

# Albuquerque Field Office Resource Management Plan

UPDATE DOCUMENT  
2001

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Albuquerque Field Office





## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Albuquerque Field Office  
435 Montañito Rd. N.E.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-4935  
[www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov)



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1614 (010)

**FEB 27 2001**

Dear Reader:

The purpose of this document is to update you on our progress in implementing the Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan (RMP), completed in November 1986 for the Rio Puerco Resource Area, now the Albuquerque Field Office (AFO). Because implementation is continuing over a number of years, we are issuing updates until the RMP is fully implemented. This Update presents the accomplishments for calendar year 2000 and the implementation actions planned for 2001. The planned implementation actions described in this Update are presented by resource program in the same sequence as in the Final RMP; most are in simple list format with a short, one- or two-sentence description. We present a brief narrative ("Program Notes") for the resource programs that require more detailed discussion. A list of the environmental assessments initiated in Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 is included as Appendix 1.

The planned actions include those major actions, activity plans, and EAs that warrant public participation. Project-specific developments such as sign placements are not listed as planned actions. If you wish to participate in the development of specific resource program activity plans or review the EAs, please contact us. We encourage your participation in this phase of RMP implementation. We believe we are making continued progress toward improving the management of our public lands. To all of those who are involved in helping us in this process, we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation.

Many of the planned actions will be accomplished through volunteer help. Volunteers are a critical component of our recreation, wilderness, wildlife, cultural, and paleontological programs, and contribute important work in many other programs as well. We encourage you to contact the appropriate field office specialist at (505) 761-8700 if you would like to be involved in one of these projects.

All scheduled planned actions are based on current priorities and budgets. If priorities and budget allocations shift during the year, the schedules for the planned actions may also change. Planned actions in the Soil, Water, and Air Program, the Range Program, and the Forestry Program were postponed in 2000 due to staff time being devoted to environmental assessments on grazing permit and lease renewals.

We, of course, cannot summarize all of the work planned for the AFO for the coming year in this letter; however, we would like to highlight a number of programs. We continue to focus on improving grazing management. This year we are shifting to preparing the environmental assessments for grazing permit renewals on a watershed-wide basis. We will hold a public meeting at the Cuba High School on March 27 at 7 pm to discuss this project. Another focus is our Minerals program. Demand is increasing for the energy resources available from Federal lands in the AFO. In addition, residential and commercial building construction and road construction in the greater Albuquerque area has led to greatly expanded demand for construction materials such as sand and gravel from the public lands.

The Rio Puerco Watershed has long been a focus of concern, study, and restoration efforts. Through the Rio Puerco Watershed Act of 1996, Congress directed the BLM to establish the Rio Puerco Management Committee (RPMC), a partnership consensus group, to compile data and develop best management practices to reduce erosion, increase native vegetation, and improve riparian habitat while supporting the rural, agrarian character of the drainage basin. Since approval of the Rio Puerco RMP in 1986, the AFO has been implementing watershed management plans, grazing plans, reclamation and reforestation efforts, and riparian protection projects. Establishment of the RPMC has allowed coordination of similar efforts across administrative and ownership boundaries within the drainage basin. The RPMC has assessed nine subwatersheds within the drainage basin and is now focusing its efforts on the two ranked as worst—the Rio Puerco Upper Main Stem and Torreon Wash. The most important project currently being undertaken by the RPMC is the reintroduction of the Rio Puerco into its original channel near La Ventana. In addition, through an assistance agreement with the Navajo Nation, we are promoting community outreach and education in the fourteen Navajo chapters within the Rio Puerco Basin.

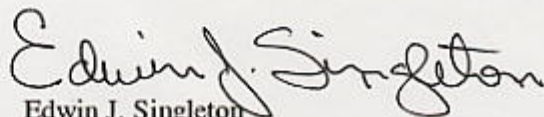
Tent Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern was designated as Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument on January 17, 2001 because of its outstanding scientific, cultural, scenic, and recreational values. It becomes part of the new National Landscape Conservation System established by the Secretary of the Interior within BLM in 2000 to manage significant designations such as National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Trails, and National Scenic Trails. The AFO also manages other components of the new system—El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA) and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, as well as two wilderness areas and nine wilderness study areas.

We hope to finalize both the El Malpais NCA General Management Plan (GMP) and the El Malpais Joint Fire Management Plan later this year and begin implementing these plans. Among the first projects planned under the GMP are construction of a campground near the Ranger Station, and conversion of the Narrows recreation site to a day use area with improved picnic facilities and a trailhead. Under the Fire Management Plan's objective of returning fire to its natural role in the ecosystem we will be able to use wildland fire for resource benefits in the West Malpais Wilderness.

Finally, our Lands, Recreation, and Cultural Resources programs retain a significant workload. The AFO administers lands that have a high interest for open space and other recreation needs. Also, the need for rights-of-way for fiber optic lines, pipelines, and electric lines is increasing, and we continue to receive interest in BLM lands for public purposes such as new schools. We hope to secure Land and Water Conservation Funding to acquire important natural resource lands, and we are engaged in proposed land exchanges with San Felipe and Santo Domingo pueblos and the State of New Mexico. The cultural resources program has a dual mission—it provides support for an increasing number of actions that have potential to affect cultural resources, and it protects significant resources under its care.

Our staff works hard to provide a balance of use and protection of the lands entrusted to us. We hope you find the information contained in this Update to be informative.

Sincerely,

  
Edwin J. Singleton  
Field Manager

# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## PROGRAM DOCUMENT

### ANNUAL UPDATE

#### INTRODUCTION

This is another in a series of annual "Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan Updates." The purpose of this document is to update the public on implementation of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan (RMP), completed in November 1986 for the Rio Puerco Resource Area, now the Albuquerque Field Office (AFO). Because implementation of the RMP will continue over a number of years, annual updates will be issued until the RMP is fully implemented. This Update presents the accomplishments for calendar year 2000, and the implementation actions planned for 2001.

The planned implementation actions described in this Update are presented by resource program in the same sequence as the Final RMP (November 1986). Most are in simple list format with a short one- or two-sentence description. A brief narrative ("Program Notes") is presented for the resource programs which require more detailed discussion. A list of the environmental assessments (EAs) for fiscal year 2000 and the first quarter of 2001 is included as Appendix 1.

The planned implementation actions address those major actions, activity plans, and environmental assessments which warrant public participation. Project-specific developments such as sign placements are not listed as planned actions. If you wish to participate in the development of specific resource program activity plans or review the EAs, please contact us. We encourage your participation in this phase of RMP implementation.

Many of the planned actions proposed will be accomplished with volunteer help. We encourage you to contact the appropriate program specialist at 761-8700 if you would like to volunteer for one of these projects.

All scheduled planned actions are based on current priorities and budgets. If priorities and budget allocations shift during the year, the schedules for the planned actions may also change. Planned actions for 2000 in the Soil, Water, and Air Program, the Range Program, and the Forestry Program were postponed due to staff

time being devoted to environmental assessments on grazing permit and lease renewals.

For a number of years, the Rio Puerco Watershed has been a focus of concern, considerable study, and restoration efforts. The Omnibus Parks and Public Land Management Act of October 1, 1996 included a section known as the Rio Puerco Watershed Act that spoke specifically to the Rio Puerco Drainage Basin. The legislation directed the BLM to establish the Rio Puerco Management Committee (RPMC), a partnership consensus group charged with compiling data and developing best management practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion, increase native vegetation, and improve riparian habitat while supporting the rural, agrarian character of the drainage basin. The committee's current membership includes State and Federal agencies, affected tribes, soil and water conservation districts, residents from rural communities in the watershed, environmental and conservation groups, and the public-at-large. The establishment of the management committee has permitted a coordinated effort across administrative and ownership boundaries within the drainage basin.

In an effort to work on the worst first, the RPMC has assessed nine subwatersheds within the 4.5 million acre Rio Puerco Drainage Basin. This prioritization has led the committee to focus on the Rio Puerco Upper Main Stem and the Torreon Wash subwatersheds, an area of approximately 595,000 acres. The committee conducted a series of listening sessions in local communities to gauge the concern about resource problems and the interest in working on solutions. The committee is currently drafting a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy for these two subwatersheds that will allow the group to compete more effectively for funding.

The most important project undertaken by the committee is the reintroduction of the Rio Puerco into its original channel near La Ventana. During the construction of NM 44 (now US 550) in the mid-1960s, the river was diverted and channelized, causing severe channel erosion. The RPMC and the NM State Highway and Transportation Department have signed a memorandum

of understanding to initiate the streamreintroduction and riparian restoration as part of the major highway reconstruction project on NM 44/US 550. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is currently designing the structures necessary to move the water back into the river channel. Funding for construction will be provided by a grant from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency through the NM Environment Department. The RPMC is currently seeking the 40 percent non-Federal matching funds required to begin work.

Another focus for the AFO over the next few years will be Tent Rocks. Tent Rocks ACEC was designated Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument on January 17, 2001. The proclamation designating the monument directs AFO to prepare a management plan within 3 years of the designation and we expect to begin preparation of the plan this year.

## **CHANGING THE RMP**

The Rio Puerco RMP is the guiding document for management of the public land resources in the AFO for the next five to ten years. The document is corrected and updated to ensure that this anticipated life expectancy is met. The three techniques for updating the RMP are maintenance, amendment, and revision. Plan maintenance, a continuous process, corrects errors in the text, updates data bases, and corrects mapping and other table and graphic errors. A reissue of the RMP was printed in 1992 incorporating changes made through the maintenance process since 1986. It was mailed early in 1993 and is still available upon request. Plan amendments are major changes which affect one or more of the RMP decisions and involve public participation. Plan revision involves a complete rewrite of the RMP.

A plan amendment was completed last year. Work began on the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Statewide RMP Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 1995. The Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS was issued in January, 2000 and the Record of Decision was signed in April, 2000.

Also during 2000, we made significant progress on the El Malpais National Conservation Area General Management Plan/Plan Amendment (GMP/PA) begun in 1995. The Proposed GMP/PA was issued in September, 2000. We expect to issue a decision and begin implementing the GMP sometime in 2001.

Scoping meetings were held in the fall of 2000 for a proposed RMP amendment addressing projected oil and gas development in the San Juan Basin over the next 20 years. The portion of the San Juan Basin in the AFO

will be addressed in an amendment being prepared as part of a revision of the Farmington RMP. This issue was addressed in a previous RMP amendment finalized in 1991. However, Federal oil and gas resources in the San Juan Basin have been developed at a higher rate than anticipated, and the new amendment is necessary to establish a new rate of reasonable foreseeable development. A draft plan amendment/EIS is expected in late 2001.

## **RESOURCE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS**

### **Energy and Minerals**

#### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Completed 2 Federal mineral material appraisals and 4 Federal mineral material reappraisals.
- Conducted quarterly compliance inspections and production verifications on 8 Indian mineral material leases.
- Conducted 44 uranium lease inspections on Indian allotted lands.
- Completed 6 mineral potential reports.
- Reviewed and approved 9 Indian mineral material mining and reclamation plans; prepared EAs and bond determinations for these plans.
- Updated Indian mineral material data bases.
- Conducted 30 mining claim surface management compliance inspections.
- Processed 2 Notices of Intent to operate on mining claims.
- Completed and approved 7 negotiated sales, 2 Free Use Permits for State and local governments, and 49 individual sales. Approximately 1,676,000 tons of mineral material were mined. Total revenue received was \$287,000.
- Processed 1 permit for the exploration of Federal mineral materials.
- Conducted 53 mineral material environmental compliance inspections.
- Conducted 571 production accountability and independent measurement/handling inspections on Indian and Federal oil and gas leases.

- Witnessed 20 plugging and abandonment inspections on 20 wells to ensure environmentally sound development and abandonment of oil and gas resources. Completed surface restoration on 17 wells.
- Conducted 465 environmental inspections.
- Reviewed and processed 74 Applications for Permit to Drill. Processed 804 Sundry Notices.
- Reviewed 25 parcels for oil and gas leasing.
- Processed and approved 1 3-D seismic project.
- Conducted 1 joint oil truck roadblock with the Jicarilla Apache Tribe.
- Initiated preparation of a proposed RMP amendment/EIS addressing projected oil and gas development in the San Juan Basin, including the portion in AFO, over the next 20 years.

#### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Conduct Indian and Federal mineral material appraisals as required.
- Conduct quarterly compliance inspections and production verifications on 9 Indian mineral material leases.
- Conduct 44 uranium lease inspections on Indian allotted lands.
- Complete mineral potential reports as required.
- Review and approve 2 Indian mineral material mining and reclamation plans as received.
- Update Indian mineral material data bases.
- Conduct 29 mining claim surface management compliance inspections.
- Process 2 Notices of Intent to operate on mining claims.
- Resolve 1 mineral material trespass.
- Complete and approve 13 negotiated sales, 2 Free Use Permits for State and local governments, and 50 individual sales.
- Process 1 permit for the exploration of Federal mineral materials.
- Resolve 1 mineral material trespass.

- Conduct 85 mineral material environmental compliance inspections.
- Conduct 640 production accountability and independent measurement handling inspections on Indian and Federal oil and gas leases.
- Witness 10 plugging and abandonment inspections on 5 wells to ensure environmentally sound development and abandonment of oil and gas resources. Complete surface restoration on 10 wells.
- Conduct 300 environmental inspections.
- Review and process 120 Applications for Permit to Drill. Process 1,500 Sundry Notices.
- Review 15 parcels for oil and gas leasing.
- Conduct 2 joint oil truck roadblocks with the Jicarilla Apache Tribe.

- Issue draft RMP amendment/EIS addressing projected oil and gas development in the San Juan Basin, including the portion in AFO, over the next 20 years.

#### **Hazardous Materials Management**

##### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Completed 7 environmental site assessments (ESAs) for land exchanges.
- Completed 1 hazardous materials clean-up.

##### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Complete 4 ESAs for Fort Wingate (in conjunction with Bureau of Indian Affairs).
- Respond to hazardous materials issues including ESAs and emergency response.

#### **Paleontology**

##### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Continued volunteer excavations under permit at the Peterson Site in Boney Canyon.
- Continued cooperation in erection of new building for safe storage of dinosaur fossils from the Peterson Site; materials for building provided by AFO.
- Updated catalog of BLM fossils curated at the NM Museum of Natural History and Science.

- Continued partnership with the NM Museum of Natural History and Science.
- Continued to support collection and research of paleontological resources in the AFO.
- Continued preparation of the Torrejon Fossil Fauna ACEC Management Plan.
- Developed web page on paleontology program in AFO.
- Continued monitoring of paleontological ACECs.

### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Continue volunteer excavations under permit at the Peterson Site in Boney Canyon.
- Complete new building for safe storage of dinosaur fossils from the Peterson Site; materials for building provided by AFO.
- Update catalog of BLM fossils curated at the NM Museum of Natural History and Science.
- Continue partnership with the NM Museum of Natural History and Science.
- Continue to support collection and research of paleontological resources in the AFO.
- Complete preparation of the Torrejon Fossil Fauna ACEC Management Plan.
- Post web page on paleontology program in AFO on NM BLM external web site.
- Continue monitoring of paleontological ACECs.

### **Soil, Water, and Air**

**Program Notes.** The Rio Puerco Watershed Act directed the BLM to establish a Rio Puerco Management Committee (RPMC) that is a partnership consensus group charged with compiling data, developing and implementing best management practices (BMPs), increasing native vegetation, and improving riparian habitat while supporting the rural, agrarian character of the watershed. A model for the unified Federal approach to the Clean Water Action Plan, the RPMC has relied on good science and a synthesis of different viewpoints and perspectives to define the ecological,

cultural, and economic characteristics needed to maintain a healthy watershed. The committee has supported and

funded a range of activities from sagebrush spraying to returning the Rio Puerco to its original channel at La Ventana. The RPMC, BLM, and the US Geological Survey (USGS) provided funding and field support to two hydrology graduate students studying erosion in the Rio Puerco Watershed. Through an assistance agreement with the Navajo Nation, we are promoting community outreach and education in the 14 Navajo chapters in the Rio Puerco Basin. The RPMC is in the process of developing a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS). The WRAS will summarize the recognized conditions and identify necessary efforts and mechanisms whereby restoration and improvement activities will be directed.

### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Completed watershed analysis on 10,000 acres in support of the Rangeland Health assessment effort..
- Repaired 4 large erosion control dams.
- Built protection fences around repaired dams.
- Completed survey and design for repair of 4 large dams.
- Maintained 10 small erosion control structures.
- Constructed 5 rock check dams.
- Processed 5 water rights actions.
- Treated 2,000 acres of sagebrush to improve grassland communities.
- Continued support for operation and data collection at the USGS "Rio Puerco above the Chico" stream gauge.
- Continued operation of the acid rain gauge at Cuba for the National Atmospheric Deposition Program.
- Continued participation in the adjudication of water rights in AFO.

### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Repair 5 large erosion control dams in the Rio Puerco Watershed.
- Build protection fences around repaired dams.
- Complete survey and design for repairs on 4 large dams.
- Construct 5 small rock check dams.

- Treat 820 acres of sagebrush through “shaving.”
- Plug and abandon old water well at Bluewater Canyon.
- Develop Soils and Water Rights data themes in GIS (Geographic Information System).
- Continue participation in the La Ventana project to return the Rio Puerco to its original channel.
- Continue support for operation and data collection at the USGS “Rio Puerco above the Chico” stream gauge.
- Continue operation of the acid rain gauge at Cuba for the National Atmospheric Deposition Program.
- Begin inventory and review of water rights claims for 2 new water rights cases (Zuni and San Jose Basins).

### **Riparian and Wetlands**

**Program Notes.** The Riparian Program has been a separate program from the Soil, Water, and Air program for several years. It is tracked separately and has its own goals and initiatives. We will again be reporting it as a stand alone program in this document.

#### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Completed an EIS assessing riparian habitat within the AFO.
- Reassessed 30 miles of riparian habitat.
- Planted 108 cottonwood poles and 50 containerized seedlings in the Cebolla Canyon, Cebolla Spring, and Rinconada Canyon riparian areas.
- Established a 4,100 acre riparian and watershed protection enclosure in Cebolla Canyon within the El Malpais grazing allotment.
- Completed a fence extension and spring redesign to protect expanding riparian habitat at La Leña Spring.

#### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Complete a riparian area plant survey over 20 miles of stream.
- Complete a macro-invertebrate survey over 5 miles of stream.
- Conduct a southwestern willow flycatcher survey

within 3 riparian areas.

- Re-assess and monitor 10 miles of riparian habitat.
- Maintain 4 riparian livestock exclosures.
- Establish a 700 acre riparian and watershed protection enclosure as part of the Rio Puerco Management Committee project to return the Rio Puerco to its original channel.
- Monitor 10 springs and plan the protection of Road Springs in the Azabache grazing allotment.

### **Range**

**Program Notes.** In January 1998, the Albuquerque Field Office along with all New Mexico BLM initiated aggressive action on reviewing grazing permit renewals for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. This process involves extensive on-the-ground review of each permit renewal as well as preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) for each permit renewal. Starting in 2001, we are shifting to completing these EAs on a watershed-wide basis.

#### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Treated 5,400 acres of sagebrush with herbicide for watershed improvement/rangeland health.
- Reviewed 42 grazing allotments through the NEPA compliance process for grazing permit renewal.
- Constructed 1 riparian exclosure along Arroyo Chico.
- Constructed 2 riparian pastures along Arroyo Chico and in Cebolla Canyon.
- Fenced reconstructed dams.
- Completed the Wilson Canyon prescribed sagebrush burn for watershed improvement/rangeland health. For the remainder of the year, the prescribed fire program was temporarily suspended by the Department of the Interior.

#### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Treat 1,500 acres of sagebrush with herbicide for watershed improvement/rangeland health.
- Review 14 grazing allotments through the NEPA compliance process for grazing permit renewal. Eleven



of these (114,637 acres) are in the Continental Divide watershed area; the EAs for these allotments will be prepared as a group on a watershed-wide basis.

- Construct 1 riparian enclosure in the San Luis Community Allotment.

- Implement prescribed sagebrush burns for watershed improvement/rangeland health in the Bear Mouth, Rincon Grande, Coal Creek, Bluewater, Medio, and South Divide areas.

## Wildlife

**Program Notes.** The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDG&F) owns and is responsible for resident wildlife. The BLM is responsible for the wildlife habitat under its stewardship.

### 2000 Accomplishments

- Completed 3 Sikes Act Habitat Stamp Program projects:

- Kinaird Arroyo sagebrush shaving
  - Arroyo Colorado salt cedar treatment
  - Wildlife escape ramps

- Initiated 6 Sikes Act projects:

- Arroyo Colorado prescribed fire
  - Tent Rocks ACEC catchment
  - Rinconada Canyon riparian fence
  - Elk Springs ACEC South Mesa catchment
  - Techado Mesa reforestation
  - Maintenance of previous Sikes Act projects

- Completed 3 non-Sikes Act projects:

- Perea Nature Trail trail work
  - Chijuilla wire checks
  - San Isidro Watershed dam enclosures

- Identified State and private land parcels within Elk Springs ACEC for acquisition as part of the Santo Domingo and San Felipe exchanges.

- Treated noxious weeds (Russian knapweed, bullthistle, and muskthistle) along NM 44/US 550, NM 197, in the Naranjo Fuelwood Area, and in the Rio Puerco Riparian areas.

- Conducted noxious weed awareness lectures for various organizations.

- Continued development of the Perea Nature Trail in the Rio Salado marsh/riparian area.

- Continued to implement Watchable Wildlife Program.

- Conducted 2 Natural Resource Labs for the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI).

- Completed 3 Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations for grazing permit renewals.

### 2001 Planned Actions

- Continue implementation of Sikes Act Habitat Stamp Program, including plan update and construction of projects approved by the NM State Game Commission.

- Initiate the following Sikes Act projects funded for 2001:

- Big game aerial surveys
  - El Malpais prescribed fire
  - El Malpais fence modifications
  - Azabache Well prescribed fire

- Continue implementation of the following Sikes Act projects:

- Arroyo Colorado prescribed fire
  - Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument catchment
  - Rinconada Canyon riparian fence
  - Elk Springs ACEC South Mesa catchment
  - Techado Mesa reforestation
  - Wildlife escape ramps
  - Maintenance of previous Sikes Act projects

- Initiate the following non-Sikes Act projects:

- Chijuilla Arroyo gabion silt dams
  - Chijuilla area dam enclosures
  - Willow flycatcher/breeding bird surveys
  - Mountain plover surveys

- Continue to work with various volunteer organizations to construct habitat improvement projects.

- Continue land acquisition efforts in Elk Springs ACEC.

- Continue noxious weed control program.

- Continue riparian area plantings and improvements.

- Continue implementation of Watchable Wildlife Program.

- Continue working with SIPI in conducting Natural Resource Labs.

- Complete 3 Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations.

## Woodland Resources

### 2000 Accomplishments

- Issued 84 Christmas tree harvesting permits in the Arroyo Chijuilla Basin.
- Issued 14 permits for the harvest of 778 piñon transplants in the Arroyo Chijuilla Basin.
- Issued 161 permits for the harvest of 181 cords of piñon and juniper fuelwood.
- Completed 300 acres of woodland condition inventory in the Techado Mesa Grazing Allotment.

### 2001 Planned Actions

- Complete an assessment for the treatment of 70 acres of woodlands in the Arroyo Chijuilla Basin to provide a designated fuelwood harvest area.
- Complete assessment and contract for treatment of 600 acres of woodlands in the Techado Mesa Grazing Allotment.
- Issue 80 Christmas tree harvesting permits in the Arroyo Chijuilla Basin.
- Issue permits for the harvest of 500 piñon transplants in the Arroyo Chijuilla Basin.
- Issue permits for the harvest of 150 cords of fuelwood.

## Recreation

**Program Notes.** For the purpose of this Update, Wilderness, Off-Highway Vehicles, El Malpais National Conservation Area/Grants Field Station, and the new Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument are treated as separate from the Recreation Program.

The AFO Recreation Program manages several components of the new National Landscape Conservation System. This system was established in 2000 by the Secretary of the Interior within BLM to manage significant designations such as National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Trails, and National Scenic Trails.

### 2000 Accomplishments

- Installed 2 universally designed picnic tables, a message board, and a permanent trash receptacle at the Tent Rocks recreation pilot fee demonstration site.
- Tent Rocks was selected as a National Public Lands Day site. Volunteers for the Outdoors, a group from Brush Ranch School in Terrero, and individual volunteers worked on trail maintenance and reconstruction.
- Completed 5 miles of route selection and trail marking for the Upper Rio Puerco segment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST). The route was marked with cairns, signs, and posts. The majority of this work was completed during National Public Lands Day by members of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance, Volunteers for the Outdoors, Back Country Horsemen, New Mexico Mountain Club, and the Boy Scouts.
- Implemented the Intergovernmental Cooperative Management Agreement between BLM and the Pueblo de Cochiti for management of Tent Rocks ACEC.
- Maintained the road to Tent Rocks ACEC.
- Issued 1 Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for commercial guided day hikes at Cabezon Peak, Tent Rocks National Recreation Trail, El Malpais Narrows, and El Malpais Hole-in-the-Wall.
- Issued 3 SRPs for big game outfitter guide service. These permits were stipulated according to the rules and regulations of the NM Department of Game and Fish.
- Added interpretation of plants to the Perea Nature Trail located just outside of San Ysidro.
- Installed a BLM visitor information kiosk at the Albuquerque International Airport highlighting recreation opportunities in AFO.
- Continued to participate in the "Leave No Trace" and "Tread Lightly" outdoor ethics programs.
- Gathered visitor use information and identified unauthorized activities through patrol and surveillance of recreation resources.

### 2001 Planned Actions

- Continue to select and mark a hiking and equestrian trail for the CDNST, Upper Rio Puerco segment.

- Issue 2 SRPs for commercial guided day hikes within the AFO.
- Issue 3 SRPs for big game outfitter guide service.
- Add interpretation of geology, wildlife, soil, and water to the Perea Nature Trail located just outside San Ysidro.
- Design and develop 3 waysides. These are proposed 2 miles south of NM 44/US 550 about 7 miles northwest of Cuba. They would include picnic tables, trash cans, and some interpretation.
- Prepare an EA for a road to provide recreation access to public lands near Placitas.
- Continue to participate in the "Leave No Trace" and "Tread Lightly" outdoor ethics programs.
- Continue patrol, monitoring, and surveillance of recreation resources to gather visitor use information and identify unauthorized activities.

## **Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)**

### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Reissued the Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to the NM Trials Association (NMTA) for use of the San Ysidro Trials Area. NMTA has adopted this area and works with AFO under a Cooperative Management Agreement.
- Repaired a section of eroded road leading into the San Ysidro Trials Area.
- Issued a SRP to Southwest Off-Road Enterprises for a off-highway vehicle race in the Competitive Dune Buggy Event Area.
- Continued GPS inventory of existing roads and trails within the AFO.
- Identified and reviewed areas proposed for issuing a SRP to the NM-4 Wheelers (Albuquerque Club) for rock crawling events. All areas under consideration are outside of Special Management Areas.
- Amended the Rio Puerco RMP through the NM Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. The original RMP decision which read, "Permitted events such as the 'Oh My God 100' will continue to be authorized as not limited to existing roads and trails" was amended to read, "Permitted competitive events such as the 'Oh My God 100' will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and limited to existing roads and trails." A second decision was also amended. The original deci-

sion which read, "Another area has been designated for competitive dune buggy events using existing routes (Map 16)" was amended to read, "Competitive dune buggy events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and limited to existing roads and trails."

### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Issue a SRP to Southwest Off-Road Enterprises for an off-highway vehicle race. The proposed course is on existing roads and trails 15 miles due west of Cuba.
- Continue GPS inventory of existing roads and trails within the AFO.
- Continue to work with the NMTA for management of the San Ysidro Trials Area. NMTA has adopted this area under a Cooperative Management Agreement. Events are held under a SRP issued to the NMTA for use of the Trials Area.
- Prepare an EA for a SRP to be issued to the NM 4-Wheelers (Albuquerque Club) for rock crawling events. Areas under consideration are located near Cuba, south of Interstate 40, and in the Cañoncito area, none within special management areas.
- Designate all public lands within El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA) that have not been previously classified and those designated as "open" by the 1986 RMP as "limited." Limit vehicle use in "limited" area designations within the NCA to "designated roads and trails" instead of "existing roads and trails." These actions would be accomplished through the Proposed El Malpais Plan.

## **Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas**

### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Continued monitoring and surveillance patrols of the 9 WSAs.
- Continued implementation of the photo monitoring system within the WSAs. There are 42 photo points.
- Maintained BLM Road 1103 in the Ignacio Chavez SMA. Work was performed by the Sandoval County Highway Department.
- Continued the "Operation Respect" initiative during the fall hunting and piñon gathering season in the Ignacio Chavez SMA.
- Continued to implement the Cooperative Management Agreement between the Pueblo of Zia and AFO in the

Ojito WSA/ACEC. Continued resource protection and public outreach projects with the Pueblo.

- Replaced old or vandalized signs along WSA boundary roads.

#### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Continue surveillance of the 9 WSAs with emphasis placed on eliminating unauthorized use, monitoring of authorized uses, maintenance of boundary and other regulatory signs, monitoring the condition of wilderness characteristics, and providing environmental education.
- Continue to coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service Mt. Taylor Ranger District and the NM Department of Game and Fish on seasonal closure dates and public outreach issues for the Ignacio Chavez SMA.
- Renew the Cooperative Management Agreement between the Pueblo of Zia and AFO in the Ojito WSA/ACEC. Continue resource protection and public outreach projects with the Pueblo.
- Continue implementation of the photo monitoring system within the WSAs. There are 42 photo points.
- Maintain BLM Road 1103 in the Ignacio Chavez SMA.
- Continue "Operation Respect" during the fall hunting and piñon gathering season in the Ignacio Chavez SMA.

#### **Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument**

**Program Notes.** Tent Rocks ACEC was designated Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument on January 17, 2001. The boundaries of the monument encompass approximately 5,394 acres, approximately 4,114 of which are owned by the Federal government and managed by the BLM in cooperation with the Pueblo de Cochiti. The monument contains a 2 mile National Recreation Trail and remains an ACEC. It continues to be a recreation pilot fee demonstration project area. The proclamation designating the monument directs AFO to prepare a management plan within 3 years of the designation.

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument becomes part of the new National Landscape Conservation System established by the Secretary of the Interior within BLM in 2000 to manage significant designations such as National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Trails, and National Scenic Trails.

#### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Initiate preparation of the management plan for Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument.
- Begin to offer interpretive programs at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument.

#### **Cultural Resources**

**Program Notes.** In addition to the accomplishments and planned actions listed here, the cultural resources program is responsible for completion of cultural resource inventories for all proposed actions listed in this document with potential to affect cultural resources. Many of these inventories are completed by BLM personnel; others are completed through contract, or by third-party contractors hired by applicants. AFO reviews such reports and consults with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act concerning all proposed actions with potential to affect cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, AFO carries out consultation with Native Americans about the effects which these actions could have on traditional cultural properties and uses.

#### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Accomplished quarterly monitoring and photo documentation at Guadalupe, Arroyo, Dittert, Oak Tree, Andrews Ranch, Casamero, San Mateo, and Kin Nizhoni Ruins.
- Maintained area-wide patrol and surveillance activity with continued emphasis on selected sites.
- Expanded staff/volunteer monitoring and patrol activity in the Mesa Portales, Jones Canyon, and Lindrith areas.
- Initiated stabilization at Guadalupe Ruin through contract with NPS.
- Continued coordination and assistance to the To'hajiilee Navajo (Cañoncito) in nearing completion of the rebuilding of Tower Ruin.
- Completed ethnographic study of 2 large ancestral Zuni ruins through contract.
- Continued public outreach through Project Archeology educator workshops, public and professional presentations, guided hikes, and publications.
- Sponsored archeology field school from University of Southern Mississippi.

## 2001 Planned Actions

- Continue quarterly monitoring and photo documentation at Guadalupe, Arroyo, Dittert, Oak Tree, Andrews Ranch, Casamero, San Mateo, and Kin Nizhoni Ruins.
- Continue area-wide patrol and surveillance with volunteers and staff in coordination with BLM Law Enforcement personnel.
- Complete stabilization at Guadalupe Ruin through contract with NPS.
- Document the completed Tower Ruin reconstruction.
- Continue public outreach through Project Archeology educator workshops, public and professional presentations, guided hikes, and publications.
- Install fence at Ojo Pueblo to exclude cattle from site.
- Sponsor archeology field schools from Eastern New Mexico University and Southern Mississippi University.

## Lands and Realty

### 2000 Accomplishments

- Completed 3 purchase acquisitions in El Malpais NCA.
- Completed a transfer of jurisdiction and change of reservation of approximately 4,500 acres within the Fort Wingate Depot Activity (FWDA) to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).
- Completed 2 formal road closures:
  - Sawmill area south of Cuba in Sandoval County
  - Gallina Road north of Cuba in Rio Arriba County
- Processed 34 right-of-way cases, including the following; routine and administrative cases are not listed:

Tower communication site near Grants  
Rio Puerco Interstate 40 bridge  
La Jara community ditch  
Ramirez road  
Carnes road  
PNM West Mesa to Person Station pipeline  
PNM Rio Puerco to Albuquerque transmission line  
Cabezon Water Pipeline Association faucet pump station  
Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative transmission line

Pathnet regeneration site  
Village of San Ysidro water tank  
MAPCO bond release  
Williams Energy San Ysidro pipeline  
GTE Rio Puerco to Albuquerque fiber optics line

- Continued to process the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lease application for the proposed University of New Mexico (UNM) Lodestar Observatory Park on Horace Mesa near Grants.
- Continued to process the R&PP lease application for the proposed Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District administrative site and outdoor education project near Cuba.
- Continued to process the FWDA transfer of jurisdiction to the BIA for the benefit of the Navajo Nation and the Zuni Tribe.
- Continued to process the San Felipe and Santo Domingo exchanges.
- Initiated or continued to process the following major land projects:

Bernalillo Public Schools R&PP lease  
Cibola County Public Schools R&PP lease  
Cibola County R&PP lease for park  
Del Norte Gun Club R&PP patent  
Torreon/Dunkard Brethern church site R&PP lease  
Lindrith and Ojito cemetery R&PP lease  
MAPCO pipeline (formerly Aspen pipeline)  
Rio Arriba County road realignment and road closure near Lindrith  
American Tower communication sites (La Ventana and Continental Divide)  
Guadalupe road/bridge (Sandoval County)

- Continued revisions to the Road Transportation Plan.
- Continued updating surface management status maps.
- Initiated or continued monitoring compliance on the following right-of-way projects:

New Torreon road (Sandoval County Road 926)  
State Road 44/US 550 widening project  
Acoma Pueblo access road connecting to Alamo road  
Quarterly inspections on landfills  
Tower communication site near Grants  
La Jara community ditch  
PNM West Mesa to Person Station pipeline  
PNM Rio Puerco to Albuquerque transmission line  
Williams Energy San Ysidro pipeline  
GTE Rio Puerco to Albuquerque fiber optics line

- Completed a land use authorization lease to the Prewitt/Baca Navajo Chapter for approximately 10 acres to resolve an unauthorized occupancy.
- Initiated a land withdrawal for a U.S. Forest Service administrative site in Bernalillo County.
- Continued “show cause” order to Village of Milan to revert their R&PP patent to BLM.
- Continued to process Kirtland Air Force Base and BLM Memorandum of Understanding for helicopter/Osprey landing zones located on BLM lands.

### 2001 Planned Actions

- Initiate a land exchange with the NM State Land Office to acquire Wilderness Study Area inholdings and other State lands to consolidate land ownership in the AFO.
- Initiate a land exchange with the NM State Land Office to fulfill the terms of the Santo Domingo Settlement Act.
- Complete 2 purchase acquisitions in El Malpais NCA.
- Complete a transfer of jurisdiction and change of reservation of 2 parcels within FWDA to the BIA.
- Issue 3 land use authorization permits.
- Initiate and complete a color-of-title application near Cuba.
- Continue to process the following:
  - San Felipe/Santo Domingo Exchanges
  - Transfer of jurisdiction of FWDA to BIA for the benefit of the Navajo Nation and the Zuni Tribe
  - UNM Lodestar Observatory Park proposed R&PP lease application
  - Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District Administrative Site and outdoor education project proposed R&PP lease application
  - Bernalillo Public Schools R&PP lease
  - Cibola County Public Schools R&PP lease
  - Cibola County R&PP lease for park
  - Del Norte Gun Club R&PP patent
  - Torreon/Dunkard Brethern church site R&PP lease
  - Lindrith and Ojito cemetery R&PP lease
  - American Tower communication sites (La Ventana and Continental Divide)
- Complete a land withdrawal for a U.S. Forest Service administrative site in Bernalillo County.

- Complete a formal road closure in Sandoval County.
- Process 22 right-of-way cases.
- Complete Kirtland Air Force Base and BLM Memorandum of Understanding for helicopter/Osprey landing zones located on BLM lands.
- Continue revisions to Road Transportation Plan.
- Continue updating Surface Management Status maps.
- Initiate or continue to process the following major right-of-way cases:

Rio Arriba County road realignment and road closure near Lindrith  
 MAPCO pipeline (formerly Aspen pipeline)  
 Plains Electric transmission line north of Bernalillo  
 Guadalupe road/bridge (Sandoval County)

- Initiate or continue monitoring compliance on the following right-of-way projects:
  - New Torreon road (Sandoval County Road 926)
  - State Road 44/US 550 widening project
  - Acoma Pueblo access road connecting to Alamo road
  - Quarterly inspections on landfills
  - Tower communication site near Grants
  - La Jara community ditch
  - PNM West Mesa to Person Station pipeline
  - PNM Rio Puerco to Albuquerque transmission line
  - Williams Energy San Ysidro pipeline
  - GTE Rio Puerco to Albuquerque fiber optics line
  - American Tower communication sites (La Ventana and Continental Divide)
- Complete a “show cause” order to Village of Milan to revert their R&PP patent to BLM.

### Grants Field Station

**Program Notes.** On December 31, 1987, Congress passed Public Law (PL) 100-225 establishing El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA). As required by the law, a General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment was prepared and published by the BLM in 1991. The GMP/EA was appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) on the grounds that an RMP Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should have been prepared. In 1994, the IBLA decided in favor of the appellants, directing the BLM to prepare a land use plan with an EIS for the NCA. A draft plan amendment/EIS (PA/EIS) covering the NCA and acquired contiguous lands was issued for public review in 1999. The Proposed PA/Final EIS was issued in September, 2000. The PA/EIS proposes constructing addi-

tional recreation facilities, limiting recreation use at the Narrows, offering interpretative programs, amending the off-road vehicle area designations and applying designations to acquired lands, road closures, and limiting OHVs to designated routes. It also assigns visual resource management classes to recently acquired lands and amends existing classes, designates additional Back Country Byways, and considers wilderness suitability and management. Also included are allocation of cultural resources to public use, provision for scientific use of certain historic and cultural resources, facilitation of American Indian uses and traditional cultural practices, improving wildlife habitat, reestablishment of potential natural plant communities, and boundary and land tenure adjustments. We expect to issue a decision sometime in 2001 and begin implementing the plan.

### 2000 Accomplishments

- Completed Continental Divide Trail through the Chain of Craters.
- Fenced riparian area at Cebolla Canyon.
- Improved the Cebolla Canyon road.
- Initiated reconstruction of a short segment of trail providing access to La Ventana, one of New Mexico's largest natural arches, located within El Malpais NCA.
- Maintained wildlife waters, recreation trails, and other improvements in the NCA.
- Constructed workshop/storage shed at the Ranger Station.
- Began operation of Northwest New Mexico Visitors Center (NWNMVC) at Grants in cooperation with the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service.
- Staffed NWNMVC 40 hours a week.
- Continued to staff Ranger Station within the NCA 7 days a week.
- Continued to present scheduled interpretive programs at the NCA during the summer months.
- Continued inventory of petroglyphs within the NCA utilizing services of volunteers.
- Continued patrol and surveillance of designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.
- Continued to clean up campsites and trash dumping, mitigate vandalism, and maintain signs.

- Continued Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) monitoring program.

- Initiated repair of the trail at Casamero Ruin located northwest of El Malpais NCA.

- Stabilized Casamero Ruin through contract with the National Park Service.

### 2001 Planned Actions

**Program Notes.** In partnership with the National Park Service, we have prepared a Joint Fire Management Plan together with an environmental assessment for El Malpais National Conservation Area and El Malpais National Monument. Under the preferred alternative, three fire management zones would be identified for BLM and NPS lands: a fire suppression zone, a wildland fire use zone, and a fuels management zone. The goal of this plan is to, as much as possible, return fire to its natural role in the ecosystem. If the preferred alternative is adopted, BLM and NPS may utilize prescribed fire as well as non-fire treatments to reduce fuels hazards to more natural levels in El Malpais NCA and El Malpais National Monument. The Joint Fire Management Plan was issued for public comment in early February, 2001. We expect to issue a decision on the plan sometime in 2001.

- Begin implementation of GMP if a decision is issued in 2001. Among the first projects planned under the GMP are construction of a new campground near the Ranger Station, and conversion of the Narrows recreation site to a day use area with improved picnic facilities and a trailhead.

- Begin implementation of Joint Fire Management Plan if a decision is issued in 2001.

- Maintain and improve roads within the NCA, including the Cebolla Canyon road.

- Complete reconstruction of a short segment of trail providing access to La Ventana, one of New Mexico's largest natural arches, located within El Malpais NCA.

- Maintain wildlife waters, recreation trails, and other improvements in the NCA.

- Build nature trail behind the Ranger Station.

- Continue to staff NWNMVC 40 hours a week.

- Continue to staff Ranger Station 7 days a week.

- Continue to offer scheduled interpretive programs at the NCA during the summer months.

- Continue inventory of petroglyphs within the NCA utilizing services of volunteers.
- Continue patrol and surveillance of designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.
- Continue to clean up campsites and trash dumping, mitigate vandalism, and maintain signs.
- Continue LAC monitoring program.
- Complete repair of the trail at Casamero Ruin located northwest of El Malpais NCA.

## **Volunteer Program**

### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Tent Rocks was selected as a National Public Lands Day site. Volunteers for the Outdoors, a group from Brush Ranch School in Terrero, and individual volunteers helped reconstruct portions of the Tent Rocks National Recreation Trail. About 35 volunteers participated
- Volunteers completed 5 miles of route selection and trail marking for the Upper Rio Puerco segment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST). The route was marked with cairns, signs, and posts. The majority of this work was completed during National Public Lands Day by members of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance, Volunteers for the Outdoors, Back Country Horsemen, New Mexico Mountain Club, and the Boy Scouts.
- 2 volunteers regularly patrolled wilderness study areas.
- About a dozen members of the public volunteered on a regular basis for the Cultural Resource Program. This group monitored site condition, patrolled high site density areas, and helped identify new sites.
- A retired Federal employee volunteered 1 day a week for the Minerals Program.
- 230 volunteers donated about 9,000 hours, representing approximately \$100,000 in donated labor.

### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Continue working with the dedicated group of volunteers willing to donate their time and expertise to the AFO mission.
- Nominate Bluewater Canyon ACEC as a National Public Lands Day site. Volunteers will be recruited to join BLM on September 29, 2001 to participate in riparian improvement projects, fence repair, and general

clean up.

- Formalize agreement with Back Country Horsemen to begin patrols of wilderness study areas.
- Continue to work with the Continental Divide Trail Alliance to select and mark the route of the Upper Rio Puerco segment of the CDNST.
- 2 volunteers continue to patrol wilderness study areas weekly.
- About a dozen members of the public continue to volunteer on a regular basis for the Cultural Resource Program. This group monitors site condition, patrols high site density areas, and helps identify new sites.

- A retired Federal employee continues to volunteer 1 day a week for the Minerals Program.

## **Interpretation and Environmental Education**

### **2000 Accomplishments**

- Continued exhibit design for Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center at Grants in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS).
- Initiated design and fabrication of a traveling public outreach exhibit to be on display at public events such as conferences and school career fairs.
- Developed web site featuring El Malpais NCA. The web site is linked to the Grants/Cibola County Chamber of Commerce, National Park Service, and Public Lands Information Center web sites.
- Presented scheduled interpretive programs at El Malpais NCA during the summer months.
- Presented environmental education programs on-site at Tent Rocks ACEC and El Malpais NCA and in classrooms throughout AFO.
- Conducted teacher workshops utilizing the Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, and Project WET national natural resource educational materials.

- Continued to participate in the "Leave No Trace" and "Tread Lightly" outdoor ethics programs.

### **2001 Planned Actions**

- Install exhibits at Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center at Grants in cooperation with NPS.
- Complete traveling public outreach exhibit to be on



display at public events such as conferences and school career fairs.

- Prepare and distribute educational materials on Fire, Invasive Weeds, and Watershed.

-Offer interpretive programs at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument.

- Continue to offer scheduled interpretive programs at El Malpais NCA during the summer months.

- Continue to present environmental education programs on-site at Kasha Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument and El Malpais NCA and in classrooms throughout AFO.

- Conduct teacher workshops utilizing the Project Archeology, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, and Project WET national natural resource educational materials.

- Continue to participate in the “Leave No Trace” and “Tread Lightly” outdoor ethics programs.

## **Fire Management**

**Program Notes.** The objective of the Fire Management Program in the AFO is to protect and enhance the resources of the public lands. The two aspects of this program are fire suppression and fuels management. We work under a district-wide fire management plan which divides the AFO into eight fire management units and identifies suppression strategies and constraints for each zone.

AFO maintains an active program to restore ecosystem health and reduce hazardous fuels through prescribed fire and mechanical treatment. We expect this program to expand over the next five years. EAs are prepared for individual proposed prescribed fires and mechanical treatments; however, programmatic EAs have been prepared for prescribed fire in two areas—El Malpais NCA and the North Sagebrush Unit.

In 2000, the AFO supported the national wildfire suppression effort by supplying 2 engines and over 15 personnel to 5 different states.

A new aspect of the Fire Management Program for 2001 is the Federal Wildland-Urban Interface Initiative. As part of this program, AFO expects to begin working

with rural fire departments assisting them with equip-

ment needs and fuels reduction projects.

## **2000 Accomplishments**

- Completed 3 ecosystem health/fuels reduction projects on 740 acres:

- Brandy sagebrush prescribed fire
- Wilson sagebrush prescribed fire
- Naranjo hazardous fuels mechanical thinning

## **2001 Planned Actions**

- Perform 7 prescribed burns with the objective of restoring ecosystem health:

- Bluewater Canyon ACEC
- Medio
- South Divide #1
- South Divide #2
- South Divide #3
- Azabache Well
- El Malpais

- Perform 2 prescribed burns with the objective of restoring reducing hazardous fuels:

- Naranjo (near La Jara)
- Sand Canyon (El Malpais NCA)

## **Law Enforcement**

**Program Notes.** The Albuquerque Field Office maintains an active Law Enforcement Program. This program has two areas of emphasis: first, protection of public land users, employees, natural resources, and property, and second, investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of persons committing criminal violations against the laws of the United States. The law enforcement rangers provide field support to many of the programs for which the AFO has responsibility, provide technical support for civil and administrative processes for recovery of damages and restitution, and coordinate with allied State and Federal agencies with responsibilities on the public lands. They perform extensive field patrols, including weekend patrols, of the public lands to deter criminal activity. Every year, they investigate all reports of violations, including illegal fuelwood removal, household garbage dumping, and illegal grazing. A major focus of the AFO program is investigation of violations of the Archeological Resources Protection Act.

## APPENDIX 1

### Albuquerque Field Office Environmental Assessments Fiscal Year 2000

Number	Name	Program	Status	Date
NM-010-00-01	APD-Eagle Springs 8 #1-Penwell Energy	Minerals	Approved	11/29/99
NM-010-00-02	Torres Livestock Pens	Range	Approved	11/23/99
NM-010-00-03	Kinaird Arroyo Sage Shaving Treatment	Range	Approved	12/09/99
NM-010-00-04	January Oil and Gas Lease Sale	Minerals	Approved	11/03/99
NM-010-00-05	R/W-Cougar Com 33#1 Pipeline-El Paso Natural Gas	Lands	Approved	12/23/99
NM-010-00-06	R/W-Penistaja 23 #1 Pipeline/Powerline-Penwell Energy	Lands	Approved	06/23/00
NM-010-00-07	Chijuilla Christmas Tree Harvest Area	Forestry	Approved	12/09/99
NM-010-00-08	Shroyer Piñon Wilding Harvest Area	Forestry	Pending	
NM-010-00-09	Chijuilla Fuelwood Harvest Area	Forestry	Pending	
NM-010-00-10	Daniel Gonzales Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-11	Lost Valley Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-12	Mineral Material Test Trenches-FNF Exploration	Minerals	Approved	11/17/99
NM-010-00-13X	Mineral Mat Sale-Torreon Reddog Pit-Bar J Trucking	Minerals	Approved	08/11/00
NM-010-00-14	R/W-Fiber Optic Regeneration Sites-Pathnet	Lands	Approved	03/22/00
NM-010-00-15	APDs-Energen (Jicarilla)	Minerals	Approved	11/30/99
NM-010-00-16X	R/W-Faucet Pump Station-Cabazon Water Pipeline Association	Lands	Approved	04/28/00
NM-010-00-17	APDs-Energen (Jicarilla)	Minerals	Approved	01/20/00
NM-010-00-18	APD-Elk Com 10 #1A-McElvain	Minerals	Approved	02/02/00
NM-010-00-19	APD-Elm Ridge Resources (Jicarilla)	Minerals	Approved	01/20/00
NM-010-00-20	Roundy Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-21	T.A. Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-22	APDs-Mallon (Jicarilla)	Minerals	Approved	01/20/00
NM-010-00-23	SRP-Commercial Day Hiking-Hikah	Recreation	Approved	03/15/00

Number	Name	Program	Status	Date
NM-010-00-24DNA	SRP-Oh My God 100 Motorcycle Race-SW Off-Road Enterprises	Recreation	Approved	03/15/00
NM-010-00-25	El Banquito/Azabache Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-26	APDs-Energen (Jicarilla)	Minerals	Approved	02/08/00
NM-010-00-27	Techado Mesa Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Approved	05/01/00
NM-010-00-28	VOID			
NM-010-00-29	APDs & R/Ws-McElvain	Minerals/ Lands	Approved	03/14/00
NM-010-00-30	LUA for Explosives Testing-TPL	Lands	Approved	03/02/00
NM-010-00-31	R/W-La Jara Ditch/Road-La Jara Ditch Association	Lands	Pending	
NM-010-00-32	APDs-Mallon (Jicarilla)	Minerals	Approved	03/06/00
NM-010-00-33X	San Ysidro Trials Area Arroyo Stabilization.	Recreation	Approved	03/07/00
NM-010-00-34	R/W-West Mesa to Person Station Pipeline-PNM	Lands	Approved	08/07/00
NM-010-00-35	R/W-Powerline to Fiber Optic Regeneration Station-Jemez Mountains Electric Coop	Lands	Approved	04/20/00
NM-010-00-36	Mineral Mat Sale-Marian Butte Borrow Pit-Sundt	Minerals	Approved	04/27/00
NM-010-00-37X	Mineral Mat Sale-Humates-Uranium King	Minerals	Cancelled	
NM-010-00-38X	Mineral Mat Sale-FNF	Minerals	Cancelled	
NM-010-00-39	SRP-Commercial Guiding-Non-Typical Outfitters	Recreation	Approved	05/16/00
NM-010-00-40	R/W-New Torreon Road-Sandoval County	Lands	Approved	10/18/00
NM-010-00-41	R/W-Relocate Powerline at New Rio Puerco Bridge-PNM	Lands	Approved	04/28/00
NM-010-00-42	Schalk 41 #1B & #2B APDs-Schalk Development	Minerals	Approved	05/02/00
NM-010-00-43	July Oil & Gas Lease Sale	Minerals	Approved	04/26/00
NM-010-00-44	Cañada del Ojo Pasture Fence 1	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-45X	LUA-Microborehole Drilling-Los Alamos National Labs	Lands	Approved	07/31/00
NM-010-00-46	Mineral Mat Sale-Cañada Ancha Gravel Pit-Bobby Garcia Trucking (Taos Field Office)	Minerals	Approved	05/19/00
NM-010-00-47	Gallina Riparian Dumpsites Restoration	Riparian	Approved	07/07/00

Number	Name	Program	Status	Date
NM-010-00-48	Eagle Springs 8 #2M APD-Penwell Energy	Minerals	Approved	06/13/00
NM-010-00-49	Programmatic EA-Commercial Outfitter Hunting	Recreation	Approved	08/07/00
NM-010-00-50	Ilfeld Community Reservoir Maintenance	Range	Approved	06/27/00
NM-010-00-51	APDs-2000 Drilling Program-Conoco (Jicarilla)	Minerals	Approved	06/08/00
NM-010-00-52	Cañada Candelaria Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-53	Wilson Canyon Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-54	Forty-Four Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-55	Cerros Colorados & Cachulie Allotments Grazing Permit Renewals	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-56	Coal Creek Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-57	FUP-Borrow Material-Sandoval County	Minerals	Approved	10/02/00
NM-010-00-58	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail-El Malpais NCA & Upper Rio Puerco Segments	Recreation	Pending	
NM-010-00-59	Rio Salado Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-60	SRP-OHV Rock Crawling Area-NM 4-Wheelers	Recreation	Pending	
NM-010-00-61	Cuba Airstrip Fence	Wildlife	Pending	
NM-010-00-62	R/W-Access Road-Barbara Lasatar	Lands	Pending	
NM-010-00-63	R/W-San Ysidro Gas Pipeline-Williams Energy	Lands	Approved	12/11/00
NM-010-00-64	October Oil & Gas Lease Sale	Minerals	Approved	08/10/00
NM-010-00-65	R/W-Access Road-Leo Ramirez	Lands	Approved	11/07/00
NM-010-00-66	San Luis Community Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-67X	FUP-S&G Near Torreon-Torreon Chapter	Minerals	Approved	09/07/00
NM-010-00-68	Bluewater Canyon Prescribed Fire	Forestry	Approved	11/01/00
NM-010-00-69	APD-Bear Com 28 #1-McElvain	Minerals	Approved	09/28/00
NM-010-00-70	My Buddy Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-71	San Mateo Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-72	Four Daughters Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	

Number	Name	Program	Status	Date
NM-010-00-73	L.R. Nix Lease Allotment Grazing Lease Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-74	Rito de los Piños Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-75	Reynolds Draw Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-76	Stevens Lease Allotment Grazing Lease Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-77	Lomos Altos Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-78	McCauley Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-79	Dye Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-80	Schmitz Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-81	R/W-Access Road-Yolanda Darrington	Lands	Pending	
NM-010-00-82	VOID			
NM-010-00-83	R/W-Access Road-Cecil Carnes	Lands	Approved	09/20/00
NM-010-00-84	R/W-Badger Com 10 #1 Well-Tie Pipeline-El Paso Field Services	Lands	Approved	12/12/00
NM-010-00-85	Techado Mesa Reforestation	Forestry	Pending	
NM-010-00-86	Chijuilla Deadwood Fuelwood Salvage	Forestry	Cancelled	
NM-010-00-87	Programmatic EA-North Sagebrush Unit Prescribed Fire	Range	Pending	
NM-010-00-88	Middle San Luis Mesa Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal	Range	Pending	

**APPENDIX 1 (Continued)**

**Albuquerque Field Office Environmental Assessments  
Fiscal Year 2001**

Number	Name	Program	Status	Date
NM-010-01-01	VOID			
NM-010-01-02	January Oil and Gas Lease Sale	Minerals	Approved	10/20/00
NM-010-01-03	SRP-Oh My God 100 Motorcycle Race-SW Off-Road Enterprises	Recreation	Pending	
NM-010-01-04	Mineral Mat Sale-US 550 Borrow Pit-FHWA	Minerals	Approved	12/15/00
NM-010-01-05	Sagebrush Shaving	Watershed	Pending	
NM-010-01-06	MOU-Helicopter/Osprey Landing Zones-KAFB	Lands	Pending	
NM-010-01-07	R/W-La Ventana Communication Site-American Tower	Lands	Pending	
NM-010-01-08	West Placitas Access Road to BLM Lands	Recreation	Pending	
NM-010-01-09	R/W-Rectifier Site Near San Ysidro-PNM	Lands	Pending	
NM-010-01-10	Naranjo Prescribed Fire	Forestry	Approved	01/30/01
NM-010-01-11	R/W-Access Road-Ralph Silva	Lands	Pending	
NM-010-01-12X	Mineral Mat Sale-Black Cinder Pit-Colorado Lava (Taos Field Office)	Minerals	Pending	
NM-010-01-13	Rincon Grande/Bear Mouth Prescribed Fire	Range	Pending	
NM-010-01-14	Coal Creek Prescribed Fire	Range	Pending	
NM-010-01-15	April Oil and Gas Lease Sale	Minerals	Approved	02/02/01
NM-010-01-16	El Malpais Joint Fire Management Plan	Fire	Pending	
NM-010-01-17	Corrales Tierra Pipeline and Trough	Range	Pending	
NM-010-01-18X	Placitas Community Allotment Fence Maintenance	Range	Pending	
NM-010-01-19	Chijuilla Gabion Silt Dams	Wildlife	Pending	

Abbreviations: APD - Application for Permit to Drill; DNA - Determination of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy; FUP - Free-Use Permit; LUA - Land Use Authorization; R/W - Right-of-Way; S&G - Sand and Gravel; SRP - Special Recreation Permit; X - Categorical Exclusion