



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Taos Field Office  
226 Cruz Alta Road  
Taos, New Mexico 87571  
[www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov)

Dear Reader:

The attached draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)/Decision Record address a proposal by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to lease a portion of land in western Santa Fe County to the Museum of New Mexico (MNM), which proposes to construct a Center for New Mexico Archaeology (CNMA). If approved, the BLM will issue a lease to the MNM for a period of five years. The EA had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The MNM has filed an application with BLM under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, as amended (R&PP Act) (43 USC 869 et seq.). The R&PP Act authorizes the lease of land for recreational or public purposes to state and local governments. As a subdivision of the government of the State of New Mexico, the MNM qualifies to lease the land.

The land under consideration comprises Lots 6 (6.06 acres) and 19 (20.75 acres), Township 17 North, Range 8 East, in Santa Fe County, New Mexico for a total of approximately 26.81 acres. The two lots will be incorporated into one lot. The eastern boundary of Lot 19 is currently being re-surveyed, and this will ultimately decrease the overall acreage of the new lot.

During the first public comment period, from April 28 to May 30, 2006, letters inviting comment were mailed to individuals and 19 groups located in close proximity to the proposed lease property. No responses were received within the 30-day comment period except written comments from the Santa Fe County Planning and Land Use Department.

The EA is posted on the internet website of the BLM at <http://www.nm.blm.gov>. Readers should look for the "EA for the Proposed Center for New Mexico Archaeology R&PP Lease". Hard copies of the document will be available for viewing at the BLM State Office, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe. The comment period will extend for 30 days from December 21, 2006.

Comments from the public on the EA should be addressed to:

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