



## Summary of BLM Alternatives

### No Action Alternative:

This required alternative continues the current management direction and prevailing conditions derived from existing planning documents. Goals and objectives for resources and resource uses addressed in the FMG RMPA/EIS are based on the applicable portions of the 2003 RMP, along with associated amendments, activity and implementation level plans, and other management decision documents. Laws, regulations, and BLM policies that supersede RMP decisions would apply.

The goals and objectives for BLM-managed surface lands and federal mineral estate would not change. Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions pertaining to such activities as mineral leasing and development, vegetation management, lands with wilderness characteristics, and LUAs would also remain the same. The BLM would not modify existing or establish additional criteria to guide the identification of site-specific use levels for implementation. Accordingly, the No Action Alternative does not apply any stipulations or closures around the CCNHP boundary or Chacoan roads and outliers.

### Alternative A:

This alternative focuses on managing and enhancing habitats in the BLM decision area. It emphasizes enhancing ecological systems and maintaining or improving the resiliency of ecosystems. To achieve this desired future condition, Alternative A integrates adaptive management and prioritizes natural and nonrenewable resource programs. Goals and objectives focus on environmental outcomes achieved by sustaining relatively unmodified physical landscapes and natural resource values.

This alternative would establish the greatest number and extent of specific measures designed to support natural ecosystems. Vegetation communities would be managed to create a diverse and resilient ecosystem. The BLM would manage all lands with wilderness characteristics to protect those characteristics as a priority over other multiple uses. Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions placed on fluid mineral leasing and land use authorizations would focus on minimizing impacts on natural resources.

In addition, the BLM would close to leasing a 2-mile zone around the Chaco Culture National Historical Park (CCNHP) boundary and would apply a no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation from miles 2 through 4 outside of the CCNHP boundary.

### Alternative B:

This alternative (and its sub-alternatives) emphasizes to a differing degree the preservation and protection of the Chacoan and cultural landscapes unique to northern New Mexico. Management priority under this alternative is given to protecting cultural properties and paleontological resources. Management direction would recognize and expand existing uses and would accommodate new uses, consistent with protecting the Chacoan and cultural landscapes in the BLM decision area. The BLM would manage all lands with wilderness characteristics to protect those characteristics as a priority over other multiple uses.

Vegetation communities would be managed to enhance the unique landscapes, while sustaining and increasing native vegetation communities. The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses (such as mineral leasing and rights-of-way) would emphasize protection of the natural and cultural landscape and associated viewshed and soundscape. Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions would emphasize social and cultural resources, while mitigating impacts on land health.

This alternative has two sub-alternatives that apply only to oil and gas leasing management around the CCNHP boundary, specifically leasing closures or NSO stipulations. The sub-alternatives vary in miles



closed to fluid mineral leasing but both closures include the Chacoan outliers of Pueblo Pintado and Kin Bineola.

<b>Sub Alternative</b>	<b>Stipulation</b>
B1	Closed to fluid mineral leasing from miles <b>0 to 10</b> around the CCNHP boundary.
B2	Closed to fluid mineral leasing from miles <b>0 to 15</b> around the CCNHP boundary.

## **Alternative C:**

This alternative (and its six sub-alternatives) focuses on a strategy that balances community needs and development, while enhancing land health. It places a particular emphasis on the Tribal and local perspective of the landscape and facilitates resource development, while minimizing impacts on the traditional, historical, socioeconomic, and cultural lifeways of the planning area. Goals and objectives focus on socioeconomics, human health and environment, cultural uses, communities, recreation opportunities, and tourism.

The BLM would emphasize other multiple uses as a priority over protecting wilderness characteristics in all units of lands with wilderness characteristics. Vegetation communities would be managed to facilitate traditional and historical uses of the vegetation, while allowing for resource development. The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses would emphasize resource use without disrupting surrounding communities.

The sub-alternatives for BLM Alternative C apply only to oil and gas leasing management around the CCNHP boundary, specifically leasing closures or NSO stipulations, as follows:

<b>Sub Alternative</b>	<b>Stipulation</b>
C1	NSO stipulation from <b>miles 0 to 2</b> around the CCNHP boundary and the boundaries of Pueblo Pintado and Kin Bineola
C2	NSO stipulation from miles <b>0 to 4</b> around the CCNHP boundary and the boundaries of Pueblo Pintado and Kin Bineola
C3	NSO stipulation from miles <b>0 to 6</b> around the CCNHP boundary and the boundaries of Pueblo Pintado and Kin Bineola
C4	NSO stipulation from miles <b>0 to 8</b> around the CCNHP boundary and the boundaries of Pueblo Pintado and Kin Bineola
C5	NSO stipulation from miles <b>0 to 10</b> around the CCNHP boundary and the boundaries of Pueblo Pintado and Kin Bineola
C6	Closed to fluid mineral leasing from miles <b>0 to 4</b> around the CCNHP boundary and the boundaries of Pueblo Pintado and Kin Bineola and an NSO stipulation from miles <b>4 to 6</b> around the CCNHP boundary and the boundaries of Pueblo Pintado and Kin Bineola.

## **Alternative D:**

This alternative focuses on maximizing resources that target economic outcomes, while sustaining land health. Management direction would promote development of fluid mineral resources and would accommodate new uses to the greatest extent possible. The BLM would emphasize other multiple uses as a priority over protecting wilderness characteristics in all units of lands with wilderness characteristics. Vegetation communities would be managed to sustain healthy conditions and to promote commercial development.



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The appropriate development scenarios for allowable uses would emphasize maximizing resource production, while maintaining the basic protection needed to sustain resources. Appropriate and allowable uses and restrictions would emphasize social and economic outcomes, while mitigating impacts on land health. The BLM would acknowledge that there are likely to be more adverse effects on historic properties associated with the Chacoan landscape under this alternative even with avoidance, minimization, and mitigation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC 306108).

Similar to the No Action Alternative, the BLM would apply no closures or stipulations to the areas around the CCNHP boundary or Chacoan roads and outliers.