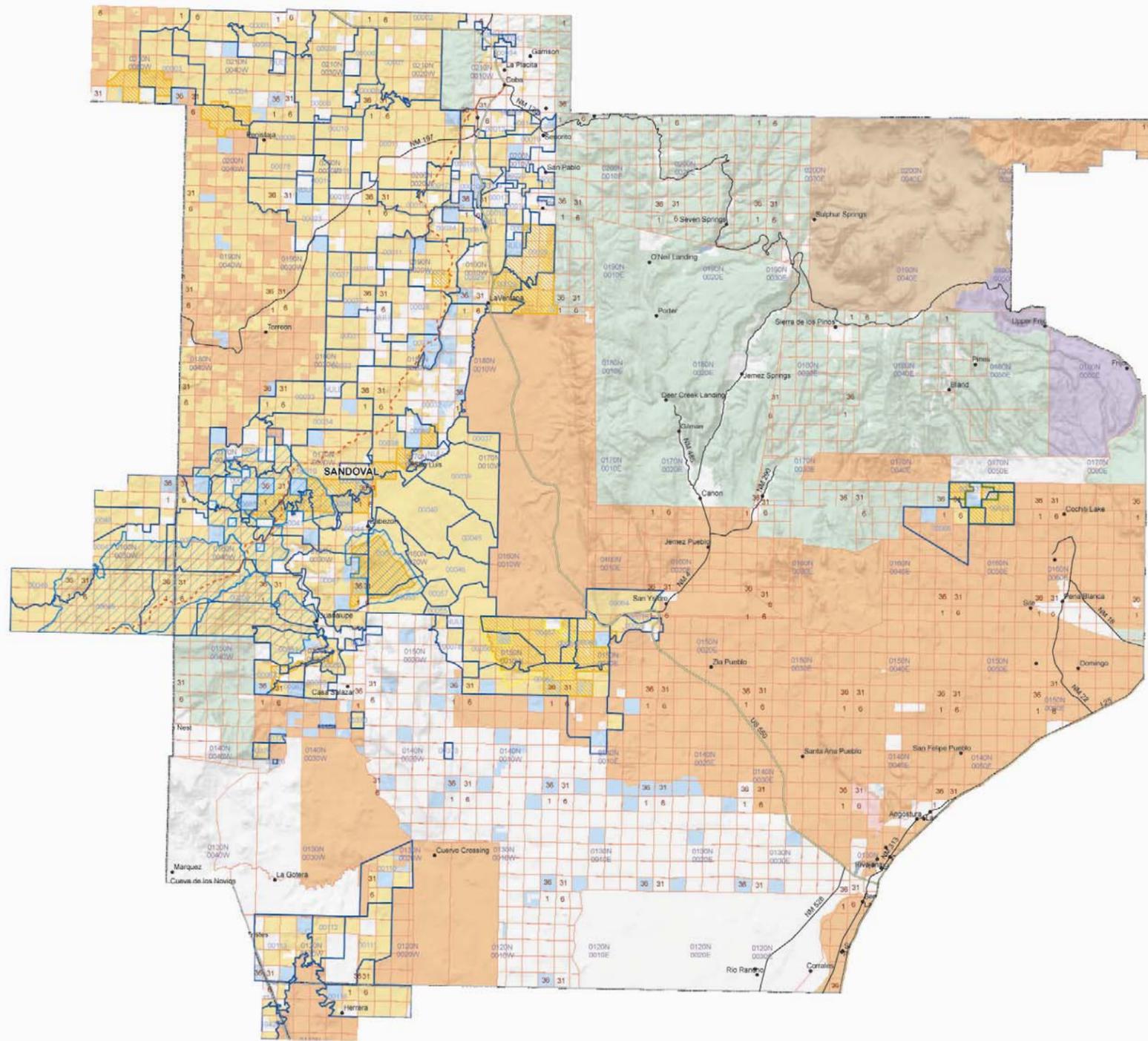
Unit Three

- Communities
- Interstate
- NM
- US
- - - CDNST
- Allotments
- Wilderness
- National Monument
- WSA
- ACEC
- NCA
- Counties

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Dept. of Agriculture
- Dept. of Defense
- Dept. of Energy
- Forest Service
- Fish & Wildlife Service
- Tribal
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- State Game & Fish
- State Park
- Valles Caldera National Preserve



Unit Four



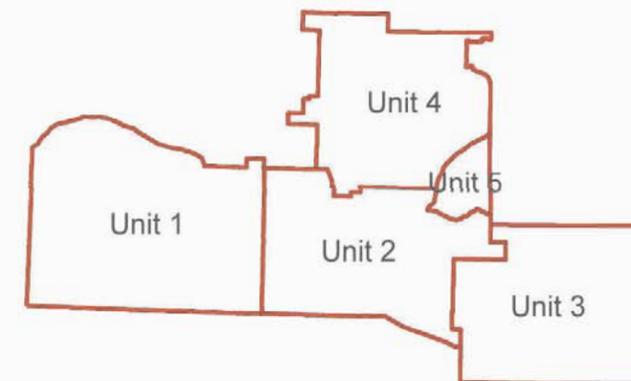
- Communities
- CDNST
- Interstate
- NM
- US
- Allotments
- Wilderness
- National Monument
- WSA
- ACEC
- NCA
- Counties

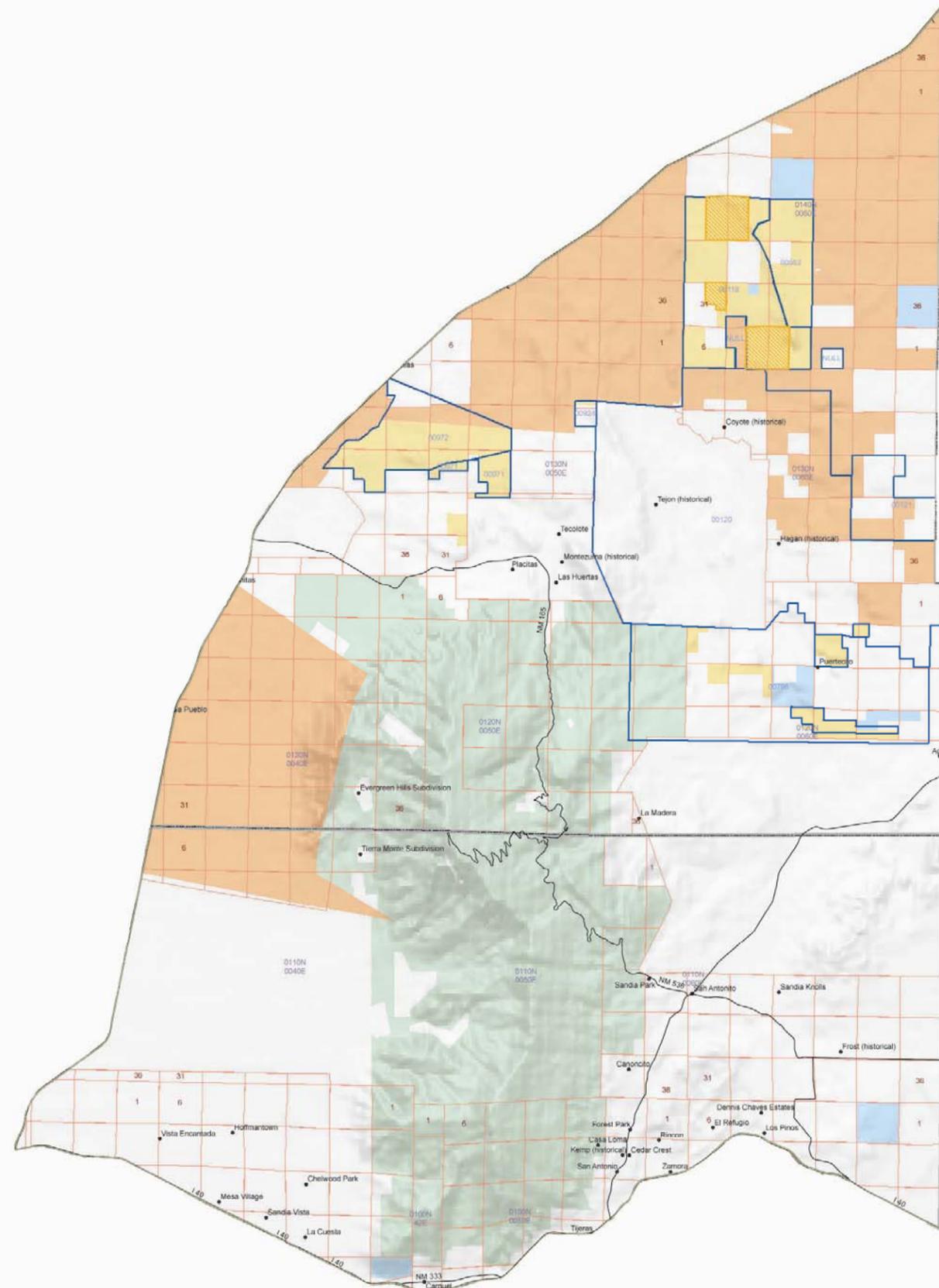
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Dept. of Agriculture
- Dept. of Defense
- Dept. of Energy
- Forest Service
- Fish & Wildlife Service
- Tribal
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- State Game & Fish
- State Park
- Valles Caldera National Preserve

1:250,000



6 0 6 Miles





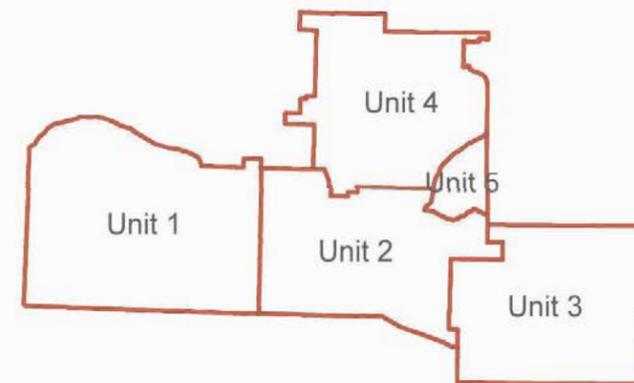
Unit Five

- Communities
 - - - - - CDNST
 - Interstate
 - NM
 - US
 - Allotments
 - Wilderness
 - National Monument
 - WSA
 - ACEC
 - NCA
 - Counties
-
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Dept. of Agriculture
 - Dept. of Defense
 - Dept. of Energy
 - Forest Service
 - Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Tribal
 - National Park Service
 - Private
 - State
 - State Game & Fish
 - State Park
 - Valles Caldera National Preserve

1:100,000



2.5 0 2.5 Miles



APPENDIX B

Table D

Data and GIS Needs

TABLE D
DATA AND GIS NEEDS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Resource/Planning Question [Unit(s)]	Needed Data Set(s)	Data Set(s) Available? (Yes/No/Partially)	Proposed Remedy for Data Gaps	Estimated Costs (\$\$/WM)	Are FGDC Metadata Available?	Name/Source of Data Standard	Does Data Available Meet Nat'l or Reg'l Standard?	Name/Source of Potential Nat'l/Reg'l Standard
<u>Administrative Designations</u>								
1. Do RPFO lands contain rivers eligible for Wild & Scenic River designation?		Partially	Review of existing data	4 WM				
2. Do RPFO lands have ways or trails suitable for designation as Back Country Byways?		Partially	Roads & trails inventory	24 WM				
<u>Congressional Designations</u>								
If the Congress drops a WSA from wilderness consideration, what type of designation should then be applied?	Dependent on type of designation	Partially	Resource layers in GIS					
<u>Cultural Resources</u>								
1. What archaeological & historical sites are located in the Planning Area? Where are they? How significant are they?	Archaeological Records Management System (ARMS) site file data	Yes		\$50,000 contract or 8 WMs	Yes	BLM standard	Yes	
2. Have existing & proposed OHV areas been inventoried for cultural resources? What level of inventory exists? What level is needed? Have recorded sites been mitigated/avoided?	ARMS site & survey file data	Yes	Check OHV boundaries against ARMS survey & site file data.	1 WM	Yes	BLM standard	Yes	
3. Do existing cultural resource ACEC/SMA boundaries need to be adjusted to better protect cultural resources or to allow development where appropriate?	ARMS site & survey file data	Yes	Additional fieldwork may be needed to remedy insufficient site information.	3 WM	Yes	BLM standard	Yes	
4. Do additional ACECs or other special designations need to be proposed to protect significant archaeological or historical sites?	ARMS site & survey file data	Yes	Additional fieldwork may be needed to remedy insufficient site information.	3 WM	Yes	BLM standard	Yes	
5. What additional inventory needs to be done to identify & avoid/mitigate/protect sites in the Ojito Wilderness & other non-cultural resource WSAs/ACECs, especially along trails or other heavy use areas?	ARMS site & survey file data	Yes	Check Ojito boundaries & other ACEC/WSA boundaries against ARMS survey & site file data.	1 WM	Yes	BLM standard	Yes	
6. What & where are sites &/or traditional use areas important to tribes within the Planning Area?	Tribal consultation, ethnographic literature review	Partially. Some traditional use area maps may have to be obtained from tribes or generated in house	Tribal consultation, review of existing land claims maps/traditional use area maps, obtain traditional use area maps from tribes, generate maps in-house based on information from tribal consultation.	3 WM	Land claims map probably has metadata	BLM standard	Land claims map probably meets BLM standard	
<u>Forest Management</u>								
1. What are the locations of specific forest & woodland habitat types?	USFS TES data, SWREGAP, field inventory	Partially for USFS R-3 TES database	Input from USFS	1 WM (\$7,500)				
2. What are the characteristics of forest/woodland conditions in the Planning Area?	Forest inventory data	Partially—USFS FIA data	Establish additional plots by forest typed	2 WM (\$15,000)	Yes	BLM-FORVIS (forest database)		
3. Are any RPFO forest/woodland resources at risk for loss?	FRCC/Landfire/aerial photos, stand exams, fuel transects	Partially	Implement 2005 DOQQs on RPFO boundaries	Fire/forestry GIS contract —\$40,000	Yes	FRCC—BLM		HFRA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Resource/Planning Question [Unit(s)]	Needed Data Set(s)	Data Set(s) Available? (Yes/No/Partially)	Proposed Remedy for Data Gaps	Estimated Costs (\$\$/WM)	Are FGDC Metadata Available?	Name/Source of Data Standard	Does Data Available Meet Nat'l or Reg'l Standard?	Name/Source of Potential Nat'l/Reg'l Standard
4. What actions & use restrictions are needed to protect, maintain, or improve the quality of forest resources on public lands?	Acres of wilderness, WSAs, NCA & slopes>40%	Partially	GIS in-house analysis			BLM		
5. By forest type, what are the desired future conditions & their distribution?	Non-spatial	Do literature review summary	Input from ID Team & stakeholders	1 WM (\$7,500)				
6. What management practices are available to move forest & woodland types toward some desired future condition?	Forest harvesting techniques, BMPs for forest management		Input from ID Team & stakeholders	1 WM (\$7,500)		BLM		
7. What is the management direction re. how to maintain or contribute to the restoration of old-growth or mature forests?	Forest inventory	Partially, from USFS FIA inventory		1.5 WM (\$12,000)				HFRA
8. What is the significance of forests & woodlands to American Indians & Spanish-American communities for social, religious, & economic reasons? (E.g., fuelwood, piñon nuts, food, shelter, special wood products, & spiritual practices)			Input from tribal stakeholders via tribal consultation	1 WM (\$7,500)				
Interpretation & Environmental Education								
1. Does the RPFO/ADO need a comprehensive OHV brochure?	Complete GIS layer showing roads & trails	Partially	Contract/use volunteer help to GPS all roads & trails	18 WM				
2. Would the RPFO benefit visitors by placing brochures & interpretive kiosks @ all NLCS sites?	Resource layers from all specialists	Partially	Gather input from all resource specialists	6 WM				
Lands & Realty								
1. What public lands does the RPFO want to block up?								
2. What public lands are high in resource values? Which resources?								
3. What public lands are now unmanageable & should be disposed of?								
4. Are the land objectives from the 1992 RMP still valid?								
5. Have all of the Management Framework Plans from the 1992 RMP been implemented?								
Livestock Grazing								
1. Which RPFO lands are suitable for livestock grazing?	Soil Mapping Units, Ecological Site Descriptions & respective rangeland potentials	Yes— NRCS Soil Surveys, & State, Transition & Threshold Models	Availability of Soil Survey data sets for Tarrant, Valencia, Cibola, Sandoval, & McKinley Counties	0	Yes	NRCS	Yes	
2. What are the terrain characteristics of those lands?	Availability of water, distance to water, slope brackets (0-10%, 11-30%, 31-60% & >60%) & distance up slope, natural landscape barriers (escarpments, cliffs, lava flows & incised arroyos)	Partially—lands of FNF in Cibola Co., the I.C. Grant & the Continental Divide Grazing Allotments in Sandoval Co. have been done	Contract or in-house: plot known waters & buffer around point; use GIS to delineate slope brackets & natural barriers	\$250,000-400,000	No			
3. What is the amount of existing forage present & what are the quantities of forage likely to be in the foreseeable future?	Mapping vegetative type & amount cover correlated with emphasis on forage production, Rangeland Health Assessments	Partially (Rangeland Health Assessments)	Aerial imagery; ground truth for vegetative type, cover & forage production	\$500,000-750,000				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Resource/Planning Question [Unit(s)]	Needed Data Set(s)	Data Set(s) Available? (Yes/No/Partially)	Proposed Remedy for Data Gaps	Estimated Costs (\$\$/WM)	Are FGDC Metadata Available?	Name/Source of Data Standard	Does Data Available Meet Nat'l or Reg'l Standard?	Name/Source of Potential Nat'l/Reg'l Standard
4. Where is undesirable vegetation present on RPFO lands?	Delineations of noxious weed populations	Partially	Records from local Soil & Water Conservation Districts on weed infestations & treatments	\$15,000/2 WM				
5. What are existing range improvements & their condition?	Range improvement project summaries, dam inventories, allotment & interior pasture fences	Partially	Summarize existing data bases	\$30,000/4 WM	No			
6. Based on Rangeland Health Assessments, which allotments are in functional, functional at risk or nonfunctional condition?	Plot grazing allotments w/Rangeland Health Assessments	Partially	Summarize existing data bases	\$4,000/.5 WM				
Minerals & Energy Development								
1. What & where is the potential for occurrence of oil & gas & geothermal resources?	Mineral Potential Report (also basis for RFD determination)	Partially (Mineral Potential Report—1984-86)	Contract, including an MOU, w/New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources for new, complete & up-to-date Mineral Potential Report	\$100,000-150,000 for contract; 18 WMs if done in house			National, if data from GIS or LR2000	
2. What is the potential for the development of oil & gas & geothermal resources?	Reasonable & Foreseeable Development (RFD) Plan	No	RFD/RFA Plan will be done in-house w/NM State Office assistance	\$46,000/6 WMs			Same as for Question #1	
3. What & where is the potential for occurrence of mineral material resources?	Same as for Question #1	Same as for Question #1	Same as for Question #1	Same as for Question #1			Same as for Question #1	
4. What is the potential for mineral material development?	Reasonable & Foreseeable Action (RFA) Statement	Unknown	Same as for Question #2	Included in cost for Question #2			Same as for Question #1	
5. What & where is the potential for occurrence of coal resources?	Same as for Question #1	Same as for Question #1	Same as for Question #1	Same as for Question #1			Same as for Question #1	
6. Which coal resources are suitable for leasing?	Same as for Question #4	Unknown	Coal Unsuitability Report	1 WM			Same as for Question #1	
7. What & where is the potential for renewable resources (solar, wind & biomass)?	Same as for Question #1 (except for biomass, which is a forestry matter)	Partially—some solar data in GIS; wind data in BLM PEIS on Wind Energy Development	Solar data in GIS; wind data in BLM PEIS on Wind Energy Development	Included in cost for Question #2			Same as for Question #1	
8. What is the potential for the development of renewable resources?	Same as for Question #4	Same as for Question #7	Same as for Question #2	Included in cost for Question #2			Same as for Question #1	
Paleontology								
1. Where do important fossil resources occur in the Planning Area?	Paleosensitivity Map	Yes	None	Completed	Yes	Pat Hester	Yes	Pat Hester
2. Where should site-specific use restrictions be applied to ensure conservation of important fossil resources?	Paleosensitivity Map (w/additional site-specific locality data)	Partially	Use NMMNS&S data (updated annually) for RPFO & import into GIS as x/y data	4 WM	Yes	Pat Hester	Yes	Pat Hester
3. What use restrictions will be applied?	Use above tools (locality data is proprietary) to refine w/ongoing inventory	Partially	Use above data & sensitivity map to develop management criteria for each class of sensitivity	2 WM	Yes	Pat Hester	Yes	Pat Hester

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Resource/Planning Question [Unit(s)]	Needed Data Set(s)	Data Set(s) Available? (Yes/No/Partially)	Proposed Remedy for Data Gaps	Estimated Costs (\$\$/WM)	Are FGDC Metadata Available?	Name/Source of Data Standard	Does Data Available Meet Nat'l or Reg'l Standard?	Name/Source of Potential Nat'l/Reg'l Standard
	(from annual reports by NMMNHS & other permit holders). Data needs will be ongoing.							
4. What areas contain important fossil resources that should be protected?	Above tools can be used once developed; will need ongoing up-keep & inventory (on the ground & through additions of data supplied by permit holders)	Partially	Same as for Question #3	1 WM	Yes	Pat Hester	Yes	Pat Hester
5. How does the BLM promote scientific use of fossil resources?	Same as for Question #4		Same as for Question #3	1 WM				Pat Hester
6. How does the BLM promote educational use of fossil resources?	Same as for Question #4		Same as for Question #3	1 WM				Pat Hester
7. Are there areas that should be closed to collection of invertebrates, petrified wood or other plant fossils because of special designation?	Same as for Question #4		Same as for Question #3	1 WM				Pat Hester
8. Are there threats to important fossil resources by other uses?	Same as for Question #4		Same as for Question #3	1 WM				Pat Hester
9. Are there areas that should be identified as ACECs because of significant fossil resources?	Same as for Question #4		Same as for Question #3	1 WM				Pat Hester
Recreation & Visitor Services/Special Designations								
1. Which SMAs designated in the 1986/92 RMP still meet the criteria for special designation?	GIS maps w/locations, monitoring data, site identification on the ground (needed for some)	Yes for 12 areas; don't know for 13 other areas	GIS layer w/polygons for each; field inspections/verifications; cultural & historical inventories; rural/urban planning documents	4 WM (\$30,000)		Protection Plans available for 6 SMAs	National if GIS; regional if Protection Plan is available (some EAs completed, Tent Rocks Draft RMP/EIS)	SMA criteria
2. Which SMAs designated in the 1986/92 RMP, if any, should be dropped from special management status?	Field notes & monitoring data	Partially	Same as for Item #1	1 WM (\$5,000)		Same as for Item #1, plus EA/EIS files		SMA criteria
3. Which undesignated areas, if any, in the RPFO should be considered for designation as Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs—e.g., San Ysidro, Placitas)?	Resource inventory of applicable sites, if any	Partially	Review of existing data—replace &/or add missing or obsolete data	4 WM				
4. Which areas, if any, in the RPFO should be considered for designation as Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs—e.g., Boney Canyon)?	Resource inventory or applicable sites, if any	???	Review of existing data—replace &/or add missing or obsolete data	4 WM				
5. Is there a site in the RPFO that could be designated for 500-1,000 campers?	Resource inventory or applicable sites, if any	Partially	Review of existing data—scout for field site(s)	2 WM				
6. Is there a site in the RPFO that could be designated for the Rock Crawlers group?	Resource inventory or applicable sites, if any	Partially	Review of existing data—scout for field site(s)	2 WM				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Resource/Planning Question [Unit(s)]	Needed Data Set(s)	Data Set(s) Available? (Yes/No/Partially)	Proposed Remedy for Data Gaps	Estimated Costs (\$\$/WM)	Are FGDC Metadata Available?	Name/Source of Data Standard	Does Data Available Meet Nat'l or Reg'l Standard?	Name/Source of Potential Nat'l/Reg'l Standard
Social & Economic Features								
1. What social & economic features characterize the public lands managed by the RPFO?	County economic data & internal BLM data from various systems (e.g., RAS, recreation fee intake & registration)	Partially						
2. What would be the social & economic impacts of the BLM's actions in the RPFO?	IMPLAN/FEAST analysis	No	Contract, possibly w/U.S. Forest Service Enterprise Team	???				
Soil, Water & Air								
1. What are the characteristics of soil resources in the Planning Area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil survey data (NRCS national data server, "Soil Data Mart") • BLM Rangeland Health Assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes (NRCS, spatial) • Partially (non-spatial) 		4 WM	Yes	National Cooperative Soil Survey BLM standard	Yes Yes	
2. What actions & use restrictions are needed to protect, maintain, or improve the quality of the soil resources & watershed values associated with RPFO public lands, including natural site productivity?	Reasonable Foreseeable Development from Resource Uses (e.g., energy/minerals)	Yes, during RMP Revision development		(Included in above)				
3. What are the characteristics of water resources & uses in the Planning Area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLM Water Use Inventory • BLM Riparian Assessments • BLM Rangeland Health Assessments • Other water summaries (e.g., from Regional Water Plans) • Stream gage records (USGS) • Water quality (USGS, NMED) • Water quality standards (NMED) • Adjudication areas (NMOSE) • Aquifers (NNMOSE) • Ground/surface basins (NMOSE) • Water rights/claims (NMOSE) • Watersheds, HUC 8/10/12 digit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes (non-spatial) • Yes (non-spatial) • Partially? (non-spatial) • Yes (spatial) • Yes (spatial) • Yes (spatial) • Partially (non-spatial) • Yes (spatial) 	None—will use best available data	4 WM	Yes Yes Yes Yes	BLM standard BLM standard BLM standard USGS standard USEPA standard USEPA standard NM Office of State Engineer " " NMOSE WATERS database USGS/NRCS	Yes Yes Yes Yes	

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Resource/Planning Question [Unit(s)]	Needed Data Set(s)	Data Set(s) Available? (Yes/No/Partially)	Proposed Remedy for Data Gaps	Estimated Costs (\$\$/WM)	Are FGDC Metadata Available?	Name/Source of Data Standard	Does Data Available Meet Nat'l or Reg'l Standard?	Name/Source of Potential Nat'l/Reg'l Standard
4. What actions & use restrictions are needed to protect, maintain, or improve the quality of the water resources & watershed values associated with the public lands, including surface & ground water quality, quantity, & timing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonable Foreseeable Development from Resource Uses (e.g. energy/minerals) State impaired streams 	<p>Yes, during RMP Revision development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes (spatial) 		(Included in above)	Yes	NMED	Yes	
5. What are the characteristics of air resources in the Planning Area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambient air quality information Air quality standards Summaries of climatic variables 	<p>Yes (non-spatial)</p> <p>Yes (non-spatial)</p> <p>Yes (non-spatial)</p>		\$50,000 contract		NMED, NOAA, NRCS, USEPA		
6. What actions & use restrictions are needed to protect, maintain, or improve the quality of the air resources associated with the public lands, based on anticipated uses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible modeling studies Reasonable Foreseeable Development from Resource Uses (e.g., energy/minerals) 	<p>During RMP Revision development</p> <p>"</p>						
Visual Resources Management (VRM) If new special management areas are designated, how will the VRM class be determined?	VRM overlay of RPFO in GIS	Partially	Provide topographic maps of proposed areas to GIS for digitizing	1 WM				
Wilderness Characteristics 1. Ojito Wilderness (11,183 acres designated 10/26/05). Will the RMP Revision include the wilderness plan?	GIS maps containing overlays of resource inventory	Partially	Conduct resource inventory & submit to GIS for development of overlays	3 WM				
2. State Land Exchange involving Section 16 within the Ojito Wilderness—How do we treat this section when analyzing the wilderness?	Resource data w/in the section	No	Conduct resource inventories within the section	.25 WM				
3. How does the RPFO protect wilderness characteristics when the wilderness is bordered by roads?	Completed road inventory, incl. 2-tracks	Partially	Verify present inventory; capture any roads not previously GPS'd & any new, established illegal roads	1 WM				
4. What data & management measures are needed to change VRM classification of Ojito Wilderness to Class I (it is presently Class II).	VRM data need to be digitized	Partially	Provide GIS w/ topographic maps of wilderness & WSAs for digitizing	1 WM				
5. Are RPFO WSAs to be reclassified as VRM Class I? (All are presently Class II.)	VRM data need to be digitized	Partially	Provide GIS w/changes for digitizing	1 WM				
6. What is the management direction for current WSAs if they are released from wilderness consideration by the Congress?	Resource data found in the Wilderness Analysis Reports (WARs) should be verified	Partially	Refer to Column 2—WARs were published before GIS capabilities were developed	3 WM				
7. Have seasonal opening & closing dates of the IC Grant SMA become too rigid for the purpose for which they are used?	Various resource considerations	Partially	Complete resource overlays of the IC Grant SMA	.25 WM				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Resource/Planning Question [Unit(s)]	Needed Data Set(s)	Data Set(s) Available? (Yes/No/Partially)	Proposed Remedy for Data Gaps	Estimated Costs (\$\$/WM)	Are FGDC Metadata Available?	Name/Source of Data Standard	Does Data Available Meet Nat'l or Reg'l Standard?	Name/Source of Potential Nat'l/Reg'l Standard
8. Should BLM Road 1103 be resurfaced as an all-weather road (when funding is available)?	Engineering standards	No	Engineering design	10 WM				

Notes:

1. **Planning Question**—The question or issue with a data requirement. (Prep.-Plan Question/Issue from IM 2001-038).
2. **Needed Data Set(s)**—The specific data needed to address the Planning Question.
3. **Availability of Data Sets**—Is there existing data or new data yet to be collected or acquired?
4. **Proposed Remedy for Data Gaps**—If new data, describe how the data will be obtained. If existing data will be converted to GIS or some other format, describe Processing.
5. **Estimated Costs**—Summary of costs (in dollars per workmonth) associated with collecting or converting required data.
6. **Availability of FGDC Metadata**—Does metadata exist that is in compliance with the FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee) Geo-Spatial Metadata Content Standard?
7. **Name/Source of Data Standard**—What is or will be the name/source of the data standard? What kind of standard is it: has it been designated by BLM at the National, State, Regional, Local level? If the data does not meet a national or regional standard, be sure to document the standard being used. If the data does not meet any standard, indicate that.
8. **Does Data Meet National or Regional Standard?**—If there is a national or regional standard, does/will the data meet that standard? (Verify with data steward)
9. **Name/Source of Potential National or Regional Standard**—If there is a national or regional data standard in general use that is not being used in your plan, & you believe it would be & appropriate standard to work toward, list it.
10. **Abbreviations:** ACEC—Area of Critical Environmental Concern; ADO—Albuquerque District Office; ARMS—Archaeological Records Management System; GIS—Geographic Information Systems; GPS—Geographic Positioning System; HUC--???; IC Grant—Ignacio Chavez Grant; MOU—Memorandum of Understanding; NCA—National Conservation Area; NLCS—National Land Conservation System; NMED—New Mexico Environment Dept.; NMMNHS—New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science; NMOSE—New Mexico Office of the State Engineer; NOAA—National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration; NRCS—Natural Resources Conservation Service; OHV—off-highway vehicle; PEIS—Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (refers to the BLM's Final Programmatic EIS on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Land in the Western United States); RAS—Rangeland Accounting System; RFD—Reasonable & Foreseeable Development; RMP—Resource Management Plan; RPFO—Rio Puerco Field Office; SMA—Special Management Area; USEPA—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; USFS—U.S. Forest Service; USGS—U.S. Geological Survey; VRM—Visual Resources Management; WAR—Wilderness Analysis Report; WM—workmonth; WSA—Wilderness Study Area.