



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

RECORD OF DECISION

The following are the wilderness recommendations for 50 wilderness study areas (WSAs) in the State of New Mexico. These recommendations were developed from the findings of a 15-year wilderness study process by the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management. The wilderness studies considered each area's resource values, present and projected future uses of the areas, public input, the manageability of the areas as wilderness, the environmental consequences of designating or not designating the areas as wilderness, and mineral surveys prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines.

Based on our review of those studies, I have concluded that 487,186 acres within 23 study areas should be designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and that 420,400 acres within 39 study areas should be released from wilderness study for uses other than wilderness. The acreage recommendations for each WSA, with which I concur, are listed in the following table. The Wilderness Study Report accompanying this decision includes a detailed discussion of the recommendations and maps showing the boundaries of each area.


Secretary of the Interior

AUG 19 1991

Date

New Mexico Wilderness Recommendation

Table 1

The following are the wilderness recommendations for 48 wilderness study areas and 2 instant study areas in the State of New Mexico. These recommendations are the culmination of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) wilderness study process. The wilderness studies considered each area's resource values, present and projected future uses, public input, the manageability of the area as wilderness, the environmental consequences of designating or not designating the area wilderness, and mineral surveys prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines. Based on my review of those studies, I have concluded that 23 WSAs, totalling 487,186 acres of BLM land, should be designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and that 420,400 acres within 39 areas should be released for uses other than wilderness. A detailed discussion of the recommendations is included in the attached wilderness study report and the recommendations are depicted on maps included in that report. Five final environmental impact statements covering 49 areas and 1 suitability report for the Mathers Instant Study Area accompany this decision. The acreage recommendations for each study area are as follows:

WSA Name	WSA Number	Study	Acres	Acres not
			Recommended Wilderness	Recommended Wilderness
Ah-shi-sle-pah	NM-010-009	Statewide	0	6,563
Rio Chama	NM-010-059	Statewide	5,918	6,753
Sabinoso	NM-010-055	Statewide	0	15,760
San Antonio	NM-010-035	Statewide	0	7,050
Cabezon	NM-010-022	Statewide	8,159	0
Chamisa	NM-010-021	Statewide	15,758	844
Empedrado	NM-010-063	Statewide	9,007	0
Ignacio Chavez	NM-010-020	Statewide	33,609	0
La Lena	NM-010-063A	Statewide	10,438	0
Manzano (202)	NM-010-092	Statewide	881	0
Ojito	NM-010-024	Statewide	10,903	0
Petaca Pinta	NM-020-014	Statewide	10,631	1,037
Antelope	NM-020-053	Statewide	0	20,710
Continental Divide	NM-020-044	Statewide	37,599	31,162
Devil's Backbone	NM-020-047	Statewide	0	8,904
Eagle Peak	NM-020-019	Statewide	0	43,960
Horse Mountain	NM-020-043	Statewide	4,432	600
Jornada del Muerto	NM-020-055	Statewide	31,147	0
Mesita Blanca	NM-020-018	Statewide	0	19,414
Presilla	NM-020-037	Statewide	0	8,680
Sierra de las Canas	NM-020-038	Statewide	12,796	40
Sierra Ladrones	NM-020-016	Statewide	31,804	13,504
Stallion	NM-020-040	Statewide	0	24,235
Veranito	NM-020-035	Statewide	0	7,206

WSA Name	WSA Number	Study	Acres	Acres not
			Recommended Wilderness	Recommended Wilderness
✓ Aden Lava Flow	NM-030-053	Statewide	25,287	0
Alamo Hueco Mountains	NM-030-038	Statewide	0	16,264
Apache Box (202)	AZ-040-076	Arizona Mohave	0	932
Big Hatchet Mountains	NM-030-035	Statewide	45,374	20,498
Blue Creek	NM-030-026	Statewide	0	14,896
Cedar Mountains	NM-030-042	Statewide	0	14,911
Cooke's Range	NM-030-031	Statewide	0	19,608
Cowboy Spring	NM-030-007	Statewide	6,699	0
Florida Mountains	NM-030-034	Statewide	0	22,336
Gila Lower Box	NM-030-023	Statewide	5,835	2,720
Guadalupe Canyon	NM-ISA-001	Coronado National Forest	0	4,145
✓ Las Uvas Mountains	NM-030-065	Statewide	0	11,067
✓ Organ Mountains	NM-030-074	Statewide	7,283	0
Peloncillo Mountains	AZ-040-060	Safford District	0	4,061
✓ Robledo Mountains	NM-030-063	Statewide	0	12,946
✓ West Potrillo/Mt. Riley	NM-030-052	Statewide	148,540	8,645
Brokeoff Mountains	NM-030-112	Statewide	0	31,606
Culp Canyon	NM-030-152	Statewide	0	10,937
Carrizozo Lava Flow/ Little Black Peak	NM-060-109			
Mathers	NM-060-110	Statewide	25,084	1,075
	NM-ISA-003	Mathers Suitability Report	0	362
Devil's Den Canyon (202)	NM-060-145	Lincoln National Forest	0	320
Lonesome Ridge (202)	NM-060-801	Lincoln National Forest	0	3,505
McKittrick Canyon (202)		Lincoln National Forest	0	200
Mudgetts (202)	NM-060-819	Statewide	0	2,941
TOTAL ACRES BLM NEW MEXICO			487,186	420,400