

4.14 NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST ASSETS

Land use decisions for trust lands must be approved of by the federal government and be in accordance with laws and regulations. Separate federal statutes govern each kind of trust lease, including oil and gas exploration (Pevar 2002). Under their trust responsibilities, the federal government must protect the native land base it has been entrusted with and the ability of tribes to continue their ways of life, essentially acting as a guardian to those tribal resources. Federal officials are required to execute such trust duties and the courts are required to consider their actions.

Proposed Action**Direct Impacts**

Since no Native American trust assets are within the project area, no impacts on these resources are expected as a result of the proposed action.

Indirect Impacts Based on a Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario

Based on the reasonably foreseeable development scenario and the lack of Native American trust assets within the region, the likelihood of impacts on trust assets is low.

Subsequent NEPA analysis would determine the actual impact to Native American trust assets.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no construction would take place, and there would be no adverse impacts on trust assets in the project area.