

# APPENDIX 5

## ACQUISITION, RETENTION, AND DISPOSAL CRITERIA

*This appendix describes the criteria that would be applied to lands in the Roswell Resource Area that may be suitable for acquisition by the BLM, for disposal by the BLM, or for retention. The criteria are one part of the process in determining suitability.*

### ACQUISITION and RETENTION CRITERIA

Lands meeting the following criteria will be considered for retention or acquisition:

- Facilitates access to areas retained for long-term public use;
- Enhances Congressionally designated areas, rivers or trails;
- Facilitates national, state and local BLM priorities;
- Secures significant water-related lands for the public, including lake shore, river front, stream or pond sites;
- Has important riparian or wetland areas;
- Has significant caves where a portion of the cave is located on public lands;

Cultural sites meeting the following evaluation standards will be considered for retention or acquisition:

- Offers high research values;
- Possesses moderate scarcity in terms of similar sites;
- Possesses some unique value, such as association with an important historic person, or high aesthetic value;
- Contributes significantly to the interpretive potential of cultural resources already in public ownership.

Minerals will be considered for acquisition based on the following criteria:

- Offers consolidation of mineral

estates;

- Requires acquisition in response to a federal project need:
  - a. When development of a federal project precludes the mineral estate owner from exercising development rights.
  - b. When the exercise of the mineral estate owner's right of development would materially interfere with the federal project.

Recreation lands meeting any of the following criteria will be considered for retention or acquisition:

- Presence of national values, such as Congressionally designated areas, rivers, or trails or sites;
- Presence of values that enhance recreation trails and waterways or the interstate, state, and multi-county use;
- Presence of local values or opportunities for extensive use, such as hunting, fishing, OHV, and caves;

Acquisition will be considered for inholdings within the boundaries of Congressionally designated wilderness areas under BLM administration. Lands adjacent to wilderness areas that enhance the management of the area could be considered for retention or acquisition.

Lands providing significant wildlife values will be considered for retention or acquisition based on any of the following criteria:

- Presence of threatened or endangered species;

- a. Federally listed species
- b. Federal candidate species
- c. State listed species of special concern

- Presence of fisheries;
- Presence of big game or upland game habitat such as: crucial winter areas; kidding, fawning, or calving areas; security areas; and crucial breeding, nesting, resting, roosting, feeding, and wintering habitat areas;
- Presence of migratory bird or waterfowl crucial breeding, nesting, resting, roosting, feeding and wintering habitat areas;
- Presence of existing or potential nesting areas for sensitive species of raptors;
- Presence of nongame crucial habitat areas.

Acquisition or retention of riparian or wetland habitat will be considered based on any of the following criteria:

- Presence of a riparian plant community;
- Presence of surface water for most of the year;
- Presence of wetland soils indicative of wetland conditions;
- Potential to support threatened or endangered species;
- Potential for fisheries;
- Adjacent to public lands supporting riparian or wetland habitat.

Acquisition or retention of playa lakes will be considered based on the following criteria:

- Adjacent to public lands supporting playas, sinkholes, or alkali lakes;
- Presence of seasonal or yearlong surface water;
- Mineral estate owned by the federal government;
- Located within wildlife habitat areas (WHAs);
- Importance for waterfowl, big game or nongame species habitat;
- Potential for development as a

yearlong source of water and as riparian habitat;

- Provides significant wildlife values.

The acquisition of public access (easements) will be considered in situations where:

- Public land access is interrupted by private- or state-owned inholdings on existing roads that originate from county or state roads;
- Public access is needed to resolve user conflicts;
- Access is needed to enhance management of public lands.

### DISPOSAL CRITERIA

Parcels of BLM land will be identified for disposal through sale or exchange under the authority of Sections 203 and 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The following criteria will be used to identify parcels for disposal:

1. A tract because of its location or other characteristics is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, and is not suitable for management by another federal department or agency.
2. A tract was acquired for a specific purpose and the tract is no longer required for that or any other federal purpose.
3. Disposal of a tract will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development, which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land and which outweigh other public objectives and values, including, but not limited to, recreation and scenic values, which would be served by maintaining a tract in federal ownership.

Each parcel identified for sale or exchange will be subject to certain conditions before disposal: conformance with disposal criteria;

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hazardous waste, wilderness, wildlife, and riparian/wetland evaluations; and cultural and mineral resource clearances and reports. The results of the evaluations and reports will be included in an environmental analysis. A

notice of realty action will be subsequently published. Parcels will be retained if the clearances, reports, or environmental analysis show any resource values worth retaining.