FARMINGTON FIELD OFFICE

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2004

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I. Introduction

1. Location/Ownership

The Farmington Field Office (FFO) area is located in extreme Northwestern New Mexico adjacent to the Colorado and Arizona state lines. The area varies from 50 to 100 miles in width and 20 to 120 miles in length. However, the bulk of the public lands with any significant fire occurrence history lies within a 60 mile radius (*primarily to the east and southeast*) of Farmington, New Mexico.

The boundaries of the Farmington Field Office area were adjusted slightly in 1993 when the then Farmington Resource Area was detached from the Albuquerque District area. It should also be noted that the Forest Service land (Jicarilla Ranger District) is added to the total management area listed below. The FFO and Jicarilla R.D. fire programs are jointly administered.

Ownership	Acres	Percent
BLM (FFO)	1,500,000	61
Forest Service	160,000	12
State	185,000	8
Private	175,000	7
Indian Allotted	300,000	12
Total	**2,320,000**	**100.00**

2. Organization

The fire program is an interagency fire program with both the BLM Farmington and the Jicarilla Ranger District of the Carson National Forest. The program currently has: a BLM Fire Management Officer, a F.S. Assistant Fire Management Officer, a BLM Fuels Specialist, BLM Engine Module Lead, BLM Assistant Engine Module Lead, BLM Senior Firefighter, 2 BLM Seasonal Firefighters, BLM Fuels Module Lead, 9 Seasonal Fuels Crew, F.S. Engine Module Lead, F.S. Assistant Engine Module Lead, 1 Senior Firefighter, 1 BLM Initial Attack Dispatcher, 1 F.S., Fuels technician, and 1 dually funded Customer Service Representative. It should be noted that even though this organization is an interagency fire program, this fire management plan covers only the BLM portion of the program. The Carson National Forest Fire Plan covers all fire management decisions associated with the Jicarilla Ranger District. See organization chart in Appendix.

BLM Direction

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Fire Management Plan (FMP) is to help fire managers determine the appropriate response strategy for fire events and conduct planned fuel treatments on public lands within the FFO management area. The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy states that every area with burnable vegetation must have an approved fire management plan. This FMP is a strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires based on the approved land management plan. This FMP provides for firefighter and public safety, it includes fire management strategies, tactics and alternatives, and values to be protected. It addresses public health issues and is consistent with resource management objectives, activities of the area, and environmental laws and regulations. The purpose of the initial portion of this Fire Management Plan (FMP) is to introduce the Farmington Interagency Fire Program, which is the organization administering this Plan for the Farmington Field Office (FFO).

This FMP addresses a full range of fire management activities. This includes fire planning, fire management strategies, tactics and alternatives, prevention, preparedness and education. It addresses the role of mitigation, post-fire rehabilitation, fuels reduction, and restoration activities in fire management. Implementation of this FMP will provide a safe, cost effective fire management program in support of land and resource management plans through planning, staffing, training, equipment, and management oversight.

B. Relationship to Environmental Compliance

This plan is consistent with the existing 2004 Farmington Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP). The decisions made in the RMP will be refined and elaborated in the FMP with no decisions will be made in FMP, therefore no further NEPA will be needed. The public lands in the FFO planning area are also subject to the following federal statutes and regulations: the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as

Amended, the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as Amended. The objectives outlined in this Fire Management Plan are in conformance with these federal regulations.

C. Collaboration

The fire program for the field office is an interagency program with the Jicarilla Ranger District, of the Carson National Forest. Close coordination, also occurs with the San Juan County Fire Department, cities of Bloomfield, Farmington, Aztec and the Jicarilla Apache Tribe. Coordination also, occurs with the San Juan Public Lands Office in Durango, Colorado, which includes, the San Juan National Forest, Durango BLM, Southern Ute Tribe, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The Farmington Field Office has strong coordination with the New Mexico State Forestry Department in Chama, New Mexico. With all these agencies the Farmington Field Office shares information, resources, ideas, planning, and training to meet the overall goals of the fire programs for each agency. A variety of agreements are currently utilized to coordinate these fire management activities with the different agencies listed above. An agreement has also been accomplished between San Juan County and the FFO for fire assistance. It should also be noted that the fire program assists the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) on fire suppression for BOR lands adjacent to Navajo lake.

The BLM, FFO is a partner in the "New Mexico Joint Powers Agreement for Interagency Wildland Fire Protection," (JPA). This is an agreement among the federal wildland fire management agencies and the New Mexico State Forestry Division for coordinating wildland fire management activities. Under the JPA, New Mexico is divided into initial attack areas. In each of these areas, one agency has agreed to take the lead in providing initial attack protection for all lands, regardless of ownership. This provides an equitable exchange of protection and workload, and allows the use of the "closest forces" concept for fire suppression. The net result is a more efficient and effective suppression organization throughout the state as well as the management area.

A public meeting was held to discuss the 2004 statewide RMP amendment for fire management, and the public supported the goals of the plan.

An internal meeting was held with the Carson National Forest to discuss the 2004 Fire Management Plan amendment and it was fully supported.

The FFO fire program is an active partner with the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, and the fire shop has close coordination with industry.

The FFO is an interagency partner with the Taos Interagency Zone, and follows the Joint Powers Agreement with the State of New Mexico on fire operations. The FFO follows standard fire management procedures such as planning, initial attack, with the Taos Zone partners

D. Authorities

- Protection Act of September 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 857; U.S.C. 594).
- Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934 (48 Stat. 1269; U.S.C. 315).
- Reciprocal Fire Protection Act of May 27, 1955(69 Stat. 66; 42 U.S.C. 1856, 1856a).
- Economy Act of June 30, 1932 (47 Stat. 417; 31 U.S.C. 686).
- Disaster Relief Act, Section 417 (Public Law 93-288).
- 2001 Annual Appropriations Acts for the Department of the Interior.
- United States Department of the Interior Manual (910 DM 1.3).
- 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.
- 2001 Updated Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy Update).
- 1998 Departmental Manual 620 Chapter 1, Wildland Fire Management General Policy and Procedures.
- 2004 Fire and Fuels Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Public Land in New Mexico and Texas.
- 2004 Joint Powers Agreement for the Southwest Region.
- 2002 Interagency Fire Agreement between the Farmington Field Office and the Jicarilla Ranger District of the Carson National Forest.

II. Relationship to Land Management Planning/Fire Policy

The Fire Management Plan has been tiered to decisions contained within the Farmington Field Office Resource Management Plan, and the Federal Wildland Fire Policy. These plans provide the basis for the development of fire management goals and objectives.

The FMP derives overall program guidance from the following:

- 1998 BLM Handbook 9214, “Prescribed Fire Management” describes authority and policy for prescribed fire use on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

- 1995, The Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy was developed to respond to dramatic increases in the frequency, size, and catastrophic nature of wildfires in the United States.

- 2000, The National Fire Plan is not an actual document, but a nationally coordinated effort to protect communities and natural resources from the harmful effects of increasing wildland fire occurrence and severity in the United States.

- September 2000, "Managing the Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment."

- October 2000, National Cohesive Strategy goal is to coordinate an aggressive, collaborative approach to reduce the threat of wildland fire to communities and to restore and maintain land health.

- August 2001, "Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment -10 Year Comprehensive Strategy" provides a foundation for wildland agencies to work closely with all levels of government, tribes, conservation, and commodity groups and community-based restoration groups to reduce wildland fire risk to communities and the environment,

- May 2002, "Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy – Implementation Plan"

- August 2002, "Healthy Forests - An Initiative for Wildfire Prevention and Stronger Communities."

- Bald Eagle ACEC Activity Plan 1992

- Reese Canyon Research Natural Area Activity Plan 1991

- Sensitive Plant Habitat Management Plan 1990

- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Habitat Management Plan 1998

- Riparian and Aquatics Habitat Management Plan 2000

- Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan

- Mesa Verde Cactus Recovery Plan 1984 (USFWS)

- Mancos Milkvetch Recovery Plan (USFWS 1989)

- Antelope Habitat Management Plan 2004

- Rattlesnake Habitat Management Plan 1997
- Crow Mesa Habitat Management Plan 1996
- Rosa Off-Highway-Vehicle Activity Plan 1996
- The Wilderness Act of 1964, and the BLM 43 CFR 6300, and 8560

BLM Direction

The approach in this document focuses on managing at a landscape level, with the understanding that landscape patterns can be addressed as ecological systems. This managing focus dictates that managers must consider the impact on overall landscape patterns when they conduct local activities that change vegetation. Consequently, the reason behind this Fire Management Plan is to provide fire managers with a framework for planning and managing the fire program to meet landscape level objectives. Thus, the FFO Plan includes information on specific desired landscape objectives across the entire planning area and a set of operational guidelines for determining the appropriate response strategy to wildland fires and planning prescribed treatments.

The long-term implications of the FFO Fire Management Plan is that it will allow managers to restore the natural role of fire in the evolution of healthy landscapes, which will ultimately result in better management practices. This plan lays the foundation for managers to strategically use prescribed fire, thinnings, and wildland fires that meet prescription criteria (or other fuels management treatments, where needed) to reduce hazardous fuels and restore resource conditions throughout the planning area. Over time, these fuels management treatments will more nearly restore the landscape to its pre-management condition, and to help reduce the need for an aggressive approach to fuels treatments.

The FFO Plan is intended to integrate fire management with all other aspects of resource management in the Farmington Field Office. However, it will also serve as a blueprint for future efforts to integrate fire management on BLM lands with other coordinating agencies and entities.

III. Wildland Fire Management Strategies

A. General Management Considerations

The first priority in the FFO fire program is to provide for firefighter and public safety. The protection of human life is the single, overriding suppression priority. Setting priorities among protecting communities, properties, improvements, natural and cultural resources, will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the cost of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, these human resources become the highest value to be protected. Every effort will be made to suppress fires at a minimum cost, but never at the expense of firefighter and public safety.

The fire management program is based on a foundation of sound science. Research will support ongoing efforts to increase our scientific knowledge of biological, physical and sociological factors. Information needed to support fire management will be developed through an integrated interagency fire science program. Scientific results of these efforts will be made available to managers and will be used in the development of the FMP and implementation plans.

The FFO is engaged in numerous activities that affect much of the communities in the San Juan Basin. Special management of these activities is extremely important to achieving the resource goals set by the FFO year after year. These activities include:

- The Farmington Field Office and the Jicarilla Ranger District of the Carson National Forest are involved in an interagency agreement that jointly combines the fire programs of each agency into one stand alone program. This interagency concept enables both agencies to share resources to accomplish the mission of each agency. (The table of organization is in appendix)

- Oil and gas activities on lands administered by the FFO are extensive. There are approximately 19,000 natural gas wells on Farmington field office lands. San Juan County is the largest natural gas producing county in the state of New Mexico. The planning area also produces approximately 5 percent of the state's oil. With the extensive production of natural gas and oil, the landscape is dotted with numerous oil and gas structures. These structures pose a threat for firefighters when fire is threatening the sites. Special considerations must be made when fire operations are being conducted near these sites.
- There are several communities at risk within the wildland urban interface (WUI) of the FFO. These communities include many residences that own land adjacent to BLM administered lands. Special considerations and planning are involved in mitigating the fire risks to these communities.

- The field office is extensively involved in recreational activities on BLM lands. These activities include numerous off-highway-vehicle routes/trails, hunting, biking, and hiking opportunities.

- The field office is heavily involved in wildlife management of migratory birds, waterfowl, small mammals, deer, and elk populations. Close coordination is conducted with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, private land owners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and various wildlife groups, to ensure that wildlife is managed properly.

- There are 240 grazing allotments on BLM land within the FFO. Field office grazing allotments accommodate 162 individuals permitted to graze cattle, horses, sheep, and goats. With this amount of grazing allotted, close coordination is conducted on all fire activities.

- The planning area encompasses evidence of many developments throughout the prehistoric and historic periods. Cultural concerns are to protect these sites and preserve them for future generations. Numerous cultural ACECs have been set up for this purpose.

B. Wildland Fire Management Goals

The goals of the Fire Management Program are:

- Firefighter and public safety are the number one priority for the Farmington Field Office Fire Program

- Identify appropriate management response (AMR) goals, objectives, and constraints by specific management areas within the field office. All wildland fire management activities will be managed as described in the Fire Management Unit guidance outlined in Chapter III, section D.

- Work collaboratively with communities at risk within WUI areas within the FFO to develop plans for risk reduction. Work with partners, such as the various municipalities in the area, to prioritize and implement community risk assessments.

- Ensure that work is conducted collaboratively with partners in fire, and resource management, across multiple agency boundaries.

- The full range of fire management activities will be used to help achieve ecosystem sustainability, including its interrelated ecological, economic, and social components. The field office staff will conduct fuels treatment, community assistance, education/mitigation programs and rehabilitation/restoration actions to implement management plan direction.

- Fire, as a critical natural process, will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale and across agency boundaries. Response to wildland fire is based on ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire. The circumstances under which the fire occurs, and its likely consequences, dictate the appropriate response to the fire. Allow wildland fire to protect, maintain, and enhance resources. Allow fire to function in its ecological role when appropriate.

- Allow wildland fire to protect, maintain, and enhance resources. Allow fire to function in its ecological role when appropriate.

- Employ fire prevention strategies that reduce human ignition with special emphasis in off highway vehicle (ohv) areas, and oil and gas infrastructure. Ensure that close coordination is conducted with oil and gas companies on all fire operations that may impact industry.

- Use fire as a management tool to improve the ecological condition of ecosystems and maintain natural plant community diversity to enhance wildlife.

- Ensure that proper land management decisions are made concerning fire operations, and that a multiple use concept is achieved for all fire decisions.

- Ensure that the fire program continues to work with interagency partners in all fire management activities.

C. Wildland Fire Management Options

The Farmington Field Office will provide an Appropriate Management Response (AMR) on all wildland fires, with emphasis on fire fighter and public safety, minimizing suppression costs, benefits and values to be protected consistent with resource objectives, and standards and guidelines. Every attempt will be made to respond to each wildland fire in a timely manner with a mix of firefighting expertise, based upon established fire management direction as documented in approved management plans. The use of the AMR will allow land managers to tailor preplanned wildland fire dispatch strategies to meet objectives established in resource management plans and their associated implementation plans. The FFO will implement fuels treatments, community assistance, education/mitigation programs, and rehabilitation/restoration actions to implement management plan direction.

Fire management specialists all with the assistance of other disciplines of resource specialists from other disciplines determined fire management categories, management objectives and the appropriate management response for each management area. The fire management categories are as follows:

- Category A- Areas where fire is not desired at all. This category includes areas where mitigation and suppression are required to prevent direct threats to life or property. It also includes areas where fire never played a large role historically in the development and maintenance of the ecosystem.

- Category B - Fire plays a natural role in the function of the ecosystem, however these are areas where an unplanned ignition could have negative effects unless some form of mitigation takes place.

- Negative effects include risks to private lands or property, urban interfaces, important cultural resources, high visitor use areas, and federally owned facilities. Mitigation efforts could include fuel reduction through mechanical means or prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading around private land and urban interfaces, creation of agreements to allow fire to cross from public to private lands, cultural resource inventories, and preparation of rehabilitation plans prior to a fire event.

- All unplanned ignitions will require a fire management response that will have emphasis put on fire fighter and public safety, minimizing suppression costs, and resource values to be protected. Every attempt will be made to respond to each fire in a timely manner.

- Category C - Areas where wildland fire is desired, but there are significant constraints that must be considered for its use.
- Fire is a desirable component of the ecosystem, however; ecological, social, or political constraints must be considered. These constraints could include air quality standards,

threatened and endangered species, identified cultural, archeological, or historic resources, or wildlife habitat considerations. Mitigation programs should focus on potential threats to values before ignitions occur and the reduction of unwanted human ignitions.

- Ecological and resource constraints along with human health and safety factors are considered in determining the appropriate management response. Consideration of constraints is performed on a case by case basis by the incident commander or line officer. Areas in this category would generally receive lower suppression priority in instances where multiple wildland fire situations arise than would category B areas.

- Prescribed fires and non-fire fuels treatments may be utilized to ensure these constraints are met. These methods also may be used to reduce any hazardous effects of an unwanted wildfire. Treatments may consist of multiple entries of prescribed fire or non-fire treatments in conjunction with one another or solely before the use of fire is considered.

D. Description of Wildland Fire Management Strategies by Fire Management Unit (FMU)

Common to All FMUs

Invasive Weed Management

The mission of the FFO is to detect new invasive weed species populations, prevent the spread of new invasive populations, manage existing populations, and eradicate invasive populations. Prevention and management of invasive plants assists in improving the health of public lands. The field office fire program will adhere to the following program procedures:

1. In the planning process, include provisions for noxious weed management in all fire funded projects.
2. Determine the best methods for an integrated approach to weed management and implement on-the-ground operations.
3. Monitor and ensure sufficient data is available to evaluate management actions and adjust actions appropriately to ensure actions are not adversely affecting the weed management program.
4. For all fire actions that involve surface disturbance or rehabilitation, reasonable steps will be required to prevent the introduction or spread of noxious weeds.

Oil and Gas Infrastructure and Fire

With an estimated 19,000 natural gas wells in the San Juan Basin, fires that occur on FFO lands have an added complexity. These added complexities for firefighters include:

1. Drilling operations with flaring pits can cause serious harm and injury to well workers, and firefighters if wildfire occurs near these operations.

2. Venting of wells releases gases into the neighboring areas that could ignite if a wildfire or prescribed fire operation occurred near the vent.
3. Hydrogen Sulphide gas escapes in older wells in many areas in the FFO. If firefighters breathe substantial amounts of this gas it could cause extreme bodily harm or even death. Areas of substantial pockets of H2S wells are located near the Colorado border near La Plata highway.
4. Added traffic from oil and gas workers increases the hazard to firefighting resources responding to fires. Every effort must be made to be aware of traffic as well as keeping the public off of fire sites.
5. Many facilities are located in the FFO that can be threatened by wildfire or prescribed fire. These facilities include pipelines, compressor stations, transfer stations, and doglegs. These sites should be considered interface, and every effort should be made to ensure these sites are not damaged by fire.

Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

The objective of the field office is to maintain, improve, and expand wildlife habitat using fire applications on public lands for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses. The protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat is accomplished through an aggressive program of habitat improvement projects that include prescribed fire as well as mechanical treatments.

Fire Intensity Levels

The fire intensity levels (FIL) represent the rate of heat energy released during combustion per unit length of fire front. The FIL will forecast the intensity, and subsequent potential impact to the surrounding landscape by a fire. The following table displays the different flame lengths associated with the different FILs.

FIL	Flame Length (ft.)
1	0-2
2	2.1- 4
3	4.1- 6
4	6.1- 8
5	8.1- 12
6	12.1 and over

Fuels Treatment Practices Common to All FMUs

The following fuels treatment objectives will be applied to site specific projects on FFO lands occurring in all FMUs:

1. Reduce hazardous fuels and the threat of stand replacement fires.

2. Protect and enhance wildlife habitat using hazardous fuels projects.

3. Consider air quality concerns and conform to relevant direction for air quality management.

4. Brush control projects will be designed to maximize edge effect to every extent possible. Islands of untreated sagebrush, and trees will be incorporated into project design as necessary to provide cover for wildlife.

5. Chemical agents such as tebuthiron will be utilized when possible to reduce sagebrush in project areas.

6. Maintain or enhance resource values or conditions, and support resource management objectives when conducting hazardous fuels projects.

7. Enable opportunities for local Native American Tribes to accomplish contract fuels projects on public lands.

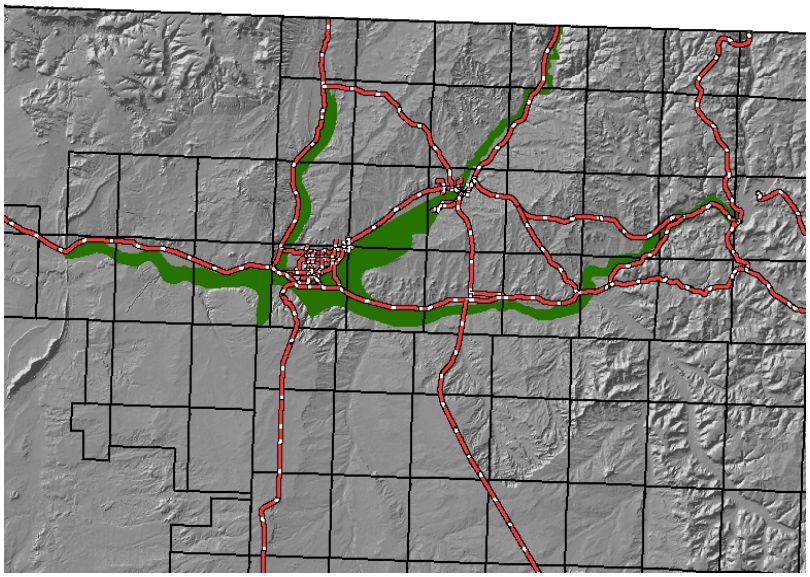
8. Ensure safety of crews is number one when accomplishing fuels projects.

FMU Priority by Activity

Table below describes fire management priorities by FMUs.

FMU	Suppression	Prescribed Fire/NonFire Treatments	Community Assistance
River Corridors	High	High	High
Head Canyon/Dunes	Low	Low	Low
Bald Eagle ACEC	High	Medium	Low
Archeological ACEC	High	Medium	Low
Reese Canyon	Low	Low	Low
Glade Run	High	Medium	High
Crouch/Knickerbocker	High	High	High
Eul Canyon	Medium	High	Low
Mexican Spotted Owl	Medium	High	Low
Chaco	Low	High	Low
Bisti-Denazin	Low	Low	Low
Twin Mounds	Low	Medium	Medium
Lonetree	Medium	Medium	Low
Rattlesnake	Medium	High	Low
Largo	Medium	Medium	Low
Jones/Thomas	Medium	Medium	Low
Pump	Medium	High	Low
Simon	Medium	Medium	Low
Hogback	Low	Low	Low

Fire Management Unit Name: **River Corridors (LaPlata, San Juan, Animas)** Category/Number: **A-1**



1. **Location**: This FMU is located in the La Plata, San Juan, and Animas River drainages (see map). This area totals 6,382 acres of BLM administered lands interspersed with private land. The three drainages are adjacent to the communities of Farmington, La Plata, Bloomfield, Cedar Hill, Kirtland, and Aztec, New Mexico. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green.

2. **Characteristics:** The management area is primarily river corridors with potential willow flycatcher habitat, checker-boarded private land, and occasional cultural sites. The management area is bordered by private land in most areas, with numerous structures and outbuildings. There are mature cottonwood galleries, and willows adjacent to the San Juan, La Plata, and Animas Rivers. These areas support extensive riparian vegetation and quite often are situated in close proximity to houses and other structures. Elevations in the FMU vary from 5,000 feet in elevation to 5,900 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season typically July/August, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains. Four cultural ACECs exist in this zone (Holmes Group, East Side Rincon, Jacques, and Farmers Arroyo.

3. **Wildland Fire History**: Human caused fires account for 100% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than 10 acres in area. On average, one fire of greater than 5 acres occurs annually. From 1984 to 2003, 24 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 164 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between March 1 and July 1. Extensive fire prevention work is accomplished with all county and city entities that border the management area to enhance wildfire awareness for landowners adjacent to the area. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the FFO's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class:** Presently the area is in condition class 3 with areas of heavy salt cedar, and Russian olive infestations. Under current conditions, which reflect a combination of historically heavy livestock use coupled with fire suppression, many areas in the FMU formerly dominated by grass and native shrubs are being invaded by salt cedar and Russian

olive. This current condition increases the fuel loadings in the FMU and increases the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Primary values to be protected from wildland fires spreading into these areas consist of potential willow flycatcher habitat as well as numerous homes adjacent to the river corridors. Significant amounts of cultural resources occur in this management area. Proper cultural clearances will be required prior to any managed surface disturbing activities.

6. **Communities at Risk:** The communities of Bloomfield, Blanco, Farmington, and Kirtland which surround the management area are at risk of wildfire. In these areas the FFO is in the process of mechanically treating some river corridors adjacent to the communities. The purpose of these projects is to eliminate all the nonnative species (salt cedar, Russian olive) on the BLM river tracts, subsequently reducing the fire hazard. The FFO has aggressively been active in providing community assistance grants for the communities of Farmington and Bloomfield. These assistance grants are intended to fund wildland fire mitigation plans for areas near the river corridor.

7.**Fire Management Objectives**: Suppress all wildfires with minimum cost, and minimize acreage burned from all wildfires to less than 1 acre if possible.

Reduce the risk of wildfires by accomplishing mechanical, and chemical treatments, where applicable, in river tracts adjacent to private lands

8. **Fire Management Strategies**:

Suppression: 100% of wildfires will be suppressed to less than 1 acre for FILs 1-6, to protect the native riparian vegetation, such as cottonwood galleries. Dozer line operations are prohibited within the management area. In the event that Southwest Willow Flycatcher (SWWF) habitat becomes occupied, the FMO or Four Corners Dispatch will be notified, and in the event of a wildfire, the FMO will notify FFO biologists and appropriated suppression tactics will be developed. No fire retardants will be air-dropped on occupied habitat prior to coordination with USFWS. Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics will be applied in this management area to reduce impacts caused by suppression operations.

Fire Use: No fire use will be allowed in this management area.

Prescribed Fire Strategies: No prescribed fire will be used in this management area.

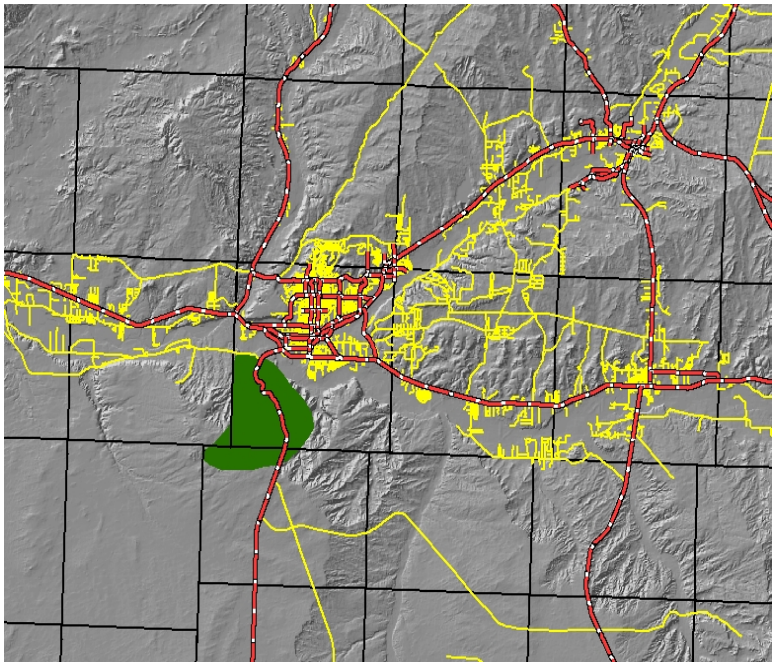
Non-Fire Treatments:

- Treat approximately 20 acres a year using mechanical/chemical treatments to create fuel breaks between BLM lands and private lands.
- All local T & E, and air quality objectives will be met by consultation with resource advisors.

Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Actions Needed for Restoration:

Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, planning for rehabilitation will be developed by an inter-disciplinary team for each incident or multiple incidents above 20 acres in size. Rehabilitation after wildfire will be accomplished to facilitate the restoration of native species of plants in the management area. Temporary roads created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored to a natural condition.

Fire Management Unit Name: Head Canyon/Dunes Recreation Area
Category/Number: A-2



1. **Location**: This FMU is located in San Juan County, New Mexico. The FMU is adjacent to the towns of Farmington, and Bloomfield, New Mexico. The area is located within the central portion of the Farmington Field Office. The area is located just southwest of the city of Farmington on New Mexico State Highway 371. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted on the map to the right in green.

2. **Characteristics**: The area is made up of 3,162 acres of BLM administered land. This management area is characterized with high recreation use by off road vehicles, with high frequencies of ohv trails. Several hundred visitors a year use this area to recreate. Vegetation varies from sage, pinon/juniper, and mountain shrub. The area is characterized with very light fuel loadings. The Piñon- Juniper Woodland plant community type primarily covers the FMU area. Common ground cover species are mutton grass (*Poa fendleriana*), western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), buckwheat (*Erioginum sp*.), and penstemon (*Penstemon sp*.) (BLM 1997). Blue grama (*Boutelua gracilis*) and galleta (*Hilaria jamesii*) are the principal grass species. Soils in the management area have high erosion potential. Elevations in the area vary from 5200 feet to 5800 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season typically July/August, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**: Human caused fires account for 50% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 2 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of .4 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, this unit is in a Condition Class 2. The ecological changes brought about by oil/ gas production, ohv use, and livestock grazing have greatly altered conditions in much of the management area and greatly affected many of the vegetative species.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: With the high ohv use in this area a wildfire of any significant size would be disruptive and hazardous to the recreational opportunities, and activities. Proper coordination with local law enforcement may be required in order to evacuate threatened civilians in the event of a wildfire. Significant amounts of cultural

resources occur in this management area. Proper cultural clearances will be required prior to any managed surface disturbing activities.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk near this management area. However there are scattered rural residences in and around the management area.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**:
With the high recreation use in the management area, wildland fires will be suppressed at minimum acreage of less than 1 acre if possible. Fires are infrequent and of a small size in this FMU, however, all fires will be suppressed due to public safety concerns for recreators as well as oil and gas infrastructure.

8. **Fire Management Strategies**:

Suppression:
Retardant and heavy equipment may be used in this area to minimize acreage of any wildfires which may pose a threat to public safety. Cultural sites exist, and will be protected from damage caused by suppression activity. Archeological consultation will occur prior to the use of dozers to construct fire line. Fires are infrequent and of a small size in this management area, however, wildfires will be suppressed to less than 1 acre in FILs 1-6, 100% of the time, due to public safety concerns.

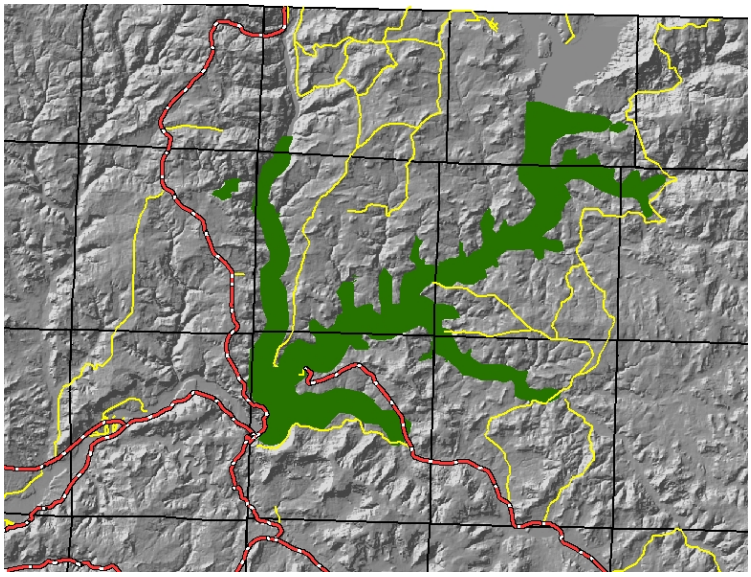
Fire Use: No fire use will be implemented in this management area.

Prescribed Fire Strategies: No fuels treatments are needed in this management area.

Hazard Fuels Treatment- No treatments needed.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR):
Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, planning for fire rehabilitation will be developed by an inter-disciplinary team for each incident greater than 5 acres. Roads created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion due to the preexistence of significant amounts of ohv trails. New roads will only be more detrimental to the overall ecosystem of the area. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater, evaluations and appropriate actions will be defined, and taken to prevent erosion.

Fire Management Unit Name: Bald Eagle ACEC
Category/Number: A-3



1. **Location**: This area encompasses most of the land adjacent to Navajo Lake, on the northeast portion of the Farmington Field Office. The management area is split between San Juan County on the west side and Rio Arriba County on the east side of the area. The Fire Management Unit stretches north to the Colorado border. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green.

2. **Characteristics**: The management area has approximately 1,987 acres of BLM administered land. The management area is important seasonal habitat for Bald Eagles. The bald eagles that frequent this area use mature, small ponderosa pine to build nests, and roost. Vegetation in the management area consists of mature ponderosa pine stands with pinon/juniper encroachment adjacent to Navajo Lake. Soils in the area which includes the San Juan Basin consists primarily of Quaternary to Cretaceous-aged alluvium (unconsolidated silts, sands, clays, and gravels), sandstones, siltstones, shales, limestones, and conglomerates. Elevations in the area range from 6,200 feet to 6,800 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**: Lightning caused fires account for 97% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 9 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 1.5 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program (1984).

4. **Fire regime/condition class (FRCC)**: Presently, this unit is in Condition Class 3. Some areas of the management area are experiencing heavy accumulations of dead and down fuels, and numerous ladder fuels to carry fires into the canopy. Under current conditions, which reflect years of fire suppression, many areas in the management area formerly dominated by grass, shrubs, and Ponderosa pine are being invaded by young pinon and juniper trees. This condition is increasing the fuel loadings, and increasing the risk of stand replacement wildfires. Fuels projects will be accomplished to bring the FRCC back to FRCC 2 or 1.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: The protection and enhancement of the small ponderosa pine stands in the management area is extremely important to the health and

well being of the bald eagles that utilize these areas. In the event of a fire escaping initial attack efforts, a resource advisor will be assigned. Every effort will be made to suppress wildland fires that threaten oil and gas infrastructures adjacent to these areas. Significant amounts of cultural resources occur in this management area. Proper cultural clearances will be required prior to any managed surface disturbing activities. It should also be noted that all marinas, docks, boats, and all other associated lake infrastructure will be protected.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk in this management unit. There are, however scattered residences adjacent to the management unit.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: With the heavy accumulations of dead and down in this area, actions must be taken to reduce the fuel loadings and prevent stand replacement fires from occurring.

Reduce the encroachment of pinon/juniper into the small stands of ponderosa pine.

Protect the habitat of the bald eagle by keeping wildland fires to a minimum acreage of 1 acre and less, and utilize fuels projects to enhance the ecosystem in the area.

Suppression: Wildfires will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 100% of the time in FILs 1-6. Retardant and heavy equipment may be used in this zone to protect mature ponderosa pine trees. The Bald Eagle ACEC Activity Plan of 1992 outlines limited/conditional fire suppression. The Activity Plan explains that every effort will be made to control wildfires in these units so as to protect and enhance the large, standing ponderosa pine and Douglas fir trees. Protection of the ponderosa pine ecosystem from a stand replacement wildfire, and reduce the pinon/juniper encroachment in the FMU will be the top priority.

There are no cultural ACECs in the area. Cultural sites, however, exist in area. Consult with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity such as heavy equipment. Cultural clearance required prior to use of heavy equipment. At the time of a wildfire, the FMO or delegated authority will contact and coordinate with the FFO biologists to develop any site-specific fire suppression tactics that may be appropriate in the ACEC.

Fire Use Strategy: No fire use will be accomplished in this management area.

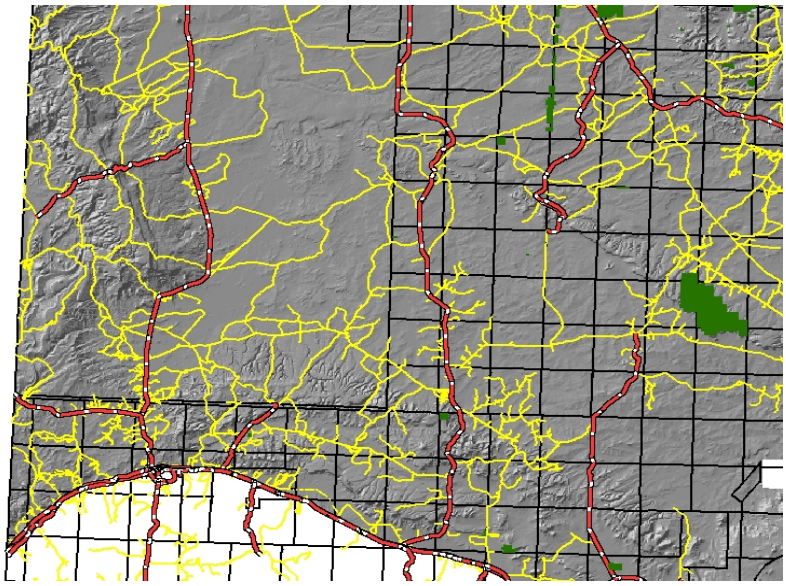
Prescribed Fire Strategies: Prescribed Fire projects will be evaluated and site specific projects can be implemented under proper analysis. Further consultation will be required

Hazard Fuels Treatment: Small thinnings of pinon/juniper may occur, between 10 to 25 acres. These thinnings will reduce the risk of a stand replacement wildfire in the bald eagle habitat.

Monitoring: The hazard fuel treatments accomplished will be reviewed annually and changes in FMU classification considered based on the results of this review.

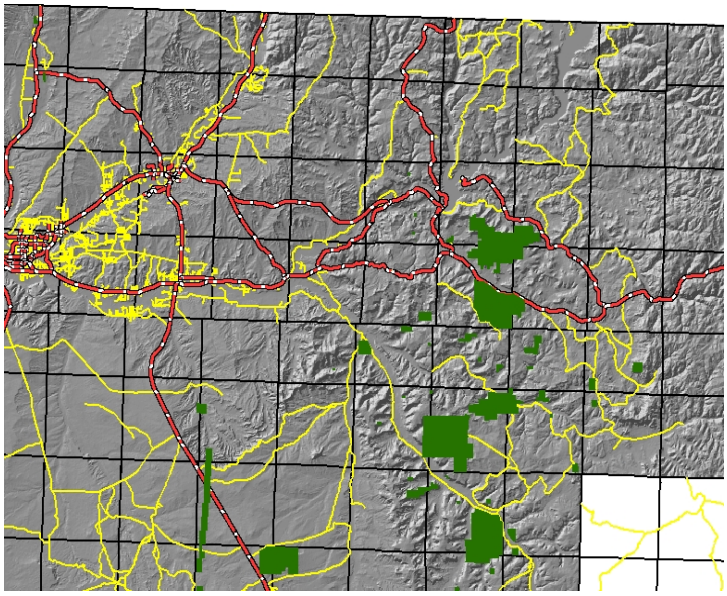
Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an inter-disciplinary team for each incident greater than 5 acres. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater, evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion.

Fire Management Unit Name: Archeological ACECs
Category/Number: A-4



1. **Location**: These areas are scattered throughout the entire area of the Farmington Field Office. The fragmented FMU falls in San Juan County and Rio Arriba County. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green.

2. **Characteristics**
The Fire Management Unit has approximately 52,360 of BLM administered lands. There are 17 cultural ACECs or portions of ACECs within this zone (6 are BLM managed Chaco Outlier ACECs, 8 are sections of Chaco Roads ACEC, and three are Navajo managed Chaco Outliers). The majority of the ACECs are dominated by piñon/juniper intermixed with sage. Side-oats grama (Boutelua curtependulata) and galleta (Hilaria jamesii) are the principal grass species. Elevations in the area range from 6,200 feet to 6,800 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains. The following ACECs are included in this management area: Chaco Roads, Frances Ruin, Hummingbird Canyon , Frances Mesa, Rock Ranch, Dogie Canyon School, Margarita Martinez, Martin Apodaca, Gonzales Canyon, Haynes Trading Post, Moss Trail, Santos Peak, Albert Mesa, Rock Ranch, Dogie Canyon School, Margarita Martinez, Martin Apodaca, Chaco Outlier (Twin Angles), Early Navajo Defensive Sites and Communities Crow Canyon or Cibola Canyon



3. **Wildland Fire History**: Lightning caused fires account for 95% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 21 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 7.1 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4.
Fire regime/condition class: Presently, in Condition Class 2.
Under current conditions, which reflect a combination of historically heavy livestock use coupled with fire suppression, many areas in the FMU formerly dominated by grass and shrubs are being invaded by young pinon and juniper trees. This succession is occurring both in chained and naturally occurring parks on deep and productive soils. This condition is increasing the fuel loadings in the FMU and increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Fuels projects will be planned in the management area to reduce the FRCC to FRCC 1

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: These ACECs are of high cultural value and are subject to damage by both suppression efforts as well as wildfire. The main concern for these sites is the early Navajo sites that include wooden structures. With the presence of these important sites, every effort must be made to suppress fires immediately in this management area. Oil and gas infrastructure exists in the management area, and should be protected from wilfire.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk in this unit.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: With the high densities of archeological sites in these ACECs the main objective of the management area is to minimize acres burned by wildfire to protect these sites. Management of the area will allow for a priority response to every extent possible, to protect the values at risk. Identify areas in the management area that contain high fuel loadings and institute projects both prescribed fire, and mechanical to reduce the potential for wildfires that may threaten values at risk.

Suppression : Minimize acres burned by wildfire to less than 1 acre 100% of the time in FILs 1-6 to protect archeological resources. Minimize damage by suppression operations by utilizing MIST tactics. Retardant should not be used within the Chaco Outlier ACEC parcels, Moss Trail ACEC, Crow Canyon, Cibola Canyon, Hummingbird Canyon ACEC to protect painted rock art, or within 650 feet of Frances Ruin. Also, retardant and heavy equipment should be prohibited within the immediate vicinity (ca. 650 feet) of structural Historic Sites ACECs (Rock Ranch, Dogie Canyon School, Margarita Martinez, Martin Apodaca, Gonzales Canyon, Haynes Trading Post; use natural or other existing man-made boundaries).

Heavy equipment is prohibited within all these ACECs (use natural or other existing man-made boundaries). Heavy equipment should be prohibited within the immediate vicinity (ca. 650 feet)

of Frances Ruin within the Frances Mesa ACEC (use natural or other existing man-made boundaries).

Fire Use: There is no fire use for this management area.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed Fire projects will be evaluated by a case by case basis. There will be a minimal need to accomplish prescribed fire in some ACECs to protect the archeological resources. Approximately 50 acres per year of burning slash generated from thinnings will be accomplished in these areas to reduce the fire hazard.

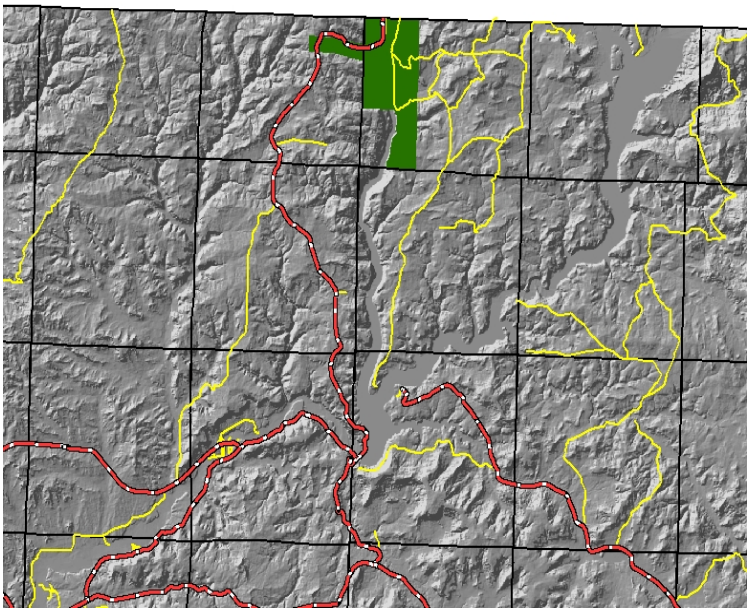
Hazard Fuels Treatment- Small thinnings of pinon/juniper may occur, between 10 to 50 acres. These thinnings will reduce the risk of a wildfire to cultural resources in the ACECs.

Monitoring- The hazard fuel treatments accomplished will be reviewed annually and changes in FMU classification considered based on the results of this review.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an inter-disciplinary team for each incident greater than 5 acres. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. A post fire inventory and assessment of site conditions will need to be accomplished immediately after a fire has occurred in an archeological site. Development of an archeological site specific stabilization plan to deal with potential erosion will be accomplished.

Fire Management Unit Name: Reese Canyon RNA and adjacent associated habitat
Category/Number: B-1

1. **Location**: This FMU is located in San Juan County, New Mexico on the northeast portion of the Farmington Field Office along both sides of the Los Piños River. The FMU is located in Reese Canyon from the Colorado border approximately 5 miles south along the Los Piños River, extending approximately 2 miles further south of the RNA boundary. New Mexico State Highway 511 dissects the FMU on the northern portion of the unit. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green.



2. **Characteristics:** The management area has approximately 3,514 acres of BLM administered lands. Reese Canyon RNA contains a federally endangered species, Knowlton's cactus (Pediocactus knowtonii) and habitat. Knowlton's cactus habitat is among piñon-juniper woodlands and sagebrush covered with Tertiary alluvial deposits. The majority of the site is dominated by piñon/juniper intermixed with sage. Some large stands of black sagebrush (Artemisia arbuscula var. nova) are within the open woodlands of the management area. Elevations in the area vary from 6090 feet to 6500 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**
Lightning caused fires account for 100% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 8 fires have occurred within the management area, for a total of 10.7 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Currently under FRCC 3. Under current conditions, which reflect a combination of historically heavy livestock use coupled with fire suppression, many areas in the FMU formerly dominated by grass and shrubs are being invaded by young pinon and juniper trees. This condition is increasing the fuel loadings in the FMU and increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires, thereby increasing the risk to the Knowlton's cactus.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: The Knowlton's cactus is extremely susceptible to fire, and damage from suppression operations. With the overall small size of the plant any suppression operation inside the RNA could be potentially damaging to the plants population. Every effort must be made to enhance the overall survival of the plant species. Also, there are scattered ranch houses in the management area. Every effort will be made to protect these dwellings.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk in this unit.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: Prevent any wildfire from entering the cactus area. Wildfires that occur within the area will be allowed to burn outside the management area and will subsequently be suppressed outside the area. No fuels treatments of any kind will be accomplished in this management area. Overall, the fire program will make every effort possible to protect and enhance the ecosystem from which the cactus occupies.

Suppression Strategies: If a wildfire should start in the area a "modified suppression tactic" policy would be implemented in all occupied and potential cactus habitat. This will be accomplished due to the fact that fire suppression measures, such as cutting fire lines, extensive pedestrian, and vehicle traffic, would be more of a threat to the cactus than the fire. Existing roads near the area will be utilized as control lines, in order to reduce impacts. If a wildfire should occur in the area outside the cactus habitat a full suppression strategy will be utilized to reduce the risk of spread to cactus habitat as well as private in holdings. Wildfires outside the habitat will be suppressed at less than 1 acre 100 % of the time for FILs 1-6. If a wildfire were to occur, the Acting Duty Officer will contact and coordinate with the FFO biologists to develop any site-specific fire suppression measures that may be appropriate. There are no cultural ACECs in this area. Cultural sites may still exist in the area. Fires outside the management area need consultation with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activities such as the use of dozers for line.

Fire Use: No fire use will be allowed in the management area.

Prescribed Fire Objectives: None are planned for the FMU due to the sensitivity of the cactus.

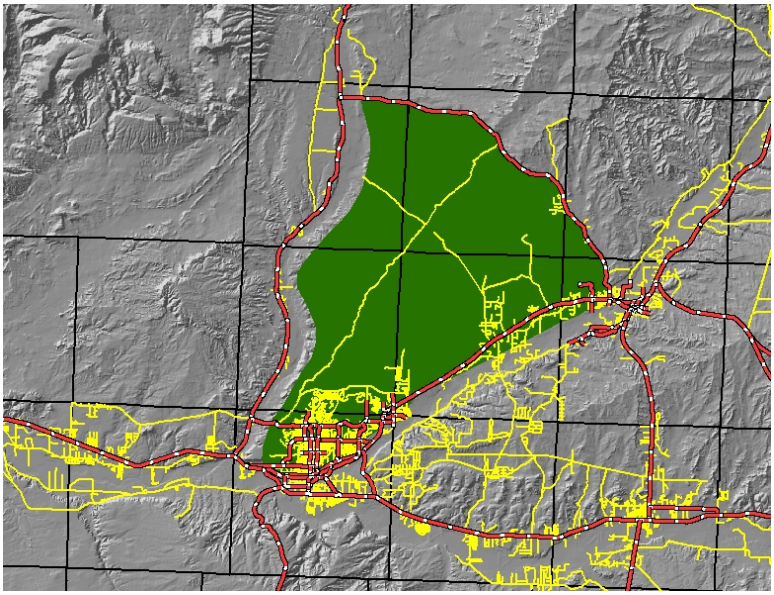
Non-Fire Fuels Treatment- No mechanical and chemical treatments are planned at this time for the FMU due to the sensitivity of the cactus.

Monitoring- Fire occurrence, as well as other vegetation treatments, will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified.

Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Actions Needed for Restoration: If a wildfire does occur in the FMU the Field Office biologist will consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service on proper Fire Rehabilitation techniques.

Fire Management Unit Name: Glade Run Recreation Area
Category/Number: B-2

1. **Location**: This FMU is located in San Juan County, New Mexico on the northwest portion of the Farmington Field Office. This area is adjacent to the cities of Farmington, and Aztec. The area is also adjacent to the La Plata, and Animas river valleys. The management area boundaries are New Mexico State Highways 173 (west), 555 (east), and 574 (north). The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green.



2. **Characteristics**: The management area has 31,108 acres of BLM administered land. The area is dominated by an extensive trail and road system. Visitor use, in the form of four wheelers, mountain bikes, horseback riders, joggers, hikers, and off-highway-vehicles is heavy. Several thousand visitors a year frequent the glade area. The area is also the site of two national rock crawling competitions that occur each summer. Scattered piñon/juniper occupy the tops of mesas with sage dominating the canyon bottoms. The dominant tree species are piñon-juniper (Pinus edulis), Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma), and true mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus montanus). More open stands are located on drier sites below 6,600 feet elevation where piñon- juniper, Utah juniper, big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentate) and antelope bitterbrush (Purshia tridentate) are common. Blue grama (Boutelua gracilis) and galleta (Hilaria jamesii) are the principal grass species. Elevations in the area vary from 5450 feet to 6500 feet. Much of the management area has private land in-holdings which pose a WUI concern.

3. **Wildland Fire History**:
Lightning caused fires account for 98% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 47 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 29.6 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 2. The ecological changes brought about by traditional fire management practices, along with others resulting from oil/ gas production, ohv use ,and livestock grazing, have greatly altered conditions in much of the management area and greatly affected many plant species. Every effort will be made to reduce the FRCC in the unit to FRCC 1.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Oil and Gas facilities are in the area. The roads and trail system could be damaged due to suppression efforts or runoff from a stand replacement fire.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There is the community of Farmington at risk in this unit.

7.**Fire Management Objectives**: Wildfire could be disruptive to recreational activities and possibly pose a hazard to the well being of the people present in the management area, therefore, fires should be kept to minimum acreage. Fire size should be limited to less than 20 acres due to the recreational value of the area as well as the smattering of private land that exists in the area. A cultural clearance is required prior to any fuels treatment in the management area.

Suppression:. Public, and firefighter safety will be paramount for all fire operations occurring in this management area. With the amount of public use in the area, firefighters must be aware of the possibility of civilians near or on scene of wildfires. With this in mind wildfires in this unit will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 90% of the time in FILs 1-6. Firefighters must take necessary actions to notify and evacuate civilians from the scene of the incident. Retardant, as well as, dozer operations is allowed in the management area. Engines area allowed off road in this area. There are no cultural ACECs in this area. Cultural sites exist in the area therefore consultation with a cultural resource advisor prior to extensive surface disturbing activities such as heavy equipment is required.

Fire Use: No fire use will be accomplished in this management area.

Prescribed Fire Objectives: An average of 1000 acres a year will be treated to increase forage for wildlife and improve rangeland health.

Non-Fire Fuels Treatment: It is anticipated that there needs to be approximately 1000 acres per year treated to improve rangeland health in the management area. These treatments could be accomplished by methods, such as mechanical treatments and fuelwood sales.

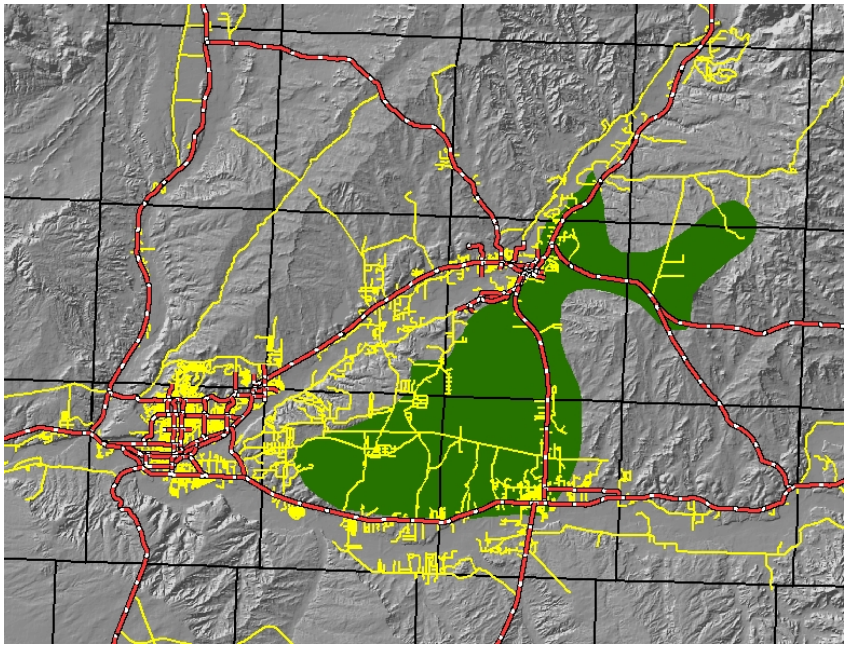
Monitoring: Fire occurrence, as well as other vegetation treatments, will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR):
All surface disturbing activities will be rehabilitated and reseeded. Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an inter-disciplinary team

for each incident greater than 20 acres. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. In burned areas greater than 20 acres, temporary fences may need to be erected to prevent OHV traffic and grazing from damaging rehabilitation work.

Fire Management Unit Name: Crouch Mesa/Knickerbocker Peak
Category/Number: B-3

1. **Location**: This management area is located in San Juan County, New Mexico on the north, central portion of the Farmington Field Office. The area is adjacent to the towns of Bloomfield, Farmington, and Aztec. It is also adjacent to the Animas, and San Juan River valleys. State highway 64 borders the area to the south, and highway 550 dissects the area north to south. Highway 173 runs though the northeast part of the management area. The management area is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: This management area has many residences, and private land in holdings. There is 21,513 acres of BLM administered lands in the unit. The area also, has as important telecommunications site on Knickerbocker Peak. This telecommunication site services many local governmental agencies. The area ranges across sage, piñon/juniper, and mountain shrub. The dominant tree species are piñon- juniper (Pinus edulis), Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma), and true mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus montanus). Common ground cover species are mutton grass (Poa fendleriana), western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), buckwheat (Erioginum sp.), and penstemon (Penstemon sp.). Elevations in the area vary from 5550 feet to 6350 feet. Topography in the area ranges from flat sage meadows to slopes greater than 30 percent. There are also areas of deep canyons that make up the rest of the area.

3. **Wildland Fire History**:
Lightning caused fires account for 95% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 13 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 2.7 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, the area is in Condition Class 2. The ecological changes brought about by traditional fire management practices, along with others resulting from oil/ gas production, and livestock grazing have greatly altered conditions in much of the plant community in the management area. As a result, in many areas these changes in vegetation have created the conditions for large uncontrolled wildfires. Some areas are experiencing heavy accumulations of dead and down fuels, and numerous ladder fuels to carry fires into the canopy.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Oil and Gas facilities are in the area as well as, private land structures, and telecommunications sites.

6. **Communities at Risk**: The community of Aztec, Farmington, and Bloomfield, New Mexico.

7.**Fire Management Objectives**:
Reduce the hazard of wildfire to adjacent homes and property through fuel reduction projects. Restore and maintain vegetative structure and mosaics to the pinon/juniper woodlands. Desire a high proportion of grasses and low shrub vegetation types in this area. Trees and mature shrubs in patches along with older stands of pinon/juniper will be thinned. Large areas having savanna appearances are desired.

Suppression: Wildfires occurring in this management area will be suppressed at less than 5 acres 100% of the time in FILs 1-6, in order to protect private land, and oil and gas facilities. There are no cultural ACECs in this area. However, cultural sites exist in the area therefore consultation with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity such as a dozer line is required.

Fire Use: There will be no fire use in this management area.

Prescribed Fire Objectives: Several projects a year totaling no more than 500 acres will be treated.

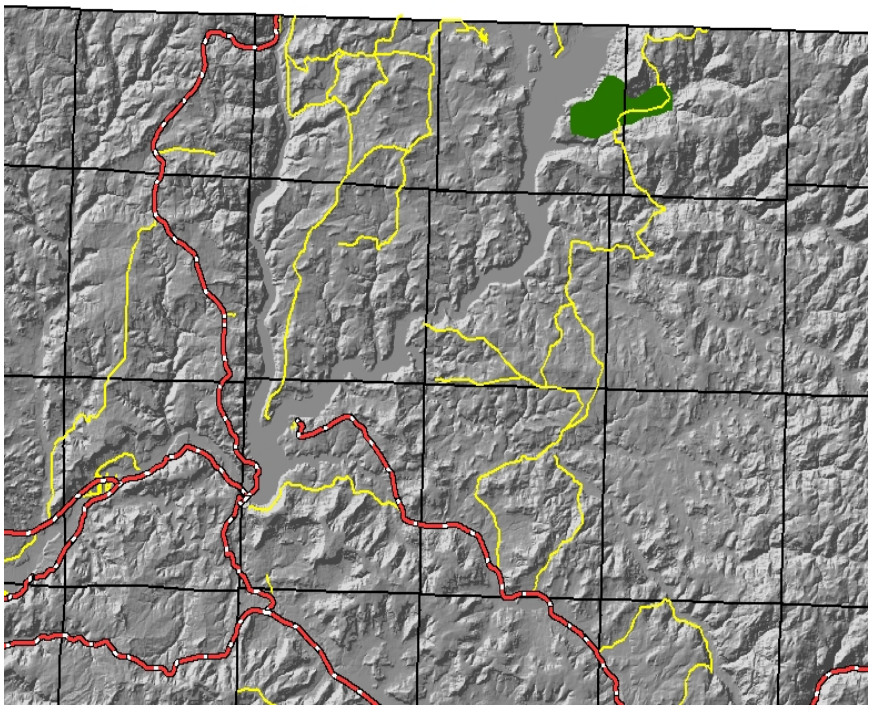
Non-Fire Fuels Treatment- It is anticipated that there needs to be approximately 2-8 treatments (chemical, mechanical) totaling approximately 500 acres per year. These treatments could be accomplished by other methods, such as fuelwood sales.

Monitoring- Fire occurrence, as well as other vegetation treatments, will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion.

Fire Management Unit Name: Eul Canyon
Category/Number: B-4

1. **Location:** This FMU is located in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico on the northeast section of the Farmington Field Office. Navajo Reservoir borders the FMU to the west, and the Carson National Forest borders the FMU to the east. The management area is one of the few remote, roadless areas of the field office. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The management area is important deer winter range for deer herds migrating in from Colorado. There is 1,665 acres of BLM administered land in the unit. Vegetation in the area has been severely damaged from over use of deer herds in the winter months. This situation has been attributed by low amounts of browse species compared to the high numbers of wintering deer. Deer use on sagebrush located west of the mouth of Eul Canyon is severe. Traditional browse species in this area have been decimated. Use on the sage is causing some of it to die. In Eul Canyon itself, the browse is in fairly good condition. The area is dominated with sage (55%) and patches of grass intermixed (5%), and (40%) piñon/juniper. The Piñon- Juniper Woodland plant community type primarily covers the majority of the FMU. Dense stands generally occur above 6,600 feet in elevation and the dominant tree species are piñon- juniper (Pinus edulis), Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma), Gambel's oak (Quercus gambellii), and true mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus montanus), with occasional stringers of ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa). Common ground cover species are mutton grass (Poa fendleriana), western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), buckwheat (Erioginum sp.), and penstemon (Penstemon sp.). Blue grama (Boutelua gracilis) and galleta (Hilaria jamesii) are the principal grass species. Elevations in the area vary from 6080 feet to 7770 feet.

3. **Wildland Fire History**: Lightning caused fires account for 100% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 25 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 20 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 3. The ecological changes brought about by traditional fire management practices, along with others resulting from oil/ gas production, wintering deer populations, and livestock grazing, have greatly altered conditions in many of the plant communities and greatly affected many species in the management area.

Fuels in the area have been modified to a condition class 3 due to the fact that lack of periodic fire and overuse by wintering deer, and grazing. This has caused an increase of hazardous fuels as well as a major modification of fuels from a natural state.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Oil and Gas facilities are in the area as well as important deer winter range habitat.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk in this unit .

7. **Fire Management Objectives**:
Create a mosaic of grass and shrubs intermixed with the sage, and pinon/juniper component. These patches are desired to be between 50-500 acres creating diversity in the area. Prescribed fire and mechanical treatments will be accomplished in the management area to achieve the desired vegetative condition. Manage all natural wildfires with the appropriate AMR, to restore fire as a natural disturbance that results in resource benefits.

Suppression: Retardant and heavy equipment may be used in this management area. An AMR will be determined to all fires in the area. Wildfires in FILs 1-3 will be suppressed at less than 20 acres 90% of the time. Wildfires in FILs 4-6 will be suppressed at 50 acres 90% of the time to protect critical winter range. An intense wildfire in this area could prove detrimental to wildlife but a prescribed fire or under a favorable prescription with lower temperatures and higher humidities could help the rejuvenation of the browse species in the area. There are no cultural ACECs in this area, however, cultural sites exist in the area. Consult with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity such as the use of dozers.

Fire Use: At this time no fire use will be instituted in this management area.

Prescribed Fire Objectives: Several projects a year in the B-4 Category totaling 5-100 acres will be utilized.

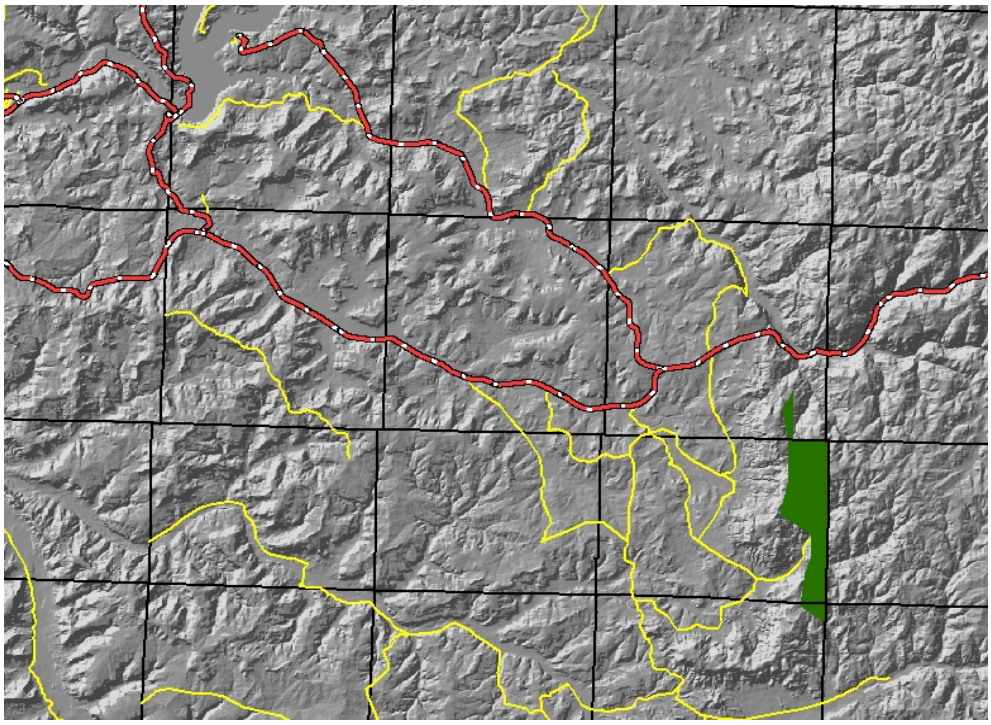
Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment: It is anticipated that there needs to be approximately 2-8 treatments in the B-4 category totaling approximately 100 acres per year. These treatments could be accomplished by other methods, such as mechanical, and chemical methods.

Monitoring: Fire occurrence, as well as other vegetation treatments, will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR):): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. The proper seed mixture for rehab will be coordinated with the field office biologist, to ensure proper forage is restored to the deer winter range.

Fire Management Unit Name: Mexican Spotted Owl ACEC
Category/Number: B-5

1. **Location**: The FMU is located in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico on the eastern side of the Farmington Field Office. The FMU is bordered to the east by the Carson National Forest. The management area is located just south of state highway 64, and near Forest Road 314. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The BLM/FFO currently manages 2617 acres of designated Mexican spotted owl (MSO) critical habitat. This management area is the only area designated as critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl in the field office. The elevation of the habitat ranges from approximately 6800 feet to 7200 feet. Of the 2617 acres, seven small stands of mixed conifer forest totaling 85.7 acres were identified. The mixed conifer stands consists mostly of Douglas-fir (Psuedotsuga menziesii) and ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa). The designated MSO critical habitat includes 2182 acres (83.4%) of habitat classified as piñon- juniper woodlands. The MSO ACEC area also contains six stands ponderosa pine totaling 349.5 acres. The area contains steep drainages with mesas. Elevations in the area vary from 6700 feet to 7600 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**: Lightning caused fires account for 100% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 6 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 2.5 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 3. The ecological changes brought about by traditional fire management practices, along with others resulting from oil/ gas production, and livestock grazing, have greatly altered conditions in many of the plant communities and greatly affected many species in Northwest New Mexico.

Fire suppression as well as grazing practices has modified the fuels in the FMU to an unnatural state. Subsequently, the FMU has a high fuel loading, which could lead the area susceptible to catastrophic fire. Fuels projects will be utilized to reduce the conditions in the area to reduce the risk of severe fire activity.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owls. Oil and Gas facilities are in the area.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk in this unit .

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: The objective of the management area is protect the existing stands of Ponderosa Pine and mixed conifer stands. The field office will instill a program that will maintain and improve a vegetative structure that will increase the health of the ponderosa pine forest ecosystem. In the event of a natural ignition wildfire will have an appropriate AMR, established for each incident. Fuels reduction projects including prescribed fire will be encouraged in this area, with the goal to reduce the litter layer by 60% with a tolerable level of 45%. These projects will rejuvenate grass and forbs in the area, and reduce the fuel loading.

Suppression: If a wildfire should start in the ACEC, the fire will be assigned an appropriate AMR. Wildfires will be suppressed to less than 5 acres 90% of the time in FILs 1-6. If any spotted owl habitat becomes occupied, the FMO will be notified, and in the event of a wildfire, the FMO will notify FFO biologists and appropriated suppression tactics will be developed. No fire retardants will be dropped on occupied habitat prior to coordination with USFWS. All surface disturbances will require reseeding and other appropriate rehabilitated measures. There are no cultural ACECs in this area, however cultural sites are likely to exist in the area. Consult with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity such as construction of dozer line.

Fire Use: There is no fire use for this management area.

Prescribed Fire Objectives: Prescribed fire will be allowed within the Mexican spotted owl ACEC as an adaptive management tool to produce or maintain favorable forest habitat components for owls. Consultation will be required by the USFWS prior to any burning.

Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment- Approximately 1 treatment a year totaling 100 acres. These projects could be accomplished through mechanical means, such as greenwood sales.

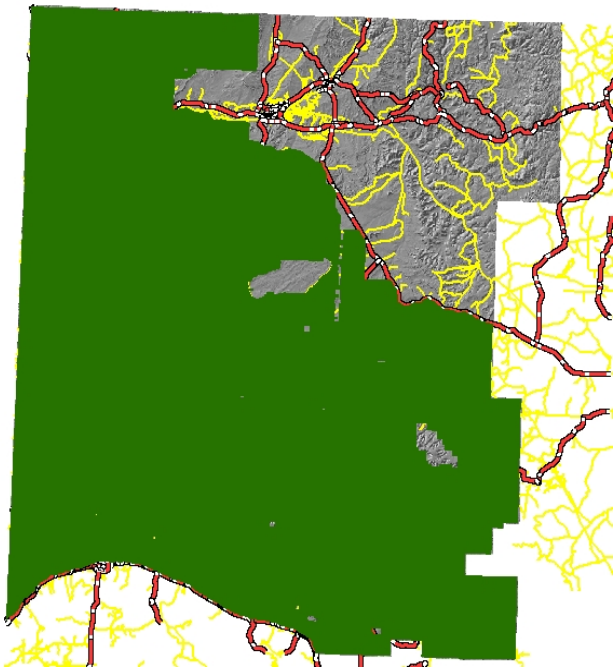
Monitoring- Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified. Long term resource monitoring studies may be established dependent upon funding in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning, and non-fire treatments effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations

will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion

Fire Management Unit Name: Chaco
Category/Number: C-1

1. **Location**: This FMU is in San Juan and Rio Arriba Counties, New Mexico. It is located within portions of the Farmington Field Office. The Navajo Reservation borders the FMU to the west ,and the Jicarilla Apache Reservation borders it to the east. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The management area has 416,371 acres of BLM administered land. The majority of the area is bare ground with piñon/juniper stands along the ridges intermixed (5%). Trees in these woodlands can form a dense canopy or be fairly open. Dense stands generally occur above 6,600 feet in elevation and the dominant tree species are piñon- juniper (Pinus edulis), Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma), Gambel's oak (Quercus gambellii), and true mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus montanus), with occasional stringers of ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa). Common ground cover species are mutton grass (Poa fendleriana), western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), buckwheat (Erioginum sp.), and penstemon (Penstemon sp.). More open stands are located on drier sites below 6,600 feet elevation where piñon- juniper, Utah juniper, big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentate) and antelope bitterbrush (Purshia tridentate) are common. Blue grama (Boutelua gracilis) and galleta (Hilaria jamesii) are the principal grass species. Relatively large stands of big sagebrush can occur within the open woodlands (BLM 1997). Soils in the area which includes the San Juan Basin consists primarily of Quaternary to Cretaceous-aged alluvium (unconsolidated silts, sands, clays, and gravels), sandstones, siltstones, shales, limestones, and conglomerates. See soils map for specifics. Elevations in the area vary from 6100 feet to 7440 feet. It should also be noted that this FMU has a considerable checker boarded land status of BIA lands. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**:
Lightning caused fires account for 95% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 29 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 686.9 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 3. The ecological changes brought about by traditional fire management practices, along with others resulting from oil/ gas production, and livestock grazing, have greatly altered conditions in many of the plant communities and greatly affected many species in the management area.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints:** Oil and Gas facilities are in the area.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk in this unit .

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: The desired effect would be to reduce the sage by 75% with a tolerable reduction of 50%. Fires of 100-500 acres could be planned in the area. However, close coordination with permittees will have to be accomplished to ensure proper rotation times for burning. Create a mosaic of grass and shrubs intermixed with the sage component. Areas with grazing allotments should be monitored and coordinated with the permitee to ensure proper rest of the allotment after the burn.

Suppression: Retardant and heavy equipment may be used in this zone. Wildfires in FILs 1-6 will be suppressed at less than 50 acres 90% of the time to protect private land, cultural sites, and oil and gas facilities. There are 17 cultural ACECs or portions of ACECs within this zone (6 are BLM managed Chaco Outlier ACECs, 8 are sections of Chaco Roads ACEC, and three are Navajo managed Chaco Outliers). The Chaco Outlier ACECs will be in a Category A fire management unit. Retardant should not be used within the Chaco Outlier ACEC parcels. Treat the Chaco Roads ACECS as Category A fire management areas. Heavy equipment is prohibited within all these ACECs (use natural or other existing man-made boundaries). Other cultural sites exist in the area outside of the ACECs. Consult with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity such as heavy equipment. Cultural clearance required prior to use of heavy equipment e the ACECs.

Fire Use: Natural fires will be allowed to burn to a maximum allowable acreage of 100- 2000 acres in this unit. Preplanned guidelines will be followed before action is taken on any natural start in this unit. Social and economical impacts will be taken into account prior to fire use being accomplished.

Prescribed Fire Objectives: Several projects a year in the C Category (except C-2) totaling 1000 acres can be accomplished.

Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment: Approximately 1-5 treatments a year totaling 2000 acres. These projects could be accomplished through mechanical means, chemical applications and greenwood sales.

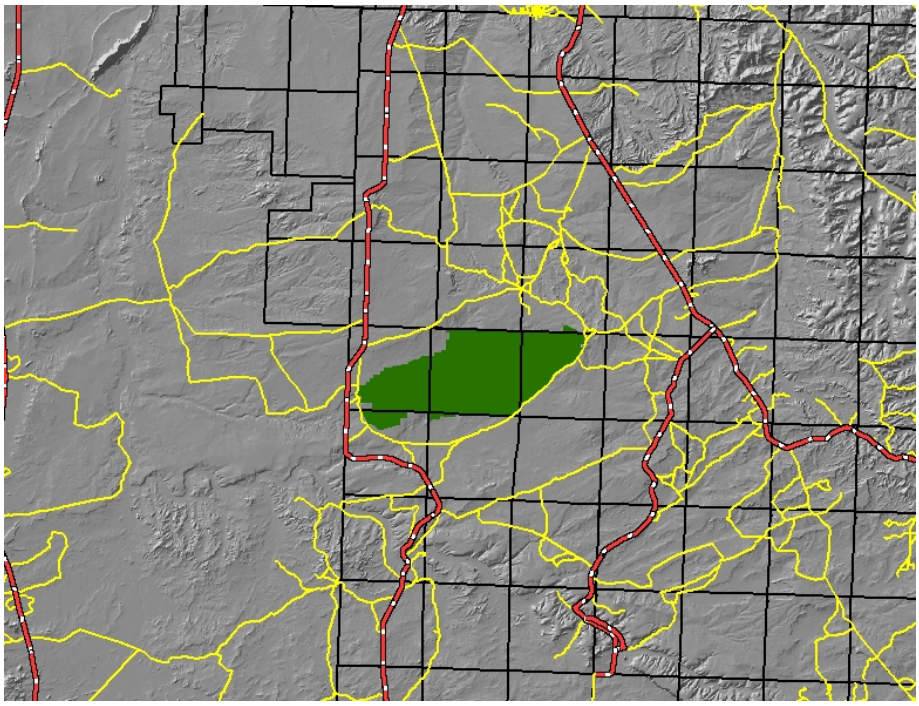
Monitoring: Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and

constraints need to be modified. Long term monitoring studies may be established in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 40 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion

Fire Management Unit Name: Bisti-Denazin Wilderness
Category/Number: C-2

1**. Location**: The FMU is located in San Juan County, New Mexico in the west-central portion of the Farmington Field Office. The unit is between state highways 371 and 550, approximately 30 miles south of the city of Farmington, NM. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The management area has 38,422 acres of BLM administered land. The area is dominated by rock outcroppings, and very little ground cover. The management area receives a few hundred visitors each year to observe the areas unique rock formations. Ground cover species when found, are mutton grass (Poa fendleriana), western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), buckwheat (Erioginum sp.), and penstemon (Penstemon sp.) (BLM 1997). Blue grama (Boutelua gracilis) and galleta (Hilaria jamesii) are the principal grass species. Elevations in the area vary from 5550 feet to 6060 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3.**Wildland Fire History**: .
Lightning caused fires account for 100% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, there has not been any record of fires occurring in the unit. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1.

4. **Fire Regime/Condition Class**: Presently, in Condition Class 1. Under current conditions, the area is dominated by rock formations, and very little ground cover.

5. Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints: None.

6. **Communities at Risk**: None .

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: Allow fire to play a natural role in the management area. Ensure that close coordination is conducted with the recreation staff of the field office prior to any activities.

Suppression: Natural fires will be allowed to burn in this FMU. All human caused fires will be immediately suppressed using MIST tactics. There are no cultural ACECs in this area. Cultural sites are likely to exist in the area, therefore consultation with a cultural resource advisor prior to any management response.

Fire Use: Natural fires will be allowed to burn in the management area. Ensure coordination is conducted with the appropriate staff.

Prescribed Fire: None.

Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment: None

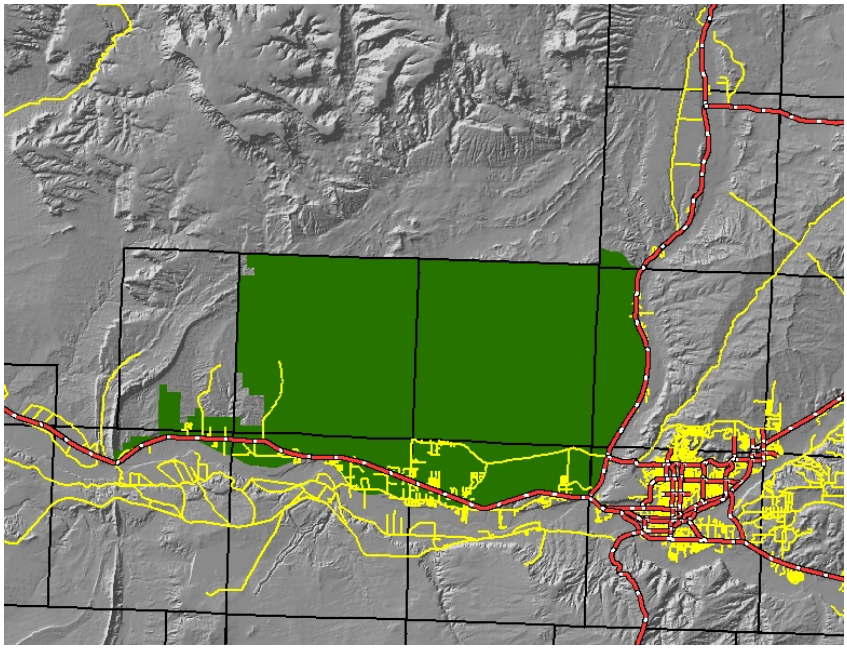
Monitoring: Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified. Long term monitoring studies may be established in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR):

Wildfires occurring here will be monitored. All fires will be allowed to burn naturally. No mechanized equipment will be used in the wilderness area. No prescribed fire is planned here due to the lack of fuel to carry a fire. No hazardous fuels projects will be accomplished in this area. There are no cultural ACECs in this area. Cultural sites are likely to exist in the area. Consult with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity.

Fire Management Unit Name: Twin Mounds
Category/Number: C-3

1**. Location**: The FMU is located in San Juan County, New Mexico on the northwest portion of the Farmington Field Office. The unit is adjacent to the town of La Plata, and borders the La Plata river valley to the west. The Ute Mountain Reservation borders the FMU to the northwest. State highway 170 borders the management area to the east as well as the town of Kirtland borders the area to the south. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The management area has 33,732 acres of BLM administered land. The area is characterized by numerous oil and gas facilities in the area, as well as urban interface areas in the southern portion of the unit. Many trails and roads exist in this area with a large number of ohv recreators utilizing the unit. The area is not officially designated as a recreation area. The area is dominated by sage, grass, saltbush and winter fat with scattered juniper and some piñon. The dominant tree species are piñon- juniper (Pinus edulis), Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma), and true mountain mahogany. Relatively large stands of big sagebrush can occur within the open woodlands of the area. Elevations in the area vary from 5550 feet to 6060 feet. . Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**: .
Lightning caused fires account for 95% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 11 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 21.1 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 2. Under current conditions, which reflect a combination of historically heavy livestock use coupled with fire suppression, many areas in the FMU formerly dominated by grass and shrubs are being invaded by young pinon and juniper trees. This succession is occurring both in chained and naturally occurring

parks. This condition is increasing the fuel loadings in the FMU and increasing the risk of stand replacement wildfires.

5**. Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Values at risk include oil/gas facilities as well as private land in holdings within the management area. Special precautions will have to be used for the recreators in the area.

6. **Communities at Risk**: The towns of Kirtland, and La Plata are adjacent to the management area.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: Utilize fire management techniques and practices to reduce the fire hazard in the area as well as restore natural resources. Allow fire to play a key role in the natural process of the unit.

Suppression: An appropriate management response will be used for all fire in the management area. If a natural fire occurs in the unit a standard protocol will be followed (appendix), and if met, the fire will be allowed to burn in this FMU to a maximum acreage of 20 acres. There are no cultural ACECs in this area. Cultural sites are likely to exist in the area therefore consultation with a cultural resource advisor will occur prior to surface disturbing activity such as fire use or dozer lines. All human caused fires will be immediately suppressed at less than 10 acres in FILs 1-6. Retardant can be used in this unit.

Fire Use: Natural fires will be allowed to play a natural role in the ecosystem. Natural fires will be allowed to burn to a maximum allowable acreage of 30 acres.

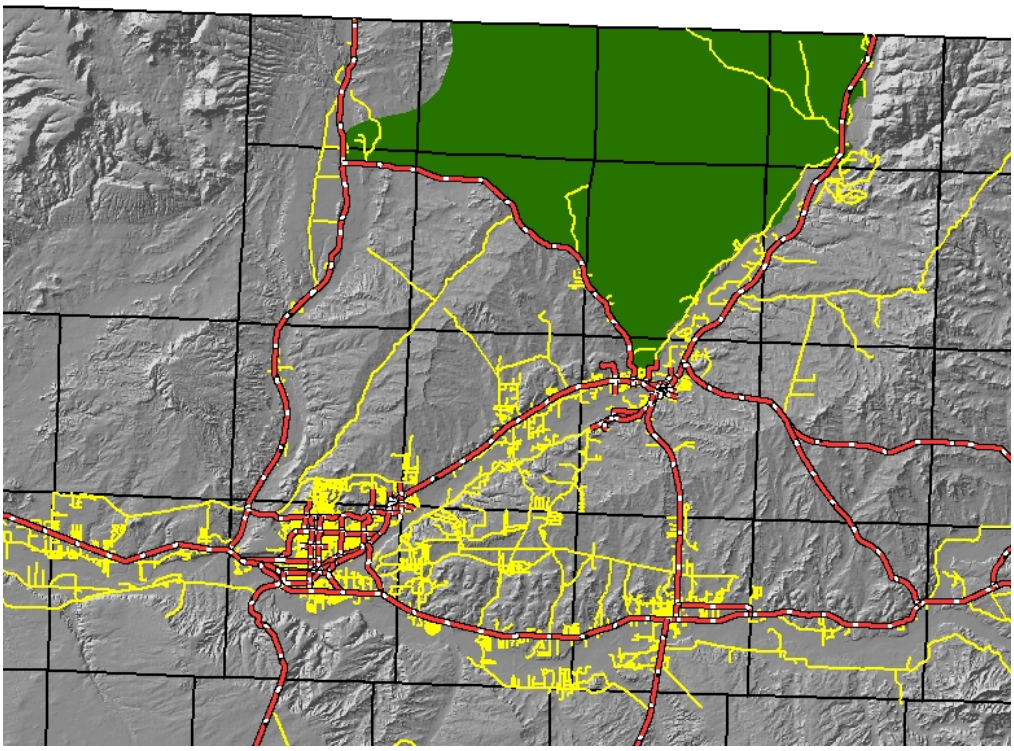
Prescribed Fire: Several projects a year in the C Category totaling 500 acres can be accomplished.

Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment: Approximately 1-5 treatments a year in the C Category totaling 500 acres. These projects could be accomplished through mechanical means, chemical applications, and greenwood sales.

Monitoring: Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified. Long term monitoring studies may be established in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. Consultation with the range section of the FFO will be required for proper rehabilitation efforts in the FMU due to the amount of livestock grazing in the area. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion.

Fire Management Unit Name: Lone tree Mountain
Category/Number: C-4



1. **Location**: This FMU is located in San Juan County, New Mexico on the northwest portion of the Farmington Field Office. This area lies between the La Plata River valley to the west and the Animas River valley to the east. State highways 170 (west), and 550 (east), border the management area. The state of Colorado borders the FMU to the north. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.

2. **Characteristics**: The management area has 36,495 acres of BLM administered land. The area is characterized with numerous gas wells as well as an extensive road system. The area also has many private land in holdings within the unit boundaries. The area is dominated by sage, grass, saltbush and winter fat with scattered juniper and some piñon. The Piñon- Juniper Woodland plant community type primarily covers the majority of the FMU. Common ground cover species are mutton grass (Poa fendleriana), western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), buckwheat (Erioginum sp.), and penstemon (Penstemon sp.). Relatively large stands of big sagebrush can occur within the open woodlands of the management area. Elevations in the area vary from 5750 feet to 7080 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**:
Lightning caused fires account for 100% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 55 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 40 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 3. Under current conditions, which reflect a combination of historically heavy livestock use coupled with fire suppression,

many areas in the FMU formerly dominated by grass and shrubs are being invaded by young pinon and juniper trees. This succession is occurring both in chained and naturally occurring parks. This condition is increasing the fuel loadings in the FMU and increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Oil and Gas facilities are in the area as well as private land in holdings.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are the communities of La Plata, and Cedar Hill at risk in this unit .

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: An AMR will be used for every wildfire in the unit. All fire treatments both fire and mechanical will improve and help maintain the vegetative composition of the management area. Some natural fires will be allowed to burn to enhance, and improve vegetation in the area. Scattering of small (5-20 acre) open grassy areas within much larger (>25 acre) patches of sagebrush and grass intermix. Pockets of lush vegetation or water must be nearby. Fires should create a mosaic pattern with openings ideally limited to 20 to 200 acres, especially where broom snakeweed has invaded, would be desirable. The desired result would be to reduce the snakeweed in the area by 90% with a tolerable reduction of 55%.

Suppression: Wildfires that occur within the management area will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 90 % of the time in FILs 1-6. Retardant as well as heavy equipment can be used in the management area. One cultural ACEC exists in this zone (Cedar Hill). Other cultural sites exist in the area outside of the ACEC therefore consultation with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity such as dozer lines, and fire use will be conducted.

Fire Use: Small numbers of natural fires will be allowed to burn in the management area. The fires will be kept to a maximum allowable acreage of 50 acres.

Prescribed Fire: Several projects a year in the C Category totaling 1000 acres can be accomplished.

Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment: Approximately 1-5 treatments a year in the C Category totaling 700 acres. These projects could be accomplished through mechanical means, chemical applications, and greenwood sales.

Monitoring: Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified. Long term monitoring studies may be established in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for

each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. Sites where any surface disturbing fire fighting activities occur should be reseeded and rehabilitated to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

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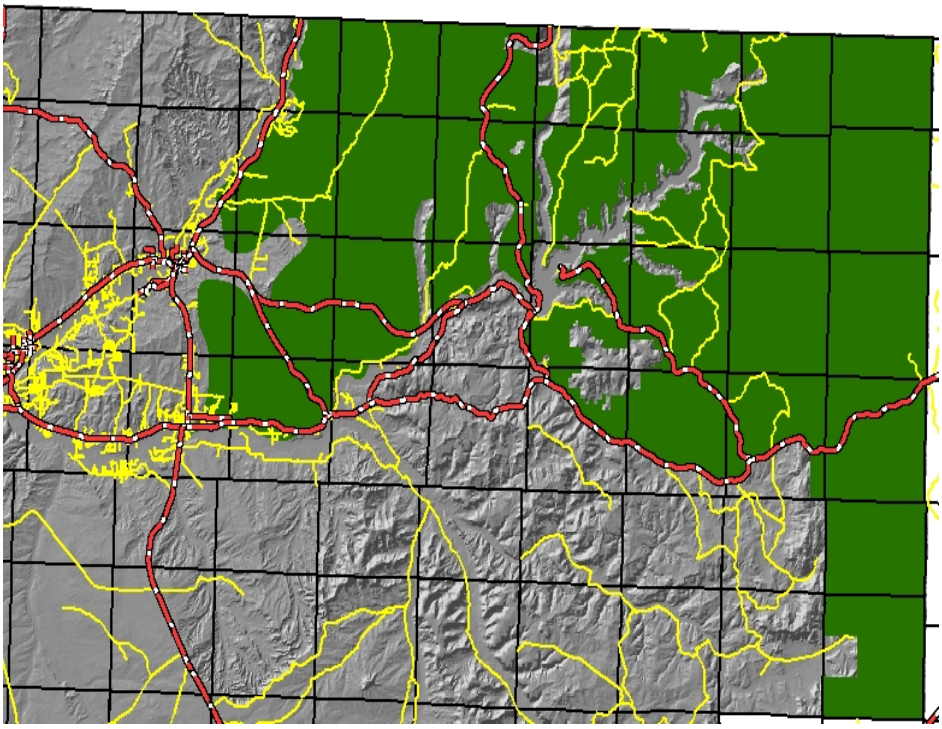
Management Unit Name: Rattlesnake Canyon/Middle Mesa/Rosa Mesa
Category/Number: C-5

1. **Location**: This FMU is located in both San Juan, and Rio Arriba Counties, on the northern portion of the Farmington Field Office. This area is between the Animas, and San Juan River Valleys. The towns of Cedar Hill and Navajo Dam are adjacent to the management unit. The unit is bordered to the west by state highway 550 and the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to the east. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The area is characterized by numerous gas wells as well as an extensive roads system. The unit has 217,852 acres of BLM administered land. Much of the area serves as critical deer winter range. The area also has high recreational value with ohv use, biking, fishing, and hunting. The area mainly consists of mesas and canyon country containing piñon/juniper (60%), sage (30%), mountain shrub (5%), and grassland (5%). The Piñon- Juniper Woodland plant community type primarily covers the entire FMU. Common ground cover species are mutton grass (Poa fendleriana), western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), buckwheat (Erioginum sp.), and penstemon (Penstemon sp.). Elevations in the area vary from 5600 feet to 7200 feet. . Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**:
Lightning caused fires account for 95% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 335 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 570 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 3. Under current conditions, which reflect a combination of historically heavy livestock use coupled with fire suppression,

and oil/gas activity, many areas in the FMU formerly dominated by grass and shrubs are being invaded by young pinon and juniper trees. This succession is occurring both in chained and naturally occurring parks. This condition is increasing the fuel loadings in the FMU and increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Oil and Gas facilities are in the area as well as private land in holdings.

6. **Communities at Risk**: In the Middle Mesa Are there is a small subdivision at risk in this unit. Also, the towns of Cedar Hill, and Navajo Dam are adjacent to the FMU.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**
Restore, and maintain the ecosystem of the management area by utilizing fire techniques such thinning and prescribed fire. Ensure that each fire management decision is consistent with other resource objectives.

Suppression: Heavy equipment and retardant may be used. An appropriate management response will be assigned to each wildfire occurring in the management area. Ground disturbing activity will be rehabilitated and reseeded. Cultural clearances will be accomplished prior to action being taken. Consult with resource advisors prior to action taken. Small wildfires at FILs of 1-3 at 5 to 50 acres can be used for resource benefits. These fires would be beneficial in many areas overpopulated by sagebrush and piñon juniper. However, there are also many areas where Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, Gambel's oak and large piñon pine occur. These areas should be monitored closely if a wildfire occurs so that the acreage in these areas does not exceed 50 acres.

Fire Use: Fire use will be allowed in areas that are 3 miles from any private land in holdings. Fires allowed to burn will first have to analyzed in order to meet strict management guidelines (appendix).

Prescribed Fire: Several projects a year in the C Category totaling 3000 acres can be accomplished.

Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment: Approximately 1-5 treatments a year in the C Category totaling 2000 acres. These projects could be accomplished through mechanical means, chemical applications, and greenwood sales.

Monitoring: Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified. Long term monitoring studies may be established in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly

burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. Sites where any surface disturbing fire fighting activities occur should be reseeded and rehabilitated to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Ensure that archeologists are kept abreast of the rehabilitation process.

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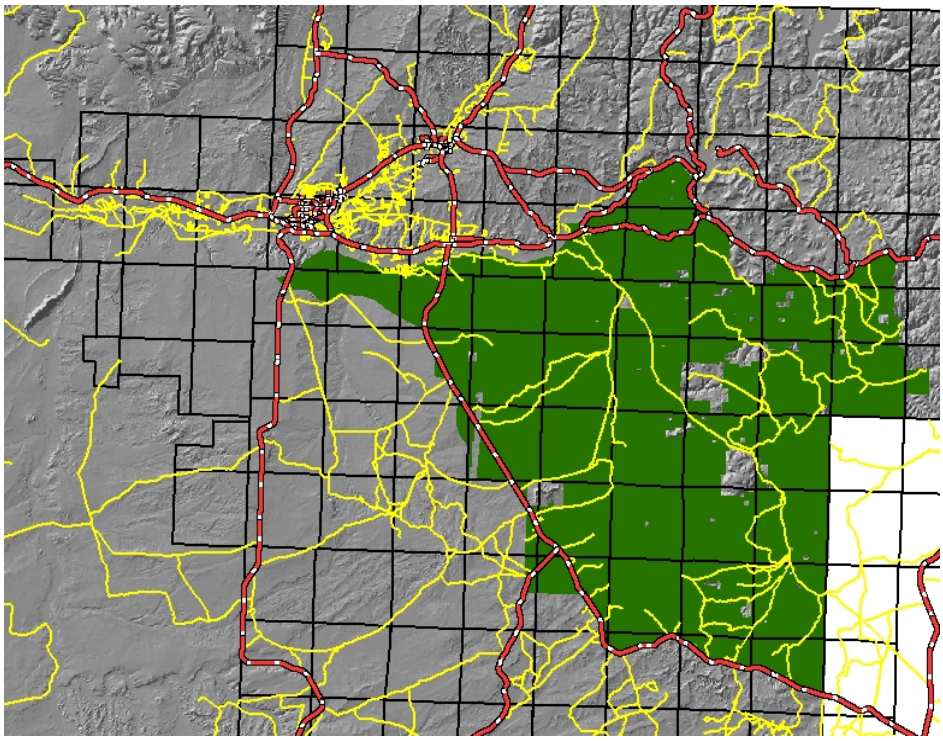
Fire Management Unit Name: Largo/Carrizo/Blanco Canyons
Category/Number: C-6

1. **Location**: This FMU is located in both San Juan, and Rio Arriba Counties, New Mexico on the central portion of the Farmington Field Office. The communities of Bloomfield, and Blanco border the FMU to the north. It should also be noted the San Juan river valley borders the FMU to the north. The Carson National Forest as well as the Jicarilla Apache Reservation border the unit to the east. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics:** The area is characterized by having numerous oil/gas wells as well as numerous roads. There is 505,715 acres of BLM administered land in the management area. There is also numerous in holdings of private land inside the management area. This area is dominated by numerous mesas and canyons with equally large stands of sagebrush and piñon/juniper. Some pockets of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine also occur in deep canyons. There are also large areas of tebuthiuron treated sagebrush, which are transitioning into grassland. Elevations in the area vary from 5550 feet to 7400 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**:
Lightning caused fires account for 95% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 130 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 162.9 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 2. As a result of historic practices, extensive areas of sagebrush throughout the FMU are being invaded by young pinon

and juniper trees. In these areas, and many where tree invasion has not yet occurred, much of the sagebrush is mature or decadent, with little herbaceous material growing beneath. The succession in these areas has reduced their ability to carry fire. Other areas have undergone extensive tebuthiron treatments, which have increased fuel continuity and the ability to carry a fire.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Oil and Gas facilities, and private land in holdings are in the area.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are several small communities at risk in this unit including Blanco, Bloomfield, Gobernador, Lybrook, and Counselor, New Mexico.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: The desired effects would be to reduce the existing sage brush in the area by 70% with a tolerable reduction of 45%. There are also large stands of sagebrush in this unit that are utilized by elk, cattle and deer. Wildfire is more desirable in these areas (Upper Largo). Prescribed fire that reduces the sagebrush by about 50% in these sage stands has been applied with more being planned for the future. Treatments will improve watershed function by reducing erosion and sedimentation through increasing herbaceous growth. Areas in valley bottoms with piñon/juniper encroachment will be thinned mechanically to restore the ecosystem.

Suppression: Retardant and heavy equipment may be used in this management area. Wildfires in FILs 4-6 will be suppressed at less than 20 acres 90% of the time to protect cultural sites, and oil/gas infrastructure. There are unknown cultural sites. Consult with a cultural resource advisor before using dozers. There are 52 cultural ACECs within this FMU. Other cultural sites exist in the area outside of the ACECs. Consult with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity such as heavy equipment. Cultural clearance required prior to use of heavy equipment.

Fire Use: Wildfires used for resource benefits at FILs 1-3 can burn up to 200 acres in some spike treatment areas. Every effort will be made to suppress wildfires in FILs 4-6 to 50 acres or less. Conversely, there are areas of sagebrush on Ensenada Mesa, Angel Peak, Manzanares Mesa and Jaramillo Canyon that are important to antelope and deer.

Prescribed Fire Objectives: Several projects a year in the C Category totaling 2000 acres can be accomplished.

Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment: Approximately 1-5 treatments a year in the C Category totaling 2000 acres. These projects could be accomplished through mechanical means, chemical applications and greenwood sales.

Monitoring: Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and

constraints need to be modified. Long term monitoring studies may be established in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. Sites where any surface disturbing fire fighting activities occur should be reseeded and rehabilitated to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Ensure that archeologists are kept abreast of any rehabilitation process.

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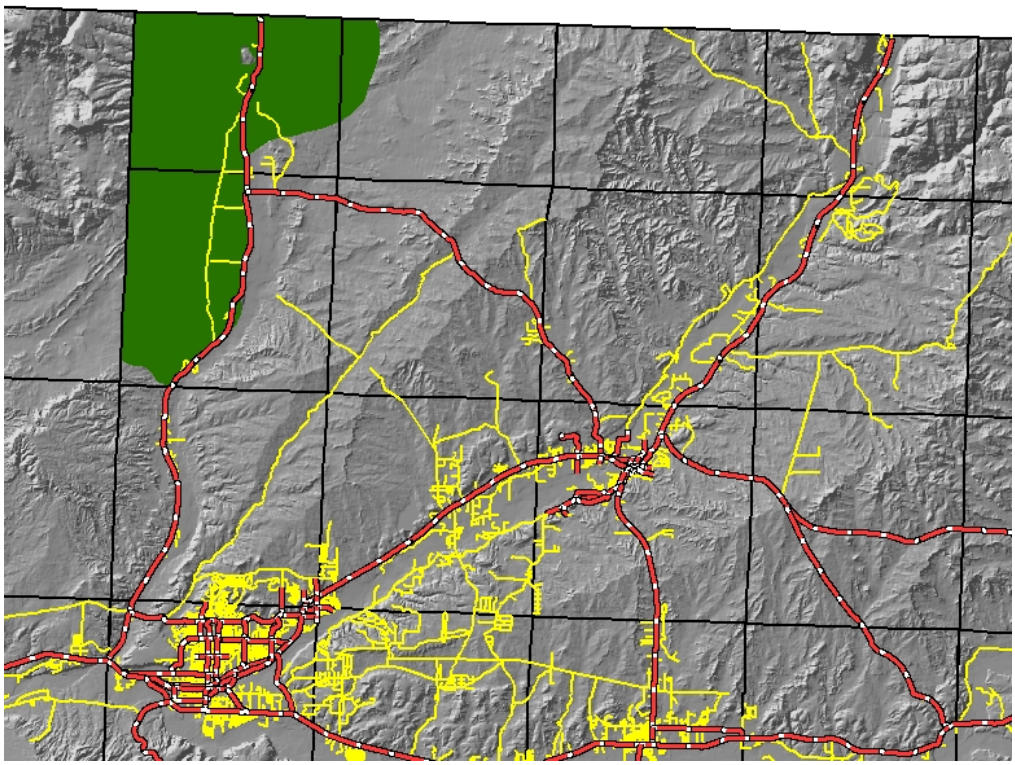
Fire Management Unit Name: Jones/Thomas Canyon
Category/Number: C-7

1. **Location**: This FMU is located in San Juan County, New Mexico on the northwest portion of the Farmington Field Office. It is adjacent to the La Plata River valley to the east, and is bordered by the Ute Mountain Reservation to the west. The state of Colorado borders the FMU to the north. The management area is adjacent to state highway 170. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The management area is one of the few areas in the field office that road access is limited. There is 12,203 acres of BLM administered land in the management area. The area is composed of rolling hills in the lower elevations to steep ridges with deep canyons in the higher elevations. The area is dominated (95%) by a dense stand of piñon/juniper with a brush component (5%). The Piñon- Juniper Woodland plant community type primarily covers the entire FMU. Trees in these woodlands can form a dense canopy or be fairly open. Dense stands generally occur above 6,600 feet in elevation and the dominant tree species are piñon- juniper (Pinus edulis), Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma), Gambel's oak (Quercus gambellii), and true mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus montanus), with occasional stringers of ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa). Common ground cover species are mutton grass (Poa fendleriana), western wheatgrass (Agropyron smithii), buckwheat (Erioginum sp.), and penstemon (Penstemon sp.) (BLM 1997). More open stands are located on drier sites below 6,600 feet elevation where piñon- juniper, Utah juniper, big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentate) and antelope bitterbrush (Purshia tridentate) are common. Blue grama (Boutelua gracilis) and galleta (Hilaria jamesii) are the principal grass species. Relatively large stands of big sagebrush can occur within the open woodlands. Elevations in the area vary from 6050 feet to 6700 feet.

3. **Wildland Fire History**:
Lightning caused fires account for 98% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 9 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 47.4 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 2. The ecological changes brought about by traditional fire management practices, along with others resulting from oil/ gas production, and livestock grazing, have greatly altered conditions in many of the plant communities and greatly affected many species in the management area.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Oil and Gas facilities are in the area as well as private land adjacent to the unit.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk in this unit. However, there are scattered ranch houses adjacent to the management unit.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: An appropriate management response will be determined before any action is taken on wildfires occurring in this management unit. The use of thinnings as well as prescribed fires will be accomplished to meet resource objectives for the management unit. Areas with H2S wells will be avoided, and all employees will be advised to keep out. In the event that a wildfire occurs near an H2S well or a pocket of high concentration the fire will be allowed to burn until the fire spread is outside the H2S area. This action will ensure firefighter and public safety.

Suppression: Wildfires with FILs 1-6 will be suppressed at less than 15 acres 90% of the time to protect private land, and oil/gas infrastructure. All surface disturbances will be rehabilitated and reseeded. Consult with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity such as heavy equipment.

Fire Use: Unplanned natural ignitions in the piñon/juniper portion of C8 will be monitored and allowed to burn up to approximately 20-50 acres if the fire danger rating at the time does not exceed high.

Prescribed Fire: Several projects a year in the C Category totaling 500 acres can be accomplished.

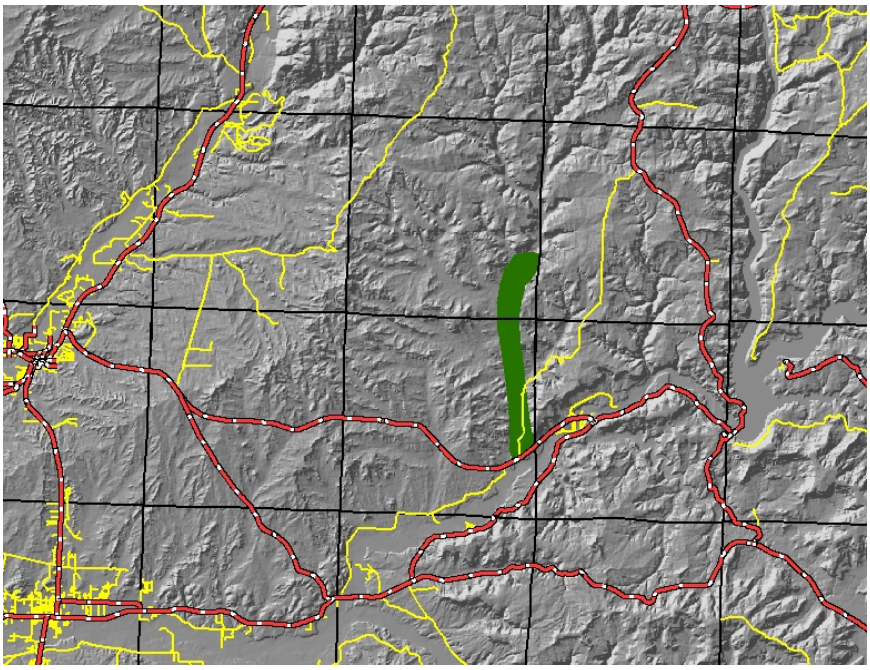
Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment: Approximately 1-5 treatments a year in the C Category totaling 500 acres. These projects could be accomplished through mechanical means, chemical applications and greenwood sales.

Monitoring: Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified. Long term monitoring studies may be established in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. Sites where any surface disturbing fire fighting activities occur should be reseeded and rehabilitated to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Ensure that archeologists are kept abreast of any rehabilitation process.

Fire Management Unit Name: Pump Canyon
Category/Number: C-8

1. **Location**: The area is located north of state highway 173 between Navajo lake state park and Aztec, New Mexico. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The management area has 2,107 acres of BLM administered land. The area is dominated with sage (95%) and patches of grass intermixed (5%). The Piñon- Juniper Woodland plant community type primarily covers most of the FMU. The dominant tree species are piñon- juniper (Pinus edulis), Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperma), Gambel's oak (Quercus gambellii), and true mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus montanus), with occasional stringers of ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa). This area contains a riparian demonstration exclosure as well as other significant riparian habitat. It is very valuable as wildlife habitat and for its watershed qualities. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**:
Lightning caused fires account for 100% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 2 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of .2 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 2. The ecological changes brought about by traditional fire management practices, along with others resulting from oil/ gas production, and livestock grazing, have greatly altered conditions in many of the plant communities and greatly affected many species in the management area.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Oil and Gas facilities are in the area.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk in this unit.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: Wildfire in the area should remain between 20 to 50 acres in size in order to protect the watershed. Create a mosaic of grass and shrubs intermixed with the sage component. These patches are desired to be between 20-50 acres creating diversity in the area.

Suppression: All fires will be required to have an appropriate management response. Wildfires with FILs 1-6 will be suppressed at less than 20 acres 90% of the time to protect private land, oil/gas infrastructure, and cultural sites. Retardant and heavy equipment may be used in this unit. Cultural sites may be present in the area therefore consultation with a cultural resource advisor prior to heavy equipment use will be required.

Fire Use: Natural fires will be allowed to a maximum allowable acreage of 50 acres with FLIs of 1-3.

Prescribed Fire: Several projects a year in the C Category totaling 2000 acres can be accomplished.

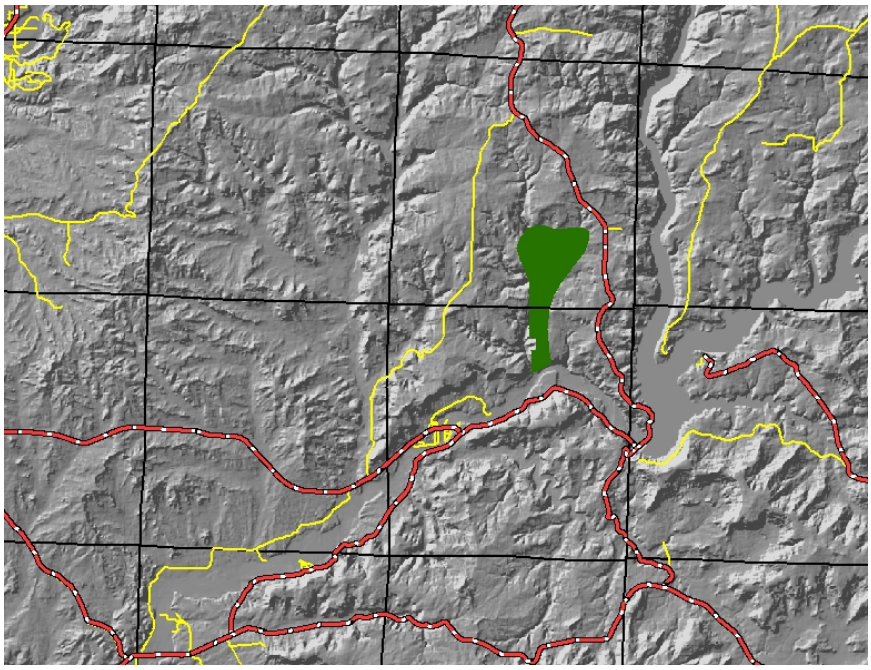
Hazard Fuels Treatment: Approximately 1-5 treatments a year in the C Category totaling 1000 acres. These projects could be accomplished through mechanical means and greenwood sales.

Monitoring: Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified. Long term monitoring studies may be established in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. Sites where any surface disturbing fire fighting activities occur should be reseeded and rehabilitated to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Ensure that archeologists are kept abreast of any rehabilitation process.

Fire Management Unit Name: Simon Canyon
Category/Number: C-9

1. **Location**: This management area is located in San Juan county, New Mexico. The unit is just west of Navajo lake, and state highway 511. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The management area has 1,796 acres of BLM land. The area is dominated with sage (95%) and patches of grass intermixed (5%). The Piñon- Juniper Woodland plant community type primarily covers most of the FMU. Blue grama (Boutelua gracilis) and galleta (Hilaria jamesii) are the principal grass species. Relatively large stands of big sagebrush can occur within the management area. Elevations in the area vary from 5200 feet to 5800 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**:

Lightning caused fires account for 98% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1985 to 2003, 4 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 10.4 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 3. The ecological changes brought about by traditional fire management practices, along with others resulting from oil/ gas production, and livestock grazing, have greatly altered conditions in many of the plant communities and greatly affected many species in the management area. Fuels projects will be accomplished in the unit to reduce the fire hazard.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Oil and Gas facilities are in the area.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are no communities at risk in this unit.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**: This area contains a riparian demonstration exclosure as well as other significant riparian habitat. It is very valuable as wildlife habitat and for its watershed qualities. Wildfire in the area with FILs 1-6 should remain between 20 to 50 acres in size in order to protect the watershed. Create a mosaic of grass and shrubs intermixed with the sage component. These patches are desired to be between 20-50 acres creating diversity in the area.

Suppression: Retardant and heavy equipment may be used in this zone. Cultural sites may be present in the area, consult with a cultural resource advisor prior to heavy equipment use. One cultural ACEC exists within this zone (Simon Ruin). Any fire within ¼ mile of this will be immediately suppressed. Other cultural sites exist in the area outside of the ACEC. Consult with a cultural resource advisor prior to surface disturbing activity such as heavy equipment.

Fire Use: Natural fires will be allowed to burn to a maximum acreage of 50 acres in this management area.

Prescribed Fire Objectives: Several projects a year in the C Category totaling 2000 acres can be accomplished.

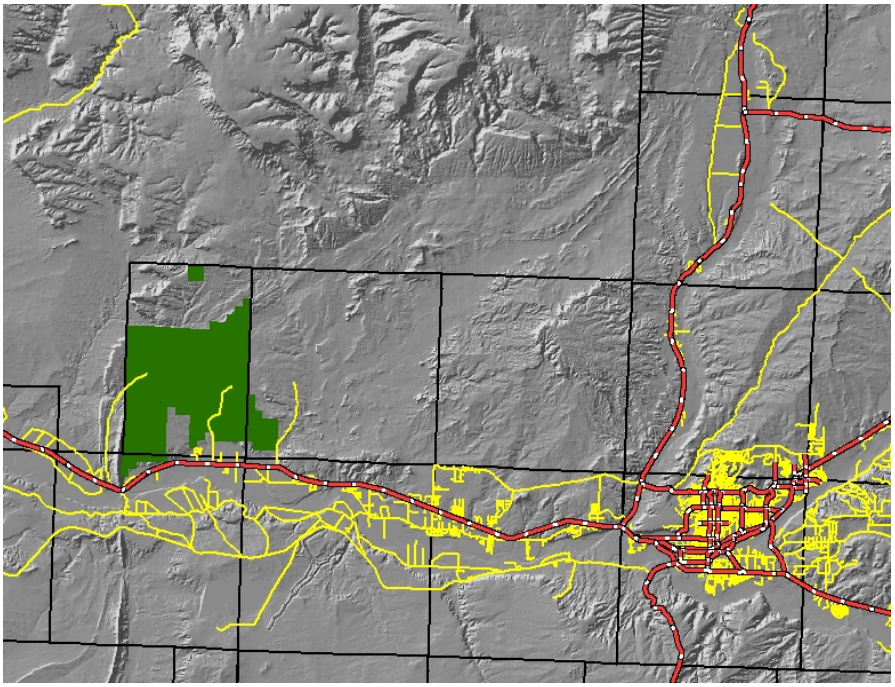
Non-Fire Hazard Fuels Treatment: Approximately 1-5 treatments a year in the C Category totaling 2000 acres. These projects could be accomplished through mechanical means, chemical applications, and greenwood sales.

Monitoring: Fire occurrence will be evaluated each year following the fire season to ensure that resource objectives and constraints have been met or to reevaluate if those objectives and constraints need to be modified. Long term monitoring studies may be established in these FMUs to evaluate fire/thinning effects over time.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. Sites where any surface disturbing fire fighting activities occur should be reseeded and rehabilitated to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Ensure that archeologists are kept abreast of any rehabilitation process.

Fire Management Unit Name: Hogback
Category/Number: C-10

1. **Location**: The FMU is located in San Juan County, New Mexico on the west side if the Farmington Field Office. The FMU borders both the Navajo Reservation to the west as well as the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation to the north. The Fire Management Unit is highlighted in green on the map to the right.



2. **Characteristics**: The Hogback ACEC encompasses approximately 9480 acres (7520 acres of public and 960 acres of state land in the western corner of the Resource Area. This area contains 2 federally listed plant species, the Mesa Verde cactus (Sclerocactus mesae-verdae) and the Mancos milkvetch (Astragalus humillimus) and associated habitat. The Hogback ACEC is part of the Great Basin desert-scrub biotic community. This community is dominated by shrubs with an affinity for cold temperatures, such as sagebrushes (Artemesia spp.), alkali heath (Frankenia jamesii), and saltbrush (Atriplex spp.), however, species such as rabbitbrush (Chysothamnus spp.) and horsebrush (Tetradymia spp.), often found in warmer climates, are also prevalent in the project area. The elevations in the FMU range from 5100 feet to 5400 feet. Maximum temperatures for the FMU exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer monsoon season, frequent lightning storms bring wetting rains.

3. **Wildland Fire History**: Human caused fires account for 100% of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires are less than .10 acre in area. From 1999 to 2003, 20 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 22 acres. Suppression fires typically occur between April 1 and August 1. The fire occurrence numbers above are not reflective of actual numbers due to lack of fire reporting before the existence of the field office's fire program.

4. **Fire regime/condition class**: Presently, in Condition Class 2. The ecological changes brought about by traditional fire management practices, along with others resulting from oil/ gas production, and livestock grazing, have greatly altered conditions in many of the plant communities and greatly affected many species in the management area.

5. **Values at Risk/Resource Protection Constraints**: Threatened and endangered plants as well as oil and gas facilities.

6. **Communities at Risk**: There are the communities of Kirtland and Farmington at risk in this unit.

7. **Fire Management Objectives**:
Ensure that all fire activities will enhance and maintain the fragile ecosystem in the management area. Restore fire as a key part of the natural process in the ecosystem.

Suppression: - If a wildfire should start, an appropriate AMR would be employed, and fire suppression would be limited to existing roads. Fires exhibiting FILs of 4-6 will be suppressed at 1 acre 90% of the time if possible. At the time of a wildfire, the FMO would contact and coordinate with the FFO biologists to develop any site-specific fire suppression tactics that may be appropriate in the ACEC.

Fire Use: Natural fires with FILs of 1-3 will be allowed to burn to a maximum allowable acreage of 50 acres in this area if proper requirements, and guidelines are met.

Prescribed Fire Objectives: Prescribed Fire projects will be evaluated by a case by case basis.

Hazard Fuels Treatment: Small thinnings of non native species may occur, between 10 to 100 acres. These thinnings will reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire in urban interface areas.

Monitoring: The hazard fuel treatments accomplished will be reviewed annually and changes in FMU classification considered based on the results of this review.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR): Depending on the complexity of the wildfire, a specific Burned Area ESR plan will be developed by an interdisciplinary team for each incident greater than 20 acres in size. Roads or fireline created by suppression operations will be obliterated and restored in order to reduce erosion. In the case of an area significantly burned on a slope of 15 percent or greater evaluations and appropriate actions will be taken to prevent erosion. Sites where any surface disturbing fire fighting activities occur should be reseeded and rehabilitated to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Ensure that archeologists are kept abreast of any rehabilitation process.

IV. Fire Management Components
A. Wildland Fire Suppression

1. Fire Planning Unit Fire History
a. Statistics

Fires in the Farmington Interagency area typically do not exceed 5 acres in size. In past years most are fires confined to one or two trees with minimal ground fire. The rare exceptions to fires greater than 5 acres are starts during extremely dry conditions or fires that are wind driven. In recent years from 2001 to the present, fires have increased in acreage due to the establishment of cheat grass, and heavy accumulations of fuel loadings throughout the FFO. With the present condition wildfires until the unforeseen future will have a major increase in acreage burned throughout the FFO. With the change in fuels throughout the field office this plan will reflect the estimated increase in acreage burned in the budget portion of the plan.

The most volatile fuel type in the area is Gambel's oak in association with other species. Gambel's oak seems to be combustible throughout much of the year due to the high amount of leaf litter that it accumulates and the overall configuration of fuels in this type. Other fuel types in the area rely on either warm or cool season grasses for an understory component to carry the fire. Fire occurrence under these circumstances sometimes produces fires that have a moderate rate of spread. The Jicarilla Ranger District receives moderate fire behavior with the majority of the fires occurring in the Ponderosa pine and Gambel's oak.

Field Office: NM - FAD Fire History 1994-2003				
Average No. Fire Protection Type Acres	No. Fires	BLM Acres	Other Acres	Total Acres
Type - 11	153	270	3	273
Type - 51	9	0	0	0
10 Year Totals	**162**	**270**	**3**	**273**

* Fires by Acreage by size class-Type 11**	
A	162
B	22
C	7
D	0
E	0

2. Suppression/Preparedness Actions

The Farmington Field Office (joint FS-BLM) is responsible for fire management on approximately 1.5 million acres of public land, which includes 160,000 acres on Forest Service Land and potentially another 700,000 acres of private, state and Indian allotted lands where fires may occur and pose a threat to the public lands. Initial attack strategies range from aggressive suppression to monitoring depending on location, ACEC's, critical habitat for T&E species, soils, and areas of critical resource constraints. Prescriptive criteria will be used as a guideline for the decision-making process to determine the appropriate response strategy for any new fire start in the FFO management area. The prescriptive criteria will operate, in essence, as a go/no go checklist to assure managers that all factors, in addition to firefighter safety and least cost, have been considered in the management of a particular fire. The prescriptive criteria that will be considered are: An appropriate management response will be determined prior to taking action on any wildfire that occurs on BLM administered lands on the Farmington Field Office. The operational roles of the FFO in the wildland/urban interface areas are wildland firefighting, hazardous fuels reduction, cooperative prevention and education, and technical assistance. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of tribal, State, or local governments, as described in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations. **Four Corners Dispatch**

3. Fire Prevention, Community Education, Community Risk Assessment, and Other Community Assistance Activities (Firewise).

There are several communities that are considered at risk from wildland fire immediately adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management boundaries. Farmington, Aztec, and Bloomfield, the major population centers, along with several small communities; Cedar Hill, Blanco, Navajo Dam, Navajo City, Flora Vista, and La Plata all have common boundaries with BLM lands. Forest Service lands have no common boundaries with any communities. The primary users of

all the interagency lands involved are employees of the oil and gas industry. The primary recreational users are hunters. Very few human-caused fires occur on Federal Lands in the AOR (Area of Response). Lightning accounts for approximately 90% of all fires in the interagency AOR with various human causes accounting for 10%.

Prevention Program – Annual Prevention Program

The Farmington Field Office, in conjunction with the Jicarilla Ranger District of the Carson National Forest has a very aggressive prevention program that includes; public education, extensive field patrols, and on-site inspections. The overall goal is to minimize all human-caused fires in the AOR. The above objective is to be met through strict enforcement of all fire prevention provisions in all contracts and permits, through an extensive public education programs, and by an aggressive Law Enforcement program.

Special Orders and Closures-

Close coordination with the Carson National Forest, Sate Forestry, San Juan County, Navajo Lake State Park, and the Jicarilla Apache Tribe is accomplished prior to special orders being initiated for the FFO. Special Orders and closures are covered in the Interagency Fire Prevention Plan. Total closure of Federal Lands within the FFO cannot be an option due to the extensive Oil and Gas operations on leases within the FFO. All Special Orders must be approved by the appropriate Line Officer. The Interagency Fire Prevention Plan is located in the Four Corners Interagency Dispatch Center.

c. Industrial Operations and Fire Precautions

See Interagency Fire Prevention Plan – Industrial Operation (Appendix)

4. Fire Training Activities

a. Qualifications and Fireline Refresher

Training and fitness requirements for all personnel involved in Wildland Fire Suppression and support are found in the 2004 Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Management and NWCG 310-1. The Field Office Manager will ensure employees are trained, certified and available to participate in the wildland fire program locally, regionally, and nationally as the situation demands, as described in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations. Employees with operational, administrative, or other skills will support the wildland fire program as necessary and according to their capabilities. Attendance at a yearly 8 hour. refresher and successful completion of the Work Capacity Test at the appropriate level is mandatory for issuance of a Red Card.

b. Fire Season Readiness

The fire season for the Four Corners Interagency Fire Center is normally from May to September, it may extend up to a month sooner or later and in extreme years from February to October . The following is a guide to prepare for preseason fire readiness and meet annual safety refresher training. It consists of 80 hours of reviews, refresher, and training, also the preparation of tools, equipment, fire pumps and hose, and trucks.

8 hours

EPPRR's and IDP's
Review SOP's and FMP
Accident reports, CA-1, CA-16
Safety reporting and Job Hazard Analysis
Administrative,(fire crew orientation, time, Fire Time Reports, fleet gas card, etc.)

8 hours

Annual Fire refresher, (8 hours per Forest Service standard)

8 hours

First aid, CPR
Defensive driving
Blood borne pathogens
Hazardous Materials/ Hazardous Communications

8 hours

Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) (required)
Local management issues
Chain of command

8 hours

Driver training (off road, fire line, obstacle course)
Mobilization standards
Driver duty limitations / work rest guidelines

8 hours

Fire fighter safety
Human factors
10 & 18, LCES
PPE
Fire shelter, field exercise

8 hours

Fire behavior
Look up, down, and around
Extreme fire behavior
Fire weather

8 hours

Engine operations
Pumps & water use
Preventative maintenance, check list
Fire service hydraulics
Urban interface

8 hours

Crew operations
Organization
Transportation
Safety plan
Field exercises

8 hours

Field exercises
Hose lays
Line building (standards, as a crew.)
Pumping/ drafting water

5. Detection

Detection for the FMU is done for the most part by lease operators in the Oil and Gas Industry. Because there are thousands of employees in the field on a daily basis this has become the most effective detection system the FFO has. In addition to this the Fire Management Staff can request aerial recon through the Zone during periods of high activity.
San Juan County Fire Department also reports fires on federal land to Four Corners Dispatch from 911 calls.

6. Fire Weather and Fire Danger

The Interagency Fire Management organization is responsible for 1 Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS):

Name	NWS ID	NESS ID	Elevation	Latitude	Longitude
Albino	290102	324BF5EA	6800	36 58 12	107 40 12

The interagency dispatch office is responsible for the daily data collection and associated WIMS input to determine Fire Danger Ratings and staffing levels. This information and daily Fire Weather forecasts are posted daily in the dispatch office.

A portable RAWS belonging to the Interagency Fire Management organization is always available to obtain site specific weather data for prescribed burns and wildfires.

Both RAWS stations use the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) fuel models A and C to determine fire danger ratings.

7. Aviation

Local vendors as well as Zone aviation resources are available for reconnaissance, point to point transportation, and aerial retardant missions. Durango Dispatch of the Rocky Mountain Region provides airtankers, and helicopter support when needed. There is a heavy airtanker and SEAT stationed in Durango, Colorado, as well as a type III helicopter stationed at Mesa Verde National Park. All aviation resource orders will be placed through Four Corners Dispatch and Taos Zone Coordination Center. The unit aviation plan is on file in the Four Corners Interagency Dispatch Center. The Field Office Fire Management Officer is designated as the unit Aviation Manager.

8. Initial Attack

All suppression activities (tactics and strategies) will be consistent with the resource management objectives and constraints developed in this plan. There are a total of 19 FMU's within the FPU. Suppression actions differ from full suppression to monitoring for Fire Use up to 1000 acres. The suppression organization consists of 2 Type 6 wildland fire engines, a ten person

Fuels Crew with a 200 gal. slip-on pump unit available for fire assignments, and a 125 gal. Patrol Unit that will be staffed by a qualified fire person. Each of the 2 full time Engines has a pre-determined AOR and is responsible for suppression and/or monitoring of fires in their respective AOR's. The primary known hazards within each AOR are the thousands of natural gas wells operated by lease holders. These natural gas wells may have poisonous gasses (H2S in particular) that are emitted periodically and could pose a threat to any fire resources unfamiliar with natural gas operations.

9. Extended Attack and Large Fire Suppression

If or when a fire goes beyond initial attack an extended attack organization will be established. This extended organization will be filled with personnel outside of the Four Corners Interagency Fire management team (FMO, AFMO). Resource orders for personal and equipment will be ordered and filled through proper dispatch channels.

IV.- B. Wildland Fire Use

To assist managers in implementing the FFO Fire Management Plan, the following list specifically outlines the preplanned parameters for managing fires in each of the management categories. Based on the prescriptive criteria, these parameters detail the environmental, social/political, and economic factors that must be addressed in determining the appropriate response strategy for fires in each of the management categories.

A category Fire Management Unit:

Upon receiving a report of a fire in the A category FMU, dispatch will send the closest firefighting forces to the fire. All wildland fires in these areas will be immediately suppressed under the Appropriate Management Response guidelines currently in effect.

B and C category Fire Management Unit:

Upon receiving a report of a fire in a C FMU, dispatch will also send the closest firefighting forces to the fire. While these forces are enroute and after they have arrived on the scene, the Fire Management Officer will continue to collect information about the fire- such as the exact location and size, potential for spread, weather observations, closest natural barriers, proximity to private/urban areas, oil/gas sites and structures etc.- in order to answer the questions on the go/no go checklist.

If, at the end of the go/no go checklist, all the questions indicate that the field office should manage the fire for resource benefits the decision will be made to allow the fire to burn to meet resource objectives. The decision will be documented and approved by the Field Office Manager. The decision-making process will be ongoing while the fire remains active. Managers will recertify their decision daily to ensure that all considerations remain valid, in which case, the course of action will be maintained.

C Category Fire Managament Units, Go/No Go Checklist For Wildland Fire Use:

A. Environmental

-Will this fire stay within FMU boundaries or can a defensible perimeter be established? (If Yes, continue)

-Do environmental parameters (see below) indicate that this fire will burn as planned? (If Yes, continue)

-ERC<60

-Haines Index<6

-1000 hr. Fuel Moisture >9%

-Live Fuel Moisture >80%

-Is the fire meeting resource constraints outlined by FMU in section III (Fire Management Objectives) of this Plan? (If Yes, continue)

-Is the fire located in an area with additional suppression constraints? (If Yes, refer to the regulations in the appropriate document for guidance.)

B. Social/Political

-Is there a smoke permit in place and are smoke management forecasts favorable? (If Yes, continue)

-Is the fire threatening an above ground structure (homes, oil/gas facilities) or a major access route? (If No, continue)

-Are there less than 5 fires, and/or 1000 acres being managed with benefits to the resources in mind? (If Yes, continue)

-Are there sufficient forces available to manage this fire? (If Yes, continue)

C. Economical

- As clearly as can be determined, will managing this fire according to established parameters result in a higher cost per acre as would a more aggressive suppression response? (If No, continue)

BLM Direction

1. Description of the wildland fire use opportunities

Within the Fire Planning Unit there are 10 FMUs in the C category, where wildland fire may be desired for the benefit of resources, with major constraints. These FMUs are:

1.) Chaco
2.) Bisti-Denazin Wilderness
3.) Twin Mounds
4.) Lone tree Mountain
5.) Rattlesnake Canyon/Middle Mesa/Rosa Mesa
6.) Largo/Carrizo/Blanco Canyons
7.) Jones/Thomas Canyon

8) Pump Canyon Simon Canyon
9.) Hogback

Specific objectives for each FMU are described in chapter 3. These wildland fire implementation areas were identified through the LUP and the activity level process.

2. Preplanned Implementation Procedures
Annual activities required to designate and manage incidents for wildland fire use include:

- Local communities, county officials, and the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) have been involved in discussion on proposed wildland fire use areas. Notification procedures have been established to alert these officials when a fire may be managed for resource benefit within each FMU.

- Necessary management action points have been identified for each FMU. These management action points can be found in the Wildland Fire Use section of this Fire Plan.

- An open burning permit has been obtained from the State of New Mexico.

- Wildland fire use applications will follow the National Interagency Mobilization Guide direction when in preparedness level IV and V.

3. Initial Action Procedures
All wildfires will be subject to an initial attack response. This response will include size up of the current fire situation, determination of probable fire cause and estimate of potential for fire spread. A suppression action will be initiated unless the fire is determined to be a candidate ignition for management as a wildland fire use incident. All candidate ignitions will be managed in accordance with the procedures and requirements outlined in the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Implementation Procedures Reference Guide. All ignitions determined to be human caused will be suppressed using an appropriate management response.

4. Required Personnel
The FFO is capable of managing wildland fire use incidents up to and including those at the Type II complexity level. A Fire Use Management Team will be ordered through dispatch for incidents exceeding this level of complexity. Current qualified staff members may act as interim fire use managers pending the arrival of a Fire Use Manager (FUMA) or Fire Use Management Team. A current list of all personnel qualified to manage and/or assist in wildland fire use incidents is available through the respective agency.

5. Public information/coordination should occur with each agency public affairs staff to prepare pre-season news releases,

- Target audiences include: agency staff and publics focusing on special use permittees, recreationists, and public or communities that would be potentially affected by a wildland fire use incident.

IV. C. Prescribed Fire

1. Planning and Documentation

The prescribed fire program consists mainly of burning through slash generated by previous thinning activity. Many of these projects are located in areas previously treated by chaining, and most are classified as fire regime 2. Maintenance of these areas increases habitat value, watershed values, and moves condition class 3 towards 1 or 2. Favorable conditions for burning are generally in the early to late spring and late fall. Some of the late spring burning conflicts with the seasonal closure on burning from May 1st to July 15th, enacted to mitigate possible impact to migrating and nesting birds.

Additional prescribed fires are in grass units. These are done to maintain areas previously treated by tebuthyron, so they are intended to prevent sage brush from returning to dominance throughout the unit. These burns are difficult to implement because during the summer when the seasonal burn closure for birds is in force there are also favorable conditions to achieve the desired results. That makes the window of opportunity for burning these units very small.

Pre-season activities include preparation of burn plans, applications for smoke permits, and equipment preparation. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis is generally included with the initial proposal for thinning, burning, and public removal of firewood from the units. Purpose and need for each project and identified goals and objectives are established during the NEPA process and identified in the burn plan pre-implementation. Burn plan preparation, NEPA, and smoke permitting are done in collaboration with resource specialists, Forest Service fire and fuels employees, public relations personnel, and state employees and liaisons.

Archaeological considerations are significant throughout the FMU. Projects of 100 acres or more usually need to have the archaeological survey contracted which increases cost and planning time. This contracting is due to the pre-existing work load of the FFO archeology staff administering oil and gas development. Certain areas known to contain an abundance of wooden types of sites are avoided due to cost and implementation concerns. Close coordination with the FFO archeologist aids in planning to determine project locations, and survey time and cost.

Smoke permits for prescribed fire or fire use have to be requested from the New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau at least one month in advance to receive approval in time to burn. The burn plans can be done in as little as a week in advance to provide time for adequate notifications. Notifications include public contacts through the newspaper and/or radio, oil and gas companies, dispatch offices, and New Mexico Air Quality.

Equipment preparation generally consists of preparing burn fuel, and getting drip torches ready. There are approximately 25 drip torches available year-round, and between 4 or 5 DOT approved 5-gallon containers. Additional preparation involves gathering together and posting smoke warning and notification signs on the roads adjacent to burn unit.

Priorities for burning outside the wildland urban interface are established:

1) Watershed protection and improvement
2) Fire dependent ecosystem restoration, such as moving condition class 3 to condition class 1 or 2, and condition class 2 to condition class 1
3) Reducing fuel build-up generated during thinning operations to reduce risk of unplanned ignition to surrounding oil and gas wells
4) Maintenance of ecosystems in condition class 1

Prescribed burning implementation cooperation and results:

1) Contractors are not used for prescribed burning, local or otherwise. Possible exceptions to this would be the use of the Southwest Youth Corps to implement burning, but that is difficult due to scheduling conflicts and variable training needs. Cooperation has been established with San Juan County fire personnel to exchange availability of fire equipment and volunteer personnel for the opportunity to participate as a training opportunity.
2) Prescribed burn acres are from 500 to 1000 annually depending on burning opportunities. These opportunities are dependent on weather, available personnel, and seasonal closure due to migratory birds.
3) Approximately 600 acres of the prescribed burning is in condition class 3, and these units are then moved to condition class 2, or a combination of condition class 1 and 2.

b. Identified position needs to meet the prescribed fire workload are 3 Type 2 Burn Bosses (RXB2), 3 Type 2 Ignition Specialists (RXI2), and 2 Holding Bosses. Additional desired positions are 2 Fire Effects Monitors (FEMO) and 1 Field Observer (FOBS).

c. Prescribed burn bosses are required to evaluate the effectiveness of the burn as implemented each day, both during and after ignition. Observation of effectiveness is documented in the burn plan. Long term effectiveness monitoring is accomplished by the fuels specialist by studying the plot photos and transect data. The effects are subsequently re-assessed every other year and kept electronically as well as stored to the permanent project file.

Monitoring records of fire effects includes a minimum of before-and-after photo plots. These photos show fuels reduced, mosaic effects, and re-vegetation of the prescribed fire area. Additional monitoring via transects includes fuel loading, stand density, and vegetation composition. The transect data will give a more accurate measurement of actual effects both short and long term, and ensure the objectives have been met. Monitoring is being done on both prescribed fire and mechanical treatment areas across the FMU.

d. Fuels treatments

All the prescribed fire and fuel reduction projects are recorded in the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS), available on the internet. Table 1 is a summary of projects planned for implementation for fiscal years 2003 through 2006.

Chemical treatments listed are done by contractors, with the exception of 2500 acres of non-WUI treatment proposed for FY 2005. All other non-WUI chemical treatments listed are tebuthyron applications for range and watershed improvement. The listed WUI chemical treatments are all contracted. Local contractors are used when possible.

Table 1. Farmington Field Office Fuels Treatments; Past, Current, and Proposed.

TYPE	FY2003 # of projects/acres	FY2004 # of projects/acres	FY2005 # of projects/acres	FY2006 # of projects/acres
prescribed fire non-WUI	3/474	4/655	4/900	2/1100
mechanical non-WUI	8/1564	1/1800	5/2845	4/535
chemical non-WUI	3/6319	1/8032	2/4500	1/2000
prescribed fire WUI	0	0	0	0
mechanical WUI	0	2/80	2/107	2/60
chemical WUI	0	1/20	1/67	1/20
contract mechanical[1]	2/260	2/220	1/67	2/220
by-products utilized[2]	2/788	3/887	3/910	2/140

[1]Mechanical acres implemented by contractors are listed twice, under mechanical WUI or non-WUI and contract mechanical. [2]By-products utilized are firewood.

2. Air Quality and Smoke Management

a. Air Quality is generally good throughout the FFO. All smoke management is coordinated with the New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau, which issues smoke permits for prescribed burns. Guidance provided by the NMED is updated as of October 30, 2003. Most of the prescribed burning in the FFO is covered under Smoke Management Program II (SMP II), which is for burning more than 1 ton per day. This requires registration, notification and tracking documentation to be submitted to NMED. It also requires consideration of alternatives to burning, implementation of at least one emission reduction technique (ERT), visual monitoring and local fire authority notification. An additional requirement is a ventilation index of good or better, however, there is a blanket waiver for burning under fair ventilation conditions provided daily visual monitoring is documented and submitted to NMED. Individual waivers must be obtained for burning under poor ventilation indices, but these are generally only allowed for pile burning.
Smoke management program I (SMP I) is for burning less than 1 ton per day, and has the same requirements as SMP II with the exception of notifying NMED prior to burning and consideration of ERTs or alternatives to burning.

Exceptions to permitting are burns which fall under the open burning regulations. These burns involve burning no more than 10 acres or 1,000 cubic feet of material per day, and must be at least 300 feet from inhabited areas. The only notification requirement for open burning is contacting the local firefighting authority prior to burning. Additionally, the burn must be started 1 hour before sunrise, and extinguished 1 hour before sunset.

b. Measures to prevent or mitigate adverse smoke events include burning with adequate ventilation, visual monitoring, proper notifications, use of ERTs, and time of day considerations. Also, smoke signs are posted on roadways that could be affected by smoke and these areas are monitored for safe smoke conditions and vehicles with emergency lights and road guards are posted when conditions warrant.

1) The only Class 1 airshed in the vicinity is Mesa Verde National Park, which is 10 miles away from the nearest border of the far Northwest portion of the FPU. This is generally not affected by prescribed burning on the FPU due to the predominant Westerly flow experienced throughout the FPU.

2) There are no non-attainment areas that could be impacted by burning in the FPU.

3) Sensitive areas are the New Mexico communities of Cedar Hill, Farmington, Blanco, Aztec, Blanco, Navajo Dam, Lybrook, and Counselor. Others are the Colorado communities of Arboles, Durango, Fort Lewis and Ignacio, CO. Some of the New Mexico communities are susceptible to nighttime settling, so considerations are made of early cessation of ignition to allow for smoke dispersal previous to diurnal changes.

4) Consideration is made, in coordination with the NMED, of haze generated by smoke generated in Arizona before implementing prescribed burning in compliance with the EPA's regional haze rule. The same coordination is necessary for pile burning which is usually favorable in winter months during conditions of poor ventilation indices. It is the final decision of the NMED to approve burning, and the responsibility of the burn boss to ensure that adverse smoke impacts are avoided.

D. Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation

If emergency rehabilitation or restoration is needed on wildfire areas or prescribed burns, an interdisciplinary team will be formed, and rehab plans will be developed. Emergency fire rehabilitation will be based on specific FMU requirements.

E. Community Protection/Community Assistance

There are several communities within the field office that are at risk of wildfire. These communities are Aztec, Bloomfield, Blanco, Farmington, Kirtland, numerous Navajo Chapter Communities, and various unnamed subdivisions scattered throughout the field office. A hazard

mitigation plan will be started in fiscal year 04 for the city of Farmington using a community assistance grant. The following is a list of all communities prioritized by year for accomplishment of Community Risk Action Plans:

	FY
1.) Farmington	04
2.)Bloomfield	05
3.)Aztec	06
4.)Chapters	07
5.)Blanco	08
6.)Middle Mesa	09
7.)Navajo Dam	10

F. Rural Fire Assistance

The field office has been very active in the Bureau of Land Management's Rural Fire Assistance Program for the State of New Mexico since 2001. The Fire Management Officer and Assistant Fire Management Officer assist local fire departments on grant preparation and overviews of the program. To coordinate the distribution of the grants throughout the state an annual meeting is held with representatives from the New Mexico State Division of Forestry, and the National Park Service. The following communities have been awarded grants:

Community	Year	Amount
Bloomfield	2001	$2500
Cedar Hill	2001	$2500
Cedar Hill	2002	$8000
Center Point	2002	$8000
Blanco	2002	$8000
Kirtland	2002	$8000
Bloomfield	2002	$12000
Sullivan Road	2002	$8000
Cedar Hill	2003	$5000
Center Point	2003	$5000
Blanco	2003	$5000
Community	Year	Amount
Kirtland	2003	$5000
Bloomfield	2003	$16000
San Juan County	2004	$24000 (split between 5 communities)
Bloomfield	2004	$10000

V: Organization and Budget

BLM Direction

A. Budget and Organization
The following resources are needed to provide a safe, cost effective fire management program.

Normal Year Readiness.

- National Resources:

Currently, there are no national resources housed or administered under the umbrella of the Farmington Field Office.

- Local Resources:

It is anticipated that the FMO position would require 12 work months, both the GS-6/7 career-seasonal Engine Module Lead and Fuels Crew Lead positions would require 12 work months, the career seasonal engine operator 8 work months, the senior firefighter 7 work months, the two fire engine seasonal positions would require 3 total work months each, the 10 seasonal fuels employees would require 6 work months and the Fuels Specialist GS-7/9/11 would require 12 work months. The Farmington Field Office will also fund an Initial Attack Dispatcher for 9 work months. The FMO position will be a BLM employee, which will have administrative responsibility for both the Farmington Field Office and the Jicarilla Ranger District. The Jicarilla Ranger District will fund an Assistant FMO to help administer both districts in the event the FMO is absent.

The Farmington Field Office will maintain one Type 6 engine and a patrol vehicle with a 125 gallon slip-on unit. The Forest Service will maintain a type 6 engine, and 1 pickup truck for the AFMO. FOR and mileage costs will be required on the BLM Type 6 engine, the BLM slip on unit and a vehicle (each for Fuels Specialist and) for the FMO. It is anticipated that the slip on unit will be staffed with the USFS Fuels Technician.

The following table will be used to describe the fire planning unit's organization:

Resource	Current Staffing	Desired Staffing	Normal Activation	Sub Activity	Cost
FMO /BLM Employee	1	1	Yearly	2810	$77,000
AFMO/ FS Employee	1	1	Yearly	FS	$55,000
Engine Module Lead	1	1	Yearly	BLM	$35,000
Type 6-Engine BLM (1) total cost	4	4	May-Aug	2810/2823	$75,000
Type 6-Engine FS (1) total cost	4	4	May-Aug	FS	$95,000

Fuels Specialist BLM Employee	1	1	Yearly	2823	$65,000
Fuels Technician FS Employee	1	1	Apr-Sept	FS	$35,000
Dispatch	1	2	Yearly	2810/2823	$35,000
Fuels Module Lead	1	1	Yearly	2823/2824	$35,000
Fuels Crew	9	9	Apr-Sept	2823	$150,000
Administrative Support FS Employee	1	1	Yearly	2810/2823	$32,000
Fire Cache Replacement				2810	$10,000
Medical Tests				2810	$5,000
Prevention/Education Supplies				2810	$5,000
Training for employees				2810	$10,000
Holiday/Overtime pay for staffing				2810	$10,000
BLM TOTAL					$729,000

B. Assistance Agreements and Intra/Interagency Agreements

The south end of the field office area on a line that parallels the road from Cuba to Torreon to White Rock to where it intersects State Highway 371 about 2 miles north of Crownpoint southward, has by the Joint Powers Agreement, been assigned to the Albuquerque Field Office for fire protection. The proximity of the Grants and Cuba Field Stations and the historically minimal fire occurrence in this area were the primary rationale in making this agreement.

Under the joint powers agreement the Farmington BLM is responsible to initial attack all fires on state of New Mexico and Indian allotted lands. In addition to this, the Farmington Office also performs initial attack on wildfires occurring on private lands that pose a threat to BLM land and also Forest Service land on the Jicarilla Ranger District. The Farmington Field Office has entered into an interagency agreement with the Carson National Forest to share resources and create a joint fire program.

The Farmington BLM has entered into a Mutual Aid Agreement/Annual Plan of Operation with the volunteer fire departments of San Juan County. This agreement provides for the participation of the VFDs in suppressing wildfires on lands administered by the Farmington Field Office. The Field Office has also set up an Interagency Agreement with the USDA Forest Service, Jicarilla Ranger District of the Carson National Forest for combining both fire organizations.

C. Equipment Rental Agreements

The Farmington Field Office utilizes the Taos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque Zone's EERA service and supply plans. Copies are available at the Four Corners Dispatch Center.

D. Contract Suppression and Prescribed Fire Resources

Several contract engines are available within the Taos, and Santa Fe zones.

A copy of these agreements/contracts must be available in dispatch as part of the service and supply plan.

VI. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluations of the fire program will occur systematically to ensure that the fire program is meeting goals, resource objectives and ensure financial responsibility of the program is kept up to bureau standards. Fire Preparedness Readiness reviews will be accomplished yearly before each fire season to ensure firefighting resources are meeting Bureau standards. Also, 10% of wildfires occurring on FFO lands will be after action reviewed by the Field Office Manager using guidelines established in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations.

Monitoring related to specific fire projects falls under the general monitoring guidelines outlined in the resource management plan. Site specific monitoring will be determined on a project by project basis. Monitoring for prescribed fire projects will start immediately following the burn to ensure resource objectives were met.

Evaluations will be conducted after each fiscal year to determine if the fire program is consistent with the guidelines set in the interagency agreement with the Carson National Forest.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) – Acreage within BLM public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, or visual values; fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Critical Habitat – Under the Endangered Species Act, critical habitat is defined as habitat of federally listed threatened or endangered species where those physical and biological features essential to conservation of the species are found and which may require special management considerations or protections. This habitat may currently be occupied or determined by the Secretary of the Interior to be essential for areas outside the species' current range.

Ecosystem – 1) A community of living plants and animals interacting with each other and with their physical environment; a geographic area where it is meaningful to address the interrelationships with human social systems, sources of energy, and the ecological processes that shape change over time. 2) The complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature.

Endangered Species – Any species of animal or plant in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and so designated by the Secretary of Interior in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – Environmental Assessments were authorized by the NEPA of 1969. They are concise, analytical documents prepared with public participation that determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed for a particular project or action. If an EA determines an EIS is not needed, the EA becomes the document allowing agency compliance with NEPA requirements.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A detailed public document which complies with NEPA law and regulation; and EIS describes a major Federal action which significantly affects the quality of the human environment, provides alternatives to the proposed action, and analyzes the effects of the proposed action.

Fire Frequency (Fire Return Interval) – How often fire burns a given area; often expressed in terms of fire return intervals (e.g., fire returns to a site every 5-15 years).

Fire Management Unit – A land management area definable by objectives, management constraints, topographic feature, access, values to be protected, political boundaries, fuel types, and fire regime groups; that set it apart from the management characteristics of an adjacent FMU.

Fire Regime – Periodicity and pattern of naturally occurring fires in a particular area or vegetative type, described in terms of frequency, biological severity, and area of extent.

Fire Severity – Denotes the scale at which vegetation and a site are altered or disrupted by fire, from low to high. It is a combination of the degree of fire effects on vegetation and on soil properties.

Fire-Adapted Ecosystem – An ecosystem with the ability to survive and regenerate in a fire-prone environment.

Fireline Intensity Level (FIL) – The rate of heat energy released during combustion per unit length of fire front. It is usually expressed in BTUs/second/foot.

Fuel Model – Simulated fuel complex (or combination of vegetation types) for which all fuel descriptors required for the solution of a mathematical rate of spread model have been specified.

Fuel Type – An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate.

Fuel Reduction – Manipulation, including combustion, or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control.

Hazardous Fuels – A fuel complex defined by kind, arrangement, volume, condition, and location that forms a special threat of ignition or of suppression difficulty.

Impact Zones – Any area that the AG recognizes to be smoke sensitive and/or have an existing air quality problem. There are seven impact zones in Montana and ten in Idaho.

Interdisciplinary Team – a group of individuals with different specialized training assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team is assembled out of recognition that no one discipline is sufficiently broad to adequately solve the problem; through interaction, participants bring different points of view and a broader range of expertise to bear on the problem.

Maximum Manageable Area – The maximum manageable area in a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan designates the ultimate acceptable size for a given wildland fire managed for resource benefits. It provides for a closely directed fire management application in a specific area defined by resource objectives, fire and weather prescription elements, social needs, political considerations, and management capability.

Noxious Weeds – Any plant designated by a federal, state, or county government to be injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or any public or private property. Noxious weeds generally possess one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage, poisonous, toxic, parasitic, a carrier or host for serous insects or diseases, and generally non-native.

Preparedness – Activities that lead to a safe, efficient, and cost-effective fire management program in support of land and resource management objectives through appropriate planning and coordination.

Prescribed fire (Rx) – Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist and NEPA requirements must be met prior to ignition.

Prescribed Fire Plan (Burn Plan) – This document provides the prescribed fire burn boss information needed to implement an individual prescribed fire project.

Prescription – Measurable criteria that define conditions under which a prescribed fire may be ignited, guide selection of appropriate management responses, and indicate other required actions. Prescription criteria may include safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social, or legal considerations.

Prevention – Activities directed at reducing the number of person-caused fires, including public education, law enforcement, dissemination of information, and the reduction of hazards.

Rehabilitation – The activities necessary to repair damage or disturbance caused by wildland fires or the fire suppression activity.

Resource Management Plan – A document prepared by BLM Field Office staff with public participation and approved by the State Director that provides general guidance and direction for land management activities.

Riparian Habitat Areas – Portions of water sheds where riparian-dependent resources receive primary emphasis and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines. RHCAs include traditional riparian corridors, wetland, intermittent headwater streams, and other areas where proper ecological functioning is crucial to maintenance of the stream's water, sediment, woody debris, and nutrient delivery systems.

Sensitive Species – Those plant and animal species identified by the BLM State Director as sensitive, usually in cooperation with the State Agency responsible for managing the species. Sensitive species are also defined as those (a) which are under status review by the USFWS; or (b) whose numbers are declining so rapidly that Federal listing may become necessary; or (c) with typically small and widely dispersed populations; or (d) inhabiting ecological refugia of other specialized or unique habitats.

Special Recreation Management Area - BLM administrative units established to direct recreation program priorities, including the allocation of funding and personnel, to those public lands where a commitment has been made to provide specific recreation activities and experience opportunities on a sustained yield basis.

Suppression – All the work of extinguishing or containing a fire, beginning with its discovery.

Threatened Species – Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and that has been designated in the Federal Register by the Secretary of Interior as such.

Watershed – The area of land bounded by a divide, that drains water, sediment, and dissolved materials to a common outlet at some point along a stream channel, or to a lake, reservoir, or other body of water; also called drainage basin or catchment.

Wildland – An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, powerlines, and similar transportation facilities; structures, if any, are widely scattered.

Wildland Fire for Resource Benefit (also known as Wildland Fire Use) – The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific prestated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined in FMPs.

Wildland Fire Implementation Plan – A progressively developed assessment and operational management plan that documents the analysis and selection of strategies and describes the appropriate management response for a wildland fire being managed for resource benefits.

Wildland Fire Situation Analysis – A decision making process that evaluates alternative management strategies against selected safety, environmental, social economic, political, and resource management objectives.

Wildland-Urban Interface – The line, area, or zone where structures or other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuel

Appendix A

SEND TO APPENDIX

A. Environmental

- Will this fire threaten to cross FMU boundaries? (If No continue)
- Do environmental parameters (see below) indicate that this fire will burn as planned? (If Yes continue)
- Parameters will include fire behavior indices such as:
  - maximum temperature
  - minimum relative humidity
  - wind speed
  - live and dead fuel moistures
- Is the fire meeting resource constraints identified by area in Fire Management Objectives of this Plan? (If Yes continue)
- Is the fire located in an area with overriding federal or state regulations? (If Yes, refer to the regulations in the appropriate document for guidance.)

B. Social/Political

- Is the smoke requirements in place and are smoke management forecasts favorable? (If Yes, continue)
- Is the fire threatening an above ground structure or a major access route? (If No, continue)
- Are there less than 5 fires and/or 100 acres being managed with benefit to the resource in mind? (If Yes, continue)
- Are there sufficient forces available to manage this fire? (If Yes, continue)

C. Economic

- As clearly as can be determined, will managing this fire according to established parameters result in a higher cost per acre than would a more aggressive suppression response? (If No, continue)

s, Industrial op