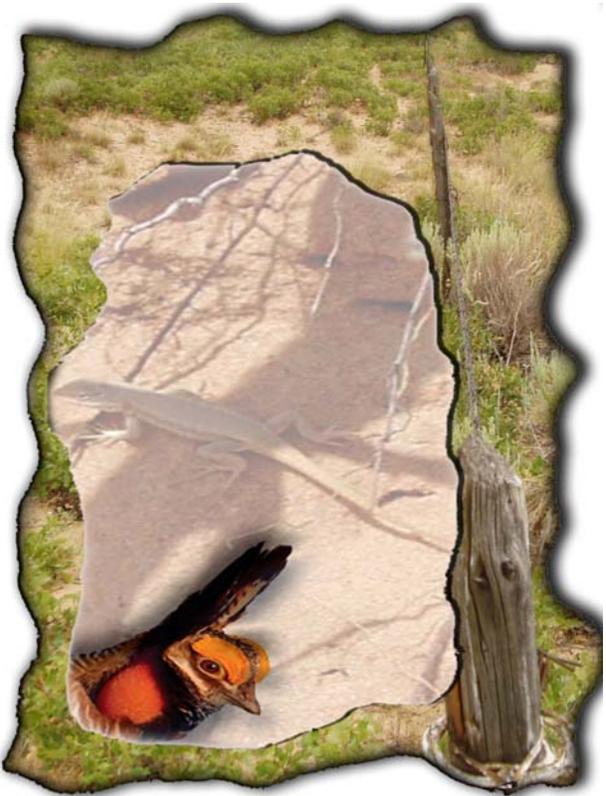


Appendix 1



APPENDIX 1

INTERIM MANAGEMENT

Goal - Maintain existing habitat and management options in the shinnery oak-sand dune habitat complex until the Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) for special status species is approved. Interim management would be applied in what is now the Planning Area for the RMP Amendment.

OBJECTIVES FOR INTERIM MANAGEMENT

- Maintain existing habitat for the lesser prairie-chicken and sand dune lizard and preclude degradation of suitable habitat until planning process addresses the issue.
- Support strategies that conserve the lesser prairie-chicken and sand dune lizard and assist in precluding the need for listing either species as threatened or endangered.
- Leave the options open for recovery of both species.
- Involve interested parties and stakeholders using the 4 C's.
- Work within existing authorities and plans.

See Map C-1 in Map Section of the RMPA.

MINERAL LEASING AND DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE ROSWELL FIELD OFFICE & CARLSBAD FIELD OFFICE PLANNING AREA

This will be a phased approach into evaluating oil and gas leasing and development within the lesser prairie-chicken and sand dune lizard habitat areas. Careful consideration of mineral leasing and development needs to be taken during the interim to avoid making land management decisions that may adversely affect special status species. The following are conditions and criteria for mineral leasing and development within the Planning Area.

Sand Dune Lizard

Regardless of the Zones described below, deferring new leasing of Federal minerals will occur for all Management Zones that have occupied or suitable lizard habitat. Deferral of new leasing would result in the protection of critical sand dune lizard habitat until further analysis can be made through the plan amendment process.

MANAGEMENT ZONES: ZONE 1 - Defer Leasing And Plan Of Development (POD) For Existing Leases.

Defer New Leasing: This Zone includes the Roswell Core Area, the New Mexico

Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) lesser prairie-chicken management areas and a 1.5-mile radius around lesser prairie-chicken booming grounds outside the Roswell Core and NMDGF lesser prairie-chicken management areas. This will include a large portion of occupied and suitable sand dune lizard habitat currently having minimal oil and gas development on existing leases. Exceptions to the defer-new-leasing prescription may be considered on case-by case basis for unitization and drainage purposes, or for parcels that are insignificant in size. Granting exceptions will require a thorough review of habitat suitability, lek locations and cumulative

impacts that would potentially occur if the exception is granted.

Rationale: Leasing and subsequent development would significantly impact the suitability of the area by direct disturbance to booming grounds, fragmentation of nesting habitat and losing the connectivity of important habitats on the landscape. Deferral of new leasing would result in the protection of critical sand dune lizard habitat until further analysis can be made through the plan amendment process.

POD For Existing Leases: This would be required before the approval of the next well to be drilled within an existing lease. The POD would require disclosure of all future well locations, well infrastructure (tanks, compressors, power lines/poles, etc), and rights-of-ways that would access future wells. To the extent possible, a 1.5 mile buffer zone where drilling will be excluded (buffer zone) will be utilized around active leks (those active within the last 3 years) to provide interim resource protection in conjunction with the current timing stipulation.

Rationale: Lease holders have valid rights to develop the lease; however, the BLM can require a POD for orderly development of leases and to minimize surface disturbance and fragmentation to protect occupied and suitable lesser prairie-chicken/sand dune lizard habitat.

MANAGEMENT ZONES: ZONE 2 - New Leasing With A No Surface Occupancy (NSO) Stipulation And Pod For Existing Leases

See Map A-1 in the Map Section of the RMPA for location.

Zone 2 contains lesser prairie-chicken/sand dune lizard occupied and suitable habitat that is mostly leased with lighter amounts of development. The Zone 2 area on the

Chaves-Eddy County line contains unleased parcels that are critical for the development of a corridor to connect the major core areas to the north and to the southern historic range. Zone 2 areas are also very significant in maintaining the narrow band of occupied habitat for the sand dune lizard. This narrow band is due to the natural landscape pattern and is approximately 5-miles wide. New leasing with NSO stipulation would be applied on those lands associated with lesser prairie-chicken/sand dune lizard habitat core areas in the Roswell and Carlsbad Field Offices. After completion of the RMPA, the NSO stipulation may be dropped, modified or carried forward. A notice explaining these procedures will be attached to the nominated lease parcels at the time of leasing.

Rationale: Most of the Federal mineral reserves in this area should be accessible by current adjacent leases. Adjacent leased lands will generally have either some level of existing oil & gas development or contain lower quality lesser prairie-chicken/sand dune lizard habitat. The NSO requirement would protect occupied and suitable habitat while allowing development from adjacent existing leases.

The POD: A POD for existing leases would be required before the approval of the next well to be drilled within an existing lease. The POD would require disclosure of all potential well locations, well infrastructure (tanks, compressors, power lines/poles, etc), and rights-of-ways that would access future wells. To the extent possible, a buffer zone around active leks and the current timing stipulation will be utilized to provide interim resource protection.

Rationale: Lease holders have valid rights to develop the lease; however, the BLM can require a POD for orderly development to protect occupied and suitable lesser prairie-chicken/sand dune lizard habitat.

MANAGEMENT ZONES: ZONE 3 - Require Pod For New And Existing Leases.

See Map A-1 in the Map Section of the RMPA for locations.

Zone 3 contains isolated blocks of unfragmented suitable lesser prairie-chicken/sand dune lizard habitat that have been leased and for the most part developed. Within Roswell Field Office, several of the Zone 3 areas lay within the northern extent of the Carlsbad Field Office lesser prairie-chicken area and are key management areas for future expansion and connectivity of habitats and population interchange. Within the Carlsbad Field Office, these areas include habitat within a 1.5-mile radius of known historic lek sites and will also provide management consideration around Zone 2 areas described earlier. These areas will have the noise and timing stipulation applied to oil and gas activities and other potential disturbance along with the POD. Zone 3 also includes areas that contain habitat parameters that are needed for the life cycle of the species (e.g., edge) and with habitat manipulation could become suitable habitat. Also included in this zone are some areas with Federal minerals under private or state surface where management of other uses is not controlled by the BLM.

The POD: A POD for existing leases would be required in appropriate habitat areas before the approval of the next well to be drilled within an existing lease. The POD would require disclosure of all potential well locations, well infrastructure (tanks, compressors, power lines/poles, etc), and rights-of-ways that would access future wells. To the extent possible, a buffer zone around active leks and the current timing stipulation will be utilized to provide interim resource protection.

Rationale: Federal minerals in this Zone are leased with only a few small, scattered tracts of unleased Federal minerals. Lease

holders have valid rights to develop the lease; however, the BLM can require a POD for orderly development to protect suitable lesser prairie-chicken habitat.

MANAGEMENT ZONES: ZONE 4 - Issue New Leases With Existing RMP Stipulations And Use The Existing Conditions Of Approval For Development Of Existing Leases.

These areas are generally on the outer edge of the range of these two species. (See map for locations). Some of the areas are outside the proposed planning area boundary but are still within the timing stipulation boundary that may require some level of management until habitat evaluations and decision are made in the upcoming plan amendment.

Rationale: This area is on the outer edge of the range of these two species. (See map for locations). New leases would include lesser prairie-chicken/sand dune lizard stipulations approved in the 1997 Roswell RMP and Carlsbad RMPA where appropriate. Currently, there are areas outside the proposed planning area boundary but are still within the timing stipulation boundary that may require some level of management until habitat evaluations and decisions are made in the upcoming plan amendment.

Other Land Uses

Livestock Grazing: Within the entire RMPA Planning Area, livestock grazing will be authorized under the grazing permit renewal process. Any changes to current livestock management will be based on vegetative monitoring, lesser prairie-chicken suitability monitoring (Robel), and rangeland health assessments for Standards and Guidelines and in consultation with the permittees.

Off-Highway-Vehicles (OHV): Formal designations within the Roswell portion of the Planning Area include closed to OHV use in the Mathers Research Natural Area

and the Mescalero Sands ACEC; open to OHV use in the Mescalero Sands North Dune OHV Area; and OHV use limited to existing roads and trails in the rest of the planning area within the Roswell Field Office. Pending formal designation through the plan amendment process, OHV use will be limited to limited to existing roads and trails within Roswell Field Office except for the closed areas identified above.

Under Interim Management, all land in the Planning Area within the Carlsbad Field Office that is currently designated as open to OHV use will be temporarily designated as limited to existing roads, trails, or ways. Exceptions in Carlsbad Field Office are the Alkali Lake and Hackberry Lake Intensive OHV areas which will continue to be designated as open to OHV use.

Reclamation: Apply the best management practices (BMPs) being developed in the Carlsbad Field Office/Roswell Field Office.

Best Management Practices

A description of best management practices (BMPs) for fluid minerals can be found at the BLM web site:

www.blm.gov/nhp/300/wo310/O&G/Ops/operations.html.

In addition to these BMPs, the Roswell and Carlsbad Field Offices developed the following BMPs for reclamation:

1. Site development – the smaller the area of surface disturbance, the less reclamation effort will be needed. Start with the end result in mind.

- Minimize well pad sized by leveling or clearing only what is needed for the rig, pits, and tanks.
- Build the shortest road possible utilizing the existing road network.

- Road surfacing should be limited to soils and topography that require surfacing to reduce soil erosion. As a general rule, if spur roads require surfacing, then the minimum six-inch compacted layer of surface material should be applied.
- Reserve pits should be constructed so that upon completion of drilling operations, the dried pit contents will be a minimum of 3 feet below ground level. Should these contents not meet the 3-foot minimum depth requirement, the contents shall be removed and disposed of at an authorized location. The rationale is that a deeper layer of soil/dirt over the pit liner allows a greater chance of establishing plants on the site.
- Whenever possible, pipelines should parallel existing roads.
- Clearing vegetation for pipelines should be kept to a minimum. In some locations, only trenching may be necessary.

2. Post-well completion

- Reclaim any disturbed areas outside the radius of the guy line anchors or any lands not necessary for well operations using the methods detailed in well abandonment. This area to be reclaimed would be delineated by BLM's authorized officer.

3. Well abandonment - The idea is to prepare a site (any time of the year), then applying seed and fertilizer just before seasonal rains.

- Where practical, remove caliche surfacing from pads and roads prior to ripping. Roswell Field Office recognizes there are specific sites and situations in which the caliche is so degraded that removal would not be efficient or very beneficial. There are several options of

what to do with the caliche including returning the caliche to pits, applying the caliche to maintain main roads or stockpiling material for future use.

- To minimize soil compaction, pads and roads should be ripped to a depth of between 18 to 24 inches, using either a winged ripper or ripped in two directions perpendicular to each other.
- After ripping, leave the site rough or fallow for one growing season. This should allow breakdown of the clods, and allow other soil particles as well as seeds to blow into the ripped area.
- Fertilizer will assist the seeds in growing and give better plant vigor once they start to grow for more success. Chemical fertilizers have provided mixed results, especially in drought conditions. Organic treatments, such as nutrient fixing bacteria or sterilized manure may be more effective.
- Seed and fertilize the ripped area within a prescribed window to allow the best chance of germination and establishment. Depending on the soil type and depth, the operator would be required to either broadcast seed or use a seed drill to seed the area. The site should be lightly watered after seeding and packed with an imprinter. This allows for the soil to crust over which should assist in retaining seed and minimize loss due to winds.

- Temporarily fencing an area, usually the pad, to exclude livestock, other grazers, and physical impacts to the area would be required until plants have established themselves. The type or kind of fences would be approved by BLM.
- Mulching and irrigating a site is recommended but not required and would be conducted at the operator's discretion.

4. Measuring reclamation success – our reclamation goal is to approach the vegetation composition of the undisturbed surrounding area.

- Reclamation (efforts and success) would meet the satisfaction of the authorized officer before the operator would be released from reclamation responsibilities.
- Roswell Field Office will use the Desired Plant Communities (DPCs) as described in the Roswell RMP for determining seed mixtures. The DPCs also include a range of plants by percent composition that will be used to determine satisfactory reclamation.
- Roswell Field Office acknowledges that there will always be some amount of subjectivity regarding successful reclamation. Roswell Field Office, however, will include scientifically acceptable sampling methods, such as pace transects, when making decisions quantifying reclamation success.