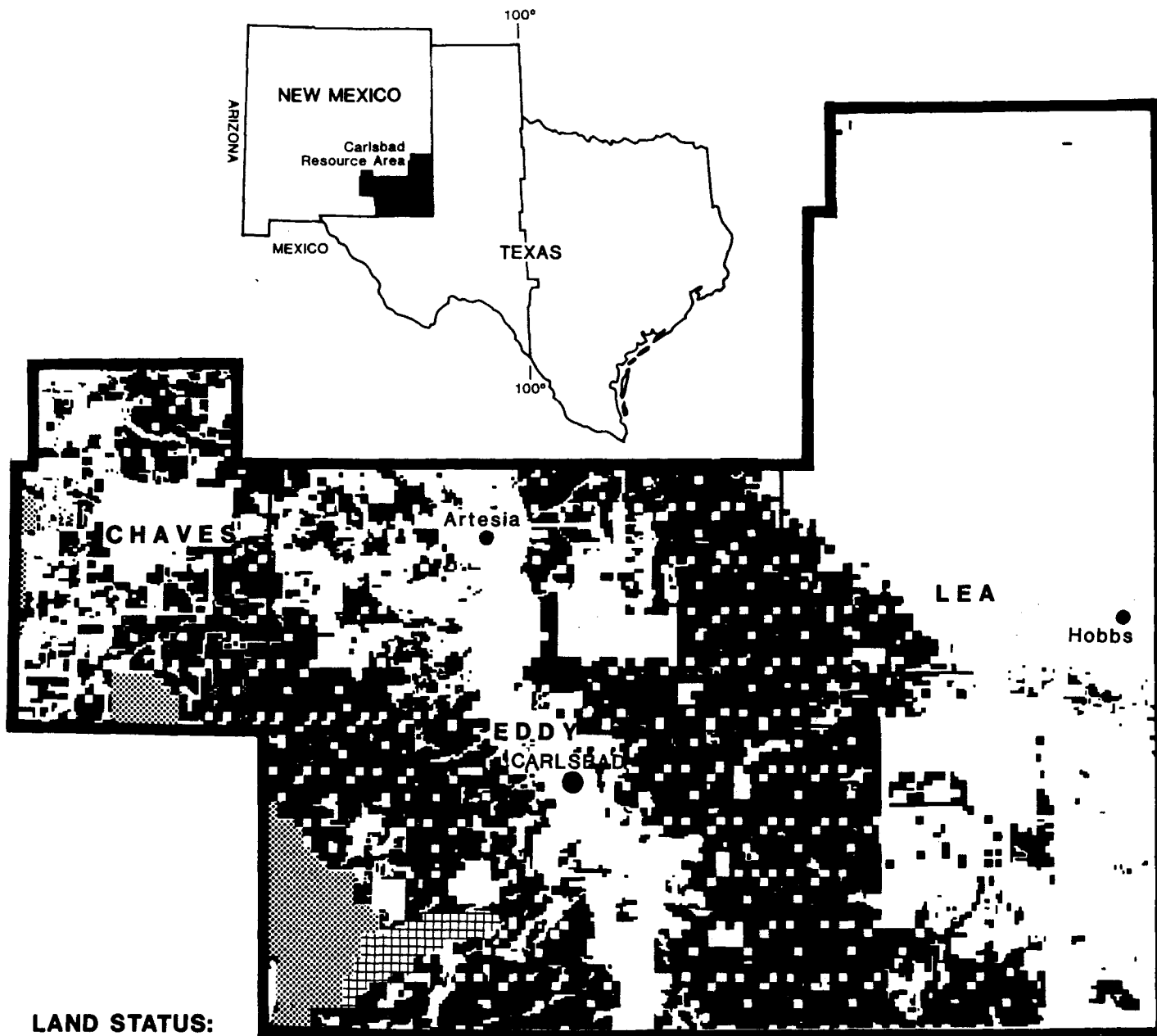





# CARLSBAD Resource Management Plan

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ROSWELL DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO



**LAND STATUS:**

-  BLM Administered
-  National Forest
-  National Parks & Monuments



SEPTEMBER 1988

BLM-NM-PT-89-001-4410



IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Roswell District Office

P.O. Box 1397

Roswell, New Mexico 88201-1397



Dear Reader:

This is the approved Resource Management Plan for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Carlsbad Resource Area. The approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) is designed to guide the management of the natural resources available from the public lands in Eddy, Lea and southwest Chaves Counties for the next ten to twenty years. This document completes the Bureau's RMP preparation process for the Carlsbad Resource Area.

Now that the Plan is complete, the implementation phase of the planning process will begin. The Carlsbad RMP will serve as a basis from which the BLM, as well as the interested public, may track the implementation of the Plan decisions. You will be kept informed of the Plan implementation progress through the publication of an Annual RMP Update. This annual report will identify actions which have been completed, as well as the actions planned for the upcoming year. This will allow you to remain involved in the planning process and in the implementation of planned actions.

Your continued interest and participation in the BLM's management of the public lands and resources in the Carlsbad Resource Area will be the key to the successful implementation of the RMP. We look forward to the exciting years ahead and a continued partnership in the management of your public lands.

Sincerely,

Francis R. Cherry, Jr.  
Roswell District Manager

# CARLSBAD

# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by: U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carlsbad Resource Area

September 1988

Recommended by:

Francis R. Cherry, Jr.  
District Manager  
Roswell District



Approved by:

Larry Woodard  
State Director  
New Mexico State Office



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Need..... 1  
Setting..... 2  
Implementation..... 2  
Mitigation and Monitoring..... 2  
Maintenance..... 3  
Admendments and Revisions..... 3  
Valid Existing Rights..... 3  
Public Involvement and Intergovernmental/  
Interagency Coordination..... 4

CHAPTER 2 - DECISIONS

Introduction.....6  
Resource Decisions.....9  
    Land Resources.....9  
        Objectives.....9  
        Continuing Management Guidance.....9  
        Planned Actions.....10  
        Monitoring.....13  
        Implementation Priorities.....13  
        Support.....13  
  
    Energy and Mineral Resources.....13  
        Resource Objectives.....13  
        Continuing Management Guidance.....13  
        Planned Actions.....16  
        Monitoring.....19  
        Implementation Priorities.....19  
        Support.....19  
  
    Soil, Water, and Air.....20  
        Resource Objectives.....20  
        Continuing Management Guidance.....20  
        Planned Actions.....21  
        Monitoring.....23  
        Implementation Priorities.....23  
        Support.....23  
  
    Livestock Grazing.....23  
        Resource Objectives.....23  
        Continuing Management Guidance.....24  
        Planned Actions.....25  
        Implementation Priorities.....26  
        Monitoring.....26  
        Support.....26

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Wildlife Management.....	27
Resource Objectives.....	27
Continuing Management Guidance.....	27
Planned Actions.....	28
Monitoring.....	30
Implementation Priorities.....	30
Support.....	30
Recreation.....	31
Resource Objectives.....	31
Continuing Management Guidance.....	31
Planned Actions.....	33
Monitoring.....	36
Implementation Priorities.....	36
Support.....	36
Cultural Resources.....	36
Resource Objectives.....	36
Continuing Management Guidance.....	37
Planned Actions.....	37
Monitoring.....	38
Implementation Priorities.....	38
Support.....	38
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).....	39
Continuing Management Guidance.....	39
Planned Actions.....	39
CHAPTER 3 - USING THE PLAN.....	41
Implementing the Plan.....	41
Monitoring the Plan.....	41
Maintaining the Plan.....	42
Amending the Plan.....	42
Revising the Plan.....	43
Appendix A - Table of Designations and Plan Decisions	
Appendix B - Allotment Summary Table	
Appendix C - Special Management Areas	
Map List	
Map 2-1.....Color Status Map.....	8
Map 2-2.....Right-of-Way Corridors and Avoidance Areas.....	12
Map 2-3.....Oil and Gas Leasing.....	15
Map 2-4.....Potash Enclave.....	17
Map 2-5.....Fire Management Zones.....	22
Map 2-6.....Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Designations.....	32

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

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The Carlsbad Resource Management Plan (RMP) contains the land use decisions for allocating resources and for guiding future management actions on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This RMP establishes areas for limited, restricted, or exclusive uses, levels of production, allowable resource uses, resource condition objectives, program constraints, and general management direction. This RMP also describes, in general terms, the implementation, monitoring and amendment processes.

All uses and activities in the Carlsbad Resource Area must conform with the decisions, terms or conditions as described herein. This Plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

This Plan does not present information on the existing environment or the environmental consequences of implementing the planned actions. That information was previously documented in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements, which may be reviewed in the Carlsbad Resource Area Office.

### PURPOSE AND HEED

Between 1974 and 1980, the Carlsbad Resource Area (CRA) prepared three land use plans, known as Management Framework Plans (MFPs). The 1979 East Eddy-Lea Management Framework Plan and East Roswell Grazing EIS provide guidance for the management of the CRA east of the Pecos River. Portions of the CRA west of the Pecos River were covered by the Caverns and Box Canyon MFPs. The previous MFPs provided multiple-use management direction for the various resources, but did not satisfy the statutory requirements of FLPMA to prepare land use plans with an Environmental Impact Statement.

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) constitutes the BLM's multiple-use plan for the Carlsbad Resource Area (CRA) and supersedes all previous land use planning, with the exception of the East Eddy-Lea MFP grazing decisions. The East Eddy-Lea MFP and East Roswell Grazing EIS did comply with the court-ordered settlement of the Natural Resources Defense Council vs. (Secretary of the Interior) Morton lawsuit of 1973. Therefore, the decisions for the Carlsbad RMP address all other multiple uses of the public land within the East Eddy-Lea MFP area (east of the Pecos River) except for livestock grazing.

Due to new legislation, changing policies, and new land use conflicts or opportunities, there was a need to consolidate or update the decisions made in the MFPs. The 1988 Carlsbad Resource Management Plan continues, updates, or replaces decisions from the earlier MFPs, and it provides multiple use decisions for those portions of the Resource Area not covered in previous planning efforts.

The EIS for the Resource Management Plan was written in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, and in specific response to litigation in the Natural Resources Defense Council et al. versus Rogers C. B. Morton et al., 1978. This plan also satisfies the BLM's mandate to identify public land as open, closed, or limited for ORV use (Executive Order 11989).

The intent of the RMP is to anticipate public demands for the use of the natural resources of the public lands and plan for them. Unless otherwise specified, the decisions in this RMP apply only to public lands administered by the BLM.

## **SETTING**

This RMP covers all of the Federal surface and Federal subsurface mineral estate within the New Mexico portion of the Carlsbad Resource Area. This includes approximately 2.2 million surface acres and approximately 2.7 million subsurface acres in Eddy, Lea, and a portion of Chaves County. Much of the public land is consolidated in large tracts, with State and private inholdings scattered throughout. The exceptions include scattered public land parcels in eastern Lea County, along the Pecos River, and in the southwest corner of Chaves County.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

The decisions in this RMP will be implemented over time in accordance with the BLM budgeting process. Priorities have been established for each resource management program to coordinate implementation. Implementation objectives are: 1) the decisions designed to resolve planning issues; 2) the program objectives listed as guidance for each resource program; and 3) the completion of the planned allocation actions listed under each applicable resource program.

The priorities for each program will be reviewed annually to help develop the Annual Work Plan budget commitments for the coming year, and may be revised based upon new administrative policy, new Department directives, or new Bureau goals. The priorities of implementation are presented, by resource, in Chapter 2. Detailed implementation procedures are described in Chapter 3.

## **MITIGATION AND MONITORING**

This RMP incorporates measures for mitigating undesirable environmental effects. These measures will be applied during implementation of the RMP. In some cases, additional mitigation will be applied during activity or project planning.



The effects of implementing the RMP will be monitored and evaluated on a periodic basis to assure that the desired results are being achieved. Resource monitoring procedures are explained in Chapter 2 of this document. Monitoring will determine whether: 1) actions remain consistent with current policy; 2) original assumptions concerning impacts were correctly predicted; 3) mitigation measures are satisfactory; 4) significant changes have been made in related plans of other Federal agencies or State and local governments; and 5) whether new data is of significance to the plan. Monitoring will also help to establish long-term use and resource condition trends, and will provide valuable information for future planning.

### **MAINTENANCE**

The RMP will be maintained as necessary to reflect minor changes in data. Maintenance will be limited to refining or documenting previously approved decisions. It will not expand the scope of resource uses or restrictions, or change the terms, conditions, or decisions of the Plan. Maintenance actions will be documented in supporting records, and new information will be published in the annual RMP Update as needed. Maintenance procedures are described in Chapter 3.

### **AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS**

This RMP may be amended or revised if major changes become necessary. Monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances, or a proposed action resulting in a change in the scope, terms, or conditions of the plan, may warrant an amendment or complete RMP revision.

A Plan amendment would be used to address proposals that are not in conformance with this approved RMP. Amendments are used to address a limited number of issues (normally one or two) covering a limited portion of the Resource Area. An amendment will be analyzed either in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an EIS. Public involvement is an integral part of the amendment process.

A Resource Management Plan revision is a total review and possible rewrite of the Plan material done five years after completion, or sooner if needed due to significant changes in land use decisions.

### **VALID EXISTING RIGHTS**

Any proposal within this RMP will not repeal valid existing rights on public lands. Valid existing rights are those claims or rights to public land that take precedence over the actions proposed in this plan. As an example, a mining claim located prior to the approval of this plan in an area planned for withdrawal from mineral entry will still be valid under the laws and regulations applied to the claim at the time of location. Valid existing rights may be held by other Federal agencies or by private individuals or companies. Valid existing rights may also pertain to oil and gas leases, rights-of-way, and water rights.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL/INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Preplanning efforts included correspondence, informal consultations, and meetings with livestock grazing permittees to establish range inventory procedures and to initiate selective management categorization. In November 1983, BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register announcing a 60-day public involvement period (December 1983 to January 1984) to gather input on possible land use issues to be considered in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Brochures outlining the planning process, along with response forms for input on planning issues, were mailed to a list of over 700 addresses. A series of six public meetings were held in Artesia, Hope, and Carlsbad in December 1983. During the issue identification process, news releases were sent to over 50 newspapers and radio and television stations in New Mexico and West Texas. Responses received from the meeting attendees and those returned by mail helped to solidify the RMP's issues and focus the planning analysis.

After the final issues were identified, they were mailed, along with draft planning criteria, to other agencies, businesses, organizations, and individuals interested in management of the public lands. Nominations for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) were also made at that time. In May 1984, a 30-day public comment period on the draft planning criteria resulted in substantive input which helped develop the decision needs, the criteria for formulating alternatives, and the directions to the interdisciplinary team.

The Draft RMP/EIS (DEIS) was mailed on March 9, 1986, to a mailing list of 688 addresses, and copies were made available to any other member of the public requesting one. Two open houses on the DEIS were held on the afternoon and evening of May 1, 1986. On May 7, 1986, two formal hearings were held to receive testimony, and twenty-two persons provided comments. The 90-day written comment period for the DEIS ended on June 9, 1986, with a total of 58 letters received.

In response to written comments and the oral comments at the public hearings, the DEIS was revised and published as the Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement FEIS. Following the publication of the FEIS, it was noted that a portion of the environmental impacts documentation had been omitted during printing. Based on the importance of the information omitted, a Supplement to the Final EIS was mailed to the public, and the comment/protest period was extended from January 2 to March 2, 1987. A total of 21 protests were received by the Director, and of these, 17 were settled and withdrawn through negotiations between the BLM and the protestors. The remainder of the protests were settled by decision.

Based on the settlement of the 17 protests, minor modifications were made to the Proposed RMP. These modifications necessitated release of a Revised Proposed RMP for review from February 5 to March 13, 1988. The modifications to the Proposed Plan were within the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, but protests or comments on the modifications were accepted during the public review period. One protest was received on the Revised RMP and settlement of that protest did not lead to any further modifications of the Proposed Plan.

No inconsistencies with the plans, programs, or policies of other Federal agencies or State or local governments were identified during the RMP process, including the Governor's Consistency Review.

# CHAPTER 2

## DECISIONS

## CHAPTER 2

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the management actions to be implemented through the Carlsbad Resource Management Plan (RMP). Decisions in the Revised Proposed RMP published in January 1988 are included, as well as continuing management guidance for specific resources. Continuing management guidance describes the current management practices that will continue. These practices are fundamental and are based upon laws, regulations, manuals, Executive Orders (EO), Secretarial Orders (SO), Instruction Memoranda, and existing planning documents.

The implementation priorities, monitoring requirements, and support needs by resource program are also described in this chapter. The implementation priorities will guide the order in which projects are accomplished. These priorities will be tied to the BLM budget process. The first priority for each resource will be to maintain its base program. This includes funding normal operating costs, responding to public inquiries and completing administrative actions.

Administrative actions are the day-to-day transactions required to serve the public and to provide optimal use of the resources. These actions are in conformance with the RMP, and will be conducted at the BLM Resource Area, District, or State Office. The degree to which these actions are carried out will be based upon BLM policy, available personnel, and funding levels.

This Plan outlines monitoring programs for evaluating the effectiveness of specific RMP decisions, such as livestock management and wildlife habitat improvements. Monitoring will determine whether assumptions were correct and the effects correctly predicted. Monitoring will help to establish long-term use and resource condition trends for the Resource Area, and will also provide valuable information for future planning.

The support section shows what assistance will be necessary from other resources, job skills, and agencies to implement the planned actions described in the RMP.

Specific actions will be detailed in activity plans and accompanying Environmental Assessments (EAs). Activity plans will describe how a particular area or resource will be managed to comply with the allowable resource uses, levels of production, resource condition goals, program constraints, and general management practices documented in this RMP.

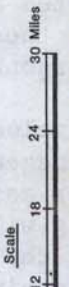
Map 2-1 depicts the Special Management Areas (SMAs). More detailed maps will be available in the Carlsbad Resource Area Office. Appendix A is a table which shows the plan decisions and where each applies in the Resource Area.

Appendix A is a table showing the special designations and resource management decisions derived through the Carlsbad RMP. Appendix C contains narrative descriptions and maps of Special Management Areas.

# MAP 2-1 CARLSBAD RESOURCE AREA

## KEY TO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

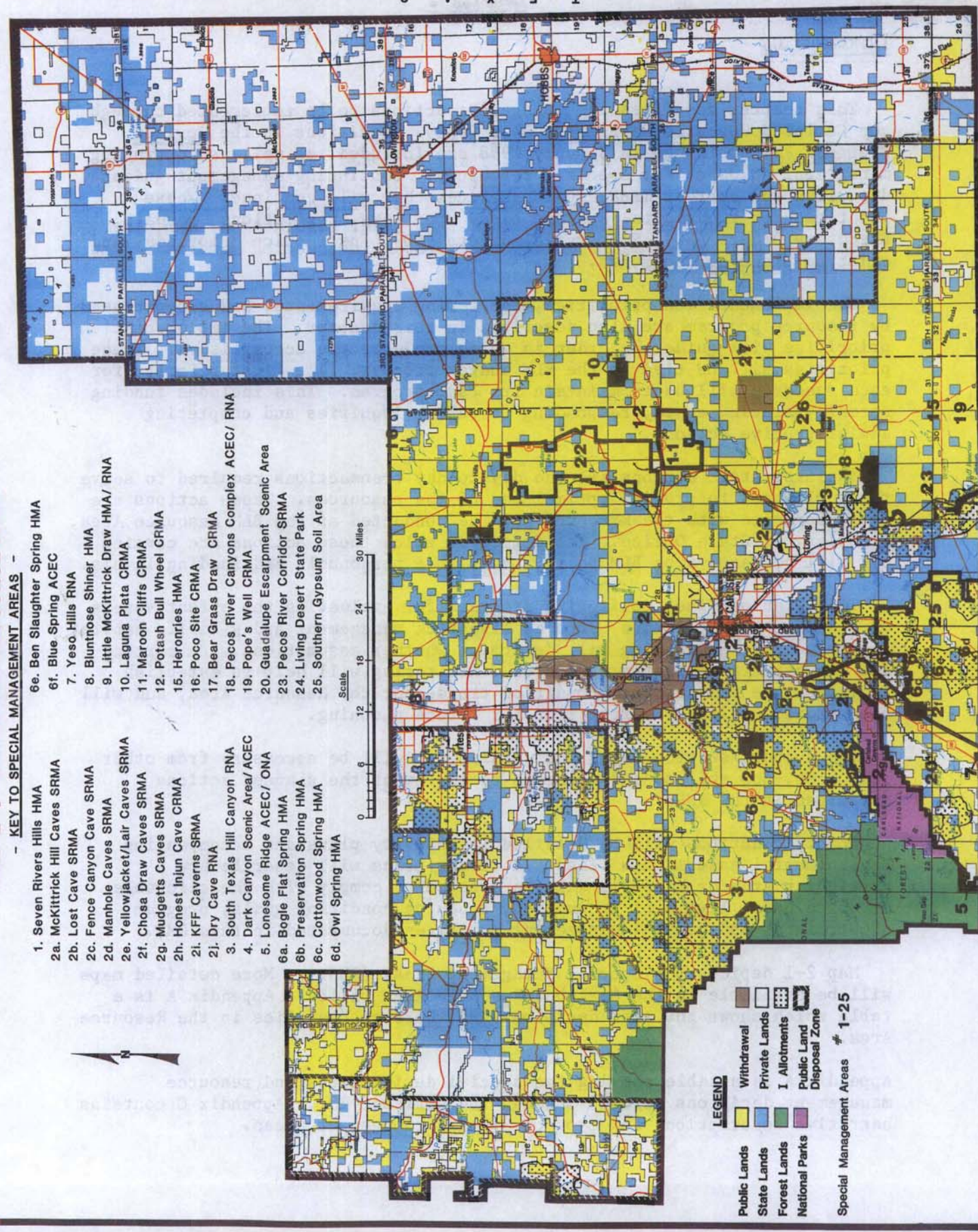
- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Seven Rivers Hills HMA        | 6e. Ben Slaughter Spring HMA              |
| 2a. McKittrick Hill Caves SRMA   | 6f. Blue Spring ACEC                      |
| 2b. Lost Cave SRMA               | 7. Yesc Hills RNA                         |
| 2c. Fence Canyon Cave SRMA       | 8. Bluntnose Shiner HMA                   |
| 2d. Manhole Caves SRMA           | 9. Little McKittrick Draw HMA/ RNA        |
| 2e. Yellowjacket/Lair Caves SRMA | 10. Laguna Plata CRMA                     |
| 2f. Chosa Draw Caves SRMA        | 11. Maroon Cliffs CRMA                    |
| 2g. Mudgetts Caves SRMA          | 12. Potash Bull Wheel CRMA                |
| 2h. Honest Injun Cave CRMA       | 15. Heronries HMA                         |
| 2i. KFF Caverns SRMA             | 16. Poco Site CRMA                        |
| 2j. Dry Cave RNA                 | 17. Bear Grass Draw CRMA                  |
| 3. South Texas Hill Canyon RNA   | 18. Pecos River Canyons Complex ACEC/ RNA |
| 4. Dark Canyon Scenic Area/ ACEC | 19. Pope's Well CRMA                      |
| 5. Lonesome Ridge ACEC/ ONA      | 20. Guadalupe Escarpment Scenic Area      |
| 6a. Bogle Flat Spring HMA        | 23. Pecos River Corridor SRMA             |
| 6b. Preservation Spring HMA      | 24. Living Desert State Park              |
| 6c. Cottonwood Spring HMA        | 25. Southern Gypsum Soil Area             |
| 6d. Owl Spring HMA               |   |



**LEGEND**

Public Lands	Withdrawal
State Lands	Private Lands
Forest Lands	I Allotments
National Parks	Public Land Disposal Zone

Special Management Areas # 1-25



## **RESOURCE DECISIONS**

### **LAND RESOURCES**

#### **Objectives**

Objectives for adjustments in the pattern of public land ownership within the Resource Area are to: 1) allow for more efficient and economic management of the public lands and resources; 2) facilitate acquisition of lands with high public values and uses; and 3) facilitate implementation of other land use decisions in this approved RMP, including rights-of-way grants and easement acquisitions.

#### **Continuing Management Guidance**

Land Tenure Adjustments: Disposals- Public lands identified for disposal from Federal ownership must be included in this approved Plan. All lands identified for disposal must meet the criteria set forth in sections 203, 206, or 209, as applicable, of the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA). Disposal of public lands will be accomplished by sale, exchange, State Indemnity selection, or title transfer pursuant to any applicable Federal authority. Land ownership patterns may be adjusted consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated October 1984, between BLM and the New Mexico State Land Office. Transfers to other public agencies will be considered where increased management efficiency results. Public lands identified for disposal are shown on Map 2-1.

The criteria for public disposal, which are legislatively required and resource oriented, will be considered in land reports and Environmental Analyses (EAs) prepared for specific proposals. Parcels of public land which meet the following criteria will be considered for sale, exchange, or title transfer: 1) the lands are determined to be not needed for a Federal project or a resource management activity; 2) retention of the lands is not in the national interest; or 3) management of the lands by BLM is not cost efficient.

Factors which shall be evaluated during the EA process include threatened and endangered (T&E) and sensitive species habitat, wetland and riparian areas, fisheries, nesting or breeding habitat for wildlife, developed recreation sites, recreation access, potential for mineral and energy resources, cultural sites, legal land surveys, areas being studied for designation as wilderness, or other statutorily authorized designations.

Factors which may also be evaluated include public access, the amount of Federal investment in facilities or improvements, local social and economic conditions, and current or authorized land uses, including Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases, withdrawals, or other leases or permits.

Retention - R&PP lease/sales will be allowed in retention zones to facilitate State exchanges, to consolidate blocks of public land, when consistent with the multiple use objectives, and if there is a compelling need. Public lands not specifically identified for disposal in this Plan will be retained in Federal ownership and managed for multiple use.

Acquisition - The objective of acquiring key tracts of non-public lands is to ensure that potential public use areas, wildlife habitat, watersheds, land treatment areas, grazing areas, cultural values, or other resource values may be protected or managed more efficiently.

Withdrawal Review: The objective of withdrawal review is to minimize the amount of land withdrawn from mining, mineral leasing or other single use designations or classifications. This review can lead to revoking, or modifying the withdrawal on part or all of the withdrawn lands or may result in no change of status. Where applicable, the existing withdrawals will be replaced with other types of authorizations that allow for other compatible uses. The review of other agency withdrawals will continue, and will be completed by 1991.

New Withdrawals: New withdrawal initiatives will be processed on a case-by-case basis.

Utility and Transportation Corridors: In general, public lands are available for utility and transportation facility development; however, applicants will be encouraged to locate new facilities within the designated rights-of-way corridors. Deviations from designated corridors may be permitted based on the type and need of the proposed facility, and lack of conflicts with other resource values and uses.

Right-of-way avoidance areas, also known as exclusion areas, are defined in BLM Manual 1623.51 as: ". . . areas where future rights-of-way may be granted only when no feasible alternative route or designated right-of-way corridor is available." Terms and conditions of right-of-way grants will depend on the sensitivity of the affected resources and existing laws and regulations already established to protect them.

Access: BLM will make a reasonable effort to provide access to private landowners and public land users when such access will not cause significant adverse impacts to other resources. However, BLM will only grant rights-of-way, when reasonable access already exists, if there is a compelling public need.

Unauthorized Use: Unauthorized uses of public land are considered as trespass, and will be resolved as quickly as possible.

No advertising signs will be permitted on public land. Directional signs must be authorized by the BLM and meet BLM specifications.

### **Planned Actions**

Disposal: Through sales, exchanges, or any other title transfer means, approximately 220,700 acres will be disposed of throughout the Resource Area. This includes lands in the Loco Hills community area, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) administered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and scattered tracts east of the Pecos River in Eddy County, in southwest Chaves County, and in Lea County.



- o Approximately 4,000 acres east of Carlsbad have been designated for disposal for industrial development.
- o Existing R&PP authorizations for sanitary landfills will be terminated. Lands will be made available through FLPMA sale for the purpose of public sanitary landfills, if the criteria for land disposal is met.
- o Public lands will be made available for exchange to accommodate the National Park Service's (NPS) objective to acquire a private inholding within the Carlsbad Caverns National Park.
- o Applications for land use, such as R&PP lease, will be considered for approval on a case by case basis.
- o The Federal government will generally retain all mineral rights and reservations for ditches and canals.

Acquisitions: BLM will attempt to acquire 1,080 acres of private land and 2,120 acres of State land to protect important resource values and to meet objectives for Special Management Areas (SMAs) designated through this RMP. Appendix C contains descriptions and maps of the SMAs.

Private land acquisition decisions for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) include:

- o Blue Spring ACEC (480 acres)
- o Chosa Draw Caves Complex ACEC (480 acres) o
- o Pecos River/Canyons Complex (120 acres)

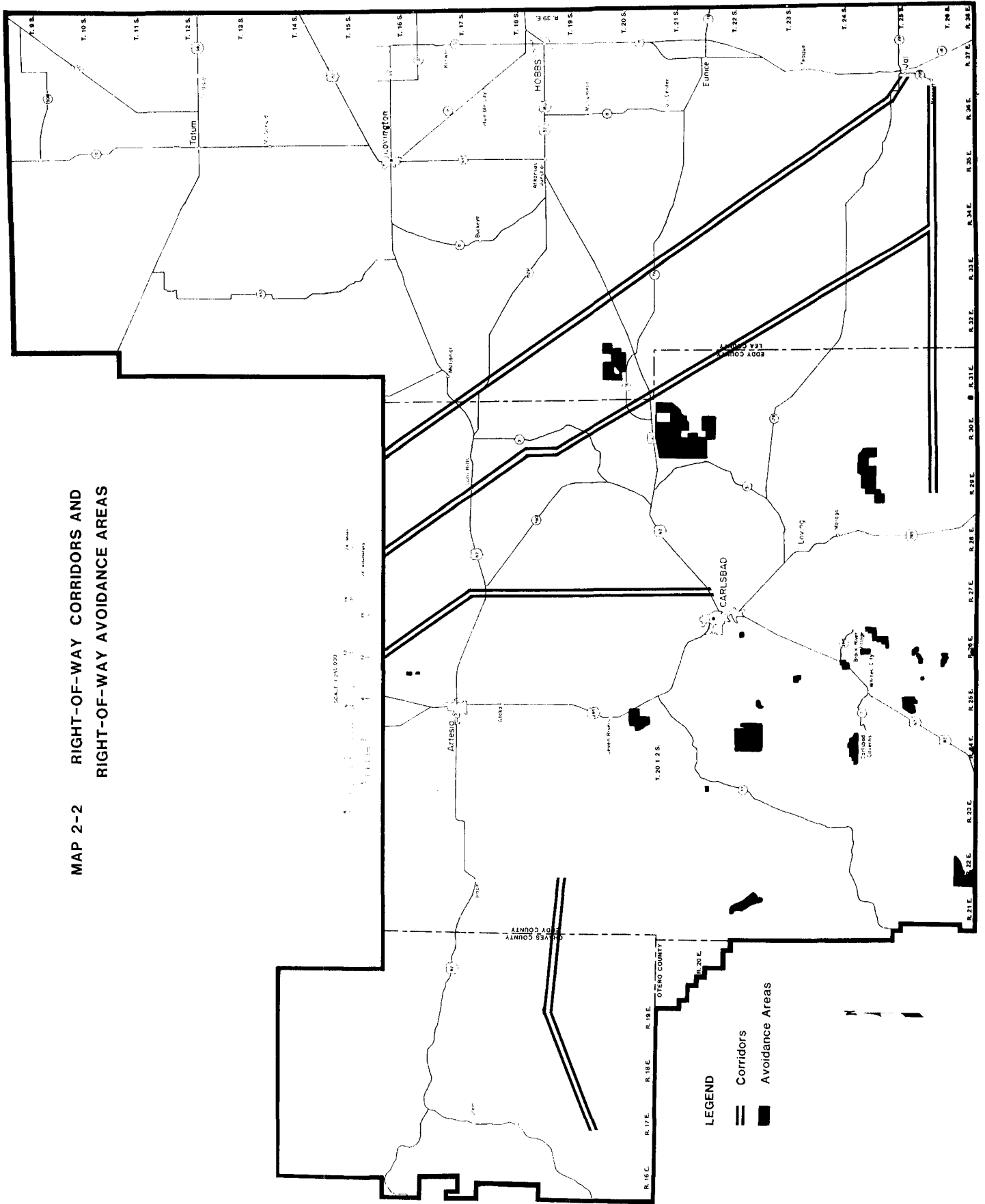
State land is proposed for acquisition in the Laguna Plata Cultural Resource Management Area (1,280 acres) and Pecos River/Canyons Complex ACEC (840 acres). Other lands may be acquired within retention zones if determined to contain resources important for Special Management Programs.

Rights-of Way Corridors: Five rights-of way (ROW) corridors have been designated as BLM's preferred locations for major new utility and transportation facility alignments through the Carlsbad Resource Area. The one-mile wide designated corridors total 185 miles in length, and cover approximately 118,400 acres. Public lands are generally available for linear facility development; however, ROW applicants will be encouraged to locate projects within the designated corridors.

Rights-of-way avoidance areas are defined in BLM Manual 1623.51 as:  
 . . . . . areas where future rights of way may be granted only when no feasible alternative route or designated right-of-way corridor is available." Terms and conditions of ROW grants will depend on the sensitivity of the affected resources and applicable laws and regulations established to protect them. This RMP designates 34,241 acres of avoidance areas in 27 Special Management Areas (SMAs) and 3,120 acres outside SMAs, for a total of 37,361 acres. (See Appendix A). Right-of-way corridors and avoidance areas are shown on Map 2-2.

# CARLSBAD RESOURCE AREA

## MAP 2-2 RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDORS AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AVOIDANCE AREAS



## **Monitoring**

Land tenure adjustment actions will be evaluated through the use of EAs prepared on each proposed action.

## **Implementation Priorities**

Public land actions will be completed according to the following priorities:

1. Action will be taken (exchange, sale, or other methods) on those exchange and sale proposals currently on file that meet disposal and/or acquisition objectives.

2. Lands found to be suitable for transfer will be disposed of by exchange, sale, or other methods.

## **Support**

Support, including completion of cadastral surveys, appraisal reports, mineral reports, water rights reports, T&E clearances and cultural resource clearances will be needed for parcels of public land identified for disposal and for those lands proposed for acquisition. Regulations require a public notice and a comment period prior to the final decision on a disposal action.

## **ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES**

### **Resource Objectives**

This RMP complies with the multiple use mandates established by FLPMA and the 43 CFR 1600 regulations governing multiple use planning. It allows the oil and gas and potash industries reasonable opportunities to lease and explore, while protecting sensitive areas and various other resources. The BLM will seek the input of industry at every opportunity to discuss changes in policy or priorities.

### **Continuing Management Guidance**

General: The following principles guide the management of mineral resources on public lands.

1. Public lands will remain open and available for mineral exploration and development unless withdrawal or other administrative action is necessary to protect other resource values.

1. BLM will encourage and facilitate the development by private industry of public land mineral resources so that national and local needs are met, and environmentally sound exploration, extraction, and reclamation practices are used.

3. BLM will process mineral patent applications, permits, operating plans, mineral exchanges, leases, and other use authorizations for public lands in a timely and efficient manner.

4. This approved Resource Management Plan recognizes that mineral exploration and development can occur concurrently or sequentially with other multiple resource uses. BLM further recognizes that land use planning is a dynamic process, and that decisions may be updated as new data are evaluated.

5. Activity plans will reflect geologic, energy, and mineral values on public lands through more effective data assessment.

6. BLM will monitor salable and leasable mineral operations to ensure proper resource recovery and evaluation, production verification, and diligence in inspection and enforcement of the lease, sale, or permit terms. BLM will ensure receipt of fair market value for minerals commodities unless otherwise provided for by statute.

Oil and Gas: As a general rule, public land is available for oil and gas leasing, and on approximately 94 per cent of the Federal fluid mineral estate, leases will be issued with standard stipulations. However, in highly sensitive areas, special stipulations to mitigate adverse impacts to other resource values will be imposed. Leasing of oil and gas in the Carlsbad Resource Area is in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 43 Part 3100, and the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Oil and Gas Leasing in the Roswell District (BLM, 1981), which is incorporated into this approved RMP by reference. Areas with special stipulations are shown on Map 2-3.

Oil and gas production and storage facilities will only be allowed in a 100-year floodplain if there is no reasonable alternative location available. The BLM will require a plan to prevent contamination or adverse impacts to the floodplain if facilities are allowed.

Geophysical Exploration: A Notice of Intent (NOI) must be filed with the Area Manager before entry onto public lands to conduct geophysical exploration. The Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 3150.0-2, states "A Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct oil and gas exploration shall be accepted ••• where public lands are open to oil and gas leasing." Upon receipt of an NOI, special mitigative measures or restrictions will be applied as necessary. A Notice of Completion, as specified in 43 CFR 3150, must also be filed upon cessation of any exploration.

Produced Water Disposal: Disposal of produced water in unlined pits will only be allowed by special permit in areas described in New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) Order No. R3221-B. Produced water disposal in pits or by injection wells will be in accordance with Notice to Lessees 2B.




Solid Leasable Minerals: Solid leasable minerals will be managed under the authority of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and the Potash Leasing Act of 1927. Leasable solid minerals present in the Carlsbad Resource Area include potash, sulfur, and sodium. Regulations that pertain to these minerals are contained in 43 CFR 3500.

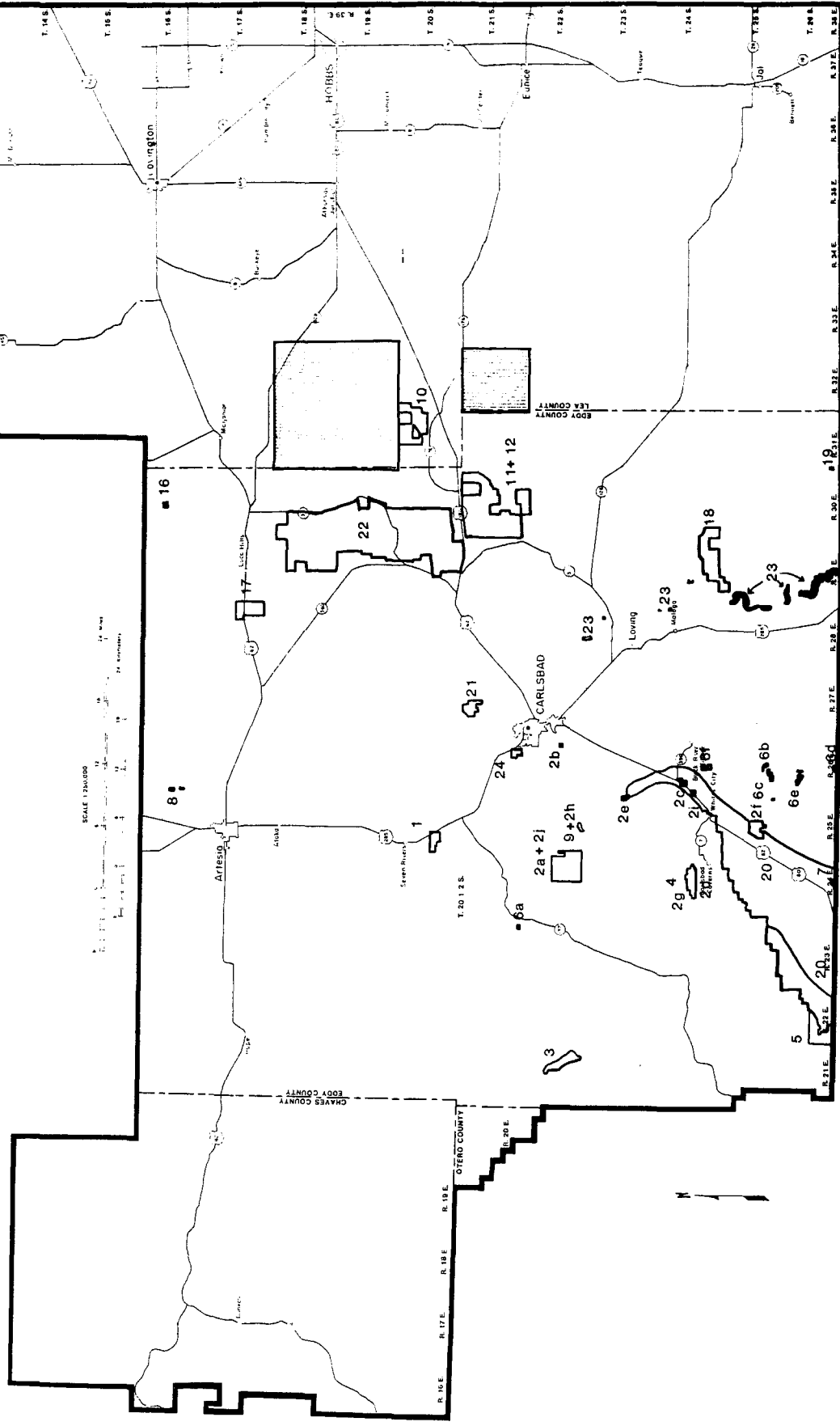
# CARLSBAD RESOURCE AREA

## MAP 2-3 OIL AND GAS LEASING

See Map 2-1 and Appendix A for SMA Number Key

### LEGEND

- Open to Leasing-Special Stipulations 
- Open to Leasing-Standard Stipulations (White Area) 
- Prairie Chicken Area 



Two Secretarial Orders (50s) were issued in 1961 and 1975 by the Secretary of Interior which allow for both potash and oil and gas leasing within the potash enclave. These 50s direct the BLM to manage these uses to minimize conflicts created by leasing and developing the same public land by both industries. Oil and gas leasing within the potash enclave will continue based on the provisions of the Secretarial Orders and the NMOCD regulations R-111, A through N. Potash leasing within the enclave also will continue under standard potash stipulations as well as special restrictions on oil and gas to protect potash development. The potash enclave is depicted on Map 2-4.

Management of potash leasing is described in the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) on Potash Leasing in Southeast New Mexico (BLM, 1975) and the East Eddy/Lea MFP (BLM, 1979), which are incorporated into this RMP by reference.

The special stipulation applied to potash leases on 3,360 acres in the Laguna Plata Cultural Resource Management Area will be continued.

Sulfur exploration and development guidance is described in the Regional Environmental Analysis Record for Sulfur Exploration in South-Central Eddy County, New Mexico BLM, 1976, which is incorporated into this RMP by reference.

Salable Minerals: Salable mineral commodities in the Carlsbad Resource Area include, but are not limited to, caliche, sand, gravel, and quarry stone. Salable minerals are managed under the authority of the Mineral Materials Act of 1947 and the Common Varieties Act of 1955. Management guidance for mineral materials is contained in the Environmental Analysis on Mineral Material Sales and Permits in the Roswell District (EA No. 060-76-18; BLM, 1981), which is incorporated into this approved RMP by reference.

A total of 1,560 acres of existing withdrawals will continue to be closed to mineral material disposal.

Locatable Minerals: Approximately 2,682,167 acres of Federal mineral estate will continue to be open to mineral entry and mining claim development. Four existing withdrawals totaling 11,680 acres will continue.

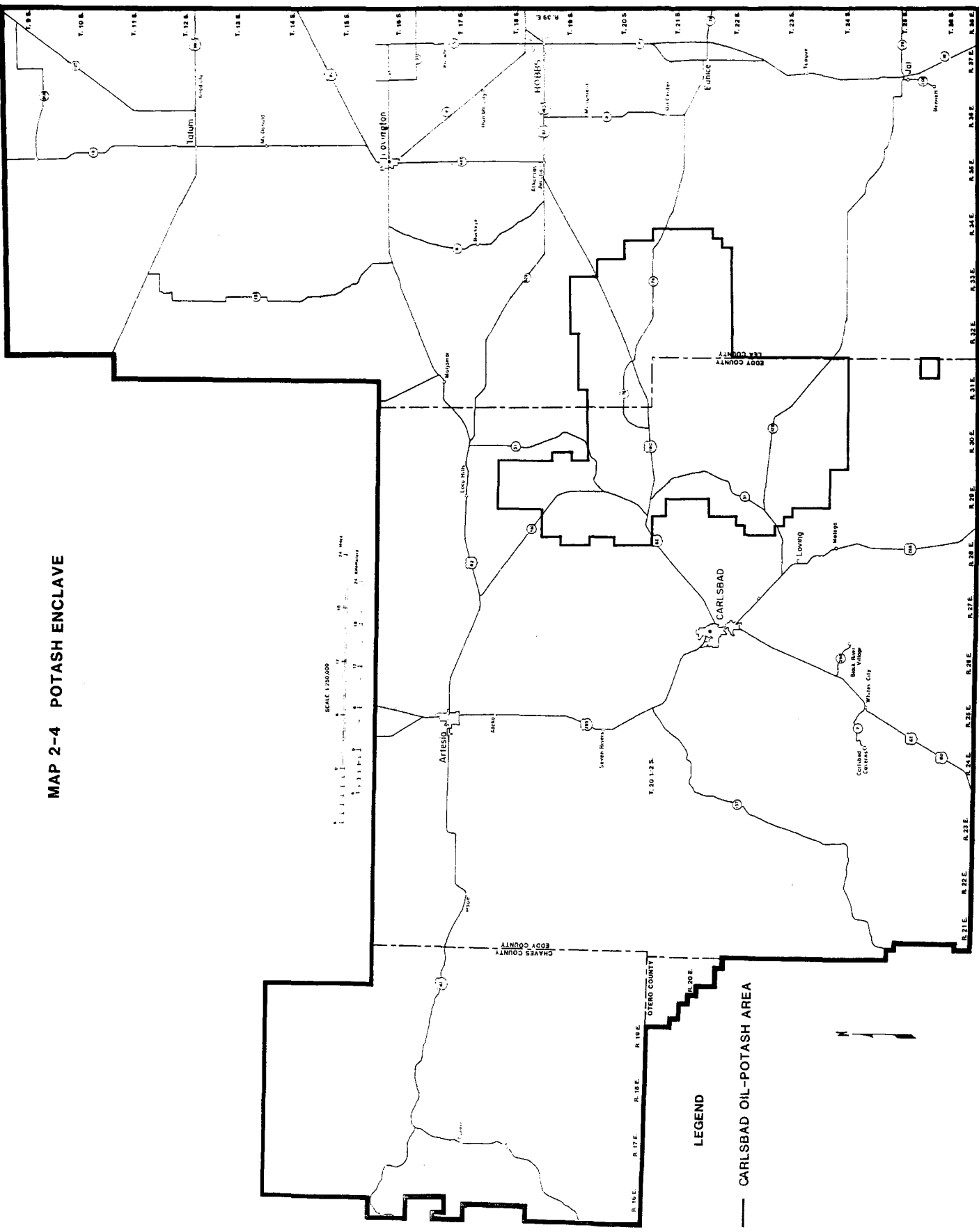
### **Planned Actions**

Oil and Gas: Federal mineral estate (surface and subsurface acres) will continue to be open for oil and gas leasing except for 11,680 acres that are currently withdrawn. These withdrawals are the Gnome site (680 acres), the State Militia site (720 acres), the WIPP site (10,240 acres), and the Little Walt Canyon quarry site (40 acres). These withdrawals are nondiscretionary and have been closed to leasing by Congressional Directives.

- o Federal mineral estate that will continue to be open for oil and gas leasing and development under standard terms and conditions totals 2,456,715 acres.
- o Special stipulations will be applied to future leases on 252,630 acres of Federal mineral estate. Special stipulations will apply only to new leases.

CARLSBAD RESOURCE AREA

MAP 2-4 POTASH ENCLAVE



- o Of the total acreage with special stipulations, 45,197 acres will be under a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation.
- o Seasonal stipulations will be attached to leases on 982 acres.
- o Disposal of produced water in lined pits may be permitted on public lands east of the Pecos River except within 100-year floodplains or near drainages, playas, water wells, or springs.
- o Produced water disposal pits will not be allowed west of the Pecos River within the Capitan Reef and Back-Reef areas. Lined pits will be required in all other areas west of the Pecos River. Netting will be required on all water disposal pits or open tanks.

Solid Leasable Minerals: Public land open to potash prospecting, leasing, and development under standard terms and conditions totals 2,667,389 acres, including Federal mineral estate both inside and outside the Secretary's potash enclave.

- o Potash prospecting, leasing and development will not be allowed on 41,956 acres outside the potash enclave designated as Not Open to Leasing (NOL) through this Resource Management Plan. This acreage is designated NOL to protect threatened and endangered plant or animal species habitats, riparian, wetlands or other critical wildlife habitats, cultural or historical resources, cave resources, outstanding scenic resources or other sensitive environmental values.
- o The Federal mineral estate remaining open to leasing of sodium, sulfur, and other solid leasable (non-energy) minerals totals 2,661,159 acres. Prospecting, leasing, and development may continue under standard terms and conditions or with special stipulations to protect sensitive resource values.
- o A total of 48,186 acres of Federal subsurface in 28 areas are closed to the leasing of sodium, sulfur, and other leasable solid (non-energy) minerals through this approved Resource Management Plan.

Salable Minerals: Caliche, sand, gravel, building stone, and other salable mineral materials will continue to be available on 2,648,632 acres of public lands.

- o Current withdrawals of 1,560 acres, plus an additional 59,153 acres in 34 Special Management Areas, are closed to mineral material disposal.
- o Closure and rehabilitation of existing pits in these areas will be completed on a case by case basis.
- o New caliche pits will be permitted only when existing pit locations are not close enough (usually within three miles) to support multiple-use needs.



Locatable Minerals: The existing 11,680 acres of withdrawals in four areas will continue.

- o This approved Resource Management Plan will initiate protective withdrawals to segregate an additional 23 areas totaling 15,498 acres from mineral entry under the 1872 mining laws. When implemented, the new withdrawals will increase the total acres closed to mining claim location to 27,178 acres.
- o All other Federal mineral estate will be open to mineral entry and development (approximately 2,682,167 acres).

### Monitoring

BLM will monitor the stipulations placed on all mineral activities within the Resource Area through the use of compliance specialists.

### Implantation Priorities

Special stipulations, closures to mineral leasing and sales, and proposed withdrawals are subject to valid existing rights. Closures will be implemented and special stipulations will be attached to future leases, permits, or other use authorizations after current leases and authorizations expire. New stipulations will be attached to future applications or authorizations as they are processed by BLM.

Implementation of Bureau mineral withdrawal decisions requires submission of a Protective Withdrawal Petition to the Secretary, and public notice through the Federal Register. All Bureau Petitions for Protective Withdrawals are scheduled to be submitted, and Federal Register Notices filed within 12 months of this RMP publication. Upon approval of a withdrawal petition by the Secretary, the affected lands will be segregated for a two year period during which time the withdrawal will be processed.

The order of approval, and subsequent completion of withdrawal action steps will depend upon the withdrawal size, complexity of analysis of mineral or other resource values, public controversy, and manpower and funding constraints.

### Support

Cadastral survey support will be needed to locate public land boundaries. Cultural resource reports will be required on all potash, oil, and gas leases as well as all mineral material disposals from new pits or expansions of existing ones.

Roswell District Office, New Mexico State Office, and Washington Office support will be required to prepare the documentation and complete the steps necessary to process mineral withdrawal actions.

## SOIL, WATER, AND AIR

### Resource Objectives

The objective of the soil, water, and air quality program is to protect, maintain and enhance these resources on the public lands, as well as provide support to other resource programs. Conservation and protection measures are intended to improve the productivity of public lands for livestock forage, wildlife habitat and fisheries, and other multiple uses.

Water and soil conservation and development objectives include stabilization of soils, maintenance of water quality, control of siltation and salinity, reduction of surface runoff, and control of flooding.

### Continuing Management Guidance

BLM will continue to protect soil and water resources on public lands through planning and application of conservation, rehabilitation, and development measures. Projects such as brush control, watershed structures, seedings and others are authorized by the National Soil Conservation Act, the Taylor Grazing Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA).

Soil, water, and air resources will continue to be evaluated during activity planning or on a case-by-case basis as part of project level planning. Evaluations will consider the significance of proposed projects and the sensitivity of soil and water resources in the affected areas. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to protect water quality, to maintain soil productivity, and to minimize erosion.

Soils: Activities will be managed to maintain soil productivity and to minimize-erosion. Surface-disturbing projects will be analyzed to determine suitability of soils to support and sustain such projects. Projects on suitable soils will be designed to minimize soil loss. Projects proposed on unsuitable soils may be denied, modified to mitigate soil erosion, or moved to a suitable site.

Slopes greater than 30 percent are susceptible to slumping or accelerated erosion when the surface is disturbed. Surface-disturbing activities on these slopes will be allowed only after considering site-specific conditions and the degree of anticipated disturbance.

Reclamation of disturbed sites in sensitive areas may include, in addition to standard procedures, the following special procedures, as appropriate:

- o Special site-specific seed mixtures
- o Removal of caliche or other surfacing material
- o Soil amendments, soil treatments, fertilizers
- o Planting trees and shrubs
- o Mulching
- o Watering
- o Erosion control and land treatments
- o Fencing
- o Special seedbed preparation and seeding methods

Current soils information will be used to support the various planning and multiple-use management activities. Soils management will include coordination with the related programs of State, local, and other Federal agencies.

Water: Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with applicable State and Federal pollution control laws and regulations. Federal laws include the Clean Water Act of 1977, EO 11752 (December 1973), and EO 11988 (May 1977). Requirements include consultation with State agencies on proposed projects that could significantly affect water quality.

Flood hazards will be evaluated in planning for facilities, land disposals and other proposals to reduce the risks of flood loss. If there are suitable alternatives, floodplain sites will be avoided (BLM Manual 7221, Floodplain Management EO 11988, Clean Water Act, PL 95-217 - 33 USC 466). Construction activities in rivers, wetlands, or streams require a section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Water rights will continue to be acquired or perfected as necessary to carry out public land management through State law and administrative claim procedures, except as otherwise specifically mandated by Congress.

Air: BLM-authorized actions comply with applicable State and Federal air quality laws and regulations. Stipulations will be incorporated into project proposals to meet air quality standards.

The New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division has the primary responsibility for monitoring and enforcing air quality regulations and standards. Carlsbad Caverns National Park is adjacent to public land and classified as a Class I area (pristine air where no increase in air contaminant levels is allowed). The Carlsbad Resource Area is designated an attainment area, which means that National Ambient Air Quality Standards (40 CFR 50) are being met.

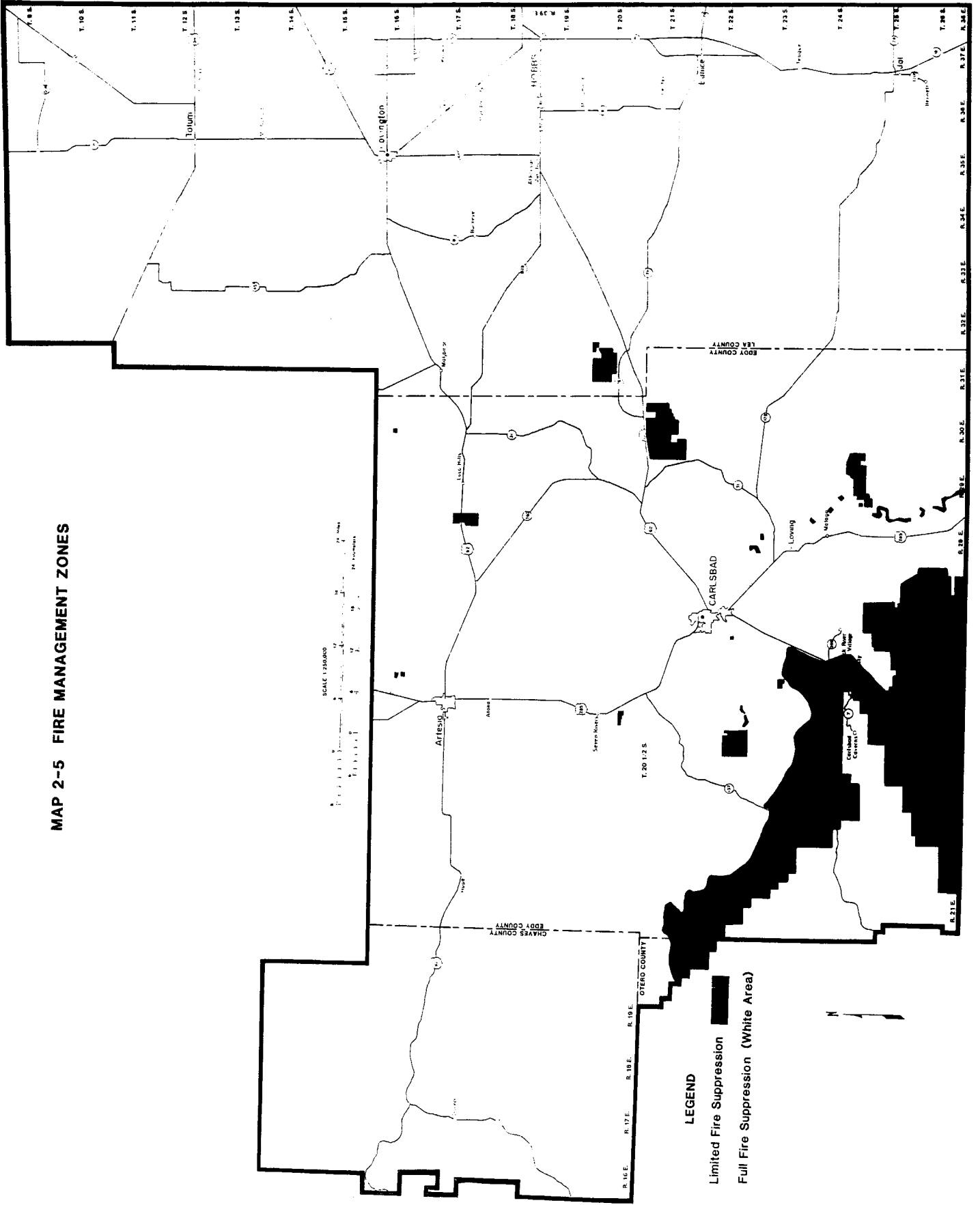
Fire Management: Fire on public land will be managed according to one of two fire response levels--full or limited. Limited suppression allows fire suppression activities to be dictated by prescribed fire parameters; i.e., temperature, fuels, wind, humidity, etc., to meet natural resource management objectives. Some areas may also have restrictions on the types or intensities of fire suppression activities allowed; e.g., equipment restrictions, in order to protect other resource values. Fire management plans will be written for limited suppression zones. Specific boundaries and prescriptions will be designed to meet the identified objectives of the areas. All other areas will be under full suppression. Fire Management Zones are shown on Map 2-5, and listed by location in Appendix A.

#### Planned Actions

- o Treat 3,000 acres with chemical treatments.
- o Treat 59,000 acres with prescribed fire.
- o Watershed management plans will be developed for all accelerated erosion, salinity, riparian, and other water quality improvement areas and will detail specific management goals and action.

CARLSBAD RESOURCE AREA

MAP 2-5 FIRE MANAGEMENT ZONES



**LEGEND**  
Limited Fire Suppression  
Full Fire Suppression (White Area)

o Full fire suppression will be conducted on 2,011,983 acres of public surface. Limited fire suppression will be applied to 159,017 acres to protect sensitive resource values.

### **Monitoring**

All monitoring will be conducted according to BLM policy and manuals subject to available funding and personnel.

### **Implementation Priorities**

All actions will be completed as funds and personnel are available.

### **Support**

Project development will require input from all resource programs to assess the impacts of those projects during the environmental assessment process. Purchasing support, contracting, survey, design, and project inspection support will also be required.

## **LIVESTOCK GRAZING**

The livestock grazing program is authorized by the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, FLPMA, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, and the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1973. BLM's responsibility includes issuing grazing permits and leases, unauthorized use control, allotment supervision, and other authorized actions on approximately 2.2 million acres of public land within the Carlsbad Resource Area (CRA).

The guidance established in the East Roswell Grazing EIS (BLM 1979), will continue to be implemented through this RMP based upon long term monitoring studies, and will be accomplished through negotiation or by grazing decisions. The grazing determinations for public land allotments generally east of the Pecos River have not been addressed further in this RMP. The planned actions and decisions described in this RMP apply only to west side allotments, or those not previously addressed in the East Roswell Grazing EIS.

### **Resource Objectives**

The planning area is a complex ecosystem composed of plant and animal communities and basic soil types, all responsive in one way or another to natural processes such as rain, wind, sunlight, and man's activities. No single element in the range ecosystem is so readily managed and with such far reaching effects as is vegetation. Consequently, maintaining or improving the vegetation component of this ecosystem is the key to enhancing the resource values of the planning area to permit a balanced mix of uses and ensure sustained yield.

## Continuing Management Guidance

Current policy directs the BLM to focus available funding and manpower on those areas where problems and conflicts exist. The inventory conducted in preparation for this RMP was designed to assess the current condition and identify problem areas. From the information available, each allotment was placed in one of three categories: "I", "M", or "C". Attention will be focused on the "I" allotments with second priority on those "M" allotments where less critical problems exist and finally on the "C" allotments when conflicts arise. This action was selected to achieve the Resource Area's range management goals in a reasonable period of time with acceptable environmental impacts. The main emphasis of the range program is considered in the following components:

Allotment Categorization: All grazing allotments in the Resource Area have been assigned to one of three selective management categories based on present conditions, potential for improvement, other resource conflicts, and opportunities for positive economic return on public investments. The management category for an allotment may be changed when resource conditions change, or when new data becomes available.

The Maintain (M) category allotments generally will be managed to maintain current satisfactory resource conditions; the Improve (I) allotments generally will be managed to improve resource conditions; and the Custodial (C) allotments will receive custodial management to prevent resource deterioration. Appendix B lists categories for grazing allotments.

Grazing Systems: The types of grazing systems to be implemented will be developed in cooperation with the livestock operator and based on allotment-specific management actions, resource characteristics including vegetation potential and water availability, general management direction, operator needs and implementation costs.

Livestock Use Adjustments: Livestock use adjustments are most often made by changing one or more of the following: the kind or class of livestock, the season of use, the stocking rate, or the grazing pattern. While most livestock use adjustments will occur in the "I" allotments, use adjustments may also occur for allotments in "C" and "M" categories.

The Federal regulations that govern changes in livestock forage provide specific direction for livestock use adjustments (43 CFR 4110.3-1 and 43 CFR 4110.3-2). The regulations (43 CFR 4110.3-3) specify that permanent increases or suspension of preference "shall be implemented over a five-year period unless, after consultation with permittees or lessees and other affected interests, an agreement is reached to implement the adjustment in less than five years." If data acceptable to the BLM Area Manager are available, an initial reduction will be taken on the effective date of the decision. The balance of the reductions will be taken in the third and fifth years following the effective date of the decision.

If data are not available to support the initial reduction, a decision will be issued identifying the data needed and procedures to be used for arriving at the adjustments. Adjustments based on the additional data shall be implemented by agreement or decision that will initiate the five-year implementation period.

Range Improvements: The extent, location, and timing of range improvements will be based on the allotment-specific management objectives adopted through the Cooperative Management Plan (CMP) process, interdisciplinary development and review of proposed actions, contributions from operators and others, and BLM funding capability. All allotments in which range improvement funds are to be spent will be subject to an economic analysis. This analysis will be used to develop a final priority ranking of allotments to commit the range improvement funds that are needed to implement activity plans.

Chemical Vegetative Treatment: Several herbicides which are currently labeled by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and approved by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture are proposed for use in vegetative management. The goal of herbicide treatments is to decrease the target species, resulting in an increase of more desirable plant species.

All applications of herbicides will be under the supervision of a certified herbicide applicator and will be carried out in compliance with State and Federal laws. Application rates of herbicides will be determined based on individual range sites and the conditions at the time of application.

Livestock use will be deferred for a minimum of two growing seasons following herbicide application. A site-specific EA will be prepared prior to vegetation treatments to determine the impacts.

If additional herbicides effective on mesquite or creosote bush are approved prior to the proposed vegetation treatment, they will be considered for use.

### **Planned Actions**

Multiple use management actions have been developed for each allotment in the "I" category. Future management actions, including developing management plans, will be tailored to meet these objectives after consultation with livestock operators.

Fifty CMPs will be developed, implemented, and maintained. Appendix B indicates the allotments for which CMPs will be developed. Each plan will explicitly detail planned programs and management actions designed to accomplish proper land and resource management for the full mix of public uses. CMPs are prepared in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the operator or other affected interests. CMPs will prescribe the manner in and extent to which livestock grazing will be conducted and managed to meet multiple use, sustained yield, economic and other needs and objectives set forth in the RMP.

- o The 12 existing Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) will be fully implemented and maintained. A total of 420,000 acres will be covered by AMPs and CMPs.
- o Approximately \$900,000 of BLM rangeland improvement funds will be spent on rangeland improvements on "I" category allotments to improve ecological condition on poor and fair rangelands.

Approximately 192,000 animal unit months (AUM) will be authorized to 151 permittees, until agreements are reached or decisions are made on grazing capacity. All livestock use adjustments will be implemented through documented mutual agreement or by decision. When livestock use adjustments are implemented by decision, each will be based on operator consultation, range survey data, and resource monitoring. Bureau policy emphasizes the use of a systematic monitoring program rather than a one-time inventory to verify the need for livestock adjustments.

Five thousand (5,000) acres of unallotted tracts generally will remain available for future livestock grazing, as provided for in the BLM grazing regulations (43 CFR 4110 and 43 CFR 4130).

Livestock grazing will be removed from 13 Special Management Areas totaling 4,969 acres in order to reduce conflicts between sensitive riparian habitats, fragile watersheds, Research Natural Areas and other multiple-use values.

### **Implementation Priorities**

First priority for rangeland improvements will be given to "I" category allotments with "M" and "C" category allotments being of a lower priority. Implementation priority is subject to modification based on changes in resource conditions or private contributions by individual operators.

### **Monitoring**

A detailed monitoring program will be established in the Resource Area to determine if the goals and objectives of this Plan are being achieved. As a minimum, the monitoring program will collect data on actual livestock use, wildlife use, degree of utilization of the key forage species, climatic conditions, and rangeland ecological condition and trend. If undesired or unintended changes occur in resource values, then the causes will be determined and corrective action taken.

### **Support**

Any action having a potential impact on threatened and endangered species habitat will initiate consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service who will render an opinion in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Project development will require input from all resource programs during the Environmental Assessment process. Purchasing support, contracting, cadastral survey, design, and project inspection support will also be required.



## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

### Resource Objectives

The Bureau of Land Management operates under a number of general wildlife habitat management objectives. Each objective is mandated and/or supported by specific Federal regulation or legislation. The BLM wildlife habitat management program places special emphasis on the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of: 1) crucial habitats for big game, upland game birds and waterfowl; 2) crucial habitats for nongame species of special interest and concern to State or other Federal agencies; 3) wetland and riparian habitat; and 4) habitat for State or Federally listed Threatened or Endangered (T&E) species.

Objectives to protect or improve aquatic and riparian habitat will be part of all HMPs and CMPs. Measures to preserve, protect, and if necessary, restore the natural functions of floodplains and wetlands will be included in all applicable management proposals. Such measures are required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and Bureau policy. Management techniques will be used to minimize degradation of aquatic and riparian habitat.

Sufficient forage and cover will be provided for wildlife on their seasonal habitat. Forage and cover requirements will be incorporated into CMPs and will be specific to primary wildlife use areas. Generally, range improvements will be designed to achieve both wildlife and other rangeland resource objectives.

### Continuing Management Guidance

Activities are not permitted in threatened, endangered, or sensitive species' habitats that would jeopardize their continued existence. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDG&F), New Mexico Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be consulted prior to implementing projects that may affect T&E species habitat. If such a "May Affect" determination is made during the Biologic Assessment Process, then consultation with the USFWS will be initiated per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Fish and wildlife habitat will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project planning Environmental Analyses (EAs). Such evaluations will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of fish and wildlife habitat in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure that projects are compatible with management objectives in this RMP for fish and wildlife habitat.

Habitat improvement projects will be implemented where necessary to stabilize and/or improve unsatisfactory or declining habitat condition. Such projects will be identified through Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) or Cooperative Management Plans (CMPs) for grazing allotments.

## Planned Actions

- o Wildlife habitat objectives will be incorporated in the CMPs developed on 55 "I" category allotments. (See Appendix B, Allotment Summary Table.)
- o HMPs covering 125,000 acres will principally be developed and implemented in pinyon/juniper grass mountain, mixed shrub hill, and mule deer habitat.
- o HMPs covering 114,500 acres will principally be developed and implemented in grass flat, mixed shrub rolling upland, and riparian pronghorn antelope habitat.
- o HMPs covering 96,000 acres will principally be developed and implemented in mesquite sand dune and sand shinnery oak game bird habitat.
- o A 1.5 million-acre Raptor HMP will be developed and implemented in the Resource Area to improve overall nesting, prey base, and seasonal use habitat.
- o An HMP covering 33,200 acres will be developed and implemented to protect and improve habitat for great blue heron, black crowned night heron, little blue heron, tri-colored heron, snowy egret, and cattle egret. Seasonal restrictions on all surface disturbing activities will be applied to approximately 252 acres or a 1/4-mile radius around active heronries (eggs or juveniles present in nests) for the species listed above. The HMP will outline specific prescriptions needed to improve heronry habitat.
- o All riparian standard habitat sites (approximately 54,500 acres) will be intensively managed to assure water and vegetative quality for the associated wildlife resources. Management prescriptions for these areas will include fence modifications or livestock use adjustments.
- o An aquatic/riparian HMP will be developed for all perennial water sources and associated riparian communities on public land. To date, 524 acres have been identified as the Riparian Habitat Management Area (HMA), including 108 acres of spring habitats designated as Special Management Areas. As additional seeps, springs, creeks or other water sources are identified on public land, they will be incorporated into the HMP. Management prescriptions will include vegetation treatments, fence modification, and livestock grazing closures and adjustments.
- o The 560-acre Yeso Hills Research Natural Area (RNA) is designated through this approved RMP to conduct long-term research within the gypsum ecosystem. Planned actions include no surface disturbance and removal of livestock grazing, except where beneficial for research purposes. (See Appendix C.)

- o The 1,360-acre South Texas Hill Canyon RNA is designated through this RMP to conduct long-term research within the Chihuahuan Desert ecosystem. Management prescriptions include no surface disturbance and removal of livestock grazing, except where beneficial for research purposes. (See Appendix C.)
- o The 2,320-acre Pecos River/Canyon Complex RNA is designated through this RMP to conduct long-term research within the Pecos River and side canyons ecosystems. Management prescriptions will include no surface disturbance and removal of livestock grazing, except where beneficial for research purposes. (See Appendix C.)
- o Seasonal drilling restrictions will be removed from the San Simon Swale Pronghorn Habitat area.
- o Federally-listed Threatened and Endangered (T&E) plant and animal species will be managed according to USF&WS Recovery Plans. State listed species will be protected through Cooperative Agreements with the NMDG&F and New Mexico Department of Natural Resources.
- o A management plan following the guidance of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Gypsum Wild Buckwheat Recovery Plan will be developed for 205 acres in Ben Slaughter Draw to provide intensive management for populations of the Federally-listed gypsum wild buckwheat (Eriogonum gypsophilum). (See Appendix C.)
- o The Blue Spring Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) has been designated through this approved RMP. The ACEC designation applies to 160 acres of public surface land, and to 440 acres of Federal subsurface (split estate) adjacent to Blue Spring. Private and State surface lands totalling 480 acres are planned to be acquired to protect the Federally listed fish species, Pecos gambusia (Gambusia nobilis), and its spring habitat. No surface-disturbing activities will be allowed in the ACEC. An ACEC protection plan following the guidelines of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pecos Gambusia Recovery Plan will be developed for Blue Spring ACEC. A detailed description and a map of the area are in Appendix C.
- o The bluntnose shiner critical habitat (200 acres) will be managed according to USF&WS Recovery Plan guidelines. This will include livestock adjustments and restricted surface disturbance.
- o A 10-acre RNA has been designated through this approved RMP to protect the Federal candidate species ramshorn snail (pecosorbis kansensis) located in Little McKittrick Draw. Stipulations providing for no surface disturbance and fencing to exclude livestock from ten acres will protect the essential habitat while providing research opportunities to determine biological requirements. All surface disturbances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they will be detrimental to the ramshorn snail and its habitat. A description and map of the area is in Appendix C.

## Monitoring

All monitoring activities will be conducted according to BLM manuals and policies. A detailed wildlife monitoring plan will be developed and made available in the BLM Roswell District and Carlsbad Resource Area offices.

## Implementation Priorities

Development of HMPs for key species and their related habitat will occur over the term of the plan. Completion of these plans will be dependent upon need, availability of funding, and manpower. Priority will generally be given to the development of an HMP for T&E species.

The level and intensity of wildlife habitat management activities presented in this RMP have been selected based on feasibility, opportunity, need, and associated impacts by other resource programs. Wildlife habitat management decision implementation will be dependent on national priorities and the availability of funding and manpower. At present funding levels, approximately 20 years will be required to reach the habitat management objectives outlined in the RMP.

Priorities for implementation of decisions in this RMP areas follows:

1. Monitor, maintain, or improve sensitive habitats for Threatened or Endangered species. Upon identification of an occupied habitat area or introduction of any T&E species into an area and the availability of funding, an HMP will be initiated.

2. Initiate development of new wildlife HMPs and related enhancement projects.

3. Maintain or improve wetland and riparian habitat to good or excellent ecological condition, utilizing acceptable grazing systems and fencing where needed. These efforts will focus initially in the Black River, Delaware River, and Rocky Arroyo drainages.

4. Monitor, maintain, or improve ranges for pronghorn antelope and mule deer, focusing initially on the "I" and "M" category grazing allotments.

5. Monitor, maintain, or improve known game bird habitat; monitor, maintain, or improve key raptor habitat areas; and maintain all existing wildlife habitat improvement facilities.

## Support

Monitoring for all wildlife species will be closely coordinated with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any action having a potential effect on T&E species habitat will be brought to the attention of the USF&WS, who will render an opinion in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Development of HMPs for terrestrial and aquatic species will be closely coordinated with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the U.S. Forest Service, and, where appropriate the USF&WS.

Project development will require input from all resource programs to assess impacts of those projects during the Environmental Assessment process. Purchasing, contracting, survey, design, and project inspection support will be required.

## RECREATION

### **Resource Objectives**

A wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities will be provided for all segments of the public, commensurate with demand. Trails and other means of public access will be maintained and developed where necessary to enhance recreation opportunities and allow use of the public lands.

The use of Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) will be controlled and managed to protect the resources of the public lands, to promote the safety of all users, and to minimize conflicts among the various users of those lands.

#### Continuing Management Guidance

Recreation Management: Outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project level planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of recreation resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure that activities are compatible with recreation management objectives. Development will only occur when an identified need cannot or is not being provided by the private sector.

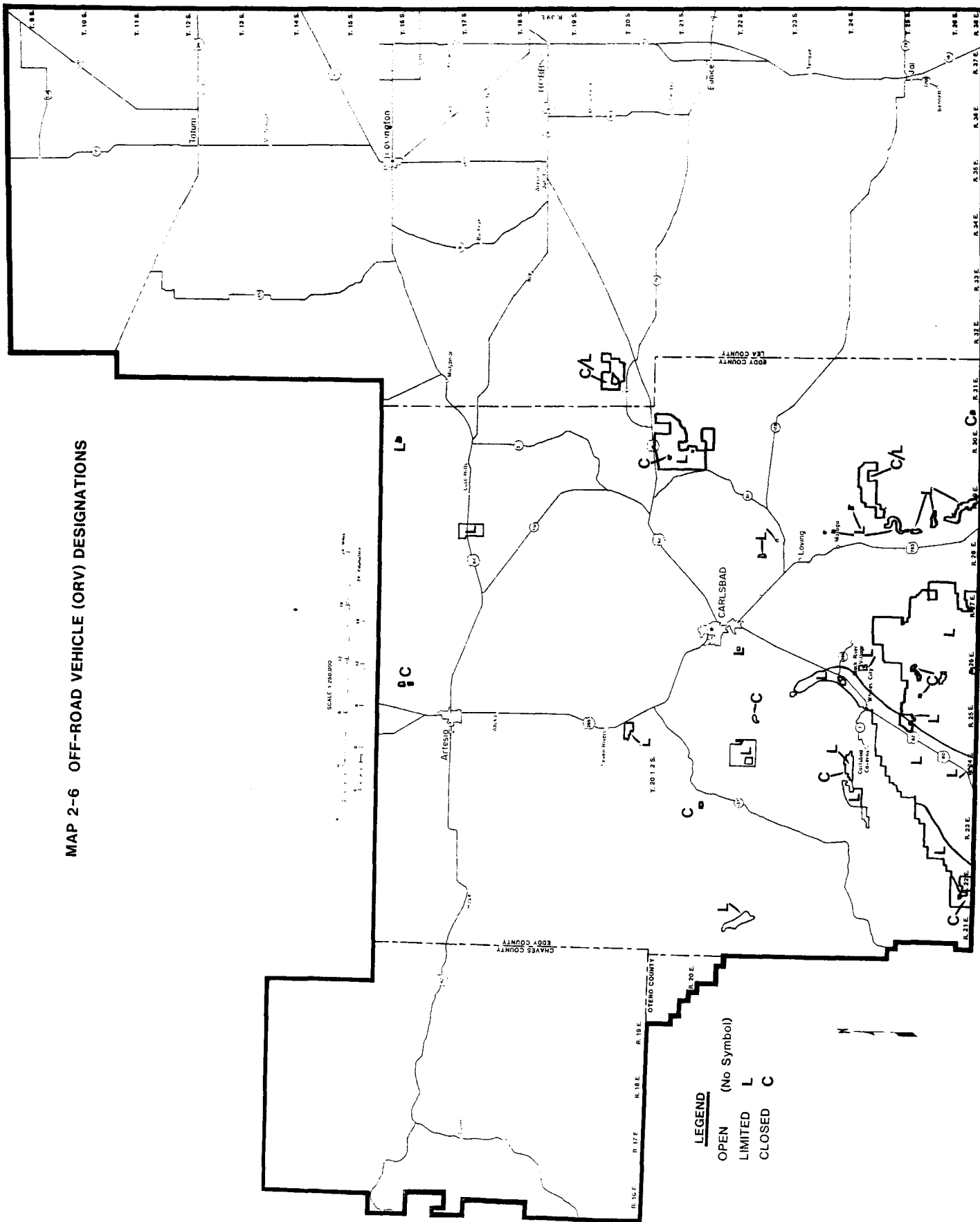
Recreation Area Management Plans (RAMPs) will be prepared for all designated Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs). The plans will address levels and types of management actions necessary to achieve the recreation objectives in this approved Plan. Management objectives for the SRMAs will include facilities development and intensive visitor management. On public land where recreation is not the principal management objective, management direction will provide for access, visitor information, and resource protection. Descriptions and maps of the SRMAs are in Appendix C.

Outdoor recreation resources and opportunities will be documented in Environmental Analyses (EAs) written for all BLM and non-BLM proposed actions. Site-specific EAs will analyze the significance of proposed projects in terms of effects on recreation resources. Stipulations will be attached to land use authorizations to minimize conflicts with recreation management objectives.

Off-Road Vehicles (ORV): All public lands in the Carlsbad Resource Area areas have been designated either limited, closed, or open for ORV use. Emergency ORV limitations may be imposed in problem areas. Off-road vehicle designations are shown on Map 2-6.

# CARLSBAD RESOURCE AREA

## MAP 2-6 OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) DESIGNATIONS



Public land within areas designated "open" to motorized vehicle use will generally remain available for such use subject to existing laws and regulations. The designated "limited" use areas primarily restrict motorized use to existing or designated roads or ways, and may include other limitations as needed.

Public land within areas designated "closed" to motorized vehicle use will be closed year-long to all forms of motorized vehicle use except that which is in conjunction with BLM-authorized activities.

Access management decisions will be implemented through the ORV designation process, activity planning, or through normal road abandonment procedures.

A comprehensive Transportation System Management Plan will be developed for each county in the Resource Area to establish functional classification and maintenance responsibilities for needed roads, and identify unnecessary roads that will be closed and rehabilitated.

Cave Resources: In order to protect caves, the existing oil and gas lease stipulation allowing no surface disturbance within 300 feet from known cave entrances or passages will now be applied at the Application for Permit to Drill (ADP) stage in the oil and gas development process. Protection requirements for subsurface voids encountered during oil and gas drilling operations are being developed by a joint BLM/industry Work Group, and will be implemented when determined feasible.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): Proposed activities and projects will be evaluated for consistency with Visual Resource Management (VRM) objectives. The impacts of each action will be determined in site-specific Environmental Analyses (EAs) prior to implementation. The EAs will analyze the project significance, the visual sensitivity of the affected area, and the project impacts. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to ensure compatibility of projects with management objectives for visual resources. Painting requirements will be implemented for surface facilities in accordance with established policy. Activities may be modified to blend with the characteristic landscape.

Wilderness: The four Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) - Lonesome Ridge, Mudgetts, Devil's Den, and MCKittrick Canyon - will be managed in accordance with the "Interim Management Plan (IMP) and Guidelines for Lands Under 'Wilderness Review'" until either designated or officially removed from interim management. The Mudgetts' WSA had been evaluated in the New Mexico BLM Statewide Wilderness EIS. The three other WSAs are included in a cooperative effort with Lincoln National Forest as part of the Forest Service planning process. Therefore, this RMP contains no additional wilderness determinations. None of the WSA's have been recommended for wilderness designation.

#### Planned Actions

Recreation Management: The boat ramp at Red Bluff Reservoir will be maintained, and 120 acres will be developed for intensive recreation use as part of the 6,000-acre Pecos River Corridor Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The SRMA will be a half-mile wide corridor on public land along the Pecos

River. It will be managed to provide quality water-based recreation opportunities on public land parcels while protecting natural and scenic qualities.

Off-Road Vehicles (ORV): Sixteen areas covering 153,299 acres will be designated "limited" for ORV use. A total of 5,943 acres will be designated "closed" to ORV use. Approximately 2,011,506 acres will be designated open for ORV use.

- o The 900-acre Alkali Lake and the 55,800-acre Hackberry Lake Intensive ORV Use Areas are the preferred locations for recreational, commercial, and organized competitive ORV events. These areas will be managed to ensure that other land and resource uses will not significantly interfere with organized recreational ORV use.
- o Legal and/or physical access for general public use and BLM administration is planned to be obtained in six high priority, eleven moderate priority, and eight low priority access tracts. Access Management Plans will be prepared to determine the best available method for providing access to public lands within specific tracts.

Cave Resources:

- o Nineteen caves within nine cave management units will be protected and intensively managed. A Cave Resources Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) covering 5,990 acres has been designated through through this RMP. Appendix C contains a detailed description of the Cave Resources SRMA.

Management prescriptions for those intensively managed cave management units will include NSO for oil and gas exploration and development, ORV use closure or limitation (to designated routes only), withdrawal of locatable minerals, closure to solid leasable minerals and salable minerals, limited fire suppression, and management under VRM class II and class III objectives.

- o Dry Cave (420 acres) will be designated as an RNA specifically for paleontological research.
- o The Chosa Draw Caves Complex has been designated as an ACEC (2,200 acres).

Visual Resources Management (VRM):

- o The 2,990-acre Lonesome Ridge ACEC will be managed according to Class I VRM objectives.
- o A total of 38,070 acres will be managed according to Class II VRM objectives.



- o VRM Class II areas include:
  - Guadalupe Escarpment Scenic Area Zone 1 (8,820 acres);
  - Seven cave management units (6,220 acres);
  - The Pecos River Corridor SRMA (4,500 acres);
  - The Dark Canyon Scenic Area and ACEC (3,220 acres);
  - The Pecos River/Canyons Complex ACEC (4,100 acres),
  - The Seven River Hills Area (540 acres);
  - Areas outside SMA's (10,670 acres).
  
- o A total of 276,160 acres will be managed according to Class III VRM objectives. This includes 48, 170 acres within seven SMA's and an additional 227,990 acres outside SMA's.
  
- o Zone 2 (40,750 acres) of the Guadalupe Escarpment Scenic Area will be managed with Class III VRM objectives to protect visual quality and sensitivity. Zone 1 of the Scenic Area will have an NSO stipulation on oil and gas leases, sale of mineral materials will not be allowed, and a "limited" ORV designation will be implemented.
  
- o Within the 3,950-acre Dark Canyon SMA, an NSO stipulation will be attached to oil and gas leases within 3,220 areas. A seasonal "no drilling" stipulation will be in effect between April 1 and September 15 annually on the remaining 730 acres to reduce adverse visual impacts during the high use season at Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Wilderness Study Areas (WSA): Decisions in this RMP within WSAs do not affect their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, even though none of the areas have been recommended for Wilderness designation. These areas will continue to be managed for multiple use under the BLM Interim Management Policy for WSAs. The following actions are intended to manage and protect important multiple-use values present on public land, and do not affect the ongoing wilderness study process.

- o A total of 2,990 acres of the Lonesome Ridge WSA area is included in the Lonesome Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and designated as Outstanding Natural Area (ONA). The remaining acreage is included within Zone 1 of the Guadalupe Escarpment Scenic Area.
  
- o Approximately 1,200 acres of the Mudgetts WSA will be included in the Dark Canyon ACEC. The remainder of the Mudgetts WSA (2,142 acres) will be managed according to Class III VRM objectives.
  
- o The Devil's Den Canyon and McKittrick Canyon WSA's will be managed in accordance with Class II VRM objectives.

## Monitoring

The condition of the recreation resources and sites will be periodically inspected to determine if any resource damage is occurring. Visitor use will be sampled using various methods, including road and trail counters and visitor registers. Recreation Area Management Plans will be reviewed periodically to determine if revisions are necessary due to changing conditions.

## Implementation Priorities

1. Activity plans for recreation, visual, and cave resource ACEC's will receive the first priority for available funding and personnel. These include:

Dark Canyon ACEC and Scenic Area  
Chosa Draw ACEC  
Lonesome Ridge ACEC/Outstanding Natural Area

2. Completion of an Off-Road Vehicle designation plan will receive second priority.

3. Recreation Area Management Plans (RAMP'S) will be developed for all Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA's) according to available funding and established priorities.

## Support

Cooperation and coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, New Mexico State Parks, and local county governments will be required to implement the RAMPs. Project development will require input from all resource programs to analyze effects through the Environmental Analysis process. Additionally, support will be required for purchasing, contracting, survey, design, and project inspection.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Resource Objectives

The major objectives of the cultural resources program are to:

1. Process applications and issue permits to conduct archaeological, historic, and paleontological investigations on public lands, and monitor approved activities;
2. Protect the most valuable and most critically threatened cultural, natural history, and paleontological resources;
3. Provide for scientific, educational, and where appropriate, public use;
4. Continue cooperative efforts with other Federal and State agencies and private entities concerned with cultural resources.

## **Continuing Management Guidance**

Cultural resources will continue to be inventoried and evaluated as part of project level planning. Recommendations generated from evaluations will consider all impacts of the proposed projects to the important cultural resources in affected areas. Stipulations will be developed to assure that projects are compatible with management objectives for cultural resources. Avoidance of sites will continue to be a primary mitigation measure used.

Cultural resources will be inventoried and evaluated prior to surface disturbing activities. Where avoidance is not possible, mitigation measures will be developed based on the cultural use evaluation system and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Conflicts will be resolved in accordance with 36 CFR 800 and the Memorandum of Agreement between the New Mexico SHPO and BLM.

## **Planned Actions**

- o Cultural Resource Management Plans (CRMPs) will be developed for the designated Cultural Resource Management Areas (CRMA's) Maroon Cliffs, Laguna Plata, Poco Site, Bear Grass Draw, Pope's Well, and the Potash Bull Wheel CRMAs. Management direction will emphasize preservation, management, and use of the cultural resources and protection of the soils and vegetation to enhance the natural environment of the areas. Mineral resources may be developed under existing laws, policy, and regulations. Other activities will be managed to avoid or minimize conflicts with cultural resources.
- o No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations will be added to new or reissued oil and gas leases in the Laguna Plata (3,360 acres), Maroon Cliffs (1,880 acres), Pope's Well (40 acres), and Potash Bull Wheel (4 acres).
- o The special stipulation applied to 3,360 acres of potash leases in the Laguna Plata CRMA will be retained and a similar stipulation will be added to 11,783 acres of new or reissued potash leases in the Maroon Cliffs area.
- o A special stipulation requiring extensive mitigative work on cultural sites will be added to new oil and gas leases in the Poco Site (51 acres) and Bear Grass Draw (1,780 acres) CRMAs.
- o The Laguna Plata, Maroon Cliffs, and Potash Bull Wheel CRMAs will be closed to any mineral material sales. The Laguna Plata will be closed to all solid mineral leasing with the exception of potash and existing sodium leases.
- o The existing ORV closure for the Laguna Plata area will continue; the Pope's Well area will be closed to ORV use, and vehicles will be limited to designated routes in the Maroon Cliffs, Potash Bull Wheel, Poco Site, and Bear Grass Draw areas.

- o The Laguna Plata, Maroon Cliffs, Potash Bull Wheel, and Pope's Well areas are designated as rights-of-way avoidance areas through this approved RMP.
- o Approximately 1,280 acres of non-Federal surface and mineral estate in the Laguna Plata CRMA are planned for possible acquisition.
- o Limited fire suppression will be applied to all cultural resource management areas except the Potash Bull Wheel.
- o National Register nominations will be completed for six cultural resource management areas.
- o The Pecos River/Canyons ACEC and 9,903 acres in the Maroon Cliffs area will be surveyed to establish boundaries for National Register nominations.

Detailed descriptions of the Cultural Resource Management Areas are in Appendix C.

### **Monitoring**

Cultural resources will be monitored through the use of patrols and law enforcement agents during heavy public use periods to protect the resource from vandalism. Periodic aircraft flights and ground patrols will be used year-round to reduce or prevent pothunting. Major sites will be periodically inspected to document any damage and identify future stabilization needs.

Sensitive cultural resource areas will be monitored for ORV impacts. If the monitoring program reveals significant impacts to cultural sites in any of these areas, emergency closures or limitations for ORV use will be imposed.

### **Implantation Priorities**

1. Implement the base program for the cultural resources.
2. Complete monitoring of resources to limit damage to cultural resources.
3. Implement stabilization to prevent deterioration of cultural resources.
- 4.

Complete and implement management plans for the significant sites identified in the area.

Completion of the cultural resources Class I overview report and the Statewide Data Synthesis Project will continue to have a high priority.

### **Support**

The cultural resources program will continue close coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer on all aspects of the program.

## AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)

### Continuing Management Guidance

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important cultural or scenic values, biologic resources or other natural systems, or to provide protection of the public from natural hazards.

### Planned Actions

Approval of the Resource Management Plan constituted formal designation of five ACECs totalling 12,020 acres. They include the Chosa Draw Caves Complex (2,200 acres); Dark Canyon (1,480 acres); Lonesome Ridge (2,990 acres); Blue Spring (160 acres) and the Pecos River/Canyons Complex (5,190 acres). Descriptions and maps of the ACECs are in Appendix C.

# CHAPTER 3

USING THE PLAN

USING THE PLAN

Implementing the Plan

All future resource management authorizations and actions, including budget proposals, will conform or, at a minimum, not conflict with this Plan. Subject to valid existing rights, operations and activities under existing permits, contracts, cooperative agreements or other instruments for occupancy and use will be modified, if necessary, to conform with this Plan. Requirements for implementation are contained in the following laws, regulations, or manuals; FLPMA Section 302(a); 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a); 43 CFR 1610.5-3(b); BLM Manual 1617.31; BLM Manual 1617.32(c); and BLM Handbook 1600--1.

Decisions in this Plan will be implemented over a period of years. In some cases, more detailed and site specific planning and environmental analysis may be required before an action can be taken.

Within 60 days of approval of the Resource Management Plan, a detailed Implementation Plan will be prepared to prioritize, and where possible, to schedule implementation of planned actions within the Bureau's budget and manpower capabilities. The Implementation Plan priorities and cost estimates will help determine the operational implications of the decision implementation steps (budget, staffing, support actions, etc. ). The Implementation Plan will be updated annually to reflect new management direction, program policy, monitoring results, or to respond to changing management needs within the scope of the approved RMP decisions.

As implementation proceeds, proposed actions not detailed in the Plan will be weighed against the intent of the Plan to determine conformance with the Plan's objectives. The Area Manager will review all proposals through the Environmental Assessment (EA) process to determine whether the resource use or management action is specifically provided for in the Plan, or if not mentioned, is clearly consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved Plan.

Monitoring the Plan

Monitoring and evaluation of the Resource Management Plan are integral parts of the planning process. Monitoring of the Plan is intended to allow the BLM to evaluate the continuing effectiveness of the multiple use decisions, and is not the same as monitoring specific resources to determine any changes in productivity, condition, quality, or other responses to management. Monitoring of each resource is discussed in Chapter 2.

Monitoring the Carlsbad RMP should provide the following benefits:

- o Extend the useful life of the Plan;
- o Improve program management efficiency;
- o Indicate the need for Plan amendment or revision;
- o Provide a management tool to gauge progress;
- o Ensure tracking of decisions;
- o Simplify Plan updating;
- o Provide an up-to-date public information record.

### **Maintaining the Plan**

The plan's life can be extended through timely maintenance which documents new data or minor changes or corrections. Maintenance does not expand the scope or level of resource, nor change uses, restrictions, conditions or terms, or decisions prescribed in the plan. Requirements for maintenance are contained in the following Laws, Regulations, Manuals and Handbooks; FLPMA section 202(a); 43CFR 1610.5-4; BLM Manual 1617.4; and Handbook H-1600 (Draft).

### **Amending the Plan**

The BLM Manual 1617.42 states that the plan will be amended to consider a proposal or an action that is not in conformance with the plan. Three categories of plan amendments are fully defined in BLM 1617.4. Briefly these categories are:

1. Category 1: This category is used when the preliminary analysis indicates that the proposal(s) do not have significant environmental impact. In this case, EIS documentation is not necessary and the Environmental Assessment process is used.

2. Category 2: This category is used when either the preliminary analysis indicates that the proposal(s) have or the proposal(s) are known to have significant impacts, or the proposal(s) affect two or more plans. In this case, EIS documentation is necessary.

3. Category 3: This category is used when a proposal(s) will have a significant impact and one or more plans are involved. EIS documentation is required and no implementing actions is taken until the EIS process is complete.

A revision involves preparation of a new RMP and becomes necessary when maintenance or amendments can no longer keep the existing plan current with changing management needs, resource conditions, or policies.



## Revising the Plan

Plan revisions are a total review and possible rewrite of the Plan done five or more years after completion, or sooner if needed. A revision could result in significant decision changes, and would be conducted according to the Bureau planning process, including formal public involvement and an EIS.

A revision involves preparation of a new RMP and becomes necessary when maintenance or amendments can no longer keep the existing Plan current with changing management needs, resource conditions, or policies.



# APPENDIX A

Table of Designations and Plan

Decisions





TABLE A-1 (CONTINUED)

DESIGNATION SPECIAL AREA DELINEATIONS	SMA 19 POPE'S WELL	SMA 20 GUADALUPE ESCAPEMENT SCIENTIFIC AREA	SMA 21 ALABAMA LAKE DRY AREA	SMA 22 HOCKESSY LAKE DRY AREA	SMA 23 PICOS RIVER CORRIDOR	LIVING DESERT STATE PARK	SOUTHERN GYPSUM SOIL AREA	GNOME SITE	WIPP SITE	LITTLE WALT CANYON QUARRY SITE	STATE MILLITIA PARCEL	TOTAL ACRES
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE NUMBERS ARE ACRES												
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: ADECS												15,850
RIGHT-OF-WAY AVOIDANCE AREAS	41											37,361
RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDORS: MILES												185
RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (RNA)												4,670
OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA (ONA)												2,990
SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (SRMA)					6,000							11,140
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA (CRMA)	41											17,028
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT												15,143
HISTORIC SITE	40											44
INTENSIVE ORV USE AREA			900	55,800								56,700
SCIENTIFIC AREA		49,570										52,190
RECREATION HABITAT AREA												54,500
THREATENED OR ENDANGERED HABITAT (TEH)												995
RAFTER MANAGEMENT AREA (RMA)												1,503,050
HERONS HABITAT AREA (HMA)												33,200
MULEDEER HABITAT AREA (MHA)												125,000
ANTELOPE HABITAT AREA (AHA)												114,500
GAME BIRD HABITAT AREA (GBA)												96,000
SPRINGBOW HABITAT AREA (SBA)												
BLUE SPRINGS T&E HABITAT AREA (BSA)												640
BEW SLAUGHTER HABITAT AREA (BSA)												205
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS UNDER INTERIM MANAGEMENT												6,966
RECREATION SITE					120							120
ACCESS TRACTS												
ACQUIRE ACCESS; HIGH PRIORITY												6
ACQUIRE ACCESS; MEDIUM PRIORITY												11
ACQUIRE ACCESS; LOW PRIORITY												8
RESTRICT ACCESS:												22
-----												
MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS	SMA 19	SMA 20	SMA 21	SMA 22	SMA 23	LIVING DESERT STATE PARK	SOUTHERN GYPSUM SOIL AREA	GNOME SITE	WIPP SITE	LITTLE WALT CANYON QUARRY SITE	STATE MILLITIA PARCEL	TOTAL
-----												
LAND TENURE												
RETENTION												1,950,300
DISPOSAL; EXCHANGE												200,700
DISPOSAL OTHER: SALE, PRIVATE EXCHANGE, RAPP												
ACQUIRE NON-FEDERAL SURFACE												3,200
ACQUIRE NON-FEDERAL SUB-SURFACE (MINERALS)												1,840
MINERALS:												
CLOSE TO SOLID MINERAL LEASING (MOL)		11,700			6,000	1,520		680	10,240		720	48,186
OPEN TO SOLID MINERAL LEASING												2,661,159
CLOSE TO MINING CLAIM LOCATION (WITHDRAWN)					1,729	1,280		680	10,240	40	720	27,178
OPEN TO MINING CLAIM LOCATION												2,682,167
CLOSE TO MINERAL MATERIAL DISPOSAL		11,700			6,000	1,520		680	160		720	60,713
OPEN TO MINERAL MATERIAL DISPOSAL												2,648,632
RESTRICTED GEOPHYSICAL: TYPE OR SEASON	40	49,570			6,000	1,520	62,840					158,734
OPEN WITH STANDARD STIPULATIONS												2,550,631
OIL and GAS												
RESTRICTED SURFACE DISTURBANCE		49,570			6,000	1,280						96,770
NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY (NSO)	40	11,700			6,000	1,520						45,197
OTHER SPECIAL STIPULATIONS		49,570	900	55,800								109,681
SEASONAL STIPULATIONS												982
OPEN WITH STANDARD STIPULATIONS												2,456,715
CLOSE TO ORV USE	40				120							5,943
LIMIT ORV USE		49,570			5,880		62,840					159,399
LIMIT ORV USE: SEASONAL												252
OPEN FOR ORV USE												2,011,506
FULL FIRE SUPPRESSION			900	55,800	120							2,011,983
LIMIT FIRE SUPPRESSION	40	49,570			5,880		62,840					159,317
CLASS I - VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT												2,990
CLASS II - VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		5,820			4,300							38,070
CLASS III - VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		40,750			1,500							276,260
CLASS IV - VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT												1,853,780
OPEN FOR LIVESTOCK GRACING BY PERMIT: ACRES												2,166,031
AMOUNT OF LIVESTOCK GRACING: ACRES												225,458
REMOVE LIVESTOCK GRACING: ACRES					100							4,969
NUMBER OF AMPS TO BE MAINTAINED												12
NUMBER OF AMPS TO BE DEVELOPED												45
ACRES WITH AMPS												423,300
VEGETATIVE TREATMENTS: TOTAL ACRES												62,000
CHEMICAL: ACRES												3,000
OTHER METHODS: ACRES												58,000
SPECIAL PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS			500	55,800								56,700
ACQUIRED ACCESS: MILES OF												1.5

# APPENDIX B

Allotment Summary Table

APPENDIX B

ALLOTMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Allot. No.	Mgmt. Status <u>1/</u>	Total Public Acres	Present Class Livestock <u>2/</u>	Allot. No.	Mgmt. Status <u>1/</u>	Total Public Acres	Present Class Livestock <u>2/</u>
8001	M	6,112	C	8046	I	4,080	C
8002	M	9,863	C	8047	M	2,220	S
			S	8048	I	19,688	C
8003	M	1,214	C				S
8004	C	880	C	8049	I	16,324	C
8005	C	80	C				S
8006	I	5,400	C	8050	I	43,143	C
8007	I	3,200	C				S
8008	M	2,215	C	8051	I	9,454	C
8009	C	1,280	C	8052	M	17,412	C
			S	8053	M	2,220	C
8010	M	1,360	C	8054	I	2,283	C
8011	I	1,680	C	8055	I	7,170	C
8012	I	2,920	C	8056	C	690	C
8013	M	4,091	C	8057	I	3,727	C
8014	M	4,735	C	8058	I	6,529	C
8015	I	5,282	C	8059	C	240	C
8016	M	7,715	C	8060	M	5,722	C
8018	C	1,132	C	8061	M	12,204	C
8019	C	71	C	8062	M	8,844	C
8020	M	4,480	C	8063	M	18,129	C
			S	8064	M	22,257	C
8021	C	1,300	C	8065	M	18,116	C
8022	C	1,600	C	8066	I	7,478	C
8023	C	970	C	8068	I	8,120	C
8024	C	160	C	8069	C	1,094	C
8025	I	5,008	C	8070	C	160	C
8026	M	10,343	C	8071	C	680	C
8027	C	160	C	8073	C	1,130	C
8028	I	3,783	C	8074	C	100	C
			S	8075	I	3,440	C
8029	M	2,319	C	8076	M	3,474	C
8030	M	1,400	C	8077	M	8,770	C
8031	M	1,412	C	8078	C	160	C
8033	M	555	C	8079	I	9,058	C
8034	C	120	C				S
8035	C	240	C	8080	M	14,171	C
8036	C	160	C				S
8037	M	560	C	8081	M	33,242	C
8038	M	920	C	8082	M	7,243	C
8041	M	25,675	C	8083	I	15,290	C
8042	C	800	C	8084	M	13,708	C
8043	I	3,312	C	8086	C	587	C
8044	I	1,080	C	8087	I	11,582	C
8045	C	800	C	8088	C	1,280	C



APPENDIX B

ALLOTMENT SUMMARY TABLE  
(continued)

Allot. No.	Mgmt. Status <u>1/</u>	Total Public Acres	Present Class Livestock <u>2/</u>	Allot. No.	Mgmt. Status <u>1/</u>	Total Public Acres	Present Class Livestock <u>2/</u>
8089	I	4,065	C	9005	M	14,809	C
8090	C	710	C				S
8091	M	2,317	C	9006	C	1,000	C
8092	C	1,440	C	9007	C	1,459	C
8094	C	3,546	C	9008	C	845	C
8095	C	1,680	C	9009	M	6,051	C
8096	I	3,900	C	9010	C	272	C
8097	I	3,510	C	9011	C	625	C
8098	C	480	C	9012	C	310	C
8099	C	1,020	C	9013	C	2,208	C
8100	M	426	C	9014	C	435	C
8101	C	360	C	9015	C	2,764	C
8102	M	3,850	C	9016	C	1,755	C
8103	I	7,197	C	9017	M	25,610	C.
8104	M	9,226	C				S
8106	I	21,606	C	9018	C	1,097	C
8107	M	8,583	C	9019	M	13,210	C
8108	I	12,563	C				S
8110	I	3,440	C	9020	C	2,015	C
8111	I	2,420	C	9021	M	3,826	C
8112	M	1,990	C	9022	C	2,160	C
8113	C	480	C	9023	C	200	C
8114	M	11,850	C	9024	M	5,743	C
			S	9025	C	1,187	C
8115	M	4,115	C	9026	M	7,122	C
8116	I	12,847	C	9027	M	3,624	S
			S	9028	M	38,056	C
8117	C	1,060	C	9029	M	14,423	C
8118	M	1,758	C				S
8119	M	3,720	C	9030	M	17,825	C
8121	M	25,573	C	9031	M	8,652	C
8122	I	5,074	C				S
8123	C	420	C	9032	M	17,180	C
8126	C	2,223	C				S
8130	C	1,908	C	9033	M	3,040	C
8131	I	5,470	C				S
8136	M	11,212	C	9034	C	611	C
8138	M	1,891	C	9035	C	120	C
8139	C	80	C	9036	C	1,915	S
8140	I	14,734	C	9037	M	3,505	C
8141	I	7,421	C	9038	C	374	C
8142	M	3,376	C	9039	I	2,180	C

APPENDIX B

ALLOTMENT SUMMARY TABLE  
(continued)

Allot. No.	Mgmt. Status <u>1/</u>	Total Public Acres	Present <u>2/</u> Class Livestock	Allot. No.	Mgmt. Status <u>1/</u>	Total Public Acres	Present <u>2/</u> Class Livestock
9001	M	12,959	C	9041	I	2,323	C
9002	M	13,158	C	9042	C	1,364	C
9003	M	13,099	C	9043	C	1,391	C
9044	C	1,528	C	9049	C	1,580	C
9045	M	4,158	S	9050	C	940	C
9046	M	12,823	C	9051	C	1,240	S
			S	9052	C	160	C
9047	C	220	C	9053	C	40	C
9048	I	5,977	C	9054	C	102	C
			S	9056	C	204	C

1/ M = Maintain, I = Improve, C = Custodial

2/ C = Cattle, S = Sheep

NOTE: All allotments are year-long season of use allotments.

# APPENDIX C

Special Management Areas

APPENDIX C  
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

This appendix includes a description (General Description, Management Goals, and Management Prescriptions) and map for each Special Management Area. Maps were not included for the cultural resource management areas to protect the sensitive resources.

The Cave Resources SMA and the Springs Riparian Habitat SMA each include several units. These units were combined into one narrative and general location map. Exceptions were the Chosa Draw ACEC (SMA 2f) and Blue Spring ACEC (SMA 6f) which received individual attention due to the ACEC status.

Former SMA number 13 (Los Medanos Raptor Area) and 14 (San Simon Swale Pronghorn Habitat) are excluded because of removal as SMAs from previous documents. These numbers were just passed over to maintain numbering consistency among all the RMP documents.

For ease of reference, the following list identifies each SMA narrative by number:

<u>SMA No.</u>	<u>Special Management Area</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1	Seven Rivers Hills	C- 2
2(a-h)	Cave Resources	C- 4
2(f)	Chosa Draw (ACEC)	C- 6
3	South Texas Hill Canyon	C- 8
4	Dark Canyon	C- 10
5	Lonesome Ridge	C- 12
6(a-f)	Springs Riparian Habitat	C- 14
6f	Blue Spring ACEC	C- 16
7	Yeso Hills	C- 18
8	Bluntnose Shiner Habitat	C- 20
9	Little McKittrick Draw	C- 22
10	Laguna Plata	C- 24
11	Maroon Cliffs	C- 25
12	Potash Bull Wheel	C- 26
15	Phantom Banks Heronries	C- 27
16	Poco Site	C- 28
17	Bear Grass Draw	C- 29
18	Pecos River/Canyons Complex	C- 30
19	Pope's Well	C- 32
20	Guadalupe Escarpment Scenic Area	C- 33
21	Alkali Lake ORV Use Area	C- 35
22	Hackberry Lake ORV Use Area	C- 37
23	Pecos River Corridor	C- 39

## 1. SEVEN RIVER HILLS

### General Description:

These bare gypsum hills were the only known habitat for gypsum wild buckwheat (Eriogonum gypsophilum) for 90 years. This area is Federally designated as Critical Habitat and is one of only three known populations of this species. This area also provides habitat for other unique and endemic vegetation existing on gypsum soils. Most of the area consists of bare steep slopes and deep eroded arroyos.

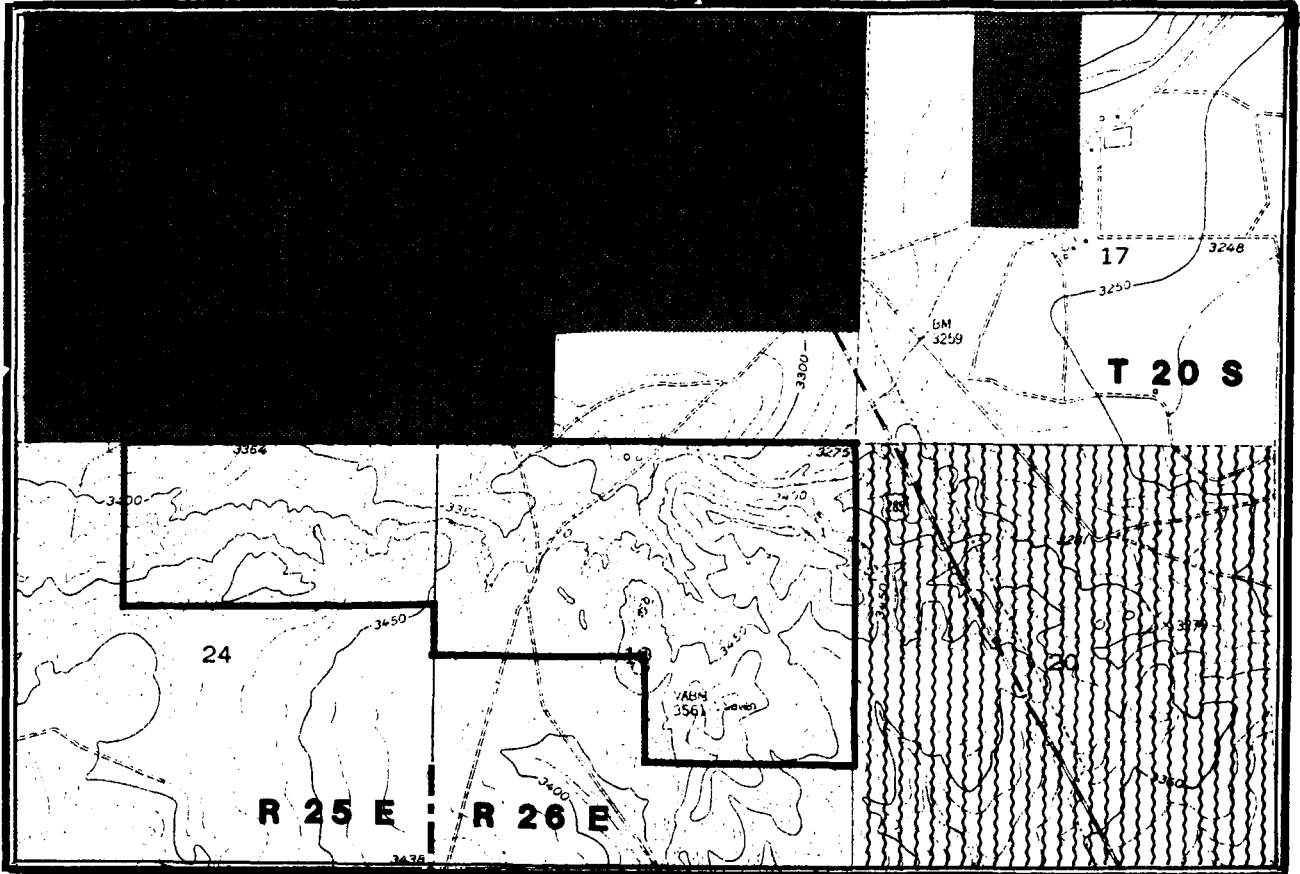
### Management Goals:

The main objective of this 540 acre Special Management Area (SMA) is to protect and enhance habitat for gypsum wild buckwheat and other endemic plant species.

### Management Prescriptions: (For entire 540 acres)

1. Apply no surface occupancy stipulation upon all future oil and gas leases.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions through the SMA.
3. Withdraw from mining claim location and close to mineral material disposal and solid mineral leasing.
4. Complete limited ORV designation and implementation plan to restrict vehicles to designated routes.
5. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical operations to comply with ORV designation.
6. Restrict surface disturbance including plant collections and camping within the area.

SMA No. 1- SEVEN RIVERS HILLS HMA (540 Acres)



0                      1/2                      1 mile


SCALE

MAP LEGEND

 HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA

 BLM

 PRIVATE

 BUREAU of RECLAMATION

## 2a-2j. CAVE RESOURCES

### General Description:

The caves-SMA includes eight cave areas encompassing 8,450 public surface acres. These areas receive intensive recreational use and contain unique and nonrenewable geologic, biologic, paleontologic, and hydrologic resources. The caves are used for recreational, educational, and scientific purposes.

### Management Goals:

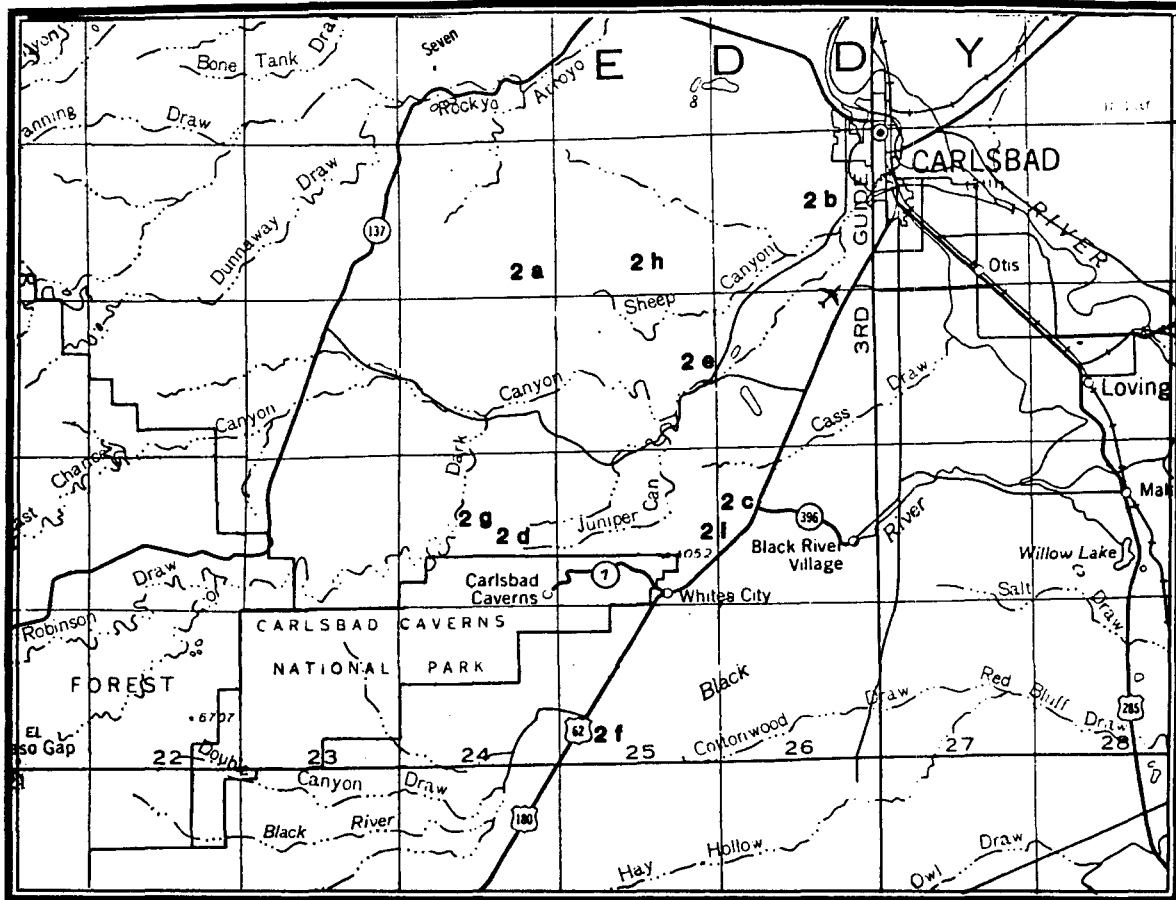
Management objectives are to protect the scenic and other natural values of all cave resources while still allowing for recreation, education, and scientific uses.

### Management Prescriptions:

For detailed prescriptions and acreage figures by cave area refer to the Decision Table in Appendix A.

1. Apply no surface occupancy stipulation to future oil and gas leases.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions through the cave areas.
3. Withdraw from mining claim location and close to solid mineral leasing and mineral material disposal.
4. Restrict surface disturbance to prevent impacts to cave resources.
5. Designate either closed or limited to ORV use. Limited areas will restrict vehicular use to designated routes.
6. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to comply with ORV restrictions. Restrictions on geophysical methods such as blasting will also be imposed to prevent damage to fragile cave formations.
7. Attempt to acquire private surface estate having significant cave resources.
8. Manage under VRM Class II, III and IV guidelines as identified for each cave unit.

SMA 2A-2I CAVES SRMA



**MAP LEGEND**



- 2a. McKittrick Hill Caves
- 2b. Lost Cave
- 2c. Fente Canyon Caves
- 2d. Manhole Caves
- 2e. Yellowjacket/Lair Caves
- 2f. Chosa Draw Caves ACEC
- 2g. Mudgetts Caves
- 2h. Honest Injun Cave
- 2i. KFF Caverns





## 2f. CHOSA DRAW ACEC

### General Description:

The ACEC contains 2,200 acres of hydrologically important gypsum karst. It has significant caves, sinking streams, springs, and numerous sink holes. The area is sensitive to soil erosion and surface disturbing activities. The cave resources provide recreational opportunities as well as habitat for cave adapted animal species and point sources for ground water recharge.

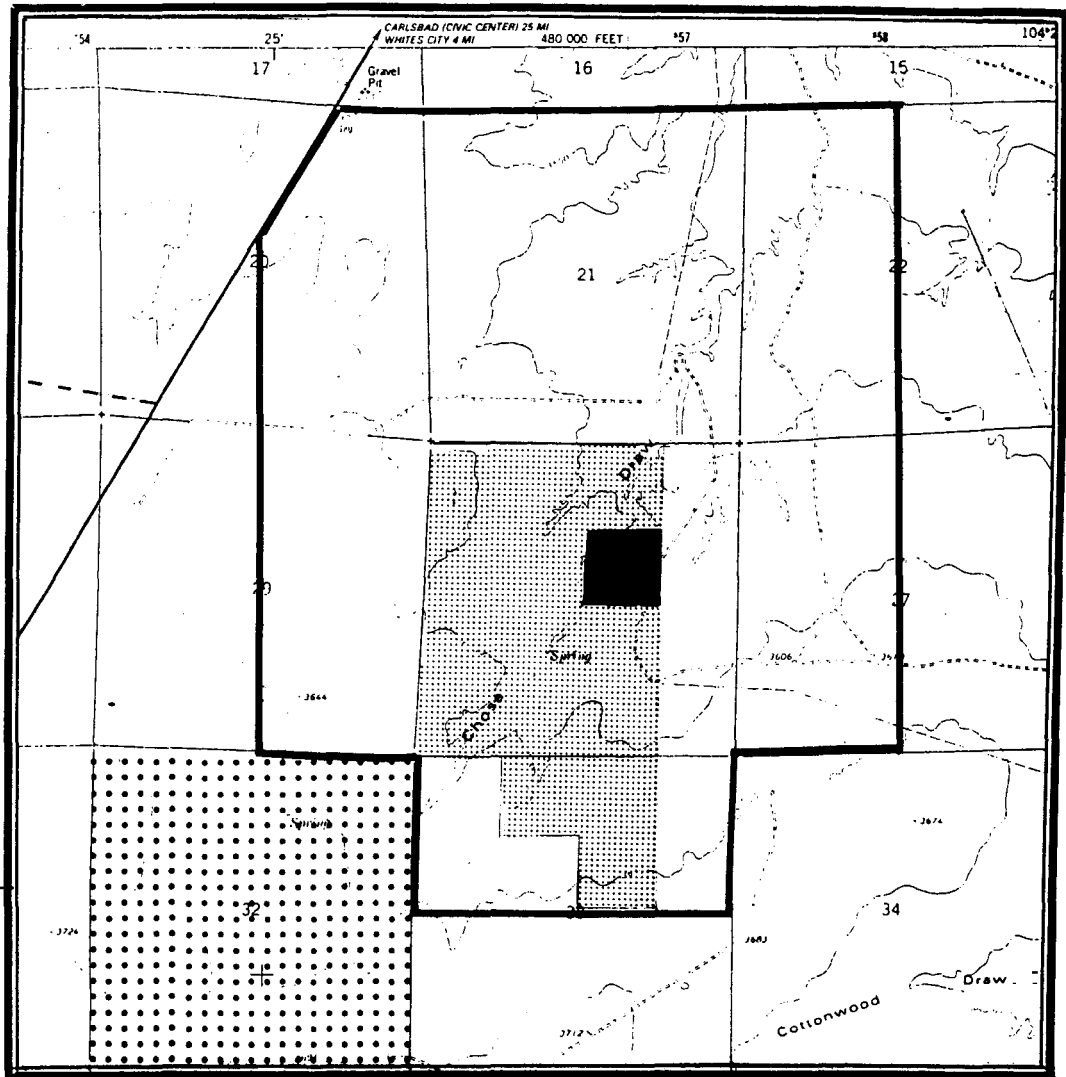
### Management Goals:

Primary management objectives are to protect the sensitive karst resources and fragile surface to subsurface interactions. Of primary importance is protection of this significant hydrologic area. Other management goals are to enhance cave based recreation, education, and scientific use opportunities.

### Management Prescriptions:





1. Apply no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation to future oil and gas leases on 1,160 acres.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions within 1,160 acres.
3. Restrict surface disturbance throughout the area to minimize erosion and impacts to cave and hydrologic resources.
4. Close the entire area, including an additional 440 acres of private surface-federal mineral estate, to solid mineral leasing and mineral material disposal.
5. Withdraw 1,160 acres from mining claim location.
6. Designate entire area limited to ORV use to designated routes.
7. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to conform to ORV limitations.
8. Attempt to acquire 480 acres of non-Federal surface estate.
9. Manage 720 acres to conform to VRM Class III guidelines and the remaining 1,480 acres under VRM Class IV guidelines.

SMA 2F CHOSA DRAW ACEC



0  $\frac{1}{2}$  1 miles  
SCALE

MAP LEGEND

-  Private Surface  
Private Minerals
-  Private Surface  
Federal Minerals
-  State Lands
-  ACEC Boundary



### 3. SOUTH TEXAS HILL CANYON

#### General Description:

This area is an excellent representative of deciduous woodland and grasslands within the Chihuahuan Desert Ecosystem. It is comprised of diverse wooded canyon habitat to desert grass uplands and at least two State listed plant species (Salvia summa and Epithelantha micromesis) occur along the limestone canyon walls.

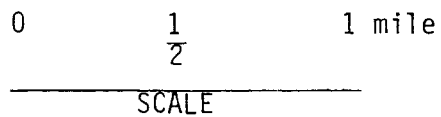
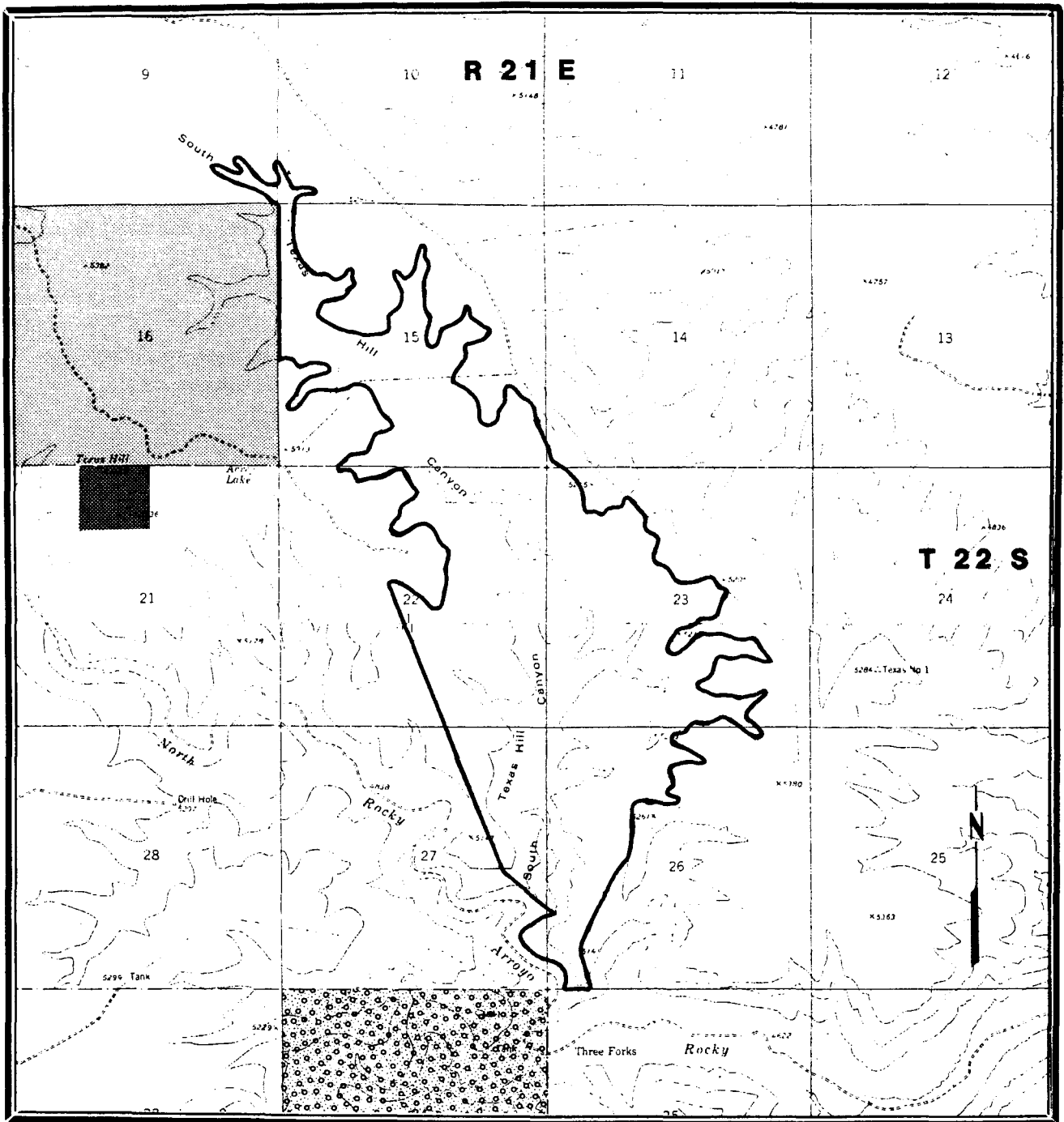
#### Management Goals:

The main objective of this 1,360 acre Research Natural Area (RNA) is to protect and enhance this representative habitat as well as known and potential listed species in the area. This area will also provide a focus of studies and data gathering pertaining to Chihuahuan Desert Ecosystem functions for use in future management guidance.





#### Management Prescriptions: (For entire 1,360 acre SMA)

1. Apply no surface occupancy stipulation to future oil and gas leases.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions through the RNA.
3. Close to future mineral material disposal.
4. Complete limited ORV designation and implementation plan to restrict vehicles to designated routes.
5. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical operations to comply with ORV designations.
6. Restrict surface disturbance including plant collections and camping within the area.
7. Remove livestock from the area except under conditions established for studies or research purposes.

SMA No. 3- SOUTH TEXAS HILL CANYON RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (1,360 Acres)



MAP LEGEND

-  BLM
-  STATE
-  NATIONAL FOREST
-  RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

#### 4. DARK CANYON

##### General Description:

The Dark Canyon SMA contains 3,950 acres divided into two management areas, the Dark Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (1,480 acres) and the Dark Canyon Scenic Area (3,220 acres) which includes the remaining acreage plus the VRM Class II lands within the ACEC. These areas contain highly sensitive visual and natural resource values which include deep rugged canyons with sheer limestone cliffs, several significant and fragile caves, and threatened and endangered plant species. The area abuts the Carlsbad Caverns National Park designated wilderness area.

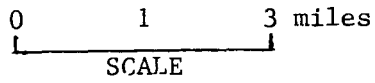
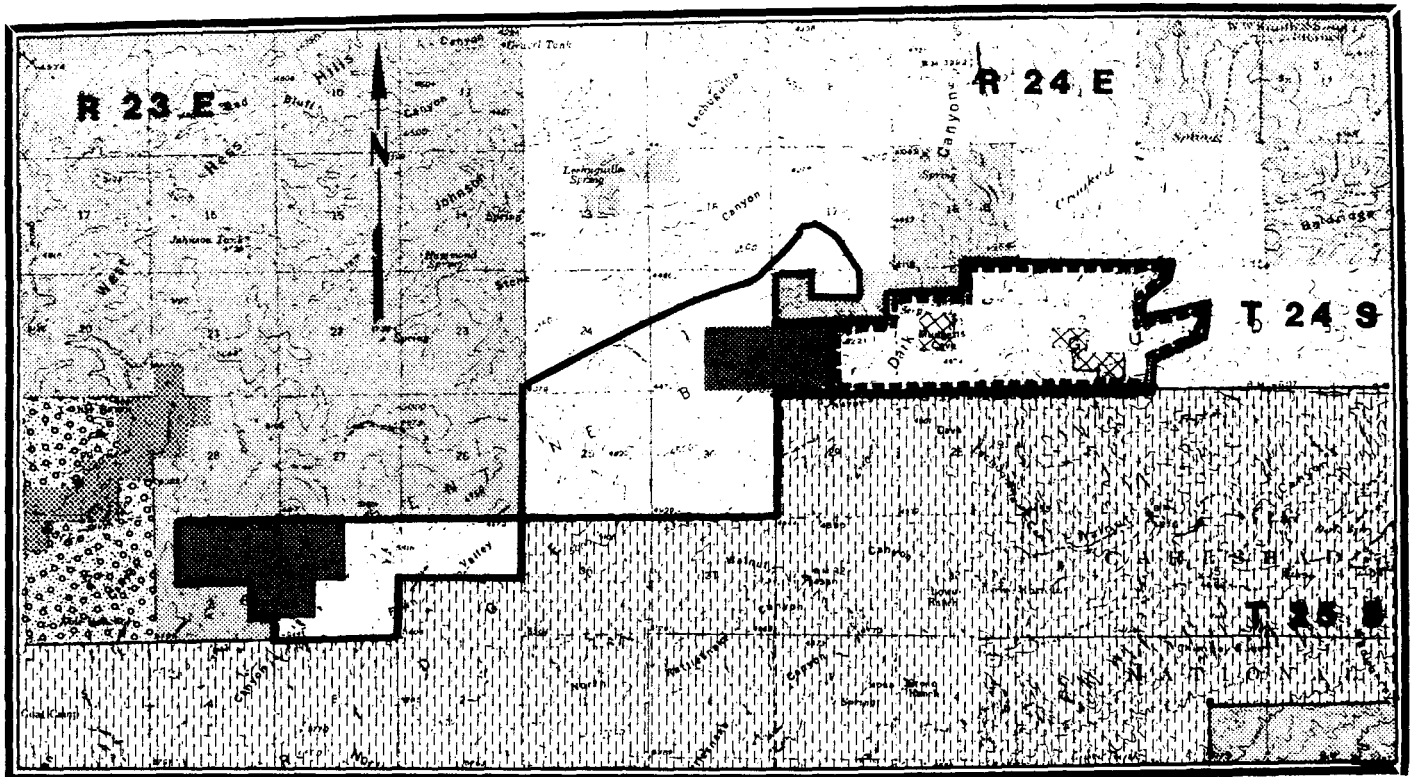
##### Management Goals:

The management objectives for this SMA are to emphasize protection of high visual and natural resource values and rare plant species while still providing for other multiple resource uses.

##### Management Prescriptions:







- 1) Apply no surface occupancy stipulation to future oil and gas leases on 3,220 acres.
- 2) Avoid future right-of-way actions - 3,950 acres.
- 3) Restrict surface disturbance to minimum visual and environmental impacts - 3,950 acres.
- 4) Apply seasonal drilling limitations on 730 acres within the ACEC to reduce visual impacts from Carlsbad Caverns National Park during the heavy visitor use season.
- 5) Close to mineral material sales - 3,950 acres.
- 6) Limit ORV use to designated routes.
- 7) Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to conform with ORV limitations.
- 8) Manage 3,220 acres to conform with VRM Class II guidelines and 730 acres under Class III prescriptions.

SMA No. 4- DARK CANYON SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA (3,950 Acres)



MAP LEGEND

- SMA BOUNDARY 3,950 Acres
- - - - ACEC BOUNDARY 1,480 Acres

-  BLM
-  SRMA
-  PRIVATE
-  STATE
-  NATIONAL PARK
-  NATIONAL FOREST

## 5. LONESOME RIDGE ACEC

### General Description:

This 2,990 acre area is part of the Capitan Reef Complex, considered the world's foremost example of a Permian age fossil reef. The area displays spectacular rugged scenery with sheer limestone canyon walls over 1,500 feet high. The area contains relict Douglas Fir trees and other species of rare and endangered plants and animals. Big tooth maples add flares of fall color. The area provides for primitive non-motorized recreational opportunities which include cave exploration, hiking on semi-developed trails, hunting, and outstanding opportunities for wildlife and scenic photography.

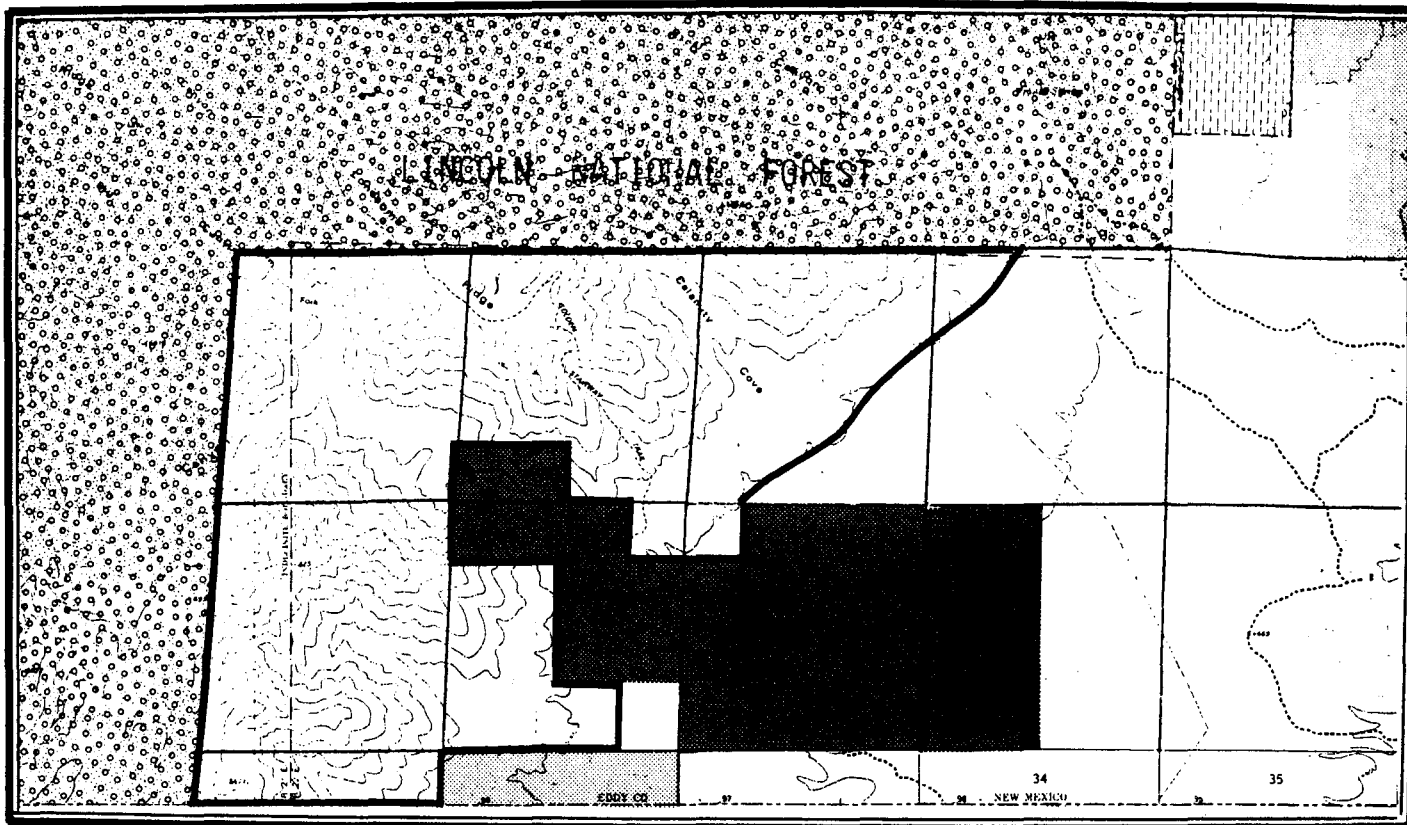
### Management Goals:

The primary objective for this SMA is to provide adequate protection of the area's outstanding natural values in an unaltered condition.

### Management Prescriptions: (For entire 2,990 acre SMA)

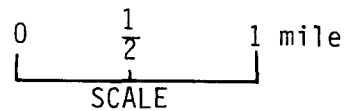
1. Apply no surface occupancy stipulation to future oil and gas leases.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions.
3. Withdraw from future mining claim location and close to solid mineral leasing and mineral material sales.
4. Restrict surface disturbance that would diminish the area's natural and scenic values.
5. Designate closed to ORV use and implement plan to enforce designations.
6. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to conform with ORV closure.
7. Manage under VRM Class I objectives.

SMA No. 5 - LONESOME RIDGE ACEC/ OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA ( 2,990 Acres),



T  
26  
S

R 22 E



MAP LEGEND

— ACEC/ ONA BOUNDARY

□ BLM

▤ NATIONAL FOREST

▨ NATIONAL PARK

■ PRIVATE

□ STATE



## 6a-6f. SPRINGS RIPARIAN HABITAT SMA's

### General Description:

These six springs support critical riparian habitat within the Chihuahuan Desert Ecosystem. Bogle Flat, Preservation, Cottonwood, Owl, Ben Slaughter Springs and Blue Springs are primarily located within gypsum karst and drainage areas that flow into the Pecos River System. These areas provide habitat for listed endangered species as well as critical habitat for a variety of plants and animals.

### Management Goals:

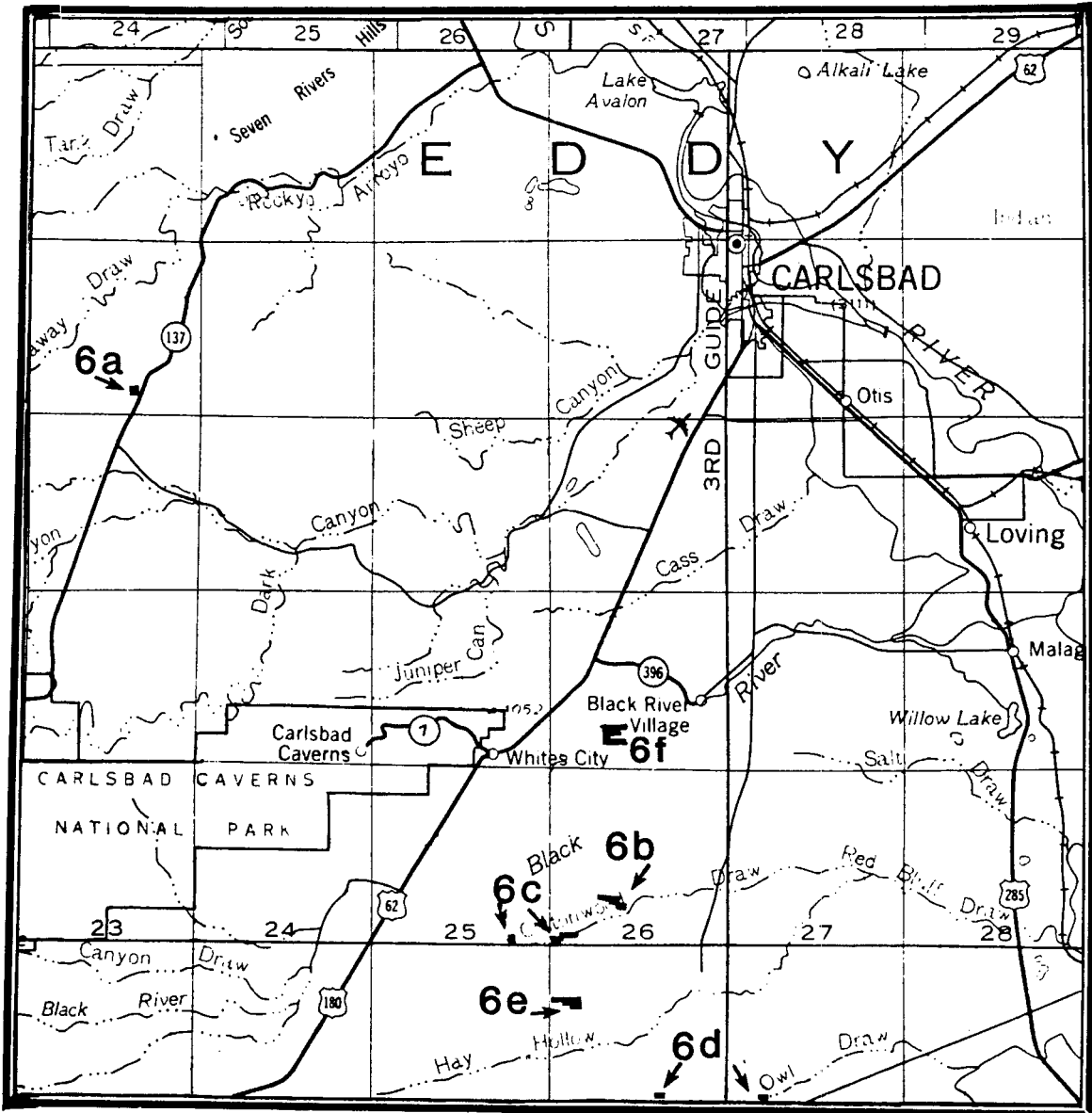
The management objective for these areas is to protect and enhance ecological condition for 524 acres of springs and associated riparian zones.

### Management Prescriptions:

For detailed prescriptions by spring refer to the Decision Table in Appendix A.

1. Apply no surface occupancy stipulation to future oil and gas leases.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions through the riparian habitat areas.
3. Withdraw from mining claim location and close to mineral material disposal and mineral leasing.
4. Designate closed to ORV use and implement plan to enforce designations.
5. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical operations to comply with ORV designations.
6. Restrict surface disturbance including plant collections and camping within the area.
7. Remove livestock from areas to allow rapid recovery of riparian habitat. Grazing management practices to enhance riparian habitat will be studied and implemented following initial recovery of the habitat areas.

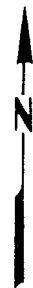
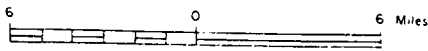
SMA 6A-6F - SPRINGS RIPARIAN HMA



LEGEND

Springs

- 6a Bogle Flat
- 6b Preservation
- 6c Cottonwood
- 6d Owl
- 6e Ben Slaughter
- 6f Blue Spring



## 7. YESO HILLS

### General Description:

This area is an excellent representative of the unique exposed Castile formation within the Chihuahuan Desert Ecosystem. The fragile gypsum soils are highly susceptible to wind and water erosion but also support a variety of unique, endemic gypsophils including the Federal listed candidate gypsum milkvetch (Astragalus gypsodes).

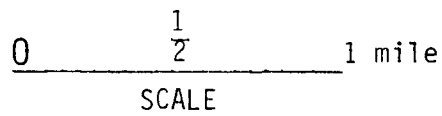
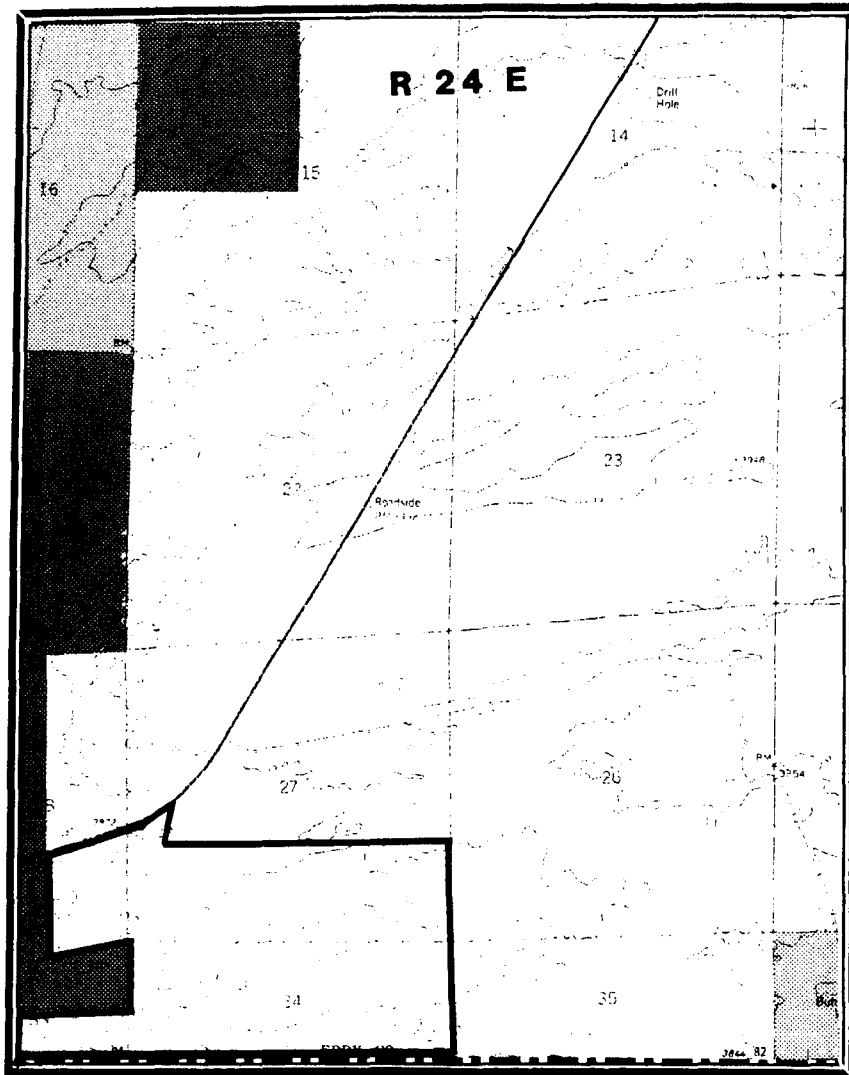
### Management Goals:

The main objective of this 560 acre RNA is to protect and enhance this representative habitat as well as known and potential listed threatened and endangered species in the area. This area will also provide a focus of studies and data gathering pertaining to Chihuahuan Desert Ecosystem functions for use in future management guidance.





### Management Prescriptions: (For entire 560 acres)

1. Apply no surface occupancy stipulations to future oil and gas leases.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions through the RNA.
3. Withdraw from mining claim location and close to mineral material disposal and solid mineral leasing.
4. Designate limited to ORV use and implement plan to restrict vehicles to designated routes.
5. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical operations to comply with ORV designations.
6. Restrict surface disturbance including plant collections and camping within the area.
7. Remove livestock from the area except under conditions established for studies or research purposes.

SMA No. 7- YESO HILLS RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (560 ACRES)



MAP LEGEND

-  RESEARCH NATURAL AREA BOUNDARY
-  BLM
-  STATE LAND
-  PRIVATE

## 8. BLUNTNOSE SHINER HABITAT

### General Description:

This area consists of riparian habitat along the Pecos River. Although oil and gas development is present within the area, health of the riparian habitat is important to the protection of the Federally listed Bluntnose Shiner. The salt cedar zone and grassland floodplain fall within the designated Critical Habitat for the shiner.

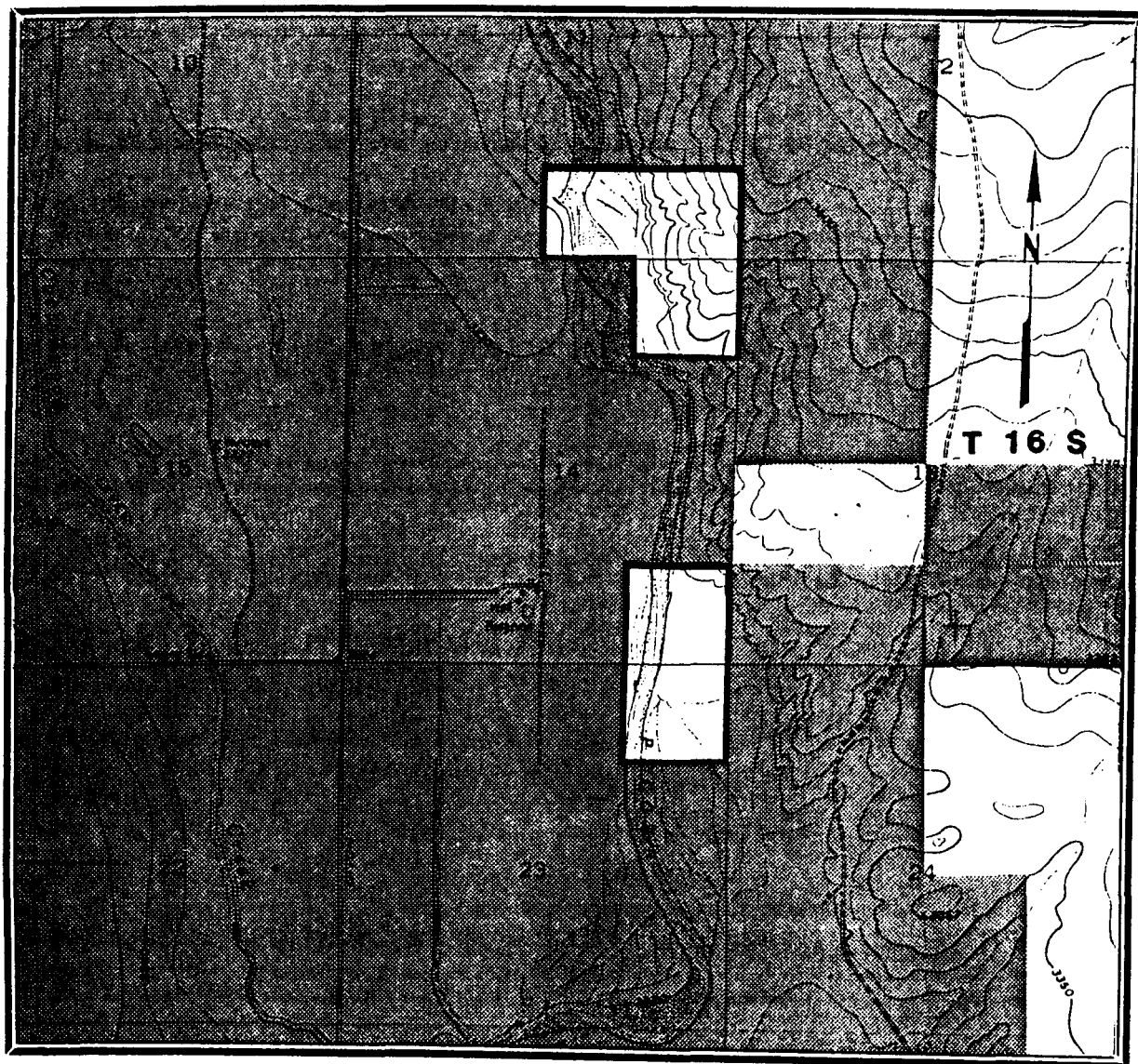
### Management Goals:

The primary objective for this 200 acre habitat area is to protect and enhance this "Critical Habitat" for the Bluntnose Shiner.

### Management Prescriptions: (For entire 200 acres)

1. Apply no surface occupancy stipulation to future oil and gas leases.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions through the habitat area.
3. Withdraw from future mining claim location and close to mineral material disposal and solid mineral leasing.
4. Designate limited to ORV use and implement plan to restrict vehicles to designated routes.
5. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical operations to comply with ORV designations.
6. Restrict surface disturbance including plant collections and camping within the area.
7. Remove livestock from the area except under conditions established for studies or research purposes.

SMA No. 8- BLUNTNOSE SHINER HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA (200 Acres)  
**R 26 E**



0 1 mile  
SCALE

MAP LEGEND

- HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA BOUNDARY
- BLM
- PRIVATE

## 9. LITTLE MCKITTRICK DRAW

### General Description:

This area is known habitat for the Federally proposed McKittrick ramshorn snail. The limestone canyon drainage provides ephemeral pool habitat for the snail.

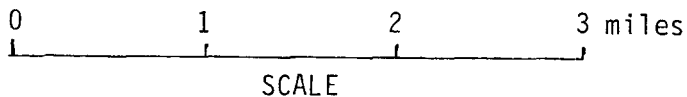
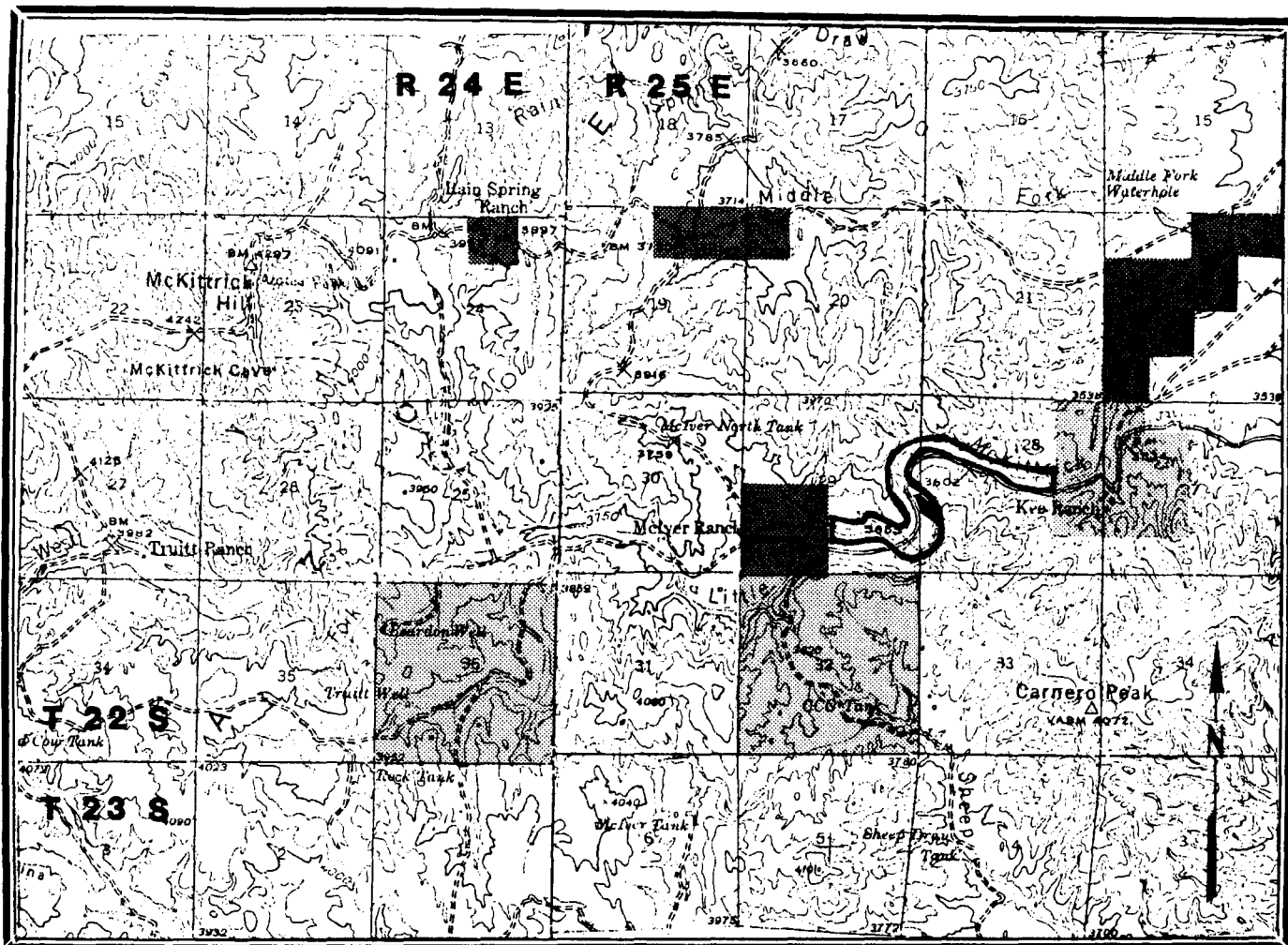
### Management Goals:

The main objective of this 10 acre RNA is to enhance this habitat for this species. This area will also provide a focus of studies and data gathering pertaining to Chihuahuan Desert Ecosystem functions for use in future management guidance.

### Management Prescriptions: (For entire 10 acres)

1. Avoid future right-of-way actions through the RNA.
2. Withdraw from future mining claim location and close to mineral material disposal and solid mineral leasing.
3. Designate closed to ORV use and implement plan to enforce designations.
4. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical operations to comply with ORV designations.
5. Restrict surface disturbance including plant collections and camping within the RNA.
6. Remove livestock from the RNA except under conditions established for studies or research purposes.

SMA No. 9- LITTLE MCKITTRICK DRAW HABITAT MANAGEMENT/ RESEARCH NATURAL AREA



MAP LEGEND

— THREATENED or ENDANGERED SPECIES  
 HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA (50 Acres)

 RESEARCH NATURAL AREA - 10 acres

 BLM

 STATE LAND

 PRIVATE



## 10. LAGUNA PLATA

### General Description:

The Laguna Plata Archaeological District has been declared eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The District contains 3,360 acres of public land. The area is still essentially undisturbed despite some salt mining on the playa bottom and Mississippi Chemical Corporation's use of Laguna Plata for emergency brine water disposal. The area eligible for the National Register is a complex of many sites with surface and subsurface cultural materials demonstrating that the area was used repeatedly over a lengthy period of time.

### Management Goals:

The primary management objective of this Archaeological District is to protect and preserve the important and sensitive cultural resource value for research.

### Management Prescriptions:

1. Apply no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation to oil and gas leases - 3,360 acres.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions - 3,360 acres.
3. Close to solid mineral leasing, except existing potash leases which require extensive excavation (3,360 acres) to mitigate the adverse effects to cultural resources.
4. Close to mineral material disposal - 3,360 acres.
5. Restrict surface disturbance to prevent impacts to cultural resources.
6. Designate 1,120 acres closed and 2,240 acres limited (to designated routes) to ORV use and implement plan to enforce designations.
7. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to conform with ORV designations.
8. Manage under VRM Class III objectives - 3,360 acres.
9. Attempt to acquire 1,280 acres of State land.

## 11. MAROON CLIFFS

### General Description:

This 11,783 acre area has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an Archaeological District. The archaeological sites recorded thus far are open campsites dating from the Archaic (5000 BC) to the Jornada Mogollon (AD900-1450). Pithouse structures have been reported to occur at Maroon Cliffs; however, excavation is required to confirm this report. The Maroon Cliffs area is topographically diverse, providing a variety of exploitable environments for prehistoric peoples. Thus, the Maroon Cliffs Archaeological District is an ideal laboratory for the study of man-environment adaptations in southeastern New Mexico.

### Management Goals:

The main objective of this Archaeological District is to protect and preserve the important and sensitive cultural resource values for research.

### Management Prescriptions

1. Apply no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation to 1,880 acres of future oil and gas leases.
2. Apply special stipulation for solid mineral leasing: New leases or reissuance of existing leases will require mitigation of adverse effect to cultural resources through extensive excavation - 11,783 acres.
3. Close to mineral material disposal - 11,783 acres.
4. Restrict surface disturbance to prevent impacts to cultural resources - 11,783 acres.
5. Designate limited to ORV use to designated routes and implement plan to enforce designation - 11,783 acres.
6. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to conform with ORV designation.

General Description:

The Potash Bull Wheel is an historic structure consisting of two wooden wheels, connected by a wooden shaft. The structure itself is situated in a 4-acre protective buffer. This structure was utilized in the drilling of a 1925 well, which failed to locate significant quantities of potash. This site has also been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Management Goals:

The management objective for this historic site is to interpret, protect, and minimize deterioration of the unique historic structure.

Management Prescriptions: (For entire 4 acre SMA)

1. Apply no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation to future oil and gas lease.
2. Close to mineral material disposal.
3. Designate closed to ORV use.
4. Apply full fire suppression to protect the structure from destruction.

## 15. PHANTOM BANKS HERONRIES

### General Description:

Habitat areas for these colonial birds vary in description from salt lakes to wooded draws. There are currently seven known heronries supporting nesting habitat for Great blue herons (Ardea herodias), black crowned night herons (Nycticorax nycticorax), little herons (Egretta caerulea), tricolored herons (Egretta tricolor), snowy egret (Egretta thula), and cattle egrets (Bubulcus ibis). Maps and legal locations will not be provided for these areas since-colony locations change and these species are very susceptible to human disturbance.

### Management Goals:

The main management objective for these habitat areas is to protect and enhance habitat for colonial birds in southeast New Mexico.

### Management Prescriptions:

1. Close to mineral material disposal within 1/4 mile circumference of active heronry.
2. Designate limited to ORV use and implement plan to protect active heronries through seasonal limitations to designated routes.
3. Restrict geophysical operations to comply with limited ORV designations.
4. Restrict surface disturbances including hunting and camping activities.
5. Apply seasonal restriction of oil and gas activities within 1/4 mile radius of active heronry.

## 18. PECOS RIVER/CANYONS COMPLEX ACEC

### General Description:

The Pecos River/Canyons Complex ACEC encompasses approximately 5,190 acres. Two large distinctive canyons (Pierce and Cedar) converging with one of the remaining free-flowing sections of the Pecos River provide a unique landscape in southeastern New Mexico. The close association of the canyons and river display a combination of values including unique riparian habitat not elsewhere evident in the desert grassland of southeastern New Mexico; the convergence of many diverse soil types including, though not limited to, deep sands, gypsum soils, gravelly loam, loamy bottomlands, and active sand dunes; distinctive and virtually unspoiled scenic values, particularly in the two canyons; large and culturally complex archaeological sites suggesting occupation over a long period of time (Archaic, Jornada, and Mogollon periods--8,000 years ago to 1350 AD); and prime wildlife habitat for several endangered animal species. The canyons could provide vegetative habitats with high potential for supporting State endangered plant species.

### Management Goals:

The management objectives for this ACEC will emphasize protection of the sensitive and unique natural and cultural resources as well as scenic qualities. It will also provide research opportunities while still allowing other compatible resource uses.

### Management Prescriptions:

1. Apply no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation to 4,100 acres of future oil and gas leases.
2. Avoid future right-of-way actions through 4,100 acres~
3. Restrict surface disturbance throughout the ACEC to minimize environmental impacts and mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources through extensive excavation.
4. Withdraw from mining claim location and close to solid mineral leasing 4,100 acres.
5. Close the entire 5,190 acres to mineral material disposal.
6. Attempt to acquire 960 acres of non-Federal surface and 320 acres of non-Federal minerals estate.
7. Designate 1,215 acres closed to ORV use and the remaining 3,975 acres limited to designated routes. Implement plan to enforce designations.
8. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to conform with ORV limitations.
9. Remove livestock from 2,320 acres.
10. Manage 4,100 acres to conform with VRM Class II guidelines with the remaining 1,090 acres under VRM Class III prescriptions.

## 16. POCO SITE

### General Description:

The Poco Site (51 acres) is a prehistoric multicomponent site that has retained much of its stratigraphic integrity and, until recently, has not suffered any' significant disturbance from oil and gas development. Undisturbed stratified sites are rare in southeastern New Mexico and the information they contain is critical to understanding the regional prehistory. In addition, the Poco Site may contain pithouse structures, a very rare occurrence. The site was declared eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

### Management Goals:

The management objective for this Cultural Resource Management Area is to protect and preserve the important and sensitive cultural resource values for research.

### Management Prescriptions: (Entire 51 acre SMA)

1. Restrict surface disturbance and apply the special stipulation: No surface disturbance until a representative sample of the entire site is excavated.
2. Designate limited to ORV use to designated routes and implement plan to enforce designation.
3. Restrict fire suppression to conform with ORV designation.

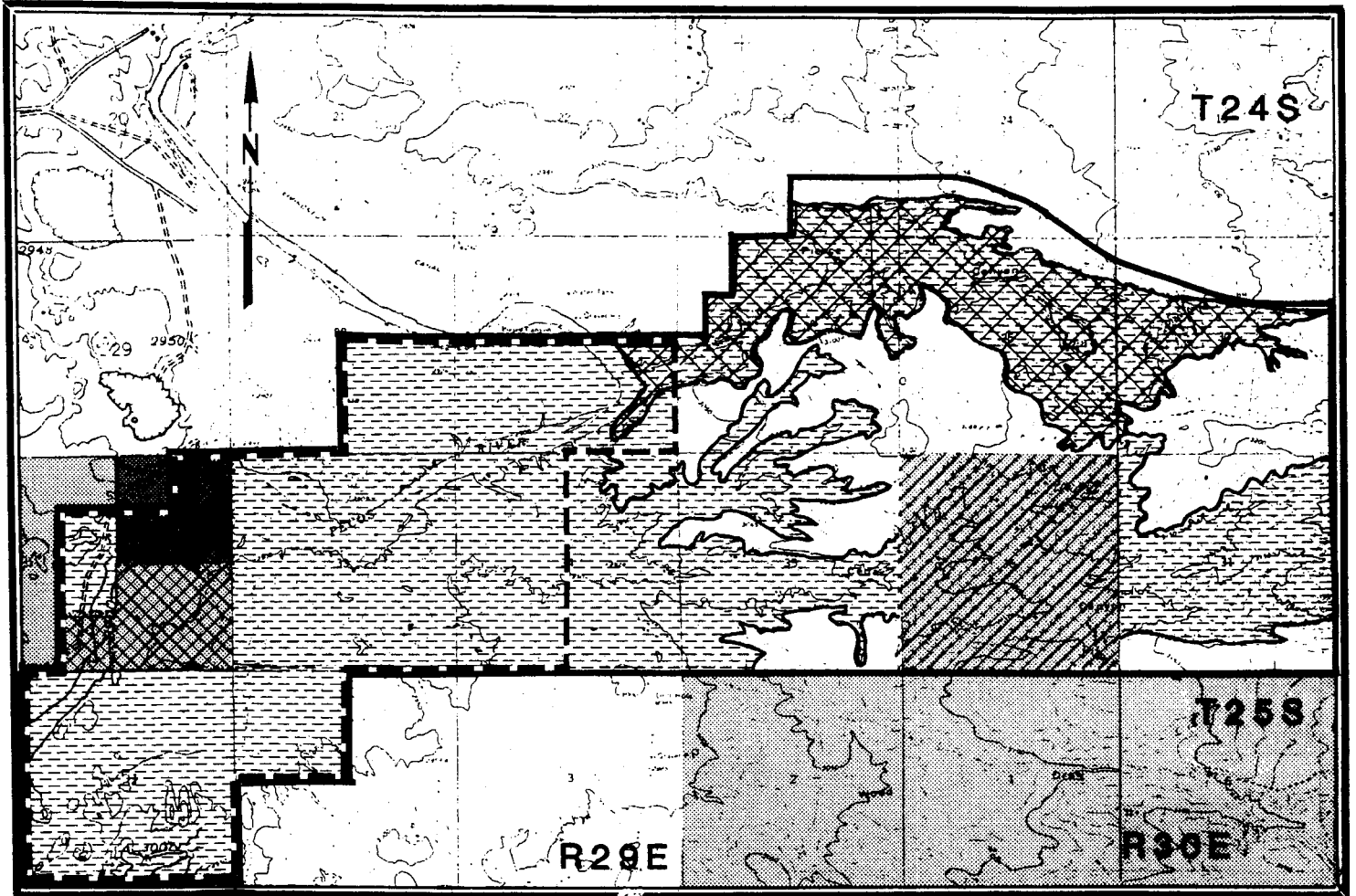
This 1,780 acre area includes several archaeological sites which may contain intact stratigraphic deposits. One site in particular (LA 17041) is a very large multicomponent site which contains considerable subsurface cultural material. LA 17041 has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the SHPO.

Management Goals:

The management objective for this Cultural Resource Management Area is to protect and preserve the important and sensitive cultural resource values for research.










Management Prescriptions: (For entire 1,780 acre SMA)

1. Restrict surface disturbance and apply a special stipulation requiring the mitigation of adverse effects to sites through extensive excavation.
2. Designate limited to ORV use to designated routes and implement plan to enforce designation.
3. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to conform with ORV designation.



0 1 2 miles  
SCALE

**MAP LEGEND**

-  ACEC BOUNDARY
-  RNA BOUNDARY
-  BLM
-  STATE LAND
-  PRIVATE
-  NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY
-  ORV CLOSURE
-  LAND ACQUISITION
-  MINERALS ACQUISITION



## 19. POPE'S WELL

### General Description:

This 40-acre historic site contains artesian well drill sites and stone remains of the army camp used by Captain John Pope in the mid-1850's. The camp and wells were constructed while trying to establish reliable water sources for the proposed southern route of the transcontinental railroad. This site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### Management Goals:

The management objective for this National Register site is to protect and preserve the important and sensitive historic resources for research and education.

### Management Prescriptions: (For entire 40 acre SMA)

1. Apply no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation to future oil and gas leases.
2. Designate closed to ORV use and implement plan to enforce designation.
3. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to conform with ORV designation.

## 20. GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT SCENIC AREA

### General Description:

This 49,570 acre area of contiguous public land generally parallels the Guadalupe Escarpment. It is a highly sensitive visual area because it is the immediate visual foreground as viewed from several key observation points along U.S. Highway 62/180. It is also a primary viewshed from the designated wilderness of Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Forest Service scenic areas.

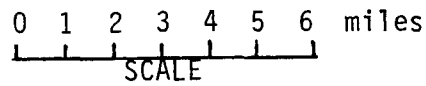
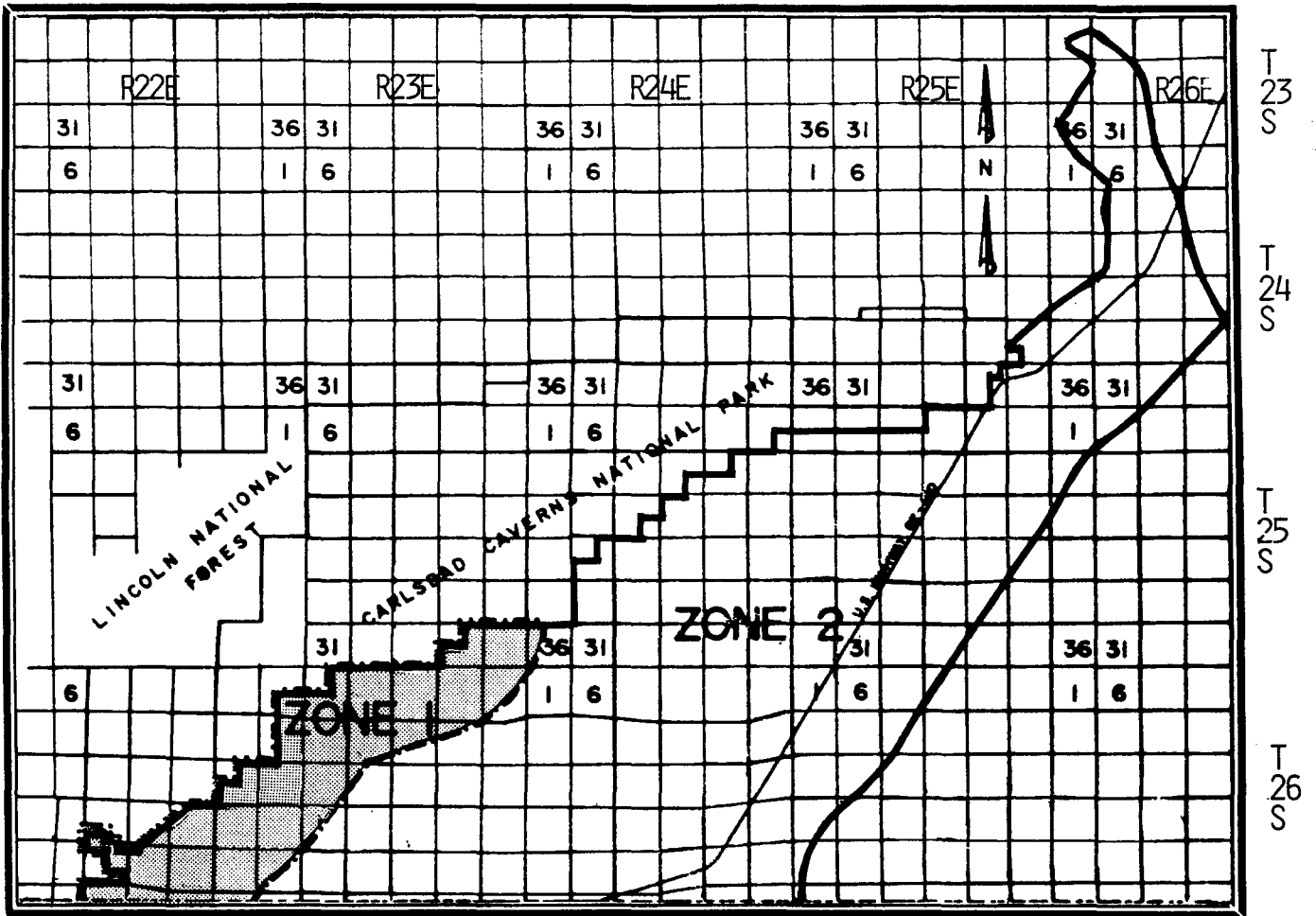
### Management Goals:

The management of the area would emphasize the protection of visual resource values associated with the Guadalupe Escarpment while still allowing for compatible multiple use development to occur.



### Management Prescriptions:

1. Apply no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation to future oil and gas leases - 11,700 acres.
2. Restrict surface disturbance throughout the 49,570 acre Scenic Area by minimizing visual impacts through special stipulations applied on case-by-case basis.
3. Close to solid mineral leasing and mineral material sales in Zone 1 of the SMA (11,700 acres).
4. Designate limited to ORV use to designated roads and implement plan to enforce designation (49,570 acres).
5. Restrict fire suppression and geophysical exploration to conform with ORV designation.
6. Manage 8,820 acres to conform with VRM Class II guidelines and the remaining 40,750 acres under VRM Class III guidelines.

SMA No. 20 - GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT SCENIC AREA (49,570 Acres)



MAP LEGEND

- SCENIC AREA BOUNDARY
-  ZONE 1
-  ZONE 2

## 21. ALKALI LAKE ORV AREA

### General Description:

The ORV area contains 900 acres of rolling and stabilized dune lands that receive heavy random motorcycle use. The area is of interest to the local motorcycle club for use during events.

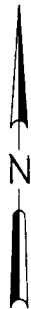
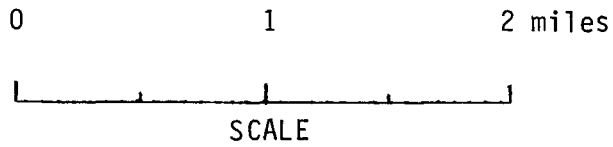
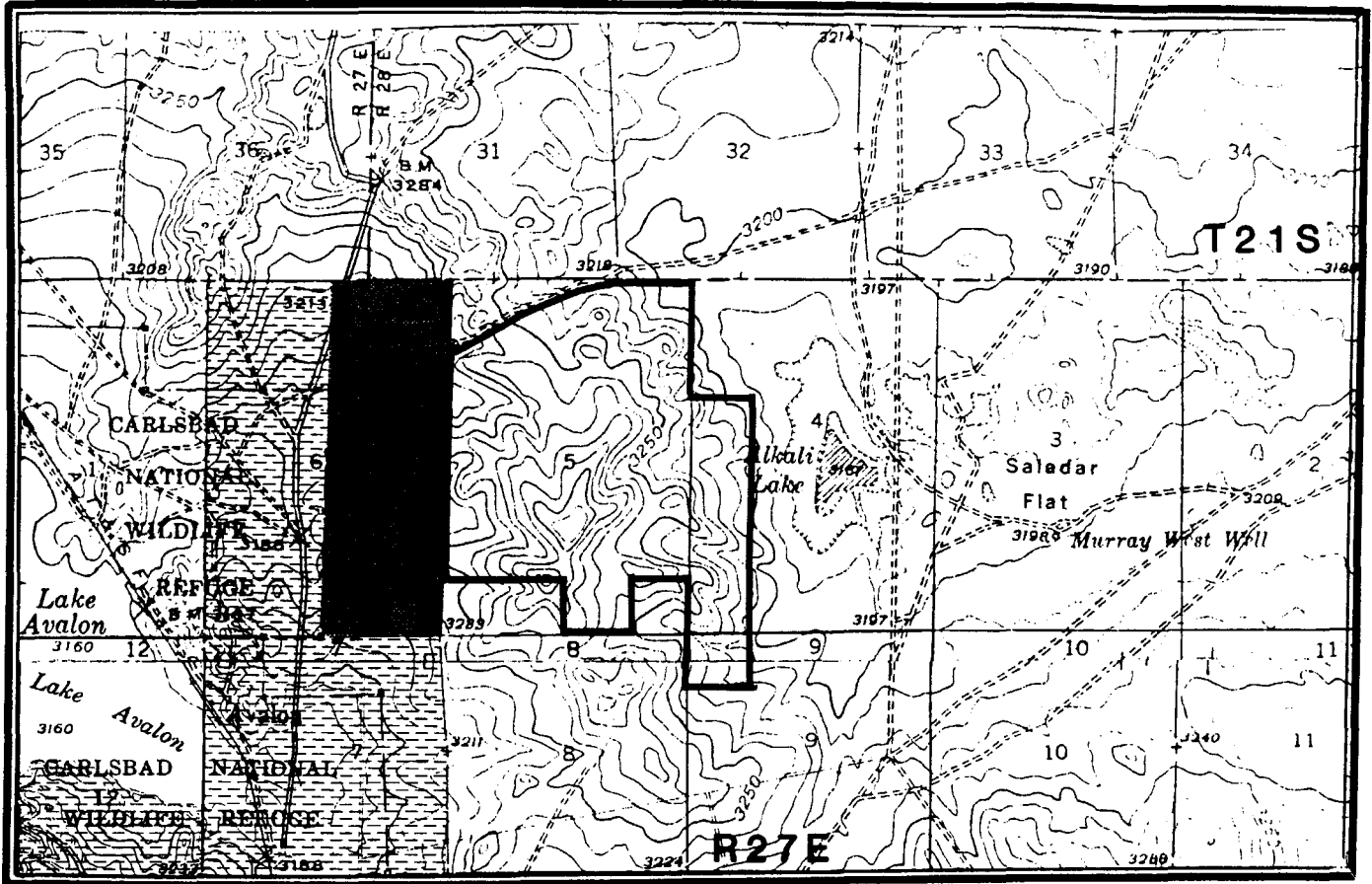
### Management Goals:

The management goal for this area is to allow extensive motorcycle use while working closely with oil and gas interests to meet multiple use objectives.




### Management Prescriptions:

1. Apply special oil and gas stipulations to protect approved ORV trails and camping areas to all development authorizations within the area.
2. Require special recreation permit authorizations for competitive or commercial motorcycle events.
3. Manage for full fire suppression.

SMA NO. 21 - ALKALI LAKE ORV AREA (900 ACRES)



MAP LEGEND

-  OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) AREA
-  BLM
-  PRIVATE LAND

## 22. HACKBERRY LAKE ORV AREA

### General Description:

This intensive ORV use area consists of 55,800 acres of rolling stabilized dune lands and cliffs. The area is used annually for competitive Enduro events. It is also popular for random motorcycle and other ORV use. The area is heavily developed for oil and gas. Coordination with the oil and gas industry to avoid specific routes and trails should pose no management problem.

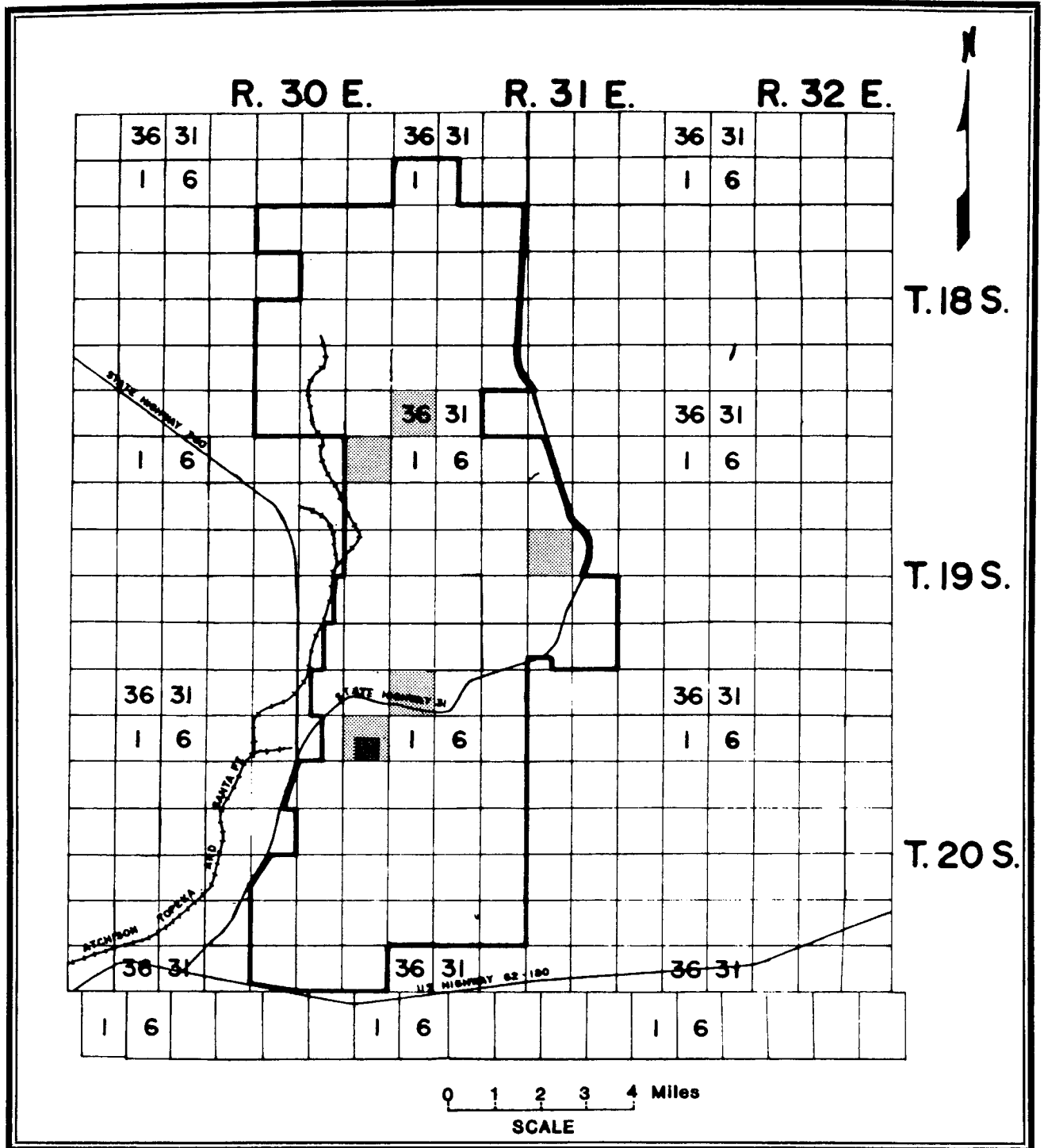
### Management Goals:

Management objectives are to manage as an intensive ORV use area and avoid conflicts with other land uses which would continue to be authorized.

### Management Prescriptions:

1. Apply special oil and gas stipulations to protect ORV trails and camping areas applied to development authorizations within the area.
2. Require special recreation permit authorizations for competitive or commercial motorcycle events.
3. Manage for full fire suppression.

SMA NO. 22 - HACKBERRY LAKE GRV AREA (55,800 ACRES)



MAP LEGEND



BLM



STATE LAND

## 23. PECOS RIVER CORRIDOR

### General Description:

The Pecos River Corridor (6,000 acres) contains a one-half mile strip of BLM lands along the Pecos River and the area surrounding the Red Bluff Reservoir. The area would emphasize water-based recreation along the free-flowing Pecos River and provide for semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities. The area round Red Bluff Reservoir would be developed for day and overnight use to include camp sites, picnic sites, sanitation facilities, and a boat ramp. Public access would also be provided along the river.

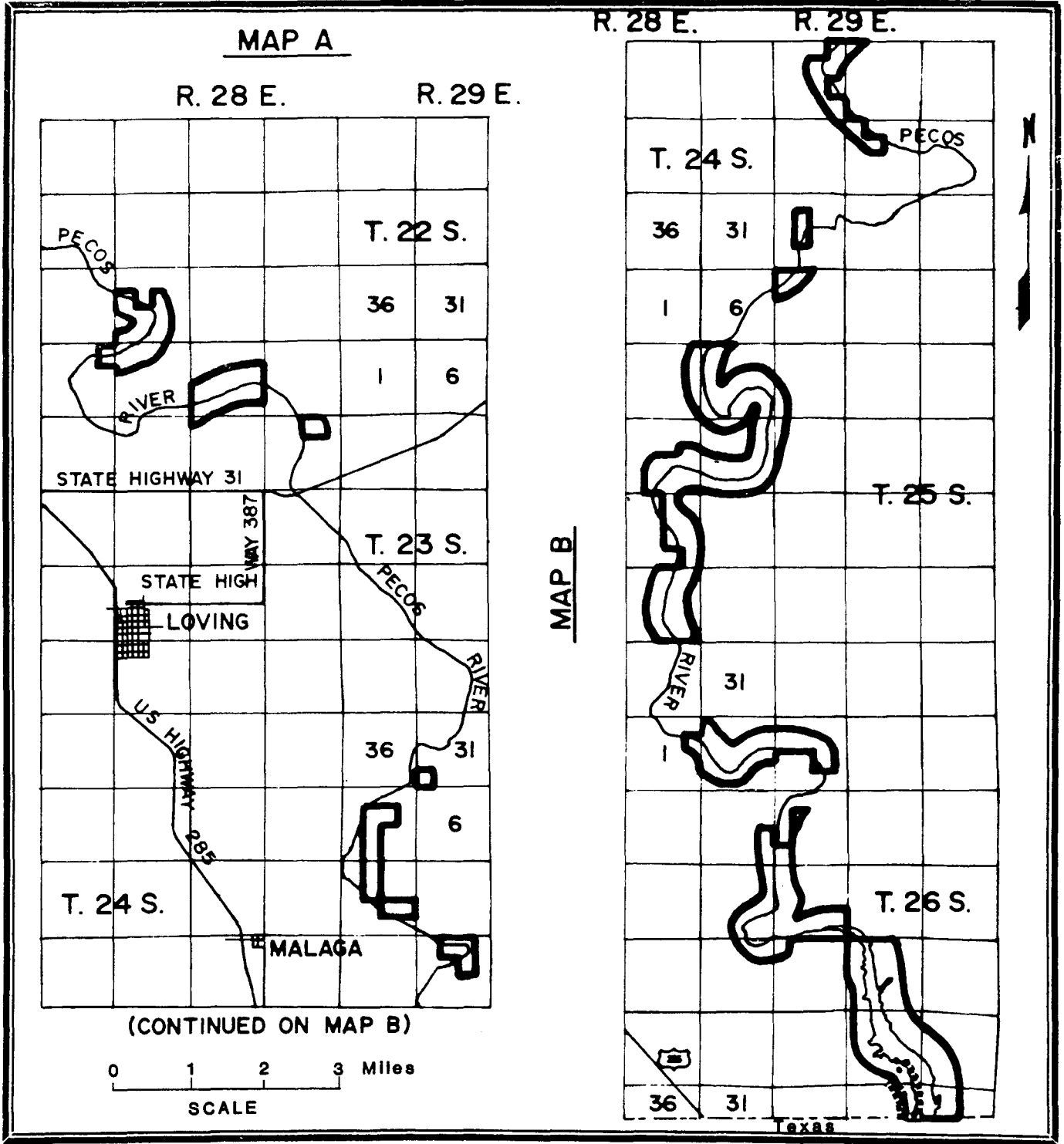
### Management Goals:

Management objectives would provide protection for scarce water-based recreation, provide public access, protect the natural values and still allow for semi-primitive motorized recreation. Additional goals are to reduce soil erosion and vegetation destruction while still allowing leaseable minerals and other resource development to occur in the area.

### Management Prescriptions:

1. Apply no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation to future oil and gas leases - 6,000 acres.
2. Restrict surface disturbance throughout the area to reduce erosion and minimize impacts to riparian habitat.
3. Close to solid mineral leasing and mineral material disposal- 6,000 acres.
4. Withdraw 1,729 acres from mining claim location.
5. Designate 120 acres around Red Bluff Reservoir closed to ORV use and the remaining 5,880 acres as limited to designated routes. Implement plan to enforce designations.
6. Restrict fire suppression on 5,880 acres to conform to ORV limitation but conduct full fire suppression within the 120 acre Red Bluff Reservoir area.
7. Restrict geophysical exploration to conform with ORV limitations.
8. Remove livestock from the 120 acre Red Bluff Reservoir area.
9. Manage 4,500 acres to conform with VRM Class II guidelines and the remaining 1,500 acres under VRM Class III prescriptions.





MAP LEGEND

SPECIAL RECREATION  
MANAGEMENT AREA

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
P.O. DRAWER 1778  
CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO 88220

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE  
\$300



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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