



Claunch Pinto
Soil and Water Conservation District

LAND USE PLAN

The Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD or District) Land Use Plan (Plan) is an executable policy for natural resource management and land use on the lands within the District and provides a scientifically and culturally sound framework for resource planning objectives.

Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District LAND USE PLAN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sections 73-20-25 through 73-20-48 NMSA 1978 is the summary description of the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation District Act (Act). The Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (District) is the administrative body responsible for the natural resource economic viability in partial areas of Torrance, Lincoln, Valencia and Socorro Counties. CPSWCD was formed circa 1941 encompassing 1,277,411 acres.

The District is a governmental subdivision of the state, a public body politic and corporate. The Board of Supervisors (Board) is charged with matters affecting soil erosion and flood water and sediment damage. As such, the duties of the Board include the coordination of matters of research, investigations, and surveys with government agencies. The results should be published and disseminated along with remedies and control measures related to such findings.

The District will coordinate projects on the land with federal, state, and local agencies for such remedy and enhancement of the resource base. The District has the authority, concerning natural resources, to assist, contract, and render financial aid, when practical, to the stakeholder community.

The District's customs and culture play a large role in how the citizens of Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District earn their livelihoods. The District's economy is, and will continue to be dependent upon these activities. Since The District is directly dependent upon its natural resources, management decisions affecting land use directly impact and change the District's custom and culture. Therefore, a critical tie exists between the use of private, federal, state and local natural resources and the economic stability of the District. It is imperative that stakeholders and informed representatives review natural resource issues as they are developed, to assure public land management decisions do not negatively impact citizens within the District's jurisdictional boundaries.

The body of work acquired over time must be expanded into parallel, comprehensive plans for natural resource conservation and development and utilization. This includes flood prevention and soil erosion control.

By law and mutual good, projects of any government agency conceptualized, planned, and undertaken for the matters of soil conservation, erosion control or prevention, flood prevention, or matters of turf enhancement, brush control, or wildlife and livestock system enhancements should be acquired and or managed by the District. As such, the District is the agent and instrumentality for state or federal government acquisition, land designation, construction, operation, or administration of such projects.

According to Presidential Executive Order 13563, Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review, "The regulatory system must protect public health, welfare, safety, and our environment while promoting economic growth, innovation, competitiveness, and job creation. It must be based on the best available science. It must allow for public participation and an open exchange of ideas. It must promote predictability, reduce uncertainty, be accessible, consistent, written in plain language, and easy to understand." The District's Land Use Plan is a clear choice for agencies to use as a guideline when developing their rules and regulations.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) policies have been increasingly driven by litigation, which has diverted attention and resources away from the proper management of species and their habitat. The District is authorized by the state to conserve the natural resources, and to fulfill this mandate, the District

will coordinate with the federal agencies to resolve water resource issues in concert with the conservation of endangered species and other natural resource issue. The District plan also serves as the local conservation plan for all species whether listed as endangered, threatened or proposed for listing.

In order for the foregoing to be accomplished, the District must have a comprehensive and dynamic Land Use Plan (Plan). The Plan is required to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus and coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land user.

The Plan is predicated on the District always being in full knowledge of agency Schedules of Proposed Actions (SOPA), as well as state and local agency planning efforts. The Plan is also dependent on enhancing and strengthening stakeholder presence culminating from strong local Customs and Culture. Such a matter of importance must be judged on the basis of zero net loss of privately held lands which equates positively to concentration of assisted projects.

CPSWCD's Land Use Plan comprehensively provides the policies that allow for the continuation of farming and ranching with all the associated and supporting businesses that have made lands within CPSWCD so productive and important. All agriculture is dependent on proper soil erosion control, flood prevention, wildlife and species management, which are the responsibilities of this District.

Most importantly, the soil and water resource pool must be protected from agency and governmental actions that affect the productivity due to restrictive land use designations.

The District will adhere to the dictates of the law and seek those actions that will satisfy the standards of consistency review within the coordination process. In that manner, expectations of customs and culture will be honored.

This Land Use Plan is crafted to address those major issues.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD or District) Plan is an executable policy for natural resource management and land use on the lands within the District. It adheres to the legislative purpose of the Act and for those measures will serve to conserve and develop the natural resources, provide for flood control, preserves wildlife, protect the tax base and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this District. It provides a scientifically and culturally sound framework for resource planning objectives. There is an identified need to promote public understanding that land and water is the most important resource within CPSWCD, and that, as such, it must be used in a sustainable way. Emphasis is placed on the need to create a viable rural and wildland urban interface working landscape. It is a dynamic plan.

The Plan is designed to: (1) provide protection for the soil and water resources; (2) facilitate federal agency efforts to seamlessly coordinate joint efforts between federal, state and county land use decisions; and (3) provide strategies and policies for enhancing the conservation, improvement, and management of these resources.

This Plan is not intended to regulate, zone or otherwise reduce private property rights, in as much as this Plan seeks to protect private property rights and Customs and Culture. Where private property such as water rights, rights-of-way, easements, forage rights, mineral rights, and other property occur within lands administered by federal and state agencies, the Plan may prompt decisions that indirectly affect property rights.

When a species is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are sweeping consequences for land-owners, businesses, and communities near the habitat in question. ESA regulations are incredibly expensive, and a single listing can affect hundreds of thousands of people. So it's crucial that the federal government use the best available objective peer reviewed science to evaluate whether a listing is necessary or if other conservation efforts will be successful.

This Plan has been developed, in part, because regulatory decisions that diminish the value of private property or deprive citizens of access to natural resources can have a substantial effect on the economy of the community and those elements that shape the community's custom and culture.

Federal land decision-making is burdened by an administrative process that needlessly complicates and delays necessary actions. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for example, was enacted to ensure that environmental impacts were taken into account by public decision makers. Likewise, land use planning under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and the Federal Lands Policy Management Act (FLPMA) attempt to make the process of public land decision making better informed and more rational. While the intent of such procedural requirements are appropriate, in practice these procedures have become an obstacle and a stumbling block to effective land management. These practices should be practical and meet the everyday needs of the local community.

The Forest Service acknowledged in its own 2002 study, *The Process Predicament*: "Statutory, regulatory and administrative requirements impede the efficient, effective management of the National Forest System. As long as they do, the Forest Service's ability to achieve healthy, resilient ecosystems and otherwise meet its multiple use mission will remain in doubt, undermining public confidence in the agency. Federal law, in particular, establishes national policies that focus on national interests, rather than local interests. While federal land use and planning decisions may create benefits for state and national citizens outside of the CPSWCD, they may also transfer a disproportionate amount of the costs and responsibilities to local communities and citizens."

1.1 BACKGROUND/HISTORY

LOCATION

The District is geographically located in the southern part of Torrance County, the northeastern part of Socorro County, the northwestern part of Lincoln County, and the southern tip of Valencia County. Towns and villages located in the District are Abo, Claunch, Corona, Manzano, Mountainair and Punta de Agua.

(see Appendix A - Map)

TORRANCE COUNTY HISTORY Torrance County was created March 16, 1903. It was named for Francis J. Torrance who was an early builder of commerce in New Mexico. The County was carved from portions of Valencia, Lincoln, Socorro and Bernalillo counties. Farming, ranching, and orchards have been the traditional economic activities.

Settlement occurred primarily along the eastern foothill of the Manzano Mountains, railroad and roadway crossings, irrigated agriculture became a major feature in the valley and expansive rangelands attracted a ranching livelihood.

Sawmills were some of the earliest businesses established in territorial New Mexico. In Torrance County, sawmills appeared along the south and east face of the Manzano Mountains. In 1887, B. B. Spencer established the first sawmill in the southern Manzanos.

Water is the most serious issue affecting Torrance County. The County is located within a closed topographic basin containing no major streams or rivers. Recharge is by direct precipitation which makes it critical to protect this valuable resource.

According to the 2012 Agriculture Census, Torrance County has 1,864,589 acres in farm and ranch land production creating a market value of \$58,520,000 in products sold. The County is ranked 5th in the state for grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas production and 2nd for other crops and hay production.

LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORY

In late Pre-Columbian times, the land that currently makes up Lincoln County was inhabited by Jornada Mogollon peoples (1000 A.D. to 1687 A.D.) The various Apache tribes came later and settled the Plains and the Southwest by at least 1400 A.D.

Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca was likely the first European to pass through New Mexico when he made his way to Mexico City in 1536. In 1540, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and his army entered New Mexico in search of the seven cities of gold, and in 1598, Juan de Oñate established the first Spanish settlement in New Mexico. Lincoln County was established in 1869. Then, it made up nearly one-fourth of the entire state and was the largest county in the United States. Today it comprises 4,858 square miles or 3,109,120 acres which encompasses grasslands, piñon-juniper woodlands, ponderosa forests to alpine firs.

According to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, Lincoln County has 1,553,184 acres used for farming and ranching and farm and ranch land production contributes \$16,865,000 in market value of products sold.

SOCORRO COUNTY HISTORY

Socorro County was established by the Territorial Legislature of New Mexico in 1852. Among the early inhabitants of the county were the pueblo people the “Piros” who settled in the area around 1200. Several centuries later the region was also populated by tribes to be later known as the Navajo’s and Apaches. After the Civil War

the region saw increased settlement and prosperity due to mining and ranching. By the 1810's the region was permanently settled by the Spanish, including ranching villages such as San Antonio and trading stops along the Camino Real.

Today in Socorro County, ranching and farming is still the most vital part of the economy, but the County has also gained technological advancement due to world renown research facilities such as New Mexico Tech and the NRAO's VLA.

According to the 2012 Agriculture Census, Socorro County has 1,271,368 acres in farm and ranch land production creating a market value of \$77,247,000 in products sold.

VALENCIA COUNTY HISTORY

Valencia County is part of the Rio Abajo (the Lower River) valley. The Spaniards settled this area as early as 1598 after the first colony was founded by Governor Juan De Onate in the Indian village of Ohke on the upper East Bank of the Rio Grande.

According to the 2012 Agriculture Census, Valencia County has 669,727 acres in farm and ranch land production creating a market value of \$55,765,000 in products sold. The County is ranked 2nd in the state for hogs and pig production and 3rd for horse, pony, mule and burro production.

LAND STATUS

CPSWCD's land status breakdown includes 788,055 acres (61.69%) private ownership, 21,709 acres (1.70%) under Land Grant jurisdiction, and the remaining acreage is under public land management. Federal land managers include: Forest Service with 132,785 acres (10.39%), Bureau of Land Management with 37,423 acres (2.93%), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with 8 acres (0.00%), National Parks Service with 613 acres (0.05%) and the State Land Office with 296,818 acres (23.24%) for a total of 1,277,411 acres.

ELEVATIONS

Elevation ranges between 3,350 feet above sea level to 9,600 feet above sea level.

CLIMATE

Climate varies according to elevation but predominantly the District's precipitation range is 12" to 28" in the higher elevations; temperatures range from an average 15°F in the winter to 92°F in July. The growing season (frost free days) range 90 days in the higher elevations to 180 in the lower elevations.

WATERSHEDS

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has designated twenty-one major regions (river basins) for the nation. Regions are further divided into subregions and New Mexico contains portions of five regions: Arkansas-White-Red, Texas Gulf, Upper Colorado, Lower Colorado, and the Rio Grande. CPSWCD is wholly within the Rio Grande basin and Rio Grande subregion as delineated by the US Geological Survey, and has seven main 8-digit hydrologic unit watersheds: Rio Grande - Albuquerque (NM), Western Estancia (NM), Upper Pecos (NM), and Tularosa Valley (NM/TX), Jornada Del Muerto (NM), Eastern Estancia (NM) and Gallo Arroyo (NM).

ECOREGIONS

The District has four Level III ecoregions; **The Arizona/New Mexico Mountains: (Rocky Mountain Conifer Forests and Conifer Woodland Savannas)** The Arizona/New Mexico Mountains are distinguished from neighboring mountainous ecoregions by their lower elevations and associated vegetation indicative of drier, warmer environments, due in part to the region's more southerly location. Forests of spruce, fir, and Douglas-

fir, common in the Southern Rockies are only found in limited areas at the highest elevations in this region. Piñon-juniper and oak woodlands are found at lower and middle elevations, and the higher elevations are mostly covered with open to dense ponderosa pine forests. **Southwestern Tablelands: (Piñon-Juniper Woodlands and Savannas, Central New Mexico Plains, Pluvial Lake Basins)** Unlike most adjacent Great Plains ecological regions, little of the Southwestern Tablelands is in cropland. Much of this region is in sub-humid grassland and semiarid rangeland. The eastern boundary represents a transition from the more extensive cropland within the High Plains to the generally more rugged and less arable land within the Southwestern Tablelands. The natural vegetation in this region is mostly grama-buffalograss, with some juniper-scrub oak-grass savanna on escarpment bluffs. Prairie fires were likely important in maintaining the grasslands and suppressing encroachment of shrub and woody species. **Arizona / New Mexico Plateau: (Albuquerque Basin)** The Arizona/New Mexico Plateau represents a large transitional region between the drier shrublands and wooded higher relief tablelands and forested mountain ecoregions that border the region. **Chihuahuan Deserts: (Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands)** This desert ecoregion extends from the Madrean Archipelago in southeast Arizona to the Edwards Plateau in south-central Texas. It is the northern portion of the southernmost desert in North America that extends more than 500 miles south into Mexico. The physiography is generally a continuation of basin and range terrain that is typical of the Mojave Basin and Range and the Central Basin and Range ecoregions. Outside the major river drainages, such as the Rio Grande and Pecos River, the landscape is largely internally drained. Vegetative cover is predominantly desert grassland and arid shrubland, except for high elevation islands of oak, juniper, and piñon pine woodland. The extent of desert shrubland is increasing across lowlands and mountain foothills due to gradual desertification caused in part by historical grazing pressure.

VEGETATION

The District vegetative type include; Forests of Douglas-fir, white fir, southwestern white pine, and aspen occur, blue spruce occasionally found in cool, moist canyons. Ponderosa pine, piñon-juniper woodlands with piñon pine, Rocky Mountain juniper, oneseed juniper, mountain mahogany, fourwing saltbush, soapweed, broom snakeweed and areas with Gambel oak. **Grasses:** Mostly shortgrass prairie with black grama, hairy grama, western wheatgrass, sideoats grama, blue grama, alkali sacaton, giant sacaton, mountain muhly, New Mexico feathergrass, threeawns, some little bluestem, and inland saltgrass may occur in saline areas. Mesa dropseed, galleta, and sand sage, pickleweed, gyp grama, gyp mentzelia, and Torrey ephedra. Desert shrub land: creosotebush, tarbush, yuccas, sandsage, viscid acacia, mesquite, and ceniza.

CURRENT LAND RESOURCE USE

The District current land use include; Recreation, wildlife habitat, some designated wilderness (USDA-FS Cibola National Forest). Some timber production, woodlands, ranching, and livestock grazing. Grassland and shrubland.

PHYSIOGRAPHY/SOILS/GEOLOGY

Rocky Mountain Conifer Forest - Physiography: Open low mountains and high mountains with steep slopes, numerous canyons. Mostly moderate to high gradient intermittent and some perennial streams with bedrock, cobble, and gravel substrates. **Geology:** Quaternary colluvium, block-rubble colluvium, colluvium with valley-fill alluvium. **Soils:** Mollisols (Argiustolls, Paleustolls, Haplustolls), Alfisols (Haplustalfs, Paleustalfs).

Conifer Woodlands and Savannas - Physiography: High hills and low mountains, numerous canyons. Mostly moderate to high gradient intermittent streams with bedrock, cobble, gravel, and sandy substrates; a few perennial rivers. **Geology:** Quaternary block-rubble colluvium, colluvium with valley-fill alluvium. Permian and Pennsylvanian limestone, sandstone, and shale; some Tertiary volcanics, Tertiary intrusive rocks, small areas of

Cretaceous sandstone and shale, and Precambrian granite, granitic gneiss, schist, and quartzite. **Soils:** Alfisols (Haplustalfs, Paleustalfs), Inceptisols (Haplustepts), Entisols (Ustorthents), Mollisols (Argiustolls, Calciustolls).

Piñon-Juniper Woodlands and Savannas - Physiography: Dissected plains and tablelands with some scattered ridges and hills. Mostly intermittent streams and some perennial streams that are spring-fed or that originate in mountain ecoregions. **Geology:** Quaternary colluvium, piedmont alluvium, and colluvium with valley-fill alluvium. Cretaceous, Jurassic, Triassic, Permian, and Pennsylvanian sandstone, siltstone, shale, limestone, dolomite, mudstone, and conglomerate. Some Tertiary volcanic rocks and Tertiary intrusives. **Soils:** Alfisols (Haplustalfs), Aridisols (Haplargids, Haplocalcids, Calciargids, Haplogypsid, Haplocambids), Mollisols (Calciustolls, Haplustolls, Argiustolls), Inceptisols (Haplustepts), Entisols (Torriorthent)

Central New Mexico Plains - Physiography: Broad, rolling plains, tablelands, and piedmonts. Ephemeral drainages. **Geology:** Mostly Permian sandstone, siltstone, limestone, dolomite, and shale; minor areas of Triassic sedimentary rocks, and some Tertiary Ogallala Formation sediments. **Soils:** Aridisols (Petrocalcids, Haplocalcids, Calciargids), Mollisols (Calciustolls).

Pluvial Lake Basins - Physiography: Flat plains, lake basins. **Geology:** Quaternary lacustrine deposits of clay, sand, and pebble gravel. **Soils:** Aridisols (Haplocalcids), Entisols (Torriorthents), Mollisols (Haplustolls).

Albuquerque Basin - Physiography: Plains and piedmont plains with alluvial fans and some scattered hills. Mostly ephemeral and intermittent streams. **Geology:** Quaternary fan alluvium, colluvium. Deep Quaternary and Tertiary sediments, small areas of Quaternary basalt. **Soils:** Aridisols (Haplocalcids, Calciargids, Haplocambids, Haplargids), Entisols (Torriorthents, Ustorthents)

Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands - Physiography: Plateaus, high intermountain basins, alluvial fans, and bajadas. Stream segments from occasional spring sources, otherwise ephemeral, flowing only after storm events. **Geology:** Quaternary colluvium with valley-fill alluvium, alluvium and piedmont alluvium, discontinuous eolian deposits. Permian sandstone, siltstone, gypsum, dolomite, and limestone; Tertiary igneous and volcaniclastic rocks, and some Tertiary sandstones and conglomerates. **Soils:** Aridisols (Haplocalcids, Petrocalcids, Haplocambids, Calciargids), Entisols (Torriorthents, Torripsamments), Mollisols (Calciustolls).

ACEQUIA/COMMUNITY DITCH

Some of the acequias and ditches within the District boundary are the oldest water management institutions in the United States. These earthen ditches, native engineering works used for irrigation date back to over 1,000 years. When Europeans arrived in northern New Mexico during the late sixteenth century, they quickly appreciated the efficiency of the water irrigation systems already in place. Acequia irrigation systems in the middle Rio Grande area have supported human subsistence, and social, political, and ecological systems in traditional communities throughout The District.

The acequia irrigators known as parcientes formed their own water democracies operating outside of government in terms of their internal affairs: they elected their own officers, established rules, enforced them, and settled water disputes. The first water laws adopted by the Territorial Assembly of New Mexico in 1851-52 under United States jurisdiction were the Leyes de las Acequias, guaranteeing the priority of water use for irrigation and the application of existing ditch rules. As in the past, acequia communities today are still in charge of their day-to-day governance, and collectively maintain their irrigation works and repair their diversion structures when necessary.

The following ICS recognized acequias/ditches are within District boundaries: **Socorro and Valencia Counties**; Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, **Torrance County**; **Manzano Spring** - Manzano Spring Community Ditch; **Tajique Creek** - Tajique Irrigation System; **Torreón Creek** - Torreón Community Ditch.

1.2 AUTHORITY

Sections 73-20-25 through 73-20-48 NMSA 1978, considered and resolved by legislative action, the purpose of the Act declared that 1) the land, waters and other natural resources are the basic physical assets of New Mexico, and their preservation and development are necessary to protect and promote the health and general welfare of the people of the state; 2) the improper use of land and related natural resources, soil erosion, and water loss result in economic waste in New Mexico through the deterioration of the state's natural resources, and; 3) appropriate corrective and conservation practices and programs must be encouraged and executed in New Mexico to conserve and develop beneficially the soil, water and other natural resources of the state;

It is declared to be the policy of the legislature and the purpose of the Act [**73-20-25 NMSA 1978**] to: 1) control and prevent soil erosion; 2) prevent floodwater and sediment damage; 3) further conservation development, beneficial application and proper disposal of water; 4) promote the use of impounded waters for recreation, propagation of fish and wildlife, irrigation and for urban industrial needs; and 5) by the application of these measures, conserve and develop the natural resources of the state, provided for flood control, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of New Mexico.

73-20-26. Legislative states "The land, waters, and other natural resources are the basic physical assets of New Mexico, and their preservation and development are necessary to protect and promote the health and general welfare of the people of the state."

Under **73-20-45. Specific powers of districts. (2003)** CPSWCD by and through its supervisors, is authorized to contract, convey and make and execute other instruments and documents necessary or convenient to the exercise of district powers: as well as act as agent for any instrumentality or agency of the state or the federal government in the acquisition, construction, operation or administration of a natural resource conservation, utilization or development project or program within the district.

73-20-44. Districts; description; general powers of districts. (2003) States that "A "soil and water conservation district," organized under or perpetuated by the provisions of the Soil and Water Conservation District Act is a governmental subdivision of the state, a public body politic and corporate." Districts may conduct a wide array of research, investigations, and surveys to facilitate conservation and development. Included, but not limited to, is the extended authority to develop comprehensive plans for natural resource conservation, development, and utilization including flood prevention, control and prevention of soil erosion and the development, utilization and disposal of water.

73-20-47. Cooperation between districts. (1965). "The supervisors of two or more soil and water conservation districts may cooperate with each other in the exercise of any district power."

73-20-48. State agencies to cooperate. (2003) "Agencies, instrumentalities and political subdivisions of this state having jurisdiction over or charged with the administration of public lands situate within the defined geographical area of any district shall cooperate to the fullest extent with the district's supervisors in effecting district projects and programs. Supervisors shall have free access to enter and perform work upon state public lands lying within their districts; provided, however, supervisors shall not have unqualified access to state lands that are subject to private dominion under lease or that are developed for, or devoted to, another public use.

1.3 ADOPTION

By adoption of this Plan according to the Act, the District hereby records its intention to engage in decision making that pertains to any and all soil and water resources within its jurisdiction as provided under the law. The statement of purpose includes the recognition of the duties, statutory requirements, regulations and court mandates of local, county, state, and federal agencies to comply with plans adopted under the idea and definition of coordination noted herein. This also facilitates the coordination of local, county, state, and federal planning efforts with the local planning efforts of the District.

It is the policy of the District for improvement of resource quality, greater multiple uses of the resources, and the enhancement of soil and water stability of administered lands. CPSWCD is committed to a positive planning process with federal and state agencies and local governments. CPSWCD will equitably consider the best interests of all the people within CPSWCD's jurisdictional boundary and the State of New Mexico in the use of state and federal lands. CPSWCD commits to seeing that all natural resource decisions affecting the District is guided by the following principles:

- To maintain and revitalize the concept of multiple use on state and federal lands within CPSWCD's jurisdictional boundary;
- To protect private property rights and private property interests, including investment backed expectations;
- To protect local historical custom and culture;
- To protect the traditional economic structures in the District that form the base for economic stability;
- To facilitate new economic opportunities by relying on free markets and;
- To protect the rights to the enjoyment of the natural resources of the District by all citizens.

CPSWCD believes that resource and land use management decisions made in a coordinated manner by federal and state agencies and local government entities will maintain and revitalize multiple use of state and federal lands within and affecting the District and will enhance environmental quality.

2.0 PRIMARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

2.1 PLAN DEFINITIONS

- **Acequia** - Acequias are recognized under New Mexico law as political subdivisions of the state. The acequia associations have the power of eminent domain and are authorized to borrow money and enter into contracts for maintenance and improvements. Acequia associations do not have the power to tax, so the expenses of maintenance and improvements are borne by the individuals served by the irrigation system.
- **Agriculture** – The art and science of growing crops and raising and breeding livestock. As per this Plan, activities which traditionally define agriculture in the District include, but are not limited to, cattle ranching; farming: hay, alfalfa, and some corn and other small grain crop production. Some timber harvest for firewood, latillias, vigas and other traditional wood products.

- **Animal Unit Month (“AUM”)** – The quantity of forage required by one mature cow and her calf (or equivalent, in sheep or horses, for instance) for one month. The amount of forage needed to sustain one cow, five sheep, or five goats for a month. In the United States, a full AUMs fee is charged for each month of grazing by adult animals if the grazing animal (1) is weaned, (2) is 6 months old or older when entering public land, or (3) will become 12 months old during the period of use.
- **Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)** – areas within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural and scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.
- **Archeological and Historic Preservation Act 1974** – Provides for “the preservation of historical and archeological data (including relics and specimens) which might otherwise be irreparably lost or destroyed as the result of (1) flooding, the building of access roads, the erection of workmen's communities, the relocation of railroads and highways, and other alterations of the terrain caused by the construction of a dam by any agency of the United States, or by any private person or corporation holding a license issued by any such agency or (2) any alteration of the terrain caused as a result of any Federal construction project or federally licensed activity or program.” 16 U.S.C. §469.
- **Burned-Area Rehabilitation** - USFS and DOI agencies define Burned Area Rehabilitation as: Efforts undertaken within 3 years of a wildfire to repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover to management-approved conditions, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. CSWCD’s protection priorities of rehabilitation are: 1. To repair or improve land damaged directly or indirectly by wildland fire, 2. Soil and water resources, 3. Rehabilitate or established a healthy, stable watershed.
- **Burned-Area Restoration** - USFS defines Burned Area Restoration as; The continuation of rehabilitation activities beyond the initial 3 years or the repair or replacement of major facilities damaged by the fire. CSWCD’s definition includes coordination with local government.
- **Candidate Conservation Agreement** – The USFWS by policy may enter into an agreement with a state agency, local government or private landowner to protect or manage habitat for a species that is proposed for listing but is not yet listed. Under the terms of the agreement, generally an agreed upon amount of land is set aside or earmarked to be conserved for the candidate species. The landowner may also receive compensation and assurances that if the species is listed, the landowner will not be required to adopt additional conservation measures.
- **Clean Water Act** – The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) is the foundation for surface water quality protection in the United States. Congress gave States and tribes the option for taking primary responsibility for water pollution control.
- **Ciénega** - a spring that is usually a wet, marshy area at the foot of a mountain, in a canyon or on the edge of a grassland where groundwater bubbles to the surface. Often, a ciénega does not drain into a stream, but evaporates, forming a small playa.
- **Communication** – The exchange or transfer of information using the technology of transmission systems.
- **Compensable property right** – Is any type of right to specific property, personal or real, tangible, which,

when reduced or taken for public purposes, is due just compensation under the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

- **Conservation** - Management of the human use of natural resources to provide the maximum benefit to current generations while maintaining capacity to meet the needs of future generations. Conservation includes both the protection and rational use of natural resources.
- **Consistency** – “[H]aving agreement with itself or something else; harmonious; congruous; compatible; not contradictory.” *Id.* at 279.
- **Consultation** – A conference between two or more people to consider a particular question.
- **Cooperation** – Process created to marry the general attempt to blend respective areas of responsibility, authority, and expertise of governing bodies and agencies for creating more effective land planning partnerships.
- **Cooperating Agency** – 1. Generally reference to the partnership agent in the relationship of preparing resource management plans, partnering with Tribes, state, and local governments (intergovernmental partners) before, during, and after plans and EISs are prepared. 2. The agent acting upon and within the framework for intergovernmental efforts in achieving early and consistent partnership involvement, incorporating local customs and cultures as well as state and local land use requirements, address intergovernmental issues, avoid duplication of effort, enhance local credibility of plans and EISs, encourage support for management decisions, and build relationships of trust.
- **Coordination** – 1. Process created by Congress to ensure consistency of federal plans and activities with local government plans and policies. 2. Coordination is defined as the act of coordinating; harmonious adjustment or interaction; one that is equal in importance” (American Heritage Dictionary). Coordination is more than “cooperate” or “consult. The courts have defined the term as well: “The concept of ‘coordination’ means more than trying to work together with someone else. To ‘coordinate’ is ‘to bring into a common action, movement, or condition; it is synonymous with; harmonize.” (California Native Plant Society .v City of Rancho Cordova, 172 Cal. App 4th 603, 91 Cal. Rpt. 3d 571 (Third App. Dist. 2009)). 3. Specifically the National Forest Management Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1604 (a)) requires the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to: develop, maintain and as appropriate, revise land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System, coordinated with the land and resource management processes of state and local governments and other federal agencies. 4. Specifically the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C.A. 1712(c)(9)) requires the Secretary of the Department of Interior to: a. Keep apprised of local plans; b. assure consideration is given to the local plans; c. assist in resolving inconsistencies with local plans; d. meaningfully involve local governments in the planning process; and e. ensure land use plans are consistent with local land use plans.
- **Coordination Process** – a process by which local government engages in a government-to-government dialogue with state and federal agencies in a constructive effort to achieve consistency between state and federal land use plans and actions with local government
- **Culture** - Culture is defined as the customary beliefs, social forms and material traits of a group; an integrated pattern of human behavior passed to succeeding generations. *Webster’s New Colligate Dictionary*, 227 (1975).

- **Custom** - Custom is a usage or practice of the people, which by long and unvarying habit, has become compulsory and has acquired the force of law with respect to the place or subject-matter to which it relates.

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Bouvier's Law Dictionary, 417 (1st ed. 1867).

- **de facto Wilderness Management** – Land management policy that is imposed without congressional direction or authority that mirrors or is similar to the management of areas designated by Congress as wilderness pursuant to the 1964 Wilderness Act. The management restrictions and prohibitions include: the prohibition of construction of new roads; restriction or prohibition on reconstruction or maintenance of existing roads; prohibition of mining or mineral development; restrictions on activities that would require permanent structures or facilities, or restrictions on motorized vehicle use or the use of mechanical tools or means of travel.
- **Desired Plant Community** – A plant community which produces the kind, proportion and amount of vegetation necessary for meeting or exceeding the land use plan/activity plan objectives established for an ecological site(s). The desired plant community must be consistent with the site's capability to produce the desired vegetation through management, land treatment, or a combination of the two.
- **Economics** – Pertaining to the development and management of the material wealth of a government or community.
- **Emergency Stabilization** - USFS and DOI agencies define Emergency Stabilization as; Planned actions to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, to minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effects of a fire, or to repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources. Emergency stabilization actions must be taken within 1 year of containment of the fire. CSWCD's protection priorities of emergency stabilization are: 1. Human life and Safety, 2. property, 3. soil and water resources.
 - o Actions to implement emergency stabilization treatments should begin immediately upon re-habilitation plan approval. Implementation should begin as soon as necessary to complete the treatment prior to the rainy season, onset of winter, weather, or other shutdowns.
- **Erosion** – (v.) Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. (n.) The land surface worn away by running water, wind, ice or other geological agents, including such processes as gravitational creep.
- **Federal lands**—All land and associated natural resources owned and managed by the United States. Federal lands include, but are not limited to, public lands, federally reserved lands, federal mineral leases, federal geothermal leases, federal forage leases, federal rights-of-way, but categorically exempted are lands and resources to which private interest or title is attached.
- **Forestland** – Land that is now, or is capable of becoming, at least 10% stocked with forest trees and that has not been developed for non-timber use ("BLM"). As defined by the USDA Forest Service is land that is at least ten percent covered with trees (Forested Landscapes in Perspective, 1998).
- **Forest Health** – A measure of the robustness of forest ecosystems. Aspects of forest health include biological diversity; air and water productivity; natural disturbances; and the capacity of the forest to provide a sustaining flow of goods and service for people.

This term is often used to express a collection of concerns with respect to the alleged deterioration in the forest conditions, including both current problems and (*e.g.* – insect and disease infestations, wildfires, and related tree mortality) and risks of future problems (*e.g.* – too many small-diameter trees) (overstocking), excess biomass in an unnatural mix of tree species in mixed stands.

- **Forms of Production** – The forms of production component include the things you have or need to produce to retain or attain the desired quality of life. The derived forms of production statement of the District reads as follows: “The quality of life we strive for will be achieved by continuing to maintain and enhance sustainable and optimum production of renewable and non-renewable resources and to encourage and support the motive and means to enhance economic opportunity and education.”
- **Future Resource Base** – The future resource base component includes the people, land and community we live in and the services available, and what we will need to sustain and enhance our quality of life and forms of production. The future resource base statement of CPSWCD reads as follows: “Through the efforts of cooperation and communication among the local people, our community will have a beneficial impact on sustaining a strong and viable multiple-use of our lands, including agricultural, industrial, mineral production, commercial, recreational and historical uses, which together will provide the continued ability to generate wealth and growth and needs of our community.”
- **Grazing Management Practices** – Grazing management practices include such things as grazing systems (rest-rotation, deferred rotation, etc.), timing and duration of grazing, herding, salting, etc. They do not include physical range improvements.
- **Guidelines (For Grazing Management)** – Guidelines provide for, and guide the development and implementation of, reasonable, responsible, and cost-effective management actions at the allotment and watershed level which move rangelands toward statewide standards or maintain existing desirable conditions. Appropriate guidelines will ensure that the resultant management actions reflect the potential for the watershed, consider other uses and natural influences, and balance resource goals with social, cultural/historic, and economic opportunities to sustain viable local communities. Guidelines, and, therefore, the management actions they engender, are based on sound science, past and present management experience and public input.
- **Habitat Conservation Plan** – The FWS will approve a plan to protect habitat for a species listed under the ESA located on private land. The habitat conservation plan allows private landowners to use or develop the land, even though the activities may adversely affect a listed species. The plan will also include a “takings permit” which will permit the incidental loss of habitat or potential harm to a listed species.
- **Habitat Fragmentation** – An event that creates a greater number of habitat patches that are smaller in size than the original contiguous tract(s) of habitat.
- **Historical Value** – 1. The collective contributions of objects and values derived and established in recorded history that impact the character of the District and contribute directly to the Customs and Cultures related to the use and protection of natural resources as described in the Act. 2. The primary managed value as set forth in FLPMA that applies to natural resources and the respective resource users as set forth in the Act.
- **Indicator** – An indicator is a component of a system whose characteristics (e.g., presence, absence, quantity and distribution) can be measured based on sound scientific principles. An indicator can be measured (monitored and evaluated) at a site- or species-specific level. Measurement of an indicator must be able to show change within timeframes acceptable to management and be capable of showing how the health of the ecosystem is changing in response to specific management actions. Selection of the appropriate indicators to be monitored in a particular allotment is a critical aspect of early communication among the interests involved on the ground. The most useful indicators are those for which change or trend can be easily quantified and for which agreement as to the significance of the indicator is broad based.

- **Invasive Species** - A non-native species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human, animal, or plant health.
- **Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources** – NEPA requires that each EIS address the resources that will be permanently lost or committed as a result of the project. When oil is produced from a well it is lost or committed and cannot be later developed. Vegetation resources associated with a well pad are not irreversible committed because the site can be reclaimed.
- **Jeopardy Review** – The FWS, pursuant to the ESA, must evaluate all federal actions that may adversely affect a species that is listed under the ESA to determine whether the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species. 16 U.S.C. §1536. As part of the jeopardy review, which is also called a “Section 7 review,” FWS prepares a biological opinion, makes a determination regarding jeopardy, and recommends additional conservation measures that would mitigate the impacts on the species. If the FWS makes a finding of jeopardy, the proposed federal action may not proceed.
- **Lands with wilderness characteristics** – lands that fit the strict definition of wilderness as set forth in the Wilderness Act, e.g., ‘5000 contiguous acres’, etc. and are allowed by strict inventory methods as defined by FLPMA.
- **Managed Values** - Values attached to the management of federal lands as set forth in FLPMA. Such values were identified to protect the quality of management, preserve certain lands in their natural condition, provide food and habitat for fish, wildlife, and domestic animals, and provide for outdoor recreation, human occupancy and use. The eight identified managed values are scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, air and atmospheric, water resources, and archeological.
- **Multiple Use** – 1. Balanced and diversified management of federal lands and their various public resources to best meet present and future economic and resource needs of the American people. 2. Management of lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the citizenry and the American people. 3. A combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that include managed values as set forth in FLPMA.
 - Multiple uses of the national forests means the “harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.” Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (P.L. 86-517, June 12, 1960) as amended. Multiple use implies a sustained yield of outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed and wildlife and fish values.
 - Multiple use of the public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management means: “the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of

the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output.” Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S.C. §1702(c).

- **Natural resources** – As used in this Plan, all renewable and nonrenewable material in its native state which when extracted has economic value as it pertains to the protection and beneficial use of soil and water. Natural resources may be commercial or noncommercial in nature.
- **Non-impairment management** – The standard for determining whether to allow actions or activities on public lands that have been classified as wilderness study areas either by Congress or the Bureau of Land Management. The action or activity may be allowed so long as the impacts will not impair the areas suitability for wilderness or will not degrade the wilderness values so as to preclude its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- **Objective** – An objective is a site-specific statement of a desired rangeland condition. It may contain qualitative (subjective) elements, but it must have quantitative (objective) elements so that it can be measured. Objectives frequently speak to change. They may measure the avoidance of negative changes or the accomplishment of positive changes. They are the focus of monitoring and evaluation activities at the local level. Objectives may measure the products of an area rather than its ability to produce them, but if they do so, it must be kept in mind that the lack of a product may not mean that the standards have not been met. Instead, the lack of a particular product may reflect other factors such as political or social constraints. Objectives often focus on indicators of greatest interest for the area in question.
- **Objective Peer-Review** - A third party review by experts of similar competence to the producers of the work, outside of the organization or entity making the claim, to ensure it meets specific criteria and to prevent dissemination of irrelevant findings, unwarranted claims, unacceptable interpretations, and personal views. Objective Peer-Review will ensure consistent and transparent decisions.
- **Playa** - (geography) a desert basin with no outlet which periodically fills with water to form a temporary lake.
- **Private property** – A legal designation for the ownership of property by non-governmental legal entities.
- **Public lands** – Is property that is dedicated to **public** use and is a subset of federal or state **property**. The term may be used either to describe the use to which the **property** is put, or to describe the character of its ownership (owned collectively by the population of a state or United States of America).
- **Rights-of-way** – This term generally refers to “an easement, lease, permit, or license to occupy, use, or traverse lands” and such right may be created by federal or state statute, deed, contract or agreement, or permit. A right-of-way may also include: Any road, trail, access or way upon which construction has been carried out to the standard in which public rights-of-way were built within historic context. These rights-of-way may include, but not be limited to, horse paths, cattle trails, irrigation canals, waterways, ditches, pipelines or other means of water transmission and their attendant access for maintenance, wagon roads, jeep trails, logging roads, homestead roads, mine to market roads, and all other ways.
- **RS2477 Rights of Way** – RS2477 was a self-executing law. When the conditions were met, the right-of-

way grant was made. No further action by the grantee or by Congress was necessary to validate it.

- **Range** – Rangelands, forests, woodlands and riparian zones that support and understory or periodic cover of herbaceous or shrubby vegetation amenable to rangeland management principals or practices. Land on which the principal natural plant cover is composed of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs that are valuable as forage for livestock and big game. Any land supporting vegetation suitable for wildlife or domestic livestock grazing, including grasslands, woodlands, shrublands and forest lands.
- **Range Condition** – The current productivity of a rangeland relative to what the land could naturally produce based on the site’s soil type, precipitation, geographic location and climate
- **Range Improvements** – Range improvements include such things as corrals, fences, water developments (reservoirs, spring developments, pipelines, wells, etc.) and land treatments (prescribed fire, herbicide treatments, mechanical treatments, etc.).
- **Range Management** – Ensure a sustained yield of rangeland products while protecting and improving the basic range resources of soil, water, and plant and animal life. Besides producing forage for livestock and wildlife, a range can provide timber, minerals and recreational opportunities. CPSWCD subscribes to the concept of multiple use, which requires that all the resources of a rangeland be managed simultaneously, using constant monitoring and adjustments to provide a mix of material products and intangible assets that best satisfy the needs of both landowners and the general public.
- **Rangeland Preservation Area** – a conceptual federal land designation that balances access and land uses, and is in the process of being defined.
- **Recharge** - The addition of water to an aquifer by infiltration, either directly into the aquifer or indirectly by way of another rock formation. Recharge may be natural, as when precipitation infiltrates to the water table, or artificial, as when water is injected through wells or spread over permeable surfaces for the purpose of recharging an aquifer.
- **Recovery Plan** – The ESA requires the USFWS to prepare a plan to improve the status of a listed species to the point where the species need no longer be listed. A recovery plan typically sets population goals, identifies tasks to reverse or arrest the decline of a species and criteria for delisting the species.
- **Recreate** – to refresh by means of relaxation and enjoyment, as restore physically or mentally. An action or lack thereof, which results in relaxation, entertainment, and is enjoyed by those who participate.
- **Reintroduction Plan** – Under the ESA, a reintroduction plan is a specialized recovery plan designed to restore a threatened or endangered species to its historical habitat. A reintroduction plan will document the habitat area to be occupied and specific management actions to be taken to ensure the successful reintroduction of the listed species. Alternatively, a reintroduction plan by a state wildlife agency will return fish, game or other wildlife to an area where they have been extirpated.
- **Research Natural Area (“RNA”)** – A type of area of critical environmental concern or ACEC under BLM land use planning process where natural ecological and physical processes are allowed to occur and human activities are prohibited if they will interfere with the natural processes. Under Forest Service land use policy, a RNA is an area identified as a reference area to evaluate the impacts of management in similar environments, including areas for research and areas to be protected for biodiversity or threatened,

endangered and sensitive species.

- **Resource Universe** – The dynamic system manifested by the marriage of soil and water and how it embraces historic, present and future aspects of the stability and enhancement of the immensely important economy, safety, customs and culture of the community within CPSWCD.
- **Riparian** – An area of land directly influenced by permanent water. It has visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Lake shores and stream banks are typical riparian areas.
- **Riparian Zone** - A riparian zone or riparian area is the interface between land and a river, lake or stream. Plant habitats and communities along the river margins and banks are called riparian vegetation, characterized by hydrophilic plants. Riparian zones are important in ecology, environmental management, because of their role in soil conservation, their habitat biodiversity, and the influence they have on fauna and aquatic ecosystems, including grasslands, woodlands, wetlands, or even non-vegetative areas.
- **Runoff** - Water not absorbed by soil or landscape to which it is applied. Runoff occurs when water is applied too quickly (application rate exceeds infiltration rate), particularly if there is a severe slope. Storm water runoff is created by natural precipitation rather than human caused or applied water use. The part of the precipitation that appears in surface streams.
- **Senior Water Rights** - Have earlier priority date and claimants who hold them have a higher priority to divert water from a stream or water body than those with more junior rights. However, in times of scarcity, when there is not enough water to meet demand in a basin, those who need water for domestic and livestock use have first right to water, regardless of one's priority date.
- **Soil** – Loose material from the earth's surface in which all things grow, and which constitutes geologic sedentary and sedimentary accumulations.
- **Special Land Use Designations** – Refers to the classification or designation tracts of land by Congress or a federal agency to recognize and protect distinctive or unique characteristics. Designations by Congress are permanent and may include national monuments, national parks, national park preserves, national wildlife refuges, national recreation areas, national seashores, wild, scenic or recreation rivers, national forests and wilderness. The President may also establish national monuments, which are permanent unless modified by another President or Congress. Federal law may delegate the authority to various federal agencies to make special land use designations. The Interior Department Secretary may designate wildlife refuges; the Bureau of Land Management through its land use plans may establish special recreation areas, areas of critical environmental concern, resource natural areas, and until 1991, wilderness study areas. The Forest Service through its land use plans establishes special interest areas and research natural areas.
- **Species of Concern or Special Status Species** – This term includes species that have been proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act or have already been listed as threatened or endangered, as well as species that are on the candidate list published in the *Federal Register*. The term also includes any state-listed species or any “sensitive species” which includes the above categories and might also include species undergoing downward trends due to changes in habitat capability or populations or which occupy specialized habitats.

- **Spill Over** – This term refers to the movement of introduced or reintroduced wildlife into areas where they were not intended to be in the plan. The presence of such species will greatly limit land uses, especially when the species is protected under the ESA or other federal and state laws.
- **Standards** – Standards are synonymous with goals and are observed on a landscape scale. Standards apply to rangeland health and not to the important by-products of healthy rangelands. Standards relate to the current capability or realistic potential of a specific site to produce these by-products, not to the presence or absence of the products themselves. It is the sustainability of the processes, or rangeland health, which produces these by-products.
- **Sustained Yield** – A “high-level” output of renewable resources that does not impair the productivity of the land. The continuation of a healthy desired plant community.
- **Takings in context of Endangered Species Act** – Includes harm to a protected species when an act actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering. 50 C.F.R. §17.3.
- **Takings in context of property and right to compensation** – A ‘taking’ of property is generally defined as to deprivation of the right of use and enjoyment of the property. The ownership of property is often described as a “bundle of sticks” which includes mineral rights, rights of access, rights to use the surface, and rights to use the fruits raised from the surface, such as crops or grass. When land use regulation by federal, state or local government interferes with one of those rights in the bundle of sticks, a taking occurs only if it deprives the owner of all of his bundle of sticks or “investment-backed expectations.” More recent decisions will find a taking when the deprivation is total but temporary or when the deprivation precludes an essential element of the property right, such as the right to exclude others. Federal land agencies enjoy a much greater presumption of authority to limit the exercise of private property rights and successful takings cases more often involve disputes with a local government or state agency.
- **Title V of FLPMA** – In 1976, Congress repealed almost all laws granting rights-of-way for various purposes and established a single title under which rights-of-way would be granted across public lands for any purpose, including power transmission lines, roads and pipelines.
- **Unintended consequences** – 1. Impact or damages that do not directly and immediately flow from the act or the policy implementation. 2. The result of unforeseen circumstances that are not predictable or immediately apparent to the casual observer without local input.
- **Visibility or Visibility Impairment** – Visibility refers to amount or lack of haze that obscures the ability to see great distances. Visibility impairment measures the extent of haze composed of various air pollutants which manifest as a white or brown haze. This is a major issue with respect to national parks and wilderness areas, which are Class I air quality areas and are given the highest level of protection.
- **View** – The sight or prospect from a particular point, typically an appealing sight.
- **Viewshed** – The geographic area surrounding the visual area to be inventoried and managed.
- **Visual Condition Class** – The Clean Air Act recognizes four air quality classes with Class I applying to

national parks and wilderness areas and Class II applying to all other federal land areas, such as National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and public lands. Visual conditions are affected by particulates, emissions including ozone, sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide and the chemical reactions caused by humidity and sunshine.

- **Visual Quality or Visual Resource Management Objective** – Standards established in land use plans prepared by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to apply to specific land areas based on the scenic qualities and land uses. The land use plans may require modifications to facilities to reduce the visual impacts.
- **Visual Resources** - Visual resources in the District are a composite of landforms, human and animal life forms, water features, cultural features, terrain, geologic features and vegetative patterns which create the visual environment. These visible physical features are important to the landscape and the scenic quality of the County.
- **Visual Resource Management ("VRM")** – The designation of BLM surface lands for visual resource protection and management as part of the land use planning process. The VRM classification takes into account scenic values, sensitivity based on land uses permitted and distance or remoteness. *See* BLM H8410-1.
- **Water** – To supply with water. Irrigate, sub-irrigate, dampen, vaporize, humidify, hose, spray, douse, drench, submerge, immerse, saturate, plunge, dip, splash, sprinkle, moisten, wet, and soak. In all forms, i.e. subterranean, surface, captured, recaptured, processed or wild. All waters (subterranean, ponds, pools, stream, river, wild and or contained arroyos) within the footprint of CPSWCD.
- **Water Conservation** is reducing the use of water through technologic or social methods. It includes policies, practices, and education that promote the efficient use of water such as minimizing losses, reducing waste, minimizing use, and protecting availability for future uses. These policies and practices can range from more efficient practices in farm, home, and industry to capturing water for use through water storage or land-use practices.
 - o The Office of State Engineer defines water conservation as “any action or technology that reduces the amount of water withdrawn from water-supply sources, reduces consumptive use, reduces the loss or waste of water, improves the efficiency of water use, increase recycling and reuse of water or prevents the pollution of water.
- **Water Right** - Legal rights to use a specific quantity of water, on a specific time schedule, at a specific place, and for a specific purpose.
- **Watershed** – The total land area, regardless of size, above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at that point. It is a major subdivision of a drainage basin. The United States is generally divided into 18 major drainage areas and 160 principal river drainage basins containing about 12,700 smaller watersheds. The entire region or land area that contributes water to a drainage system or stream, collects and drains water into a stream or stream system or is drained by a waterway (or into a lake or reservoir). More specifically, a watershed is an area of land above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the streamflow at that point. A region or area where surface runoff and groundwater drain to a common watercourse or body of water. The area drained by a river or river system enclosed by drainage divides. An area of land that drains to a single water outlet. A watershed is also known as a sub-basin.

- **Wilderness Act of 1964** - Congress established the National Wilderness Preservation System to protect and preserve those areas deemed to be wilderness, which is defined as: A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this chapter an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. 16 U.S.C. §1131(a).”
- **Wilderness Area** – Tracts of land designated by an act of Congress to be part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- **Wildlife** – Populations, variety, and distribution of non domestic birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and plants.
- **Woodland Products** – Harvestable items from Piñon – Juniper woodlands. These include fuel wood, posts, pine nuts and Christmas trees.
- **Woody** – Consisting of wood plants such as trees or bushes.
- **Wood Fiber Production** – The growing, tending, harvesting and regeneration of harvestable trees.

2.2 ANNUAL ACTION PLANS

The District develops annual work plans to advance the objectives of the Land Use Plan.

2.3 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

It is the policy of this District to pursue and participate in projects that protect the health, welfare and safety of the community in general and its stakeholders in particular. The defining expectation is that the federal, state, and other local governments engage in methods to enhance agriculture ... not underwrite its removal from the landscape.

2.4 EMERGENCY PLANS – (FOR DAMS AND STRUCTURES)

2.5 COORDINATION AGREEMENTS – (SUCH AS PARTICIPATING, COOPERATING AND STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES)

3.0 PURPOSE, CUSTOM AND CULTURE, AND GOALS

3.1 PURPOSE

The CPSWCD will address the use and management of natural resources, especially watersheds, rangeland, soil, and water conservation, and farmland within the political jurisdiction of CPSWCD as the heart of its comprehensive planning efforts. The closer decision-making is to the land and to the people who make use of the land, the more informed it will be as to the conditions of the land and the needs and desires of those who live, work and recreate there.

The purpose of the Plan is to guide policy regarding soil and water natural resource conservation and enhancement as needed and is intended to provide a framework for local, county, state, and federal agencies in land use planning that affect the resource universe in the District. Additionally the Plan is meant to safeguard the historic, traditional, conceptual and future conservation measures of these resources against all encroachments that may jeopardize their sanctity and beneficial use. This plan is designed to protect the production and safeguarding of legitimate and worthwhile agricultural products, to ensure private rights, to allow and encourage expansion of resource supplies, and to defend the active engagement of public safety for District citizenry created by the presence and absences of water supplies.

3.2 CUSTOMS AND CULTURE

The District recognizes the importance of Agriculture and its extension of enterprise and resource dependence to the stability of the local economy. The historic and contemporary influence of agriculture is the foundation of the community's Customs and Culture. Farms, ranches and support businesses have played and continue to play a fundamental role in local social and economic well-being. CPSWCD is increasingly concerned about increasing regulations and land use changes within the dominion of federal land ownership which are reducing the viability of farms and ranches. To reverse such trends, CPSWCD supports, encourages and promotes policies that will lead to the long term economic strength of the underpinnings of these Customs and Culture.

Protection of the customs and culture of CPSWCD requires protection of the tax base, including the right (responsibility of the SWCD) to conserve, protect, encourage, develop and improve agricultural land for the production of agricultural products and to reduce the loss to the state of its agricultural resources by limiting the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be deemed a nuisance.

The fundamental need for food and fiber from those endeavors predicated on the resources of soil and water is basic to life itself. Agriculture has been the framework of the relationship between man and those resources in the District. This relationship achieved a state of dynamic equilibrium that has been altered and adjusted based on the growth of population and the demand for goods and services that has developed through the area's relative advantages.

Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) Section 102 has 8 values: Scientific, Scenic, Ecological, Environmental, History, Archeological, Air and Atmospheric, and Water. History is the only one that reflects customs and culture. Modern agency management reflects only scientific, scenic, archeological, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, and water. Federal land management plans are generally silent on historical features. CPSWCD strongly believes in the need to elevate the importance of historical values, and ensure that all 8 values are equal in any decision made by land management agencies.

Continued equilibrium must be achieved through District interactions with local, state, and federal agencies to

imagine and implement plans that meet changing conditions and needs. This interaction is critical to the well-being of the District and its ability to adapt for future needs. The District is intent on maintaining current and encouraging future protection of rights to maintain an environment capable of producing opportunities for future generations.

3.3 GOALS OF THE PLAN

1. Maintain and improve the soil, vegetation and watershed resources in a manner that perpetuates, sustains, and expands the beneficial uses of such resources while maintaining healthy ecosystems and fully supporting public safety, the customs and economic stability and viability of our industries and the general welfare of the citizens of the District.
2. Provide the plans and policies that direct the CPSWCD in coordination with local, state, and federal bodies and agencies regarding planning, outlining, orchestrating, scheduling, mapping, facilitating, conceptualizing, formulating, designing, plotting, or strategizing land use plans that will affect the soil, water, and other resources of the District today, tomorrow, or further into the future.
3. Work with federal, state and local government agencies to fulfill the District's primary legal responsibility to provide for the health, safety, and well being of their constituents.
4. Work to reduce any possibility of unintended consequences from decisions and actions that may be taken by agencies and other entities that can negatively impact the District; its economy, its tax base and the people it serves. Such action, in general, seeks to minimize the unintended consequences to the local land users from ongoing governmental courses of conduct.

4.0 PRIMARY PLANNING GUIDANCE AND DIRECTIVES (PPGD)

- The state of New Mexico has authorized the creation of CPSWCD with powers and duties to accomplish the legislative determination of the act.
- Congress has mandated stabilization of soil and water through the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act . . . “Recognizing that the arrangements under which the Federal Government cooperates . . .through conservation districts, with other local units of government and land users, have effectively aided in the protection and improvement of the Nation’s basic resources . . . it is declared to be policy of the United States that arrangements and similar cooperative arrangements be utilized to the fullest extent practicable . . .”
- Congress has mandated . . . “Federal agencies shall coordinate with local and state agencies to develop comprehensive solutions to prevent, reduce and eliminate pollution in concert with programs for managing water resources.”
- With District coordinated actions, federal agencies must be consistent with officially approved and adopted local land use plans, as long as such local plans are consistent with federal law and regulations.
- Work with all federal agencies to ensure resource management plans or management framework plans list known inconsistencies between their plans and district plans and submit those inconsistencies to the Governor of New Mexico. Agencies are obligated to take all practical measures to resolve conflicts between federal and local government land use plans.

- Federal Agencies are required to submit a notice of intent to prepare, amend, or revise a resource management plan to State Agencies, consistent with State procedures for coordination of Federal activities,
- The District lands must be managed in a manner that will protect the quality and balance of natural resources as defined by the Act with the scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resources, and archeological values with the intent to provide both stewardship and continued human occupancy and use.

4.1 OBJECTIVE

To create a coordinated working relationship with agencies and citizenry that protects and enhances local natural resources, safety and well-being for all.

The District constituency must have a regulatory environment that works for them and minimizes any harm to District land users. The regulatory environment should enhance lives, safety, and resources and improve the economy without imposing unacceptable or unreasonable costs. All regulatory policies must recognize the private sector and private markets are the engines for economic growth. New regulatory approaches should respect the role of local and state governments and adopt regulations that are effective, consistent, sensible, and understandable. It is, therefore, imperative to set planning guidance for lands and resource interactions as they apply to matters of the District.

4.2 RESOURCE CONCERNS - No priority ranking has been established for the following resource concerns. The District will focus on each concern as needed.

1. **Customs and Culture**
2. **Water resources**
3. **Soil**
4. **Range and Grassland**
5. **Wildlife and Livestock**
6. **Threatened and Endangered / Sensitive Species**
7. **Predator Control**
8. **Invasive Species**
9. **Wildfire**
10. **Flood and Storm Water Control**
11. **Watershed and Forest Health**
12. **Energy/Utilities**
13. **Special Land Designations**
14. **Visual Resources**
15. **Riparian Management**
16. **Mineral, Mining and Extraction of Natural Resources Management**
17. **Travel Management**
18. **Air Quality**

4.2-1 CUSTOMS AND CULTURE:

The future and its many unanswered questions of water supply, population growth, and continuing soil resource needs, and particularly, the perpetuation, renewal, improvement, protection and expansion of the farm and rangeland base. The people of Torrance, Lincoln, Socorro and Valencia Counties have traditionally earned

their livelihood from activities associated with natural resources. The economy of the area in the past and today depends on the availability and utilization of natural resources. It is paramount the fulfillment of such a process is maintained with highest standards that represents all citizenry equally. Collectively, the past and future represent the customs and culture of the District.

- **Goal:** Coordinate all activities in a manner that will protect the diversity and quality of Customs and Culture derived from historical and environmental land use values. Where appropriate, will use and protect all lands in a condition that will promote land health contributing to community economic freedom and security. The District will undertake such actions in a manner that serves all citizens with a high standard of ethical and objective leadership.
- **Guidance:** FLPMA provides for effective use of the Agency administered lands by providing continuity of uses for roads, power, water, grassland, and natural gas. The FLPMA also mandates multiple use of the Agency administered lands, provides for continuing inventory and classification reviews of such lands. The Agency is required to comply with federal, state, and local government laws relating to such matters including the values set forth in the Declaration of Policy of the Act. The Act is the organic basis of managing federal lands in the West. National Forest Management Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1604 (a)) requires the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to: develop, maintain and as appropriate, revise land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System, coordinated with the land and resource management processes of state and local governments and other federal agencies. CPSWCD intends to cooperate in a manner that elevates all values equally without prejudice or inferred cardinal value. This includes the blending of historical and environmental values. The presence of humans in this landscape is an important factor.

Agriculture contributes to the economic base of Torrance, Lincoln, Socorro and Valencia Counties and is integral to the stability of livestock production, wildlife habitat, and farming while maintaining the local custom and culture.

- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Maintain balance within the actions of the Board itself as well as the actions of federal and state government in land use planning within the District.
2. Maintain such a balance in the face of federal and state management policies that are often driven by forces outside of the jurisdiction of the District.

Due Process and Protection of Private Property

- The U.S. Constitution created a form of government characterized by:
 - Limited powers granted to the federal government, with all unenumerated powers being reserved to the respective states.
 - Separation of those limited powers into legislative, judicial, and executive branches.
 - Creation of a process where the branches act to check and balance the power of the other branches.
 - Guarantee rights of due process and just compensation when private property is taken for public use.

- Grant of authority to Congress to make rules and regulations governing federal property.

4.2-2 WATER RESOURCES

New Mexico is a landlocked state. The water supply in the District is vulnerable to drought, watershed health degradation, and secondary effects following catastrophic fires. No significant streams exist in the District and most surface water flow occurs as ephemeral flow in drainages and arroyos. The District relies solely on groundwater and precipitation for water supply. Under New Mexico's State constitution, all water in New Mexico is managed by the state of New Mexico.

Over the past 100 to 150 years, the rolling foothills of the Manzano Mountains have slowly changed in character from fairly open rangeland to predominantly piñon and juniper forests. During this metamorphosis, many natural springs that flowed perennially in the foothills of the Manzano Mountains have ceased to flow or become intermittent in their flow.

New Mexico has two primary agencies that have the responsibility for administering water throughout the state, the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC). The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has lead supervision over water quality. New Mexico has a type of water law called the "prior appropriation" system, which is found in most western states. This system gives preference in times of water shortage to those water rights with the oldest priority dates. The priority date of a water right is the date the water was first put to "beneficial use" on the land.

New Mexico statutes require that all new appropriations of water and transfers of water be consistent with the public welfare of New Mexico. CPSWCD believes that public welfare of a region with no viable sustainable supply of surface water entitles that region to retain some quantity of water in reserve for its economic and cultural future.

Federal Reservation: The doctrine of federally reserved water rights was developed over the course of the 20th Century. Simply stated, federally reserved rights are created when the United States sets aside land for specific purposes, thereby withdrawing the land from the general public domain. In doing so, there is an implied, if not expressed, intent to reserve an amount of water necessary to fulfill the purpose for which the land was set aside. Federally reserved water rights are not created, or limited, by State law. Federally reserved lands within the District includes Forest Service Lands and Bureau of Land Management Lands.

Currently, The Office of the State Engineer (OSE) maintains an administrative policy over water rights in which the user must put that water to "beneficial" use. A water right must continue to be used in perpetuity in order for the appropriator to maintain control of that water right. Historically, the conservation of water has not been categorized as "beneficial use." This administrative philosophy has resulted in a condition in which water rights holders cannot conserve their water rights in times of plenty for use in times of prolonged shortage. In 2003, the legislature modified the New Mexico statutes to include some provisions to promote water conservation without fear of loss of right due to failing to apply the water to beneficial use.

Additionally, NMSA 1978 72-5-28 (G), indicates that "periods of nonuse when water rights are acquired and placed in a state engineer-approved water conservation program, by an individual or entity that owns water rights, a conservancy district..., a soil and water conservation district..., and acequia or community ditch association, an irrigation district ..., or the interstate stream commission shall not be computed as part of the four-year forfeiture period.

New Mexico's climate has historically exhibited a high range of variability. Periods of extended drought, interspersed with relatively short-term, wetter periods, are common. Historical periods of high temperature and low precipitation have resulted in high demands for irrigation water and higher open water evaporation and riparian evapotranspiration. In addition to natural climatic cycles (i.e., el Niño/la Niña, PDO, AMO [Section 5.1.1]) that affect precipitation patterns in the southwestern United States, there has been considerable recent research on potential climate change scenarios and their impact on the Southwest and New Mexico in particular.

Prior to the 2015 rule making process conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the extent of the federal government's authority under the CWA was limited to "navigable waters," which under the then CWA, defined as "waters of the United States". Twice, the Supreme Court has reaffirmed the federal- state partnership under the CWA, when it told the federal agencies that there are limits to federal jurisdiction under the CWA. CPSWCD strongly supports the Supreme Court rulings.

EPA and the Corps amended the regulatory definition of "waters of the United States" to conform to the Northern Cook County and Rapanos decisions. Final Rule, 80 Fed. Reg. 37054 (June 29, 2015) codified at 33 C.F.R. pt 328; 40 C.F.R. pts 110, 112, 116, 117, 122, 230, 232, 300, 302, and 401. The new definition covers: 1) waters used for interstate or foreign commerce; 2) interstate waters; 3) the territorial seas; 4) impounded waters otherwise meeting the definition; 5) tributaries of the foregoing waters; 6) waters, including wetlands, adjacent to the foregoing waters; 7) certain specified wetlands having a significant nexus to the foregoing waters; and 8) waters in the 100-year floodplain of the foregoing waters. 40 C.F.R. § 302.3.

Several states and industry groups have challenged the new definition in federal district courts and courts of appeal. In one such challenge, the district court granted a preliminary injunction temporarily staying the rule. *North Dakota v. EPA*, 2015 WL 5060744 (Aug. 27, 2015). Because the New Mexico Environment Department and the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer are plaintiffs in this case, the stay is effective and the new definition does not now apply in New Mexico. The United States is likely to appeal the decision.

CPSWCD recognizes that New Mexico must act now to protect our watersheds and water supply. With every year that goes by without a large-scale solution, more acres are severely burned, more critical water sources are jeopardized, more communities are threatened and other natural values are placed at risk.

- **Goal:** Water is essential for promoting economic well-being and provides a high return on investment. Water is a necessity for agriculture, residents, industry, and many service activities. CPSWCD will provide proactive support for corrective and conservation practices and programs to protect the public and conserve, expand, extend, and develop beneficially the water resources of the District.

CPSWCD will assure the policies and actions of the local, state and federal government in matters of water resources protection are fully inured to the benefit of that resource.

- **Guidance:** All New Mexico water laws and State and federal laws that regulate water quality regarding point and non-point sources of water pollution.
- **Objectives:**

District will:

1. Coordinate with federal agencies to insure the Districts policies are considered and consistency achieved to resolve water resources issues in concert with the conservation of endangered species, pursuant to 16 U.S.C.A. 1531(c)(2).
2. OSE will consult and coordinate with the District to ensure historical water uses for farming and ranching are secure within CPSWCD boundaries.
3. Work with OSE to ensure the existing Estancia Basin guideline is practical and sustainable for the next 40 years, design specific criteria on water exportation, and water conservation.
4. Coordinate with OSE to reevaluate the current agriculture well depth restriction within the Estancia Basin and explore, research and promote aquifer storage and recovery strategies within the CPSWCD.
5. Coordinate with the appropriate agencies in the land use inventory, planning, and management activities, which affect water resources in CPSWCD, either directly or indirectly, to ensure consistency with the Plan.
6. The overgrown conditions of New Mexico's watersheds impairs watershed function. Promote, improve and implement forest and woodland management within CPSWCD. Encourage expanding state water planning to specifically include protecting and improving watersheds.
7. Elevate the idea of water reuse systems with communities and help determine which of the three major approaches fits best (indirect, direct or potable direct) within CPSWCD.
8. Support the protection of private rights and interests in irrigation and water development structures on public lands.

4.2-3 SOIL

Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes. Soil quality, is defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. Soil contains living organisms that when provided the basic necessities of life (food, shelter, and water) perform functions required to produce food and fiber. Soil health is an assessment of how well soil performs all of its functions now and how those functions are being preserved for future use. Healthy soil cannot be determined by measuring a single outcome so indicators are used. Indicators are measurable properties of soil or plants that provide clues about how well the soil can function. Indicators can be physical, chemical, and biological properties, processes, or characteristics of soils. They can also be morphological or visual features of plants.

Dynamic soil quality is how soil changes depending on how it is managed. Management choices affect the amount of soil organic matter, soil structure, soil depth, and water and nutrient holding capacity. Soils respond differently to management depending on the inherent properties of the soil and the surrounding landscape.

Soil cover conserves moisture, reduces temperature, suppresses weed growth, and provides habitat. This is true regardless of land use; range, cropland, pasture, or hayland.

It is necessary to improve range and grasslands through various means including brush control and the expanding successes of measures applied by landowners and agencies for the well being of soil and water resource health. It is important that state and federal agencies continue to provide access to rangelands at levels consistent with proper range management, custom and culture and the protection of equitable property rights. It is also necessary to improve the quality of rangelands so that it provide a sustainable resource into the future.

- **Goal:** Windblown dust in this area occurs both from natural and man-made sources. CPSWCD will institute and manage vegetation and landscape projects that will maintain proper soil health. Provide proactive support for corrective and conservation practices and programs to conserve, protect, and beneficially develop the soil resources of the District. To insure the policies and actions of the local, state, and federal government in matters of soil resource protections are fully inured to the benefit of the resource
- **Guidance:** "...the land, waters and other natural resources are the basic physical assets of New Mexico, and their preservation and development are necessary to protect and promote the health and general welfare of the people of the state; 2) the improper use of land and related natural resources, soil erosion, and water loss result in economic waste in New Mexico through the deterioration of the state's natural resources, and; 3) appropriate corrective and conservation practices and programs must be encouraged and executed in New Mexico to conserve and develop beneficially the soil, water and other natural resources of the state;..."
- **Objectives:**

The District Will:

1. Encourage vegetative cover that provides coverage to surface soils and slows wind velocity at the ground surface. Continue support towards windbreak development.
2. Encourage land managers and landowners to seek technical assistance to mitigate surface disturbance and to facilitate soil and water conservation. Reestablish native or other desired vegetation. Further the progress of the establishment of permanent vegetative cover on poor quality cropland from which water rights have been removed.
3. Promote and provide technical information to Torrance, Lincoln, Socorro and Valencia Counties as well as CPSWCD cooperators on road layout, design, and maintenance to reduce erosion and how to implement drainage structures on county, private, and energy companies access roads.
4. Provide technical information on reseeded of any disturbed soils including but not limited to transmission, pipeline and wind energy pads.

4.2-4 RANGE AND GRASSLAND

Stewardship of vegetation composition, cover, and production is the foundation of sustainable rangeland management. A key component of rangeland ecosystem management is maintaining vegetation ground cover and productivity within a desirable mix of herbaceous and woody plants.

Effective, economically sustainable native and non-native invasive species management systems must be based on available biological and ecological peer reviewed science of the specific species. The District will

also rely upon knowledge gained from past successes and failures in managing native invasive species and other noxious range and grassland species.

The long term goal is to create a mosaic of grasslands interspersed with thinned piñon/juniper savannas and piñon/juniper woodlands. The District believes that excessive brush control can be detrimental to wildlife populations, aesthetic, recreational, and real estate values of the land. Carefully planned and selective control programs can optimize the value of the land for multiple considerations.

- **Goal:** Provide proactive support for corrective and conservation practices and programs to conserve, protect, and beneficially develop the range and grassland resources of the District. Also, work to increase productivity of rangeland to increase and/or maintain Animal Unit Month ("AUMs") to maximum sustainable levels on rangeland in Torrance, Socorro, Valencia and Lincoln Counties as well as maintain and enhance desired plant communities for the benefit of watersheds, wildlife, water quality, recreation and livestock grazing.

It is a long term goal that CPSWCD will partner with other Soil and Water Conservation Districts to promote cutting-edge management of semi arid lands stewardship within this District and statewide.

Guidance: The mixed ownership of rangelands results in differences in management objectives as well as management practices. Because the District has the unique responsibility to work with private, state and federal land managers for the benefit of soil erosion, flood control as well as other natural resource concerns, it is critical that the management practices between public and private land managers be coordinated with the District.

The continued viability of livestock operations and the livestock industry should be supported on federal lands within CPSWCD by management of the lands and natural resources, by the proper optimization of animal unit months for livestock, in accordance with supportable science and the multiple use provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C §§1701 et seq., the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, 43 U.S.C. §§531 et seq, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, 43 U.S.C. §§1901, et seq. and the National Forest Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§1600-1687.

Land management plans, programs, and initiatives should provide that the amount of domestic livestock forage, expressed in animal unit months, for permitted, active use as well as wildlife forage, be no less than the maximum number of animal unit months sustainable by range conditions in grazing allotments and districts, based on "on-the-ground" and scientific analysis. This is essential to the proper operation of the District. Livestock producers do more than contribute to the economic stability of the community, which helps the District, but are also the primary entities that help to implement the Districts programs. Any reductions in domestic livestock animal unit months must be temporary and scientifically based upon rangeland conditions.

- **Objective:**

The District will:

1. Promote activities that deal with controlling and reducing plant densities of native invasive species such as but not limited to, one-seed juniper and cholla, to restore native grasslands and plant communities.

2. Coordinate with the appropriate agency on forage reductions resulting from forage studies, fire, drought or other natural disasters to ensure the implementation is on an allotment basis and applied proportionately based on the respective allocation to livestock, and wildlife.
3. Support the development of a world class semi arid range and grassland lands sustainable research and production unit due to a combination of conditions such as an engaged body of federal land managers, ranchers, NMSU, the Range Improvement Task Force, state and federal agencies, and CPSWCD. A federal land designation should be sought to elevate the idea of a rangeland and grassland improvement area.
4. Coordinate to ensure permanent increase or decrease in grazing allocations reflect changes in available forage based on the vegetative type of available forage and applied proportionately to livestock or wildlife based on their respective dietary need.
5. Work with the Bureau of Land Management to expand and replicate the “Restore New Mexico” program to all areas of CPSWCD.
6. Encourage the use of coordinated range management plans (allotment management plans or coordinated activity plans) for each grazing allotment that allow for the flexibility and updating of management during the ten-year term of the grazing permit. (*i.e.* water development, juniper/brush control, re-seeding, fencing, salting plans, herding plans and grazing systems)
7. Coordinate with federal and state agencies on any new planned or potential new federal and state land acquisition within CPSWCD boundaries. Encourage federal and state land management agencies to focus on lands currently under its responsibility.

4.2-5 WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK

The production of livestock in Torrance, Lincoln, Socorro and Valencia Counties is necessary to the area economy, tax base, and the livelihood of the ranching / farming businesses and related industries and it is also vital to the well being and continued health of natural resources on federal, state and private lands. CPSWCD shall strive to protect the ranching / farming heritage, as it is a primary foundation of the custom and culture of the District.

- **Goal:** CPSWCD will emphasis vegetation management practices on landscape projects that will 1) maximize grassland development for livestock and wildlife, collectively, 2) expand water supplies and systems to support such populations on an availability standard, 3) encourage research to determine benefits of more complex grazing practices, 4) work with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) to elevate quality hunt opportunities, 5) educate the general public of the benefits and the symbiotic relationships of livestock and wildlife in this desert environment, and 6) Encourage wildlife management practices that sustain wildlife resources and habitat without measurably degrading other multiple use activities or private property rights.

CPSWCD strongly urges land management agencies to: upon termination of a grazing permit, assure that a livestock permittee will be compensated for the remaining value of improvements or be allowed to remove such improvements that permittee made on his/her allotment.

CPSWCD will coordinate with the land management agencies to ensure forage reductions resulting from

forage studies, fire, drought or other natural disasters will be implemented on an allotment basis and applied proportionately based on the respective allocation to livestock, wildlife. Reductions resulting from forage studies will be applied to the use responsible for the forage impact.

CPSWCD will coordinate with the land management agencies to ensure permanent increase or decreases in grazing allocations reflecting changes in available forage will be based on the vegetative type of available forage and applied proportionately to livestock or wildlife based on their respective dietary need.

CPSWCD will be notified of all “suspension of grazing” or any action that decreases grazing on federal lands within the District’s jurisdictional boundaries. CPSWCD believes that the permittee should be given an opportunity to meet the agency dictate to reduce numbers rather than stop grazing immediately.

- **Guidance:** In various laws and grazing guidelines, Congress has often-mandated stabilization of the local livestock industry by providing for the orderly use, improvement, and development of the range in a manner which adequately safeguards vested grazing and water rights, and in a manner that will not impair the value of a grazing unit when such a right is pledged as a debt security by the permittee.

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (P.L. 86-517, June 12, 1960) as amended. Multiple use implies a sustained yield of outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed and wildlife and fish values. FLPMA sets forth the policy that federal lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of multiple resources, will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife as well as domestic animals and will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use.

- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Support opportunities for livestock grazing on private, state and federal lands. This includes advocating for the protection of equitable property rights, science-based land stewardship, and promotion of Best Management Practices for the improvement and continued use of all rangelands within the District.
2. Coordinate with the NMDGF to develop specific wildlife harvest targets (especially for introduced species), quality hunts, depredation mitigation, and future management plans to unite private/agency endeavors.
3. Coordinate with federal land management agencies to ensure federal management activities regarding wildlife and livestock grazing do not negatively impact the District’s activities designed to prevent soil erosion and ensure flood prevention. Grazing management decisions can trigger future erosion and flood issues if not carefully coordinated with the District’s plans.
4. Coordinate with federal agencies when appropriate, to set the indicator thresholds at levels suitable to maintain or achieve desired conditions for rangeland, uplands, and riparian areas. CPSWCD will advocate adjusting the thresholds when events such as drought, wildland fire, and other natural events occur.
5. Promote and coordinate water distribution system installation and infrastructure improvements to benefit all wildlife and livestock health and welfare within the CPSWCD.

6. Implement range improvements to maintain or improve soil health and water quality. Promote and coordinate other valuable and essential work that will provide a healthy environment for the beneficial use of resources that are implicit in the husbandry of wildlife and livestock endeavors.
7. Encourage private landowners to plan, develop, and implement resource management plans that meet the standards of grazing management systems through: proper stocking, deferred and rotational grazing, erosion control, control of poisonous and noxious plants, water development and distribution, and fencing.
8. Coordinate with all landowners and land managers to increase productivity of rangeland to increase and/or maintain AUMs that maximum sustainable levels on rangeland. Any grazing AUMs that are placed in a suspended use category should be returned to active use when range conditions improve.
9. Recommend that crucial or critical habitat designations consider economic impacts to the human environment, possible conflicts with other land uses, and protection of private property rights.
10. Coordinate with federal agencies on the redistribution of wildlife so that it does not impact private land.

4.2-6 THREATENED, ENDANGERED / SENSITIVE SPECIES

The keystone of good environmental stewardship lies in a healthy resource base. Endangered and threatened species, as well as all plants and all animals, depend on the intricate balance of stable ecological, economic and social functions of the immediate local community.

The Endangered Species Act (“ESA”), [Addendum Tab No. 12 at 37-59, 16 U.S.C. §§1531-1541], protects individual species of plants and animals wherever they occur when it is determined that the continued existence is threatened or endangered. [Addendum Tab No. 12a at 37, 16 U.S.C. §1533]. The ESA provides for listing of species through rule making, 16 U.S.C. §1533(a), and within a year after listing, the identification of critical habitat for the species.

Prior to making a determination whether a species is threatened or endangered, the federal agency is required to take into account “those efforts, if any, being made by any State or foreign nations, or any political subdivision of a State or foreign nation, to protect such species, whether by predator control, protection of habitat and food supply, or any other conservation practices, within any area under its jurisdiction; or on the high seas.” (16 U.S.C. 1533(b)(1)(A)) This includes a review of the Districts plans, policies and projects. The Districts plan should be reviewed in its entirety as inherent in every policy is the objective to conserve species.

Additionally, it is the policy “of the Congress that Federal agencies shall cooperate with State and local agencies to resolve water resource issues in concert with conservation of endangered species.” (16 U.S.C. 1531(c)(2)) The CPSWCD holds specific authority to manage water resources within our jurisdiction, and therefore, all actions carried out under the Endangered Species Act must be coordinated with the District to resolve any water resource issues that may arise.

Agencies are to consider the best available objective peer reviewed science when making a decision whether to list, but economic and social impacts are to be considered in the designation of critical habitat.

[Addendum Tab No. 12a at 38, 16 U.S.C. §1533(a)(3)(A)].

Critical habitat designations must take local socio-economic impacts into account. Areas may be excluded as critical habitat based upon economic impacts unless the failure to designate the area as critical habitat would result in extinction of the species. Area designations that preclude the District from carrying out its soil erosion and floodwater management projects will cause economic harm to the community and shall not be included as critical habitat unless absolutely essential to the survival of the species.

Once a species is listed, it cannot be “taken,” which is broadly defined to mean any direct harm to the species or harassment, which, in turn, includes disruption in activities or loss of critical habitat. [Addendum Tab No. 12c-ii at 59, 50 C.F.R. §17.3]. If a ‘take’ is likely to occur on private land, the landowner must secure a takings permit under Section 10 of the ESA, and often does so under a habitat conservation plan which also requires compliance with NEPA. [Addendum Tab No. 12c at 59]

The ESA is the basis for several planning mechanisms:

- Recovery plans for listed species that set population and viability goals and define when a species might be eligible for delisting;
- Reintroduction plans, which govern introductions of listed species as part of a recovery effort;
- Habitat conservation plans which allow land uses on private lands to go forward even when a ‘take’ of a listed species may occur; mitigation of adverse effects is usually part of the plan;
- Conservation plans or agreements, often between states and USFWS, adopt management actions to avoid listing the species;
- Candidate conservation agreements, under which a landowner commits private land to management for the species, may also have ‘safe harbor’ provisions that assure that the landowner need not take any additional mitigation measures if the species is listed.

The above plans and agreements require some form of NEPA process, which requires coordination with the District.

The following species have been listed within the jurisdictional boundaries of CPSWCD but does not preclude the 37 listed species specific to New Mexico and the targeted multi-species mega settlement list that may affect the District’s customs and culture. The status of any listed species must be known and all additions or removals must be coordinated with the District.

Yellow Billed Cuckoo - *Torrance, Lincoln, Socorro and Valencia Counties* - The yellow-billed cuckoo is protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The western population of the yellow-billed cuckoo, an insect-eating bird found in riparian woodland habitats, winters in South America and breeds in western North America. The major threat to yellow-billed cuckoos has been loss of riverside habitat. The final listing rule became effective November 3, 2014.

FWS’s next step is the designation of critical habitat for the species and development of a recovery plan.

Comment/Expectations: In order to meet the District’s statutory responsibilities, CPSWCD must be notified and coordinated with on all decisions.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout - Lincoln County - According to the FWS, the historic range of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) cannot be known with certainty, but it is probable the subspecies occupied the colder reaches of streams in the mountainous portions of the Rio Grande, Canadian, and Pecos River drainages in New Mexico and Colorado. The RGCT is designated as a species of greatest conservation need by New Mexico Game and Fish Department accord unintended consequences to the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (NMDGF 2006) and is managed as a protected species under Chapter 17 NMSA. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entered into a Conservation Agreement with New Mexico and Colorado in 2013.

RGCT have hybridized with nonnative salmonids in many areas, reducing the genetic integrity of this subspecies. As such, hybridization is clearly recognized as having a strong influence upon RGCT status.

The RGCT was petitioned for federal listing in 1998. The petition was found to be "not substantial." This decision was contested and a **subsequent court settlement** required completion of a status review and decision whether the species warranted federal candidate status. On June 11, 2002, the FWS published the "Candidate status review for Rio Grande cutthroat trout." FWS determined that the RGCT was not endangered and was not likely to become endangered in the future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and that listing as threatened or endangered was not warranted. In 2007, FWS announced a candidate status review for RGCT to be consistent with the new framework for analyzing "significant portion of its range" and to incorporate new information. On May 14, 2008, the FWS announced the results of the status review for RGCT under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. FWS found that listing RGCT was warranted but precluded by higher priority actions. It was assigned a listing priority of 9, on a 1-12 descending scale. **Comment/Expectations: Coordination with the District on any new decisions concerning the RGCT.**

Mexican Spotted Owl (E) - Torrance, Lincoln, Valencia and Socorro Counties - In 1993 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed the Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*; "owl") as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl was designated in 2004, comprising approximately 8.6 million acres on Federal lands in the four corner states. Within the critical habitat boundaries, critical habitat includes protected and restricted habitats as defined in the original Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, completed in 1995. The species' recovery priority number is 9C.

Two primary reasons were cited for the original listing of the Mexican spotted owl in 1993: historical alteration of its habitat as the result of timber-management practices; and, the threat of these practices continuing as evidenced in existing national forest plans. The danger of stand-replacing wildland fire was also cited as a threat at that time. Since publication of the 1995 Recovery Plan, FWS has acquired new information on the biology, threats, and habitat needs of the spotted owl. **The primary threats to its population in the U.S. has transitioned from timber harvest to an increased risk of stand-replacing wildland fire.** New Mexican forests have experienced larger and more severe wildland fires since 1995. **Comment/Expectations: To meet the District's statutory responsibilities, CPSWCD must be notified and coordinated with to insure the District's policies are considered to achieve a balance to health, safety and economics of the local communities within the BRE EMU while FWS enhances owl habitat across the landscape.**

Southwest Willow flycatcher (E) - Valencia, Socorro and Lincoln Counties -FWS assigns priority numbers ranging from 1 – 18 based upon degree of threats, recovery potential, and taxonomic distinctiveness (48 FR 43098) for each species. FWS has assigned 3C to the Southwest Willow flycatcher. A 3C indicates the threats to the species are high, the recovery potential is high, the "species" listed under the ESA is taxonomically classified as a subspecies, and conflict with economic development is possible.

The known geographical area historically occupied by both migrating and breeding flycatchers includes New Mexico. The flycatcher currently breeds in areas from near sea level to over 8,500 feet in vegetation alongside rivers, streams, or other riparian habitat. It establishes nesting territories, builds nests, and forages where mosaics

of relatively dense and expansive growths of trees and shrubs are established, generally near or adjacent to surface water or underlain by saturated soil.

The 5 Year Review synthesis states, “The flycatcher’s status has improved (due to an overall increase in known estimated territories) since the 1995 listing, but ongoing threats associated with land and water management combined with the introduction and spread of the leaf beetle create significant challenges toward downlisting or delisting and are likely to cause population declines. Much of the initial increase in known territories is likely attributed to improved survey effort (Durst *et al.* 2007, p. 4), combined with associated conservation efforts. Yet, while some specific known flycatcher populations have grown very large (i.e. Elephant Butte Reservoir along the Rio Grande), broad geographic areas, in other Recovery Units have declined.”

The 5 Year Review continues by stating that during the past five years, the newest threat to the flycatcher is the introduction and spread of the tamarisk leaf beetle. Tamarisk is an important habitat component used by the flycatcher, occurring in just over 50% of their known territories and providing shelter and food at migration stopover areas. **Comment/Expectations: CPSWCD understands that currently the flycatcher has taken advantage of the presence of tamarisk, especially where tamarisk flourishes in areas where landscape stressors impact the occurrence of native vegetation, and FWS considers the current eradication practices by water and land managers to be misguided, and FWS believes this has created opportunities for the flycatcher recovery where dam operations, agricultural practices, and other actions have helped generate large stands of tamarisk, CPSWCD also understands tamarisk is currently considered by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture as class C noxious weed. To meet the District’s statutory responsibilities, CPSWCD must be notified and coordinated with to insure the District’s policies are considered to achieved a balance to health, safety and economics of the local communities.**

NM Meadow Jumping Mouse (Mouse) (E) - Socorro and Valencia County - The New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*) was made a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act in 2008. The FWS received a petition to list the jumping mouse, which was already on the candidate list, and published its petition finding on December 10, 2008. Because the Mouse was previously identified through FWS candidate assessment process, the species had already received the equivalent of a substantial 90-day finding and a warranted, but precluded, 12-month finding. The rule became effective July 10, 2014.

FWS assigns priority numbers ranging from 1 – 18 based upon degree of threats, recovery potential, and taxonomic distinctiveness (48 FR 43098) for each species. FWS assigned a priority number of 3C which indicates a high degree of threat, with a high recovery potential. The Mouse is a subspecies, and conflict exists. The threats are high due to ongoing sources of habitat loss, degradation, and modification, including grazing pressure, water management and use (which causes vegetation loss from mowing and drying of soils), lack of water due to drought, and wildfires.

The historical distribution likely included riparian wetlands along streams in the Sangre de Cristo to central New Mexico, including the Jemez and Sacramento Mountains and the Rio Grande Valley from Espanola to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

Comment/Expectations: To meet the District’s statutory responsibilities, CPSWCD must be notified and coordinated with to insure the District’s policies are considered to achieved a balance to health, safety and economics of the local communities

Pecos Sunflower (T) - Socorro and Valencia County - According to the FWS Recovery Plan for the Pecos sunflower, little is known about the historic distribution. The Pecos sunflower was listed as threatened on October 20, 1999, with a recovery priority of 8, indicating it has a moderate degree of threat with a high potential for recovery. Pecos sunflower is a wetland plant that grows on wet, alkaline soils at spring seeps, wet meadows,

stream courses and pond margins. It has seven widely spaced populations in west-central and eastern New Mexico and adjacent Trans-Pecos Texas. These populations are all dependent upon wetlands from natural groundwater deposits. There are two distinct populations on the Pecos River in eastern New Mexico, each constituting its own region. Within the boundaries of CPSWCD the Pecos sunflower occurs at 11 spring seeps and cienegas in the Roswell/ Dexter region of the Pecos River valley. Three of these wetlands support many thousands of Pecos sunflowers, but the remainder are smaller, isolated occurrences.

Because Pecos sunflower is an annual, the number of plants per site can fluctuate greatly from year to year with changes in precipitation and depth to groundwater. Stands of Pecos sunflower can change location within the habitat as well. This sunflower is completely dependent on water-saturated soil conditions within the soil root zone. If a wetland habitat dries out permanently, even a large population of Pecos sunflower would disappear.

Comment/Expectations: CPSWCD supports voluntary conservation efforts on private land and water management plans that maximizes the sunflower population. CPSWCD does not support any new land acquisitions for this species and will coordinate with FWS on all new decisions concerning the Pecos Sunflower.

Kuenzler Hedgehog (E) Lincoln County - According to the FWS 5 year review, the Recovery Plan for *Echinocereus fendleri* var. *kuenzleri* was adopted March 28, 1985. The Recovery Plan has not been revised since adoption in 1985, when only two populations with a total of less than 500 plants were known. No critical habitat was designated due to threat of collection. However, within the past 5 years, surveys have located additional populations, increasing the overall range and abundance of the species. Although threats of grazing and fire may still exist, the increase in populations and individual numbers proportionally diminishes the impact of the threats.

The 5 year review stated “Kuenzler’s hedgehog cactus **should be proposed for reclassification from endangered to threatened**. The known range of this cactus consisted of a single population of approximately 200 individuals when listed as endangered. As such, it was perceived to be upon the brink of extinction. The most serious threat to such a small population would be the elimination of plants in the wild by commercial and hobbyist collectors. Subsequently developed information on the range and abundance of this cactus has significantly altered this perception. In reality, Kuenzler’s hedgehog cactus exists across a much broader geographic range in several populations that total several thousands of individual plants and probably exceeds the 5,000 plants required for downlisting in the recovery plan. **Comment/Expectations: CPSWCD agrees with this finding and will coordinate with FWS to downlist the Kuenzler’s hedgehog to threatened if not sensitive listing.**

Species of Concern - taxa for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve their conservation status or are considered sensitive, rare, or declining on lists maintained by Natural Heritage Programs, State wildlife agencies, other federal agencies or professional/academic scientific societies. Federal agencies include Species of Concern for planning purposes only.

New Mexico Wildlife of Concern has a total of 118 species and subspecies on the 2012 list of threatened and endangered New Mexico plants and wildlife. The list includes 2 crustaceans, 25 mollusks, 24 fishes, 6 amphibians, 15 reptiles, 32 birds, 14 mammals and several plants. New Mexico lists a species as endangered if it is in jeopardy of extinction or extirpation from the state; a species is threatened if it is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range in New Mexico. Species or subspecies of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, mollusks, and crustaceans native to New Mexico are listed as threatened or endangered under the Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA). **The following Threatened / Sensitive species are listed by the NM State Game Commission within CPWCD boundaries:** New Mexico silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria nokomis nitocris*), San Juan checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas anicia chuskae*), American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) delisted due to recovery, Black tern (*Chidonias niger*), Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*), Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Western burrowing owl (*Athene*

cunicularia hypugaea), Acoma fleabane (*Erigeron acomanus*), Parish's alkali grass (*Puccinellia parishii*), Sivinski's fleabane (*Erigeron sivinskii*). Brown Pelican (*Pelicans occidentalis*), Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*), Gray Vireo (*Bireo vicinior*), Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*), Ringtail (*Bassariscus lasiurus borealis*), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (western pop) (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*), Fringed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*), Western Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*), Oscura Mountains Colorado Chipmunk (*Tamias quadrivittatus oscuraensis*), Penasco Least Chipmunk (*Tamias minimus atristriatus*), Southwestern Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus cowlesi*), Rio Grande Chub (*Gila pandora*), Sacramento Mtn. Salamander (*Aneides hardii*), White Sands Pupfish (*Cyprinodon tularosa*), Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Spotted Bat (*Euderma maculatum*), Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*), Gunnison's prairie dog [prairie subspecies] (*Cynomys gunnisoni zuniensis*), Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*), Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), Common Ground-dove (*Columbina passerina*), Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*), Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*), and Socorro Mountainsnail (*Oreohelix neomexicana*).

- **Goal:** Participate in all decisions and proposed actions, including NEPA procedures for an Environmental Assessment ("EA") or Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"), which affect the District, regarding sensitive, threatened, or endangered species recovery plans, introduction or reintroductions, habitat conservation plans, conservation agreements or plans, or candidate conservation agreements. The matter of listing or removal of endangered species must be done on the basis of active coordination with the District.

Coordinate with all stakeholders on developing alternatives to listing, which may include conservation plans and related conservation agreements with local, state and federal agencies to address possible threats to species and their habitat and to avoid official listing.

- **Guidance:** The District will work to continuously coordinate with the USFWS for the purposes of: 1) being aware of all matters of listing that impacts its administrative boundaries and 2) allowing the District to evaluate the impact of all decisions on its water resources, economic impact and conservation measures.
- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Promote critical habitat improvement. However, there must be allowances for traditional uses such as but not limited to grazing, irrigation, and wood cutting. The actions must benefit both the endangered species and the other user's customs and culture.
2. Advocate management of the entire ecosystem, recognizing the full array of interactions within an ecosystem, including humans, rather than considering single issues, species, or ecosystem services in isolation.
3. Coordinate with the appropriate agency on any proposed introduction or transplant of threatened and endangered species within the boundaries of CPSWCD, must be coordinated with the District to ensure consistency with the Districts plans, water resource issues are resolved, and economic impacts are mitigated.

4. Coordinate with federal agencies in all decisions and proposed actions, including NEPA procedures for an Environmental Assessment (“EA”) or Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”), which affect the District, regarding sensitive, threatened, or endangered species recovery plans, introduction or re-introductions, habitat conservation plans, conservation agreements or plans, or candidate conservation agreements.
5. Recommend that proponents of protection, recovery activities, and other threatened and endangered and sensitive species programs, finance the activities, including public involvement and compensation to the affected landowners.
6. Support delisting of species once population goals set out in recovery plans are achieved.
7. Participate in appropriate legislation and regulations directing management of threatened and endangered species and state sensitive species.
7. Recommend that federal agencies respect distinctions between special status species (state sensitive species, etc.) and those listed under the ESA.

4.2-7 PREDATOR CONTROL

- **Goal:** Encourage management of predatory animals to minimize damage to private property and wildlife and protect the local economy and tax base to maximize the viability of the agricultural community.
- **Guidance:** Federal agencies are obligated to coordinate their planning processes with local government land use plans. 43 C.F.R. §1610.3-1(a). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to “discuss any inconsistency of a proposed action with any approved State or local plan and laws (whether or not federally sanctioned).

Congress intended NEPA to apply to every action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment and the thresholds of local conditions are best observed and measured by local expertise. Considering the existing climate conditions in New Mexico, the effects on the population dynamics of fauna and flora are critical to the conditions affecting the community as well as the endangered species.

- **Objective:**

The District will:

1. Support control of predators, rodents and insects, which are disease-bearing vectors that are a recognized threat to public health.
2. Reintroduction and-introduction plans should provide for compensation to livestock operators for actual value of loss, including replacement cost, including direct and incidental expenses relating to the loss, and prompt payment thereof.
3. Support predator control based on a balance between the best objective peer reviewed science available, economics, and logistics, evaluated on a case-by-case basis utilizing currently recognized methods of predator control that remain as viable options for predator control, until such time that new and

better technology offers new options.

4.2-8 INVASIVE/NOXIOUS PLANT MANAGEMENT

Invasive/Noxious species are recognized as one of the leading threats to biodiversity and impose enormous costs to agriculture (rangeland and farmland productivity) and other human enterprises, as well as to human health. CPSWCD has an invasive/noxious species control program in place as well as being a founding member of the Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA).

The term "weed" means different things to different people. In the broadest sense, it is any plant growing where it is not wanted. Weeds can be native or non native, invasive or non invasive, and noxious or not noxious. A noxious weed is any plant designated by the authorized federal or state agency as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife or property.

The District considers plants invasive/noxious if they have been introduced into an environment where they did not evolve. As a result, they usually have no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and spread. Some invasive plants can produce significant changes to vegetation, composition, structure, or ecosystem function.

- **Goal:** Provide a basis for management decisions that address invasive/noxious plant populations.
- **Guidance:** CPSWCD, authorized by New Mexico statute, strives to conserve and develop the natural resources within the administrative boundaries of the district. CPSWCD is pledged to perform various tasks including but not limited to preservation of wildlife, protecting the tax base, and promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Torrance, Lincoln, Socorro and Valencia Counties. **New Mexico Harmful Plant Act 76-7A-11 NMSA 1978; Noxious Weed Control Act 76-7-1 to 76-7-22 NMSA 1978**
- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Cooperate in noxious weed control to improve the productivity of all jurisdictional rangelands consistent with local, state and federal law and policies to eradicate noxious and invasive weeds, and to enhance native vegetation.
2. Given that early detection and rapid response is becoming a crucial aspect of CPSWCD approach to the invasive species threat. Prevention is the first-line of defense, it is the most cost-effective approach. CPSWCD will continue to implement this approach by distributing best management practices to CPSWCD landowners to prevent or mitigate invasive species establishment or movement.
3. CPSWCD will continue working with Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) to increase local and area awareness of weed related issues.
4. Coordinate with the NM Department of Transportation's local District concerning invasive species management on highway right-of-ways.
5. CPSWCD will continue to search for funding to map and monitor invasive species within Central NM CWMA boundaries.

4.2-9 WILDFIRE

In New Mexico the notion of what constitutes a “large” wildfire has grown substantially over the past decade. Since 2000 the size of the largest fire recorded in New Mexico has more than quintupled. Wildfire severity is increasing and fires are spreading at unprecedented rates.

Wildfire is a function of fuel loads and drought. Both issues are part of the resource management aims and obligations of the District’s responsibilities. Detrimental and beneficial outcomes of fire regimes needs to be determined on the greater landscape within CPSWCD boundaries.

CPSWCD recognizes that intense wildfires harm organic material in the soils, increase soil erosion and pollute water, and cause significant damage to rangeland and forested resources, water treatment facilities, irrigation systems, and the loss of fish and wildlife habitat. When forested or rangeland areas are not managed and fuel loads build up, the wildfire managed under a “planned and unplanned” policy can lead to catastrophic consequences to the watersheds.

Planned and unplanned ignitions can achieve land and resource management goals. However, fire management should be only one tool in the restoration process and should be integrated with all other land management activities.

The Districts long term plans, policies and projects rely upon proper vegetative management on all lands, private, state and federal. Therefore, it is imperative that when the District identifies lands with excessive vegetation that increase the opportunity for wildfires, that it will coordinate with those agencies and landowners to assist in reducing the potential hazard.

- **Goal:** Encourage fire suppression in areas that threaten communities and private infrastructure. Acknowledge that fire is beneficial and support fire use where it is appropriate for the ecosystem but advocate the use in a controlled manner.
- **Guidance:** The District recognizes wildfire is a function of fuel loads and drought. Both issues are part of the resource management aims and obligations of the District’s responsibilities.

The District will:

- **Objectives**
 1. Strongly support training for all volunteer fire department members in the basics of wild land fire fighting. To accomplish this, the District will support New Mexico State Forestry Division and any other land management agency with suppression responsibilities in the training of VFD and RFD fire departments.
 2. Coordinate with federal agencies and landowners in developing policies for grazing rest prescriptions related to either wildfires or prescribed burns on a site-specific basis taking into account the needs of the vegetation and flexibility to meet the needs of the rancher, and to protect excessive soil erosion. Vegetative treatments and use of livestock grazing shall be utilized to keep fuel loads within appropriate limits.

3. Coordinate with federal agencies to ensure post-fire grazing will not be limited when monitoring and evaluation produces relevant, accurate data that demonstrates grazing will not unduly harm the range.
4. Advocate that fire should not be used to replace proper timber harvest as the primary forest management tool.
5. Assist land management agencies and District cooperators in developing plans and projects that consider the beneficial and adverse effects of wildland fire on water quality and watershed condition.
6. Assist in identifying areas where the adverse effects of unplanned wildland fire to water quality and watershed condition outweigh the benefits.
7. Promote prescribed fire plan objectives that avoid or minimize creating water-repellent soil conditions to the extent practicable considering fuel load, fuel and soil moisture levels, fire residence times, and burn intensity.
8. Assist federal land management agencies with emergency stabilization assessments of fire damage that produces hazards to life or property as needed in accordance with BAER policy (FSM 2523 and FSH 2509.13).
9. Coordinate with local, state and federal governments on post-fire rehabilitation efforts on all lands.
10. Ensure the land management agency affected by a wildland fire promptly repairs roads, trails, and other facilities damaged by suppression activities to the extent that it may adversely affect water quality for downstream users, riparian resources and local access to public lands.
11. Encourage development of vegetation treatments and use of livestock grazing to keep fuel loads within appropriate limits.
12. Promote programs that assist private landowners with defensible space such as Firewise Communities; Ready, Set, Go!, and Living With Fire.
13. Continue to support area Community Wildfire Protection Plans; Torrance, Lincoln, Socorro and Valencia County Fire Department and RFDs; and organizations like the East Mountain Interagency Fire Protection Association and Torrance County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

4.2-10 FLOOD AND STORM WATER CONTROL

- **Goal:** Support the local citizenry in the unencumbered right to protect them and their private property from floods. The District is against any administrative land designations or policies that would result in obstruction of such private property protection and / or threaten the safety of the public.

See that propose changes in land use designations by state and federal agencies are coordinated with the District to ensure that such changes do not preclude future projects that will aid in storm water management, blowing dust mitigation and the safety of the public.

- **Guidance:** 46-6-11(F)(4) NMSA."F. In determining whether a subdivider can fulfill the requirements of

Subsections B and C of this section, the board of county commissioners shall, within ten days after the preliminary plat is deemed complete, request opinions from ... (4) the soil and water conservation district to determine:

(a) whether the subdivider can furnish terrain management sufficient to protect against flooding, inadequate drainage and erosion; and

(b) whether the subdivider can fulfill the proposals contained in the subdivider's disclosure statement concerning terrain management;"

Clean Water Act (CWA) §402(p) addresses municipal and industrial (including construction) storm water discharges. US EPA is the regulatory authority for storm water permitting program in New Mexico. Surface Water Quality Bureau, NM Environment Department performs inspections on behalf of US EPA.

- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Coordinate with the counties within the District's jurisdictional boundaries pertaining to the District's statutory responsibility [46-6-11(F)(4) NMSA] on subdivision reviews.
2. Facilitate knowledge of floodplain management, erosion control, and watershed stewardship.
3. Recommend to and support the appropriate federal and state agencies responsible for the mapping and development of debris flow models, floodplain models, hydrology models within CPSWCD to keep these up-to date, accurate and complete.
4. CPSWCD expects to participate in any and all policy and funding decisions made concerning dam maintenance and safety within District boundaries.
5. Work to limit other agencies' restrictions of projects, access, and planning that would obstruct dam safety measures within the CPSWCD.
6. Coordinate with responsible agencies to assist with the capture and return all flood waters within CPSWCD to beneficial use.
7. When reviewing proposed subdivisions, recommend: historical arroyos to be defined as open space; not allow plat lots in arroyos; and not allow arroyos to be redirected or sent over roads.
8. Promote responsible septic system management.

4.2-11 WATERSHED AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Majority of New Mexico's Watershed are in an unhealthy state. This condition has reached a critical state in many watersheds, including 1) unnaturally high density of woody vegetation in some forest types, in woodlands and grasslands, and in riparian communities, 2) a degradation of biodiversity, including an increase of invasive species and noxious weeds such as salt cedar and non native thistles, and 3) fragmentation and deterioration of wildlife habitat. Results of these trends include susceptibility to catastrophic wildfire, compromised watersheds and decreased water supply, accelerated erosion, desertification, and other unwanted symptoms of ecological degradation. These unhealthy conditions have been

created over time by factors including changes in settlement patterns, disruption by human intervention of natural processes such as fire and flooding, unsustainable use, and natural climatic variations.

Healthy watersheds provide many ecosystem functions including, but not limited to: erosion / sedimentation control, increased biodiversity, soil formation, wildlife habitat, water storage, water filtration, flood control, food, timber, recreation, nutrient cycling, and carbon storage. These resources are essential to our social, environmental, and economic well-being.

Healthy watersheds are frequently undervalued when making land use decisions. Due to the complexity of natural systems and economic precedents, it is difficult to assign a dollar amount to a particular ecosystem service. However, there is a large body of research and evidence to support the fact that intact healthy watershed avoid costly restoration and provide long-term economic opportunities and jobs.

CPSWCD's forested watersheds are no longer within normal fire regimes or fire return intervals, the result of effective fire suppression, limited forest management, and possibly climatic factors. Ponderosa pine stands now burn in an intense, stand replacing manner, rather than the lower intensity fires of the past. With more intense fires there is the risk of the loss of ecosystem components such as water quality. For some landscapes, before fire can safely be returned, mechanical treatment is necessary to reduce fuels to help control fire intensity.

The District's forest and woodlands areas are primarily piñon, juniper, ponderosa pine and some dry mixed conifer. While there is no commercial logging within CPSWCD boundaries, timber is cut for firewood, post and poles, and other traditional uses. Thinning, restoration and salvage projects are warranted and critical to reduce fuel loads and improve watershed conditions.

A viable forest products industry is essential to enable effective forest management on a meaningful scale. The forest products industry is a partner in forest management, and without it, proposed management projects become quite expensive or non-existent.

- **Goal:** Support the critical need for healthy forests and watersheds that provide a reliable supply of high-quality water and other benefits for New Mexico by implementing long term, collaborative, comprehensive watershed-scale restoration projects that foster ecosystem function and resilience as well as maintain multiple use and sustained yield of forested land for forest uses.
- **Guidance:** Support 1) community-based collaboration with stake holders; 2) integration of Best Management Practices that incorporate peer-reviewed science; 3) expedited implementation of watershed and landscape restoration and enhancement projects at the site-specific and landscape levels; and 4) flexibility in authorities and programming. 5) Management should be directed towards achieving desired future conditions e.g. promoting active forest management on suitable lands across all jurisdictions to achieve an appropriate age class and structural stage distribution following established silvicultural science.
- **Objective:**

The District will:

1. Promote legislative action that will increase investments in forest restoration as well as seek opportunities to work with partners to secure funding for watershed scale forest treatments.

2. Implement forest and watershed restoration projects that restore watershed function within CPSWCD boundaries and work with neighboring SWCDs on watershed scale restoration projects.
3. Promote active management of suitable lands to achieve structurally diverse, healthy forests in order to develop more resilient forest landscapes.
4. Continue its participation with working groups like the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance and Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration & Monitoring Project.
5. Support the forest products industry use of wood by-products from forest hazardous fuel reduction projects, forest restorations projects and post fire salvage treatments.
6. Advocate management plans and budgets that result in a consistent supply of forest products.
7. Promote and support multiple entries for maintenance work in previously treated areas.
8. Coordinate with the US Forest Service in the designation/management of areas that may require single-use or restrictive-use on public lands. Single use or restrictive use creates issues such as the right to access, enter, inspect, repair and maintain interests within the designated area.
9. Support the maximum area of land possible to be excluded from single-use or restrictive-use designations, so that excluded land is available for active and sound management on public lands.
10. Participate in all efforts with the U.S. Forest Service Rule Revision process (current and future).
11. Assist with identifying areas where the adverse effects of recreational use to water quality and watershed condition outweigh the benefits.
12. Advocate that land management agencies avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to soil health, water quality, and riparian resources at motorized vehicle use areas by managing activities to maintain ground cover, maintain soil quality, and control runoff to minimize discharge of nonpoint source pollutants and maintain streambank and riparian area integrity.
13. Advocate periodic inspections of the NFS travel routes. This should be used to assess the road condition and assist in setting maintenance and improvement priorities.
14. Coordinate at the forest, watershed, and project level with the Forest Service during Travel Management Planning activities. Rather than decommissioning roads, CPSWCD will advocate down grading roads to a Level 1 which receives basic custodial maintenance focused on maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns to avoid or minimize damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future use.
15. Promote and support increasing partnerships and exchanges between federal land management agencies, natural resource agencies, local government and private forested landowners regarding the health and monitoring of the watersheds.

4.2-12 ENERGY/UTILITIES

All energy sources have some impact on our environment. Energy resources occur without regard to whether the land is private, state, or federal ownership. These resources have, and continue to, provide economic benefits for the citizens of Torrance, Lincoln, Valencia and Socorro Counties as well as the State of New Mexico.

- **Goal:** Coordinate with and participate in all planned, developed or updated energy / renewable energy projects within the District's jurisdictional boundaries. CPSWCD expectations are that all projects will not cause any direct or indirect adverse impacts to current land use within CPSWCD boundaries.
- **Guidance: Sections 73-20-25 through 73-20-48 NMSA 1978**, related to ... considered and resolved by legislative action, the purpose of the Act declared that 1) the land, waters and other natural resources are the basic physical assets of New Mexico, and their preservation and development are necessary to protect and promote the health and general welfare of the people of the state; 2) the improper use of land and related natural resources, soil erosion, and water loss result in economic waste in New Mexico through the deterioration of the state's natural resources, and; 3) appropriate corrective and conservation practices and programs must be encouraged and executed in New Mexico to conserve and develop beneficially the soil, water and other natural resources of the state.

- **Objectives**

The District will:

1. Coordinate and consult with federal agencies on all *Energy Policy Act of 2005 Section 368. Energy Right-of-Way Corridors on Federal Lands* designations within District boundaries.
2. Encourage coordination between the energy developer and relevant local, state, and federal agencies during all phases of the development of an energy project.
3. Coordinate with the appropriate agencies and energy developers to avoid locating energy facilities/transmission lines in areas identified as having a demonstrated high risk to wildlife, water resources, historical sites and agriculture land uses.
4. Promote wise use of any energy source that develops within CPSWCD boundaries.
5. Discourage the use of informal policies or unofficial classifications by federal agencies to withhold high energy potential areas from leasing or development.
6. Promote limited corridor disturbance, particularly in or near riparian zones, surface waters, shallow groundwater, unstable areas, hydric soils, or wetlands.
7. Coordinate with appropriate land managers to ensure that pipelines corridors, transmission lines, facilities, and other rights-of-ways are properly maintained to minimize soil and natural resource damage.
8. Require reclamation actions that ensure site-specific reclamation plans are appropriate for the soils, vegetation, and climate. Ensure the disturbed sites are immediately stabilized to conserve soil. Ensure

that interim vegetation is planted to hold soils, including the use of sterile, nonnative seeds, and that the final reclamation is done on disturbed areas by using native species when seeding or planting.

9. Avoid introduction and spread of non-native invasive species by the energy contractors by requiring the contractors to follow CPSWCD policies for non-native invasive/noxious plant control. Contractors should inspect and clean their vehicles and equipment arriving from areas with known invasive species issues. Energy contractors should use locally sourced topsoil when applicable and monitor for and rapidly remove non-native invasive/noxious weeds at least annually.
10. Coordinate with all counties within CPSWCD's jurisdictional boundary on developing best management practices and ordinances for abandoned renewable energy facilities.

4.2-13 SPECIAL LAND DESIGNATIONS

Special Land Use designations can prevent the District from carrying out necessary soil erosion and flood control projects, among other duties, that are necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people within and outside our jurisdiction. It is imperative that prior to any federal, state or local agency making special land use designation that they first coordinate with the District to resolve conflicts with District plans, reach consistency between the plans, and develop mitigation measures where appropriate. It is critical that the District is not prevented today or in the future from implementing essential projects that will protect the growing population within and surrounding the District. Especially those changes that are done beyond congressional action, produce unintended consequences, and affect the threat to and net sum loss of multiple use lands, must be known and discussed with the District and be a matter of public record in District meeting minutes.

Wilderness designation will prohibit or hinder needed vegetation and watershed treatment.

Wilderness management prohibits the use of mechanical equipment as well as motorized equipment of any kind. Vegetation and watershed treatments are more effectively performed using modern day equipment. Wilderness areas are not intensively managed, so fire suppression is rarely undertaken.

While livestock grazing may continue, grazing management is difficult and expensive due to limits on access and use of motorized equipment and agency resistance to range improvements or increases in livestock numbers.

- **Goal: Coordinate with federal agencies on all efforts to inventory and / or change** land use classifications. These include, but are not limited to Wilderness Characteristics, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, National Monuments and Historical Site recommendations.

Only those areas that meet the specific definition of wilderness as set forth in the Wilderness Act shall be considered as having Wilderness Characteristics in the inventory process.

Areas contiguous with lands that already have been identified as having wilderness potential, or are set aside for conservation through conservation easements or other such instruments will not be considered as candidates for special designation because such designations would create too large of an area inaccessible for future soil erosion and flood control measures. Such areas include:

1. Designated Wilderness
2. BLM Wilderness Study Areas

3. USFWS areas proposed for Wilderness Designation
4. USFS Wilderness Study Areas or areas of Recommended Wilderness
5. National Park Service areas Recommended or proposed for Designation
6. Lands with Conservation Easements or similar restrictive devices
7. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
8. National Monuments
9. Lands with Formal Critical Habitat
10. Any roadless island of the public lands.

As a part of the inventory process, a multiple use check list will be developed to document all productive uses of the areas being considered, which will include livestock grazing, mining, timber production, recreation, hunting and other uses of the lands that fulfill the multiple use objective required of Congress in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. These multiple uses contribute to the economic well-being of the District. The producers that utilize these lands are essential to the District to help implement soil erosion and flood control projects. Without these producers, the District will be unable to put in place the necessary programs to protect the communities' water resources. As a result, it is the policy of the CPSWCD that where an area exhibits significant "multiple-use" characteristics, they will be excluded from consideration of special land use designation.

- **Goal:** Coordinate with federal agencies that use land use classifications to establish new de facto wilderness management areas outside of the already-identified wilderness study areas in CPSWCD. The District deems it essential to be aware and to be an active coordinating participant in all anticipated land designation changes.
- **Guidance:** Federal law, particularly FLPMA, requires federal agencies to coordinate plans, programs and management activities with local governmental entities. Natural resource management as set forth in the Act dictates protections for local customs and culture through the tax base.
- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Uphold the legal requirements and qualifications set forth in FLPMA, including those providing for the continuation of existing uses in wilderness study areas.
2. Review current wilderness recommendations on the impacts on natural resource-based industries, the economic stability, the custom and culture of the citizens of CPSWCD, the ability to develop water resources and to intensively manage rangeland resources.
3. Recommend the release of wilderness study areas that were not recommended for wilderness from non-impairment management and push for an end to the informal de facto wilderness management of other "study areas."
4. Ensure that a wilderness designation does not affect state authority over water resources and that New Mexico's substantive and procedural laws controlling appropriation and allocation of water resources remain the primary authorities governing the waters in the District regardless of wilderness designation. Advocate that the determination of a wilderness designation does not create a reserved water right.

5. Protect any interests in ditches, reservoirs or water conveyance facilities and easements or rights-of-way associated with those interests from impairment or diminution by any wilderness or other special use designations.
6. Reaffirm that the rights to access, enter, inspect, repair and maintain those interests are not affected by any future wilderness designation, including the use of mechanized vehicles and equipment for repairs and maintenance of such facilities.

4.2-14 Visual Resources

Visual resources in CPSWCD are a composite of landforms, human and animal life forms, water features, cultural features, terrain, geologic features and vegetative patterns which create the visual environment. These visible physical features are important to the landscape and the scenic quality of Torrance, Lincoln, Socorro and Valencia Counties.

Visual resource management or VRM is defined by the BLM based on naturalness, scenic qualities and permitted land uses. BLM recognizes four classes, with Classes I and II having the greatest values. The planning process first inventories the viewshed or scenic qualities. Class I is a natural landscape such as a national wilderness area or ACEC with scenic qualities. Classes II through IV are inventoried based on scenic quality, sensitivity (land use), and distance. These three factors are evaluated in light of land uses permitted under the land use plan. The combined evaluation leads to the designation of VRM classes.

There is a risk that BLM land use plans will use VRM classes to restrict land uses, rather than having the VRM class reflect the permitted land uses. When that occurs, the VRM classes may restrict livestock grazing or energy development by managing the viewshed to be natural or like wilderness, even though the land use plan otherwise permits energy development and livestock grazing. VRM classifications should be narrowly tailored to reflect previous and current land use decisions and appropriate land uses.

The VRM classifications should also take into account the Districts current and future soil erosion and flood control plans to ensure federal restrictions do not harm the health and safety of the community.

All inventories of VRM's shall be done in coordination with the District as required by federal statute (43 U.S.C.A. 1712(c)(9)) and consistency must be reached with the Districts plans to prevent harm to the citizens.

- **Goal:** Support the protection of the visual resource while maintaining economic stability and the underlying land use allocations. Protect private land uses and state land rights and federal land use allocations by adjusting VRM classifications to be consistent with the land uses.
- **Guidance:** VRM classifications should be narrowly tailored to reflect previous and current land use decisions and appropriate land uses.
- **Objectives:**
 1. Coordinate with local, state and federal planning actions that affect the visual resource and VRM classifications that affect land uses.

4.2-15 RIPARIAN HABITAT

To have a coordinated working relationship with federal, tribal and state agencies, the District understands that each agency has its own definition for each ecosystem. For example, BLM describes riparian areas as those terrestrial areas where the vegetation complex and micro climate conditions are products of the combined presence and influence of perennial and/or intermittent water, associated high water tables and soils which exhibit some wetness characteristics.

The District defines riparian areas as zones bordering lakes, reservoirs, springs and seeps, wet meadows, vernal pools, and perennial streams. They are of prime importance to water quality, water quantity, stream stability, and fisheries and wildlife habitat. Abundant water, forage, and habitat attract a proportionately greater amount of use and conflict than their small area would indicate.

In New Mexico, channelization has severely limited, and in most cases eliminated the water/land relationship that would normally have allowed the establishment of riparian vegetation along the river corridors which in turn supports healthy wetland systems. Instead there are degraded banks (that result in severe soil erosion and sediment build up in rivers and reservoirs) and the loss of habitat for fisheries, waterfowl and wildlife.

- **Goal:** To promote local partners that will maintain, restore, improve, and protect riparian areas to prevent soil erosion and flooding with the goal of maximizing their productivity, biological diversity, and sustainability.
- **Guidance:** Riparian ecosystems support a greater diversity of plants and animals than upland habitats. A significant percentage of all wildlife in the Southwest uses riparian habitat (Thomas et al. 1979, Johnson et al. 1977).

Dick-Peddie (1993) classified riparian habitats in New Mexico into: 1) Montane Riparian, 2) Floodplain - Plains Riparian, and 3) Xeric Riparian habitat types. Montane riparian habitats are found along mountain streams and rivers within New Mexico. Floodplain-Plains riparian communities occur along the major rivers of New Mexico. Xeric riparian communities are linear strands except for playa types and greasewood flats.

Due to a variety of riparian habitats within the District boundaries, CPSWCD strongly supports the *New Mexico Non-Native Phreatophyte/Watershed Management Plan*. The District understands that the riparian lands in New Mexico have been seriously affected by the infestation of non-native phreatophytes and other non-native invasive species.

CPSWCD adheres to the coordination as provided under Section 8 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 for riparian areas and wetlands under the jurisdiction of a federal agency.

- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Implement projects that promote the perpetuation and enhancement of riparian habitat. Participate in a coordinated approach with federal, state and local jurisdictional agencies when establishing riparian

and upland management plans that includes consideration of the Districts soil erosion and flooding policies.

2. When implementing a riparian project the District will strive to establish desired conditions, goals, and objectives for soil and riparian resources that contribute to the overall sustainability of social, economic, and ecological systems within the project area.
3. Plan to limit surface disturbance to the extent practicable while still achieving project objectives.
4. Ensure that planned chemical use projects conform to all applicable local, State, Federal, and agency laws, regulations, and policies.
5. Promote conservation practices that minimize runoff and protect the soil surface by the establishment of permanent vegetative cover around riparian areas and next to all ditches, drainages, and streams to filter runoff and provide some wildlife cover.
6. Promote the use of natural stabilization processes consistent with stream type and capability where practicable rather than structures when restoring damaged stream banks or shorelines.
7. Educate the value of balanced watershed management which includes riparian habitat.
8. Promote BMPs for pile burning / slash disposal in the riparian zone to minimize effects on soil, water quality, and riparian resources if no practical alternatives are available.
9. Coordinate with land managers / owners when establishing riparian and upland management plans and encourage the use of the NM Non-Native Phreatophyte/Watershed Management Plan's Best Management Practices.

4.2-16 MINERAL, MINING AND EXTRACTION OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CPSWCD believes that the prudent use of natural resources should be an important engine for sustainable economic growth that contributes to sustainable development and poverty reduction, but if not managed properly, can create negative economic and social impacts.

Although reclamation is usually thought of as the final step in managing mineral operations, reclamation measures must be considered during project planning; included in the approved plan, permit, or other authorization; and implemented during operations, as well as closure, to reduce potential resource impacts and facilitate the final reclamation effort.

Through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Department of the Interior has the primary role in issuing mineral leases and permits and supervising operations for many mineral activities on federal lands.

- **Goal:** Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to soil health, surface water, groundwater, and riparian resources during production, operations, and reclamation activities for minerals exploration, reclaim minerals exploration, upland mineral sites, and sand and gravel deposits.

- **Guidance:** The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department registers all mines including sand and gravel mines [NMSA 1978, §§ 95A4D, 69516, 6961, 69111 through 69113, 69123, 69 124, 69261 through 69263, and 69273].

19.2.5 NMAC, Relating to leases and permits for various construction materials on State Trust Lands.

- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Advocate the use of suitable measures to provide surface drainage and manage runoff from all work areas in a manner that avoids or minimizes pollutant contamination of surface waters or groundwater.
2. Coordinate with the appropriate agency to identify suitable measures to avoid impacts to waterbodies, riparian areas, and wetland habitats through appropriate location, design, operation, and reclamation requirements.
3. Advocate that all proposed projects will identify suitable interim and post-project surface water and groundwater monitoring where needed to detect adverse changes at the earliest practicable time, and develop appropriate changes in operations.
4. Coordinate with the appropriate agency or developer to plan operations at the site in advance to minimize disturbance area and more effectively and efficiently open and operate the site.
5. Coordinate with businesses to ensure gravel and sand operations are conducted in such a manner as to avoid or minimize the production and transport of fugitive dust from the site.
6. Work with BLM to require appropriate contingency plans to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to surface and ground waters.
7. Advocate that sand and gravel extraction activities be conducted in such a manner as to minimize the potential for slope failures, limit slope steepness and length, limit disturbed areas to those actively used for extraction, retain existing vegetation as long as possible, and require progressive reclamation of the site.

4.2-17 TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The roads within the District are hugely important. Roads are not random and arbitrary and have been placed and or engineered on the basis of accessing points of water and accompanying infrastructure, watershed maintenance, farm to market links, residential development, points of interest, outdoor pursuits, public utilities, mineral and or gravel deposits, private and public rights-of-way, health and human safety networks, communication links, administrative demarcations, and range assessments.

Such widespread networks include but are not limited to trails, two tracks, maintained gravel roads, unimproved gravel roads, surfaced roads, and ways of all sorts that accommodate the customs and culture of the landscape as well as support the current and future economy and security of the District as a whole.

Travel management is a critical concern and cannot be arbitrarily altered, modified, expanded or halted without input and assessment of the macro needs of the constituents of the District and the governing board.

CPSWCD advocates all Federal, State and local governments to adhere to all applicable laws and customs governing the management, maintenance, and perpetuation of the network of roads, trails and Off Highway Vehicle areas within the District. CPSWCD expects changes will not be arbitrary and shall adhere to established rules governing transparency and decision making.

- **Goal:** Coordinate at the regional, watershed, and project level with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service during Travel Management Planning activities.
- **Guidance:** The Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976, Multiple-Use, Sustained Yield Act of 1960, National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, The Mining Act of 1866 (most specifically Section 8 thereof), various policy manuals and the Soil and Water Conservation Act of 1977 require adherence to local land use planning for matters affecting the health, safety, welfare, and tax base of the district citizenry. This is a general matter that reflects the statutory requirement to prevent the economic disruption and harm to the local customs and culture of the District.

Among other things, the Wilderness Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-577) generally prohibits the use of motor vehicles in wilderness. The law contains special provisions for motor vehicle use when required in emergencies or as necessary for the administration of the area. Motor vehicles may also be permitted for special uses such as access to private inholdings, to support grazing, or to exercise valid existing rights.

- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Advocate that all established roads are maintained or even enhanced.
2. Support community based coordination with stakeholders.
3. Advocate that all decisions for travel management are on the basis of local plans and historical use of the road.
4. Coordinate at the forest, watershed, and project level with the Forest Service during Travel Management Planning activities. Rather than decommissioning roads, CPSWCD advocates down grading roads to a Forest Service Level 1 category which receives basic custodial maintenance. The focus should be on maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns to avoid or minimize damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future use.
5. Work with BLM to follow its Travel Management priorities which state “Comprehensive travel management planning should address all resource use aspects, including recreational, traditional, casual, agricultural, commercial, and educational. As such, this involves more than motorized or off-highway vehicle activities, and includes the travel needs for all BLM administered resource management programs for such purposes of mineral extraction, energy production, livestock grazing, wild-life enhancement projects and recreation.

6. Expect the Forest Service and BLM to address travel needs for private inholdings, grazing permittees, industry, and state and local administrative actions that require access to public lands.

4.2-18 AIR QUALITY

The New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau (NMED-AQB) enforces air pollution regulations and sets guidelines to attain and maintain the national and state ambient air quality standards within the State of New Mexico, except for tribal lands and Bernalillo County which maintain separate jurisdictions.

Smoke from wildland fire is a significant source of air pollution in New Mexico. It can pose potential risks to health, visibility, safety, and general become a nuisance problem. Land managers, fire managers, and air resource specialists need to address these issues when and where appropriate to minimize smoke impacts to public health and welfare.

The District contains ecosystems that have substantially departed from natural fire regimes. Decades of aggressive wildfire suppression plus the lack of land management has given rise to ecosystems with unnaturally heavy fuel accumulations and the proliferation of invasive species both of which have more recently contributed to unnaturally large and severe wildfires.

Public exposure to smoke is a concern because a large proportion of wildland fire smoke emissions is fine particulate matter that can penetrate to the deepest parts of the lungs. Weather, climate, and air quality monitoring data should be used by fire managers to customize smoke management techniques as needed. The 2012 National Forest Planning Rule requires forests and grasslands to consider air quality when developing plan components and to treat air resources similar to soil and water resources.

The District can also experience problems with blowing dust. The dust generated by wind, drought conditions, and unpaved roads, can be extensive but mostly is marginal and site specific. The District is committed to protecting its air resources.

- **Goal:** Coordinate with federal, state and local governments on projects that reduce, eliminate, or mitigate site-specific degradation of air quality.
- **Guidance:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets standards for particulate pollution, and the New Mexico Environment Department is responsible for monitoring and enforcing those standards. Air Quality Control Act, NMSA 1978, sections 74-2-1 et seq.
- **Objectives:**

The District will:

1. Coordinate with the New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau to resolve air quality issues that affect landowners within the district boundaries and ensure landowners have the right to farm, ranch, and other related agriculture endeavors that may affect air quality.
2. Coordinate with state and federal agencies on any new regulations that affect agricultural practices and production plus work with the NM Environment Department to insure the District's policies are considered.

3. Encourage land managers and landowners to seek technical assistance to mitigate surface disturbance to facilitate soil conservation and the reestablishment of native or other desired vegetation.
4. Participate, as appropriate, in any local, state, regional and federal land planning processes that influence the management of and monitoring of air resources in the District.
5. Promote air quality compliance programs that address all the causal factors affecting air quality.

A Continuing Process . . .

The District recognizes that this Plan is dynamic and adaptive and will be updated as needed. It will require the cooperation, work and dedication of many District residents and partners. The ongoing planning will include consideration of historic, current and future land uses in CPSWCD. This Land Use Plan shall be the basis for enforcing FLPMA and NFMA consistency requirements for public land management.

Land and natural resources are essential to local industry and residents. It is the policy of the District that the design and development of all federal and state land dispositions and acquisitions, including boundary adjustments or land exchanges, be carried out for the benefit of individual property owners and to the benefit of the citizens of CPSWCD.

REFERENCES:

1. Soil and Water Conservation District Act (2009)
2. Desert Land Act of 1877
3. Carey Act of 1894
4. National Irrigation Act of 1902
5. The Reclamation Act of 1905
6. Antiquities Act of 1906
7. Stock-Raising Homestead Act of 1916
8. General Exchange Act of 1922
9. Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926
10. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934
11. Taylor Grazing Act of 1934
12. Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935
13. Bankhead-Jones Act of 1937
14. Mineral leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947
15. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954
16. Townsite Act of 1958
17. Multiple-Use, Sustained Yield Act of 1960
18. Food and Agriculture Act of 1962
19. Wilderness Act of 1964
20. Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965
21. Water Resources Planning Act of 1965
22. Community Planning and Resource Development-Soil Surveys 1966
23. Noxious Plant Control Act of 1968
24. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
25. Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970
26. Water Bank Act of 1970
27. Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970
28. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1971
29. Rural Development Act of 1972
30. Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973
31. Endangered Species Act of 1973
32. Disaster Relief Act of 1973
33. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
34. Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act, 1976
35. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
36. Energy Research and Development Administration Act of 1977
37. Food and Agriculture Act of 1977
38. Soil and Water Conservation Act of 1977
39. Clean Water Act of 1977
40. Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978
41. Water Research and Development Act of 1978
42. Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978

And, others notwithstanding the ongoing nature of this Plan

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Claunch Pinto
Soil and Water Conservation District

LAND USE PLAN

Revised

August 5, 2016

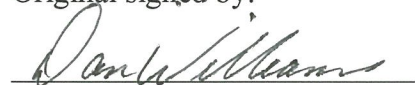
CPSWCD Board of Supervisors

Original signed by:



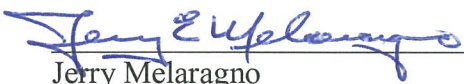
Felipe Lovato, Jr.
Chairman

Original signed by:



Dan Williams
Member

Original signed by:



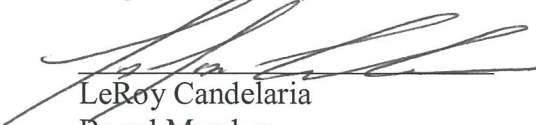
Jerry Melaragno
Secretary/Treasurer

Original signed by:



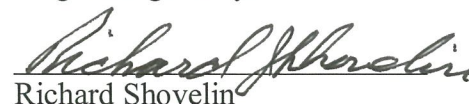
Larry Gomez
Board Member

Original signed by:



LeRoy Candelaria
Board Member

Original signed by:



Richard Shovelin
Board Member

Original signed by:



William Caster
Board Member

State of New Mexico

County of Torrance

This instrument was acknowledged before me on August 5, 2016 by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Jerry Melaragno, Dan Williams, Larry Gomez, LeRoy Candelaria, Richard Shovelin and William Caster as Board of Supervisors of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District.



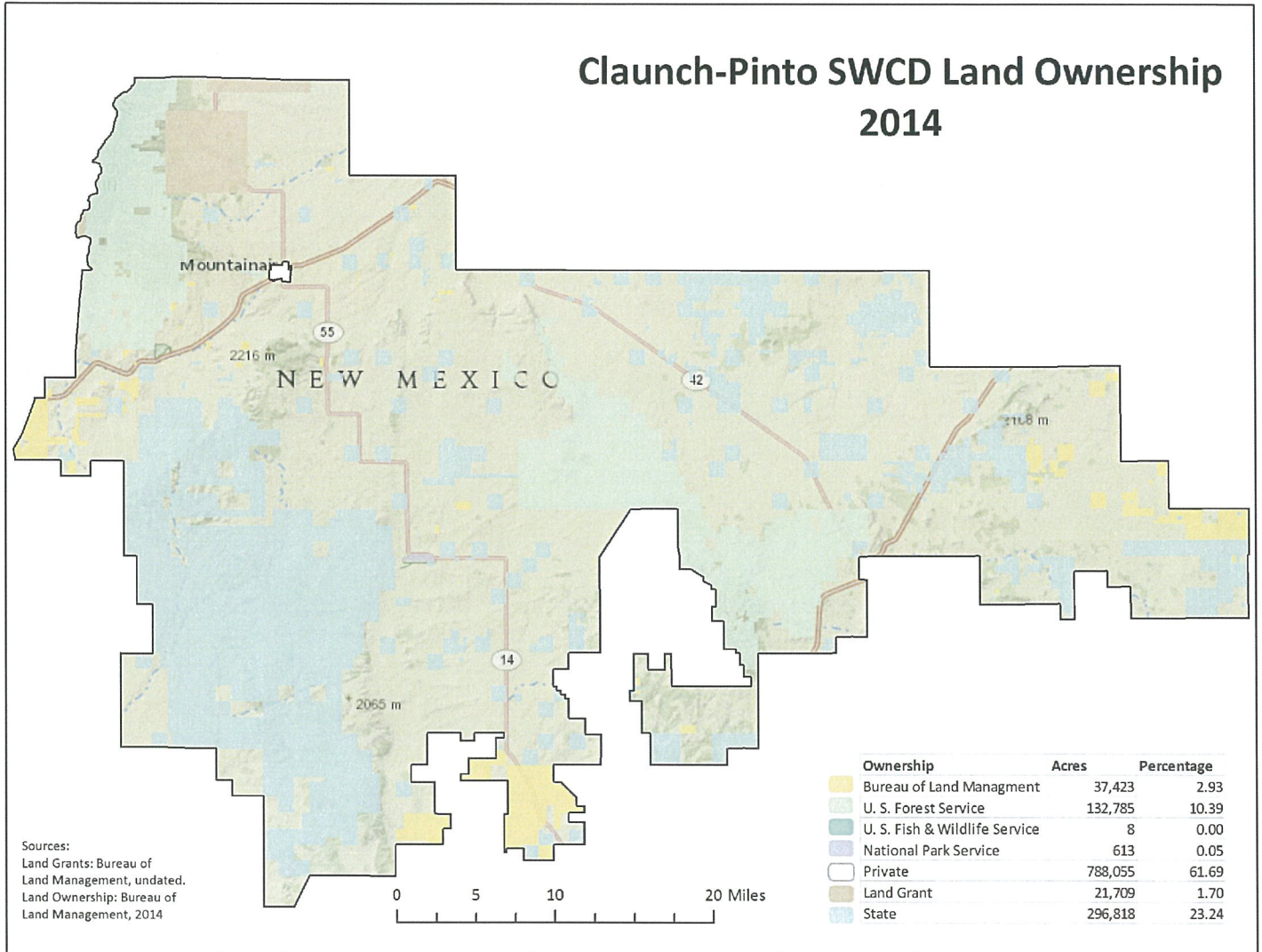
Dierdre L. Tarr

Dierdre L. Tarr, Notary Public

My Commission Expires: April 28, 2017

APPENDIX A

Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District Map - Land Status



APPENDIX B

Claunch Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District Legal Description:

Beginning at a point in Lincoln county at the northeast corner of S28, T1S, R15E: thence west 1 mile, north 1 mile, west 5 miles, and north 3 miles to the Lincoln-Torrance county line at the northwest corner of Section 3, T1S, R14E. Thence west along the county line 7 miles, south 5 miles, west 2 miles, south 1 mile, west 5 miles and south 6 miles to the southeast corner of Section 31, T2S, R12E. Thence west 2 miles, south 1 mile, west 5 miles, north 2 miles, west $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, north 2 miles, west $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, north $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and east $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of S14, T2S, R10E. Thence north $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles, east 1 mile, south 1 mile, east 1 mile, north 1 mile, east $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and south 2 miles to the south quarter corner of S8, T2S, R11E. Thence east 5 miles to the south quarter corner of S7, T2S, R12E; north $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, west $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, north $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, west $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, north $\frac{3}{4}$ miles and west $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the south quarter corner of S36, T1S, R11E. Thence north $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, west $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, north $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles and west $\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the southwest corner of S23, T1S, R11E. Thence north 1 mile, east $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, north 1 mile, and west $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the northeast corner of S15, T1S, R11E. Thence north $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and northwest approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the center of S10, T1S, R11E. Thence north $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and northwest approximately 1 mile to the northwest corner of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of S4, T1S, R11E. Thence west $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, north $\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the Torrance county line at the northwest corner of S4, T1S, R11E. Thence continuing north into Torrance county 3 miles, and west 3 miles to the northwest corner of S24, T1N, R10E. Thence southwest approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Torrance-Lincoln county line at the southwest corner of S34, T1N, R10E. Thence south into Lincoln county 6 miles to the southwest corner of S34, T1S, R10E. Thence west 2 miles to the Socorro county line at the northwest corner of S5, T2S, R10E; thence south along the county line 1 mile, west 1 mile, and south 1 mile to the southwest corner of S7, T2S, R10E. Thence east $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, south $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, east $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, south $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, east $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, south $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, east $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, and south $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the southeast corner of S18, T2S, R10E, which point is on the Socorro-Lincoln county line, Thence south along the county line 1 mile, east 1 mile, south 1 mile, east 1 mile, south 2 miles, and west 2 miles to the Socorro-Lincoln county line at the northwest corner of S8, T3S, R10E. Thence continuing west into Socorro county 1 mile, south 1 mile and east $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the south quarter corner of S7, T3S, R10E. Thence southeast approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the south quarter corner of S17, T3S, R10E, thence south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, east $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, west 1 mile, south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, east 1 mile, south $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and west 1 mile to the Socorro county line at the southwest corner of S32, T3S, R10E. Thence continuing west into Socorro county 1 mile, south 1 mile, west 2 miles, north $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, west 1 mile, south $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, west $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, north $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles and east $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the southeast corner of S21, T3S, R9E. Thence north 2 miles, west 3 miles, north $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, east $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, north 1 mile, east $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles, north $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile, east $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, north $\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and west $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the northwest corner of S32, T2S, R9E.

Thence south ½ mile, west 1 mile, north ½ mile, west 2 miles, south 2 miles, west 1 mile and south 1 mile to the southwest corner of S10, T3S, R8E; thence east 1 ½ miles, south 2 miles, east 1 mile, south 1 mile, west ½ mile and south 1 mile to the southeast corner of S35, T3S, R8E. Thence west 3 miles, south 2 miles, and west 5 miles to the northwest corner of S15, T4S, R7E; thence southwest approximately 2 miles to the southwest corner of S21, T4S, R7E. Thence west 2 miles, north 7 miles, west 2 miles, north 1 mile, west 1 mile, north 2 miles, and west 6 miles to the southwest corner of S34, T2S, R5E. Thence north 6 miles, east 2 miles, north 3 miles, west 1 mile and north 3 miles to the Torrance county line at the northeast corner of S3, T1S, R5E. Thence west along the Socorro-Torrance county line approximately ¾ miles and north along the county line 6 miles to the northeast corner of S4, T1N, R5E. Thence west 2 miles, south 1 mile, west 2 miles, north 1 mile, and west 3 miles to the northwest corner of S4, T1N, R4E, which point is on the Sevilleta Grant. Thence following the east boundary of the Sevilleta Grant approximately 4 ½ miles in a northeast direction and 2/3 miles east to the northwest corner of S14, T2N, R4E. Thence north approximately 1 1/3 miles to the south boundary of the Casa Colorado Grant on the west line of S2, T2N, R4E. Thence east 2 miles, and north approximately 1 ¼ miles to the Socorro-Valencia county line. Thence continuing north along the Casa Colorado Grant line approximately 5 ½ miles to the north boundary of S6, T3N, R5E, which point is on the Valencia county – Torrance county line, and east ½ mile to the northeast corner of S6, T3N, R5E. Thence in a meandering line north along the ridge of the Manzano Mountains approximately 16 miles to the south line of S34, T6N, R5E. Thence east approximately 13 ¾ miles to the northwest corner of S1, T5N, R7E; thence south 6 miles, and east approximately 6 ¾ miles to the northeast corner of T4N, R8E. Thence south 6 miles, east 30 miles to the northeast corner of T3N, R13E; thence south 6 miles and east 12 miles to the Guadalupe county line at the northeast corner of T2N, R15E. Thence south 6 miles, east 3 miles, south 3 miles, and east 5 miles to the southeast corner of S17, T1N, R17E. Thence south 7 miles, west 7 ½ miles, north 2 miles, and west 1 ½ miles to the southwest corner of S12, T1S, R15E. Thence north 1 mile, west 2 miles, and south 3 miles, to the northeast corner of S28, T1S, R15E, which was the point of beginning.

All lands lying within incorporated areas in the District will be excluded.

CLAUNCH-PINTO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LAND USE PLAN

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AML	Appropriate Management Level
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
AUM	Animal Unit Month
BLM	United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
DPC	Desired Plant Communities
EA	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act or the “BLM ORGANIC ACT”
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
FWS	United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service