

Chapter 4. Data Summary

4.1. Data Summary

Geographical Information System (GIS) maps are the building blocks to quantify resources and display information during alternative formulation. Existing and available resource information will be used in formulating resource objectives and management alternatives. Additionally, the data will be used as the basis for analyzing unresolved conflicts. 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 will be compiled and entered into GIS. Information already in a digital format must meet the same standards required for newly entered data. Assumptions for developing the geospatial database are identified. For more information on the geospatial database and development, GIS applications, and data standards refer to the Rio Puerco Field Office Preparation Plan March 2008, which is available upon request and online at www.blm.gov/nm.

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 locating all the data, compiling it into a single file structure, converting data to accepted and established standards, and creating a seamless dataset. BLM staff from other offices or contractors will be used for this task with support from the RPFO.

Resource specialist identified the following general GIS status and needs :

- 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 as 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.