



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Pecos District  
2909 West Second Street  
Roswell, New Mexico 88201-2019  
www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To:  
1610(P01000)

June 8, 2010

Dear Interested Party,

You are receiving this letter because you have expressed interest in the management of the Fort Stanton – Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area (NCA).

After the comments received during both internal and public scoping, the Bureau of Land Management Roswell Field Office has developed possible alternatives for the NCA management plan. The range of alternatives is included with this letter.

The BLM would like to hear your thoughts on these alternatives. You may submit any comments or concerns using any of the following methods:

Mail: Bureau of Land Management  
Roswell Field Office  
ATTN: Monica Ketcham  
2909 West Second St.  
Roswell, NM 88201

E-mail: monica\_ketcham@blm.gov

Fax: 575-627-0276

Phone: 575-627-0310 – Monica Ketcham

Sincerely,

Howard Parman  
Assistant Field Manager, Resources

Enclosures (2)  
HP:msk

## Possible Alternatives for the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area Management Plan

<b>RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES</b>				
<b>CAVE ISSUES</b>				
<b>ISSUE/RESOURCE</b>	<b>NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C</b>
Cave permits issued for commercial use	Up to 20% of recreational cave permits can be for commercial use	Same as No Action	Up to 10% of recreational cave permits can be for commercial use	Up to 30% of recreational cave permits can be for commercial use
Fort Stanton Cave visitation limits	Ten people in the front portion of Fort Stanton Cave, Six people beyond Hell Hole gate	Ten people in the front portion of Fort Stanton Cave, Five people plus a BLM-approved guide beyond the Hell Hole gate	Eight people in the front portion of Fort Stanton Cave, three people plus a BLM-approved guide beyond the Hell Hole gate	Same as No Action
Recreational access to Snowy River Passage	No recreational access to Snowy River Passage	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Recreational access under certain defined conditions
Exploration and discovery procedures	Procedures outlined in the Discovery and Documentation Procedures in Fort Stanton Cave National Natural Landmark EA	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Same as No Action
Portals for cave access	No portals will be drilled	Portal will be allowed but the size, number and location will be determined after further information is available	Same as No Action	Same as Proposed Action

**RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES**

<b>RECREATION ISSUES</b>				
<b>ISSUE/RESOURCE</b>	<b>NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C</b>
Fees for use of Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave NCA	No fees charged for any use of the NCA	Fees can be charged for the use of designated developed campgrounds	Same as Proposed Action plus a fee for cave permit	Same as No Action
Visual Resource Management Classes	The NCA contains Class II, III, and IV VRM areas	Change all the VRM Classes on the NCA to Class III	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Motorized OHV Route Designation	Motorized OHV users are limited designated roads and trails	Motorized OHV users are limited to designated roads	Same as Proposed Action	Same as No Action
Trails	No new trails will be built but re-routes and improvements to old trails can be done	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Same as No Action
Special Recreation Uses	Special Use Permits will be issued within established requirements	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Same as No Action
Dispersed Camping	Dispersed camping is allowed within 100 feet of BLM-designated roads, at least 100 feet away from Rio Bonito and Salado Creek, and no closer than ¼ mile from overlooks	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Same as No Action
Rio Bonito Campground	Rio Bonito Campground is closed because it is too close to Rio Bonito	Relocate the Upper Bonito Campground outside the riparian zone pending access resolution	Same as No Action	Same as Proposed Action

**RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES**

<b>VEGETATION AND WATER ISSUES</b>				
<b>ISSUE/RESOURCE</b>	<b>NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C</b>
Livestock Grazing	Livestock grazing can be used as a vegetation management tool as deemed necessary	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Same as No Action
Vegetation Management (Watershed Improvement)	Use mechanical treatments, herbicidal treatments, and prescribed burning for vegetation management.	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Same as No Action
Water Resources	The Bureau of Land Management will protect water rights for the NCA.	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Same as No Action

**RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES**

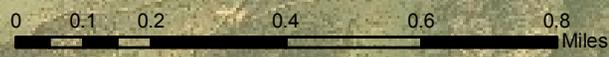
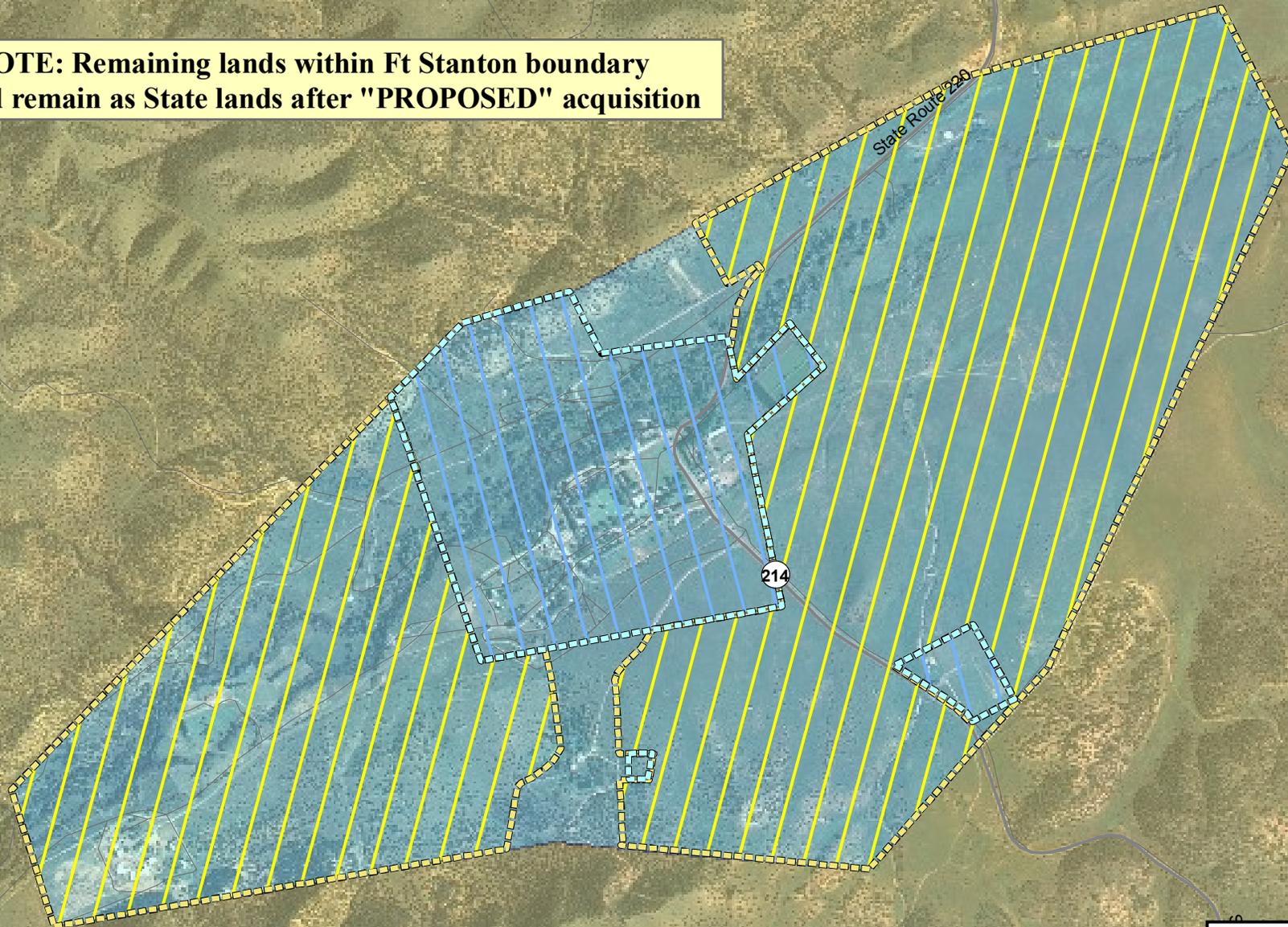
<b>OTHER ISSUES</b>				
<b>ISSUE/RESOURCE</b>	<b>NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C</b>
Dozer Lines for Fire Suppression	Bulldozers will not be used to construct fire line, as stated in the 1997 Roswell RMP	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Same as No Action
Mineral Resources	Open to discretionary disposal of mineral materials	Close the NCA to disposal of mineral materials	Same as Proposed Action	Same as No Action
Cultural Resources	Unauthorized use of metal detectors is excluded from the ACEC, provide for off-site interpretation of cultural resources, manage prescribed fire projects and wildfire suppression to protect cultural resources	Same as No Action	Same as No Action	Same as No Action
Possible Land Acquisition	The BLM would consider acquiring private and state lands, including the Rio Bonito Waterfall, lands along the Rio Bonito adjacent to Fort Stanton, and the NMSU facilities at Fort Stanton	The BLM would consider acquiring identified state lands, see attached map	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action

# State Lands in Ft Stanton Area for "PROPOSED" BLM Acquisition

**DRAFT ONLY**



**NOTE: Remaining lands within Ft Stanton boundary would remain as State lands after "PROPOSED" acquisition**



**Legend**

- RFO PROPOSED Acquired Lands
- Ft Stanton State Monument

**Surface Own**

**Surface Ownership**

- Bureau of Land Management
- State

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 the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information is subject to change without notification.  
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