NEW MEXICO

FISH AND WILDLIFE 2000:

A Plan for the Future

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
New Mexico State Office
Santa Fe, New Mexico

APPROVED:

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Date

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Preface

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for the balanced management of the public lands and resources and their various values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield, a combination of uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, forest, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and natural, scenic, scientific, educational, and cultural values.

The actions described in Wildlife 2000 are integral to the BLM's overall multiple-use program for management of the fish and wildlife resources on the public lands within New Mexico through the year 2000.

This report incorporates the input of over 50 individuals and organizations and is organized into four parts: Section I describes the purpose of the report; Section II addresses the past and present base program accomplishments; Section III addresses future program direction in terms of goals and objectives; and Section IV provides a year-by-year breakdown of activities for manpower and budget planning and a conclusion. This plan is designed to ensure that anticipated funds and workforce are channelled into actions and projects that will produce the most desirable results for the wildlife resource by the most efficient means.

This report also provides an action plan not only for the implementation of the broader goals and objectives of the Wildlife Program but also for the issues raised as a result of the Statewide BLM Wildlife Program Evaluation Scoping. Program concerns and issues were addressed in the Scoping Report. With concurrence of the State Director, a full program evaluation was foregone and recommendations were covered in an action plan. Many of these recommendations are implemented through the Wildlife 2000 initiatives.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The basic purpose of the Wildlife Program is to manage the public lands in a manner providing suitable habitat for fish, wildlife, and special status plants. The primary means for accomplishing this management are through input into resource management planning, subsequent activity plans, and implementation of subsequent land use planning decisions for wildlife management, protection, and improvement; coordination on day-to-day land management decisions on the ground; and through implementation of habitat management and improvement projects.

The Wildlife Program within New Mexico has great potential for improving wildlife habitat. The major limiting factors include scattered land ownership, balancing and mitigating conflicting land uses, restrictive funding and staffing levels, and the establishment of program priorities. Base-level funding has been relatively constant over the past few years. Statewide Resource Management Plans (RMP's) will be completed by 1993, and BLM presently has 26 wildlife activity plans in New Mexico with varying levels of implementation. New Mexico BLM has completed all rangeland Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's) and are in some phase of monitoring much of the public lands in New Mexico. Wildlife funding associated with RMP development and inventory can be channeled in future years to activity planning and associated wildlife habitat enhancement; however, monitoring commitments may be long-term. There is a real opportunity for redirection of dollars and priorities towards the year 2000.

Public lands administered by the BLM New Mexico State Office (NMSO) include both surface and Federal mineral estate in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas (Map 1). The lack of surface estate jurisdictions in Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas greatly limits wildlife management opportunities in these areas.

	New Mexico	Oklahoma	Texas	Kansas	Total
Surface Acres	12,889,553	5,279	0	1,000	12,895,840
Federal Mineral Estate Acres	41,151,000	2,350,000	3,526,000	588,000	47,615,000
Big Game Habitat (acres)	10,533,000	2,000	0	0	10,532,000
Small game Habitat (acres)	12,542,000	2,000	0	0	12,544,000
Stream Miles	176	-	0	0	176
Reservoirs/Lakes (acres)	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Wetland (acres)	7,000	700	0	0	7,700

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By virtue of its geographic location, size, and topographic relief, New Mexico is host to one of the most diverse native faunas in the United States.

Elevations range from around 2,800 feet in the lowermost Pecos River Valley to 13,161 feet on Wheeler Peak in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The major biotic regions that occur within New Mexico are the Southern Rocky Mountains, the Southern Great Plains, the Great Basin, the Chihuahuan Desert, and the Sierra Madrean Uplands.

Most of New Mexico's State-endangered desert bighorn sheep reside on public lands. A significant portion of one of New Mexico's number one industries (recreation) is produced in conjunction with wildlife hunting or observation activities.

In terms of the diversity of native vertebrates, the most numerous group in New Mexico is that of birds. All told, 479 species have been verified in New Mexico in the last 150 years. Next are the native mammals, of which 147 species are reliably recorded in New Mexico. Following mammals are reptiles (91 species), fish (69 species), and amphibians (25 species). There are thousands of species of invertebrates, including hundreds of mollusks and crustaceans.

Of the declining or vulnerable animal species in New Mexico, 108 are listed as endangered by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDG&F). Of these, 17 are also listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The State list is comprised of 14 species of mammals, 30 birds, 16 reptiles, five amphibians, 23 fish, one crustacean, and 19 mollusks. The Federal list contains two mammals, five birds, one reptile, seven fishes, and one crustacean.

Raptors as a group are of high public interest. New Mexico and Oklahoma identified 12 key raptor habitat areas through the BLM's raptor information system in 1987. As a whole, New Mexico is comparable to other BLM states in regard to numbers, density, and diversity of raptor species and habitat.

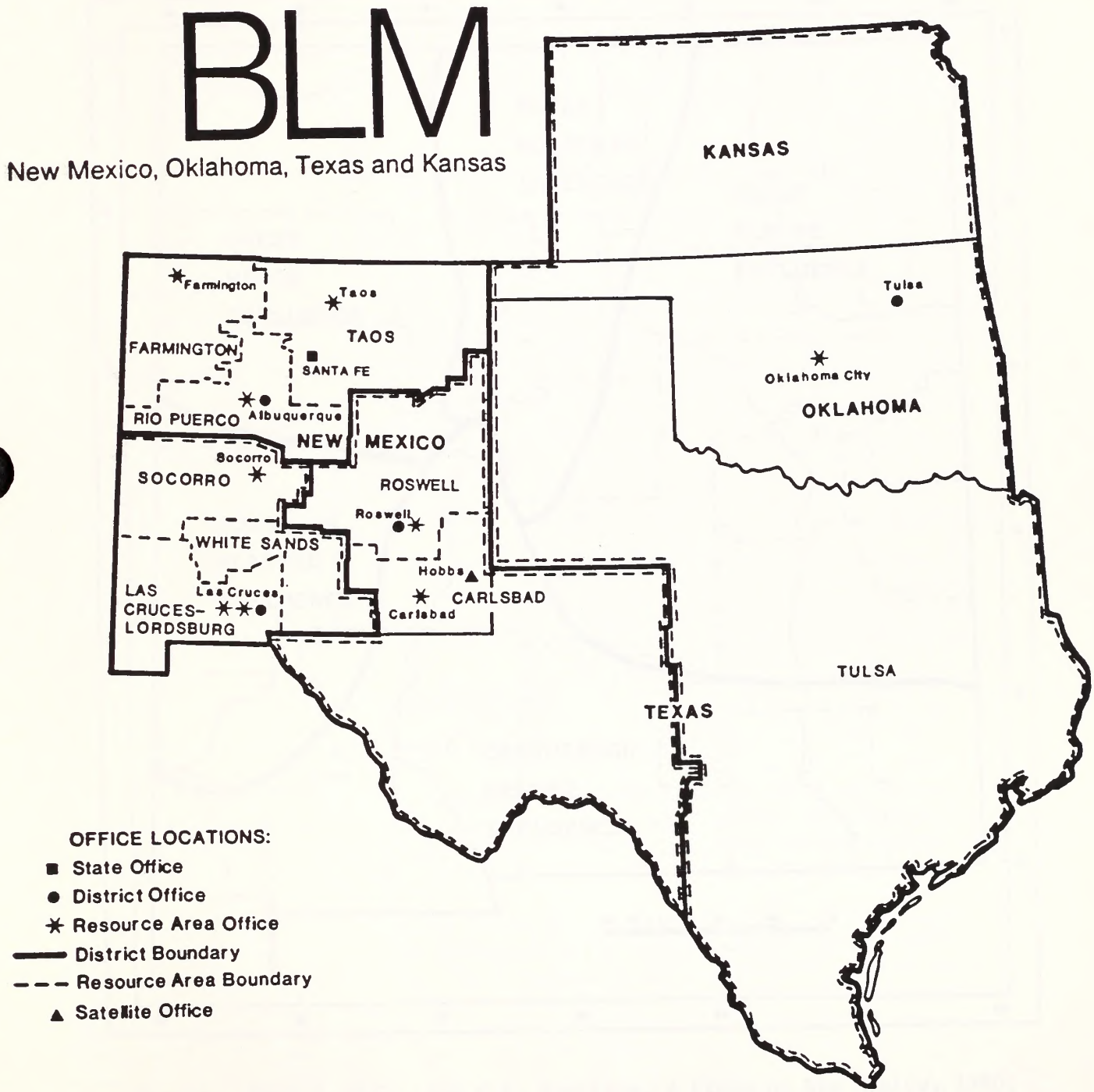
Historically, little attention has been paid to nongame species, the largest component of the wildlife resource. (The exception being when species become State or Federally listed as "in danger of extinction.") Game species are those so designated under State legislative authority, usually for the purpose of sport hunting, fishing, or trapping. However, the importance of nongame species has received increasing public and agency recognition and support both through financial support of programs such as New Mexico's Share with Wildlife Program (income tax check-off) and through public input.

Approximately 3,700 species and subspecies of plants, representing 132 families and 941 genera, have been described in New Mexico. Wide variation in temperature, amount and seasonality of precipitation, diverse topographic and edaphic influences, and the modifying effects of five major floristic regions (Map 2) produce a complex native flora. The effects of long-term human habitation and the introduction of non-native species, many of which have

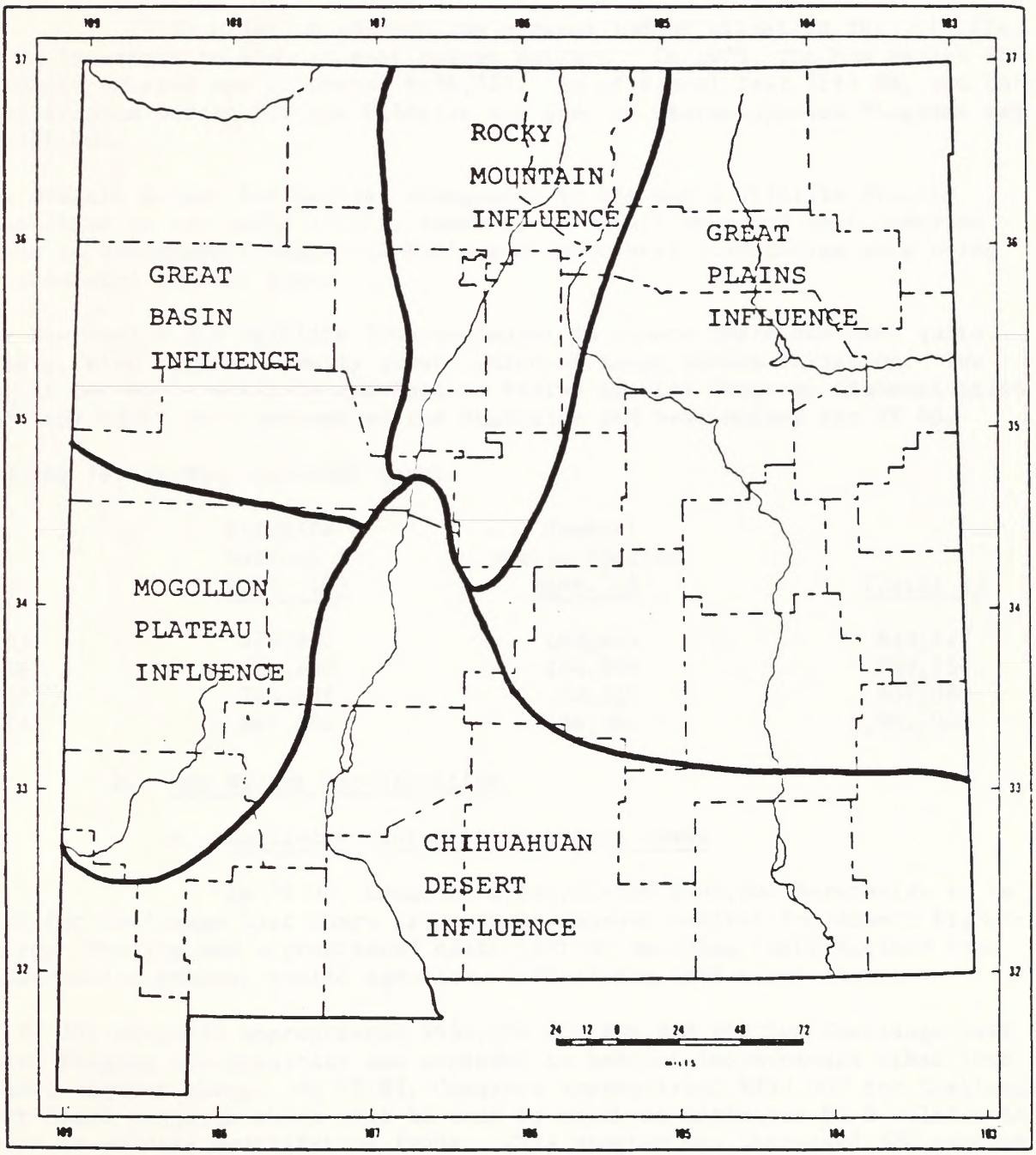
become naturalized, have significantly affected the native flora and combined with the other influences to create New Mexico's present day floristic character.

Thirteen species or subspecies of plants listed by the USFWS as threatened or endangered occur in New Mexico, of which all but two are known to exist on public lands. The State of New Mexico passed a law in 1985 which protects 65 species of plants that are considered to be endangered within the State. BLM lands provide habitat for a majority of these species as well.

MAP 1
PUBLIC LANDS ADMINISTERED BY THE BLM NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE



MAP 2
APPROXIMATE BOUNDARIES OF
MAJOR FLORISTIC INFLUENCES ON NEW MEXICO VEGETATION



Source: Martin, W.C., and C.R. Hutchins, A Flora of New Mexico, 1980, J. Cramer, Germany.

II. PRESENT WILDLIFE PROGRAM

A. Budget and Staffing

1. Base Program Budget

In order to address the present budget situation for wildlife, it is important to look at past budget dollars. In 1978, the New Mexico BLM Wildlife Program was allocated $236,350. As of Fiscal Year (FY) 88, the total base program budget for the Wildlife and Special Status Species Programs was $1,051,000.

The overall budget for habitat management in the BLM's Wildlife Program stabilized in the early 1980's; however, it should be noted that numerous hires to accommodate rangeland EIS's and associated inventories were being accommodated at that time.

The New Mexico BLM Wildlife Program budget in recent years has been quite stable, with moderate yearly growth which at least covers inflation. The budget for BLM's Wildlife and Special Status Species Programs (Subactivities 4351 and 4352) is 4 percent of the Statewide BLM base budget for FY 88.

Funding levels for 1985-1988 were:

FY's	Wildlife Habitat Mgmt. ($)	Special Status Species Mgmt. ($)	(Total $)
1985	675,832	163,895	839,727
1986	714,760	174,994	889,754
1987	723,471	183,615	907,086
1988	867,000	184,000	1,051,000

2. New Budget Opportunities

a. Challenge Cost Share/Matching Funds

In FY 85, Congress appropriated $300,000 Bureauwide to be used for Challenge Cost Share projects to improve habitat for desert bighorn sheep. Funding was appropriated contingent on matching contributions from conservation groups, public agencies, individuals, and other sources.

In FY 86, Congress appropriated $450,000 for the BLM for the Challenge Cost Share Program and authority was expanded to habitat improvements other than desert bighorn sheep. By FY 88, Congress appropriated $900,000 for Challenge Cost Share projects which will be used to match an estimated $1.5 million in State or private contribution funds. This program has increased 300 percent since its inception in 1985 and has provided a vital boost to BLM's efforts to provide on-the-ground projects. Indications are that if Congress could have provided BLM $1,800,000 in FY 88, it could have been matched by $3,000,000 in

funds from the public/private sector. Apparently, the potential for future Challenge Cost Share initiatives is only limited by Congress' allocation to the BLM in any given year.

For New Mexico, in FY 85, a Challenge Cost Share allocation of $13,500 was provided for desert bighorn sheep water development. The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep provided $5,000 in contributed funds to bring BLM New Mexico's Challenge Cost Share/Matching Fund expenditures to $18,500.

In FY 86, $26,000 was received in Challenge Cost Share dollars and $19,000 was provided in contributed labor and dollars, for a total of $45,000 in support of desert bighorn sheep habitat improvement.

In FY 87, Challenge Cost Share funding was not available; however, through volunteer projects, BLM New Mexico expended $8,000 and received $74,000 in wildlife project volunteer labor value. The role of volunteers is assuming increasing importance in public lands management.

During FY 88, BLM New Mexico identified 10 projects for wildlife habitat management and programmed $31,000 for Challenge Cost Share project funding with anticipated contributed funds of $32,000. This provided a combined Challenge Cost Share/Matching Fund contribution of $63,000 for wildlife habitat improvements. An estimated additional $74,000 value of volunteer labor would bring the total Challenge Cost Share/Matching Fund/Volunteer contribution to $137,000.

b. Sikes Act (PL 93-452)

In 1987, the BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the NMDG&F initiated a 3-year trial program to evaluate the use of Sikes Act habitat stamp sales for hunting, fishing, and trapping on public lands in and surrounding the Guadalupe Mountains in Southeast New Mexico and the Jicarilla Division of the Carson National Forest in Northwest New Mexico. This relative small sampling of the State produced $110,000 in revenue for wildlife projects on lands administered by the USFS and BLM. In FY 88, approximately $30,000 will be expended on BLM lands in New Mexico for wildlife waters and prescribed burns. This pilot program is the first in the nation and is being closely monitored by other states for possible implementation.

c. Public Rangeland Improvement Program (8100) Funds

In FY 86, the BLM New Mexico State Director established a policy of expending 25 percent of the Rangeland Improvement Program budget on work benefitting wildlife. This additional funding emphasis for wildlife habitat improvement in New Mexico is significant.

To date, much of the Rangeland Improvement Program wildlife management expenditures are tied to grazing-related projects. In FY 87, $345,000, or 21 percent, of the New Mexico Rangeland Improvement Program budget was expended for wildlife-related projects. Properly developed, the Rangeland

Improvement Program wildlife expenditures could amount to $375,000 per year Statewide. Increases would be directly tied to increases in grazing fees (8 percent in March 1988).

d. Gift Catalog

As part of another State Director initiative for FY 88, BLM New Mexico will publish a Gift Catalog for public land projects. The Gift Catalog concept identifies specific projects to which interested public can contribute. Each gift must be for resource development and is tied to land use planning (e.g., wildlife project development, recreation development, posting of signs, etc.). Wildlife-related projects comprise a significant portion of this catalog, and major benefits to the New Mexico Wildlife Program are anticipated.

e. Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Program in BLM New Mexico is growing rapidly. Numerous volunteer hours are involved in Challenge Cost Share/Matching Fund projects, Sikes Act initiatives, and BLM-initiated activity plans. Total BLM volunteer work in all New Mexico resource programs was valued at almost $300,000 for FY 87. Numerous projects dealt both directly and indirectly with the Wildlife Program. Professional wildlife input is critical to planning and developing the volunteer resource. Opportunities in the Wildlife Program for volunteer initiatives are only limited by BLM's ability to plan, supervise, and implement work.

f. Adopt-a-Project

Opportunities exist for donations in funding or volunteer work on a number of special projects to carry forward the New Mexico Wildlife Program. Individuals or associations could take on maintenance of wildlife projects under an Adopt-a-Project Program similar to what communities are doing with median maintenance. Examples include the Chavez County Wildlife Federation and Carlsbad Sportsman's Club who are maintaining wildlife "guzzlers" put in by NMDG&F in the 1950's for quail and nongame animals.

TABLE 1
WILDLIFE AND SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES
FUNDING PROJECTIONS

Years 1978-2000	Base Funding	Challenge Cost Share/ Contributions	Range Improvement/ 8100 Funds	Sikes Act Stamp	Total Funding
1978	236,000	0	0	0	236,350
1985	889,727	18,500	0	0	908,227
1986	889,754	45,000	0	0	934,754
1987	907,086	82,000	345,000	0	1,334,086
1988	1,051,000	137,000	375,000	30,000	1,593,000
2000	1,345,000	400,000	405,000	350,000	2,500,000

3. Program Staffing

BLM Wildlife Program staff includes Permanent Full-Time (PFT) Wildlife Management Biologists, Botanists, and Wildlife and Botany Technicians (either cooperative-education, temporary, or PFT). There has been a trend toward an increase in PFT professionals and technicians. In 1979, New Mexico had seven Wildlife Biologists in District Offices (DO's) and Resource Areas (RA's) and one NMSO Wildlife Biologist. By 1987, there were 14 Wildlife Biologists, and in 1988, one NMSO Botanist was hired. In 1985, four Technicians were hired for Wildlife and Special Status Species Program work.

With the rapid growth in various funding potentials in the Wildlife Program, staffing needs to be carefully evaluated through workload analyses to realize the most value received for dollars expended. Significant support staffing costs for engineering, cultural clearances, etc., are anticipated as wildlife project opportunities increase.

B. Wildlife-Related Land Use Planning

1. Land Use Planning Decisions

RMP's are used to develop general long-term management objectives for large geographic areas of public lands. Such plans provide an opportunity to compare wildlife values and needs with other potential and existing resource values and land uses. The RMP establishes the framework for making specific land use decisions and carrying out management decisions. The RMP provides an excellent opportunity to organize wildlife information, analyze the significance of BLM lands in managing fish and wildlife resources, and provide wildlife habitat objectives for public land management prescriptions.

BLM New Mexico's first land use plan was generated in Las Cruces, New Mexico, in the late 1960's as a Unit Resource Analysis/Management Framework Plan (URA/MFP). Other RA's followed suit until the first RMP was completed in the Rio Puerco RA during FY 85. Each New Mexico RA is pursuing completion of their planning efforts, with final RMP's scheduled for completion in FY 93. As of FY 88, 80 percent of the public lands in New Mexico have been covered by RMP's.

Wildlife management as a result of land use decisions made through the RMP process varies between RA's, but certain specific decisions are common throughout New Mexico (i.e., development of wildlife water improvements). The following list describes Statewide wildlife planning in a very general manner. (Specific decisions can be found within applicable District or RA planning documents; also refer to Appendix A of this document.)

Land Use Planning Decision Categories for Wildlife

- Development of Wildlife Improvements (fences, exclosures, waters, etc.)
- Protection of Wildlife or Special Status Species (stipulations, buffers, restrictions, etc.)

- Enhancement of Wildlife or Special Status Species Habitat
- Acquisition of Lands for Development or Enhancement of Wildlife or Special Status Species Habitat
- Easement Acquisition for Development or Protection of Wildlife and Special Status Species Resources
- Establishment of Studies to Determine Wildlife Program Strategy
- Internal Coordination for Development and Enhancement of Wildlife and Special Status Species Resources
- External Coordination for Development and Enhancement of Wildlife and Special Status Species Resources

2. Fish and Wildlife Activity Plans

The primary vehicles used to implement land use planning decisions for the Wildlife Program are area-specific Habitat Management Plans (HMP's), Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMP's), Special Management Area (SMA) plans, and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) plans. These plans provide a blueprint for on-the-ground habitat management and improvements and are the basis for monitoring multiple-use decisions and objectives affecting fish and wildlife habitat management identified in overall land use plans. Through the Sikes Act, there has been a strong commitment by BLM to carry out this cooperative effort as partners with the NMDG&F and the USFS.

The Socorro RA Red Hill HMP was completed in 1969, marking New Mexico's first wildlife planning effort. Since then, the Albuquerque District Office (ADO) has implemented eight plans, covering 1.54 million acres; the Las Cruces DO (LCDO) has implemented 14 plans, covering 1.74 million acres; and the Roswell DO (RDO) has implemented four plans, covering .92 million acres (Tables 2 and 3). Projected numbers of wildlife plans (HMP's, CRMP's, ACEC's, etc.) for New Mexico are generated from land use plans. These include three plans for the ADO, totalling .50 million acres; 19 plans for the LCDO, totalling 2 million acres; six plans for the RDO, totalling 2.19 million acres; and one plan for Tulsa DO (TDO), totalling 2 thousand acres (Tables 2 and 3).

Past BLM wildlife planning has focused on game species habitat based on Bureau guidance. Of 26 wildlife activity plans to date, 17 were for game species, five for nongame, and four on riparian habitat management. For the period 1989-2000, more emphasis will be placed on nongame (three), special status species (four), and riparian (six). Of a total of 29 wildlife activity plans, 16 will emphasize game species. In addition, CRMP's and riparian demonstration projects will increase in importance. Range Allotment Management Plans (AMP's) will be revised to emphasize riparian management. To date, 4.2 million acres of public lands are under wildlife activity plans. By the year 2000, this will increase to 8.9 million acres. (Appendix B lists current wildlife activity plans.)

MAP 3
BLM NEW MEXICO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

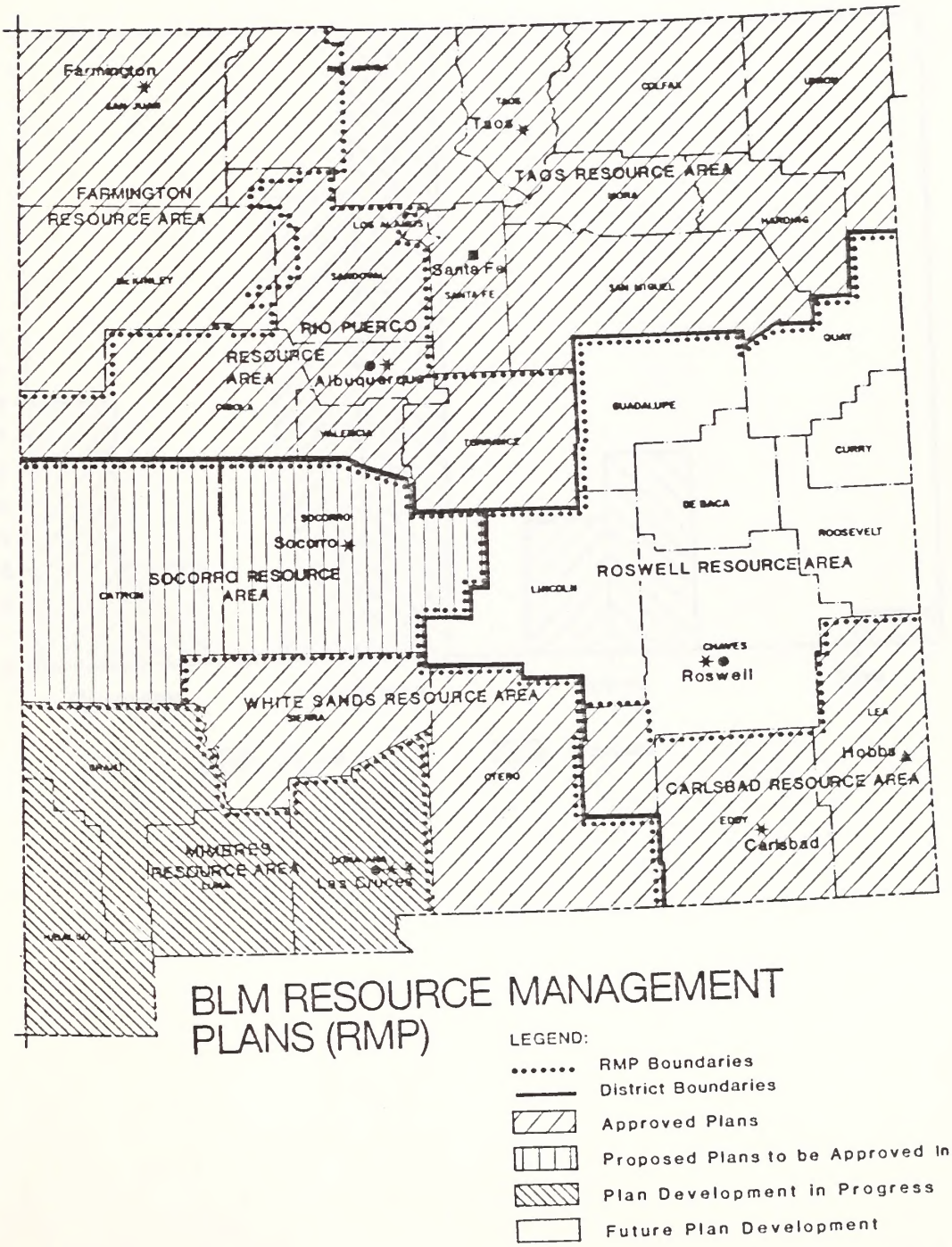


TABLE 2
NUMBER OF WILDLIFE PLANS BY DISTRICT

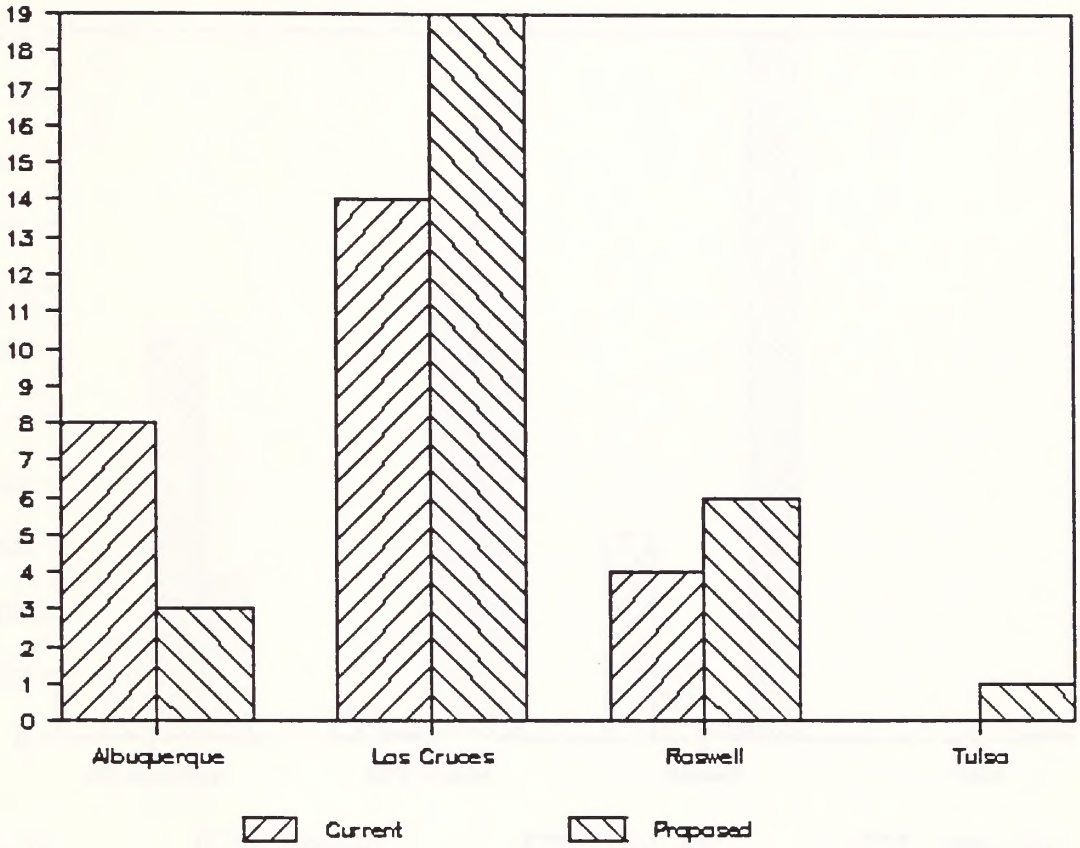


TABLE 3
ACREAGE OF HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLANS BY DISTRICT

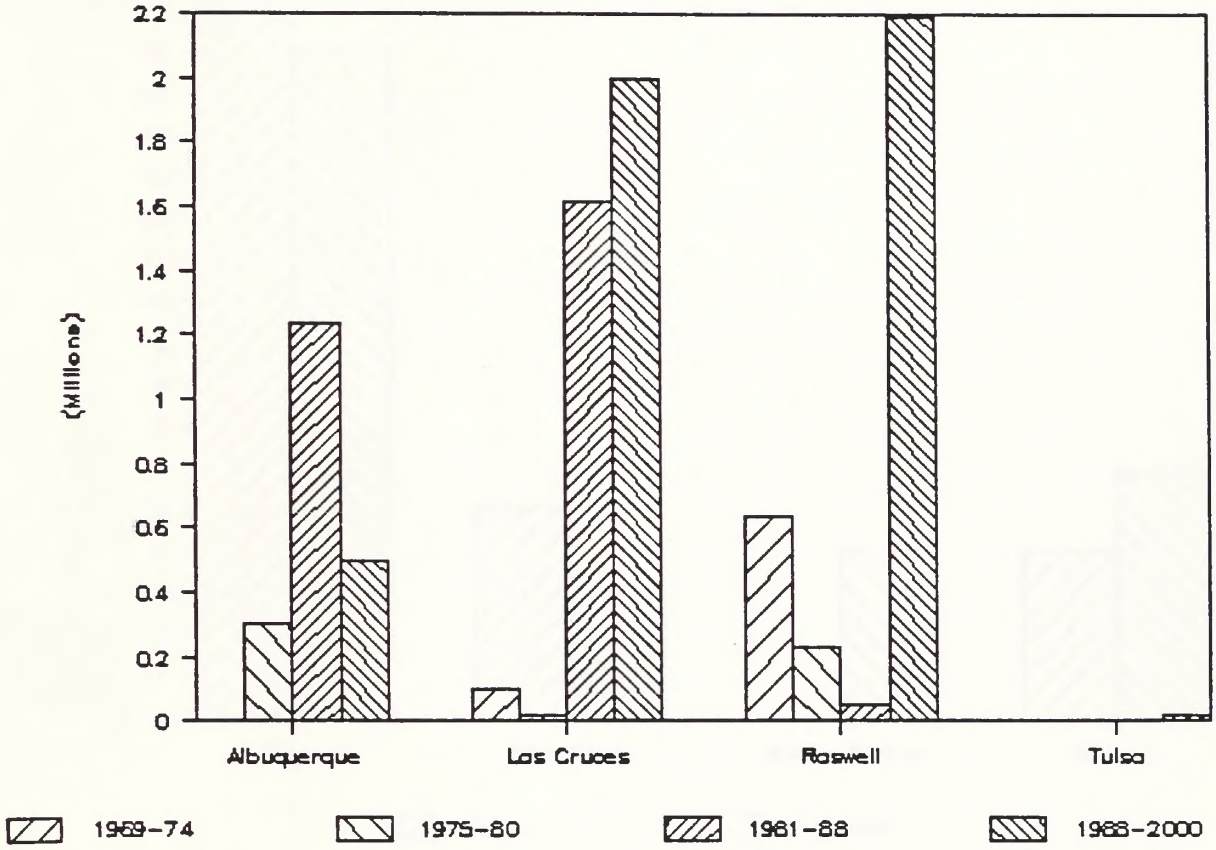
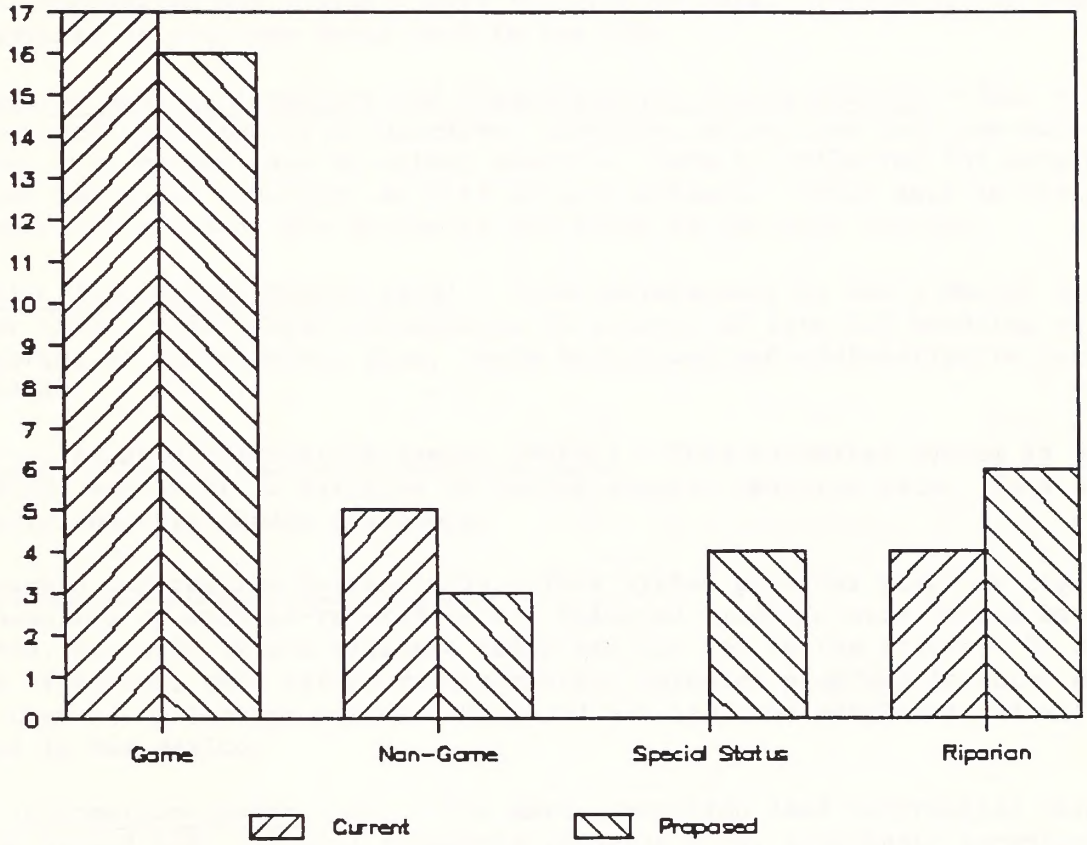


TABLE 4
NUMBER OF WILDLIFE PLANS BY PRIORITY SPECIES



C. Wildlife Database Management

The Wildlife Program has utilized a variety of methods for handling BLM data, as well as utilizing outside data sources. In past years, manual data handling systems have included use of cartographic maps as a base for delineating wildlife habitat areas, critical habitat, and other special habitat types. BLM forms were designed for alpha-numeric data. In recent years, automation has played a more significant role. Following are some of the systems or programs being used in the BLM:

Integrated Habitat Inventory and Classification System (IHICS) - This system is designed specifically to describe, classify, store, and retrieve data by habitat type rather than by animal species. Data is collected for nongame species and their habitats, as well as game animals. IHICS data is available for selected areas of New Mexico as described in the next section.

Wildlife Information System (WIS) - Under development by BLM's Denver Service Center (DSC), this system encompasses 20 subsets of data for handling major categories of BLM wildlife data. Both biological and administrative data are included.

Riparian Aquatic Information System (RAIDS) - This automated system is similar to IHICS, except it is designed to handle aquatic resource data. This system has only recently become available.

Geographic Information System (GIS) - This system provides graphics capability for handling of spatial-related data. Selected wildlife data themes have been entered, but most of the database needs are not yet in the system. To be fully effective, this system requires other resource programs to enter key data themes. A linkage between IHICS and GIS has been developed and will be tested in New Mexico.

Land Information System (LIS) - The next generation land information data system beyond GIS, LIS will integrate resource data, geographic coordinates, master title plats, and land and minerals program administration information.

1. Inventory

The acreage of habitat inventoried annually has fluctuated with the planning workload of RMP's, EIS's, Environmental Assessments (EA's), and activity plans. Workload varies with the intensity of the inventory and not with the acres inventoried.

Major Wildlife Inventory Accomplishments in Recent Years

- IHICS Inventory for the Divide Planning Area (ADO)
- Rio Puerco Black-Footed Ferret Survey (ADO)
- Peregrine Falcon Prey Base Inventory (ADO)
- Federally Listed Plants Inventory (ADO)
- Federal Candidate Plant Species Inventory (ADO)

- Ferruginous Hawk Habitat - Coal Area (ADO)
- Bald Eagle Winter Roost Areas (ADO)
- Rio West/Chaco Coal Area Inventory (ADO)
- Barbary Sheep Range Extension (ADO)
- IHICS Inventory on 100 Percent of the Las Cruces District (LCDO)
- Desert Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Areas Inventory (LCDO)
- San Augustine Coal Area Raptor Inventory (LCDO)
- SE Oklahoma Split Estate Federal Coal Species and Habitat Inventory (TDO)
- SE Oklahoma National Wetland Inventory on Split Estate Federal Coal Areas, USFWS/BLM (TDO)
- Oklahoma National Wetlands Inventory (on scattered tracts), USFWS/BLM (TDO)
- Pecos River IHICS Inventory (RDO)
- Carlsbad RA Wetland Riparian Special Habitat Site Inventory (RDO)
- Roswell RA Special Habitat Feature Inventory (RDO)
- Roswell RA Wetland Riparian Inventory (RDO)
- Ft. Stanton Kuenzler Cactus Threatened or Endangered Cactus Inventory (RDO)
- Roswell RA Antelope Viability Index Inventory (RDO)

The number of acres inventoried in the Wildlife and Special Status Species Programs for 1985-1987 are as follows:

	1985	1986	1987
Wildlife	185,830 acres	1,369,000 acres	4,000 acres
Special Status Species	1,502,771 acres	107,599 acres	166 acres

2. Habitat Projects

a. Habitat Development Projects

Habitat development projects in BLM New Mexico tend to fall into four major categories:

People Management - Usually consists of information and education documents, placing signs on the land itself, and traffic management through the closing of unneeded roads or the seasonal management of vehicle access in key wildlife habitat.

Land Ownership Adjustments - Usually consist of land exchanges and direct purchases.

Administrative Decisions - Can consist of withdrawing areas from mineral extraction, seasonal constraints on construction or grazing, and constraints on the use of Off-Road Vehicles (ORV's).

Project Construction - Typically consists of modifying vegetation with fire, chemicals, or machines; riparian vegetation planting; grass seeding; fence modifications; wildlife waters; and animal transplants.

The total number of projects completed each year is not a true representation of workload accomplishment because planning, survey and design, and construction vary significantly among projects. Also, costs for development may be spread between BLM's Wildlife and Rangeland Improvement Programs.

Through FY 87, BLM New Mexico programmed 21 wildlife-driven projects which were funded by the Rangeland Improvement Program and 29 other projects with wildlife benefits.

Major Habitat Improvement Projects in Recent Years

- Peloncillo Desert Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction (LCDO)
- Big Hatchet Desert Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction (LCDO)
- Alamo-Hueco Desert Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction (LCDO)
- Roswell Antelope Reintroduction (RDO)
- Farmington Vehicle/Road Management Effort (ADO)
- Red Rock Desert Bighorn Sheep Pasture Expansion (LCDO)

The number of habitat development projects for the Wildlife, Special Status Species, and Rangeland Improvement Programs for 1985-1987 are as follows:

	1985	1986	1987
Wildlife	39 projects	19 projects	15 projects
Special Status Species *	1 project	2 projects	1 project
8100 (wildlife driven)			21 projects
8100 (nonwildlife driven)			29 projects

* Habitat development projects include vegetation manipulation (7 percent); land treatments, (e.g., raptor perching poles) (44 percent); water developments (40 percent); and fencing enclosures and exclosures (9 percent).

b. Habitat Project Maintenance

Habitat maintenance is intended to ensure that projects continue to produce the results intended. Actions vary from maintaining signs and traffic management structures to minimize human disturbance of habitat to water developments, modification of fences for big game passage, stream improvements, herbicide applications to "old" chainings, and water impoundment structure maintenance. Maintenance costs (both small scale annual costs and reconstruction) are less than 50 percent of the project value. The number of projects maintained in the Wildlife and Special Status Species Programs for 1985-1987 are as follows:

	1985	1986	1987
Wildlife	201 projects	163 projects	167 projects
Special Status Species *	1 project	19 projects	2 projects

* The Special Status Species data combines project development and maintenance.

3. Studies and Monitoring

The monitoring workload fluctuates annually by the number of existing plans to be monitored. The purpose of studies is to investigate natural resource or related problems, management opportunities, cause and effect relationships, species habitat needs, habitat suitability and capability, and effects of management practices. The purpose of monitoring is to evaluate progress in meeting resource management objectives, resource protection objectives, laws, regulations, policies, executive orders, and management decisions.

Major Studies in Recent Years

- Rio Puerco Watershed - Rocky Mountain Forest and Experimental Station Contract, USFS/BLM (ADO)
- Pronghorn - Livestock Dietary Overlap Study (ADO)
- Vegetative Field Trials Study
- Farmington Riparian Vegetation Study (ADO)
- Canyon Riparian Study (ADO)
- Right-of-Way Vegetation Study (ADO)
- Harris and Swainson's Hawk Studies (RDO)
- Mesquite Control Study (RDO)
- Roswell Pronghorn Study (RDO)
- Prairie Chicken Habitat Evaluation (RDO)
- Ft. Stanton Cave Bat Population Study (RDO)
- Wintering Eagle Population Studies (RDO)
- Effects of Shinnery Oak Control on Wildlife Populations (RDO)

Major Monitoring Efforts in Recent Years

- Ferruginous Hawk Nesting - Coal Program Support (ADO)
- Knowlton Cactus Monitoring (ADO)
- Mesa Verde Cactus Monitoring (ADO)
- Mancos Milk Vetch Monitoring (ADO)
- Aztec Gilia (ADO)
- Farmington Bald Eagle Winter Use (ADO)
- HMP Monitoring (ADO)
- Allotment Monitoring/Rio Puerco EIS (ADO)
- Interagency Browse Transects (ADO)
- Rio Grande Gorge Raptor and Waterfowl Monitoring (ADO)
- Cottonwood Pole Plantings (ADO)
- Browse Transects (ADO)
- Florida Mountains HMP (LCDO)
- Lake Holloman Cooperative Management Agreement, Audubon Society/BLM (LCDO)
- Habitat Improvement Projects Monitoring (RDO)
- Special Status Plant Species Areas (RDO)
- Transplanted Antelope (RDO)
- Ft. Stanton Riparian Demonstration Projects (RDO)
- Mescalero Sands Experimental Tree Plantings (RDO)
- Overflow Wetlands Bullrush Experimental Seeding (RDO)

Following is a summary of reported wildlife monitoring projects in the Wildlife and Special Status Species Programs for 1985-1987:

	1985	1986	1987
Wildlife	138 projects	48 projects	35 projects
Special Status Species	20 projects	10 projects	10 projects

D. Program Coordination

1. Internal

Managing the habitat of fish and wildlife species for the benefit of all citizens is a complex task. The BLM relies on the cooperation and assistance of other Federal and State agencies, conservations groups, ranchers, and other private individuals to achieve the best management of the public lands.

New Mexico Fish and Wildlife 2000 emphasizes continued close working relationships with State agencies to maintain or increase fish and wildlife at or the near optimum levels supportable by the available habitat. BLM New Mexico is cosignatory to the New Mexico Operation Plan for terrestrial, endangered and nongame, and aquatic management 1987-1995. This plan provides species-specific detail for cooperative management programs of the BLM, USFS, and NMDG&F. The BLM will also continue to work to protect and restore those species that have been designated as threatened or endangered by the USFWS, as well as those species that are declining in abundance but may not have been formally designated and those of State concern. When competition exists between wildlife and other uses, the BLM will meet management objectives of maintaining optimum habitats by mitigating adverse impacts.

Internal coordination with other BLM programs is vital, since they collectively affect almost all fish and wildlife habitat on public land. Bureauwide, livestock is grazed on 174 million acres of public land, timber is produced and harvested on some 8 million acres of commercial forest land, and energy and nonenergy minerals are produced or potentially could be produced on most public lands. Close coordination with these programs is carried out and is essential for mitigating impacts to wildlife.

Day-to-day interdisciplinary interaction between the Wildlife Program Specialists and other activities occurs through a variety of ways, including the use of stipulations which allow other uses to occur in wildlife and fish habitat while eliminating or minimizing adverse effects of those actions on habitat. A team approach is essential to land use and program (activity) planning. Goals and objectives must be clearly stated, quantifiable, and attainable.

Climax ecological conditions are not always the desired end in range, wildlife, and watershed management. A lower successional stage or desired plant and animal community may be the stated management prescription. The BLM is developing a "desired plant community" (vegetation management) concept tied to ecological sites in establishing rangeland management goals in which wildlife considerations are included.

BLM Biologists help ensure that such goals are established in a manner that allows the maximum total benefits of all users to be realized. This is done in a variety of ways, one key way being by providing managers with information on how fish and wildlife resources are affected by other uses of public lands and how those other uses can be tailored to benefit habitat.

2. External

There is an important distinction between managing wildlife and managing wildlife habitat. The BLM, as a manager of public lands, has a broad responsibility to the public to maintain and improve the habitat or "home" for wildlife. But, except in special cases, the responsibility for managing the wildlife itself traditionally rests with the individual states. There are exceptions. Migratory birds and the Federally listed threatened or endangered species have become, at least in part, the responsibility of the Federal government. The USFWS has lead responsibility for formal threatened or endangered biological opinions and recovery plan development.

The NMDG&F sets seasons, limits, and license fees for harvesting game birds, mammals, and fish. The State also conducts on-the-ground management and research for a variety of wildlife, including nongame species and species that are threatened or endangered. The BLM conducts habitat inventories, monitoring, protection, restoring, and development activities on public lands, working with the State of the New Mexico and other agencies and organizations.

While the BLM and NMDG&F have been cooperating for many years, the extent of cooperation and the degree of understanding has increased since Congress passed an amendment to the Sikes Act in 1974. This act requires cooperative BLM/State efforts for the conservation and rehabilitation of wildlife resources on the public lands. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with the NMDG&F, and many cooperative habitat management programs have been implemented as a result.

In addition to the MOU with the NMDG&F, BLM has many similar agreements with Federal agencies at the national level and with State, local, and private entities. These agreements provide a mechanism for a wide range of activities from program coordination to studies, inventories, and on-the-ground habitat project work. (Appendix C provides a listing of active MOU's and Cooperative Agreements (CA's).)

III. A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

A. Overall Wildlife Program

Goal: Manage habitat to support a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife on the public lands and to facilitate the recovery and success of special status species.

1. Budget and Staffing

Goal: Provide budget and staffing to optimize opportunities to achieve the overall Wildlife Program goals by the year 2000.

Objectives:

o Developing activity plans for wildlife, consistent with RMP decisions.

o Where practical, utilizing combined resource objectives to benefit wildlife activity planning.

o Redirecting DO and RA budget staffing levels to provide for activity planning, project development and implementation, and volunteer coordination for wildlife-related work.

o Utilizing temporary, volunteer, and technician labor for maintaining wildlife studies and monitoring (in lieu of RA and DO Biologists).

o Developing cost/benefit figures for potential wildlife planning project dollars as they relate to Challenge Cost Share/Matching Funds, Sikes Act, and volunteer projects.

o Continuing to use the Rangeland Improvement Program funding for wildlife projects, consistent with wildlife activity plans.

o Redirecting outside funding sources to projects and data needs.

o Utilizing the Gift Catalog to solicit funding and volunteers for needed wildlife projects.

o Actively using the BLM's Exchange Program for acquisition of habitat consistent with land use planning.

o Actively soliciting Challenge Cost Share/Matching Fund opportunities with outside groups such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and others.

Budget Projections

Budget projections by source of BLM Wildlife Program funding are indicated as follows to the year 2000:

Funding Source	Dollars
Wildlife and Special Status Species Base Program (Subactivities 4351 and 4352)	$1,345,000
- Challenge Cost Share Program	$ 100,000
- Matching Funds (NMDG&F, private organizations, etc.)	$ 100,000
BLM New Mexico Sikes Act Stamp Funding	$ 350,000
BLM New Mexico 8100 Funding	$ 405,000
Gift Fund Input	$ 50,000
Volunteer Program	$ 150,000
TOTAL (by the year 2000)	$2,500,000

2. Land Use Planning

Goal: Provide, with full public participation, a sound land use planning basis for multiple-use management which addresses special status species and wildlife habitat requirements.

Objectives:

o Implementing decisions made in approved land use plans (Appendix A) by FY 2000.

o Increasing cooperation with State and Federal agencies and private organizations and individuals to expand BLM's resource planning efforts into optimum use of the Rangeland Improvement Program, Sikes Act Program, Challenge Cost Share Program, Volunteer Program, and private contributions.

o Restoring, maintaining, and improving ecological condition on 8.5 million acres outlined in past and proposed wildlife activity plans. This includes specific project implementation and removal of any identified limiting factors.

o Acquiring lands essential to activity plans which would maintain or enhance the quality of wildlife habitat and success of plans.

o Maintaining or increasing habitat productivity for endangered and nongame species as identified through BLM planning documents, and NMDG&F Operations Plan (1987-1995).

o Initiating strategy and setting priorities for Statewide wildlife activity planning, including ecological site by 1989.

3. Activity Planning

New Mexico has completed wildlife and special status species activity planning on approximately 4.73 million acres of public lands (37 percent of 12.89 million acres). An additional 4.56 million acres (35 percent) has been proposed by the year 2000. The majority of previous activity plans focused upon game species (53 percent), which will continue into proposed planning efforts in the future (65 percent). Other plan emphasis areas are endangered species (19 percent), nongame species (16 percent), waterfowl (9 percent), and riparian (3 percent). Future activity planning indicates changing emphasis with approximately 10 percent endangered species, 9 percent riparian, 9 percent nongame, and 7 percent waterfowl.

Planning efforts should focus on completing wildlife and special status species planning on all surface estate public lands (13 million acres) and laying the groundwork for Statewide planning efforts.

Specific wildlife activity planning should focus upon habitat (ecological) parameters. A strategy of writing HMP's by ecological sites or Standard Habitat Sites (SHS's), coordinated on a Statewide basis, may be required. Species-specific HMP's may then be integrated between adjacent areas as necessary. This approach compliments the BLM's wildlife and special status species automation goals with SHS, IHICS, RAIDS, Threatened or Endangered Data System (TEDS), etc. It also maximizes the available resource information for use in GIS and LIS in the future. Only essential data elements would be automated. A Statewide approach would improve program coordination, increase resource data availability, ensure better implementation budgets, and assure HMP completion based upon priorities. On-the-ground habitat management, in relation to day-to-day land use actions, will be enhanced based upon improved analysis of cumulative impacts by SHS.

Goal: Activity planning will provide site-specific management prescriptions for wildlife and special status species resulting from RMP decisions. This site-specific planning information is used for on-the-ground management and coordination with other program activities. Activity plans also are used in justifications for funding requests in the annual budget process.

Objectives:

o Making activity plan objectives interdisciplinary, measurable, and attainable.

o Ensuring that activity plan objectives are incorporated and that projects are inspected, maintained, and evaluated.

o Striving to implement management prescriptions within a reasonable time frame.

o Using an interdisciplinary review team for 8100 projects and wildlife and range projects, as is done in the Roswell District.

o Using activity plans as a major basis for wildlife base funding requests.

o Expanding emphasis to include special status species and nongame species.

o Completing HMP's on all existing and planned Sikes Act Stamp areas on a priority basis.

4. Human Resource Management

Fish and wildlife resource management by the BLM requires professional, motivated people who can be effective in facilitating fish and wildlife habitat management in a multiple-use setting. Sound personnel management is basic to effective resource management. The BLM must ensure an organizational environment that motivates people to give their personal best toward managing the public's fish and wildlife resources in concert with other uses. Conversely, resource specialists must maintain an adequate level of technical and professional expertise in support of the BLM's mission, goals, and objectives. Plans and programs must be initiated not only to manage fish and wildlife resources, but also to help people develop their careers as future managers or as technical experts so they can fully realize their potential for contributing to public land management.

Advancement opportunities for Biologists are somewhat limited. Cutbacks in the overall BLM organization and grade bulge reduction has resulted in limited opportunities for many Field Biologists. Due to this lack of opportunity, many wildlife personnel have remained in position for a number of years.

Goal 1: Explore the possibility of allowing Field Biologists to gain experience in all aspects of the Wildlife Program and to specialize in special wildlife resource management areas such as desert bighorn sheep, riparian areas, etc., while carrying out their normal responsibilities. This would benefit both New Mexico in terms of expertise and the Biologists by potentially improving opportunities for career development.

Objectives:

o Identifying Statewide opportunities for special assignments in the Wildlife Program, as well as in the WO and DSC Offices.

o Providing "shadow" assignments for DO and RA Biologists to provide a better understanding of the BLM's total Wildlife Program at both the NMSO and DO level.

o Adding special duties to Biologist's position descriptions and performance appraisals which will benefit the New Mexico Wildlife Program.

o Providing training for managers and supervisors on effective training plan development/implementation and on career counseling (i.e., a closer tie between position description and job performance, job enrichment, and career goals).

o Utilizing Field Biologists to fill term assignments in the NMSO Division of Lands and Renewable Resources, where applicable.

Goal 2: Encourage participation in professional public organizations and and presentation of professional papers to enhance professionalism.

Objectives:

o Recognizing contributions to professionalism through the awards/incentives system.

o Presenting results of successful management and studies at professional society meetings and in professional publications.

B. Wildlife Habitat Management

1. Big Game/Upland Game

Goal: Ensure that native big game and upland game species on New Mexico's public lands are provided habitat of sufficient quantity and quality to sustain identifiable economic and/or social contributions to the American people.

Objectives:

o Identifying and setting priorities for management of important (crucial, critical, etc.) game species habitats at all planning levels by the year 2000.

o Scheduling projects to eliminate by 1995 all major species' limiting factors identified during the activity planning process.

o Developing Statewide schedules by 1989 for implementing HMP's for important habitats of game species.

o Working with the NMDG&F and others to resolve the problem where introduced (exotic) wildlife species interferes with special status species, native animals, ecological conditions, and planning goals and objectives.

o Incorporating and implementing cooperative plans with other agencies, landowners, and private organizations to maintain or enhance game species habitat.

o Utilizing transplants annually to restore pronghorn antelope to suitable historic ranges on public land.

o Developing a strategy in 1989 for a Statewide HMP for desert bighorn sheep based upon rangewide needs and State and local priorities. Consider this approach for other species or species assemblages.

2. Waterfowl

Management of waterfowl habitat is limited due to scattered public land ownership of habitat and seasonability of wetlands, lakes, reservoirs, streams, and rivers. BLM New Mexico currently administers approximately 176 stream miles, 5,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, and 9,000 acres of wetland habitat.

Goal: Maintaining and enhancing wetlands and other habitats on New Mexico's public lands that are important to the maintenance of waterfowl associated with the Central Flyway.

Objectives:

o Identifying and setting priorities for management of key waterfowl areas on public lands on a Statewide basis by 1991.

o Integrating waterfowl emphasis in all activity plans dealing with riparian, wetland, or aquatic resources throughout New Mexico.

o Maintaining and encouraging acquisition of riparian, wetland, or aquatic resources within key waterfowl habitat areas.

o Tailoring New Mexico waterfowl management plans and activities with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

o Incorporating and implementing cooperative plans and projects with other agencies, landowners, and private organizations to enhance New Mexico's waterfowl resources by bringing all priority waterfowl areas under management by the year 2000.

3. Fisheries

New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas waters support approximately 60 native fish species and 40 exotic species. BLM management of fisheries in these states is primarily limited to 5,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs and approximately 176 miles of stream. There are also limited fisheries associated with wetlands and livestock water developments. The Albuquerque District currently has the most active Fisheries Program in New Mexico.

To effectively manage fisheries resources on the public lands, BLM New Mexico recognizes the need for maintaining a partnership with the NMDG&F, USFWS, and private interests; identifying significant habitats that are required for the restoration and enhancement of high value species; and improving habitats for such species by means of the RMP and activity planning processes.

Nongame and Sport Fisheries

Goal: Manage habitat for nongame and sport fish that reside on public lands and that are of high economic, social, or scientific value to local or national communities. Maintain aquatic habitat and associated natural diversity and distribution patterns of fish.

Objectives:

o Addressing BLM fisheries management in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas and initiating a strategy to emphasize fisheries management in 1989.

o Placing greater emphasis on fisheries habitat management in land use plans and riparian, wetland, or aquatic HMP's.

o Emphasizing coordinated management approaches for all fish species and their habitats with the NMDG&F, USFWS, other appropriate agencies and organizations, and landowners.

o Working with the NMDG&F and others to reduce or eliminate introduced (exotic) fish where threats to special status species and native nongame fish occur.

o Maintaining or enhancing important native fisheries resources by implementing habitat management or improvement projects as identified during the planning process in accordance with priorities established by management.

o Managing public lands to provide a sustained optimum stream flow to benefit the fishery in accordance with existing authorities.

o Encouraging and cooperating with water management agencies and their affiliates in developing water use strategies that satisfy water uses and fishery resource needs.

o Maintaining and encouraging acquisition of riparian, wetland, or aquatic resources and water rights necessary to meet planned fisheries management goals.

o Balancing supply and demand among present and future fish resources and anglers to the extent that it maximally benefit New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

4. Riparian Areas

Riparian areas are currently one of the top BLM management priorities. There are two RMP's, five MFP's, seven HMP's, eight CRMP's, one ACEC, and one river management plan that includes specific riparian management activities throughout New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Over 15 percent of riparian-associated activity plans are projected for completion by 1995. Completing these projects depends a great deal upon integration of the BLM's resources, including range, wildlife, watershed, soils, and hydrology.

Goal: Achieve a healthy and productive riparian condition with long-term benefits and values in concert with the Rangeland Program.

Objectives:

o Maintaining, and where necessary, restoring riparian areas via an interdisciplinary approach and participative effort in AMP's, CRMP's, HMP's, and other appropriate plans in accordance with schedules and decisions resulting from the BLM planning system at the NMSO, DO, and RA levels.

o Monitoring important riparian/wetland areas under BLM management and other areas with identified conflicting uses according to schedules developed by NMSO, DO, and RA managers.

o Implementing riparian management, protection, and restoration efforts so that at least 75 percent of riparian areas are in good or better ecological condition by the year 2000.

o Developing an interdisciplinary BLM New Mexico riparian strategy to determine how to meet objectives outlined above for New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas by 1989. BLM can accomplish this by:

- Consolidating and determining inventory needs for riparian areas throughout New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas by 1989
- Determining and standardizing classification techniques to be used in New Mexico by 1989
- Developing and maintaining a database for riparian management
- Consolidating and updating planning decisions related to riparian management and determine needs for future planning development addressing riparian habitat management by 1989
- Determining and consolidating status of riparian activity plan implementation and monitoring by 1989

o Utilizing the SCS Plant Materials Center as a source of plant materials for riparian area rehabilitation.

o Holding an interdisciplinary meeting in 1989 to summarize current status of riparian management and discuss future strategies emphasizing the multi-disciplinary approach and specific goals.

5. Special Status Species

Special status species are plant or animal species which are officially listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior under the provision of the Endangered Species Act (ESA); those listed or proposed for listing by the State in a category implying potential endangerment or extinction; and those designated by each State Director as sensitive.

The ESA directs all Federal agencies to conserve Federally listed threatened or endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend, which means they are to use methods and procedures necessary to bring such species to the point at which the protective measures provided by ESA are no longer necessary. It also requires each agency to ensure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

BLM policy extends the conservation mandate to the other categories of species as defined above. BLM Manual Section 6840 further defines protection levels. State laws that list and protect certain species apply to all BLM programs and

actions to the extent that they are consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and other Federal laws. In New Mexico, the Wildlife Conservation Act provides a protection and conservation program for animal species. The Endangered Plant Species Protection Act of 1985 protects plants considered endangered by the State of New Mexico.

BLM State Directors, usually in cooperation with the state, may designate sensitive species. By definition, the sensitive species designation includes species that could easily become endangered or extinct in a state. Therefore, if sensitive species are designated by a State Director, the protection provided by the policy for candidate species shall be used as the minimum level of protection.

a. Federally Listed Species

Goal: Plan and implement programs for the conservation of threatened or endangered species utilizing land use planning as the framework. Through incorporation of recovery plan objectives into HMP's and other forms of activity planning, direct maximum effort toward carrying out programs that will restore habitat and populations to the point that the provisions of the ESA are no longer necessary. (Appendix A lists wildlife land use plan decisions.)

Objectives:

o Incorporating management objectives for threatened or endangered species into land use plans. Land use plans should address the significance of public lands for the recovery of each species, existing and potential threats to the survival of those species, opportunities to improve habitat conditions, and habitat acquisition needs.

o Developing and implementing activity plans which specify management prescriptions for the recovery of threatened or endangered species on BLM lands. These plans would also provide monitoring and evaluation procedures for recovery efforts. Recovery plan actions will be incorporated when available.

o Developing a system to track activity plan accomplishments to aid in evaluation of progress made in recovery efforts and to ensure that management prescriptions are carried out.

o Ensuring that BLM activities affecting the habitat of threatened or endangered species are carried out in a manner that is consistent with the management objectives for those species.

o Developing and maintaining a database for threatened or endangered species on public lands consistent with BLM standards.

o Cooperating with the USFWS, NMDG&F, and the New Mexico Department of Natural Resources (NMDNR) in the management of threatened or endangered plants and animals on public lands, including information sharing, monitoring, development and evaluation of status recommendations, and all formal and informal coordination pertaining to threatened or endangered species.

b. Proposed Species

Species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered and proposed critical habitat shall be managed with the same level of protection provided for threatened or endangered species, except that formal consultations are not required.

c. Candidate Species (Categories 1 and 2)

Goal: Manage the habitat to maintain populations of plants and animals at a level which will avoid endangering the species or the need to list the species as threatened or endangered by either State or Federal governments.

Objectives:

o Developing and implementing activity plans which specify management prescriptions for the recovery of candidate species on BLM lands and provide monitoring and evaluation procedures for recovery efforts.

o Incorporating management objectives for candidate species into land use plans. Land use plans should address the significance of public lands for the recovery of each species, existing and potential threats to the survival of those species, opportunities to improve habitat conditions, and habitat acquisition needs.

o Developing and implementing activity plans which specify management prescriptions for the recovery of candidate species on BLM lands and which provide monitoring and evaluation procedures for recovery efforts. Recovery plan actions will be incorporated when available.

o Developing a system to track activity plan accomplishments to aid in evaluation of progress made in recovery efforts and to ensure that management prescriptions are carried out.

o Ensuring that BLM activities affecting the habitat of candidate species are carried out in a manner that is consistent with the management objectives for those species.

o Developing and maintaining a database for candidate species on public lands consistent with BLM standards.

o Cooperating with the USFWS, NMDG&F, and NMDNR in the management of candidate plants and animals on public lands, including information sharing, monitoring, development and evaluation of status recommendations, and all formal and informal coordination pertaining to candidate species.

d. State-Listed Species

Goal: Develop policies that will assist the State in achieving their management objectives for species that have been designated in categories that imply local rarity, endangerment, extirpation, or extinction.

Objectives:

o Incorporating management objectives for State-listed species into land use plans. Land use plans should address the significance of public lands for the recovery of each species, existing and potential threats to the survival of those species and opportunities to improve habitat conditions.

o Developing and implementing activity plans which specify management prescriptions for the recovery of State-listed species on BLM lands and which provide monitoring and evaluation procedures for recovery efforts.

o Developing and maintaining a database for candidate species on public lands consistent with BLM standards.

o Cooperating with USFWS, NMDG&F, and NMDNR in the management of State-listed plants and animals on public lands. This includes information sharing and monitoring and all informal coordination pertaining to State-listed species.

e. Sensitive Species

Establish a BLM State-sensitive species list.

6. Biological Diversity

The reduction of the earth's biological diversity has emerged as a public policy issue in the last several years. Growing awareness of this planetary problem has promoted increased study of the subject and has led to increasing public and private initiatives to address the problem. This interest in maintaining biological diversity has created a common ground for a variety of groups concerned with implications of reduction or ultimate loss of the planet's genetic, species, or ecosystem diversity.

One major concern is that loss of plant, animal, and microbial resources may impair future options to develop new important products and processes in agriculture, medicine, and industry. Concerns also exist that loss of diversity undermines the potential of populations and species to respond or adapt to changing environmental conditions. Because humans ultimately depend on environmental support functions, special caution should be taken to ensure that diversity losses do not disrupt these functions. Finally, esthetic and ethical motivation to avoid the irreversible loss of unique life forms has played an increasingly major role in promoting public and private programs to conserve particular species or habitats.

The broad implications of loss of biological diversity are also reflected in the different concerns and jurisdictions of Congressional committees currently investigating legislation to address this concern. The national "Fish and Wildlife 2000" first identified biological diversity as an area of concern, and this is brought forward here.

Goal: Conserve rare, vulnerable, and representative animal habitats, plant communities, and ecosystems.

Objectives:

o Identifying and monitoring habitats, ecosystems, and plant communities that are vulnerable to adverse changes or are considered rare.

o Developing and implementing plans, in accordance with schedules resulting from management decisions, to ensure that the characteristics of rare, threatened, or representative habitat types are maintained.

o Coordinating on a continuing basis with the National Park Service (NPS), USFS, USFWS, the State, and private groups to ensure protection of the best representative habitats, ecosystem, and plant communities for each area.

o Using IHICS as an interim database for recording data on biological diversity.

o Establishing an automated LIS and database capable of handling the data handling requirements.

7. Nongame

The BLM includes all fish and wildlife habitat, both game and nongame, as part of its Wildlife Program.

Goal: Expand consideration to all fish and wildlife species and their habitats in carrying out the New Mexico Wildlife Program.

Objectives:

o Including nongame in new and revised wildlife HMP's and other activity plans, as appropriate.

o Carrying out a Statewide Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program in cooperation with the NMDG&F, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) to meet the needs of the BLM, the public, and special interest groups in an environmentally sound manner.

o Including nongame in future inventories and studies, as appropriate.

o Soliciting input from herpetelogical, ornithological, and other special interest organizations for the BLM land use planning and activity planning processes.

o Cooperating with State nongame programs in management of nongame wildlife resources.

8. Raptors

New Mexico has only a few activity plans addressing raptor management; others have been projected for the future.

Goal: Provide suitable habitat conditions for birds of prey on public lands through the conservation and management of essential habitat components, including habitat for prey species, especially in areas where birds of prey concentrate during some period of the year or in important habitats where populations are suppressed.

Objectives:

o Determining and summarizing current and future raptor habitat management activities.

o Determining what goals and objectives BLM New Mexico should pursue to meet future activity planning needs.

o Developing increased awareness of raptor resources on public lands.

o Maintaining an inventory and monitoring program for raptor populations and habitats to assist in management decisions on the public lands. Population monitoring and inventory should be done only when such information is not otherwise available and is not likely to be obtained by others.

o Managing all public lands to protect the scientific, ecological, and environmental quality of the raptor habitats thereon consistent with multiple-use practices.

o Whenever possible, through the BLM Realty Program (and when the need is identified, through the BLM planning system), acquiring or consolidating under BLM administration management units with high raptor habitat values.

o Developing and maintaining effective coordination and cooperation with outside agencies and BLM constituents concerning raptor habitat management.

o Determining options of pursuing raptor habitat management goals on a Statewide basis which takes into account the migratory habits and broad habitat use in New Mexico.

C. Wildlife Database Management

Much of the raw wildlife data requirements to support RMP's has been accomplished. Remaining needs are related to activity planning, emerging requirements, and automation.

Goal: Utilize the BLM WIS, LIS, and other systems to automate and integrate wildlife data for use in management, monitoring, implementation, project tracking, ecosystem modeling, and other needs.

Objectives:

o Conducting inventory, monitoring, and studies to collect data for clearly stated wildlife habitat management or special status species objectives.

o Designing inventory, monitoring, and study work to clearly specify:

- Specific resource management objectives to be achieved
- Types of data to be collected
- Method or sampling scheme
- Geographic location involved
- Location for storing the data
- Work schedule
- Establish responsibility for how the data will be analyzed, interpreted, evaluated, and applied to habitat management

o Collecting inventory, monitoring, and study data to have it available for day-to-day use and analysis in an automated format.

o Fostering the concept of Field Biologists redirecting the technical work they are currently doing in inventory, studies, and monitoring so that they can raise their activity planning work to a level able to take advantage of the increasing funding sources for on-the-ground work.

o Developing a Statewide animal occurrence database with IHICS format to the level of precision of Kuchler Associations by 1990.

1. Inventory

a. Big Game/Upland Game

Goal: Determine the need for big game and upland game species habitat inventories on the public land with the intent of providing habitat of sufficient quantity and quality to sustain identifiable economic and/or social contributions to New Mexico.

Objectives:

o Implementing cooperative inventories with other agencies, landowners, and private organizations to maintain or enhance big game/upland game habitats.

b. Waterfowl

Goal: Determine the need for inventory data that will help perpetuate a diversity of waterfowl for New Mexico.

Objectives:

o Identifying key waterfowl habitat areas on the public lands.

o Implementing cooperative inventories with other agencies, landowners, and private organizations to facilitate enhancing the waterfowl resource.

c. Raptors

Goal: Survey suitable habitat for birds of prey on public lands, including habitat for prey species, especially in areas where birds of prey concentrate during some period of the year or in important habitats where populations are suppressed.

Objectives:

o Identifying nesting, migration, and concentration areas for birds of prey on public lands.

o Identifying habitat for raptor species determined to be in need of recovery and special management.

o Collaborate with the USFWS, State agencies, other concerned organizations, and landowners in management activities that contribute to the recovery of such species.

d. Riparian Areas

Goal: Inventory and classify riparian areas on a priority basis with the intent of achieving healthy and productive conditions for long-term benefits and values in concert with the Range and Watershed Programs.

Objectives:

o Identifying important riparian/wetland areas under management and other areas with identified conflicting uses.

e. Fisheries

Goal: Assess habitat for resident species that spend all or part of their life cycles on public lands and that are of high economic, social, or scientific value to local communities in New Mexico.

Objectives:

o Identifying important resident fisheries resources with the intent of implementing habitat management or improvement projects.

o Identifying access to sport fishing waters on public lands to identify access problems and solutions.

f. Special Status Species

(1) Federally Listed Species

Goal: Identify known populations and potential habitat of threatened or endangered plants, fish, and wildlife on BLM lands in cooperation with Federal and State wildlife agencies or the NMDNR.

Objectives:

o Developing a database that identifies distribution of all threatened or endangered species on public lands, significance of public lands for recovery of each species, existing and potential threats to survival of those species, opportunities to improve habitat conditions, and habitat acquisition needs.

o Cooperating on inventories to provide information necessary for management of threatened or endangered species and their habitats.

(2) Proposed, Candidate, and State-Listed Species

Goal: Identify proposed, candidate, and State-listed species' habitat in cooperation with appropriate Federal and State agencies to identify management actions that could be taken to reduce the need for listing.

Objectives:

o Developing a database that identifies distribution and habitat of candidate species, State listed species, species proposed for listing, and any other species on the public lands determined to be declining toward the point of endangerment, along with reasons for such declines or threats to survival and opportunities to improve habitat or other conditions for such species.

(3) Special Habitats

Goal: Inventory rare, vulnerable, and representative habitats, plant communities, and ecosystems.

Objectives:

o Identifying habitats, ecosystems, and plant communities that are vulnerable to adverse changes or are considered rare.

o Collaborating on inventories on a continuing basis with the NPS, USFS, USFWS, State agencies, and private groups to aid in protection of the best representative habitats, ecosystems, and plant communities for each area.

2. Studies and Monitoring

BLM must conduct studies and monitoring to identify management problems and to measure progress towards defined management objectives.

a. Big Game/Upland Game

Goal: Monitor and study big game/upland game species habitat on the public lands with the intent of sustaining identifiable economic and/or social contributions to New Mexico.

Objectives:

o Identifying important big game/upland game habitats.

o Implementing program monitoring analysis procedures for analyzing habitat investments to obtain optimum benefits for dollars spent for habitat management and improvement.

o Conducting cooperative monitoring or studies with other agencies, landowners, and private organizations to maintain or enhance big game/upland game habitats.

b. Waterfowl

Goal: Conduct monitoring and studies with the intent of perpetuating a diversity and abundance of waterfowl for New Mexico.

Objectives:

o Monitoring key waterfowl habitat areas on public lands.

o Implementing cooperative monitoring and studies with other agencies, landowners, and private organizations to enhance the waterfowl resource as needed.

c. Raptors

Goal: Monitor and study birds of prey on public lands and their essential habitat components, including habitat for prey species, especially in areas where birds of prey concentrate during some period of the year, or in important habitats where populations are suppressed.

Objectives:

o Monitoring key nesting, migration, and concentration areas for birds of prey on public lands.

o Cooperating in studies for raptor species determined to be in need of recovery and special management, collaborate with the USFWS, State agencies, other concerned organizations, and landowners in management activities that contribute to the recovery of such species.

o Maintaining an awareness of the condition and trend of raptor resources on the public lands by participating in monitoring activities with other agencies and organizations.

d. Riparian Areas

Goal: Monitor and study riparian areas with the intent of achieving a healthy and productive conditions for long-term benefits and values, in concert with the Range and Watershed Programs.

Objectives:

o Monitoring important riparian/wetland areas under management and other areas with identified conflicting uses according to schedules developed by NMSO, DO, and RA managers.

e. Fisheries

Goal: Monitor and study habitat for resident species that spend all or part of their life cycles on public lands and that are of high economic, social, or scientific value to local communities or the nation. This includes both warm and cold water resident species.

Objectives:

o Monitoring current land use plans for species or habitats identified as important.

f. Special Status Species

(1) Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species

Goal: Monitor, evaluate, and study populations of special status plants, fish, and wildlife on BLM lands to ensure that management objectives for recovery are being accomplished, to obtain additional information that will enhance recovery efforts, and to determine when modification of management prescriptions might be necessary. Monitoring and evaluation will be accomplished in cooperation with Federal and State agencies.

Objectives:

o Developing objectives for a program monitoring system to track and display recovery actions, progress, and funding needs contained in approved activity plans for species inhabiting BLM lands.

o Coordinating monitoring systems with appropriate State and Federal agencies to track population trends and habitat conditions, measure progress in meeting recovery objectives, evaluate compensation requirements or stipulations in authorized activities, identify existing and potential threats, and provide the information necessary to anticipate problems.

o Developing an evaluation schedule for activity plans, recovery efforts, and all other special status species monitoring efforts in cooperation with the USFWS, NMDG&F, and NMDNR.

(2) Special Habitats

Goals: Monitor rare, vulnerable, and representative habitats, plant communities, and ecosystems.

Objectives:

o Monitoring habitats, ecosystems, and plant communities that are vulnerable to adverse changes or are considered rare.

o Coordinating on a continuing basis with the NPS, USFS, USFWS, State agencies, and private groups to ensure monitoring of the best representative habitats, ecosystems, or plant communities for each area.

D. Coordination

1. Internal

One of the major opportunities for the management of wildlife resources in New Mexico is by working in a constructive, cooperative, and interdisciplinary manner with other program activities to ensure that the needs of these resources are considered in both resource management and activity plan preparation. The challenge is to ensure that resource guidance occurs in a manner to ensure maximum benefits to all resource uses. It is to the enhancement of all BLM programs to ensure positive cooperative initiatives. Accurate, up-to-date wildlife habitat information is critical to the program.

Goal: Increase the total value of multiple uses of public lands and sustain viable populations of fish and wildlife by maintaining or improving their habitats through full consideration of these resources in other BLM resource programs.

Objectives:

o Keeping managers aware of their responsibilities and duties concerning fish, wildlife, and special status plant and animals in carrying out activities associated with all aspects of resources management.

o Providing managers with funding options for development of wildlife habitat improvement outside of base budget which will enhance desired habitat conditions for special status species and/or fish wildlife communities.

o Providing managers and decisionmakers with information on the desired habitat conditions for special status species and/or fish and wildlife communities.

o Using standard methods for economic analysis to relate change in productivity of fish and wildlife habitats and resulting economic valuation as a result of management activities.

o Utilizing NMSO and DO Wildlife Program Leaders and Public Affairs staffs to ensure adequate program awareness at all organizational levels. The DO Wildlife Program Leaders are responsible for making NMSO staffs aware of program initiatives in a timely manner.

o Incorporating specific objectives in BLM activity plans for managing and protecting wildlife habitats as plans are developed at the DO and RA levels and ensuring that all funding options are considered to accomplish implementation.

o Developing and implementing a system for estimating and evaluating changes in productivity of fish and wildlife habitats to predict and monitor changes resulting from BLM management.

2. External

Fish and wildlife habitat management on New Mexico public lands is a three-step process of inventory, planning, and implementation. The BLM has an outstanding opportunity in the Wildlife Program to maintain and improve wildlife habitat through numerous innovative funding programs. Opportunities in New Mexico, such as Challenge Cost Share/Matching Fund projects, Sikes Act projects, Rangeland Improvement Program funds, the Gift Catalog, etc., can readily exceed total base program dollars in the New Mexico Wildlife Program. In order to take advantage of these excellent opportunities, BLM Biologists must closely coordinate with public and private organizations, other State and Federal agencies, as well as scientists from colleges and universities, to contribute knowledge and skills in the development of wildlife habitat initiatives.

By maintaining and developing these positive working relationships with agencies and groups, increased opportunities are created for hands-on public involvement in development of New Mexico's Wildlife Program. This involvement will foster awareness, support, and assistance in cooperative programs to enhance fish and wildlife habitat. This support will also enhance the BLM's Image Program regarding responsible public land management.

a. Outreach Programs

Goal: Foster cooperation with public land users and sister agencies by means of existing and creative new mechanisms to achieve previously stated Wildlife Program goals and legislative mandates.

Objectives:

o Carrying out an Outreach Program at the WO, NMSO, DO, and RA levels to demonstrate the significance of and successes in the Wildlife Program (include field tours, open houses, etc.).

o Establishing procedures for ensuring Wildlife Program input into BLM outreach or external affairs publications at the national and State levels.

o Establishing incentives or awards for participation by New Mexico Wildlife Program personnel and managers in local community activities.

o Ensuring adequate program visibility to the public through development of annual public affairs plans for special and ongoing New Mexico Wildlife Program initiatives. The DO Wildlife Program Leaders are responsible for initiating plans and coordinating with DO Public Affairs personnel.

b. Other Federal Agencies

Goal: Enhance BLM cooperative relationships with other Federal agencies through frequent consultation and coordination.

Objectives:

o Evaluating the need for modification of existing MOU's or development of new MOU's with the USFS, NPS, Extension Service, SCS, and other appropriate Federal agencies.

o Conducting annual coordination meetings with the USFWS at NMSO level to discuss the ESA, consultation and coordination process, recovery plan development and implementation, and the Candidate Species Program. DO Wildlife Program Leader participation is essential. Participate in annual recovery team meetings with the USFWS at NMSO level to discuss these items for plants.

o Capitalizing on opportunities for participation in other Federal agency meetings and activities to improve understanding and communication on a continuing basis.

c. Other Public Land Users

Goal: Develop and maintain constructive relationships with nonwildlife and nonfisheries oriented public land user groups throughout New Mexico.

Objectives:

o Identifying opportunities for constructive participation in activities of the New Mexico Woolgrowers, New Mexico Cattlemen's Association, various energy interests, and similar organizations to provide a framework for improved understanding of the respective land management concerns and to strengthen cooperation on field programs as expediently as practical.

o Implementing actions to capitalize on opportunities identified to improve management of fish and wildlife habitat.

d. State Agencies

Goal: Recognize the NMDG&F jurisdiction for fish and wildlife species and the authority of the NMDNR for management of plant species through enhancement of the existing partnership between the State and Federal government for species and habitat management.

Objectives:

o Ensuring that DO level coordination meetings (formal agenda) are conducted on an annual basis with the NMDG&F. Participation by DM's, AM's, and Wildlife Program personnel (NMSO, DO, and RA) is essential.

o Ensuring that existing MOU's with NMDG&F are kept through periodic discussion of agency programs and procedures at both the State and local levels.

o Closely coordinating with the NMDG&F to ensure the success and expansion of the Sikes Act Program in New Mexico.

o Revising jointly developed HMP's as necessary and developing new HMP's or other cooperative management plans as needs are identified.

e. Conservation Organizations

Goal: Improve program effectiveness through the development and maintenance of active cooperation with conservation groups at all levels.

Objectives:

o Coordinating with conservation groups, such as the Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, etc., for development of wildlife enhancement programs within New Mexico through MOU's, CA's, volunteer projects, and contribution of matching funds.

o Attending and participating in annual meetings (national and State) of major conservation organizations (e.g., National Wildlife Federation, Izaak Walton League of America, Sport Fishing Institute, Trout Unlimited, Defenders of Wildlife, etc.), ensuring that the BLM is adequately and appropriately represented.

f. Private Investments

Goal: Develop incentives to encourage benefitting users, including local governments, interest groups, educational institutions, and individuals to invest in fish and wildlife habitat management and enhancement.

Objectives:

o Developing wildlife enhancing projects which encourage private investment through Challenge Cost Share/Matching Funds.

o Encouraging participation and education of the private sector in support of the Sikes Act Program.

o Investigating opportunities for volunteer work in all aspects of the New Mexico Wildlife Program.

o Promoting New Mexico's Gift Catalog concept as it relates to the improvement of public land resources, and ensure that wildlife enhancement opportunities are part of the publication.

o Making a special effort to invite organization representatives to District Advisory Council meetings.

o Investigating innovative mechanisms to enhance fish and wildlife habitats.

o Eliminating unnecessary regulatory or procedural barriers to cooperative management.

o Identifying specific constituent groups, organizations, corporations, agencies, or individuals with high potential to assist BLM habitat management activities and work with such cooperators through the Volunteer Program and other wise as opportunities permit.

o Tracking contributions through the WIS database.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In order to continue the effective management of the wildlife habitat resource and formulate realistic goals and objectives for the next 12 years, an accurate assessment of future budgets and workloads is critical. Several assumptions are made which enable a forecast of the future Wildlife Program. These assumptions are:

1. Fish and wildlife produced on the public lands will assume greater importance to New Mexico's economy.

2. As New Mexico's population increases, more recreation days will be expected from the public lands.

3. The expected increase in New Mexico's population will also result in increased consumptive use of surface water which will impact riparian habitats and aquatic resources and continued urbanization of habitat.

4. The increasing pressure on the public lands' wildlife habitat will be met with improvements in management and technology.

5. The number of special status species will continue to increase as habitats are impacted directly and indirectly by commercial resource development generated by economic pressures.

6. As the BLM moves to meet the demands of human population pressures, marginal habitats will be improved to meet the needs of displaced wildlife species.

These assumptions, in combination with the previously stated goals of the New Mexico Wildlife Program, serve to provide a basis with which to formulate specific future year estimates.

Specific issues identified by the 1987 Statewide Wildlife Program Evaluation Scoping have been addressed where appropriate. The projected New Mexico Wildlife Program goals and anticipated accomplishments by FY in order of priority are discussed below:

A. Future Program Budgets

The subactivity funding estimates within this plan are based upon 1988 dollars and do not reflect any changes due to or anticipated from inflation. The New Mexico Wildlife/Special Status Species Program budget is expected to average a 7 percent increase per annum, based upon increased public and Congressional pressures. Anticipated increases are associated with the increased emphasis on the Congressionally mandated Challenge Cost Share Program for habitat improvements, special status species, and other funding sources previously discussed.

TABLE 5
(Subactivity 4351)
WILDLIFE PROGRAM FUNDS
FY 88-2000

FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
867,000	976,000	1,083,000	1,189,000	1,294,000	1,398,000	1,501,000

FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 2000
1,603,000	1,703,000	1,802,000	1,900,000	1,995,000	2,086,000

As presented in Table 6, the Special Status Species Program budget will more than double by FY 2000:

TABLE 6
(Subactivity 4352)
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES PROGRAM FUNDS
FY 88-2000

FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
184,000	196,000	210,000	225,000	241,000	258,000	276,000

FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 2000
295,000	316,000	338,000	361,000	387,000	414,000

The following specific multi-year objectives and estimates are based upon known program issues and priorities, and as such, are subject to change.

B. Program Goals FY 88-2000

Goal: The primary goal of the New Mexico Wildlife Program is to ensure that the public lands are managed in a manner that will protect and enhance wildlife populations and their habitats, consistent with the principle of multiple-use and sustained yield within the framework of existing laws.

Objectives: The specific Wildlife Program emphasis as outlined in the following FY forecasts are expected not only to meet the New Mexico Wildlife Program objectives but also to meet the national BLM "Fish and Wildlife 2000" goals relating to New Mexico.

Program Personnel and Budget Forecast

The following Statewide staffing summaries project a modest increase in PFT staffing to support anticipated program growth, primarily in the technician job series (which may be either PFT or temporary). Cost distributions of program personnel (staffing and administrative support) and program operations (contracts, stores, etc.) are shown by FY:

TABLE 7
STAFFING SUMMARY
FY 88-2000

	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Technician	Botanist	Botanist Technician	Natural Resource Specialist	Natural Resource or Engineeering Technician (NR or E)	TOTAL
FY 88	13	3	1	1	1	-	19
FY 89	14	5	1	2	-	-	22
FY 90	15	7	2	1	0.5	1 E	26.5
FY 91	15	8	3	-	0.5	1 E	27.5
FY 92	15	8	3	1	0.5	2 E	29.5
FY 93	15	8	3	1	1	2 E	30
FY 94	15	9	4	1	1	2 E/2 NR	34
FY 95 - FY 2000	15	9	4	1	1	3 E/2 NR	35
	NO CHANGE						

TABLE 8
STAFFING vs. OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES
FY 88-2000

FY 88 - FY 2000	Program Staffing $	Program Operations $	Total $
FY 88	627,000	424,000	1,051,000
FY 89	726,000	446,000	1,172,000
FY 90	874,500	418,500	1,293,000
FY 91	907,500	506,500	1,414,000
FY 92	973,500	561,500	1,535,000
FY 93	990,000	666,000	1,656,000
FY 94	1,122,000	655,000	1,777,000
FY 95	1,155,000	743,000	1,898,000
FY 96	1,155,000	864,000	2,019,000
FY 97	1,155,000	985,000	2,140,000
FY 98	1,155,000	1,106,000	2,261,000
FY 99	1,155,000	1,127,000	2,382,000
FY 2000	1,155,000	1,345,000	2,500,000

NEW MEXICO FISH AND WILDLIFE 2000

FY 89 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$ 976,000
Special Status Species	$ 196,000
(Total Budget)	$1,172,00

Program Personnel

14 Biologists
5 Biologist Technicians
1 Botanist
2 Botanist Technicians
22 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 1 Biologist, 1 Biologist Technician, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 1 Botanist Technician
LCDO 4 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist Technician
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians
TDO 1 Biologist

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

- o Complete the Socorro RA RMP, McGregor RMP Amendment (LCDO)
- o Complete Southeast Oklahoma MFP Amendment (TDO)
- o Initiate the Mimbres RA RMP (RDO)
- o Mitigate wildlife impacts from resource development through the Bureau planning system and other means to the year 2000 (NMSO)
- o Continue Townsite Reserve planning analysis (TDO)
- o Monitor HMP's and RMP's (all)

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

- o Activity plan development:
  - Hog Back ACEC (ADO)
  - Reese Canyon Research Natural Area (RNA) (ADO)
  - Aztec Gila ACEC (ADO, Farmington RA RMP)
  - Sensitive plant HMP (ADO)
  - El Malpais HMP revision/expansion (ADO)
  - Socorro RA SMA's (LCDO)
  - Red Hill HMP Provision (LCDO)
  - Quemado HMP (LCDO)
  - Organ Mountains HMP (LCDO)
  - Red River CRMP (TDO)
  - Fort Stanton HMP (RDO)
- o Package New Mexico Fish and Wildlife 2000 Summary document for distribution to public (NMSO)

- Develop a strategy for a Statewide approach to desert bighorn sheep management with NMDG&F and USFWS (NMSO)
- Conduct/authorize ADC work as needed consistent with wildlife and multiple-use programs (all)
- Develop New Mexico interdisciplinary riparian management strategy to achieve improved ecological conditions on 75 percent or more of BLM riparian areas by the year 2000 (NMSO)
- Maintain and implement riparian demonstration projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- Complete Statewide special status plant species list (NMSO)
- Conduct antelope inventories/transplants (RDO, all)
- Wetland acquisition (RDO, Overflow Wetlands HMP)
- Complete Sikes Act Stamp projects - add Jicarilla unit (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- Address fish management requirements (NMSO, ADO)
- Develop monitoring strategy for Socorro RA SMA's (LCDO)
- Activity plan implementation (all)
- Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- Emphasize riparian management (all)
- Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- Implement Bald Eagle ACEC MOU (ADO)
- Automation of wildlife data utilizing the Bureau LIS and WIS, with emphasis on data standardization and quality control (all)
- Provide wildlife LIS support for the Mimbres RA RMP (LCDO)
- Initiate data entry into TEDS (TDO)
- Begin acquiring PC's or workstations for each office location (all)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- Coordinate with and develop cooperative initiatives with constituency groups and other agencies (all)
- Participate in professional organizations and present significant findings from program management (all)
- Update Statewide guidelines for ADC with APHIS, NMDG&F, USFS, and NMDA (NMSO)
- Conduct in-house program evaluations (NMSO)
- Develop MOU's with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (NMSO), Oklahoma Division of Wildlife (TDO), and Texas on threatened or endangered species data (TDO)
- Initiate Districtwide public affairs plan and video addressing Wildlife Program accomplishments (LCDO)
- Coordinate and direct volunteer initiatives (all)
- Coordinate with other programs toward interdisciplinary resource management (all)

FY 90 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,083,000
Special Status Species	$ 210,000
(Total Budget)	$1,293,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
7 Biologist Technicians
2 Botanists
1 Botanist Technicians
1 Engineering Technician
0.5 Natural Resource Specialist (half-time)
26.5 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist Technician
LCDO 4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 0.5 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians
TDO 1 Biologist

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

- o Complete Townsite Reserve planning analysis (TDO)
- o Continue support to the Mimbres RA RMP (LCDO)
- o Initiate the Roswell RA RMP (RDO)

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

- o Monitor HMP's and RMP's (all)
- o Begin implementation of Statewide strategy for desert bighorn sheep (all)
- o Activity plan development:
  - El Malpais HMP revision completed (ADO)
  - Riparian Aquatic HMP (ADO)
  - Chupadera HMP (LCDO)
  - Mule deer HMP, Caprock HMP revision (RDO)
- o Antelope water developments (RDO, WSRMP, WL-8)
- o Antelope transplants (RDO, Macho HMP) (all)
- o Prescribed burn (RDO, East Roswell Grazing EIS, WL-4.6)
- o Water developments (RDO, East Roswell Grazing EIS, WL-6.1)
- o Conduct/authorize ADC work as needed consistent with wildlife and multiple-use programs (all)
- o Tree plantings (RDO, East Roswell Grazing EIS, WL-7.7)
- o Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- o Emphasize riparian management (all)

- Initiate a fisheries management strategy (NMSO)
- Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- Implement activity plans and Sikes Act projects (all)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- Coordinate with and develop cooperative initiatives with constituency groups and other agencies (all)
- Participate in professional organizations and present significant findings from program management (all)
- Evaluate Sikes Act Stamp pilot areas with NMDG&F and USFS and plan for future (NMSO)
- Include nongame species in activity planning (all)
- Complete wildlife monitoring efforts for grazing decisions in the Rio Puerco RA RMP (ADO)
- Develop a Districtwide animal occurrence database with IHICS format to the Kuchler Association level of precision (ADO)
- Automation of wildlife data - LIS and WIS (DO's)
- Mimbres RA LIS wildlife support (LCDO)
- Complete data entry into TEDS (TDO)
- Acquire PC's or workstations for each office location (all)
- Begin database maintenance assessment (all)
- Determine an evaluation schedule Statewide for existing sensitive species monitoring efforts so that recommendations for management changes can be documented and implemented when necessary (NMSO)
- Initiate MOU with Kansas on threatened or endangered species data (TDO)
- Complete MOU with Texas and Kansas on threatened or endangered species data (TDO)
- Review MOU with NMDG&F (NMSO)
- Complete Districtwide public affairs plan for wildlife (LCDO)

NEW MEXICO FISH AND WILDLIFE 2000

FY 91 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,189,000
Special Status Species	$ 225,000
(Total Budget)	$1,414,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
8 Biologist Technicians
3 Botanists
1 Engineering Technician
0.5 Natural Resource Specialist (half-time)
27.5 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist Technician
LCDO 4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 0.5 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians
TDO 1 Biologist

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

- o Complete the Mimbres RA RMP (LCDO)
- o Continue the Roswell RA RMP (RDO)

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

- o Monitor HMP's and RMP's (all)
- o Emphasize threatened or endangered and other special status species and riparian management to the year 2000 (all)
- o Continue update of Special Status Species Handbook (ADO)
- o Review and set priorities for waterfowl habitat management (all)
- o Include nongame species in activity planning (all)
- o Conduct/authorize ADC work as needed consistent with wildlife and multiple-use programs (all)
- o Antelope transplants (RDO, Macho HMP) (all)
- o Evaluate effects of introduced plants and animals to natural biological diversity (all)
- o Continue "integrated resource management" coordination approach (all)
- o Activity plan development:
  - Ojo del Espiritu Santo HMP revision (ADO)
  - Upper Rio Puerco HMP revision (ADO)
- o Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- o Emphasize riparian management (all)

- Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into RMPs and review recovery plans (all)
- Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- Complete pre-release plan for Sierra de las Ladrones Mountains desert bighorn sheep reintroduction (LCDO)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- Coordinate with and develop cooperative initiatives with constituency groups and other agencies (all)
- Participate in professional organizations and present significant findings from program management (all)
- Begin expansion of Sikes Act Stamp areas to include North-Central New Mexico (ADO)
- Complete wildlife monitoring efforts for grazing decisions in the Carlsbad and White Sands RA's RMP's (LCDO, RDO)
- Utilize automation (LIS) to manage the program (all)
- Develop Statewide animal habitat automated database (NMSO)
- Initiate database maintenance program (all)
- Complete Mimbres RA wildlife LIS opportunity (LCDO)
- Initiate Districtwide public affairs plan and video addressing riparian area accomplishments (RDO)
- Develop training video for program budgeting at SO/DO level (NMSO)
- Initiate MOU with Oklahoma on Special Status Species, and complete MOU with Kansas (TDO)

FY 92 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,294,000
Special Status Species	$ 241,000
(Total Budget)	$1,535,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
8 Biologist Technicians
3 Botanists
1 Botanist Technician
2 Engineering Technicians
0.5 Natural Resource Specialist (half-time)
29.5 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist
LCDO 4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 0.5 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist Technician, 1 Engineering Technician
TDO 1 Biologist

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

o Complete the Mimbres RA RMP (LCDO)

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

o Monitor HMP's and RMP's (all)
o Continue update of District Special Status Species Handbook (RDO)
o Include waterfowl priorities in activity planning (all)
o Include nongame species in activity planning (NMSO)
o Begin incorporation of biological diversity concepts into activity planning revisions (all)
o Conduct/authorize ADC work as needed consistent with wildlife and multiple-use programs (all)
o Antelope transplants, desert bighorn sheep (all)
o Coordinate control and/or removal of introduced animal species as appropriate with NMDG&F (all)
o Continue integrated resource management (all)
o Update Statewide threatened or endangered species guidance (NMSO)
o Activity plan development:
  - Jornada North RMP (LCDO)
  - Otero Mesa HMP (LCDO)
  - Lake Holloman HMP (LCDO)

- Complete desert bighorn sheep reintroduction into Sierra de las Ladrones Mountains HMP area (LCDO)
- Expand Sikes Act Stamp area to include Southwest New Mexico (LCDO)
- Continue database maintenance program (NMSO)
- Raptor nest site inventory (RDO, East Roswell Grazing EIS, WL-7.4)
- Update sensitive species databases (NMSO)
- Continue use and development of LIS and other automation tools (all)
- Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- Emphasize riparian management (all)
- Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- Complete wildlife monitoring efforts for grazing decisions in the Farmington RA RMP (ADO)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- Coordinate with and develop cooperative initiatives witn constituency groups and agencies (all)
- Participate in professional organizations and present significant findings from program management (all)
- Complete a Districtwide public affairs plan and video addressing riparian area accomplishments (RDO)
- Initiate Districtwide public affairs plan and video promoting Wildlife Program accomplishments (ADO)
- Complete MOU with Oklahoma on threatened or endangered species data (TDO)
- Revise Statewide MOU reflecting current Sikes Act Stamp areas and procedures (NMSO)
- Update Statewide Special Emphasis Species guidance (NMSO)

NEW MEXICO FISH AND WILDLIFE 2000

FY 93 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,398,000
Special Status Species	$ 258,000
(Total Budget)	$1,656,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
8 Biologist Technicians
3 Botanists
1 Botanist Technician
2 Engineering Technicians
1 Natural Resource Specialist
30 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist
LCDO 4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technicians, 1 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist Technician, 1 Engineering Technician
TDO 1 Biologist

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

o Include natural biological diversity concepts in activity planning and RMP's (all)

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

o Monitor HMP's and RMP's (all)
o Address fisheries management needs on public lands (all)
o Coordinate control and/or removal of introduced plants and animals consistent with laws, policies, and RMP's (all)
o Include nongame species in activity planning and RMP's (all)
o Activity plan development:
  - McGregor HMP revision (LCDO)
  - Magdalena HMP (LCDO)
  - Upland Game HMP (RDO)
o Expand Sikes Act Stamp Area to include Southeast New Mexico (RDO)
o Complete SMA projects contained in the Carlsbad RA RMP (RDO)
o Lordsburg Mesa pronghorn restoration (Safford AZ District, Gila MFP, WL-2.1 and 2)
o Salt Cedar control and cottonwood protection/mesquite control (RDO, East Roswell Grazing EIS, WL-2.3, 7.3, and 7.11)
o desert bighorn sheep reintroductions (RDO)
o Assess remote sensing data systems for use in WIS (all)

- Complete wildlife monitoring efforts for grazing decisions in the Taos RA RMP (ADO)
- Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- Emphasize riparian management (all)
- Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- Antelope transplants (all)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- Coordinate with and develop cooperative initiatives with constituency groups and other agencies (all)
- Participate in professional organizations and present significant findings from program management (all)
- Complete a Districtwide public affairs plan and video presenting Wildlife Program accomplishments (ADO)
- Develop Statewide ADC handbook and video (NMSO)

NEW MEXICO FISH AND WILDLIFE 2000

FY 94 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,501,000
Special Status Species	$ 276,000
(Total Budget)	$1,777,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
9 Biologist Technicians
4 Botanists
1 Botanist Technician
2 Engineering Technicians
1 Natural Resource Specialist
2 Natural Resource Technicians
34 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Biologist Technician, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Natural Resource Technician
LCDO 4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
TDO 1 Biologist, 1 Botanist Technician

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

- o Monitor HMP's and RMP's (all)
- o Begin implementation of fisheries management objectives (all)
- o Continue to include concepts of natural biological diversity and integrated natural resource management (all)
- o Implement threatened or endangered species recovery plan projects and continue to incorporate recovery plan objectives into activity planning as new recovery plans are written (all)
- o Activity plan development:
  - Pecos River HMP (RDO)
- o Complete SMA projects contained in the Farmington RA RMP (ADO)
- o Wetland protection (RDO, East Roswell Grazing EIS, WL-11.1)
- o Wildlife habitat improvement (LCDO, Gila MFP, WL-6.1)
- o Utilize remotely sensed data and systems as appropriate in inventory and monitoring of habitats (all)
- o Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- o Emphasize riparian management (all)

- Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into RMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- Complete wildlife monitoring efforts for grazing decisions in the Socorro RA RMP (LCDO)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- Coordinate with and develop cooperative initiatives with constituency groups and other agencies (all)
- Participate in professional organizations and present significant findings from program management (all)
- Begin update of New Mexico Fish and Wildlife 2000 (NMSO)

FY 95 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,603,000
Special Status Species	$ 295,000
(Total Budget)	$1,898,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
9 Biologist Technicians
4 Botanists
1 Botanist Technician
3 Engineering Technicians
1 Natural Resource Specialist
2 Natural Resource Technicians
35 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO	2 Biologists, 1 Biologist Technician, 1 Botanist
ADO	5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
LCDO	4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO	3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
TDO	1 Biologist, 1 Botanist Technician

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

o Complete wildlife monitoring efforts for grazing decisions in the Mimbres RA RMP (LCDO)

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

o Monitor HMP's and RMP's (all)
o Initiate Statewide monitoring of sensitive species management (NMSO)
o Develop Statewide Sikes Act Stamp projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
o Continue HMP/CRMP/threatened or endangered species recovery plans (all)
o Complete SMA projects contained in the Taos RA RMP (ADO)
o Activity plan development:
  - Bosquecito HMP (LCDO)
  - Deer HMP (LCDO)
  - Cuchillo Negro HMP (LCDO)
  - Otero County HMP (LCDO)
o Continue Fisheries Management Program (all)
o Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
o Emphasize riparian management (all)

- Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- Threatened or endangered species and birds of prey emphasis (LCDO, Gila MFP, WL-1.1)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- Assist NMDG&F in initiating update of Statewide Operations Plan (NMSO)
- Initiate development of Statewide NMDG&F and BLM Master MOU reviews (NMSO)
- Complete update of New Mexico Fish and Wildlife 2000 (all)

FY 96 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,703,000
Special Status Species	$ 316,000
(Total Budget)	$2,019,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
9 Biologist Technicians
4 Botanists
1 Botanist Technician
3 Engineering Technicians
1 Natural Resource Specialist
2 Natural Resource Technicians
35 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Biologist Technician, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
LCDO 4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
TDO 1 Biologist, 1 Botanist Technician

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

- o Complete SMA projects contained in the Socorro RA RMP (LCDO)
- o Complete wildlife monitoring efforts for grazing decisions in the Roswell RA RMP (RDO)

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

- o Activity plan development:
  - Caballo Mountains HMP (LCDO)
  - Sacramento HMP (LCDO)
- o Monitor HMP's/CRMP's/ACEC's (all)
- o Continue activity plan project implementation (all)
- o Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- o Emphasize riparian management (all)
- o Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- o Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- o Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- o Pronghorn habitat management/limitations (LCDO, South Rio Grande MP, WL-3.1)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- o Complete review/update of Statewide master MOU with NMDG&F (NMSO)
- o Complete update/rewrite assistance to NMDG&F on Statewide Wildlife Operations Plan (NMSO)

FY 97 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,802,000
Special Status Species	$ 338,000
(Total Budget)	$2,140,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
9 Biologist Technicians
4 Botanists
1 Botanist Technician
3 Engineering Technician
1 Natural Resource Specialist
2 Natural Resource Technicians
35 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Biologist Technician, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
LCDO 4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
TDO 1 Biologist, 1 Botanist Technician

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

- o Monitor HMP's and RMP's (all)
- o Continue wildlife and special status species monitoring (all)
- o Conduct wildlife and special status species inventories as needed (all)
- o Complete SMA projects contained in the Mimbres RA RMP (LCDO)
- o Activity plan development:
  - San Augustine HMP (LCDO)
- o Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- o Emphasize riparian management (all)
- o Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- o Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- o Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- o Initiate Statewide public affairs plan and video with on emphasis Sikes Act Stamp, desert bighorn sheep success (NMSO)
- o Conduct Statewide Wildlife Program evaluations (NMSO)

FY 98 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,900,000
Special Status Species	$ 361,000
(Total Budget)	$2,261,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
9 Biologist Technicians
4 Botanists
1 Botanist Technician
3 Engineering Technicians
1 Natural Resource Specialist
2 Natural Resource Technicians
35 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Biologist Technician, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
LCDO 4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
TDO 1 Biologist, 1 Botanist Technician

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

- o Monitor HMP's and RMP's (all)
- o Activity plan development:
  - Fence Lake HMP (LCDO)
- o Continue wildlife monitoring (all)
- o Conduct threatened or endangered species inventories as needed (all)
- o Complete SMA projects contained in the Roswell RA RMP (RDO)
- o Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- o Emphasize riparian management (all)
- o Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- o Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- o Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- o Complete Statewide public affairs plan and video concerning Sikes Act Stamp (NMSO)
- o Update MOU's with special interest groups (NMSO)

FY 99 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$1,995,000
Special Status Species	$ 387,000
(Total Budget)	$2,382,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
9 Biologist Technicians
4 Botanists
1 Botanist Technician
3 Engineering Technicians
1 Natural Resource Specialist
2 Natural Resource Technicians
35 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Biologist Technician, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
LCDO 4 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
TDO 1 Biologist, 1 Botanist Technician

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

- o Continue wildlife monitoring (all)
- o Conduct threatened or endangered species inventories as needed (all)
- o Complete SMA projects contained in the Roswell RA RMP (RDO)
- o Activity plan development:
  - Alamo Deer HMP (LCDO)
  - Alamo Riparian HMP (LCDO)
  - Raptor HMP (LCDO)
- o Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- o Emphasize riparian management (all)
- o Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- o Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- o Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- o Begin New Mexico Fish and Wildlife 2010 (NMSO)
- o Complete Statewide public affairs plan and video concerning Sikes Act Stamp (NMSO)
- o Update MOU's with special interest groups (NMSO)
- o Initiate public affairs plan and video concerning nongame species emphasis (NMSO)

FY 2000 FORECAST

Program Budget

Wildlife	$2,086,000
Special Status Species	$ 414,000
(Total Budget)	$2,500,000

Program Personnel

15 Biologists
9 Biologist Technicians
4 Botanists
1 Botanist Technician
3 Engineering Technicians
1 Natural Resource Specialist
2 Natural Resource Technicians
35 (Total Workforce)

Program Personnel Distribution

NMSO 2 Biologists, 1 Biologist Technician, 1 Botanist
ADO 5 Biologists, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
LCDO 4 Biologists, 1 Botanist, 3 Biologist Technicians, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Specialist
RDO 3 Biologists, 2 Biologist Technicians, 1 Botanist, 1 Engineering Technician, 1 Natural Resource Technician
TDO 1 Biologist, 1 Botanist Technician

Program Priorities

1. Support Land Use Planning Efforts

2. Habitat Improvement Projects

- o Continue wildlife monitoring (all)
- o Conduct special status species inventories as needed (all)
- o Complete SMA projects contained in the Roswell RA RMP (RDO)
- o Continue activity plan project development (ADO, LCDO, RDO)
- o Achieve good or better ecological conditions on 75 percent or more of BLM-administered lands (all)
- o Achieve restoration of desert bighorn sheep and antelope to suitable historic ranges (all)
- o Maintain existing habitat improvements (all)
- o Emphasize riparian management (all)
- o Incorporate threatened or endangered species recovery plans into HMP's and review recovery plans (all)
- o Implement rangeland improvement wildlife projects (all)
- o Implement Challenge Cost Share projects (ADO, LCDO, RDO)

3. Program Support, Guidance, and Cooperative Relations

- o Complete New Mexico Fish and Wildlife 2010 (all)
- o Complete Statewide public affairs plan and video concerning Sikes Act Stamp (NMSO)
- o Update MOU's with special interest groups (NMSO)
- o Consolidation of crucial habitat (LCDO, Gila MFP, WL-10.2)
- o Complete public affairs plan and video concerning nongame species emphasis (NMSO)

Conclusion

This first effort at developing a New Mexico Wildlife Program strategy is a giant step forward for the BLM. It represents BLM New Mexico's first real attempt at pulling together the various administrative and management aspects into a whole which will set future directions. An annual Wildlife Program Summary Report will be developed to monitor progress. Public and external input and review will continue to be actively solicited. The New Mexico Fish and Wildlife 2000 will be updated periodically to maintain flexibility and be responsive to changing program requirements.

The goals, objectives, and projections contained within this plan will serve as a guide for future program accomplishments. The success of this plan and its impacts on effective fish and wildlife habitat management within New Mexico depends upon dedicated, motivated, professional employees. Because of this, it is ultimately the responsibility of line managers and supervisors to train, motivate, and inspire their employees to do the best possible job of resource management.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF NEW MEXICO BLM WILDLIFE PROGRAM PLANNING DECISIONS

(Contact Local BLM Field Offices for Current Status)

NEW MEXICO FISH AND WILDLIFE 2000

ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT
Rio Puerco Resource Area

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary

Rio Puerco RMP (No decision numbers)

The following ACEC's have special wildlife emphasis:

Bluewater Canyon ACEC
San Luis Mesa Raptor ACEC
Ball Ranch ACEC

Other wildlife-related decisions:

El Malpais HMP
Cebolla HMP
Upper Rio Puerco HMP - Update and revise.
Ojo del Espiritu Santo Giant HMP - Update and revise.
Riparian Habitat Initiative

ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT
Farmington Resource Area

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary

Farmington RMP (No decision numbers)

The following SMA's have special wildlife emphasis:

Laguna Seca Mesa - Maintenance and improvement of wildlife habitat.

The Hogback ACEC - Management of threatened or endangered plant populations.

Reese Canyon Research - Management of threatened or endangered plant populations.

Aztec Gila ACEC - Management of threatened or endangered plant populations (Category 2).

River Tracts - Management of 39 river tracts containing 2,953 acres.

Bald Eagle ACEC - Management of wintering habitat for bald eagles.

ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT
Taos Resource Area

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
Taos RMP	
The following SMA's have special wildlife management emphasis:	
WL-1	San Antonio - Habitat for elk, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope.
R-6	Sabinoso - Manage for habitat recreation and hunting.
WL-3	Riparian/Aquatic - Protect, maintain, improve, and restore riparian habitat and watersheds.
WL-4	Black Mesa - Threatened or endangered plant management.
WL-2	Warm Springs.

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
Mimbres Resource Area

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
Southern Rio Grande MFP	
WL-1.1	Rejected.
WL-2.1	Priorities for the development of deer HMP's within the planning area will be given as follows in order of decreasing value: Organ Mountains Caballo Mountains Sierra de las Uvas Mountains In addition, allocate forage for 1,360 deer which presently utilize habitats within the planning area. Provide forage allocation for a projected population increase of an estimated additional 970 deer by the year 2010.
WL-3.1	In coordination with the NMDG&F, conduct studies to determine what biological factors are limiting the distribution and numbers of pronghorn in habitats in the Nutt and White Sands herd units (Jornada Plain). In addition, allocate forage for 385 pronghorn which presently utilize habitat within the planning area. Provide forage allocation for an estimated addition of 65-600 pronghorn. The allocation will be dependent on the amount and success of the vegetation treatment described in the Rangeland Management Decision.
Gila MFP	
RM-2.1	Complete an inventory of the Gila Planning Unit (PU) to identify threatened or endangered plant species' occurrence and habitat by the end of FY 82 (completed).
RM-2.2	Develop an education and enforcement program for protection of threatened or endangered plant species in cooperation with the public and other agencies.
RM-2.3	Develop grazing systems through AMP's which provide consideration for protection of threatened or endangered plant species.

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
Mimbres Resource Area
(Continued)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
RM-2.4	Require an endangered plant clearance for any surface disturbing activity to determine threatened or endangered species presence.
RM-4.3	Classify isolated tracts for disposal and use for exchange purposes to block up other areas. Classification should proceed only after a thorough study to assess their potential to support various public objectives such as critical or otherwise valuable endangered or wildlife habitat, etc. Final action should be made subject to the findings of the study.
WL-1.1	Sponsor (contract) comprehensive research and/or study of birds of prey (with emphasis on threatened or endangered species) and threatened or endangered birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians on the following priority areas to determine critical and important habitat location, distribution, condition, population trends, and ecological interrelationships; opportunities for expansion and development; and the need for protection. Ultimately, HMP's will be prepared for each area. These are, in order of priority: Gila River, San Simon Cienega, Guadalupe Canyon, Peloncillo Mountains, Pyramid Mountains, Yucca Grasslands, and Animas Range.
WL-1.2	Conduct and/or sponsor (contract) a comprehensive ecological study of the following species in the indicated areas: Mearn's quail (Peloncillo Mountains, Summit Mountains, and northern portion of PU adjacent to Burro Mountains and Gila National Forest); Coues' Whitetail (same area as Mearn's quail); Javelina (all areas within the PU); mule deer (Peloncillo Mountains, Animas Range, Pyramid Mountains, Gila River, Guadalupe Canyon, and entire area north of Gila River).
WL-1.3	Evaluate existing powerlines for problems related raptor electrocution. Evaluate the need for maintenance road closures because of indiscriminate shooting. Coordinate with power and communication companies.
WL-1.4	In cooperation with USFWS, determine densities and associated problems of predatory animals. Until more specific information is available, continue animal damage control activities within the PU in accordance with the Las Cruces ADC Plan.

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
Mimbres Resource Area
(Continued)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-2.1	In cooperation with NMDG&F, complete comprehensive ecological study of antelope in the Lordsburg Mesa to determine factors limiting herd expansion.
WL-2.2	Conduct an evaluation of all existing available waters within the Lordsburg Mesa area and remainder of the PU to determine period of availability, distance between water sources, and ownership.
WL-2.3	When an economically and environmentally acceptable method of creosote eradication is found, treat those areas on Overlay WL-5 which have highest potential for conversion to grassland, yucca-grassland, or dominant grassland (forb types) in order to expand, improve, and enhance antelope, quail, dove, and many other wildlife species' habitat.
WL-3.1	Develop an HMP for the Lower Gila River by September 30, 1982 (completed). Develop a fully coordinated and comprehensive management plan for the Lower Gila Valley (that portion within the Gila PU). Goals and objectives are as follows: 1. Existing riparian habitat must be maintained, and to whatever extent possible, restored to former areas of occupancy. 2. Riparian faunal elements should be managed in ways above and beyond those aspects that proper management of riparian habitats will provide. 3. Wildlife and wildlife habitat considerations should be made an integral part of all management activities in the Lower Gila Valley and vicinity. 4. The long-term goals should involve a commitment to protect and preserve the native biota of the Gila Valley and to place man and his use of the Valley in proper perspective in regard to the proper functioning of nature.
WL-3.2	Rejected.
WL-3.3	Develop objectives to wildlife habitat improvement for the priority allotments which include important riparian habitat. Allocate sufficient forage to provide food and cover for present or potential wildlife species by September 30, 1982 (completed).

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
Mimbres Resource Area
(Concluded)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-5.1	Surface occupancy for mineral exploration and development will be restricted in the following areas: Gila Lower Box, Guadalupe Canyon, Peloncillo Mountains south of Granite Gap, and San Simon Cienega. The Gila Middle Box and Peloncillo Mountains from Steins to Granite Gap will remain open to surface occupancy for mineral exploration and development. Specific use applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine impacts on threatened or endangered species.
WL-5.2	Develop objectives for wildlife habitat improvement for all allotments within the PU through the AMP process through specific stipulations attached to leases or licenses (custodial allotments). Allocate forage for wildlife by September 30, 1983 (completed). (Allotments of immediate concern are shown on overlay Range URA step 3, overlay f1).
WL-5.3	Determine which tracts of private or State lands are critical or important for threatened or endangered species. Acquire through exchange or purchase. Retain all tracts of Federal lands important to threatened or endangered species. Develop AMP's and allocate forage specifically for endangered species.
WL-6.1	Of the identified stockwater reservoirs, select a few representative sites and fence 3-5 acres, enclosing all or a portion of the reservoirs. Plant seed and cover-producing vegetation, and study the effectiveness in increasing wildlife populations before implementing on other suitable sites.
WL-7.1	Rejected.
WL-8.1	Classify and designate an RNA in the Southern Peloncillo Mountains.
WL-8.2	Acquire State land in T. 30 S., R. 21 W., Section 2 for inclusion within the proposed RNA.
WL-9.1	In cooperation with NMDG&F, complete a comprehensive study of the Peloncillo Mountains to determine the technical and biological feasibility and environmental implications of reintroducing desert bighorn sheep (completed).
WL-10.1	Revoke all State aid withdrawals within the Gila PU.
WL-10.2	Consolidate public lands into areas of crucial wildlife habitat.
WL-10.3	Reassess the effectiveness of the current boundary between the Las Cruces and Safford Districts.

NEW MEXICO FISH AND WILDLIFE 2000

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
White Sands Resource Area

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary

White Sands RMP

The following decisions provide specific guidance for wildlife habitat management on public lands in Sierra and Otero Counties, New Mexico:

WL-1	Provide forage for deer and antelope in Sierra and Otero Counties. Also, provide forage for deer and antelope on McGregor Range.
WL-2	Improve and protect riparian habitat along Percha Creek. Monitor riparian condition and develop management objectives for an HMP. Limit ORV use to existing roads and trails.
WL-3	Improve and protect Lake Holloman and adjacent lands as a waterfowl and shorebird area. Eliminate livestock grazing.
WL-4	Develop and monitor an HMP for antelope on Otero Mesa to provide adequate habitat.
WL-5	Develop and monitor an HMP for deer on Caballo Mountains to provide adequate habitat.
WL-6	Develop and monitor an HMP for deer on the Sacramento Escarpment to provide adequate habitat.
WL-7	Consider additional HMP's for riparian areas near Alamogordo and at Percha Creek.
WL-8	Conduct biological studies for antelope in the Nutt and White Sands Herd Units. (This is currently the Jornada del Muerto Antelope HMP.)

The following decision involves procedural, criterial, and managerial practices to incorporate:

WL-1	Forage reservation for deer and antelope. Also require participation in 5th-year grazing decisions.

The following decisions direct that HMP's be implemented to improve wildlife habitat:

WL-2	Percha Creek riparian management.
WL-3	Lake Holloman waterfowl and shorebird area.

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
White Sands Resource Area
(Continued)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-4	Otero Mesa antelope habitat management.
WL-5	Caballo Mountains deer habitat management.
WL-6	Sacramento Escarpment deer habitat management.
WL-7	Alamogordo and Percha Creek riparian management.
WL-8	Jornada del Muerto antelope habitat management (existing).

The following decisions suggest that inventories be conducted:

WL-2	Inventory riparian areas in Sierra County for condition indices.
WL-3	Inventory Lake Holloman.
WL-4	Inventory Otero Mesa for specifics on food, water, and cover as they pertain to antelope. Inventory may be aimed at determining fawning areas, predator relationships, fencing problems, water availability, brush encroachment, fire ecology, and antelope viability indices.
WL-5	Inventory the Caballo Mountains area for food, water, and cover needs of mule deer.
WL-6	Inventory the Sacramento Escarpment area for food, water, and cover needs of mule deer.
WL-7	Inventory riparian areas for condition indices in both Sierra and Otero Counties, specifically Percha Creek and the Alamogordo area; however, all other riparian areas in the two counties are being included here.
WL-8	Inventory the Nutt are for antelope viability indices.

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
Socorro Resource Area

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary

Socorro RMP

The following decisions involve procedural, criterial, and managerial practices to be applied in all RA's:

WL-1 Prior to authorizing activities in crucial wildlife habitats (winter ranges, raptor nest sites, fawning habitat, etc.), considerations will be made to avoid or minimize disturbance to wildlife. The area and time stipulations are shown in the following table:

WILDLIFE HABITAT OCCUPANCY RESTRICTIONS
(for Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Exploration and Development and all Major Construction Activities)

Species	No Occupancy Time Periods	Area
Game Species		
Antelope		
-Crucial Fawning Ranges *	May 1 - August 1	Entire Habitat Area
Elk		
-Crucial Winter Range *	November 1 - April 1	Entire Habitat Area
Sensitive Species		
Ferruginous Hawk Nests	February 1 - July 15	Within 1/2-mile radius from nest
Endangered Species		
Bald Eagle Wintering Areas	November 1 - April 1	Wintering Areas
Species of Concern		
Golden Eagle Nests	February 1 - July 15	Within 1/2-mile radius from nest
Prairie Falcon Nests	March 1 - August 1	Within 1/2-mile radius from nest
Special Habitats		
Reservoirs, Ponds, Lakes, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas	Yearlong	Within 500 feet

* Those areas where big game animals have demonstrated a definite pattern of use each year or an area where animals tend to concentrate in significant numbers.

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
Socorro Resource Area
(Continued)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-2	Prescribed burning will be designed to improve wildlife habitat.
WL-3	Range management practices and rangeland improvements will be designed or modified to maintain to improve wildlife habitats. Livestock grazing management will incorporate the needs of key plant species important to wildlife.
WL-4	All new fences will be built to allow for wildlife passage in accordance with BLM fence standards. Any existing fences obstructing wildlife movements will be brought into conformance with the adopted standards.
WL-5	Wildlife escape devices will be installed on all new and existing water tanks or troughs constructed for livestock with the Socorro RA.
WL-6	The construction of new roads into crucial wildlife habitats will be avoided to the extent possible. Permanent or seasonal road closures may be instituted where problems exist or are expected.
WL-7	Raptor habitat will be improved by requiring all new powerlines to be constructed to "electrocution proof" specification and any problem lines to be modified to be "electrocution proof."
WL-8	Riparian and wetland habitat have a high priority for protection and improvement in accordance with State and national policy.
WL-9	Suppression of wildlife in riparian habitats will have a high priority. Riparian areas which have burned will be rehabilitated through protection, and if necessary, seeded or planted with indigenous species.
WL-10	Grazing management practices will be designed and established to meet riparian and water quality needs in the development of new AMP's and in the revision of existing AMP's. In those instances where management systems alone cannot meet objectives, provisions for fencing or other means of exclusion will be utilized. No livestock-related activities such as salting, feeding, construction of holding facilities, and stock driveways will be allowed to occur within the riparian zones.

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
Socorro Resource Area
(Continued)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-11	Construction activities which remove or destroy riparian vegetation will be avoided to the extent possible.
WL-12	All new spring developments will be designed to protect wetted areas, while selected existing spring developments will be modified for the same reason. If necessary, reservoirs for wildlife will be fenced where possible, and water for livestock will be provided away from the reservoirs. Wildlife habitat needs will be considered when reservoir site determinations are made.
WL-13	Protection and management of bald eagle roost areas will continue. Inventory for Federal and/or State candidate species will continue, and monitoring programs will be implemented on known populations of listed and candidate species. Where monitoring identifies threats to these populations, appropriate actions will be taken to protect the species and its habitat.

The following decisions provide management guidelines for the protection and enhancement of specific wildlife species habitat:

WL-14	Sierra de las Ladrones Mountains SMA will be managed to protect the area identified as habitat for the State-endangered desert bighorn sheep and the wintering and nesting habitats of deer and raptor species. It will also protect the geologic, recreational, paleontological, and scenic values. Management of the Sierra del las Ladrones Mountains SMA will emphasize wildlife habitat uses and protect the geological, recreational, and scenic values as the highest priority over the other resource uses when considering proposed actions within the SMA.
WL-15	Pelona SMA will be managed to protect elk, deer, and raptor wintering and nesting habitats; the geologic, recreational, and scenic values; and Bat Cave Cultural Site. Management will emphasize wildlife habitat uses and protect the geologic, recreational, and scenic values as the highest priority over the other resource uses when considering proposed actions within the SMA.
WL-16	Agua Fria SMA will be managed to protect raptor wintering and nesting habitats and the geologic and scenic values. management will emphasize wildlife habitat uses and protect the geologic and scenic values as the highest priority over the other resource uses when considering proposed actions within the SMA.

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
Socorro Resource Area
(Continued)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-17	Horse Mountains SMA will be managed to protect elk, deer, and raptor wintering and nesting habitats and the geologic, primitive recreational and scenic values as the highest priority over the other resource uses when considering proposed actions within the SMA.
WL-18	Walnut Canyon will be managed to protect raptor wintering and nesting habitats and geologic, recreational, and scenic values as the highest priority over the other resource uses when considering proposed actions with the SMA.

The following decisions are those which were incorporated into the Socorro RMP:

Sierra de las Ladrones MFP

WL-1.1	Develop two inverted umbrella water catchments primarily for deer (see Management Situation Analysis (MSA) for locations).
WL-4.5	Acquire approximately 19,500 acres of nonpublic land valuable for terrestrial wildlife habitat (see MSA for locations).
WL-4.6	Acquire needed legal access in three general areas (see MSA for locations).

Divide MFP

WL-1.11	Acquire nonpublic lands to support Wildlife Programs.
WL-2.1	Burn or chain 10,000 acres of pinyon/juniper in 50-100-acre irregularly shaped plots.
WL-2.3	Continue wildlife/range studies and complete allotment evaluations to determine habitat capacity to support anticipated numbers of livestock and wildlife (see MSA for 91 listed allotments).
WL-2.4	Implement livestock grazing systems to protect mule deer habitat by scheduling nonuse or rest for essential winter range and fawning areas during critical periods (see MSA for 13 listed allotments).
WL-3.1	Construct 37-60 antelope passes along 37 miles of woven wire fence along U.S. Highway 60 near Red Hill.
WL-4.3	Seed browse and forbs on 152,676 acres in 1,000-acre plots or less.

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT
Socorro Resource Area
(Continued)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-4.4	Fence portions of six earthen tank reservoirs to restrict livestock entry, yet still provide access to water. Seed adjacent drainages.
WL-5.1	Continue wildlife/range studies and complete allotment evaluations to determine habitat capacity to support anticipated numbers of livestock and wildlife (see MSA for 67 listed allotments).
WL-5.2	Design grazing system to eliminate livestock use on 13,500 acres near Pelona Mountain from December 15 - March 1.
WL-6.2	Continue wildlife/range studies and complete allotment evaluations to determine habitat capacity to support anticipated numbers of livestock and wildlife (see MSA for three listed allotments).
WL-7.1	Construct four enclosures around spring areas (see MSA for legal description and specifications).
WL-7.3	Construct 2 miles of protective fence around San Ignacio and Nutria Springs and pipe traditional livestock waters at least 100 feet from fences.
WL-7.4	Acquire surface and mineral estate of specifically identified riparian/wetland areas (see MSA for listing).

ROSWELL DISTRICT
Carlsbad Resource Area

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
East Eddy Lea MFP	
The following "old" MFP decisions are in effect until the recent Carlsbad RMP is final; expected completion date is 1988:	
WL-1.4 WL-3.4	Reduce mesquite and cresote canopy.
WL-1.18 WL-2.6 WL-5.5	Maintain mixed desert shrub aspects. Do not allow brush control in these areas.
WL-1.24 WL-4.4	No brush control within 300 feet of canyons, cliffs, and escarpments. Minimize surface disturbance.
WL-1.25 WL-1.35	Establish suitable buffer zone around trees to protect raptor nesting sites.
WL-1.31 WL-6.3	Maintain vegetation and wetland conditions around playas, alkali lakes, and sinks.
WL-2.1	Ensure adequate wildlife waters.
WL-5.3	Develop and/or protect cover around livestock and wildlife waters.
Caverns MFP	
several	Minimize modification of riparian habitat areas.
several	Minimize modification of riparian habitat areas.
several	Protect mule deer habitat by ensuring that livestock grazing management, vegetation manipulation communities, mountain shrub communities, and forbs and legumes. Ensure adequate yearlong wildlife waters. Original decisions will be modified to reflect these overall objectives.
5C	Mule Deer - Ensure continued adequate hunter access.
2	Mourning Dove - Protect existing wooded riparian vegetation and stream habitat.
1	Waterfowl - Protect existing wooded riparian vegetation and stream habitat.

ROSWELL DISTRICT
Carlsbad Resource Area
(Concluded)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
1	Painted Bunting - Protect existing wooded riparian vegetation and stream habitat.
1	Birds of Prey - Provide adequate stipulations (i.e., seasonal drilling restrictions, buffer zones around nest sites from vegetative manipulations, etc.) to protect raptor nesting areas (slight modification of original decision).
Box Canyon MFP	
several	Protect mule deer habitat by ensuring that livestock grazing management, vegetative manipulation projects, oil and gas development do not damage desert shrub communities. Ensure adequate year-long wildlife waters. Original decisions will be modified to reflect these overall objectives.
10 11	Protect existing riparian habitat, surface water acreage, and stream habitat. Protect nesting areas of certain birds of prey (Bald eagle, peregrine, and prairie falcons, etc.). Decision will be expanded to provide stipulations to protect nesting areas of all birds of prey.

ROSWELL DISTRICT
Roswell Resource Area

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary

East Chaves MFP

The following decisions provide management guidelines for the protection and enhancement of specific wildlife species habitat:

WL-1.2 WL-7.9	Maintain existing prairie dog towns on public lands in the PJ under management criteria.
WL-1.3	Maintain the existing desert shrub vegetative type aspect for the grey shrew.
WL-1.5	Maintain he existing short grass vegetative type for the swift fox.
WL-2.1	Provide for the enhancement of four-wing saltbush on mule deer ranges in livestock grazing management systems.
WL-2.4	Maintain the existing shinnery oak composition for mule deer.
WL-3.1	Exclude incompatible uses in the whitetail deer critical habitat area.
WL-4.1	Provide for the development and availability of forbs for antelope in livestock grazing management systems.
WL-4.2	Control mesquite and creosote for the enhancement of antelope habitat.
WL-4.4	Ensure that fences do not provide a barrier to antelope movement on antelope ranges.
WL-4.5	Reduce disturbances to antelope in high use or critical antelope use areas.
WL-4.6	Controlled burning will be used to maximize antelope forage under planned conditions.
WL-6.3	The vegetative aspect of critical habitat areas for furbearers will be maintained.
WL-7.1	Maintain the habitat needed for endangered, threatened, restricted, and status undetermined terrestrial birds.
WL-7.3	Protect cottonwood stands for the redheaded woodpecker and Mississippi kite.
WL-7.4	Protect identified birds of prey nesting sites.

ROSWELL DISTRICT
Roswell Resource Area
(Continued)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-7.5	Produce sufficient grass seed crop for the Baird's sparrow and McCown's longspur.
WL-7.6	Eliminate electrocution hazards to birds of prey on powerlines on NRL.
WL-7.8	Protect cottonwood stands in the Mescalero Sands for bird nesting habitat.
WL-10.1	Develop habitat management guidelines for the western ribbonsnake, bullsnake, Texas blind snake, and marbled whiptail.
WL-10.2	Acquire identified lands to expand waterfowl and aquatic habitat potentials.

These decisions involve procedural, criterial, and managerial practices to incorporate:

WL-1.4 WL-5.1 WL-6.2	Predator damage control will be allowed where need is verified by mechanical methods.
WL-2.2	Forbs and legumes will be considered for inclusion in any reseeding programs.
WL-13.1	Procedures will be coordinated with the USGS to eliminate existing sump pit hazards to wildlife and livestock.
WL-2.3 WL-9.4	Wildlife habitat needs will be identified and considered in any salt cedar control proposals.
WL-11.4	Attempts will be made to improve the water quality of the Pecos for wildlife concerns.
WL-2.4 WL-4.3 WL-6.1 WL-7.7 WL-9.1 WL-9.3 WL-9.2 WL-11.1	The use of existing and future water facilities to serve wildlife water needs.

ROSWELL DISTRICT
Roswell Resource Area
(Continued)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-14.1	Develop legal access needed for the wildlife Habitat Management Program.
WL-14.2	Provide a sufficient number of easy to operate gates at needed locations for recreation and management purposes for wildlife habitat.

These decisions direct that HMP's be implemented to improve wildlife habitat:

WL-8.1 WL-12.1	Prepare a wildlife HMP for the prairie chicken, whitetail deer, and sand dune lizard combined.
WL-12.2	Prepare an HMP for the riparian and aquatic communities along the Pecos River.
WL-12.3	Prepare an HMP emphasizing water development and wildlife cover development for aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

Inventories to be conducted have been identified in the following decisions:

WL-1.1 WL-12.4	Inventory existing prairie dog towns for the black-footed ferret.
WL-4.5 WL-12.4	Determine high use and critical use areas for antelope.
WL-7.4	Identify birds of prey nesting sites.
WL-7.10 WL-12.4	Inventory habitat use and requirements for the mountain plover and longbilled curlew.
WL-9.5 WL-12.4	Inventory areas that have had salt cedar control for regrowth needs for dove habitat.
WL-12.4	Inventory areas proposed for salt cedar control to determine wildlife habitat needs.
WL-10.1 WL-12.4	Inventory use and habitat requirements of threatened reptiles and amphibians in the PJ.
WL-11.2	Conduct inventories to determine potential development for waterfowl habitat.

ROSWELL DISTRICT
Roswell Resource Area
(Concluded)

Document/ Decision Numbers	Summary
WL-12.4	The following inventories are needed that are not indicated in other decisions: - Inventory and census of whitetail deer population and habitat. - Inventory existing electrical powerline rights-of-way for hazards to large perching birds. - Inventory existing and future water developments for habitat improvement opportunities. - Study the impacts of beaver on existing cottonwood stands. - Inventory threatened or endangered bird distribution and habitat requirements. - Study the effects of fire as a habitat management tool.

APPENDIX B

CURRENT WILDLIFE-RELATED ACTIVITY PLANS

NEW MEXICO FISH AND WILDLIFE 2000

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN STATISTICS

Plan Name	Plan Type	Priority Species
Albuquerque District		
El Malpais	HMP, Sikes	Mule deer, antelope, turkey
Largo	HMP, Sikes	Barbary sheep, mule deer, antelope
Ojo del Espiritu Santo	HMP	Quail, antelope
Pump	HMP, Sikes	Mule deer, elk
Rosa Middle Mesa	HMP, Sikes	Mule deer, elk
San Antonio/Pot Mountain	HMP, Sikes	Mule deer, antelope, elk
San Juan River	HMP, Sikes	Bald eagle
Upper Rio Puerco	HMP, Sikes	Mule deer, elk, turkey, antelope
Las Cruces District		
Big Hatchet/Alamo Hueco	HMP, Sikes	Desert bighorn sheep
Florida Mountain	HMP, Sikes	Ibex
Gila River	CRMP	Bald eagle
Jornada del Muerto	HMP, Sikes	Antelope
Sierra de las Ladrones Mountain	HMP, Sikes	Mule deer, desert bighorn sheep
Lake Holloman	Other, Sikes	Ducks, shorebirds, raptors
McGregor	HMP, Sikes	Mule deer, antelope, exotic
Nogal	HMP, Sikes	Mule deer, antelope
Pelona/Horse Mountain	HMP, Sikes	Mule deer, elk, bald eagle, antelope
Peloncillo	HMP, Sikes	Desert bighorn sheep
Red Hill	HMP	Antelope
San Simon Cienega	HMP, Sikes	Waterfowl
Roswell District		
Caprock	HMP, Sikes	Lesser prairie chicken
Carlsbad Riparian	HMP, Sikes	Songbirds, ducks, fish
Macho	HMP, Sikes	Antelope
Overflow	HMP, Sikes	Waterfowl

APPENDIX C

ACTIVE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

NATIONAL MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between the
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Contents

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between the
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT and FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to promote harmonious and effective cooperative relationships between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in resource planning and management activities in a manner that recognizes existing cooperative relationships with the States, consistent with the statutory authorities and responsibilities of the two Agencies.

II. AUTHORITY

This agreement is made under authority of the Economy Act of June 20, 1932 (31 U.S.C. 686, 6866), Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C 1701-1782), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-661c), Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j), and Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a-670o).

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

The key to achieving the purpose of this agreement is clear definition of BLM and FWS roles and responsibilities within respective statutory authorities. Broad responsibilities are defined below. Specific relationships are set forth in subsequent sections of this agreement.

A. The BLM has the statutory responsibility for cadastral survey, inventory, land use planning, and multiple-use management of the public lands (those lands from the public domain not appropriated for other Federal uses) and public land resources, including fish and wildlife. BLM is also required to assure that fish and wildlife resources are effectively considered in all stages of its land management programs and activities. In connection with this responsibility, BLM must have the capability to effectively inventory, manage, and protect fish and wildlife habitat.

B. The FWS has principal statutory responsibility and authority for migratory birds, threatened and endangered (T/E) species, anadromous fish, certain marine mammals and international resources within the continental United States, and all fish and wildlife on lands under FWS control and as described in the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754) and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended. FWS also has responsibility to conduct analyses of impacts (including contaminants) on fish and wildlife resources and to recommend mitigation for Federal or federally approved water-related projects.

C. FWS and BLM have general responsibilities to conduct research and to compile information on the status of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and those factors affecting them in their respective areas of responsibility. FWS assessments for wildlife and vegetation conditions and trends may at times extend to areas within the public lands under BLM administration in response to statutory, Presidential, or Secretarial direction. Likewise, information gathering and research by BLM may extend to areas administered by FWS.

IV. COORDINATION

A. Field Coordination: Frequent informal discussion of matters of mutual concern is to be encouraged at all levels. Where disagreements arise, they should be expressed through the levels of authority of the two Agencies, beginning at the lowest appropriate field level.

1. The BLM State Offices and the FWS Regional Offices or their delegated field offices will be the primary offices through which field coordination will take place. The Endangered Species staff of FWS offices should be contacted on all matters regarding listed, proposed, or candidate T/E species. Each Agency is responsible for ensuring that appropriate offices of its organization are involved whenever appropriate.

2. On matters of mutual interest, the FWS Regional Director or the BLM State Director will determine which of their respective offices should be the focal point for coordination, including referral to other field organizational units. The Directors or Leaders of these field units will apprise FWS Regional Directors and BLM State Directors of planned or ongoing studies, projects, and activities.

B. Washington Office (WO) Coordination Committee: Close coordination is also essential at the WO level. This agreement re-establishes the BLM-FWS Interagency Committee for Program Coordination with the following responsibilities:

1. To coordinate the full range of related programs between the two Agencies.

2. To arrange for cooperation, support, and standards in the operational conduct of programs relating to fish and wildlife resources.

3. To provide for exchange of data, information, findings, and services of mutual concern.

The Committee will have the authority to make decisions within its areas of responsibility where the cochairpersons of both Agencies agree. The Committee will have the authority to establish working groups on specific proposals or problem areas, as required.

The Committee will be jointly chaired by the Deputy Director, BLM, and the Deputy Director, FWS. The Committee will be made up preferably with officials at the policy level concerned with the activities involved. It will meet as needed, but at least once every year, at the call of the cochairpersons.

C. Meetings: There shall be, as a minimum, annual coordination meetings between State Offices and appropriate FWS Regional Offices, and such other offices as deemed appropriate, timed to coincide with the budget cycle and to review program matters and planning activities, including schedules of concern to both Agencies for the coming year. WO level meetings shall be held by the BLM/FWS Coordinating Committee. Inter-office communication is encouraged at all organizational levels to keep each Agency informed of items of mutual interest.

D. Written Communication: When the responsible official of either Agency solicits from the other Agency advice/recommendations on subjects related to this agreement, 30 days, unless specified otherwise, will be afforded for reply. If no response is received by the responsible official within the specified time period, the requesting Agency will assume that the other either concurs or has no comments to offer.

E. Supplemental Agreements: BLM State Offices and FWS Regional Offices or other appropriate organizational units may enter into supplemental agreements where needed to specify interrelationships in detail or for specific project-type activities. Such agreements must be within the policy parameters of this agreement and will stress coordination at lowest appropriate field units.

F. General Assistance: When requested, FWS will assist BLM in a manner consistent with this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), through cooperative procedures mutually agreed to by BLM State Directors and FWS Regional Directors, or as appropriate, Directors or Leaders of other BLM or FWS field units. Likewise, BLM will be available to participate in certain FWS field projects and activities to provide specialized expertise in programs of contaminant resource investigations, data collection such as T/E species habitat information, range management assistance on National Wildlife Refuges, as well as matters involving land exchanges or transfers, mineral reports, cadastral surveys, and land patents.

G. Conflicts: Conflicts shall be resolved in accordance with procedures set forth in Section X of this agreement. Each Agency will strive to support the other in the public arena, to the maximum extent possible.

V. GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

A. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (LAND USE) PLANNING

Principles: The cooperative relationship between the two Agencies is built upon the concept that the timely opportunity for review, advice, suggestions, and information exchange on issues or topics which may affect or influence the other Agency's programs during the resource management (land use) planning processes, will contribute to the achievement of objectives of both Agencies. Coordination helps managers of both Agencies keep apprised of the other's plans and assures that appropriate consideration is given to those plans. Further, it helps both Agencies to jointly identify opportunities for enhancement of their respective programs.

Procedures:

1. Both Agencies will review the draft resource management (land use) planning documents of the other within their area of expertise by participating in a consultative manner to minimize conflicts and disagreements. FWS will recognize BLM's responsibility to balance fish and wildlife interests with other concerns in multiple-use management. BLM will recognize FWS's responsibility to manage primarily for fish and wildlife resources on lands under its jurisdiction.

2. Both Agencies will annually share and exchange resource management (land use) planning schedules and planning status reports showing both the status of resource management plans being prepared and projected planning schedules.

3. BLM and FWS will coordinate the preparation and revision of planning manuals and handbooks implementing their land use planning processes and procedures in order to provide for procedural compatibility and uniformity, consistent with Agency requirements.

4. Both Agencies will provide for appropriate dual representation on the other's planning teams where lands are contiguous, or where other conditions suggest dual representation.

5. BLM and FWS will conduct joint and/or coordinated review of activities with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes where planning schedules, issues, and contiguous or related planning activities make such approaches feasible.

6. Both Agencies will establish comparable resource program standards and guidelines for use in land use planning and management, consistent with each Agency's mission, goals, and objectives under respective legislative authorities. Such supplemental program guidance may include but not be limited to transportation and utility corridor designations, the identification of areas of Federal minerals acceptable for further consideration for leasing, Wild and Scenic River recommendations, wilderness studies, and important fishery resources (e.g., salmon and steelhead).

7. BLM State Directors and FWS Regional Directors will develop supplemental procedures, consistent with this MOU, to provide for regular exchange of information and advice as early as feasible in the planning process of their respective Agencies.

B. INVENTORY, ANALYSIS, AND SHARING OF RESOURCE DATA

Principles: BLM is responsible for assuring the collection, inventory, and subsequent analysis of fish, wildlife, vegetation, and other resource-related data on the public lands. FWS has responsibilities for collection and analysis of data to meet its requirements relative to endangered species, fishery resources, migratory birds, and other wildlife species. Both Agencies are concerned with the general adequacy of data and analysis for management and protection of fish and wildlife and their habitats, and T/E species on a national, regional, and/or State basis.

Procedures:

1. Both Agencies will coordinate inventory system development and applicable data-gathering activities to foster a common and compatible resource data base, to share information, and to minimize conflicts and disagreements concerning adequacy of relevant fish and wildlife and mineral resource data. Both Agencies will work in partnership to ensure that needed data are obtained in a cost-effective and expedient manner, including coordination to use compatible inventory techniques and developing standards and methods to facilitate data exchange.

2. BLM will conduct public land inventories where and when necessary as determined by management decisions. Each Agency will seek participation of the other in the actual conduct of data collection activities to meet their requirements where practical to do so. FWS and BLM will provide mutual support in terms of cooperative development of new methodology and inventory techniques that will facilitate data collection and mutual management decisions.

3. FWS will conduct inventories and collect data necessary for Critical Habitat determinations under the Endangered Species Act on private surface, including lands under which Federal minerals are located. These and other pertinent data will be provided to BLM when requested. All pertinent information on public lands will be made available to the FWS upon request.

4. Both Agencies have a management thrust to identify, protect, manage or otherwise enhance important wetland resources. FWS conducts the National Wetlands Inventory mapping activities and will provide assistance to BLM upon request in wetlands delineation, mapping, mitigation, and enhancement activities.

5. Each Agency will furnish or otherwise make available unpublished resource information and data to the other, upon request, when practical to do so. Both Agencies will explore ways to improve the exchange and distribution of resource-related materials which may be applicable to the planning, decisionmaking, and evaluation needs of the other.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Principles: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies taking major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment to prepare environmental impact statements (EISs) on those actions. Key features of the NEPA process, including scoping, public notice, and review requirements, provide both Agencies meaningful opportunities to coordinate proposed Agency decisions/actions of interest to the other Agency. The preparation of EISs (and EAs under some circumstances) must be carried out in consultation with all appropriate agencies and organizations.

Procedures:

1. Each Agency will keep the other apprised of the status of EISs in preparation and the schedule for projected new EISs, via the regularly scheduled meetings of the FWS/BLM Coordinating Committee, meetings of field organizational officials and by other means, as appropriate.

2. Each Agency will request from the other data and other inputs into the applicable EISs and EAs at the earliest possible date. Where one Agency has special expertise or unique talent needed by the other, it will be made available to the EIS or EA team under terms and conditions mutually agreeable to the concerned FWS Regional Director and BLM State Director. This may include detail of personnel to assist in EIS or EA preparation.

3. Where budgets are being formulated in advance for specific efforts that involve contiguous lands or preparation of EISs where either BLM or FWS is a cooperating Agency, normally the budget of the Agency which has the lead for such EIS or EA preparation will be the vehicle for appropriate fund and manpower requests. Coordination at the field level will be in accordance with procedures agreed to by FWS Regional Directors and BLM State Directors.

4. Each Agency will provide to the other review copies of draft EISs at the earliest possible time for official review and comment within specified time frames.

D. RESEARCH

Principles: Resource-related research efforts of both Agencies will be coordinated in the best interest of sound resource management and for maximum cost effectiveness.

Procedures:

1. Each Agency will be given an opportunity to identify and review the other's research proposals relating directly to its lands or management responsibilities to avoid duplication, help ensure management application when appropriate, and determine whether similar research is being conducted by other sources.

2. Pertinent research results, including significant interim findings, of either Agency will be made available to the other on a timely basis. BLM State and District offices are to be included on applicable FWS mailing lists, including cooperative fishery and/or wildlife units, for research reports and summaries on matters that relate or that are applicable to fish and wildlife, mineral, and vegetation resource management on the public lands. FWS Regional and appropriate Field Offices are also to be included on the mailing list for BLM Technical Notes and similar publications.

3. FWS and BLM may conduct cooperative research either on public lands or elsewhere. FWS shall coordinate, in advance, with the appropriate BLM State Director, plans for research or special studies on public lands.

E. ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION/COORDINATION

Principles: Both Agencies are firmly committed to the protection and recovery of listed or proposed T/E species. Both also recognize the need and requirements for close consultation on any action which may affect such species or their habitats.

Procedures/Consultation:

1. General

(a) Whenever the Bureau suspects that T/E species or their habitat may be affected by BLM activities, the concerned BLM State Director must initiate consultation in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and Interagency

Cooperation Regulations. Conferences are also required for all actions that are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of species proposed for listing or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. To the extent that the concerned BLM State Director and FWS Regional Director can agree, and as provided for in the above regulations, an aggregate approach to consultation on the public lands will be followed.

(b) Whenever FWS finds that additional data would provide a better information base upon which to issue a biological opinion, such data should be provided by BLM before the consultation process can be concluded. Information on T/E species collected by FWS or BLM should be routinely exchanged to benefit the data gathering and analysis efforts of both Agencies.

(c) It is jointly agreed that only those habitat modifications which destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat of a listed species or proposed critical habitat of a proposed species, or which jeopardize the continued existence of the species, are prohibited.

(d) The FWS will provide methodology, expertise, and recommendations, upon request, to help resolve problems caused by activities not wholly compatible with the presence of threatened or endangered species on public lands.

(e) FWS will alert BLM at the earliest possible date when species inhabiting public lands have been scheduled for proposed listing. This will enable BLM to supplement data already available to FWS with any that it may have available.

(f) FWS will alert BLM prior to proposing to determine critical habitat. It also will ensure proper coordination prior to proposing experimental populations. This includes discussion of potential management restrictions that may occur as a result of establishing such experimental populations.

2. Recovery Teams

(a) FWS shall provide technical leadership, unless otherwise designated to a representative of another agency, in developing and implementing recovery plans for T/E species.

(b) BLM shall be afforded an opportunity to participate on recovery teams where such plans involve species inhabiting public lands under its administration.

F. SIKES ACT COOPERATION

Principles: Both Agencies agree to the need for maintaining guidelines and procedures for the planning, coordination, and development of fish and wildlife programs under authority of the amended Sikes Act.

Procedures:

1. BLM, in cooperation with the States, will develop and implement comprehensive programs for management, conservation, and rehabilitation of wildlife resources on the public lands under its control.

2. FWS, upon request and within its responsibility and capability, will provide technical assistance to BLM relative to such comprehensive plans for management of the public lands under BLM control.

3. State cooperative wildlife habitat management plans developed in accordance with the Act shall be coordinated to the extent practical with statewide comprehensive plans developed under authority of the amended Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (Public Law 91-503).

G. FISH AND WILDLIFE DISEASES

Principles: A variety of diseases are capable of inflicting heavy losses among fish and wildlife populations. To minimize losses from disease, both Agencies recognize the need for close cooperation in the early detection, quick and accurate diagnosis, and rapid implementation of suitable control activities.

Procedures: BLM State Directors and FWS Regional Directors will prepare contingency plans which will describe procedures and methods for combatting disease outbreaks which occur on public lands.

H. FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION ACT COOPERATION

Principles: Both Agencies agree that the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act should be read and interpreted in the light of its primary purpose. Recognizing exclusions provided by Section 2(h) of the Act, the purpose is nonetheless to ensure that fish and wildlife and associated environments be given equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water resource development programs.

Procedures:

1. BLM will consult--at the earliest appropriate stage of its planning process--with the FWS and with the appropriate State agency when it is proposing to construct or to permit actions involving water development other than those excluded by Section 2(h) of the Act.

2. FWS will review the proposed water development activity and will prepare a report to BLM which will assess or concur in BLM's assessment of project impacts on fish and wildlife resources. In addition, FWS will make recommendations or concur with BLM's recommendations on (1) how to avoid or compensate through established mitigation procedures for loss of fish and wildlife and associated resources, and (2) how to improve or enhance these resources.

3. BLM will give full consideration in its decisions to the report and recommendations made by the FWS and will incorporate into the permit or lease mutually agreed-upon stipulations that would avoid or compensate for adverse impacts, and/or enhance fish and wildlife resources.

I. PERMITS REGARDING WORK AFFECTING NAVIGABLE WATERS, WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND OCEAN WATERS

Principles: The Secretary of the Interior has delegated to the FWS the responsibility for coordinating and reporting Interior's comments on applications for permits issued by the Corps of Engineers (COE) for dredging, filling, excavation, discharge of dredged or fill material, and other activities, including construction of facilities and works in the navigable waters and ocean waters of the United States (503 DM 1, August 3, 1973) when permit issuance does not require an EIS, or an EA accompanied by a COE project report. (Navigable waters include all streams, rivers, lakes, headwaters, impoundments, waters used for interstate commerce, and adjacent wetlands.) Permits pursuant to the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, the Clean Water Act of 1977, the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, and other applicable legislation may be required for activities conducted on public lands and waters under the control of BLM. These permits may or may not fall under the provisions of 503 DM 1.

Procedures:

1. Proposals and permit applications for applicable activities and operations on public lands under BLM control and conducted by the BLM shall be coordinated by the BLM District Offices with the appropriate FWS Regional or Field Office before a formal application is made to the appropriate regulatory agency.

2. For all permit applications falling under the provision of 503 DM 1, BLM District Offices will be responsible for arranging for the receipt of permit applications, reviewing them in accordance with their program interests, and cooperating in resolution of differing views pursuant to Section 503.1.3 E. Review comments proposed by BLM for COE public notices will be provided to FWS for inclusion in the DOI letter that FWS prepares. Note: The COE's regulatory policy regarding "pre-discharge" notification for proposed filling activities affecting 1 to 10 acres is specified in the Final Regulation for Controlling Certain Activities in Waters of the U.S. (33 CFR 320, 323, and 330). For these 1-to-10-acre filling activities, it is the FWS' responsibility to recommend whether an individual permit should be required. The COE ultimately makes the final decision.

J. WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Principles: Both Agencies recognize the need for cooperative management of wild free-roaming horses and burros which normally range interchangeably upon their lands.

Procedures:

1. BLM State Directors and FWS Regional Directors will develop agreements and, as appropriate, joint plans for the management of wild horses and burros which range interchangeably upon the lands of the other.

2. BLM State Directors shall consult with FWS Regional Directors in those areas where wild free-roaming horses and burros are found when determining appropriate management levels for these animals and whether actions should be taken to remove excess animals.

K. FIRE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

Principles: The need for sound wildland fire management programs, rapid response to wildfire in high danger situations, and efficient utilization of fire control personnel and equipment is jointly recognized. Where fire management plans are prepared, coordination along common boundaries will occur. Further, the use of prescribed fire as a habitat or other resource management tool will be practiced by both Agencies, to the extent appropriate.

Procedures: Each Agency will provide fire management assistance to the other as determined by appropriate field officials. Fire suppression capabilities of both Agencies will be coordinated, as appropriate, through the Boise Interagency Fire Center and through fire officials designated by BLM State Directors and FWS Regional Directors. (In Alaska, the Alaska Fire Service (BLM) is the lead fire suppression Agency, as specified in the BLM-FWS-BIFC agreement of April 1982.) Prescribed fire, where practical, will be conducted in conformance with the respective Agency's land use or resource management plans. A prescribed fire plan will identify personnel, equipment, fire engines, and needs and assignments. Aviation assets of both Agencies will be coordinated in the best interest of sound resource management and for maximum cost effectiveness.

L. CADASTRAL SURVEYS

Principles: Cadastral surveying involves the creation and reestablishment of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), which defines the boundaries, the subdivision of the areas, and the determination of the amount of area within such surveys; the preparation of the official plat and written record of these surveys to be used in describing lands for patents, leases, or retention for Federal management purposes and the preparation of protracted Federal boundaries over unsurveyed lands.

Procedures:

1. Departmental cadastral surveying will follow the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States (1973 edition), and its amendments and supplements published by BLM (see 757 DM 2.7).

2. The BLM is responsible for the administration, coordination, and execution of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). This includes the establishment and maintenance of a system for the storage and dissemination of survey data for use by local and national realty, land title, and mapping interests. The data also include the geographic coordinates of all corner positions established or reestablished under, or directly related to, the PLSS, called the Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB). BLM is the custodian of the official U.S. public land survey records and maintains public information centers in those States which still have active cadastral survey programs and in Washington, D.C. BLM is also responsible for establishing a direct line of cadastral survey data communication to the Department's National Mapping Program (U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)) on a continuing basis (see 757 DM 2.3B, National Mapping Program).

3. BLM responsibilities include the segregation by survey of valid private rights acquired through a variety of public land laws, including the general mining laws.

4. The FWS will coordinate its cadastral surveying needs with BLM through the Interagency Cadastral Coordinating Council. Note: The FWS has no authority to change the official PLSS records.

5. FWS shall submit its requirements for cadastral surveys to BLM with adequate lead time for program implementation. BLM will determine the appropriate action necessary to satisfy the needs of each request. This may include the use of existing survey data or original surveys or resurveys by BLM. Such surveys may be provided by BLM on a reimbursable basis or funded by establishing a national priority program and transfer of funding to a 98xx account. In cases where BLM will provide the necessary instructions, guidance, and official approval of the records, the records of such surveys will then become part of the Bureau's public records.

M. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Principles: In the development and implementation of international treaties, agreements, and legislation, both Agencies will work cooperatively in the study, protection, and management of fish and wildlife and other matters of mutual interest.

Procedures:

1. Each Agency will keep the other apprised of international actions of mutual concern.

2. Where mutually beneficial, both Agencies will jointly develop and implement programs to carry out international responsibilities.

N. WITHDRAWALS

Principles: The FWS and BLM jointly recognize that the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) is an independent land management system mandated by statute and that it is appropriate for public lands needed for units of the system to be made available through Federal Land Policy and Management Act Section 204 withdrawal. It is also recognized that public lands needed for the National Wildlife Refuge System or for other FWS uses such as fish hatcheries, administrative sites, research areas, etc., be kept to a minimum necessary for proper administration of such areas.

Procedures:

1. To the greatest extent practical, outright withdrawal will be considered only after it has been determined that neither a right-of-way nor a cooperative agreement would provide for the proposed use.

2. FWS and BLM agree that discretionary mineral leasing operations on lands withdrawn for FWS purposes shall be allowed after compatible and enforceable lease stipulations and terms have been agreed to by FWS.

3. It is recognized that most FWS lands are not subject to Section 204(1) review provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. However, except for units of the NWRS, wherein by statute only Congress can remove lands from the Refuge System, the FWS will adhere to agreed-upon withdrawal review schedules and will make every effort to return other withdrawn public land to BLM administration when such lands are no longer needed for FWS purposes.

4. FWS and BLM will cooperate to the fullest extent possible to process withdrawal applications to completion in a timely manner.

5. BLM shall promptly furnish FWS the status of pending applications for withdrawals and revocations upon request.

O. LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENTS - EXCHANGES

Principles: The FWS and BLM jointly recognize that opportunities exist to effect ownership and management area adjustments to form more logical and efficient land and resource management areas for both Agencies. It is further recognized that land exchanges are a valuable tool with which to effect such changes. To take advantage of such opportunities, BLM and FWS understand the need for close cooperation in pursuing mutually beneficial exchanges, in a manner consistent with the Large Land Exchange Task Force Report as approved by the Under Secretary.

Procedures:

1. BLM and FWS shall ensure early communications at Field Office levels concerning exchange proposals before commitments are made by either Agency.

2. BLM and FWS shall exchange information and advice as early as possible in the planning process of each Agency where exchange opportunities are a consideration.

3. To the extent mandated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and implementing regulations in 43 CFR Part 2200, BLM land use planning processes shall be used to determine the availability of public lands for exchange.

4. The benefitting Agency shall bear the administrative costs to the United States of an exchange.

5. BLM and FWS will actively seek and consider comments of affected States, local government and the general public before completion of an exchange.

P. PESTICIDES AND OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Principles: The application of pesticides is sometimes essential in the management of public lands for the protection of resources. It is recognized, however, that both positive and negative habitat changes may result from pesticide applications.

Procedures:

1. Pesticide applications on public lands will be conducted within the framework of BLM and Departmental policies. All such applications will be consistent with public land management decisions and stipulations regarding use as determined by BLM and with the registration labeling of the Environmental Protection Agency as required by P.L. 92-516. Alternatives to pesticide use should be fully explored before any pesticide application is initiated, if it is feasible to do so.

2. FWS and BLM each have expertise which the other may request for special projects involving the impact of toxic substances or the use of pesticides on public lands.

Q. LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION/COORDINATION

Principles: The Secretary of the Interior has delegated law enforcement authority to the Directors of both Agencies and given them responsibility for cooperative assistance in enforcing the laws under their respective jurisdictions.

Procedures:

1. Special Agents of BLM and FWS are expected to recognize possible violations of Federal laws in the Agencies' respective jurisdictions and report immediately all such possible violations to the nearest available Special Agent of the Agency having primary jurisdiction.

2. Specific requests for investigative assistance will be handled on an individual basis through the Washington Office Chief, Branch of Law Enforcement of BLM and the FWS Assistant Regional Director for Law Enforcement.

3. When Special Agents of the BLM or FWS provide investigative assistance to the other Agency, the following guidelines will apply:

(a) In those situations where Special Agents of both Agencies are working together, the Agency having primary jurisdiction over the subject matter of the case will be the primary Agency, and will designate a case agent who will be responsible for directing the investigation and case reporting.

(b) In those situations where Special Agents are working independently while assisting the other Agency, supervision and case reporting will follow the normal routine of their Agency. Case reports will be promptly transmitted to the Agency having primary jurisdiction. Such reports shall be transmitted to the other Agency by the FWS Assistant Regional Director for Law Enforcement, and by the Washington Office Chief, Branch of Law Enforcement, BLM.

4. Special stipulations are as follows:

(a) The parties hereto shall meet as necessary to review operations hereunder. It is agreed that a mutually convenient date, time, and place will be set for said meetings.

(b) Each party will render such assistance as may be requested by the other provided that such assistance is within its capabilities and that such action will not jeopardize its ability to respond to demands within its own primary jurisdiction.

(c) Equipment may be loaned by one party to the other on an individual case basis. Such equipment becomes the responsibility of the borrower and will be returned in the same condition as when received, normal wear and tear excepted. Damage in excess of normal wear and tear will be repaired. Lost or destroyed items will be replaced or reimbursed.

(d) The parties agree to reimburse reasonable costs incurred by the assisting Agency in rendering requested assistance. Such reimbursement between Agencies shall be accomplished in the following manner: Agents shall submit all invoices for payment and vouchers for reimbursement of expenses to be processed for payment through normal channels. Immediately upon completion of the requested investigation, the agent shall forward his Agency an itemized list of expenses incurred, and in any case that an investigation extends more than one month from its inception, shall submit such itemization monthly. The assisting Agency shall promptly submit a SF-1081 billing to the requesting Agency with an itemized attachment showing the total amount incurred by the following categories: (1) Transportation expense; (2) Travel and per diem; (3) Miscellaneous and special expenditures.

R. PIPELINES

Principles - Section 28(C)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and applicable regulations (43 CFR 2880) authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through BLM, to grant or renew rights-of-way (ROW) and/or temporary use permits (TUP) and to enter into cooperative agreements with other Federal agencies to expedite review of ROW and TUP applications for construction, operation, and maintenance of oil, gas, and associated products pipelines whenever such a project will cross lands administered by two or more Federal agencies. Whenever such a pipeline involves the statutory responsibilities of both the FWS and BLM, close coordination is essential and shall be guided by the following procedures.

Procedures:

1. Each Agency shall notify the other as soon as a proposed pipeline becomes known.

2. The appropriate FWS Regional Office shall notify the appropriate BLM State Office of any proposed pipelines crossing FWS-administered lands.

3. Project-specific cooperative agreements between the lead FWS Regional Office and BLM State Office may be required to define procedures to be used. These procedures will address relevant involvement in the needed environmental analysis, review and comment on the ROW grant, TUPs and associated terms and conditions and other matters related to mitigating fish and wildlife adverse environmental impacts.

4. Both Bureaus shall follow Departmental cost recovery guidelines and respective Bureau procedures in the collection and transfer of funds, and in the estimating and reporting of project obligations. Reimbursable costs will include direct and indirect agency costs (exclusive of management overhead) for project-related activities, including:

a. Preparation of an environmental analysis.

b. Section 7, Endangered Species Act Compliance.

c. Review and processing applications for TUPs.

d. Review and processing applications for ROW grants.

e. Development and review of grant and permit terms and conditions, including Notices-to-Proceed.

f. Review of project design and environmental plans.

g. Project monitoring and enforcement during the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination phases.

h. Special studies, as required and approved.

5. Prior to issuing a grant for a ROW across lands in the National Wildlife Refuge System, the BLM Authorized Officer must have a signed Compatibility Statement from the FWS Regional Director as required by 16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)(1)(B). The terms and conditions of the ROW grant must include mitigation requirements for crossing FWS-administered lands in accordance with 50 CFR 29.21-7(c). The fair market value for ROW across FWS-administered lands shall be determined separately and receipts deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund for National Wildlife Refuge System lands and to the Revenue Sharing Fund for other FWS lands.

6. The FWS has certain responsibilities on all pipeline projects, whether or not they cross FWS lands. For example, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act specifies responsibilities where water development may be involved. The FWS level of involvement will be determined by statutory responsibilities and the potential effects of the project on fish and wildlife resources.

VI. RELATIONSHIPS TO STATES, OTHER AGENCIES, AND INSTITUTIONS

Nothing in this MOU is intended to modify in any manner the present or future cooperative programs of either Agency with States, other public agencies, or educational institutions. BLM will ensure State wildlife agency involvement in its programs. Officials of both Agencies will also keep other agencies informed of their respective resource-related activities on lands under their jurisdiction. BLM and FWS both share the concern that State fish and wildlife resource agencies be routinely consulted to strengthen coordination and cooperative relationships. Every effort should be made to prevent duplicative requests or contacts for information and data assistance with these State agencies.

VII. OBLIGATION OF FUNDS

Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating either party to the expenditure of funds in excess of appropriations authorized by law or otherwise commit either Agency to actions for which its lacks statutory authority.

VIII. RELATIONSHIPS TO PREVIOUS MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

The previously developed MOUs listed below become annexes to this Master MOU on the date subscribed by the last signatory, and are not changed by this agreement without prior joint review and concurrence. These include:

A. Interagency Coordination in Nonemergency Critical Habitat Determinations pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA of 1973 (effective March 18, 1976) (Annex I).

B. MOU on Coal (effective September 26, 1978) (Annex III).

C. BLM-FWS Fire Management Agreement (BIFC Intra-Department Agreement, April, 1982 (Annex IV).

The previously developed MOUs listed below are rescinded upon signature of this MOU since appropriate components are incorporated in this agreement or in the case of OCS, BLM responsibilities have been transferred to the Minerals Management Service.

A. Responsibility Definitions for OCS Operations (GS-BLM-FWS) (effective November 8, 1982).

B. MOU concerning OCS Activities (effective March 30, 1976).

C. MOU between BLM, FWS, and USGS concerning OCS Environmental Research and Monitoring Activities (effective April 30, 1976).

D. MOU between BLM and FWS on Mutual Law Enforcement Support (effective February 23, 1978).

E. Joint Subcommittee on Wildlife Management (effective October 7, 1975).

F. Joint Subcommittee on Program and Budget Development (effective October 30, 1975).

G. Supplemental MOU on Piplines (effective September 26, 1980).

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE, REVIEW, AMENDMENT, AND TERMINATION

This agreement shall become effective upon the date subscribed by the last signatory, and shall remain in force until terminated by either Agency upon 90 days written notice. It shall be reviewed by all parties no later than Calendar Year 1990 for adequacy and timeliness. Amendments to existing wording within this agreement may be proposed by either Agency at any time and shall become effective upon joint approval.

X. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Responsible officials of both Agencies will strive to anticipate and avoid conflicts and seek to resolve conflicts that arise at the lowest organizational level possible. The facts regarding any conflict or issue that cannot be resolved at the working level will be forwarded to the next higher level of authority for resolution.

Director, Bureau of Land Management	Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
Dec 24 1986	DEC 22 1986
Date	Date

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
FOR
ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Animal Damage Control (ADC) program was transferred from the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture, by Public Law 99-190 on December 19, 1986. With this change in program administration, it is necessary to develop a mutual understanding between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and APHIS concerning the operational principles of animal damage control on BLM-administered lands.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is (1) to identify the responsibilities of the respective agencies in discharging the Federal obligation, under the Animal Damage Control Act of March 2, 1931 (46 Stat. 1468; 7 U.S.C. 426-426b), as amended, for the management of wild vertebrates causing damage on lands administered by BLM; and (2) to establish general guidelines for field offices in order to assure a uniform approach and interpretation by field personnel in carrying out each agency's responsibilities.

3.0 AUTHORITIES

This agreement is made under the authorities of the Economy Act of June 20, 1932 (31 U.S.C. 686, 686b); Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701-1782); and the Animal Damage Control Act of March 2, 1931 (46 Stat. 1468; 7 U.S.C. 426-426b, as amended).

In relation to control:

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701-1782) generally states that:

> ". . . the public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values, that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use."

Section 1 of the Animal Damage Control Act states:

> ". . . The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized and directed to conduct such investigations, experiments, and tests as he may deem necessary in order to determine, demonstrate, and promulgate the best methods of eradication, suppression, or bringing under control on national forests and other areas of the public domain as well as on State, Territory, or privately owned lands of mountain lions, wolves, coyotes, bobcats, prairie dogs, gophers, ground squirrels, jack rabbits, and other animals injurious to agriculture, horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry, wild game animals, fur-bearing animals and birds, and for the protection of stock and other domestic animals through the suppression of rabies and tularemia in predatory or other wild animals; and to conduct campaigns for the destruction or control of such animals: Provided, That in carrying out the provisions of this Act the Secretary of Agriculture may cooperate with States, individuals and public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions."

4.0 OBJECTIVES

The BLM and APHIS recognize that native animals are resources of value and interest to the people of the United States. The ADC is an integral part of wildlife management and may be required to minimize depredations to livestock and wildlife species; protect endangered or threatened species; maintain viable populations of native wildlife species; preserve ecologically unique areas; minimize rodent and other wildlife damage to forestland, grassland, or cropland; and suppress animal-borne diseases.

It is also recognized that:

A. BLM is responsible for the management of lands under its jurisdiction, including the identification of how these lands are to be used and the establishment or authorization of such management measures as may be necessary to accomplish land and resource management objectives. This includes a determination as to whether ADC practices are compatible with other multiple-use objectives.

B. APHIS is responsible, under the Animal Damage Control Act of March 2, 1931, as amended, for evaluating and determining ADC control techniques to be employed and for conducting forest and range animal damage research.

C. All programs for controlling resident wildlife on BLM lands will be developed and conducted in coordination with the appropriate State agency(ies).

5.0 STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

A. BLM and APHIS Mutually Agree:

1. To develop and conduct programs for controlling resident wildlife on BLM lands in coordination with the appropriate State management agency(ies).

2. To coordinate control program activities with representatives of other Federal and State agencies, private landowners and other interests that would be affected by the program.

3. To develop Interagency Guidelines at the the State level between BLM State Offices, APHIS State Directors and other Federal and State management agencies, as appropriate, where such guidelines are needed.

4. To operate the ADC program within the framework of a BLM District or BLM State Office plan to be jointly developed and to review this plan annually.

5. To mutually ensure an expeditious response to livestock damage problems, in part, by requiring livestock operators to submit requests for predator control services directly to APHIS who will then confer with BLM on this request and verify the need for control action.

6. To direct predator damage control toward individual predators or local populations where losses due to predators have been verified or are likely to occur.

7. To evaluate annually the effectiveness of, and the need for, animal damage control programs and to improve, where practical, programs conducted to meet the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding.

8. To ensure that ADC projects initiated under this Memorandum of Understanding will conform to APHIS and BLM policies. Each agency will be responsible for preparing, submitting, and acquiring any required approvals.

9. To ensure that all questions arising in the field pertaining to the cooperative work of the two agencies be discussed by the local representative of APHIS and BLM, and that areas of disagreement will be referred to the next higher level for resolution.

10. To consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service as required under Section 7, Endangered Species Act. For areawide animal damage control projects for which APHIS has the lead, APHIS will conduct the consultation. If BLM initiates an animal damage project only for BLM resource management objectives, BLM will consult as required by section 7.

11. APHIS will develop a programmatic environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and meeting the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) which could be adopted by the BLM for Environmental Assessment (EA) purposes.

B. Specific agency responsibilities include:

1. The BLM Agrees to:

a. Determine whether ADC will be authorized on the public lands under its stewardship.

b. Participate in the evaluation of the need for ADC (including rodent damage control) programs for the protection of BLM and/or private resources.

c. Identify and delineate human safety zones and other areas where, for multiple-use reasons, ADC tools will be restricted or not allowed.

d. Prepare EA's for region-wide or site-specific activities, as applicable, with APHIS recommendations and input. These EA's will be tiered to the APHIS ADC environmental impact statement.

2. APHIS Agrees to:

a. Take the lead in preparation of an annual ADC plan for each BLM District. Such plans will be coordinated with the appropriate State management agency(ies) and approved by the BLM District Manager and APHIS State Director.

b. Review and evaluate requests for control and conduct control work as provided for in the ADC plan pertaining to public lands.

c. Ensure that ADC activities are compatible with existing appropriate laws and regulations.

d. Be responsible for overall coordination and management of the ADC program, including arrangement of interagency meetings whenever needed.

e. On an annual basis, provide a report to the BLM of animal control activities on public lands.

f. Provide the BLM with state-of-the-art information on animal damage control.

g. Upon request of the BLM, develop and carry out surveys necessary for the monitoring of population levels and distribution of selected large carnivores, other vertebrate pest species for which inventory techniques are available or might be developed, and for which there is a need for such information for management. Any such surveys would be coordinated with the appropriate State management agency(ies).

6.0 EFFECTIVE DATE/MODIFICATION AND DURATION

This MOU will become effective upon the date subscribed by the last signatory, and shall continue in force until terminated by either agency upon 90 days written notice to the other.

Amendments to this MOU may be proposed by either agency at any time and shall become effective upon approval by the other agency, unless otherwise stated.

Both parties agree that this MOU shall serve as a guide for development of State-specific Interagency Guidelines, which shall address in more detail those management matters specific to each State.

This MOU is intended to define the general terms under which concerned parties will cooperate and does not constitute a financial obligation.

The responsibilities assumed by cooperating parties are contingent upon availability of funds appropriated for this purpose by Congress.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

By Robert Burford
Date AUG 17 1987
Title Director

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

By Dean R. Hawthorne
Date 9/16/87
Title Administrator

MASTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION
and the
USDI BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT

I. AUTHORITY

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is made and entered into by and between the ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION, a Montana corporation, hereinafter referred to as the FOUNDATION, and the BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, U.S. Department of the Interior, hereinafter referred to as the BLM, under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701-1782) and P.L. 98-540 (98 Stat. 2718).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework for cooperative management activities necessary to maintain and enhance the productivity of elk habitats on public lands administered by the BLM in order to improve elk management for the best interest of the people of the United States.

III. INTRODUCTION

Both the FOUNDATION and the BLM have responsibilities and interests in the management of elk and elk habitat. The parties agree that elk habitats in the United States need to be conserved and managed to meet the growing public demand for elk viewing and hunting opportunities.

The BLM manages locally and regionally important habitat for elk in the Western United States. Elk are a priority species for management in BLM habitat management plans in those areas where the animals occur. The BLM lands provide abundant opportunities for enhancement and maintenance of important elk habitats. The BLM lands are managed on the basis of multiple use, including wildlife habitat, according to scientific wildlife management principles.

The FOUNDATION was formed to perpetuate populations of wild, free-ranging elk on suitable lands, both public and private, for the use and enjoyment of the American people. It conducts fund-raising programs and otherwise solicits and receives donations and funds for the accomplishment of its purposes. The FOUNDATION desires to contribute funds to the BLM, or provide assistance (labor), or have assistance provided through contracts or agreements for the primary purpose of maintaining or improving the productivity of elk habitat on BLM lands.

It is the desire of both parties to cooperate fully with each other in matters relating to the management and improvement of elk habitat through development, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance activities on BLM lands.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:

IV. THE FOUNDATION SHALL:

1. Meet at least annually with representatives of each participating BLM State Office to discuss and agree on guidelines for project proposals to meet the purposes of this agreement.

2. Provide funds for the implementation of agreed upon projects or research efforts, which have been approved by the Directors of the FOUNDATION.

3. Enter into specific collection or donation agreements, volunteer agreements, or contracts with the BLM to accomplish the agreed upon work or research projects, which will be developed supplemental to this agreement.

V. THE BLM SHALL:

1. Make public lands available for the furtherance of this program, subject to applicable Federal laws, regulations, and land use and activity plans for the affected area, and subject to approval by the authorized officer of the BLM for the area involved.

2. Provide leadership for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of project work undertaken pursuant to this agreement and supplemental to this agreement.

3. Conduct an annual meeting with FOUNDATION representatives at participating offices to discuss and reach agreement on project proposals to meet the purposes of this agreement.

4. Provide the FOUNDATION with an annual State Office summary report of project accomplishments with funds deposited under collection agreements executed supplemental to this agreement.

5. Assume operation and maintenance and other management costs and responsibilities upon completion of a development project located on BLM lands, or enter into agreements with appropriate organizations for such operation and maintenance.

6. Enter into specific agreements (including volunteer, collection, and donation agreements) or contracts with the FOUNDATION or other parties to accomplish agreed upon work projects, which are supplemental to this agreement.

7. Coordinate project planning with the State wildlife agency to ensure that planned projects are consistent with State elk management objectives.

VI. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE SAID PARTIES THAT

1. Each project requiring a payment of funds by the FOUNDATION for the BLM will be documented and signed by the responsible organizational unit line officer and the FOUNDATION representative using an appropriate agreement.

2. Each project requiring the use of FOUNDATION personnel will be documented and signed by the responsible organizational unit line officer and the FOUNDATION representative.

3. All improvements placed on BLM land at the direction of either of the parties shall thereupon become the property of the United States, and shall be subject to the same regulations and administration of the BLM as all other BLM improvements of a similar nature.

4. This agreement in no way restricts the BLM from participating with other public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals or from accepting contributions and gifts for the improvement, development, administration, operation, and maintenance of elk habitats.

5. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating the BLM to expend, or as involving the United States in any obligation for future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for these purposes.

6. The Government's liability shall be governed by the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. 2671-80).

7. No member of, or Delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

8. This agreement may be revised as necessary, by mutual consent of both parties, by the issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by both parties.

9. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing 60 days' written notice. Unless terminated by written notice, this agreement will remain in force indefinitely.

10. Funds which are not spent or obligated for elk habitat improvement within two years will be refunded to the RMEF or transferred to a new project as agreed to by both parties.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last written date below.

U.S. Department of Interior
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT

Director

FEB 18 1988

Date

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

Executive Director

FEB 18 1988

Date

SAMPLE

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

between the

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, MONTROSE DISTRICT

and

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

I. Purpose

This Cooperative Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado (BLM) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is entered into to maintain and improve elk habitat on public land administered by BLM.

II. Authority

This agreement is entered into under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

III. Definition

A. The Authorized Assistance Representatives (AAR) are the BLM individuals who are designated by the contracting officer and represent BLM State or Field Offices. They have technical responsibility for implementation and administration of this agreement. They are authorized to clarify technical requirements within their respective areas of responsibility, and review and approve work which is clearly within the scope of work as stated. The AARs are not authorized to issue any changes to this agreement or in any way modify the scope of work.

IV. Responsibilities

A. It is mutually advantageous to both parties to undertake the Washburn Prescribed Burn Project with the supervision and performance undertaken by BLM.

B. General responsibilities of the BLM and RMEF are set forth below.

1. The RMEF shall:

a. Contribute funds in the form of cash to assist financing the elk habitat prescribed burning project in the San Juan Resource Area, Montrose District.

b. Remit in the amount of $2000 to partially cover the amount of the project work to be completed.

2. The BLM shall:

a. Complete or have completed under contract the prescribed burning project on public lands in the Washburn Allotment approximately 10 miles northeast of Dove Creek, Colorado. The area lies immediately south of Disappointment Valley, a high elk concentration area in southwestern Colorado. The prescribed burn will improve forage quality and availability, help reduce heavy winter concentrations of elk on the adjacent Disappointment Valley area, and accommodate the expansion of elk onto the Washburn Allotment. The burning project is designed to enhance winter/spring elk habitat on 700 acres.

b. Furnish the supervision and AAR for the project work while it is in progress.

c. Deposit the cash contribution into a special project account in advance of any work under this agreement.

V. Administration

It is agreed and understood by and between the said parties that:

A. Either party may terminate the agreement by providing 60 days' written notice to the other party. Any funds on deposit will be available for expenses incident to closing out the work beyond the period of written notice. Unless terminated by written notice, this agreement will remain in force until the project is completed or within two years.

B. This agreement shall be effective upon execution by both parties hereto.

C. This agreement in no way restricts the BLM from participating with other public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals or from accepting contributions and gifts for the development, administration, and undertaking of elk habitat enhancement programs.

D. This agreement may be modified or amended by either party upon signature of representatives at same level as original signature parties.

E. The rights and benefits conferred by this agreement shall be subject to the laws of the United States governing the BLM and to the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, whether now in force or hereafter enacted or provided, and the mention of specific restrictions, conditions, and stipulations herein shall not be construed as in any way impairing the general powers of supervision, regulation, and control by the Bureau.

F. No member of, or delegate to, Congress, or Resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement or to any benefit that may arise therefrom.

VI. Contracting Authorized Assistance Officer:

The following individual is authorized by the BLM official to clarify, review, and approve work which is clearly within the scope of this agreement in any way.

Name: John Castellano

Title Wildlife Management Biologist

Address: BLM, 701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, Colorado 81301

Phone: (303) 247-4082

The parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date written below.

Bureau of Land Management
Montrose District

By Alan L. Kesterke
District Manager

Date: 9/4/87

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

By Alan G Christensen

Date: Sept 15, 1987

MASTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
and the
USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

I. AUTHORITY

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is made and entered into by and between the NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION, a South Carolina corporation, hereinafter referred to as the FEDERATION, and the BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, U.S. Department of the Interior, hereinafter referred to as the BLM, under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701-1782) and P.L. 98-540 (98 Stat. 2718).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework for cooperative management activities necessary to maintain and enhance the productivity of wild turkey habitats on public lands administered by the BLM in order to improve wild turkey management for the best interest of the people of the United States.

III. INTRODUCTION

Both the FEDERATION and the BLM have responsibilities and interests in the management of wild turkey and wild turkey habitat. The parties agree that wild turkey habitats in the United States need to be conserved and managed to meet the growing public demand for wild turkey viewing and hunting opportunities.

The BLM manages locally and regionally important habitat for wild turkeys in many areas of the Western United States. Wild turkeys are a priority species for management in BLM habitat management plans in those areas where the birds occur. The BLM lands provide abundant opportunities for enhancement and maintenance of important wild turkey habitats. The BLM lands are managed on the basis of multiple use, including wildlife habitat, according to scientific wildlife management principles.

The FEDERATION was formed to perpetuate populations of wild turkeys on suitable lands, both public and private, for the use and enjoyment of the American people. It conducts fund-raising programs and otherwise solicits and receives donations and funds for the accomplishment of its purposes. The FEDERATION desires to contribute funds to the BLM, or provide assistance (labor), or have assistance provided through contracts or agreements for the primary purpose of maintaining or improving the productivity of wild turkey habitat on BLM lands.

It is the desire of both parties to cooperate fully with each other in matters relating to the management and improvement of wild turkey habitat through development, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance activities on BLM lands.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:

IV. THE FEDERATION SHALL:

1. Meet at least annually with representatives of each participating BLM State Office to discuss and agree on guidelines for project proposals to meet the purposes of this agreement.

2. Provide funds for the implementation of agreed upon projects or research efforts, which have been approved by the Directors of the FEDERATION.

3. Enter into specific collection or donation agreements, volunteer agreements, or contracts with the BLM to accomplish the agreed upon work or research projects, which will be developed supplemental to this agreement.

V. THE BLM SHALL:

1. Make public lands available for the furtherance of this program, subject to applicable Federal laws, regulations, and land use and activity plans for the effected area, and subject to approval by the authorized officer of the BLM for the area involved.

2. Provide leadership for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of project work undertaken pursuant to this agreement and supplemental to this agreement.

3. Conduct an annual meeting with FEDERATION representatives at participating offices to discuss and reach agreement on project proposals to meet the purposes of this agreement.

4. Provide the FEDERATION with an annual State Office summary report of project accomplishments with funds deposited under collection agreements executed supplemental to this agreement.

5. Assume operation and maintenance and other management costs and responsibilities upon completion of a development project located on BLM lands, or enter into agreements with appropriate organizations for such operation and maintenance.

6. Enter into specific agreements (including volunteer, collection, and donation agreements) or contracts with the FEDERATION or other parties to accomplish agreed upon work projects, which are supplemental to this agreement.

7. Coordinate project planning with the State wildlife agency to ensure that planned projects are consistent with State wild turkey management objectives.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE SAID PARTIES THAT

1. Each project requiring a payment of funds by the FEDERATION for the BLM will be documented and signed by the responsible organizational unit line officer and the FEDERATION representative using an appropriate agreement. Funds provided by the FEDERATION are intended to supplement monies already earmarked for wild turkey management by BLM and are not to be used to reduce present or future BLM budgets.

2. Each project requiring the use of FEDERATION personnel will be documented and signed by the responsible organizational unit line officer and the FEDERATION representative.

3. All improvements placed on BLM land at the direction of either of the parties shall thereupon become the property of the United States, and shall be subject to the same regulations and administration of the BLM as all other BLM improvements of a similar nature.

4. This agreement in no way restricts the BLM from participating with other public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals or from accepting contributions and gifts for the improvement, development, administration, operation, and maintenance of wild turkey habitats.

5. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating the BLM to expend, or as involving the United States in any obligation for future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for these purposes.

6. The Government's liability shall be governed by the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. 2671-80).

7. This agreement may be revised as necessary, by mutual consent of both parties, by the issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by both parties.

8. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing 60 days written notice. Unless terminated by written notice, this agreement will remain in force indefinitely.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last written date below.

U.S. Department of Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Guy E. Bain
Assistant Director
Acting

2/25/88
Date

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

W. G. Sentard
President

Bob Kuk
Executive Vice President

James Earl Kennamer
Director, Research and Management

2/25/88
Date

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

MASTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

AND

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

JULY 1, 1985

WHEREAS, under the laws of the State of New Mexico, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish as the agent acting pursuant to and under the authority of the State Game Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Department, is responsible for establishing broad policies and long-range programs for the protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction and management of wildlife as defined under New Mexico legislative statutes, 1978 annotated, 1953 compilation.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter referred to as, the Bureau, is responsible for the administration of the public lands of the United States within New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as The Public Lands; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau, under the laws of Congress and regulations of the Department of the Interior, is responsible for maintaining habitat conditions conducive to providing optimum populations of wildlife on The Public Lands, as determined through Bureau, and Department planning procedures and compatible with other recognized uses of The Public Lands concerned;

WHEREAS, the Sikes Act (88 Stat. 1369, 16 U.S.C., Sec. 670a (1976)) directs the Bureau to plan, develop, maintain and coordinate comprehensive conservation and rehabilitation programs for fish and wildlife in consultation and cooperation with State Game and Fish agencies; and

WHEREAS, it is the mutual desire of the Department and the Bureau to work in harmony for the common purpose of maintaining, improving, and managing the wildlife resources and their habitat in the best interest of the citizens of New Mexico and the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE,

The Bureau Agrees:

1. To recognize that the Department is responsible for the management, protection and propagation of wildlife on The Public Lands.

2. To provide such Bureau improvements, facilities and transportation media, as may be needed by the employees of the Department in connection with the administration of joint wildlife programs, provided that the extent of this service is consistent with Bureau needs, regulations, available funds, and services as appropriately coordinated between the agencies.

3. To authorize, under appropriate agreement or easement, the placement and maintenance of structures needed by the Department to facilitate wildlife management on The Public Lands, provided such authorized structures are consistent with Bureau programs and that moveable structures, facilities, and equipment placed by the Department on The Public Lands shall remain the property of the Department and may be removed at any time under the terms thereof.

4. To assist the Department in the enforcement of laws by reporting violations or suspected violations.

5. To assist the Department in wildlife population or condition surveys consistent with Bureau personnel's regularly assigned duties.

6. To consult with the Department on any action affecting wildlife habitat, to include but not limited to, construction and vegetation manipulation projects.

7. To provide the Department with notice of classification of lands proposed for disposal, withdrawal or exchange and incorporate wildlife resource values in such classifications that provide and maintain public access to The Public Lands.

8.To provide planning documents and correspondence that include decisions on the management of wildlife habitat on The Public Lands to the Department for review.

9. To evaluate wildlife habitat conditions through application of appropriate analysis techniques and make results available to the Department following analysis completion.

10. To cooperatively develop management programs for State listed threatened or endangered animals to prevent the destruction or adverse modification of their habitat on The Public Lands.

11. To appropriately recognize and give full consideration to wildlife as a desirable resource on The Public Lands under the multiple resource management concept.

THE DEPARTMENT AGREES:

1. To recognize that the Bureau is the agency responsible for managing habitat on The Public Lands.

2. To provide such Department improvements, facilities and transportation media

as may be needed by the employees of the Bureau in connection with administration of joint wildlife programs, provided that the extent of this service is consistent with Department needs, regulations, available funds and services as appropriately coordinated between the agencies.

3. To regulate wildlife populations on The Public Lands consistent with the habitats established carrying capacity.

4. To secure an appropriate agreement from the Bureau before establishing game preserves, refuges or sanctuaries on The Public Lands.

5. To provide the Bureau with State Game Commission regulations, Department reports and correspondence which pertain to management of wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, on The Public Lands.

6. To secure an appropriate agreement or easement from the Bureau prior to placement of signs, structures, or initiation of construction projects on The Public Lands.

7. To notify the Bureau prior to the Department's acquisition of base property that qualifies for federal grazing privileges on The Public Lands and to the disposition of such grazing preference attached to that base property.

8. To review Bureau environmental assessments, range improvement projects, planning documents, and other programs or activities that affect wildlife populations or habitats.

9. To provide the Bureau with population estimates, present and optimum numbers, critical habitat areas, occupied habitat, population trends and other pertinent data as may be needed to effectively manage a specified resident wildlife species.

10. To provide the Bureau with the Department's draft hunting recommendations (except waterfowl) at the time they are provided to the State Game Commissioners for review.

DEPARTMENT AND BUREAU MUTUALLY AGREE:

1. To meet at least annually at the State and District levels to discuss topics relating to the management of The Public Lands and wildlife.

2. To cooperate in the identification of The Public Lands having wildlife values.

3. To cooperate in the development and implementation of comprehensive plans and wildlife programs and in providing revisions as needed to keep plans and programs current.

4. To cooperate in inventorying, restoration, research and management of wildlife and habitat on or adjacent to The Public Lands.

5. To maintain a united and professional approach in wildlife and habitat

management programs. In the event of disagreement or conflict with established policy or administrative procedure, the matter shall be directed through proper channels to the Director of the Department of Game and Fish and the State Director of the Bureau for decision or reconciliation.

6. To cooperate in the development and implementation of wildlife habitat projects.

7. To cooperate in the resolution of public fishing and hunting access problems on or to The Public Lands.

8. To exchange information on wildlife and habitat studies.

9. To develop and implement intensive wildlife habitat programs in areas which require preferential management consideration as identified in the Department and Bureau's planning process.

10. To implement and revise as programmed in the Statewide Wildlife Operation Plan.

11. To stipulate and agree that every provision in the Master Memorandum Of Understanding is subject to the laws of the State of New Mexico, the laws of the United States, and to each agency's delegated authority.

12. That nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating either party hereto in the expenditure of funds or for the future payment of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law.

13. That no member of, or delegate to Congress, or State Legislator or State Game Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom.

14. To accomplish all cooperative work under the provisions of this Master Memorandum of Understanding without discrimination against any employee, or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

15. That this Master Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective when signed by the designated representative of the parties hereto and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual agreement, or by either party upon thirty days written notice to the other of its intention to terminate upon a date indicated.

16. Amendments or supplemental cooperative agreements to this Master Memorandum of Understanding may be proposed by either party and shall become effective upon approval by both parties.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

By Harold F. Olson Date 7-8-85
Director

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, U. S.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

By Charles W Luscher Date 7-11-85
State Director, New Mexico

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE
and
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Article I. Background, Objectives and Authority

A. Background.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a private, national, nonprofit organization devoted to the maintenance and protection of lands with biological diversity. It is especially interested in protection and preservation of threatened and endangered species, relict areas, outstanding wildlife and fishery habitat, natural areas, and areas of critical environmental concern.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), under the laws of Congress, Executive Orders, and Regulations, is responsible for management of the public lands and resources on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield, and the protection of such resources.

B. Objectives.

1. To define areas of mutual interest and cooperation in the management and administration of BLM lands and the acquisition or exchange of private and BLM lands in New Mexico, including but not limited to natural areas inventory and exchange of information.

2. To provide for further Memoranda of Understanding and Cooperative Agreements for specific projects between The Nature Conservancy, by and through its New Mexico Office, and the BLM State and District Offices.

C. Authority.

1. Federal Land Policy and Management Act, (PL 94-579, 90 Stat. 2766)

2. Presidential Authority Resolution adopted by the TNC Board of Governors on May 19, 1984.

Article II. Statement of Work.

A. Both parties agree:

1. To meet annually on or about December 1 to discuss the provisions of the MOU.

2. That this memorandum will not be considered as legally obligating either party to expend any funds, except as may be agreed to in subsequent Memoranda or Cooperative Agreements.

3. That this memorandum shall not be considered as legally obligating either party to perform any act beyond its authority, or require either party to assume liability for or expend any sum in excess of available funds or appropriations.

B. The Nature Conservancy will:

1. Incorporate information provided by the BLM on rare, threatened, endangered and sensitive species into the New Mexico Natural Heritage data base and to manage that information as funds are available.

2. Work cooperatively with the BLM in the acquisition or exchange of lands deemed important by both groups.

3. Work cooperatively with the BLM in the inventory and establishment of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Areas.

C. The BLM will:

1. Provide new or updated information on rare, threatened, endangered and sensitive species, plant communities and aquatic communities to The Nature Conservancy for incorporation into the data base.

2. Work cooperatively with The Nature Conservancy's Public Lands Protection Program in the inventory and establishment of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Areas.

Article III. Key Officials.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective upon the signature of the Western Regional Director, TNC, and the State Director, New Mexico BLM.

Article IV. Termination.

This memorandum can be terminated by mutual agreement, or by either party upon thirty days notice in writing to the other of its intention to terminate upon a date indicated. Amendments to this MOU can be proposed by either party and shall become effective upon approval by both parties.

Article V. Required Clauses.

During the performance of this agreement, participants agree to abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on nondiscrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The participants will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed without regard to their race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

member or delegate to Congress, or resident Commissioner, shall be admitted any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

Signatures:

Larry L. Woodard
New Mexico State Director
Bureau of Land Management

4-8-87
Date

Laurel Mayer
Western Regional Director
The Nature Conservancy

4-8-87
Date

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
USDA, Forest Service, Region 3
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico

This memorandum of understanding by and between the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southwestern Region (hereinafter referred to as Forest Service); The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (hereinafter referred to as Department); and the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under authority of the Sikes Act (16 USC ¶670g-n) and the Forest Service Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act (16 USC ¶528-531) and BLM Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 USC ¶1701) and (43 CFR Part 24) hereby affirms management commitments beginning with the execution of this agreement for land areas described in attachments hereto.

Purpose: To provide a policy of management which prescribes special emphasis on providing a diverse and high quality wildlife and fisheries resource that is harmonious with other uses and missions of the cooperating agencies.

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is the agency responsible for managing the National Forest System lands and administering the public uses thereon;

WHEREAS, the BLM is the agency responsible for managing the public lands and administering the public uses thereon;

WHEREAS, the Department has been created under the laws of the State of New Mexico to propagate, plant, protect, regulate, and conserve to the extent necessary to provide and maintain an adequate supply of game and fish within the State of New Mexico;

WHEREAS, the parties have broad memoranda of understanding which define organizational responsibilities in the administration of resources;

WHEREAS, it is the mutual goal of the parties to cooperate in the management of land areas under this agreement in a manner that will provide for a continuing high quality of fish and wildlife habitat, other natural resources, and the recreational experiences of the users, and;

WHEREAS, the Sikes Act provides for the establishment of conservation and rehabilitation programs such as protection, research, census, law enforcement, habitat management, propagation, live trapping and transplantation, regulated taking, and access controls.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed that:

A. The Forest Service and the BLM shall, with respect to the lands under this agreement:

1. Manage the lands under this agreement in a manner which will maintain, protect, and enhance the habitat for all naturally occurring and other desirable wildlife species and provide for continuing high quality wildlife oriented recreational opportunities.

2. As authorized under provisions of the Sikes Act, cooperate with the Department in the development and administration of a program as established by the State Game Commission for the conservation and rehabilitation of wildlife and fish. Such program may be funded in whole or in part by the issuance of habitat management stamps as provided under Section 202(c)(3)(F) and Section 203(a) and (b) of the Sikes Act (88 Stat. 1369 16 USC ¶670i).

3. Cooperate with the Department in the development of a comprehensive wildlife management plan for lands under this agreement in "Management of New Mexico Wildlife, 1986-1990 (Operation Plan, Part II)."

4. Manage other uses and activities under the multiple-use concept.

5. Protect and manage critical wildlife habitats for the preservation of unique wildlife values.

6. Cooperate with the Department in establishing off-road vehicle closures as provided in 36 CFR 295, 43 CFR 8340, Executive Orders 11644 and 11989, and the New Mexico Habitat Protection Act.

7. Make available such improvements and facilities located on National Forest System lands under this agreement, when otherwise not needed, under these conditions:

a. Issue special use permits as authorized by the Granger-Thye Act for the Department's use of structures and improvements and the land used in connection therewith, when otherwise not needed by the Forest Service. It is understood that Granger-Thye permits require the payment of a rent which, however, may be offset by annual allowances for maintenance and or reconditioning.

b. Authorize the use and occupancy of a minor portion of the total space or capacity of a Forest Service controlled structure or facility, and temporary use, by free annual permit or other appropriate authorization.

8. Conduct habitat inventories and surveys to determine habitat condition, utilization, and trend.

9. Protect, conserve, and assist in the recovery of State and Federal threatened and endangered species.

10. Cooperate in the development of joint recommendations to the State Game Commission for annual hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations.

11. Limit overhead assessments for cooperative work performed under this memorandum to not more than ten percent of project costs.

B. The Department shall with respect to lands under this agreement:

1. Manage the wildlife resources in a manner compatible with established objectives as herein provided.

2. Provide sufficient Department personnel to fulfill the provisions of this agreement.

3. As authorized by the State Game Commission, cooperate with the Forest Service and BLM in the development and administration of program(s) for the conservation and rehabilitation of fish and wildlife which same program(s) may be funded in whole or in part by the issuance of habitat management stamps as provided under Sections 202(c)(3)(F) and 203(a) and (b) of the Sikes Act. The issuance of such habitat management stamps and the administration of funds originating therefrom shall be subject to the following conditions:

a. Such stamps shall be issued, sold, and the fees therefrom collected by the Department or by the authorized agents of the Department.

b. Notice of the requirement to possess such stamps shall be displayed prominently in all places where New Mexico hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses are sold. Such stamps shall be available for sale wherever State hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses are sold.

c. Except for expenses incurred in the printing, issuing, or selling of such stamps, the fees collected for such stamps by the Department shall be utilized in carrying out conservation and rehabilitation programs implemented under the Sikes Act and for lands under this agreement and for no other purpose.

d. The purchase of any such stamp shall entitle the purchaser thereof to hunt or fish on lands under this agreement which are the subject of a conservation or rehabilitation program implemented under the Sikes Act except to the extent that the public use of such land is limited pursuant to a comprehensive plan or cooperative agreement. The purchase of any such stamp shall not be construed as (a) eliminating the requirement for the purchase of a migratory bird hunting stamp as set forth in the first section of the Act of march 16, 1934, commonly referred to as the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a), or (b) relieving the purchaser from compliance with any applicable New Mexico game and fish laws and regulations.

e. The amount of the fee to be charged for such stamps, the

age at which the individual is required to acquire such a stamp, and the expiration date for such stamps shall be mutually agreed upon by the Department, the Secretary of Agriculture or his authorized representative; and Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative; except that each stamp shall be void not later than one year after the date of issuance.

f. Each such stamp must be validated by the purchaser thereof by signing his name across the face of the stamp.

g. The Department shall require any individual, to whom a stamp is sold pursuant to this section, to exhibit upon request such stamp for inspection to any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture or Department of the Interior or to any person who is authorized to enforce section 204(a) of the Sikes Act.

4. The Department shall maintain accurate records and file an annual report with the Forest Service and BLM setting forth the amount and disposition of the fees collected from the sale of said stamps.

5. The Department shall authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and the Comptroller General of the United States, or their authorized representatives to have access to such records for purposes of audit and examination.

6. Cooperate with the Forest Service and BLM in the development of a comprehensive wildlife management plan for the lands under this agreement in "Management of New Mexico Wildlife, 1986-1990 (Operation Plan, Part II)," as provided for in 43 CFR Part 24.

7. Coordinate with the Forest Service and BLM in developing and establishing off-road vehicle closure areas under the New Mexico Habitat Protection Act when this action is deemed appropriate by mutual agreement.

8. Maintain and recondition the structures and improvements under the administrative control of the Forest Service and permitted to the Department in as good condition as received for use, ordinary wear and tear excepted, and in addition supply and replace any articles that may be destroyed, broken, or lost, with articles of a like kind and of equal value.

9. Census fish and wildlife as needed to determine concerned species population levels and trends for establishing annual harvest regulations and species management objectives.

10. Establish annual hunting regulations in a manner which will sustain wildlife and fish population densities sufficient to provide a quality outdoor recreation experience consistent with habitat capabilities.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT:

1. Lands covered by this agreement shall be limited to those identified in amendments hereto.

2. The parties shall cooperate in the gathering and exchange of wildlife harvest, management, and inventory data.

3. The parties shall meet, annually or as needed, to develop annual plans of work and to budget funds needed to carry out the provisions of the memorandum of understanding. The parties shall develop an annual plan of work which will designate the conservation and rehabilitation projects to be accomplished and allocate the necessary funds from habitat management stamp receipts to the responsible agency to carry out such work and to evaluate the effectiveness thereof. The assignment of projects and allocation of funds shall be documented.

4. Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating the Forest Service, BLM or Department to expend funds or as involving the United States in any contract or other obligation for the future payment of money in excess of appropriations.

5. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as diminishing the authority and jurisdiction of the State with respect to the management of resident species of wildlife within the State of New Mexico, except as otherwise provided by law.

6. Nothing in the agreement shall be construed as diminishing the authority of the Forest Service to manage National Forest System lands for wildlife habitat and other purposes in accordance with the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (16 USC 528-531), the National Forest Management Act, and other applicable authorities authorized by law.

7. Nothing in the agreement shall be construed as diminishing the authority of the BLM to manage BLM lands for wildlife habitat and other purposes in accordance with the Federal Land Management Policy Act, 43 CFR Part 24, and other applicable authorities established by law.

8. No member of or delegate to Congress, or Resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to share in this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

9. Any party may terminate this agreement by providing written notice to the other parties except that the parties must collectively agree on the appropriate termination of any approved projects. Unless terminated by written notice, the agreement shall remain in force indefinitely. Amendments or supplements to this memorandum may be proposed by any party and shall become effective upon approval by the parties.

10. Upon the dissolution of this Memorandum of Understanding, any unobligated funds will be expended on the lands under this agreement at

the prerogative of the Department. 1551 (934)

11. The extension of benefits under the provisions of this memorandum shall be without discrimination as to race, religion, sex, age, national origin, or handicap. Regulations of the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the date last written below.

M Morrell — 9/14/84
Regional Forester — Date
USDA Forest Service

Charles W Luscher — 9-26-84
State Director — Date
Bureau of Land Management

Jan a Ibser — 11/1/84
Chairman — Date
New Mexico Game Commission

Addendum to MOU NM-25

QUIREMENTS OF THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTING

THE SIKES ACT PROGRAM

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding dated November 1, 1984 between USDA, Forest Service Region 3, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and USDI, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico to provide coordination and agreement on the planning, programming, approval and execution of projects and programs funded under the Authority of the Sikes Act (16 USC 1670g-n).

Now, therefore, it is agreed that:

1. Project proposals to be considered for Sikes Act funding will require the following information be provided by the land management agency on whose lands the project is proposed for construction.

a. Project name and brief description of project.

b. Legal description: Including Section, Township and Range.

c. Project area map denoting location of improvement. Map should be a 7.5 Min. Topo, if possible.

d. Species and area receiving expected wildlife benefits.

e. Construction specifications.

f. Summary of materials and labor cost.

g. Recommendation on how the project should be accomplished (contracted, volunteer work, etc.).

h. Estimated life of the project.

i. Estimated annual cost of maintenance.

j. Appropriate NEPA documentation.

2. Ownership of improvements constructed with Sikes Act Funds will remain with the Agency on whose land the improvement is constructed, unless negotiated otherwise.

3. To assure protection of investments an annual appropriation will be requested, out of Sikes Act Stamp receipts, for routine scheduled maintenance and repair of structural improvements installed under the prevue of this agreement.

4. Overhead assessments associated with this program will be held to a maximum of ten (10) percent of project costs so as to accomplish as much habitat improvement work as possible.

5. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will be the lead agency for wildlife and fisheries law enforcement responsibilities associated with the program. Other cooperating agencies will enforce the program in accordance with their delegation and authority.

6. An appropriate sign that recognizes all agencies involved in the Sikes Act Program will be provided as a program cost at all project sites exceeding $1,000.00 in cost.

7. Agencies will cooperatively develop and fund printing of a brochure to be made available for public distribution to explain the program and its wildlife benefits.

8. Cooperating agencies will send all news releases which pertain to the Sikes Act Program to each participating agency for their information and distribution.

9. Cooperating agencies will make special efforts to meet with and receive input on program selection from sportmen's organizations regarding the Sikes Act Program and its benefits.

10. Annually, each agency will appoint an individual(s) to serve as a coordination team member for preparing project proposals to be submitted to their respective agency, and subsequently to the Game Commission. The following agenda will be used for selection and prioritizing of projects.

a. Coordination Committee will meet to select projects for agency review by April 1 each year.

b. Agencies shall review proposed projects and respond to Coordination Committee by April 15 each year.

c. Coordination Committee shall meet between April 15 and April 20 to review response of agencies and prioritize projects for Game Commission consideration and action.

d. The Citizens Review Committee shall meet by May 15 of each year to review proposed projects.

11. Acquisitions of easements, rights-of-way, water rights, etc., will be the responsibility of the land management agency upon whose land a proposed project will be developed unless otherwise agreed to in the proposal developmental phase.

12 State lands may be included within a project boundary or as a program development site provided the State Land Commissioner and cooperating agencies are unanimously agreed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this AMENDMENT as of the date last written below.

Lotus Muniz	9/10/87
Regional Forester	Date
USDA Forest Service	
Larry T. Woodard	9-8-87
State Director	Date
Bureau of Land Management	
Harold F. Olson	9/8/87
Director	Date
N. M. Department of Game & Fish	

INTERAGENCY ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL GUIDELINES IN NEW MEXICO

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico Department of Agriclture
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

INTRODUCTION

It is mutually recognized that predatory mammals and rodents are a valuable resource but individual animals or populations may need to be reduced on public lands to:

1. Reduce depredation on livestock.

2. Protect endangered, threatened, introduced or other wildlife species.

3. Suppress animal-borne diseases in the interest of public health and livestock.

4. Minimize rodent damage to vegetation and man-made projects after considering all resource needs.

It is also recognized that such control must be done in a professional and judicious manner according to well conceived plans within existing State and Federal laws. Control efforts for livestock protection will be directed to areas of significant livestock losses and toward the predator or local populations causing the damage rather than the species as a whole.

Animals within the scope of this agreement include those species not classified as protected by state law, controlled by the Game Commission, State of New Mexico, and not included on the threatened or endangered federal and state species list.

PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Agreement among the above agencies is for the purpose of:

1. Establishing agency guidelines for a program of animal damage control (ADC) on public lands.

2. Identifying the responsibilities of the respective agencies in discharging the control of damaging wild animals.

3. Establishing general guidelines and procedures for field offices.

4. Assuring a uniform approach and interpretation by the various agency field personnel for the justification for animal damage control.

5. Recognizing the value of predatory mammals and rodents and the need to manage them in a manner consistent with sound wildlife management principles.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is responsible for:

   a. The administration of the Act of March 2, 1931 (46 Stat. 1468; 7 USC 426-426b), as amended, and the Act of August 12, 1956 (72 Stat. 563, 16 USC 661 et. seq.), in providing the necessary services as funds and manpower permit and in maintaining the necessary expertise to control damage.

   b. Providing such information requested by the land managing agency to describe the proposed control activities should that managing agency determine that such a site-specific environmental assessment is required.

   c. Taking the lead in preparation of an annual operational animal damage control plan for each BLM District.

   d. Reviewing and evaluating requests for control and conducting control work as provided for in the ADC Plan pertaining to public lands.

   e. Ensuring that the ADC activities are compatible with existing policies, laws and regulations..

   f. The overall administration, coordination, and management of the ADC program, including arrangement of interagency meetings whenever needed.

2. The Forest Service is responsible for management of lands under its jurisdiction. This responsibility includes:

   a. Receiving requests for animal damage control and assessing the significance of animal damages to resources or property.

   b. Determining if animal control is consistent with land management and multiple use objectives.

   c. Requesting animal damage control activities be conducted to protect the interest of all users of National Forest System lands.

   d. Preparing any environmental analysis required internally to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act from a land management aspect.

3. The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for management of lands under its jurisdiction. This responsibility includes:

   a. Authorizing animal damage control and rodent control programs when appropriate multiple land-use management considerations are determined.

   b. Notifying public land grazing permittees of procedures to request control services from appropriate FWS offices.

   c. Ensuring that all district ADC Plans follow the recommended BLM format and with the assistance from FWS the preparation of environmental assessments for all control programs.

4. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture is responsible for controlling predatory wild animals and rodent pests as outlined in 77-15-1 through 77-15-5, NMSA 1978, and Subsection K of Section 4 of Chapter 155 of Laws 1980, and Section 1 of Chapter 20 of Laws 1981, in the interest of the protection of crops, livestock, and the improvement of range conditions.

   To carry out the control responsibility, the Department is authorized to cooperate with the FWS.

5. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is responsible for conducting studies on non-game animals and for controlling predatory animals as outlined in 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 of New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978 compilation, and is responsible for wildlife species indigenous to New Mexico which are found to be endangered within New Mexico as defined by section 17-2-38(D) and therfore declared to be subject to the provisions of Sections 17-2-37 through 17-2-46, New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978 compilation.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

RODENT CONTROL

The Fish and Wildlife Service agrees to :

1. Conduct or supervise the necessary rodent control which has been mutually agreed upon.

2. Assist the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service by providing technical information and assessing damages to vegetation and man-made projects.

3. Work with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the land managing agencies in developing control programs needed to alleviate rodent damage problems.

4. Provide existing and historical information relative to all identified rodent problems on federal lands.

5. Incorporate all rodent control requests into the BLM District ADC Plans.

6. Conduct or supervise rodent control in a manner which assures the conservation and continued existence of endangered/threatened species.

The Forest Service agrees to:

1. Identify vegetative and man-made projects where rodent damage is occuring, or anticipated, and where control may be needed.

2. Request the Fish and Wildlife Service to provide control services which employ mutually approved methods.

3. Document the request and develop a justification statement for each project in accordance with agency procedures. Such documentation will define the financial responsibilities of each party, including the division of estimated costs and special conditions, if any, relating to the time or schedule for payment.

4. Provide funding for actual cost of control services, including bait material or assess special use permittee for same if applicable.

5. Obtain concurrence of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Game Management Division, Santa Fe, New Mexico for all rodent control programs.

<u>The Bureau of Land Management</u> agrees to :

1. Receive rodent control requests on public lands from FWS during the preparation of each District ADC Plan. Those requests received at that time will be jointly evaluated within that calendar year with FWS and NMDGF to determine damages occuring to vegetal resources. If rodent control requests are warranted, those specific areas will be identified in the proceeding ADC Plan and authorized by BLM after appropriate T/E surveys are conducted.

2. Identify areas where rodent damage is occuring on public lands to vegetative and man-made projects with anticipated control work by FWS. These areas will be included in the ADC Plan and evaluated under the same procedures as requests are received from grazing permitees to FWS.

3. Identify financial responsibilities for control services performed by FWS and required T/E surveys on areas identified in the ADC Plan.

<u>The New Mexico Department of Agriculture</u> agrees to :

1. Cooperate and consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service in rodent pest suppression programs under the guidelines of the existing Master Project Agreement.

   a. Act as fiscal agent for non-federal funds for rodent control work.

b. Review and mutually agree with the FWS on the detailed annual program setting forth statewide operational plans, objectives, plans for staffing, financing, and other support for control programs.

2. For each Bureau of Land Management District:

   a. Meet with the FWS and the BLM and participate in the development and review of annual animal damage conrol plans.

   b. Participate in interagency field evaluations to assess requests for rodent control.

3. Meet with the FWS and the Forest Service upon request and participate in the development and review of annual rodent control plans or projects.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish agrees to:

1. Assist the FWS in the development of control programs and in conducting T/E surveys upon request.

2. Evaluate control programs to assure endangered, threatened, and other wildlife species are given proper consideration and protection.

PREDATORY MAMMAL CONTROL

The Fish and Wildlife Service agrees to:

1. Schedule meeting as necessary, but not less than annually, for the purpose of reviewing control work and evaluating control needs. Attend meetings for above purposes when called by any signatory agency.

2. For each Bureau of Land Management District:

   a. Receive rancher requests for assistance and respond to such requests when they are within the framework of the annual animal damage control plan, addressed in item c below. Response to requests that occur after the annual plan is approved will be handled in accordance with procedures set forth in item 4 on page 11 of these guidelines.

b. Consolidate, at the time animal damage control plans are developed, a summary of animal damage control effort and confirmed damage by individual allotment on BLM land documented during the past 12 months. Also, jointly with the BLM, prepare a map (furnished by the BLM) showing ranch units where ranchers have requested control and livestock predation reported.

c. Mutually, with BLM officials, develop an annual animal damage control plan and associated map, based on rancher requests, to have public lands included in the animal damage control plans. This plan will explain the basis for the planned program, where and when control may be conducted, the methods to be used and appropriate constraints. A map showing planned control areas, and safety zones will be a part of the plan. A summary of animal damage control effort and confirmed damage by individual allotment will be filed with the plan as supporting information.

d. Prepare, for each animal damage control plan, a written explanation of the livestock predation problems in the district and the control program (methods,etc.) recommended to respond to those problems.

e. Consider an approved BLM District ADC Plan as the request and BLM authorization to initiate control activities as outlined in the approved plan.

f. Comply with the 26 EPA restrictions for use of the M-44. As agreed upon in the annual ADC Plan, use M-44s only within the planned control areas.

3. Receive damage control requests from livestockmen using National Forest Lands, through the Forest Service.

4. Conduct control programs within budgetary and policy limitations using the most selective approved methods available, complying with such constraints as imposed by the agency or agencies involved.

5. Develop detailed annual programs setting forth the operations plan, objectives, plans for staffing,

5. Develop detailed annual programs setting forth the operations plan, objectives, plans for staffing, financing and other support for control programs with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

6. Work with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture as the State Cooperator in predatory wild animal control in the interest of protection of crops, livestock, and improvement of range conditions.

7. Provide all signatory agencies with an annual report at the end of each fiscal year listing all animals taken in control activities by species and number.

8. Release unharmed those species classified as protected, unless they are injured or have been designated as target animals in a specific situation.

9. Release unharmed any animals taken which are listed as endangered in the State Game Commission Regulation, but in the event injuries prevent their safe release or they are found dead, to immediately turn over such animals to the nearest New Mexico Department of Game and Fish officer; provided however, that this restriction shall not apply to those species which must be held by FWS under Federal endangered species regulations.

The Forest Service agrees to:

1. Ask livestock operators suffering livestock depredations to submit their request for predatory mammal control to the Forest Service District Office.

2. Verify, document, and assess the significance of livestock losses to predatory mammals.

3. Identify the areas where predatory mammal control has been requested and review such requests as they affect other uses of National Forest System lands. Prepare environmental assessments specifying the constraints necessary to assure adequate protection of the resources and users of NFS lands.

4. Obtain assistance from the FWS and the NMDA in the development of control plans.

5. Obtain concurrence of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Game Management Division, Santa Fe for all predatory mammal control.

6. Request the FWS to provide control service for alleviating damage following such constraints as necessary to protect other interests.

7. Authorize control programs by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for wildlife management purposes consistent with other land uses and to be coordinated with programs of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Bureau of Land Management agrees to:

1. Participate with the FWS to evaluate the need for ADC services from supporting information, namely individual allotment summaries which will identify ADC effort and confirmed damage during the previous 12 months.

2. Apply appropriate land management considerations and delineate human safety zones and similar areas where ADC activities will be restricted or not allowed on District ADC Plan associated maps.

3. Review control methods to be authorized on public lands and prepare environmental assessments with assistance from FWS. Included in each environmental assessment will be a threatened and endangered species evaluation as to a may-affect or no-affect determination.

4. Mutually prepare ADC Plans and associated maps with the FWS.

5. With certain restrictions, the operational use of the M-44 sodium cyanide dispensing device will be authorized on the public lands. The authorized use of the M-44 is subject to all restrictions established by the EPA.

6. Include a provision in each control plan for emergency situations occuring outside designated planned control areas and include provisions whereby adjoining allotments may be approved for control work. Specific

procedures will be outlined in the control plan.

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture agrees to:

1. Cooperate and consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service in predatory mammal control programs under the guidelines of the existing Master Project Agreement.

   a. Act as fiscal agent for non-federal funds used for predatory mammal control work.

   b. Review and mutually agree with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the detailed annual program setting forth statewide operational plans, objectives, plans for staffing, financing and other support for control programs.

2. For each Bureau of Land Management District:

   a. Meet with the FWS and the BLM and participate in the development and review of annual ADC Plans.

3. Meet with the FWS and the Forest Service and participate in the development and review of annual predatory mammal control plans or projects as requested.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish agrees to:

1. Submit requests for animal control for the protection of wildlife species to be conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service to the appropriate land managing agency.

2. Be responsible for the rehabilitation and/or disposal of all animals listed under the State Endangered Species Regulation, provided however, that this restriction shall not apply to those species which must be held by the Fish and Wildlife Service under Federal endangered species regulations.

3. Review proposed control programs for concurrence.

UNANTICIPATED CONTROL

Requests for control measures not outlined at the annual meeting shall be provided for as follows:

1. Forest Service permittees will submit requests to the Forest Service. Bureau of Land Management permittees will submit requests to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. The Forest Service will evaluate their requests for validity and obtain Department of Game and Fish concurrence before authorizing control work.

3. On National Forest System lands, Fish and Wildlife Service, after investigation where control is warranted, will use mechanical control means following such constraints agreed upon prior to the investigation. Sodium cyanide will not be used without specific approval from the Regional Forester or his designate.

4. Animal Damage Control Plans for BLM Districts will include a provision for responding to unanticipated control needs outside of planned control areas identified in the annual ADC Plan. Such situations will be handled on a case by case basis in response to rancher request for control. In each case, the FWS will evaluate the control request and make a field examination of the reported problem. If it is confirmed that current livestock predation has occured and does not involve established safety zones, the FWS may immediately conduct control within that ranch unit using methods approved in the plan.

5. The Fish and Wildlife Service will receive requests for animal damage control. The FWS district supervisor will telephone the BLM Area Manager, providing him/her a brief explanation of the livestock loss observed, the control action taken and the anticipated control period. A brief written explanation will be forwarded to the BLM Area Manager immediately following the control operation.

<u>IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT</u>:

1. All agencies will designate representatives for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this agreement.

2. All agencies shall be prepared to outline problems and needs at called meetings.

3. Amendments to these guidelines may be made at any time.

4. Pursuant to Section 22, Title 41, United States Code, no member or delegate to Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement, or to any benefit to arise therefrom.

5. Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating any signatory agency to expend or as involving the United States or the State of New Mexico in any contract or other obligation or payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law.

6. Each agency signatory hereto will coordinate its respective animal damage control procedures in accordance with these guidelines and current existing agreements and policies.

7. These guidelines will become effective on the date the final signature is affixed hereto. This agreement shall automatically renew itself annually and remain in force until revoked. Any signatory agency may terminate its participation in this agreement upon 30 days notice to each of the other signatory agencies.

8. The accepted format and procedures for preparing BLM District ADC Plans will be in accordance with attchment #1, Recommended Format for Animal Damage Control Plan and Map(s).

APPROVED:

U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service

By _____ Regional Director 2/28/84 Date

U.S. Forest Service

By _____ Regional Forester 5/14/84 Date

Bureau of Land Management

By _____ State Director 4-3-84 Date

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

By _____ Director 4-30-84 Date

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

By _____ Director 4-11-84 Date

.5 Annual Damage Control Plan and Map. ADC programs on the public lands must be carried out according to an annual ADC plan. The plan and associated map are developed for each BLM District by FWS. ADC agencies, the State wildlife agency, and the BLM District Manager must meet at least once per year for the purpose of reviewing and modifying the plan, as appropriate. Other agencies and/or parties may be included according to the local situation and needs.

.51 Procedures for Developing ADC Plan. The following procedures must be used for developing ADC plans.

A. Consolidate Forms Documenting Control Requests and Loss Problems. The FWS annually consolidates the forms (see Appendix 2) filled out in the past 12 months which document control requests and livestock damage problems, and delineate on map(s) the areas involving BLM lands.

B. Evaluate Control Requests and Prepare Proposed ADC Plan. The FWS evaluates each documented control request and determines whether losses have occurred and will continue or recur in the absence of control activities. Based on areas which meet this criteria, the ADC agency prepares a proposed ADC plan, including a map showing allotments in which control activities are planned. Plan format and components are described in .53.

C. Forward to BLM. The FWS forwards the proposed ADC plan and associated map(s) to the BLM District Manager for review prior to the annual coordination meeting.

D. Meet to Process ADC Plan. The BLM District Manager, the FWS, and State wildlife agency then meet to:

1. Review ADC needs and requests;

2. Review the proposed ADC plan and associated map;

3. Delineate on the map(s) planned control, restricted control, no control, and safety areas (see .53);

4. Evaluate and, where appropriate, incorporate rodent damage control projects; and

5. Complete processing of the ADC plan for the upcoming 12 months and prepare the associated map.

E. Plan Approval. The FWS completes the mutually agreed on plan, obtains State wildlife agency concurrence, and then submits it to the BLM District Manager for signature.

.52 ADC Color-Coded Map. A map must be developed for each plan and must be an integral part of the plan. The map(s) must show, using color coding, the following areas based on allotment or ranch unit boundaries.

1. Human safety zones (in red).

2. No control zones (no coloration).

3. Restricted control areas for threatened or endangered species (in yellow).

4. Restricted control areas for bird hunting areas or other sites frequented by dogs (in brown).

5. Planned control areas (in green).

6. Locations of rodent damage control projects.

.53 Plan Format and Components. The plan format and contents must be as follows.

A. Introduction. This narrative and the associated map consititute the ADC plan for the public lands in the _____ District covering the period of _____. This plan specifies where, when, and under what restrictions ADC functions will be carried out as mutually agreed by the signatory parties hereto.

B. Basis for Program. Insert here a written explanation of the livestock depredation problems upon which the ADC program is based as developed by the ADC agency. This should include the nature and extent of the problem, economic losses involved, and the number of livestock operator requests for control measures. Explain the justification for any rodent damage control project in the plan. All livestock operator control requests and associated FWS forms may be attached to the plan as an appendix, if desired.

C. Planned ADC Activities.

1. Predator Damage Control. Explain where and what predator damage control work is authorized and planned, relating to specific color-coded areas (by ranch unit) delineated on accompanying ADC map(s). For example:

a. Control operations, including trapping, snares, calling, and aerial gunning may be conducted by the FWS within the planned control areas shown in green at the discretion of FWS.

b. Aerial gunning may be conducted by the FWS only from November 1 through January 15 in the restricted control areas shown in yellow.

2. Rodent Damage Control. Explain where and what rodent damage control projects are authorized and planned. Specify the methods to be used. Show on the accompanying ADC map the specific sites where control is authorized.

D. Stipulations and Restrictions. Specifically state the stipulations and restrictions involved. These must include the following. Others should be added, as appropriate.

1. Area of Control. ADC activities are limited to the allotments within the planned control (in green) and restricted control areas (yellow and brown), unless an emergency develops as provided for in .53E.

2. Aerial Gunning. Hunting coyotes from helicopters or airplanes may be allowed only within the control areas for the dates shown. Aerial hunting other than for the dates shown or in a no control area is prohibited unless the District Manager consents.

3. Human Safety Zones. No control devices are allowed within the public safety zones shown in red and/or specified below.

a. Within one-fourth mile or other appropriate buffer zone of any residence or community.

b. Within one-fourth mile or other appropriate buffer zone of any State or Federal highway.

c. Within one-fourth mile or other appropriate buffer zone of all developed recreation sites.

4. Bird Hunting Areas. Traps or snares are not allowed during the bird hunting seasons in the areas shown in brown. If traps or snares are placed in that area, they must be removed by the ADC agency at least 2 days before the opening of the bird hunting season.

5. Posting Control Areas. The ADC agency must post signs to provide adequate warning of all areas where control devices are in use. Enough signs must be installed at commonly used gates, access points, and where appropriate at the specific device location to ensure proper public notification.

6. Checking of Control Devices. Traps, snares, and other devices must be checked at intervals, consistent with State regulations, to facilitate the release of nontarget animals.

7. Modification of Control Areas. The BLM District Manager may, at any time, deny any ADC activities on the public lands for multiple-use management or public safety reasons. He or she may also modify areas where control is permitted as to the degree and type of control.

8. Others. Incorporate other measures as appropriate.

E. Emergency ADC. Situations may develop which warrant ADC activities in designated no-control areas. Such needs are handled on a case-by-case basis using the following procedures, and must be based on a livestock operator's request for control measures.

1. Requesting Control. Livestock operator must submit loss data and request control to the ADC agency.

2. Problem Evaluation. The ADC agency evaluates the loss data and determine if emergency control measures are warranted. If immediate action is warranted and the control area does not involve established safety zones, the ADC agency conducts necessary control operations using permitted methods and notifies the Bureau as soon as possible. If time is not of the essence then the procedures described below must be used.

3. Submissions to BLM District Manager. For each animal damage complaint for which emergency control measures are proposed, the ADC agency must provide the District Manager:

a. A damage control request form verifying that the livestock operator has submitted a claim for that particular problem, and that a predator caused livestock kill problem has recently occurred; and

b. A brief written explanation of where control measures are proposed, the methods to be used, and how long activities would continue.

4. The District Manager will evaluate the control request, based on the information provided, decide whether to approve control operations, and notify the appropriate ADC agency official.

5. If control operations are authorized, the damage control request form and associated information must be added to the ADC plan. The allotment(s) involved are also delineated on the ADC map.

F. Approval. The plan must be signed by the agencies involved, according to the following format:

"This plan authorizes ADC activities on public lands by the _____ subject to the constraints specified herein, and the requirements of all pertinent Federal and State laws, Executive orders, and regulations. It is mutually agreed that all ADC activities will be carried out according to this plan.

_____
District Supervisor, Animal Damage Control, U.S. FWS

_____
Representative, State Wildlife Agency

_____
District Manager, Bureau of Land Management.

G. Display of Plan and Map. Copies of the ADC plan and map must be filed in the BLM District Office, the local ADC agency office, and the local State wildlife agency. In the BLM office, the plan and map must be displayed so that it is available to the public and District personnel at all times.

LOCAL MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

AND

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AND

THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding concerns implementation of the Sikes Act [88 Stat. 1369, 16 U.S.C., Section 670a (1976)]. Established herein are the working relationships for implementation of the Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration and Habitat Management Program on Federal lands within the Ladrones Mountains in west-central New Mexico.

II. Authority

The Sikes Act. Public Law 93-452.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976 [90 Stat. 2744, 43 U.S.C.A., Section 1705, et seq. (1978 supp.)].

III. Operations

WHEREAS, desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico are listed as a state-endangered species and have been eliminated from most of their former range and there is a need for cooperative efforts to benefit and ensure the survival of this species in suitable habitats;

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, hereinafter referred to as the "Department", is responsible for the preservation and management of wildlife on public and private land and is currently involved in a desert bighorn sheep propagation and restoration program;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau", administers habitat on the public lands in the Ladrones Mountains with potential for reestablishment of desert bighorn sheep;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, hereinafter referred to as the "Service", administers the Sevilletta National Wildlife Refuge in and adjacent to the Ladrones Mountains (both areas having suitable habitats for reestablishment of desert bighorn sheep);

NOW THEREFORE, the Department, the Bureau, and the Service hereby mutually agree to jointly conduct a cooperative desert bighorn sheep restoration and habitat management program on public lands in the Ladrones Mountains in west-central New Mexico. News items and other publicity concerning this program shall be coordinated and approved by all cooperators prior to release. In addition, the parties herein agree:

A. That the Department has the approval to transplant and manage desert bighorn sheep in the Ladrones Mountains. The method of release will be by direct release into the area. In addition to the identified release procedure, vehicular travel will be limited to existing roads and trails.

B. That the Bureau will manage public lands in the Ladrones Mountains under the multiple-use concept, realizing that the transplanted desert bighorn sheep will have to compete with other public lands uses. That portion of the habitat management area under wilderness review will be subject to interim policies and guidelines for lands under wilderness review, wilderness management policy guidelines, and/or multiple use management pending the action of the United States Congress on the proposed wilderness consideration. The Bureau shall coordinate fence modifications (if required) with allottees, the Department, and the Service.

C. That the Service will permit the utilization of suitable habitat by desert bighorn sheep on the Sevilletta National Wildlife Refuge with the following conditions:

1. The Service will have responsibility for the management of the Sevilletta National Wildlife Refuge.

2. Hold the issue of future hunting of desert bighorn sheep in abeyance pending the establishment of viable populations and subsequent delisting as a state-endangered species, particularly as concerns those lands associated with this agreement within the Sevilletta National Wildlife Refuge.

3. Prohibit habitat alterations such as new roads on the Sevilletta National Wildlife Refuge. Nothing in this agreement, however, shall preclude the establishment or development of small watering units or similar facilities should all three signatory parties agree that such would be in the best interest of bighorn sheep and other associated wildlife species.

IV. Other Provisions

A. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating the parties hereto in the expenditure of funds or for the future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law.

B. Each party agrees to meet at least once annually to review program accomplishments and to develop plans for the coming year.

C. This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective when signed by all designated parties hereto and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual agreement, or by an individual party upon 30 days written notice to the others of its intention to terminate upon a date indicated.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

By: Harold F. Olson 8/20/87
Director Date

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

By: Larry L. Woodard 9/29/87
State Director Date

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, REGION 2

By: [illegible] 9/18/87
Regional Director Date

COOPERATIVE
MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
AND
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS CRUCES DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

The Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, hereafter identified as Audubon, and the Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces District, hereafter identified as BLM, enter into an agreement for cooperative management of the public land at Lake Holloman for the purpose of improving wildlife habitat management at the lake. Audubon and BLM recognize Lake Holloman as a highly important wildlife habitat for resident and migratory game and non-game birds, including state and federal endangered species.

OBJECTIVES
The objectives of this agreement are to directly involve Audubon, a primary user group, in management of Lake Holloman, and to inventory bird use at Lake Holloman over a period of several years in support of a proposed Habitat Management Plan (HMP).

PLANNED ACTIONS
The following actions will be initiated to meet the above objectives:

1. Audubon will seasonally monitor bird species and relative bird abundance as a pre-HMP inventory, with particular attention to endangered species. An annual report will be submitted to BLM following the fourth and eighth seasons of monitoring.

2. Audubon will formulate and submit management objectives and planned actions for the development of an HMP, as it deems appropriate, to be considered with those from BLM, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and other involved agencies as part of the annual monitoring report.

3. Audubon will have an active role in the discussion of its proposals in meeting with NMDGF, FWS, and BLM addressing the Lake Holloman HMP.

4. Audubon will assist in the implementation of the HMP by providing manpower for small projects to be identified in the HMP.

5. BLM will select recommendations from Audubon and other agencies it deems appropriate and prepare the Lake Holloman HMP. HMP preparation will occur when BLM project scheduling and funding processes permit, and may not fall within the term of this agreement.

TENURE, TRANSFER, AND TERMINATION

Audubon recognizes that BLM retains authority to regulate uses of the public land. This agreement does not exempt BLM from implementing existing or future laws and regulations pertaining to the use of the public land.

This Cooperative Management Agreement shall be effective when signed by the parties hereto and shall remain in effect for a period of 8 full seasons (approximately 2 years) from the date of final approval and concurrence. The seasons are here defined as:

Winter - December, January, February
Spring - March, April, May
Summer - June, July
Fall - August, September, October, November

This agreement shall be reviewed by all interested parties at the time of expiration to determine the desirability of reapproval for a subsequent term. This agreement may be terminated by mutual agreement, or by either party upon thirty days notice in writing to the other of its intention to terminate upon a date indicated.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Initial coordination with Audubon for this Agreement was conducted during September 1985 as a result of the Audubon Society's Adopt-A-Refuge Program. Audubon formally requested to enter into this Agreement in a letter dated April 4, 1986. NMDGF, FWS, White Sands National Monument (WSNM), Corp of Engineers/Holloman Air Force Base (COE/HAFB), and BLM New Mexico State Office (NMSO) were provided with a description of the proposal and asked to comment on it. NMSO, NMDGF, and FWS supported the proposal. COE/HAFB had no objections to the proposal, and WSNM did not reply. In addition, the proposal was submitted to the Las Cruces District Advisory Council at the April 1986 meeting. No comments were received. Additional coordination included Wes Walker, grazing allottee (allotment 7068). The White Sands Resource Management Plan calls for elimination of grazing on the Lake Holloman portion of allotment 7068. Mrs. Walker indicated that they had no serious objections to this CMA.

EVALUATION

Evaluation of this agreement will be conducted following the first annual report and following submission of the second annual report and expiration of this agreement.

APPROVAL AND CONCURRENCE

The undersigned agree to the terms and conditions of this cooperative management agreement.

Sanford D. Schemnitz
President,
Mesilla Valley Audubon Society

August 6, 1986
Date

H. James Joe
District Manager,
Las Cruces District
Bureau of Land Management

August 6, 1986
Date

The undersigned concur, in principle, with the objectives and planned actions of this cooperative agreement.

Harold Olson
Director, By W. Gates
New Mexico Department of
Game and Fish

Sept. 12, 1986
Date

Regional Director,
Region 2
US Fish and Wildlife Service

10/3/86
Date

NM-15 ~~NM-36~~ U.S.A.O. BLM-US
Army. U.S.F.W.S.-N.M.D.G.F
Coop. Plan Agreement.

CA NM-36

PROPOSED AGREED UPON CHANGES TO THE
COOPERATIVE PLAN-AGREEMENT FOR CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
ON THE McGREGOR RANGE (FORT BLISS)

B. Definitions.

2. The Fish and Wildlife Service acting for the Department of Interior, will be referred to as "FWS".

C. Provisions.

1. The FWS, BLM, and the Department will coordinate fish and wildlife management with the Center as follows:
   a. The Department will have the responsibility of wildlife management within the area of the Co-Use Agreement.
   b. BLM will have the responsibility for wildlife habitat management of the Co-Use area within the grazing units.
   c. FWS will have the responsibility for predator control initiated by BLM and for advising BLM in regard to endangered species habitat management.
   d. Center responsibility will be for access and safety.

2.
   b. An annual meeting of all parties to this agreement will be held following the annual survey for the purpose of developing the annual program of research and future development and management of wildlife resources. A portion of the meeting will be spend reviewing various items on the ground and a portion spent discussing the management, development and research program and needs. BLM will take the lead responsibility in arranging the meeting each year.

2.

d. Nothing herein will operate to interfere with the responsibilities of BLM on those lands in McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) covered under the Co-Use Agreement. With respect to those lands, BLM will exercise the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under P.L. 86-797 with liaison between BLM and the FWS.

6. It is mutually to the benefit of the Center and the Department to harvest annually the surplus wildlife crop; therefore, the following conditions shall herein become a condition for the hunts held on that portion of McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) lying within the State of New Mexico.

c. For the purpose of license purchase while hunting that portion of McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) lying in the State of New Mexico, any military personnel residing on McGregor Range 90 days prior to purchasing a license shall be recognized as a resident and subject to purchase of a resident hunting and/or fishing license. Personnel not residing on the McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) 90 days prior to purchasing a license can purchase the military license good on McGregor Range only, or a non-resident hunting or fishing license that would be valid state-wide.

Annual permits issued for big game hunting on McGregor Range will be on a drawing basis with no military/civilian breakdown on available permits.

8. Any questions concerning cooperation in wildlife and/or wildlife habitat management shall be resolved by conference between the representatives of the Center and the Department and by BLM representatives on those lands in McGregor Range contained in the Co-Use area.

9. BLM will initiate requests to the Fish and Wildlife Service for predator control on grazing units within McGregor Range.

All predator control activities will be coordinated with the FWS, the Center, and the Department. After verification of need by a qualified health agency the Center will request any predator or other animal control for health and disease reasons (bubouic plague, rabies, etc.) from FWS.

10. This cooperative plan will be in full force upon its adoption and is subject to amendment or revision which shall be accomplished by written proposal to the parties for their mutual agreement. Request for amendment, change or termination may originate with any one party.

William A. Anderson — 22 July 76

Colonel William A. Anderson
Director of Facilities Engineering
Fort Bliss

(Date)

Arthur W. Zimmerman — 22 July 76

Mr. Arthur Zimmerman
New Mexico State Director
Bureau of Land Management

(Date)

COOPERATIVE PLAN-AGREEMENT FOR CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
ON THE McGREGOR RANGE (FORT BLISS)

C.A.#NM -36

A. Preamble. In accordance with the authority contained in Title 10, United States Code, Section 2671, approved February 28, 1958, and in Public Law 86-797, approved September 15, 1960, the Department of Defense, the Department of Interior, and the State of New Mexico, through their duly designated representatives whose signatures appear below, approve the following Cooperative Plan-Agreement for the protection, development, and management of fish and wildlife resources on that portion of the McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) in the State of New Mexico.

This Cooperative Plan-Agreement does not include land in McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) covered under a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 11, 1971, between The United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and Department of The Army, Corps of Engineers.

B. Definitions. Hereafter in the agreement the following will apply:

1. The Commanding General, United States Army Air Defense Center, Fort Bliss, Texas, representing the Department of Defense and the military authority for portions of the Fort Bliss military reservation in the State of New Mexico, will be referred to as the "Center."

2. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, acting for the Department of Interior, will be referred to as the "Bureau."

3. The Department of Game and Fish of the State of New Mexico, represented by the Director of said Department, will be referred to as the "Department."

4. The Bureau of Land Management acting for the Secretary of the Interior under Paragraphs C. 2. d. and C. 3. below will be referred to as "BLM."

C. Provisions. Whereas the United States Government has acquired possession of water rights on certain lands located in the State of New Mexico, delineated in a map heretofore furnished the parties to this agreement and hereinafter referred to as McGregor Range (Fort Bliss).

Whereas the Center, the Bureau, BLM, and the Department have a mutual desire and interest that the wildlife populations of the said McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) in the State of New Mexico be properly managed; and

Whereas it is necessary that the Center, the Bureau, BLM, and the Department agree upon certain matters to the end that this area may best be managed from the standpoint of wildlife management consistent with the military mission and the responsibilities of the BLM on those lands in McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) (PLO 1470) contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Interior and the Department of the Army, dated 18 March 1965, now, for and in consideration of the mutual promises of one party to the other, it is agreed:

1. The Bureau, BLM, and the Department will provide the Center with technical advice and assistance in matters pertaining to fish and wildlife management in their respective areas of responsibility as outlined herein.

2. That an annual wildlife program for management, development, and/or research be developed.

a. That an annual survey be made to determine range condition and trend and wildlife abundance between March 1 and May 1. The Department will, each spring, initiate this survey and establish dates satisfactory to those parties wishing to attend.

b. An annual meeting of all parties to the agreement shall be held subsequent to the survey each year for the purpose of developing the annual program of research and future development and management of wildlife resources. The BLM will be responsible for calling said meeting.

c. All appropriate parties to this agreement will be advised of proposals, plans, and expenditures involving any of the above matters by any single party to this agreement.

d. Nothing herein will operate to interfere with the responsibilities of BLM on those lands in McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) (PLO 1470) under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Army, dated 18 March 1966. With respect to those lands, BLM will exercise the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under P.L. 86-797 with liaison between BLM and the Bureau.

3. That hereafter during the term of this agreement the Center will furnish the Department at the specified time below a statement of dates during which it appears that portions of McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) can be opened for the following activity.

Statement by	Activity	Normal Season Occurs:
May 1	Antelope	October
May 1	Deer	November
May 1	Game Birds	Oct. - Jan.
May 1	Non-game Animals Management Program	Year round

4. The Center and the Department may open portions of McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) through mutual agreement to regulated hunting to military and public license holders provided that the open dates are authorized for federally regulated species. In the event the Center should cancel through necessity a hunting and fishing period, a new period, if possible, will be scheduled by mutual agreement.

5. The Department will determine annual regulations pertaining to taking of all wildlife species consistent with Federal regulations for migratory species.

6. It is mutually to the benefit of the Center and the Department to harvest annually the surplus wildlife crop; therefore, the following conditions shall herein become a condition for the hunts held on that portion of McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) lying within the State of New Mexico.

a. During the season both civilian and military personnel will adhere to military regulations, regulations of the State Game Commission, and Federal Game Laws.

b. Check stations will be jointly maintained by the Center and Department if a check station shall be deemed necessary for these parties. When a check station is designated, each person entering or leaving the hunting area for any purpose must check in and out in person at the location so designated. The Center and the Department representatives at the check station shall have authority and shall assign hunters to specified hunting areas and areas where camping may be allowed. Hunters shall hunt only on the area designated by the permit and shall not in any case trespass upon or enter into prohibited areas designated by the Center. Maps showing such prohibited areas shall be posted for the information of all concerned at each check station.

c. For the purpose of license purchase while hunting that portion of McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) lying in the State of New Mexico any military personnel residing on McGregor Range 90 days prior to purchasing a license shall be recognized as a resident and subject to purchase of a resident hunting and/or fishing license.

Personnel not residing on the McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) 90 days prior to purchasing a license can purchase the military license good only on McGregor Range only, or a non-resident hunting or fishing license that would be valid state-wide.

d. No portion of McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) will be kept open for hunting or fishing at a time when it will interfere with the military mission. During the time that the portions of McGregor Range are open for hunting or fishing such portions and places which are not open for hunting or fishing for military or security reasons shall be designated by the Center. Further, nothing herein shall be construed as giving representatives of the Department or Bureau, or BLM the right to be on the portions of McGregor Range at any time or place which shall interfere with the military missions thereof nor as granting them authority to be in the prohibited areas.

7. No property of the United States shall be subject to forfeit by laws of the State of New Mexico.

8. Any questions concerning cooperation in wildlife management shall be resolved by conference between the representatives of the Center and the Department and by BLM representatives on those lands in McGregor Range contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Interior and the Department of the Army, dated 18 March 1966, and by Bureau representatives on military lands under Fort Bliss jurisdiction in the State of New Mexico exclusive of the lands specified in PLO 1470 and referenced Memorandum of Understanding, when responsibilities of the Department of Interior are involved.

9. No rodent or predator control programs will be initiated on those lands where BLM has responsibilities without the concurrence of the Las Cruces BLM District Office, the Bureau, the Center, and the Department.

10. This cooperative plan will be in full force upon its adoption until such time that any one member of the cooperative group shall render it terminated by so stating to the other members in writing thirty (30) days in advance of the date of desired termination. This plan is subject to amendment or revision which shall be accomplished by written proposal to the parties for their mutual agreement. Request for amendment, change, or termination may originate with any one party.

JOHN E. GAGNON COL, GS, DOD — 8 OCT 1974
Date

U. S. Army Air Defense Center & Fort Bliss
Fort Bliss, Texas 79916
Representing the Department of Defense

JUN 26 1974
Date

Regional Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife
Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

5-30-74
Date

State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

6/7/74
Date

Director
Department of Game and Fish
State of New Mexico

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency this 7th day of June, 1974.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

By: _____
Assistant Attorney General

C.A. #NMSO-37
Supplement #1

SUPPLEMENTAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

AND

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

I. Purpose

This is a supplement to the master cooperative agreement dated January 30, 1976 concerning implementation of the Sikes Act (88 Stat. 1369, 16 U.S.C., Sec. 670a (1976)). Established herein is the working relationship for implementation of the Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration and Habitat Management Program on public lands in New Mexico. This supplement supersedes supplement dated April 8, 1976.

II. Authority

The Sikes Act. Public 93-452

Federal Land Policy Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2744, 43 U.S.C.A. Sec. 1701 et seq. (1978 supp.)).

III. Operations

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, hereinafter referred to as the Department, is responsible for the preservation and management of wildlife and is currently involved in a desert bighorn sheep propagation, study and restoration program,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, administers habitat in several mountain ranges with potential for reestablishment of desert bighorn sheep and/or public lands in the Big Hatchet-Alamo Hueco Mountains, which are now inhabited by desert bighorn sheep,

WHEREAS, desert bighorn sheep have been eliminated from most of their former range and there is a need for cooperative efforts to benefit and ensure the survival of this game animal on public lands in New Mexico;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Department and Bureau hereby mutually agree to the following:

A. To jointly conduct a cooperative desert bighorn sheep restoration and habitat management program on public lands in southern New Mexico.

B. To cooperatively work to evaluate mountain ranges with potential for reestablishment of desert bighorn sheep and make associated studies of habitat conditions. Most of this work will be done by the Department under contract with funds furnished by the Bureau. The following mountain ranges will be studied to determine habitat condition and suitability. Caballos, Alamo Huecos, West Portrillos, Ladrons, Floridas, Big Hatchet and Little Hatchets.

C. The mountain ranges specified in item B will be considered for future release of desert bighorn sheep as the animals become available. The location for the future releases will be dependent on the habitat suitability evaluations described in item B and the comparative value of the area for successful establishment and production of bighorns. The Department will inform the Bureau of the areas selected for reestablishment of bighorns as far ahead of the release date as possible.

D. The Department has the approval to release 22 desert bighorn sheep in the Big Hatchet Mountains in accordance with the environmental analysis prepared by the Las Cruces District with the special mitigating measures: no mechanical road maintenance to the release site, removal of the paddock fence and water catchment and pipeline, and obtaining access from the private landowner.

E. This supplemental release in item D does not affect the potential releases as determined through the habitat suitability evaluation study described in items B & C.

F. Funding provisions for the desert bighorn sheep restoration programs will be by the Bureau through Sikes Act funding and by the Department. Current expenditures include paddock fence materials for the release and maintenance of existing watering units and a follow-up study of the bighorn sheep now existing in the Big Hatchet Mountains and those scheduled for release in October 1978.

G. The Bureau will manage public lands in the mountain ranges selected for bighorn release through the current habitat evaluation contract (B) and the Bureau's management framework planning decision.

H. The two agencies will work together in preparing and distributing news releases and other publicity concerning this program.

I. To jointly prepare a comprehensive long-range plan for the desert bighorn sheep restoration and habitat management program in FY 1981.

IV. Other Provisions

A. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating either party hereto in the expenditure of funds, or for the future payment of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law.

B. Each party agrees to meet at least once annually to review program accomplishments and develop plans for the coming year.

C. This supplemental cooperative agreement replaces the supplemental cooperative agreement signed April 8, 1976, and shall become effective when signed by the designated representatives of the parties hereto and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual agreement, or by either party upon thirty days notice in writing to the other of its intention to terminate upon a date indicated. Amendments to this memorandum may be proposed by either party and shall become effective upon approval of both parties.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

By _____ Date 10-30-78
Director

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

By _____ Date 10/20/78
State Director

SUPPLEMENTAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

AND

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

I. Purpose

This is a supplement to the master cooperative agreement dated January 30, 1976 concerning implementation of the Sikes Act (88 Stat. 1369, 16 U.S.C., Section 670a (1976)). Established herein are the working relationships for implementation of the Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration and Habitat Management Program on public lands within the Peloncillo Mountains in southwestern New Mexico.

II. Authority

The Sikes Act. Public Law 93-452.

Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2744, 43 U.S.C.A., Section 1701, et seq. (1978 supp.)).

III. Operations

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, hereinafter referred to as the Department, is responsible for the preservation and management of wildlife and is currently involved in a desert bighorn sheep propagation and restoration program;

WHEREAS, desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico are defined as a state endangered species and have been eliminated from most of their former range and there is a need for cooperative efforts to benefit and ensure the survival of this species on public lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Department and Bureau hereby mutually agree to the following:

A. To jointly conduct a cooperative desert bighorn sheep restoration and habitat management program on public lands in the Peloniclio Mountains in southwestern New Mexico.

B. The Department has the approval to transplant desert bighorn sheep into the Peloncillo Mountains. The proposed release site is located on the west side of the Peloncillo Mountains, NE¼ of the SE¼, Section 11, T. 28 S., R. 21 W.

C. The release methods will be in accordance with the release proposal prepared by Desert Bighorn Sheep Project Leader, NMDG&F, August 1980. In addition to the identified release procedure, the following conditions shall be adhered to:

1. Surface disturbances on public lands is limited to the maintenance of the access road at arroyo crossings.

2. Use of a track vehicle to ferry paddock materials around the proposed release site will be allowed during the construction phase.

3. Affected landowners will be contacted by the Department prior to any proposed modification of fences. Joint agreements with the landowners and the Bureau will be obtained when fences on public lands are to be modified.

4. Controlling of predators will be performed by the Department on an as needed basis for the protection of desert bighorn sheep in the paddock.

5. Fencing and maintenance of the permanent water catchment at the paddock release site will be done by the Department.

D. The Bureau agrees to furnish fencing materials for modifying sections of fences that are identified as restricting movement of the desert bighorn sheep after the paddock is removed. These fences will be identified through intensive monitorng studies while the sheep are selecting a home range. If fence modifications are required, the landowner, Department and the Bureau will mutually agree on specific locations to be modified. Labor will be provided by the Department.

E. After the Department has monitored the transplant sheep for 1 year, a habitat management plan will be jointly developed through the provisions of the Sikes Act.

F. If the transplanted desert bighorn sheep fail to become established, the Department will be responsible for reconstruction of all prior modified fences to the original configuration upon the request of the landowner.

G. The Bureau will manage public lands in the Peloncillo Mountains under the multiple-use concept realizing that the transplanted desert bighorn sheep will have to compete with other public land uses, e.g., mineral leasing and development and livestock grazing.

H. The two agencies will work together in preparing and distributing new releases and other publicity concerning this program.

IV. Other Provisions

A. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating either party hereto in the expenditure of funds or for the future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law.

B. Each party agrees to meet at least once annually to review program accomplishments and develop plans for the coming year.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

By Harold F. Chase Date 1-23-80
Director

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

By Larry L. Woodard Date 1-15-81
Acting State Director

C.A.#NM -38

Contract No. 14-06-400-4410

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT
NAVAJO UNIT

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 7th day of March, 1966, between the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA acting by and through the Bureau of Reclamation, hereinafter referred to as Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter referred to as Land Management, both agencies of the United States Department of the Interior, and NEW MEXICO STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION, hereinafter referred to as Commission.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Reclamation has constructed and is operating the Navajo Dam and Reservoir as part of the Colorado River Storage Project and certain public lands were withdrawn for Reclamation purposes pursuant to Section 3 of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388), and

WHEREAS, Reclamation and the Commission have by that certain agreement dated April 5, 1963 (Contract No. 14-06-400-3013) agreed that the Commission will administer lands within the Navajo Reservoir area for recreation purposes, and

WHEREAS, the reservoir area will provide multiple use, including recreation, fish and wildlife, grazing, and other correlative uses, and

WHEREAS, a grazing use of lands in the reservoir area, under the conditions stated in this agreement, will be compatible with the other uses of the area, and

WHEREAS, since the area is a narrow strip of shoreline land, grazing will be very limited and will be feasible only if Land Management administers it in conjunction with contiguous areas, because the cost of the administration will in any event exceed any proceeds from grazing use, and

WHEREAS, Land Management is agreeable under these circumstances to administer the grazing of the reservoir area lands as provided herein,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions and promises of the parties herein contained, it is agreed as follows:

1. The Navajo Reservoir area is defined as the area designated on Map No. 711-400-70 revised February 23, 1965, which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and by this reference made a part hereof.

2. Land Management shall administer the grazing of livestock within the Navajo Reservoir area shown on Exhibit "A" except (a) the Simms Mesa Recreation Site, (b) the Pine River Recreation Site, (c) the Arboles Recreation Site, (d) the Fish and Wildlife Development Area, and (e) all lands situate below the 6100-foot elevation contour level.

3. The administration of the grazing use of such lands shall be in accordance with the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934

(48 Stat. 1269; 43 U.S.C. 315, 315a-315r) as amended, and supplemented by the Federal Range Code (43 CFR Part 4100), and as provided herein.

4. Land Management agrees to coordinate grazing administration with the needs of big game and wildlife when appropriate pursuant to 43 CFR 4111.3-1(b).

5. Land Management will have primary responsibility for management and development of all improvements, conservation and rehabilitation programs connected with range resources and for the stabilization of livestock and wildlife use in cooperation with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The concurrence of Reclamation and the Commission will be obtained by Land Management with any stipulations before developments begin. Land Management will solicit this concurrence by written request through ordinary mail at least six months in advance of the proposed construction, improvement or land treatment. Ordinarily, the development of improvements will include only inexpensive range improvement facilities. In the event that the land upon which these improvements, constructions, or land treatments are accomplished, is ultimately needed for intensive uses of the project, including, but not limited to, recreation, intensive wildlife development, or other project purposes, Reclamation will give notice by ordinary mail to Land Management at least 12 months prior to the change in administrative jurisdiction desired, and it will be the responsibility of the Land Management to remove,

salvage, or in other acceptable manner, dispose of the improvements or construction.

6. Any of the subject lands under the grazing administration of Land Management may be withdrawn from Land Management administration by notification from Reclamation to Land Management at least 12 months prior to the administrative jurisdictional change so that Land Management will have an opportunity to make suggestions prior to this change concerning livestock and wildlife access and watering facilities which may be affected by the change, and for other reasons. Other proposed changes affecting administration of grazing uses on the withdrawn lands will be referred to Land Management for comment and appropriate action.

7. Land Management will correlate uses which it is authorized to administer under this agreement with the land uses on other lands which lie adjacent in the Navajo Dam and Wildlife Management area.

8. Land Management will issue all grazing licenses and permits. Said licenses and permits will include the following statement: "The land herein concerned so far as they are withdrawn as a portion of the Navajo Dam and Reservoir, Navajo Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, will be canceled and excluded from this permit or license upon 120 calendar days' notice, or any lesser period of time as may be provided by law or regulation or immediately upon termination of administration of said lands by the Bureau of Land Management."

9. The construction and maintenance, including costs thereof, of fences, cattleguards, or facilities hereafter found to be required to effect the exclusion of livestock from specific high-intensity use areas shall be subject to negotiations among the parties to this agreement, when and if such exclusion shall have been found to be necessary for the recreational use of such specific area.

10. The lands lying below the 6100-foot elevation contour level which have been excluded from the grazing administration of Land Management may be to some extent included in such administration at a later date. The accomplishment of such inclusion shall be evidenced by the exchange of correspondence between the parties hereto.

11. This agreement shall remain in force and effect from the date of execution hereof until terminated by the parties hereto or any of them by giving the other parties written notice of termination at least 6 months in advance of such termination date.

12. No Member of or Delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this contract or to any benefit that may arise herefrom, but this restriction shall not be construed to extend to this contract if made with a corporation or company for its general benefit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the day and year first above written.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By _____
Regional Director, Region 4
Bureau of Reclamation

By _____
State Director for New Mexico
Bureau of Land Management

State of New Mexico

By _____
Director, New Mexico
State Park and Recreation Commission

4-400

APR 3 1967

To: State Director, New Mexico, Bureau of Land Management,
P. O. Box 1449, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

From: Regional Director, Salt Lake City, Utah

Subject: Administration of grazing -- Navajo Reservoir Area

The administration of grazing in the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Reservoir area is being accomplished by the Bureau of Land Management pursuant to Memorandum of Agreement No. 14-06-400-4410, dated March 7, 1966, with exceptions listed in Article 2, (a) through (e) of the said document. The New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish are responsible for grazing in (a) through (e) of Article 2. This arrangement has been satisfactory except for those lands included in 2(e) lying below the 6100 foot contour which are to be inundated by the reservoir when it fills. Cattle which are grazing by permit on adjacent lands are often found in trespass on these lower lands. Cattle grazing illegally on these lands also trespass on lands included in 2(d) which is a fish and wildlife development area being administered by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

The interested agencies agree that the present administrative responsibilities should be adjusted. Since the Bureau of Land Management issues grazing permits on lands adjacent to the lands below the 6100 foot elevation contour, it would be desirable to add to its administration the lands between the Navajo Reservoir water surface and the 6100 foot contour so that better control of grazing in the area would result. However, it is understood that such additional administration by the Bureau of Land Management would not extend to the lands downstream from the dam that are below the 6100 foot contour. Therefore, pursuant to Section 10 of Contract No. 14-06-400-4410, it is agreed by parties hereto that administration of grazing below the 6100 foot contour and within the impoundment area of the reservoir be transferred to the Bureau of Land Management as of the date this letter is signed by the last agency listed below.

Three copies of this correspondence, when signed by representatives of all agencies signatory to Contract No. 14-06-400-4410, will be attached to the original copies of that agreement. Please sign in the space provided and forward all copies to the Director, New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission, with a request that he return one signed copy to you and one signed copy to this office for our files.

By C. S. Rizzo
Acting Regional Director, Region 4
Bureau of Reclamation

I Concur:

By Morris A. Hoxsteed
Acting State Director for New Mexico
Bureau of Land Management

By James L. Ullard
Director, New Mexico State Park
and Recreation Commission

DGNelson:lp

SUPPLEMENTAL
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH
AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FOR
RELEASE OF PERSIAN (IRANIAN) IBEX
IN THE FLORIDA MOUNTAINS

This memorandum of understanding is a supplement to the cooperative agreement dated October 6, 1970, which provided for the initial release of Persian ibex in the Florida Mountains.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, hereinafter referred to as the Department, has requested authorization to release 20 additional Persian ibex in the Florida Mountains, and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, has the responsibility for managing national resource lands in the Florida Mountains;

It is agreed as follows

THE BUREAU AGREES:

1. To the Department's releasing up to 20 additional Persian (Iranian) ibex on national resource lands in the Florida Mountains.

THE DEPARTMENT AGREES:

1. By hunting and other control methods to limit the ibex population to levels determined by the Bureau to be within the safe and proper carrying capacity of the habitat.

2. To use all reasonable means to prevent the spread of ibex into areas other than the Florida Mountains.

3. To continue additional studies of the ibex including annual census, population ecology and distribution.

4. To provide the Bureau's Las Cruces District Manager advance notice of the time and place for the release.

THE BUREAU AND DEPARTMENT MUTUALLY AGREE:

1. To jointly develop, on a high priority basis, a population and habitat management plan for the ibex and the area which they inhabit.

2. To jointly develop a news release concerning the additional stocking of ibex.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT
OF GAME AND FISH

By: Ladd S. Gordon
Ladd S. Gordon
Director

Date: 12/2/74

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

By: Arthur W. Zimmerman
Arthur W. Zimmerman
State Director

Date: 12/2/74

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish hereafter shown as Game and Fish and the Bureau of Land Management hereafter shown as BLM, enter into an agreement for cooperative management of the public lands between the east boundary of the William S. Huey Waterfowl Area and Eddy County Road 200 to resource activities associated with waterfowl, big game, furbearer, upland and nongame wildlife propagation and management.

The multiple use objectives are: to maintain the area under uniform management practices as used on the adjacent waterfowl area, to permit wildlife consumptive and nonconsumptive uses, and to coordinate utility rights-of-way between agencies.

The following actions will be initiated to meet objectives developed through the BLM's land use planning process:

1. Public land identified in the following description will be retained in public ownership with surface administration to be available to Game and Fish for uniform management in conjunction with the adjacent waterfowl area.

2. The public land, east northeast of Artesia, to be administered by Game and Fish includes 356 acres west of Eddy County Road 200 in Township 16 South, Range 26 East: Section 24 (80 acres), Section 25 (40 acres). Township 16 South, Range 27 East: Section 30 (120 acres), Section 31 (116 acres).

3. Livestock grazing will be prohibited to permit maximum vegetative growth to provide feed and cover for wildlife species. This will be accomplished with a range line agreement through the BLM and respective allottee.

4. Bureau of Land Management will close area to vehicle use through Federal Register notice.

5. Oil, gas and mineral exploration and removal will be coordinated between agencies to eliminate undue waterfowl harassment.

6. The Department will construct and maintain a right-of-way fence along the east right-of-way boundary of County Road 200 in accordance with BLM 1741 fencing standards.

7. The Game and Fish recognizes that BLM retains exclusive authority to regulate uses of public land. This agreement does not exempt BLM from implementing existing or future laws and regulations pertaining to the use of the public land surface and subsurface mineral estates.

8. The Cooperative Management Agreement shall be effective when signed by the parties hereto and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual agreement, or by either party upon thirty days notice in writing to the other of its intention to terminate upon a date indicated. Any changes which cannot be reached through mutual agreement, or BLM determines that it is in the best interest of sound land management, the BLM has the option of reviewing and evaluating this agreement and to determine if it would be in the best public interest to continue this agreement.

Approved by:

Francis R Cherry Jr — 7/29/87
Fran Cherry, Roswell — Date
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management

Larry L. Woodard — 7/29/87
Larry Woodward, State Director — Date
Bureau of Land Management

Harold F. Olson — 7/29/87
Harold F. Olson, Director — Date
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish