RAC Field Trip Agenda

January 30, 2018

8:00 a.m. Leave LCDO to the northern Potrillo Mountains

8:30 a.m. Stop 1 – Aden Hills OHV Area (*Marten Schmitz*) and Mesquite Vegetation Treatment Area (*Jesarey Barela*)

9:45 a.m. *Restroom Break*

10:15 a.m. Stop 2 – World War II Bombing Target (*Bill Childress*) and Creosote Vegetation Treatment Area (*Steve Torrez, Lane Hauser*)

11:15 p.m. *Restroom Break*

11:45 p.m. Stop 3 - Aden Crater (*Colin Dunn*) and Lunch

2:00 p.m. Stop 4 – Afton Solar Energy Zone (*Anthony Hom*)

4:30 p.m. Return to LCDO

RAC Tour Jan 2018

NORTH

0 1 2 Miles

BLM GIS
Las Cruces District Office

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Universal Transverse Mercator
Zone 13, Units Meters
GRS 1980 Spheroid
NAD83 Datum

1 Aden Hills OHV Area

2 WW II Bombing Target

3 Aden Crater

4 Afton SEZ

Providence Cone

Potrillo Mountains

Kilbourne Hole

Rio Grande River

Mesilla

Mesilla Park

Las Cruces

Anthony

Santa Teresa

Tour Location Area

COUNTY ROAD C-001

GECKO

COUNTY ROAD B-005

COUNTY ROAD B-006

COUNTY ROAD B-004

COUNTY ROAD B-003

COUNTY ROAD B-007

COUNTY ROAD B-009

COUNTY ROAD A-019

COUNTY ROAD A-013

COUNTY ROAD A-011

COUNTY ROAD A-007

COUNTY ROAD A-005

COUNTY ROAD A-015

Armijo

S Afton

DOUGLAS MUNRO

AFTON

W Potrillo

E Potrillo Road

Burner

- Aden Hills OHV Routes
- RAC_route
- Aden Hills OHV Area
- Afton SEZ PEIS
- Veg Treatment
- Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument
- Wilderness Study Area

Surface Ownership

- BLM
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Private
- State
- State Park

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Aden Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area

Fact Sheet— Las Cruces District Office, New Mexico

The Aden Hills Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area encompasses approximately 8,700 acres of Chihuahuan Desert scrub environment (elevation 4,500 feet) characterized by low mesquite or creosote-stabilized coppice dunes and a variety of dropseed grasses, yucca, and cacti. The Area was designated in 1993 as a place where off-road/cross-country travel would be allowed.

The Aden Hills OHV Area is approximately 20 miles southwest of Las Cruces. To get to the Aden Hills OHV Area from Las Cruces, follow I-25 west to the Corralitos Exit (MM 127), then travel west approximately 3 miles on Robert Larson Blvd. (southern frontage road), turning south on County Road B-005. Follow the County Road for approximately 5 miles, and look for the sign on the east side of the road, just south of a cattle guard.

The Area is used up to twice per year for an organized motorcycle race, which is the BLM approves through a special recreation permit. The Area is also a venue for periodic ATV/UTV training provided by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Aden Hills OHV area is open year around and no reservations are needed.

OHV Users Must Have:

- NM OHV Permit
- Spark arrester
- Noise limit 96 db
- Youth (under 18) helmet

Other uses: Hiking, biking, horses, camping.

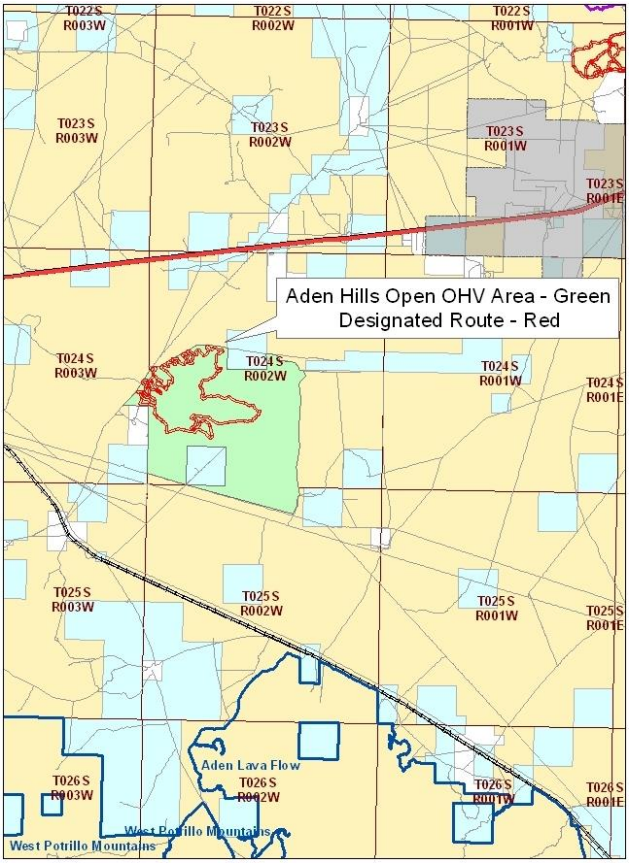

Figure 2. General location map for Aden Hills OHV area.

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West Potrillos Grassland Restoration Treatment

Fact Sheet— Las Cruces District Office, New Mexico

In December 2010, the Las Cruces District Office conducted an herbicide application on over 26,000 acres of historic Chihuahuan desert grasslands that had, over several decades, become encroached by creosote and mesquite brush. The grassland restoration treatment (GRT) was the culmination of several years of planning and coordinating with a diverse group of partners that included sportsmen, ranchers, biologists, conservationists, and land managers.

The objective of the West Potrillos GRT was to return plant composition, distribution, and abundance within vegetative communities targeted for treatment to within the natural range of variability for the ecological sites that occur within the project area.

The treatment area was designed using state and transition models developed by the USDA Agricultural Research Station, Jornada Experimental Range to locate areas that had transitioned from grassland to a shrub invaded state. Resource specialists then ground verified the models and finalized the treatment area.

West Potrillos Grassland Restoration: 26,652 acres

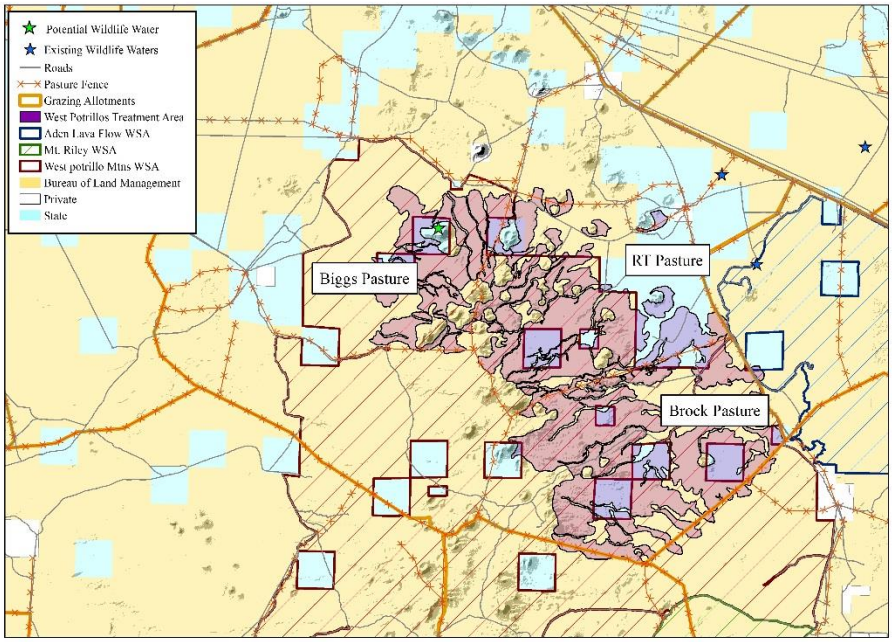

Figure 2. Aerial application of herbicide on West Potrillos GRT

Once the treatment was designed, tebuthiuron pellets were dropped using a small fixed wing airplane at a rate of ½ lb. active ingredient per acre. The clay pellets are designed to dissolve with rain water subsequently releasing the herbicide into the ground where the roots of the creosote will take it up and ultimately be killed.

The grazing permittee (Williams Ranches LLC) agreed to remove cattle grazing for two growing seasons following the treatment to allow the perennial grasses to establish without grazing pressure.

Monitoring of wildlife and vegetative responses to the treatment has occurred regularly since the completion of the treatments.

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Bureau of Land Management

West Potrillos Wildlife Waters

Fact Sheet— Las Cruces District Office, New Mexico

The purpose of the project is to implement a collaborative approach to improve distribution and enhance the long term viability of the mule deer population within the West Potrillo Mountains project area by increasing the availability of yearlong waters.

Based on the Southwest Desert Mule Deer Habitat Guidelines (Heffelfinger et al. 2006), optimal water spacing to account for mule deer needs during dry periods is one per mile (one water per 0.785 square miles). The minimum recommended spacing is one per three miles (one water per 7.0 square miles).

Partners for this project include New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), New Mexico Quail, Inc., Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), New Mexico State Land Office (SLO), Doña Ana Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD), New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD), and Williams Family Ranches, LLC.,

Construction of these wildlife waters is currently taking place and should be finished by February or March.

Wildlife Waters in order from north to south

Lost Mill Guzzler

South Cinder Guzzler

Sweetwater X7 Guzzler

North Johnson Guzzler

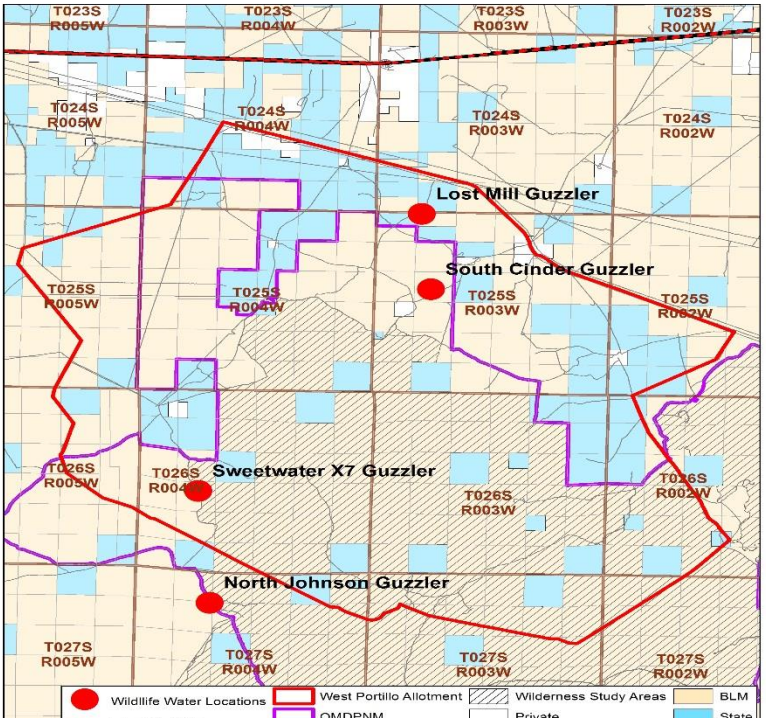

Figure 2. Locations of wildlife waters in the Potrillo Mountains.

U.S. Department of the Interior
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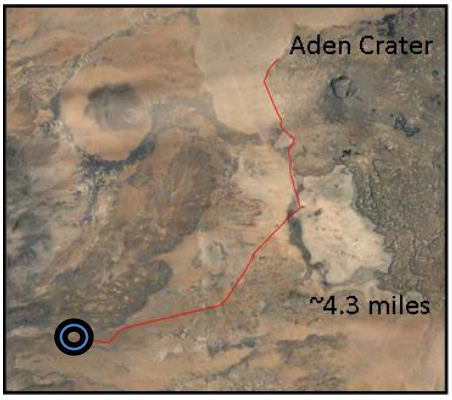
World War II Bombing Target

Fact Sheet—Las Cruces District Office, New Mexico

Geoglyphs, sometimes called intaglios or giant effigies, are large figures constructed through the removal of surface rocks, soil or vegetation to reveal lighter underlying earth. Sometimes stones and earth may be heaped together to construct the image and the figures are often so large they are only recognizable when viewed from the sky. The New Mexico figures were constructed as targets on precision bombing ranges attached to Army Air Corps training fields located at Albuquerque, Clovis, Deming, Carlsbad, Hobbs, and Roswell, New Mexico.



- 24 Targets Constructed in 1942
- Contract value $45K, Delivery in 50 days
- Over 40,000 drops/month from 1942 – 1945 (one per minute, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year)
- Dummy bombs weighed 100 pounds
- Airmen Trained to use Secret "Norden Bombsight"

Figure 2. Aerial view of target.

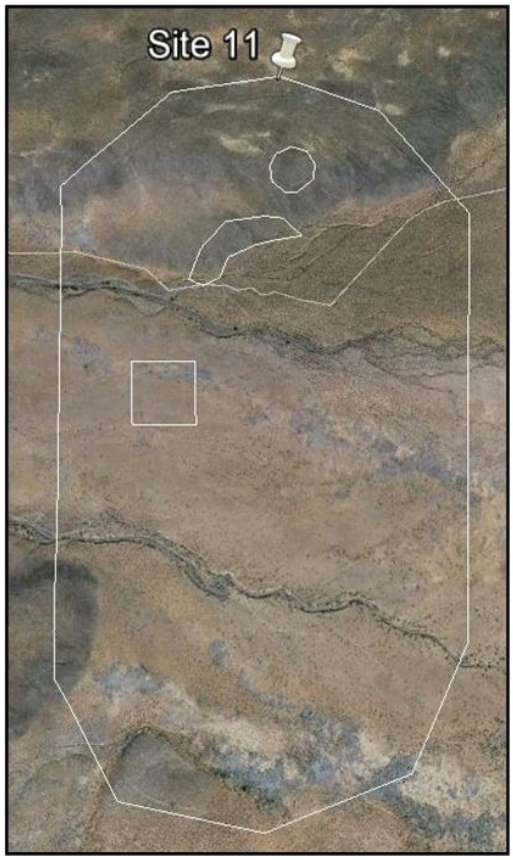


Figure 3. Target Site 11 is the only target site in the Potrillos with features observable on the ground.

Sources:

1. https://productforums.google.com/forum/#!msg/gec-military-moderated/uDhvEj-Duv8/CZpTXiXE1QwJ
2. Steve Ramirez, sramirez@lcsun-news.com, 06/05/2013
3. https://www.nmwild.org/news/743-wwii-bombardier-revisits-nm-bomb-targets.

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Corralitos Southwest Grassland Restoration

Fact Sheet— Las Cruces District Office, New Mexico

The treatment of mesquite invaded rangeland would help reduce mesquite cover, helping invaded areas transition back toward a grassland state, which would improve vegetation communities through enhanced production of herbaceous plant species including grasses and forbs. An increase in herbaceous plant cover would yield benefits to watershed heath through enhanced infiltration of precipitation thereby reducing runoff and soil erosion due to surface runoff.

Figure 1. Aerial application of herbicide for grassland restoration.

Approximately 7,211 acres of mesquite treatment was completed on BLM and State Trust Lands.

Herbicides used was Sendero and Remedy Ultra at a rate of 28 fl oz and 8 fl oz of formulated product per acre.

Treatment took place on 6/8/2017-6/10/2017

Time for treatment occurred at 5:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Temperature was 66^{0}F – 85^{0}F

Wind Speeds were ~1 - 2mph.

Livestock shall be removed from pastures to be treated prior to herbicide application, and the treated pastures shall be completely deferred from livestock grazing from June 1 through October 31 for a minimum of 3 growing seasons following treatment. Rest will be extended longer than 3 years if precipitation is inadequate to allow recovery during the first 3 growing seasons.

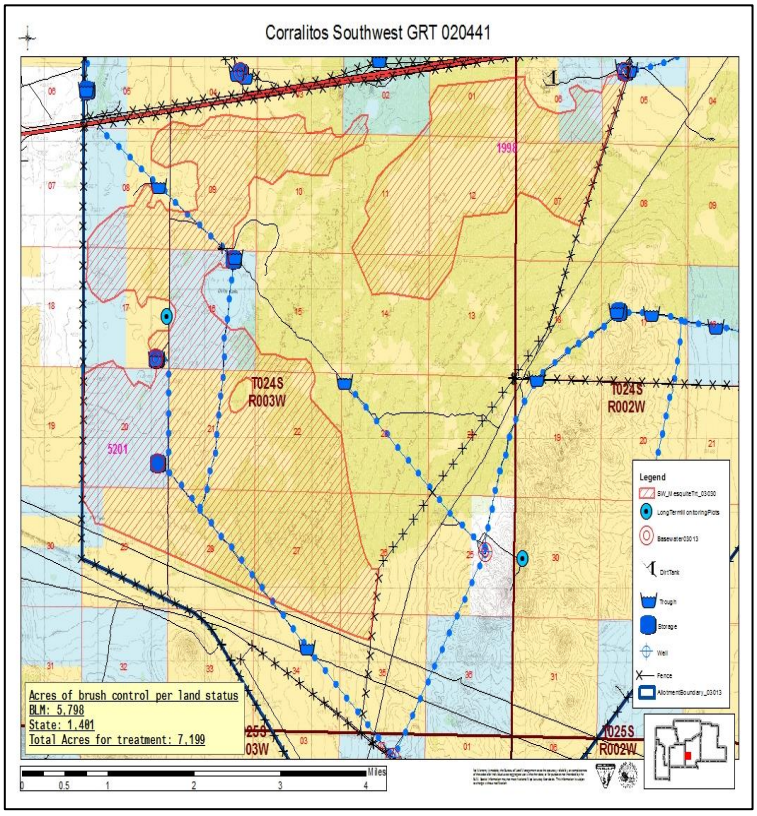

Figure 2. Location map of grassland restoration project.

Aden Crater

Fact Sheet—Las Cruces District Office, New Mexico

Aden Crater is a small shield volcano located southwest of Las Cruces, NM and Northwest of El Paso, TX. It lies on the western edge of the Aden Lava Flow, which covers approximately 30 square miles (Hoffer, 1976). The formation of the crater is related to the East Robledo Fault, which curves north and east of Aden, ultimately forming the eastern flanks of the Robledo Mountains and terminating near Radium Springs, NM (Seager, 2008). The fault provided magma a conduit to the surface, which erupted in alternating gentle and explosive episodes 24,000 to 20,000 years ago (Hoffer et al 1998).

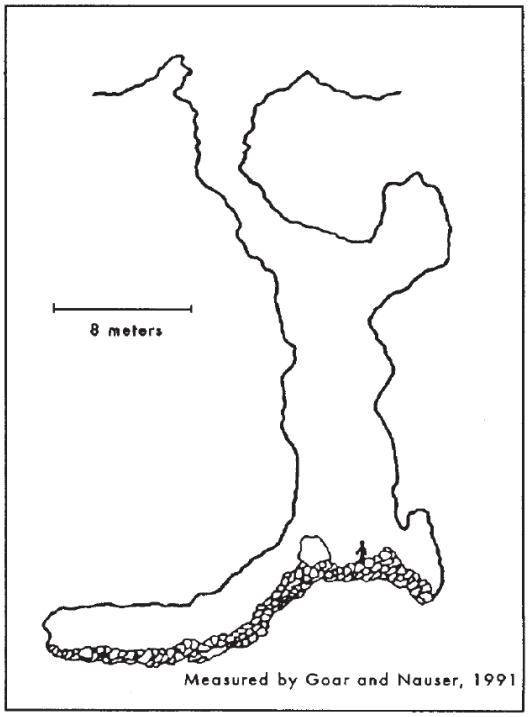

Figure 1: Aden fumarole cross-section

Emanating from a central vent, gentle flows built up slowly and formed the gentle slopes of the shield volcano. A period of more explosive eruptions ensued, splattering lava out which formed the circular rim of the crater. Another gentle flow followed, which was dammed by the crater rim, forming a lava lake. Evidence of this period can be observed in the crater, along the eastern wall, where horizontal layers are seen. The central splatter cone in the crater was formed after this lava lake period. When the magma withdrew from the central vent, it cause the large collapse observed on the southern internal edge of the crater. Finally, a volcanic fumarole, or vent, formed on the southeast edge of the crater. (Hoffer, 1975)

Figure 2: Aden Crater Shasta Ground Sloth

This fumarole (figure 1) is the site of an important paleontological find: the partially mummified remains of the extinct Shasta Ground Sloth (*Nothrotherium shastense*) (figure 2). It is thought that the sloth blundered into the hole and tumbled down the approximately 100 feet to the bottom, where it was unable to escape (Lull, 1929). It was discovered in 1928 and extracted by Yale scientists, where it still resides. Later testing of the skin material and associated coprolites (fossil dung) dated the sloth to about 11,000 y.b.p. (Simons and Alexander, 1964).

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Afton Solar Energy Zone

Fact Sheet—Las Cruces District Office, New Mexico

The BLM established the Afton Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) with issue of the 2012 Record of Decision for the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Solar PEIS). The SEZ is nearly 30,000 acres in southern New Mexico designated by the BLM for solar energy development. Through the Solar PEIS, the BLM has committed to establishing a SEZ regional mitigation strategy to identify potential impacts of solar development in the SEZ and identify mitigation measures. The SRMS process builds upon the Solar PEIS to further understand unavoidable impacts and determine whether regional compensatory mitigation may be warranted through public and stakeholder input.

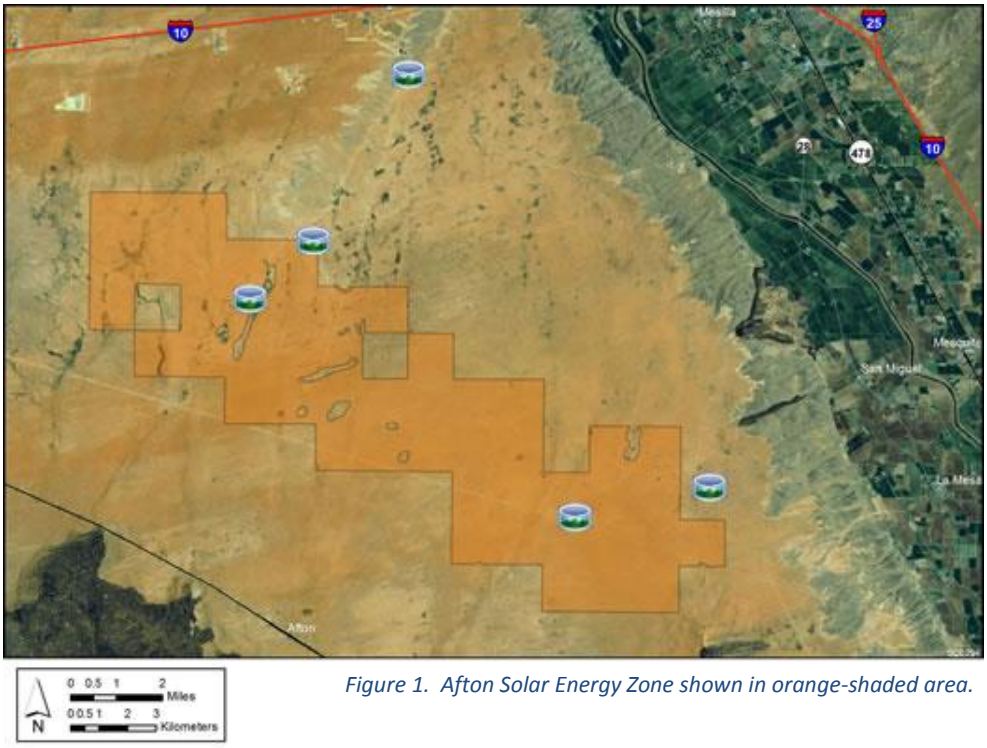


Figure 1. Afton Solar Energy Zone shown in orange-shaded area.

The Afton SEZ is located in Doña Ana County, 21 miles north of the border of with Mexico. The SEZ is located in the West Mesa of the Mesilla Basin bordered on the north by the Rough and Ready Hills and the Robledo Mountains; on the west by Sleeping Lady Hills, Aden Hills, and West Potrillo Mountains; on the east by Mesilla Valley.

Las Cruces is the largest town within a 5-mile radius of the SEZ.

The land within the SEZ is undeveloped scrubland characteristic of a semiarid basin. Vegetation within the SEZ is predominately creosotebush, mesquite, and other low shrubs.

Additional information: http://blmsolar.anl.gov/sez/nm/regional-mitigation/

AGENDA

BLM Las Cruces District
Resource Advisory Council Meeting
January 31, 2018

9:00 a.m.	**Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions** Tony Popp, RAC Chair
9:05 a.m.	**Opening Remarks and Major Project Updates** Bill Childress, Las Cruces District Manager
9:20 a.m.	**Tri-County Supplemental Resource Management Plan (RMP)** Jennifer Montoya, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
10:30 a.m.	**BREAK**
10:45 a.m.	**Update on land use planning process in the Las Cruces District Office** Mara Weisenberger, Monument Planning and Environmental Coordinator
11:00 a.m.	**Public Comment Period**
11:30 p.m.	**RAC Introduced Topics/Discussion** RAC Members
11:45 p.m.	**Future RAC Meeting Dates and Topics** RAC Members
12:00 p.m.	**Adjourn Meeting**

SUMMARY MINUTES
LAS CRUCES DISTRICT RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 31, 2018
Las Cruces, NM

RAC Members Present:

Tony Popp
Jim Hyatt
John Cornell
Randy Gray
Maxine Levy
Tio Holguin
Michael Quintana

Federal Official:

Bill Childress, District Manager

RAC Members Absent:

Kim Pettit
Howard Bartoo
Vacant, Elected Official

Public:

Tom Phillips
Richard Courtney
Jerry Schickedanz
Rene Romo, Senator Tom Udall's Office
Elva Osterreich, Reporter, Las Cruces Bulletin

BLM Staff/Meeting Support:

Mara Weisenberger, Monument Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Scribe:

Deborah Stevens, Public Affairs Specialist

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OPENING STATEMENTS

The meeting was called to order by Tony Popp, Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Chairman at 9:00 a.m. He asked the RAC members, BLM staff and the public in attendance to introduce themselves.

Popp thanked the RAC members for attending the field trip and the half-day meeting. He also thanked the BLM staff for planning and executing an excellent field trip to the Portillo Mountains in the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

The field trip toured the Portillo Mountains and covered several multiple-use programs and topics including: Aden Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area (Recreation); World War II Bombing Target and Aden Crater (Cultural); Mesquite and Creosote Vegetation Treatments (Restore NM); and the Afton Solar Energy Zone (Energy).

Along with the BLM staff, five RAC members and three members of the public attended the field trip.

Handouts were provided for each stop on the field trip:

- RAC Field Trip Agenda
- RAC Field Trip Map
- Aden Hills OHV Area
- West Potrillos Grassland Restoration Treatment
- Corralitos Southwest Grassland Restoration
- Aden Crater
- Afton Solar Energy Zone

Presentations

Opening Remarks and Major Project Updates – William Childress

BLM Las Cruces District Manager Bill Childress briefed the RAC and public on the following topics:

- **Secretarial Order to streamline the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** process, including the 1) Simple Environmental Assessment – allowing for 2 months completion and 25 page document; and 2) Complex Environmental Impact Statement – allowing for 5 month completion and 50 page document. The Department of the Interior is working on instruction memoranda to layout the process for issue-based NEPA as identified by the Council on Environmental Quality.

- Question from RAC: Who determines NEPA level – simple or complex? Answer from DFO: BLM does, explaining a simple EA can move from a simple to complex EA or EIS. BLM's position is there will be no skimping on environmental analysis or review. DFO added the staff has good ideas to improve the process. DFO further noted it will be difficult to complete EIS-level NEPA in a year.

- **El Paso Electric Right-of-Ways (ROW) Applications**: The ROWs include Amerit to Artesia, Arizona Interconnection Project (AIP) and the Talavera Substation Project. Each Row is at different phases of the NEPA process. For the Amerit to Artesia, the final environmental assessment (EA) has been completed and a decision has been issued. The same is true for the AIP. However, grant offers are still being finalized for both Amerit to Artesia and AIP.

  El Paso Electric Substation (Dona Ana County) – The BLM is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) on right-of-way (ROW) applications submitted by El Paso Electric (EPE) to add an additional permanent substation to the electrical grid and provide maintenance of 10.4 miles of existing distribution lines. The ROWs are on BLM-administered public lands and will support the growing need for energy in the city of Las Cruces and surrounding southern New Mexico communities. Public scoping for the EA began on July 17, with a meeting at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

  The EA will analyze six alternatives for locating the permanent substation and line maintenance, including EPE's proposed site, which is adjacent to an existing substation located off Dripping Springs Road in the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. The additional five alternatives are based on public feedback provided during the initial BLM scoping period in March 2017.

  A final EA will be issued in March or April 2018, with a 30-day public comment period. During that time, the BLM will also conduct a public meeting to cover the alternatives analyzed for the proposed Talavera Substation ROW.

- **Grazing permit renewals:** The BLM Las Cruces rangeland management staff are currently processing 66 permits.

- **Afton Solar Energy Zone Regional Mitigation Strategy (Dona Ana County):** Comprised of 29,964 acres of public land, the Afton Solar Energy Zone is located south of the West Mesa Industrial Park and north of the Afton Generating Station in Doña Ana County. It was one of 17 solar energy zones identified in the Solar Development Programmatic Environment Impact Statement prepared by the Department of Energy and the BLM in July 2012. The SEZ is an area well-suited for utility-scale production of solar energy, where the BLM will prioritize solar energy and associated transmission infrastructure development.

  On Sept. 7, 2017, the BLM Las Cruces District hosted a public workshop to provide an update on the development of the Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Afton Solar Energy Zone in southern New Mexico. The workshop was held at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd.

  The workshop focused on three main areas: 1) the SRMS progress to date on the residual impacts and impacts warranting mitigation, and goals/objectives, 2) candidate regional mitigation site locations and actions nominated for consideration, and 3) an open forum for discussion and soliciting thoughts on evaluating candidate mitigation sites.

- **SunZia Southwest Transmission Project (Lincoln, Socorro, Dona Ana and Pinal counties):** The SunZia Transmission, LLC proposes to construct, operate and maintain two parallel overhead 500-kilovolt transmission lines on Federal, State and private lands, extending from the proposed SunZia East Substation in Lincoln County, NM to the existing Pinal Central Substation in Pinal County, AZ. If approved, the length of the transmission lines would range from 460 miles to more than 500 miles, depending on which of the analyzed route alignment alternatives is selected. The project has the potential to add 3,000 to 4,500 megawatts of electric capacity to the desert southwest region of the U.S., increasing energy security for the Nation by providing access to currently stranded renewable energy resources in eastern NM.

- **Southline Transmission Project (Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo counties):** A 367-mile, 345-kV electric transmission line, Southline runs from southern New Mexico to southern Arizona. The approved route crosses 100 miles of public land administered by the BLM, with the remainder located on land

administered by other agencies and state and private land. The approved route originates at the Afton Substation, south of Las Cruces, NM, and terminates at the Saguaro Substation, north of Tucson, AZ. The BLM Record of Decision was signed on May 6, 2016. In addition, the BLM Las Cruces District issued the Rights-of-Way Grant on August 22, 2016. Currently, the proponent, Southline Transmission LLC, is getting the required permits and designing the final transmission line. The next BLM milestone will be to issue a Notice to Proceed to construct the transmission line.

- **American Magnesium, LLC Mining (Luna County):** American Magnesium, LLC (AMG) proposes to develop a 40-acre dolomite mine to be located on public lands administered by the BLM in southwestern New Mexico. The mining activities are anticipated to employ up to 10 employees. The estimated operational life required to recover the minerals is 30 years. The BLM has received letters from the public in support and in opposition to the proposed project. The BLM determined that AMG's original Plan of Operations was incomplete. In July, AMG submitted a revised Plan of Operations to the BLM and New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. On Dec. 8, 2017, the BLM sent a formal letter to American Magnesium, identifying deficiencies in the amended MPO. As a follow up to the Dec. 8 letter, the BLM Las Cruces District and AMG representatives will meet on Feb. 7, to discuss the MPO deficiencies and get their feedback.

- **Copper Flat Copper Mining Project (Sierra County):** In June 2012, the New Mexico Copper Corporation submitted a proposed mining plan of operation (MPO) to BLM. The MPO proposed reestablishment of the Copper Flat Copper Mine, a poly-metallic mine and processing facility, located near Hillsboro, New Mexico. The mine would produce copper, gold, silver, and molybdenum. The MPO is based on the plan of development the Quintana Mineral Corporation used in its 1982 mining operation of Copper Flat. The proposed MPO includes upgrades and modifications based on current engineering designs and regulations and were intentionally developed to re-use the existing foundations, production wells, and water pipeline that were employed by the Quintana operation.

  The BLM Las Cruces District released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Copper Flat Copper Mine Project on Nov. 23, 2015. Since its release, the BLM conducted two public meetings and opened the

public comment period for a total of 120 days. Subsequently, the BLM conducted the comment analysis and determined all public comments are addressed within the range of alternatives and scope of analysis of the Draft EIS. Therefore, the BLM Las Cruces District will be moving forward with a Final EIS and will not initiate a Supplemental Draft EIS on the Project. The BLM Las Cruces District anticipates receiving a preliminary draft of the Final EIS for review from the third-party contractor as early as the week of Feb. 5, 2018.

However, the timeline for the Final EIS and a Record of Decision is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2018, but is subject to the review and approval of the Biological Assessment by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Tri-County Supplemental Resource Management Plan (RMP) – William Childress, District Manager for Jennifer Montoya, District Planning and Environmental Coordinator

- **Tri-County RMP/EIS (Dona Ana, Otero and Sierra counties):** The BLM published a Draft RMP/EIS on April 12, 2013. The Draft RMP/EIS did not propose decisions relating to fluid minerals. Based on public comments received, BLM initiated a Supplemental Draft EIS on December 19, 2013, to develop allocations and management actions for fluid minerals and to re-evaluate potential lands with wilderness characteristics. The planning area includes approximately 9.3 million acres, of which 2.8 million surface acres and 3.98 million subsurface acres are administered by BLM. The major issues include recreation, lands and realty and special designations. The Supplemental EIS is expected to be released early 2018. Ultimately, the Supplemental and the 2013 draft RMP/EIS will be combined in the Proposed RMP/FEIS.

  Handout provided to the RAC with an updated planning schedule.

Update on land use planning process in the Las Cruces District Office – Mara Weisenberger, Monument Planning and Environmental Coordinator

- The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument was established in 2014 to protect significant prehistoric, historic, geological, and biological resources of scientific interest in the Organ Mountains, Desert Peaks,

Potrillo Mountains and Dona Ana Mountains of southern New Mexico. The Monument contains 496,330 acres managed by the BLM. The Presidential Proclamation calls for the BLM to develop a RMP/EIS.

To date, the BLM Las Cruces District has conducted some planning pre-scoping meetings and resource inventories. Currently, the BLM is finalizing the Assessment of the Management Situation report, before any planning begins.

Handout provided to the RAC with some highlights on the Monument NEPA process.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments offered to the RAC. However, there was one question from the public (Jerry Schickedanz) asking BLM staff the status of the 2017 nomination for the RAC elected official position. The DFO said that the District nominations went forward in to the BLM New Mexico State Office and from there they were forwarded to BLM WO and the Department of the Interior for Secretarial review and approval. However, no action has been taken by DOI.

RAC Introduced Topics/Discussion – RAC Members

There were no new topics introduced or discussed by the RAC.

Future RAC Meeting Dates and Topics – RAC Members

The RAC Chairman requested the BLM staff to send a Doodle Calendar Poll to assess the RAC members' availability for a possible April 2018 RAC meeting. However, BLM staff pointed out that three more RAC terms are ending on March 9, 2018. This situation, along with the Elected Official vacancy, would be problematic to have a quorum for the next couple of meetings.

The DFO and RAC Chairman will discuss the strategy to move forward with future meetings.

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

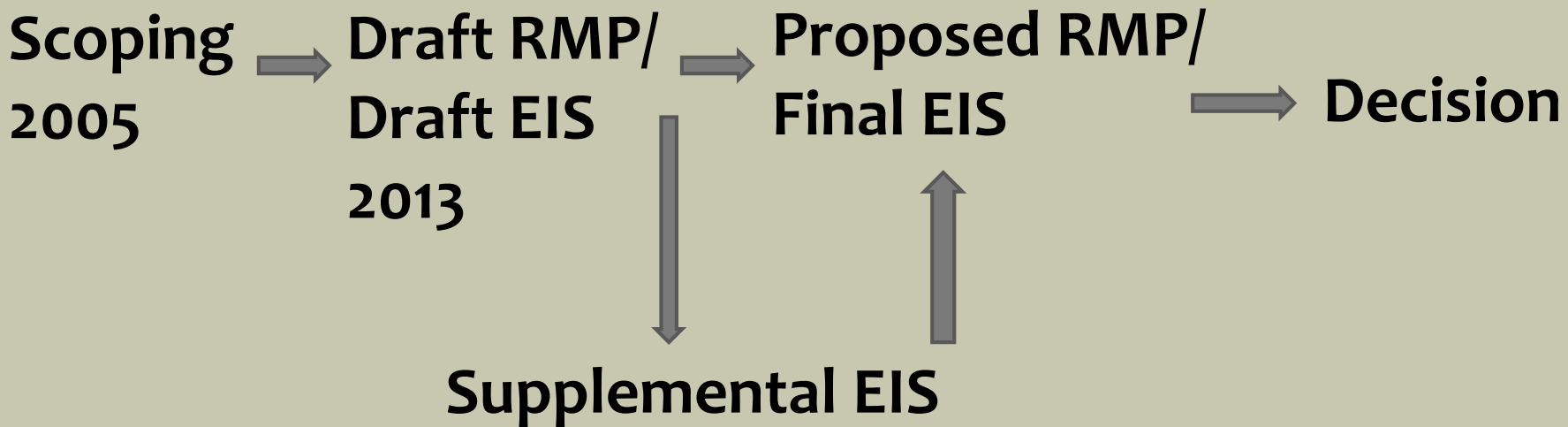
BLM New Mexico Las Cruces District

TRICOUNTY

Draft Supplemental Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement

January 2018- Status Update to RAC

PLANNING WORKFLOW



- Revise White Sands RMP (1986)
- Amend the Mimbres RMP (1993)

RECENT SUPPLEMENTAL EIS ACTIVITIES

- Revised Maps and Data with Removal of OMDPNM
- Updating the SocioEconomic Sections
- Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Completed
- Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Alternatives Developed
- Oil and Gas Leasing Alternatives Developed

Schedule for TriCounty RMP	
Activity	**Completed By**
Write Supplemental EIS Chapters	Summer 2018
Cooperating Agency Review	Summer 2018
Supplemental Draft EIS to Public Public Comment Period– 90 days	Fall 2018
Prepare Proposed RMP/Final EIS	Winter 2019
Cooperating Agency Review of Final	Winter 2019
Final EIS to Public	Spring 2019
Signed Record of Decision	Summer 2019

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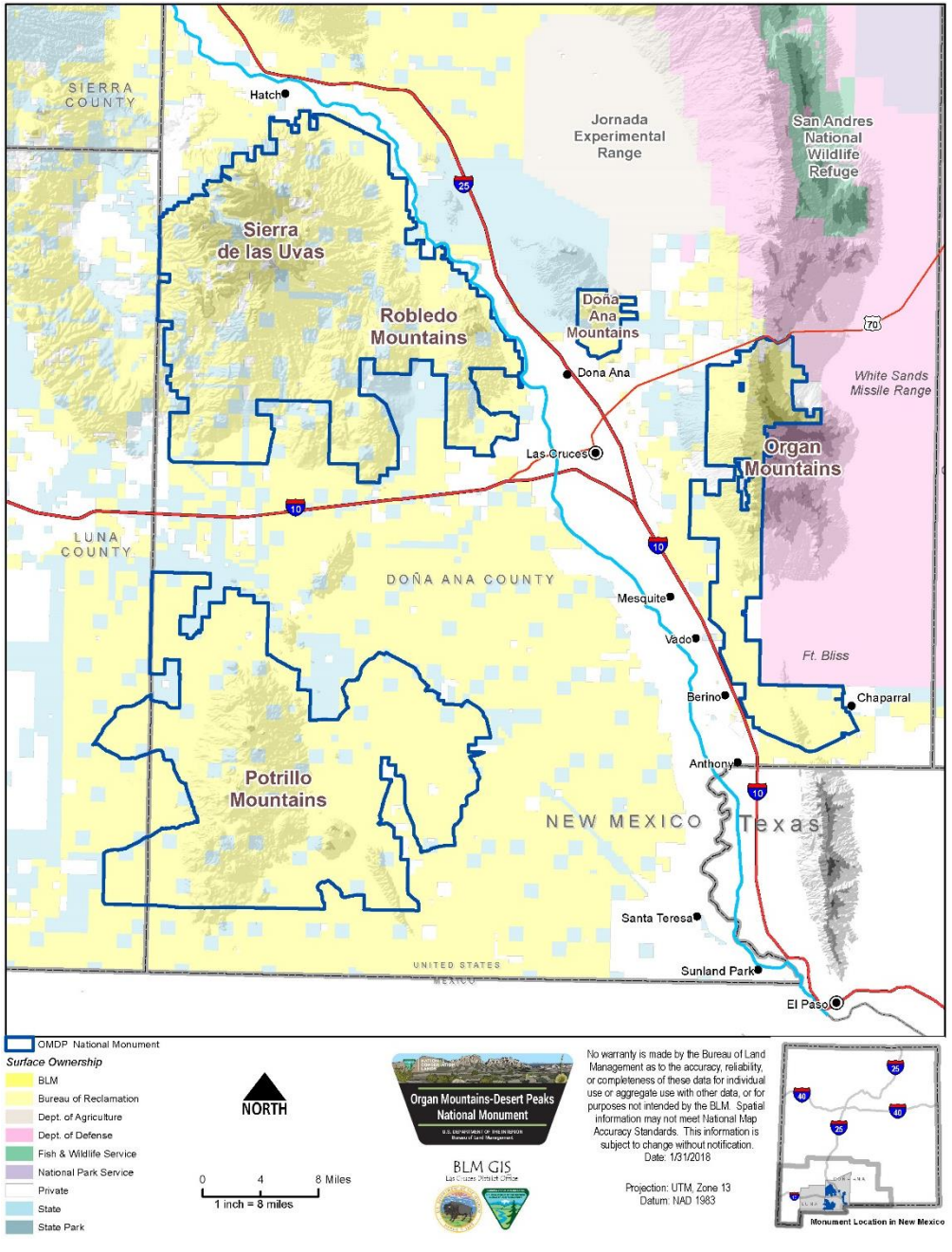
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

Resource Management Plan Update for RAC Meeting, 31 January 2018

West Potrillo Mountains

Background

- Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument designated May 21, 2014
- Established to "*preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans*."
- Includes four units: the Organ Mountains, Doña Ana Mountains, Sierra del Las Uvas/Robledo Mountains, and Potrillo Mountains.
- 496,529 acres of BLM administered rugged mountain land across Doña Ana County with a small portion in eastern Luna County



Timeline for Planning Process

Process Milestones		Public Involvement
Preparation Plan Development Pre-Scoping (Focus Groups & Surveys)	2016-2017	Public Outreach and Events Focus Group Meetings with the Public
Analysis of the Management Situation Development Inventory and Monitoring Projects Pre-Scoping (Focus Groups & Surveys)	2017	Onsite Trail and Online Visitor Surveys Focus Group Meetings with the Public
Analysis of the Mgmt. Situation Completion Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Public Scoping	2018	We are here! Analysis of the Mgmt. Situation to ePlanning Notice published to Federal Register 60-day Scoping Period Public Meetings and Workshops
Preliminary Alternatives Development Public Review of Alternatives Prepare Draft RMP/EIS	2019	30-day Public Review of Alternatives Alternatives Workshops
Notice of Availability of Draft RMP/EIS Public Comment Period Prepare Proposed RMP/ Final EIS	2020	Notice published to Federal Register 60-day Public Comment Period Public Meetings
Notice of Availability - Proposed RMP/Final EIS Protest Period Record of Decision and Approved RMP Notice of Availability of Record of Decision	2021	Notice published to Federal Register 30-day Protest Period Notice published to Federal Register RMP Available to the Public

Timeline for green text milestones and public involvement is TBD

Inventory and Monitoring Projects

Partner	Project
New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts/New Mexico State University	***Inventory and Synthesis of Monument Emphasis Species:*** Phase I of this project will mine information for an inventory of plants and animals (vertebrate and invertebrate) associated with OMDPNM, provide recommendations for MES, and provide a synthesis of the data compiled. Based on the needs identified in Phase I, Phase II will 1) implement additional floral or faunal field surveys for MES, 2) develop GIS maps for MES species, and 3) develop a tabular matrix of habitat associations for MES and associated management strategies.
New Mexico State University Assistance Agreement	***Resource Management Planning Support for Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Prehistoric Trackways National Monuments***: Provide support for OMDPNM and PTNM management activities with the objectives 1) to utilize the knowledge and expertise of a partner; 2) to provide opportunities for collaboration with the BLM in support of planning, developing, conducting, identifying data needs, data collection and analysis, projects and activities to be accomplished for the benefit of education and studies; 3) while contributing to the management of the National Monuments resources. Subject matters include cultural, geological, paleontological, vegetative resources with a related collective GIS geodatabase.




Inventory and Monitoring Projects

Partner	Project
Environmental Planning Group	***Visual Resource Inventory Rrefined for Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument***: This project will provide the Las Cruces District Office with an inventory of the scenic values within the inventory area of the OMDPNM. These values can then be used for consideration in planning, management, and permitting efforts. The inventory will be a collaborative effort between EPG and BLM staff to assure that the product benefits from both local and specialist knowledge.
New Mexico State University	***Vegetative Mapping of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument***: Accurate mapping of vegetation is essential for land management planning and activities. The diverse plant communities of OMDPNM, and their role in providing habitat for endemic and special status species, are identified among the resources, objects, and values for which the Monument was designated. This project will construct a Bayesian model of species occurrence for each of the species that are dominant in at least three different vegetation surveys, and therefore likely to be informative of vegetation types.
U.S. Geological Survey	***Assessment of Soil and Water Resources in The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument***: The overall objectives of this project are to 1) compile and interpret existing soil- and water-resource data within the Monument and 2) provide a basic assessment of the surface hydrological effects of selected alternatives to current land-use and infrastructure.

Mount Riley, Potrillo Mountains

- Visual
- Cultural
- Geological
- Paleontological
- Ecological
- Scientific


Thank you!