

4. RECREATION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

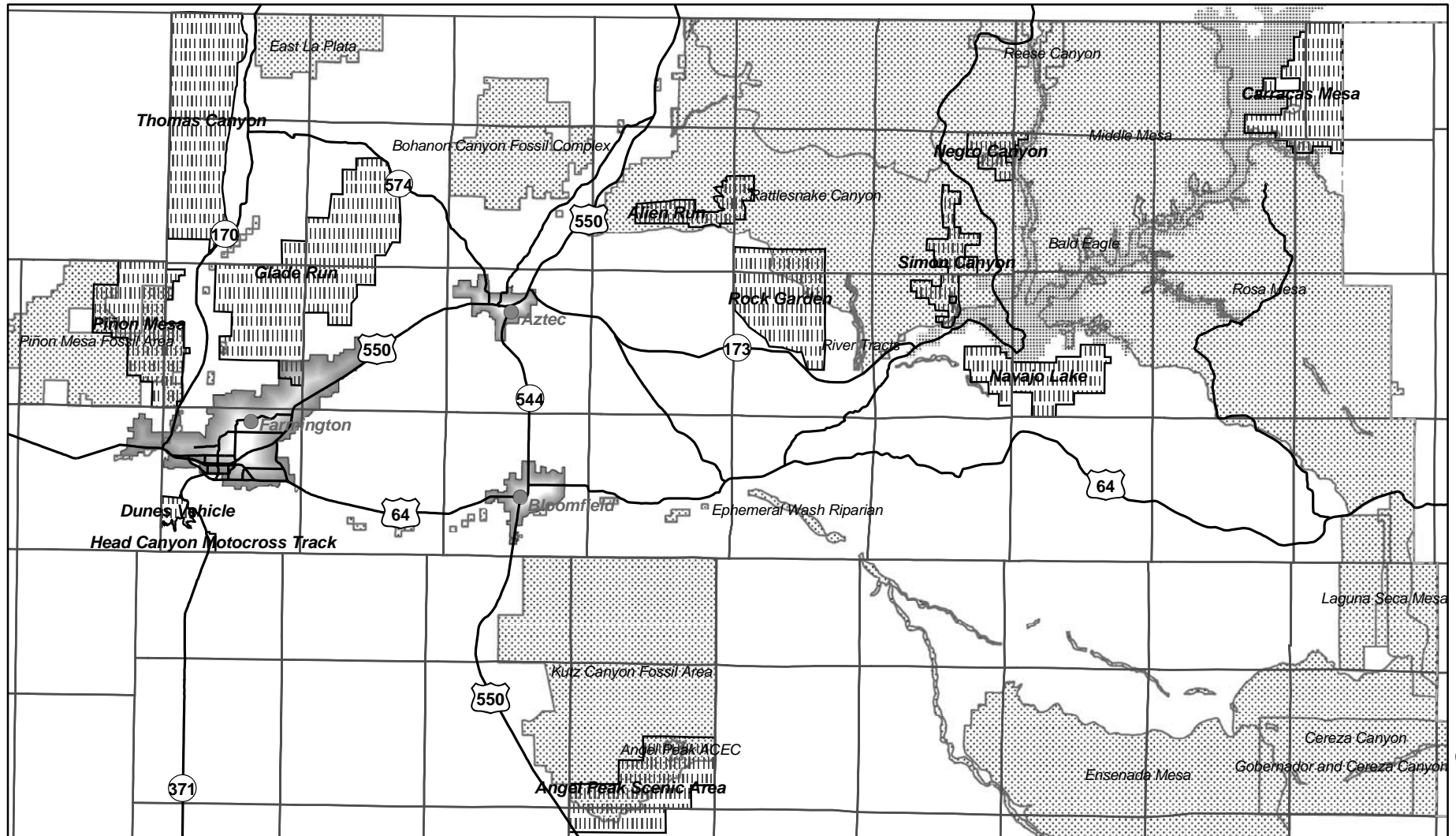
The population of the tri-cities and the surrounding area is growing, bringing with it increased demands for a broad range of recreational opportunities, ranging from individual activities to organized events. The popularity of the Internet has increased exposure of recreational opportunities available on public land in the FFO. Many of the FFO recreation areas are found on web sites that generate increased interest and use by visitors from across the nation. Common public land use activities include horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, back packing, wildlife viewing, primitive camping, jogging, hunting, fishing, photography, and OHV use.

The area has received exposure from OHV enthusiasts that is likely to create more interest in competitive motorized events and individual

or small group travel by OHVs. Designation of some Recreation Areas that permit OHV access provides an opportunity for people to enjoy motorized activities and challenges while minimizing conflicts with other user groups. Some areas provide a place for groups to hold events where permitting costs and delays can be minimized while protecting resources from additional surface disturbance.

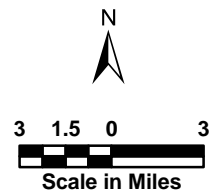
Twelve Recreation Areas have been designated and will be managed for specific purposes, ranging from providing access to primitive outdoor experiences to motorized access for all public land users. Some of these areas close to the tri-cities have been designated in response to requests from the public.

C-104



Legend

- Major Road
- Township and Range
- Carson NF
- SDA
- Recreation
- USBR



Map C-20: Recreation SDAs

ALIEN RUN MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Site Description:

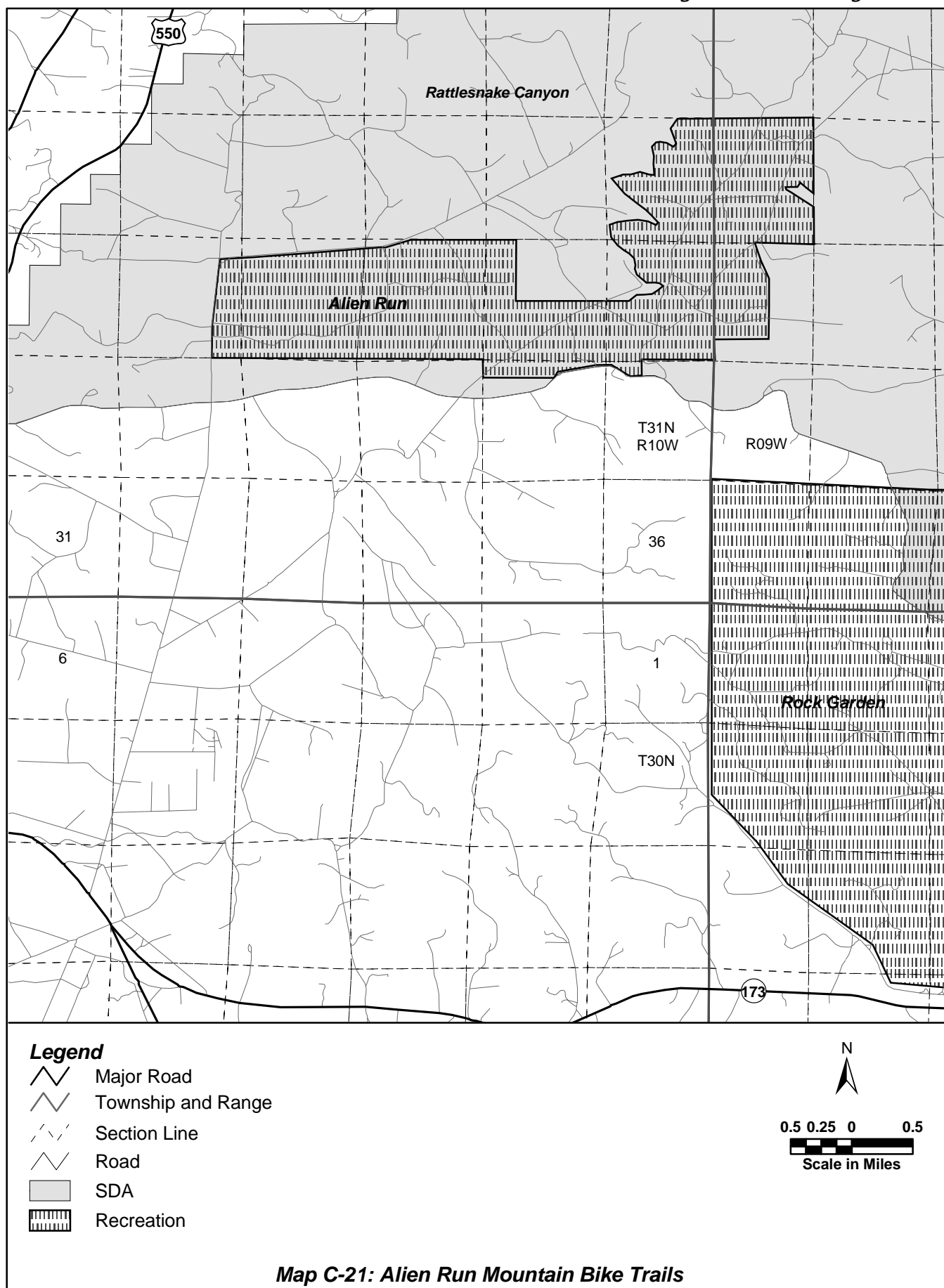
There are approximately 3,334 acres within the boundary of the Alien Run Mountain Bike Trails, of which 3,137 acres are public land (BLM) and 3,334 acres contain federal minerals.

Management Goal:

Manage area to facilitate mountain biking as a high quality recreational experience.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint. No new activity allowed for a distance of 150 feet on either side of the designated trail system.
2. Manage new oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint. No new activity allowed for a distance of 150 feet on either side of the designated trail system. Exceptions granted by recreation staff on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental review.
3. No construction, drilling, completion, plugging, seismic exploration and workover activity allowed when they would interfere with authorized recreation events.
4. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
5. Acquire non-BLM inholdings. Not available for disposal.
6. ROWs granted on a case-by-case basis with site-specific management constraints that protect the trail system integrity and recreation values and provide for the safety of users.
7. No construction or maintenance activity allowed when it would interfere with authorized recreation events.
8. OHVs limited to maintained roads and designated trails.
9. Apply Class III VRM Objectives.
10. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation staff approval.
11. Close to vegetative sales. Vegetative treatments must benefit recreation values managed for and be approved by recreation staff. All reclamation activity in SDA will use only native species seeds/plants unless approved by recreation staff.
12. Continue current livestock grazing permitting.
13. Apply roaded natural objectives.
14. Closed to shooting.
15. New trails may be designated in Alien Run Mountain Bike Trails, based on inventory and public demand, after appropriate environmental analysis.
16. Pets must be under control at all times.
17. Designate noise receptor points at trail systems and developed facilities.



ANGEL PEAK SCENIC AREA

Site Description:

There are approximately 10,226 acres within the boundary of the Angel Peak Scenic Area, of which 8,946 acres are public land (BLM) and 9,952 acres contain federal minerals.

The population of Farmington and the surrounding areas is growing, bringing with it the increased demand for recreational opportunities. Angel Peak is easy to access. The entrance is located along NM State Highway 550, a major transportation artery into the Four Corners region. The area provides spectacular views of badland topography, and allows the public to enjoy a variety of recreational activities, including sightseeing, picnicking, tent camping and hiking. Along the canyon rim, a maintained gravel road takes the visitor to family camping and picnic units—each with a fireplace and table. Vegetation in the area consists of sparse grass on the hills. Trees are few and twisted into gnarled shapes.

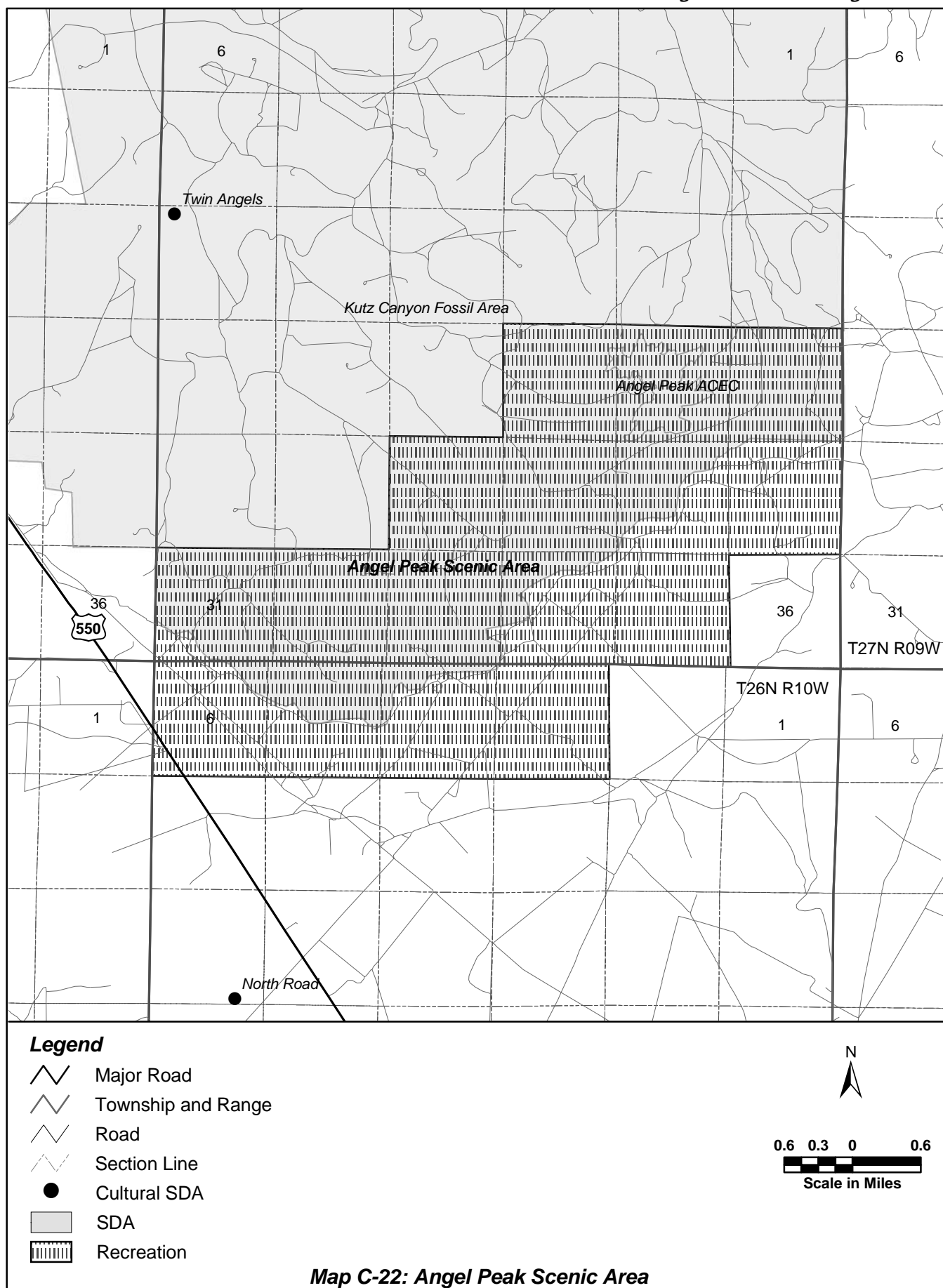
The Angel Peak ACEC, which includes a rare geologic feature looking like the shape of an angel with one uplifted wing, is located within the Scenic Area. See the Angel Peak ACEC under Geology SDAs for more information on this area.

Management Goal:

Protect and preserve the natural, scenic and outdoor recreation values and provide visitors with the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of activities including camping, hiking, rockhounding, sightseeing, and horseback riding.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under a Controlled Surface Use constraint with no surface occupancy at developed campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, overlooks, Chacoan road and byway.
2. Manage new oil and gas leases under No Surface Occupancy constraint.
3. Maintain mining closure. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
4. Preclude new ROWs that would negatively impact developed campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, overlooks, and Chacoan roads and byways. Other ROWs permitted on a case-by-case basis with management constraints to maintain recreation, natural, paleontological, VRM and cultural values managed for.
5. OHVs limited to maintained roads and designated trails. Close Angel Peak Campground road to through traffic. Use may be authorized in wash bottoms on a case-by-case basis.
6. Implement Class II VRM designation.
7. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation staff approval.
8. Close to vegetative sales. Vegetative treatments must benefit recreation and visual experiences managed for, and be approved by recreation staff. All reclamation activity will use only native species seed/plants unless approved by recreation staff.
9. Continue current livestock grazing permitting.
10. Apply roaded natural objectives.
11. No shooting in developed recreation area.
12. Nominate the section of the road from US550 to the Angel Peak campground as a Back Country Byway.
13. Prepare a recreation management plan.
14. Improve and maintain existing facilities/trail/signs.
15. Designate noise receptor points at campsites, picnic areas, overlooks, trails and Chacoan Road. Stricter standards may apply.
16. Land ownership not available for disposal.



CARRACAS MESA RECREATION/WILDLIFE AREA

Site Description:

There are approximately 8,616 acres within the boundary of the Carracas Mesa Recreation/Wildlife Area, of which 7,943 acres are public land (BLM). All but approximately 1,307 acres contain federal minerals.

Carracas Mesa is bordered by Navajo Reservoir to the west, the State of Colorado to the north, and Carson National Forest to the east. It is somewhat removed with restricted access due to the surrounding land ownership, natural landscape and unmarked primitive routes. Public access is possible from the south.

Recreation opportunities are in the semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized class. Day hunting is the most common activity known to occur. Other activities may include backpacking, snowmobiling, vehicle trail riding, and nature appreciation.

Wildlife species occurring in the area are those typically associated with the piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine habitat type. However, this area is special in the FFO area because of its relatively undisturbed natural environment.

Wintering big game is the most visible wildlife use with elk numbering 25 to 50 animals in winter months and mule deer averaging 500 to 1,000 animals. Snows in Colorado drive animals down into this area beginning in late November. Mountain shrubs and grass, found in clearings, and seedlings provide winter forage. Mountain lion numbers are usually high in the Carracas Mesa and adjoining Carson National Forest.

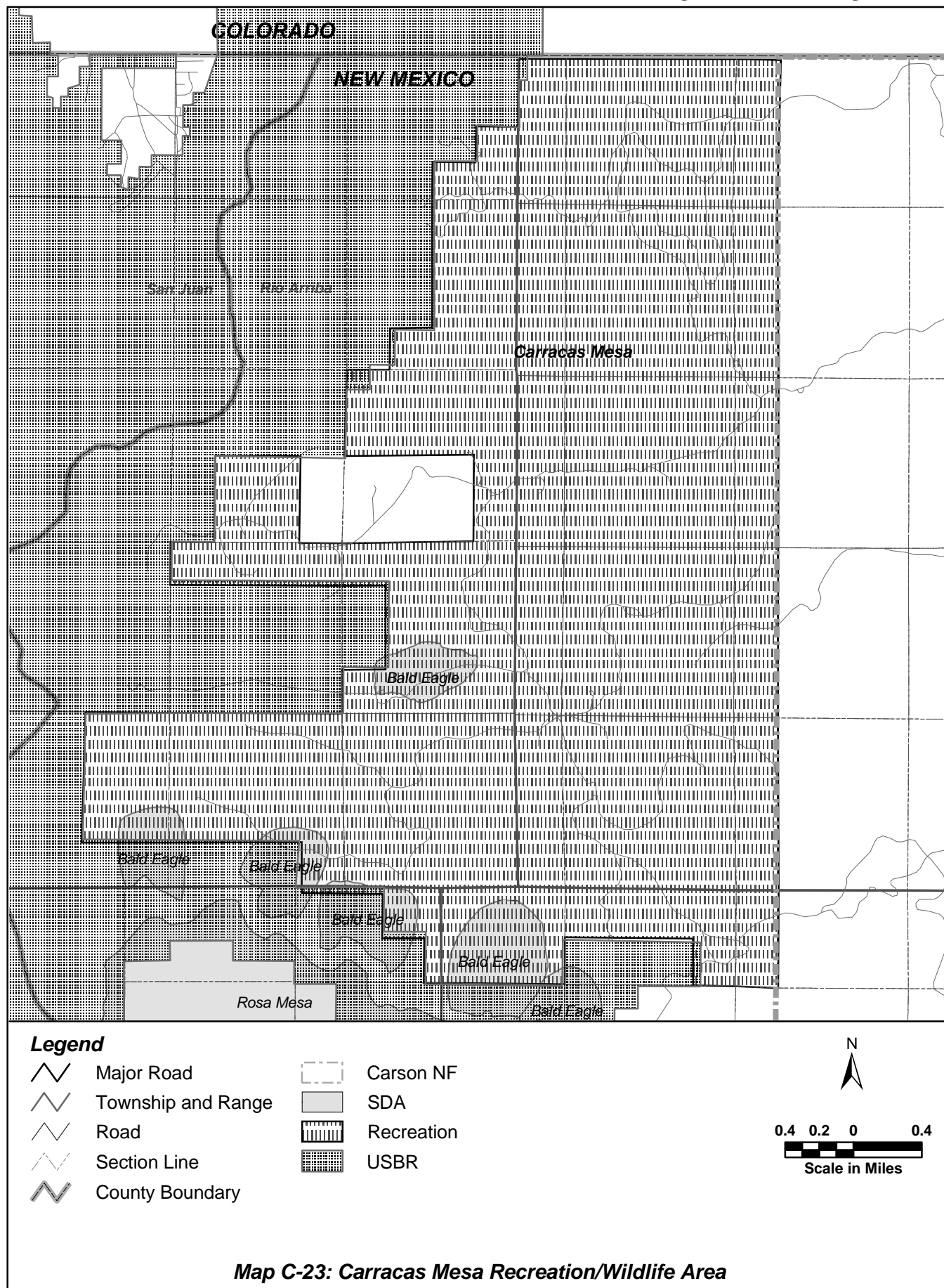
Management Goal:

This area would be managed to protect and enhance wildlife habitat, and provide for

semi-primitive, non-motorized and motorized outdoor recreation opportunities.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint.
2. Closed to new oil and gas leasing.
3. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
4. No construction, drilling, plugging, seismic exploration and work over activity allowed from 11/1 through 3/31 for entire SDA and from 4/1 through 7/15 in designated elk calving habitat.
5. Acquire non-BLM inholdings and easements. Not available for disposal.
6. ROWs permitted on a case-by-case basis with management constraints to maintain optimum wildlife habitat, recreational and VRM values.
7. OHVs limited to maintained roads, designated trails, routes and ways. Apply seasonal OHV closures.
8. Designate as Class II VRM Area.
9. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with wildlife and recreation staff approval.
10. Close to vegetative sales. Vegetative treatments must benefit wildlife, recreation, and visual experience objectives and be approved by wildlife and recreation staff.
11. Area retired from grazing.
12. Apply semi-primitive, non-motorized and motorized ROS objectives.
13. Apply limited/conditional wildfire suppression methods.
14. Implement wildlife habitat improvement projects.
15. Identify as Noise Sensitive Area.



DUNES VEHICLE RECREATION AREA

Site Description:

There are approximately 825 acres within the boundary of the Dunes Vehicle Recreation Area, all of which are public land (BLM) and all of which contain federal minerals.

This site is just south of Farmington, New Mexico. Public access is provided from State Highway 371 along moderate to steep unmaintained roads.

The south, east and west boundaries of the area are well defined by steep canyon walls that give way to talus slopes. A wide range of topographic relief is available in the form of wide, sandy washes, rock-filled arroyos, sparsely vegetated hills, and moderate to steep slopes consisting of loose rock and solid canyon walls. Vegetation is minimal with the major species being common grasses and juniper trees.

Oil and gas exploration and off-road vehicle activity make up the major use of the area. Competitive events such as hill climbs are popular among local residents, but the area is mainly used by ORV enthusiasts who enjoy a variety of motorized recreation opportunities. Diverse landforms challenge both man and machine. Over 30 years of use has produced an area of dunes and well-established hill runs and trails.

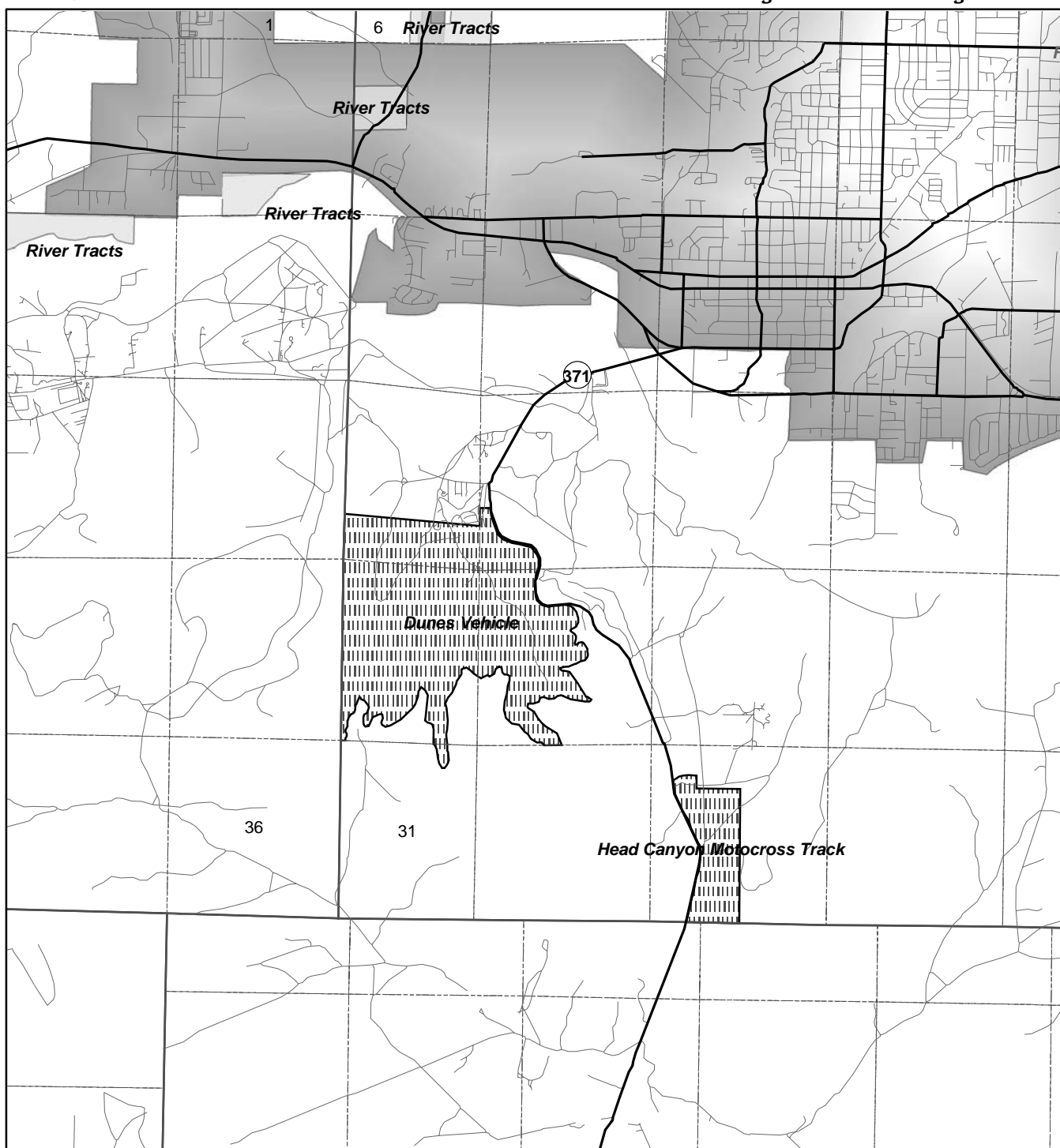
Even though the actual visitor use is unknown, observation of weekend users and inventory of the many well defined vehicle trails indicate moderate to intensive ORV use.

Management Goal:

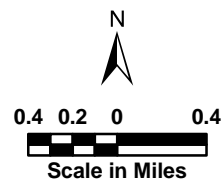
Manage the Dunes Vehicle Recreation Area as an Off Road Vehicle recreation area, minimizing user conflicts, promoting user safety and protecting resources.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint.
2. Apply No Surface Occupancy stipulation to new oil and gas leases.
3. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
4. Land ownership not available for disposal.
5. ROW permitted on a case-by-case basis with management constraints and mitigation measures. Safety of users and recreational use will be first consideration.
6. Continue Open OHV designation.
7. Implement Class IV VRM objectives.
8. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation staff approval.
9. Close to vegetative sales except for administrative needs. Vegetation treatments must benefit recreation experiences managed for and be approved by recreation staff.
10. Grazing permits will not be issued.
11. Apply rural recreation ROS objectives.
12. No shooting.

**Legend**

- Major Road
- Township and Range
- Road
- Farmington City
- SDA
- Recreation

**Map C-24: Dunes Vehicle Recreation Area**

GLADE RUN RECREATION AREA

Site Description:

There are approximately 21,544 acres within the boundary of the Glade Run Recreation Area, of which 17,935 acres are public land (BLM) and 18,796 acres contain federal minerals.

This recreation area contains a network of established roads, dry washes, and designated trails that provide for a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Major access points from the communities of Farmington, Flora Vista and Aztec link nearly 40 miles of well-developed routes.

Various portions of this network have been ridden by local ORV enthusiasts for over 40 years and, more recently, by mountain bicyclists. The glade is home to the Road Apple Rally, the longest continually held mountain bike race in the U.S.

In general, the trail system can be described as rolling terrain that peaks on ridge tops and bottoms out in valley floors. Surface soils vary from deep sands to rock to hard-packed gravel or maintained roads. Forested woodlands feature piñon-juniper cover in some areas with sagebrush flats dominating other areas.

The sights and sounds one can expect to encounter vary from those found in an environment of paved roads, housing developments, power lines, moderate vehicular traffic, and other urban noises to areas natural in appearance with human-caused modifications subdued and blended with the natural landscape.

Management Goal:

Manage the recreation area to accommodate a large variety of recreational uses and outdoor recreational experiences. Coordinate management efforts with multiple users and regulatory groups.

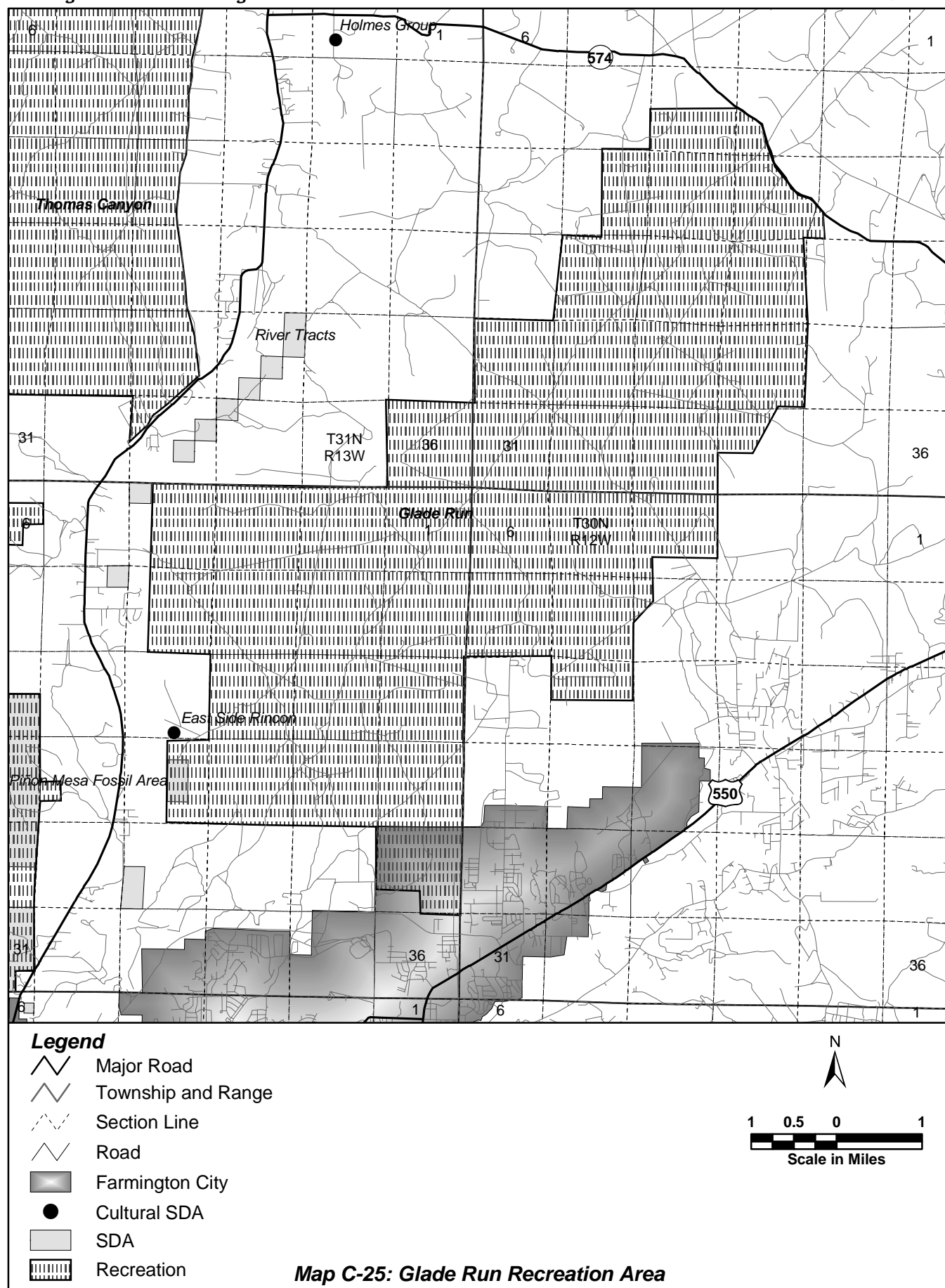
Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use

constraint. No new activity allowed for a distance of 150 feet from either side of the designated trail system. Exceptions granted by recreation staff on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental review.

2. Manage new oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint. No new activity allowed for a distance of 150 feet from either side of the designated trail system. Exceptions granted by recreation staff on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental review.
3. No construction, drilling, completion, plugging, seismic exploration, and workover activity allowed when they would interfere with authorized recreation events.
4. Limited development of leasables and salables with site-specific management constraints that protect the integrity of the trail system and other recreational activities in the SDA and provide for safety of users. No construction or maintenance activity allowed when it would interfere with authorized recreation events.
5. Limited development of locatables with site-specific management constraints that protect the integrity of the trail system and other recreational activities in the SDA and provide for the safety of users. No construction or maintenance activity allowed when it would interfere with authorized recreation events.
6. Acquire easements and non-BLM inholdings. Not available for disposal unless doing so would enhance trail recreation opportunities.
7. ROWs granted on a case-by-case basis with site-specific management constraints that protect the integrity of the trail system and other recreational activities in the SDA and provide for

- the safety of users. No construction or maintenance activity allowed when it would interfere with authorized recreation events.
8. OHV limited to maintained roads, designated trails, routes, ways, and areas on 15,134 acres. Approximately 3,811 acres designated as Open OHV area.
 9. Implement Class III VRM objectives.
 10. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation staff approval.
 11. Close to vegetative sales. Vegetative treatments must benefit recreation values managed for and be approved by recreation staff. All reclamation activity in the SDA will use only native species seeds/ plants unless approved by recreation staff.
 12. Continue current permitting of livestock grazing. If permit is relinquished or terminated, it would not be renewed.
 13. Apply rural ROS objectives.
 14. Review/revise/implement recreation area management plan as needed.
 15. Inventory, maintain and replace signs.
 16. Complete other administrative projects such as information displays and parking facilities.
 17. Update acreage figure/map of the Glade Run Recreation Area boundary.
 18. Designate noise receptor points at single track trail and developed facilities.
 19. Close to shooting except for livestock permittees in defense of livestock.
 20. Overnight camping prohibited without a Special Use Permit.
 21. New trails may be designated in the Glade Run Recreation Area based on inventory and public demand after appropriate environmental analysis.
 22. Pets must be under control at all times.



HEAD CANYON MOTOCROSS TRACK

Site Description:

There are approximately 140 acres within the boundary of the Head Canyon Motocross Track, all of which are public land (BLM) and all of which contain federal minerals.

This site abuts the east side of State Highway 371 just south of Farmington, New Mexico.

The terrain in the northern portion is relatively flat and slopes gently upward toward hilly topographic relief in the southern portion. Vegetation is sparse and consists mainly of common grasses and a few scattered juniper trees.

Major use of the area includes oil and gas activity and competitive motorcycle events. Oil and gas storage facilities and pipelines are located within the SDA near two-track vehicle route.

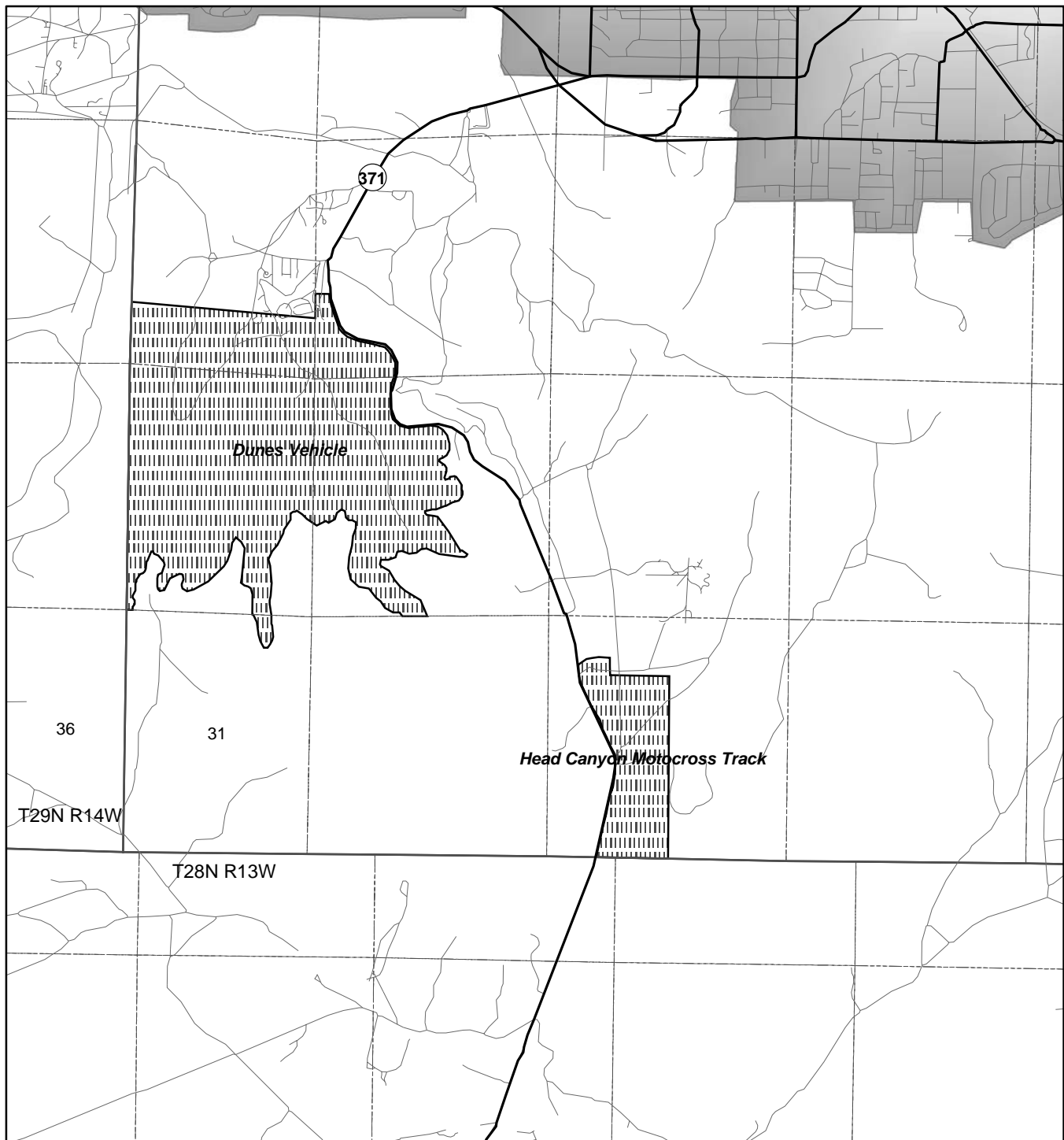
The population of Farmington and the surrounding areas is growing, bringing with it increased demand for recreational opportunities. The Head Canyon Motocross Track provides an opportunity for ORV enthusiasts to enjoy motorized activities and challenges while minimizing conflicts with other user groups. The area provides a place for groups to hold competitive motorized events while minimizing permitting costs and delays and protecting resources from additional surface disturbance. The nearby proximity of Head Canyon to the City of Farmington allows for quick and easy access by users. Head Canyon is receiving exposure via the Internet at a number of different web addresses. This exposure could create more interest in and use of the area.






Management Goal:

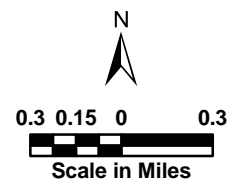
Minimize user conflicts, protect public safety and protect natural resources.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under No Surface Occupancy constraint within the motocross track area (approximately 50 acres). Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint within remaining acreage.
2. Apply No Surface Occupancy stipulation to new oil and gas leases. No construction, drilling, or workover activities allowed during authorized events.
3. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
4. Preclude ROWs that would negatively impact the existing track or potential expanded track area inside the SDA.
5. OHVs limited to maintained roads and designated motocross track. Use on motocross track limited to motorcycles and ATV's. Track may be expanded in site if needed, after site-specific environmental analysis.
6. Implement Class IV VRM objectives.
7. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation staff approval.
8. Close to vegetative sales except for administrative needs with approval by recreation staff.
9. Any grazing permits in Head Canyon that are voluntarily relinquished or exchanged will not be reissued.
10. Apply rural recreation ROS objectives.
11. Close to shooting.
12. Survey and fence designated boundary to reduce conflict between adjacent landowners and users of Head Canyon.
13. Land ownership not available for disposal.

**Legend**

-  Major Road
-  Township and Range
-  Road
-  Farmington City
-  Recreation

**Map C-26: Head Canyon Motocross Track**

NAVAJO LAKE HORSE TRAILS

Site Description:

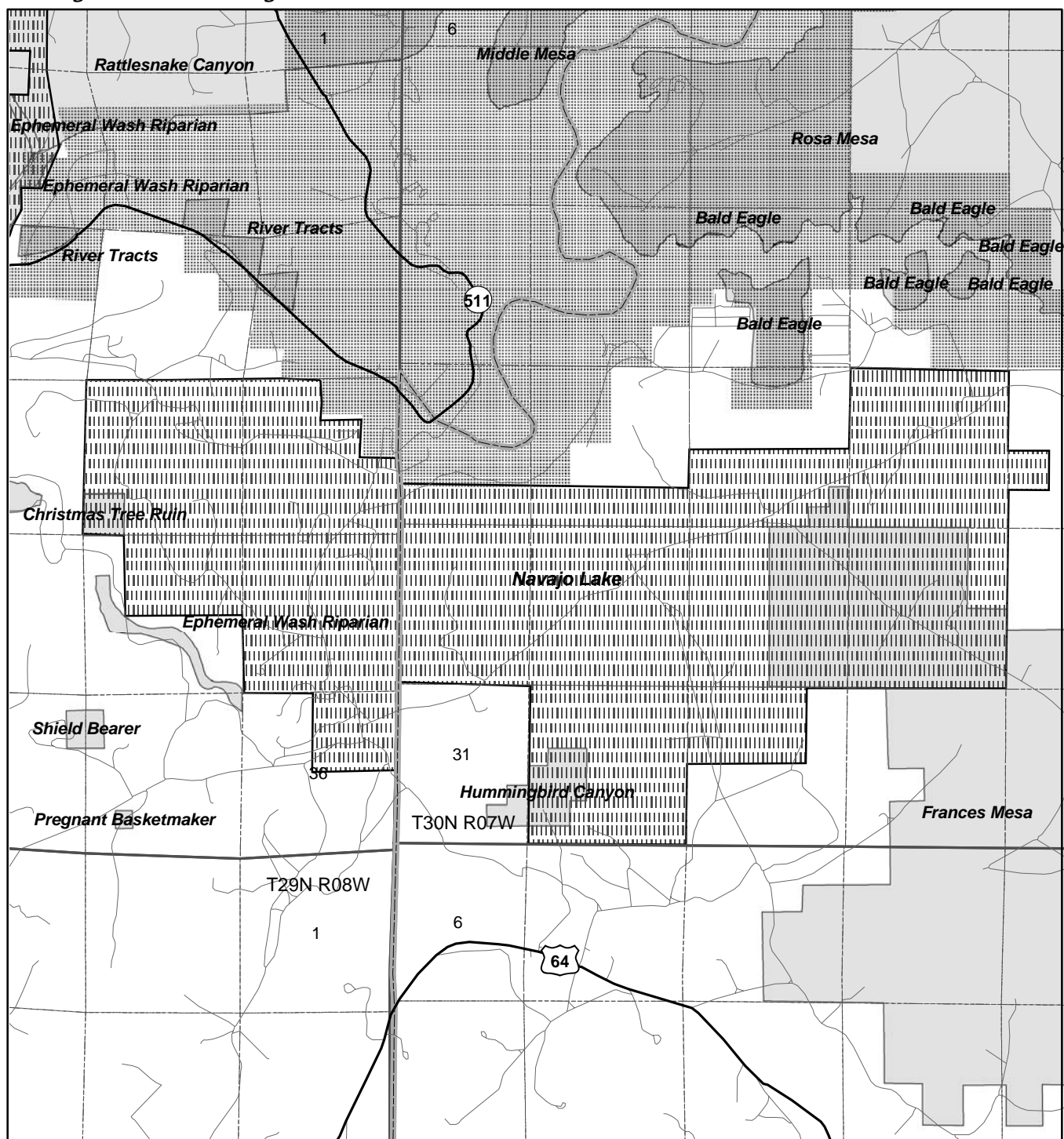
There are approximately 6,752 acres within the boundary of the Navajo Lake Horse Trails, of which 5,657 acres are public land (BLM) and 5,951 acres contain federal minerals.

Management Goal:

Manage for equestrian recreational use on designated trails, routes, and areas.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint. No new activity allowed for a distance of 150 feet on each side of the designated trail system. Exceptions granted by recreation staff on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental review. This management constraint would apply to any newly designated trails within the SDA.
2. Manage new oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint. No new activity allowed for a distance of 150 feet from either side of the designated trail system. Exceptions granted by recreation staff on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental review. This management constraint would apply to any newly designated trails within the SDA.
3. No construction, drilling, completion, plugging, seismic exploration, and workover activity allowed when they would interfere with authorized recreation events and from 11/1 through 3/31 for Bald Eagle protection.
4. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
5. Acquire non-BLM inholdings. Not available for disposal.
6. ROWs granted on a case-by-case basis with site-specific management constraints that protect the trail system integrity as well as special status species being managed in the SDA, and provide for the safety of users. No construction or maintenance activity allowed when it would interfere with authorized recreation events, and from 11/1 through 3/31 for Bald Eagle protection.
7. OHVs limited to maintained roads and designated trails.
8. Apply Class III VRM designation.
9. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation and threatened and endangered staff approval.
10. Close to vegetative sales. Vegetative treatments must benefit recreation and special status species being managed for, and be approved by recreation and threatened and endangered species staff specialists. All reclamation activity in site will use only native species seeds/plants unless approved by recreation staff.
11. Continue current livestock grazing permitting.
12. Apply roaded natural ROS objectives.
13. Developed areas closed to shooting. Remainder of SDA closed to shooting except for licensed hunters during designated hunting seasons.
14. New trails may be designated in Navajo Lake Horse Trails based on inventory, and public demand after appropriate environmental analysis.
15. Portions of site impacting Bald Eagle ACEC closed to recreational use 11/1 through 3/31.
16. Designate noise receptor points at trail systems, trailhead and developed facilities. Stricter standards may apply.

**Legend**

- Major Road
- Township and Range
- Road
- Section Line
- San Juan/Rio Arriba County Boundary

- SDA
- Recreation
- USBR



0.4 0.2 0 0.4

 Scale in Miles

Map C-27: Navajo Lake Horse Trails

NEGRO CANYON SDA

Site Description:

There are approximately 1,992 acres within the boundary of the Negro Canyon SDA, of which 1,361 acres are public land (BLM) and 1,992 acres contain federal minerals.

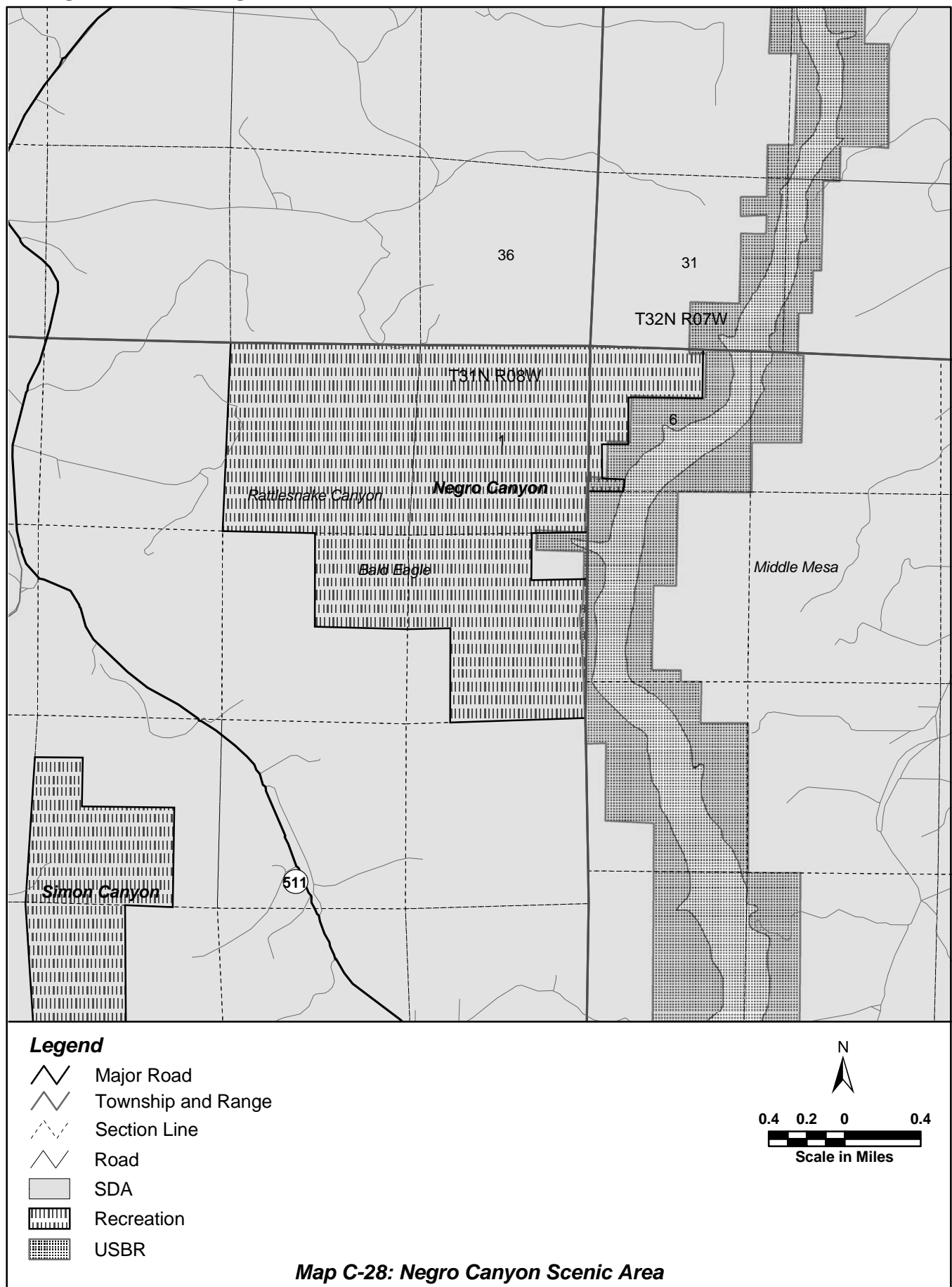
The population of Farmington and the surrounding areas is growing, bringing with it the increased demand for recreational opportunities. Negro Canyon provides an opportunity for the public to enjoy a variety of dispersed recreational activities and challenges including hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, and primitive camping. Negro Canyon is located just west of the Los Pinos River and approximately 10 miles north of Navajo Dam. Negro Canyon provides semi-primitive recreational opportunities for those interested in an alternative to the more developed Navajo Lake State Park. Negro Canyon is receiving exposure via the Internet and various web addresses. This exposure is likely to create more interest in, and use of the area.

Management Goal:

Manage the area for semi-primitive, non-motorized types of outdoor recreation.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under No Surface Occupancy constraint on acreage within the canyon drainage. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint above the rim.
2. Apply No Surface Occupancy stipulation to new oil and gas leases.
3. Closed to all other forms of mineral entry.
4. No construction, drilling, completion, plugging, seismic exploration, and workover activity from 11/1 through 3/31 for Bald Eagle.
5. Acquire non-BLM inholdings. Not available for disposal.
6. Preclude new ROWs from Negro Canyon drainage and on the No Surface Occupancy acreage in the Negro Canyon SDA. Permit ROWs on Controlled Surface Use acreage above the rim, on a case-by-case basis with site-specific management constraints that maintain recreation and natural values, VRM objectives and wildlife habitat.
7. Closed OHV designation in Negro Canyon drainage. Limited to maintained roads above the canyon rim.
8. Implement Class I VRM objectives. No construction activity or equipment will be visible from Negro Canyon drainage.
9. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation and threatened and endangered species staff approval.
10. Close to vegetative sales. Vegetative treatments must benefit recreation, visual, and threatened and endangered values for which it is managed and be approved by recreation and threatened and endangered species staff specialists. All reclamation activity in the SDA will use only native species seeds/plants unless approved by recreation staff.
11. Continue current livestock grazing permitting.
12. Apply semi-primitive, non-motorized ROS objectives.
13. If recreational development occurs, shooting restrictions would apply at developed areas.
14. Apply limited/conditional wildfire suppression methods.
15. Designate noise receptor points at visitor use area, canyons, rim and Bald Eagle ACEC boundary.



PIÑON MESA RECREATION AREA

Site Description:

There are approximately 9,454 acres within the boundary of the Piñon Mesa Recreation Area, of which 8,340 acres are public land (BLM) and 8,489 acres contain federal minerals.

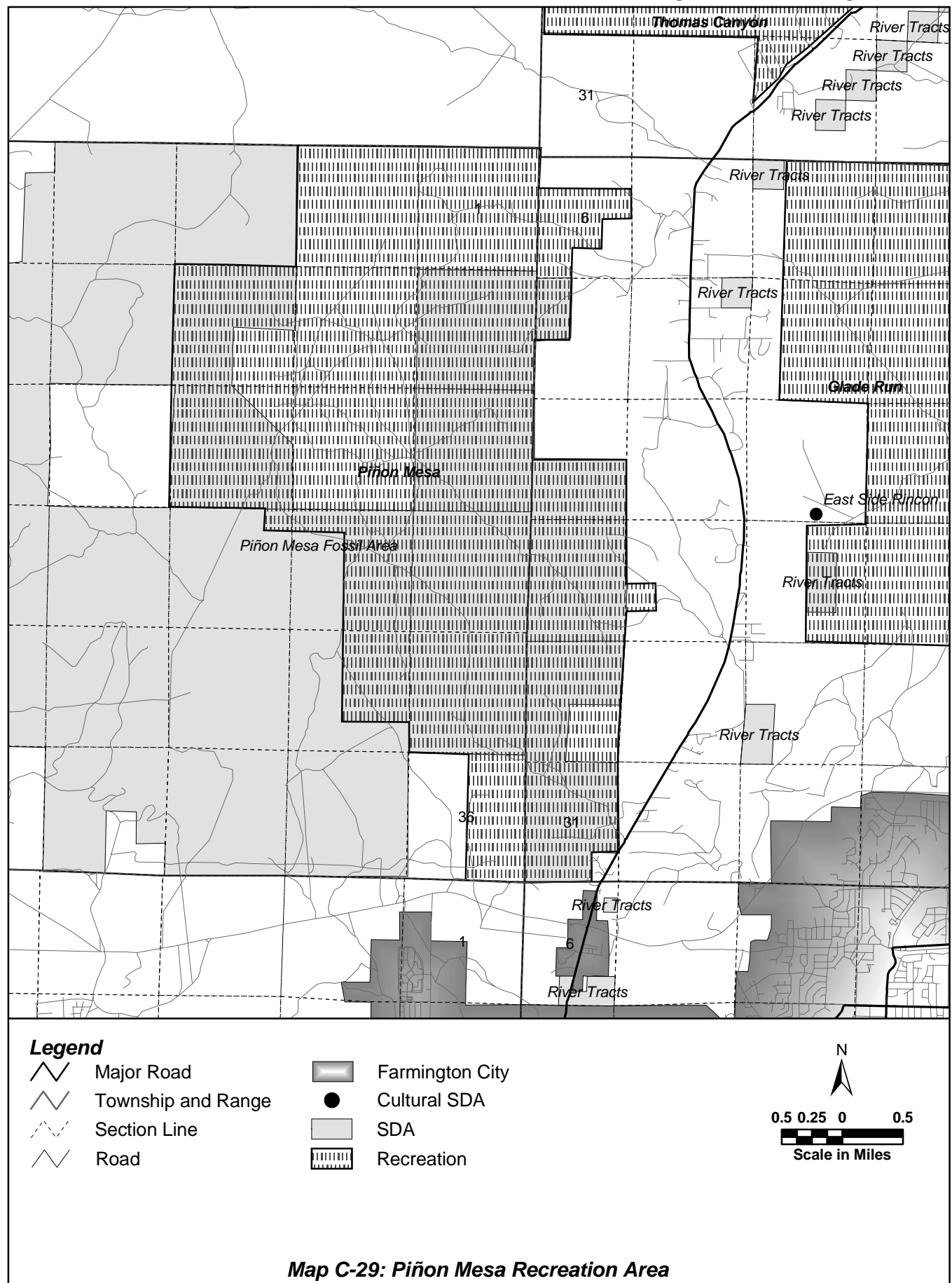
Management Goal:

Manage to provide and protect recreational, paleontological, and visual values.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Apply Controlled Surface Use constraints on existing leases. No new activity allowed for a distance of 150 feet on each side of the designated trail system. Exceptions may be granted by recreation staff on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental review.
2. Apply a Controlled Surface Use stipulation to new oil and gas leases. No new activity allowed for a distance of 150 feet on each side of the designated trails. Exceptions may be granted by recreation staff on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental review.
3. No construction, drilling, completion, plugging, seismic exploration, and workover activity allowed when they would interfere with authorized recreation events and from 3/1 through 6/30 for various raptor species protection and 3/1 through 8/1 for peregrine falcon protection.
13. Close to all forms of mineral entry, except for the development of underground coal mining in T. 30 N., R. 14 W., Section 22 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 23 E $\frac{1}{2}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and Section 26 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$. These parcels will be available for underground coal mining with stipulations to ensure that the trail corridors will remain open to public access and paleontological resources are protected. Paleontological surveys prior to underground mining and periodic monitoring to check on subsidence during mining may be required.
4. Acquire easements and non-BLM inholdings. Not available for disposal.
5. ROWs granted on a case-by-case basis with site-specific management constraints that protect the trail system integrity, recreational, visual, and threatened and endangered species values in the SDA and provide for the safety of users. No construction or maintenance activity allowed when it would interfere with authorized recreation events and from 3/1 through 6/30 for various raptor species protection and 3/1 through 8/1 for peregrine falcon protection.
6. OHVs limited to maintained roads, designated trails and routes.
7. Apply Class III VRM objectives.
8. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation and threatened and endangered species staff approval.
9. Close to vegetative sales. Vegetative treatments must benefit recreation, visual, and threatened and endangered species values managed for, and be approved by recreation and threatened and endangered species staff. All reclamation activity in the SDA will use only native species seeds/plants unless approved by recreation staff.
10. Continue current livestock grazing permitting.
11. Apply roaded natural ROS objectives.
12. Developed areas closed to shooting. Remainder of the SDA closed to shooting except for licensed hunters during designated hunting seasons.
13. New trails may be designated in the SDA based on inventory, and public

- demand after appropriate environmental analysis.
14. Portions of the SDA closed to recreational use impacting various raptor species: 3/1 through 6/30 and 3/1 through 8/1 for peregrine falcon protection.
15. Designate noise receptor points at trail systems and developed facilities.



ROCK GARDEN RECREATION AREA

Site Description:

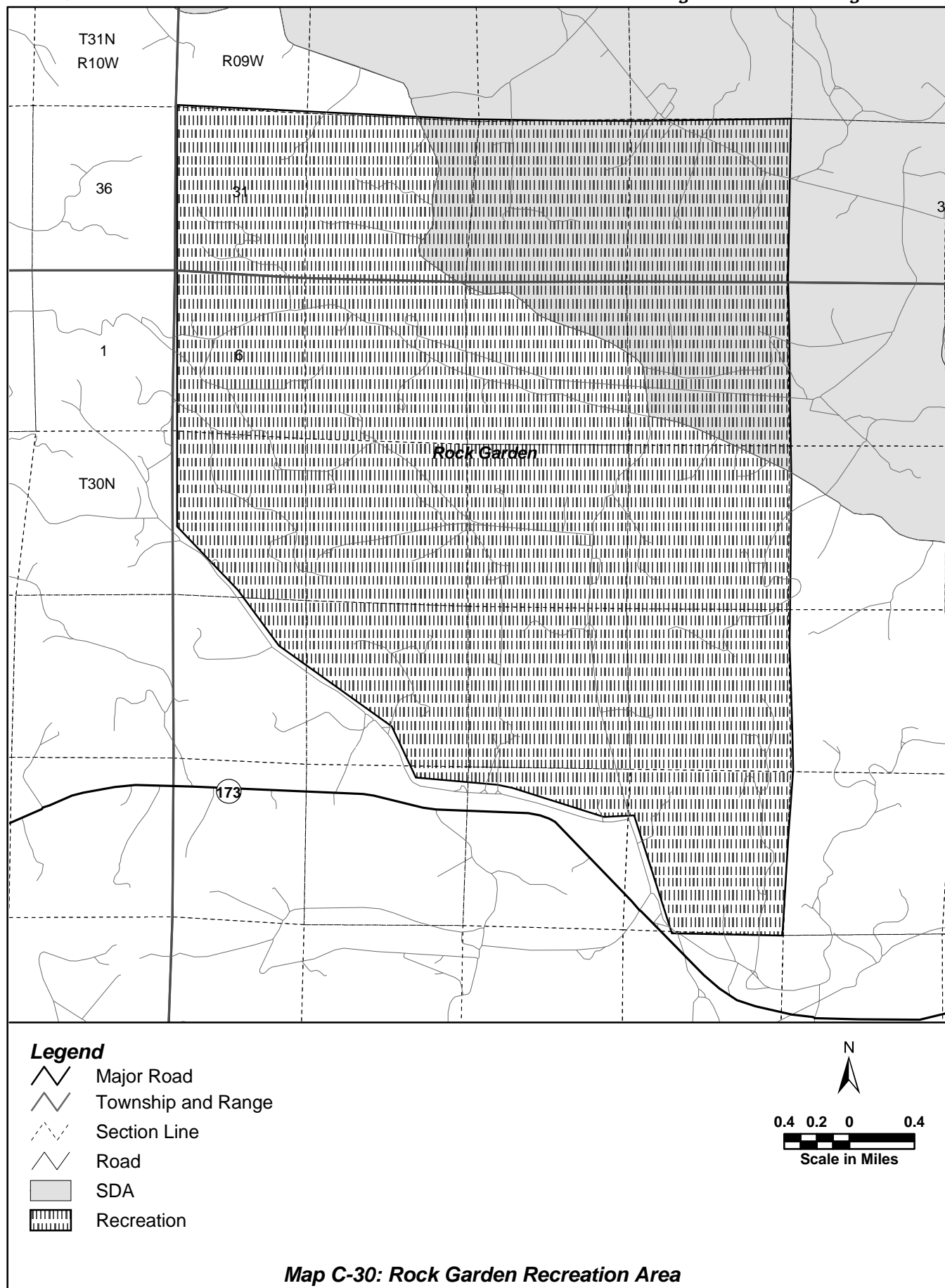
There are approximately 10,857 acres within the boundary of the Rock Garden Recreation Area, of which 9,632 acres are public land (BLM) and 8,560 acres contain federal minerals.

Management Goal:

Manage for OHV, equestrian, and other recreational use on designated trails, routes and areas.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint. No new activity allowed for a distance of 100 feet on each side of the designated trail system. Exceptions granted by recreation staff on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental review. This management constraint would apply to any newly designated trails within the site.
2. Manage new oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint. No new activity allowed for a distance of 100 feet on each side of the designated trail. Exceptions granted by recreation staff on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental review. This management constraint would apply to any newly designated trails within the Recreation Area.
3. No construction, drilling, completion, plugging, seismic exploration, and workover activity allowed when they would interfere with authorized recreation events.
4. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
5. Acquire non-BLM inholdings. Not available for disposal.
6. ROWs granted on a case-by-case basis with site-specific management constraints that protect the trail system integrity and values in the SDA and provide for the safety of the users. No construction or maintenance activity allowed when it would interfere with authorized recreation events.
7. OHVs limited to maintained roads, designated routes and trails.
8. Apply Class III VRM objectives.
9. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation staff approval.
10. Close to vegetative sales. Vegetative treatments must benefit recreation values managed for and be approved by recreation staff. All reclamation activity in the SDA will use only native species seeds/plants unless approved by recreation staff.
11. Continue current livestock grazing permitting.
12. Apply roaded natural ROS objectives.
13. No shooting in developed recreation area. Remainder of the SDA closed to shooting except for licensed hunters during designated hunting seasons.
14. New trails may be designated in the SDA based on inventory, and public demand after appropriate environmental analysis.



SIMON CANYON ACEC

Site Description:

There are approximately 3,928 acres within the boundary of the Simon Canyon ACEC, all of which are public land acres (BLM) and 3,691 acres contain federal minerals.

The site is located approximately 25 miles east of Aztec and Bloomfield, San Juan County, New Mexico on the San Juan River, 2¾ miles west of Navajo Dam.

Access to the general area is via US Highways 64 and 550, and State Roads 173, 511, and 539. Access to the ACEC is provided by a 2-mile long public road that joins State Road 173.

Simon Canyon is characterized by moderately steep to very steep rough, broken and hilly topography. The elevation of Simon Canyon varies from 5,800 feet at the bottom of the canyon to 6,275 feet at the top of the rim. A small intermittent stream flows north to south and then westerly down the middle of the canyon into the San Juan River.

Plant species are generally consistent with the Upper and Lower Sonoran Life Zone, except for those areas where surface water provides for a localized riparian plant community. The more common grasses are blue grama, western wheatgrass, galleta, ring muhly, and three-awns. Various cactus species are present, primarily in the bottom of the canyon. An even-age stand of cottonwood trees is found at the bottom of the canyon and along the river, while piñon pine and juniper are found at the upper elevations with small, scattered patches of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir along the high canyon rims.

The canyon also provides habitat for a variety of birds and mammals, such as golden eagle, prairie falcon, great horned owl, scrub jay, quail, rock wren, spotted ground squirrel, mountain cottontail, skunk, gray fox, porcupine, coyote, and beaver. The upper and middle portions of the canyon provide shelter for deer.

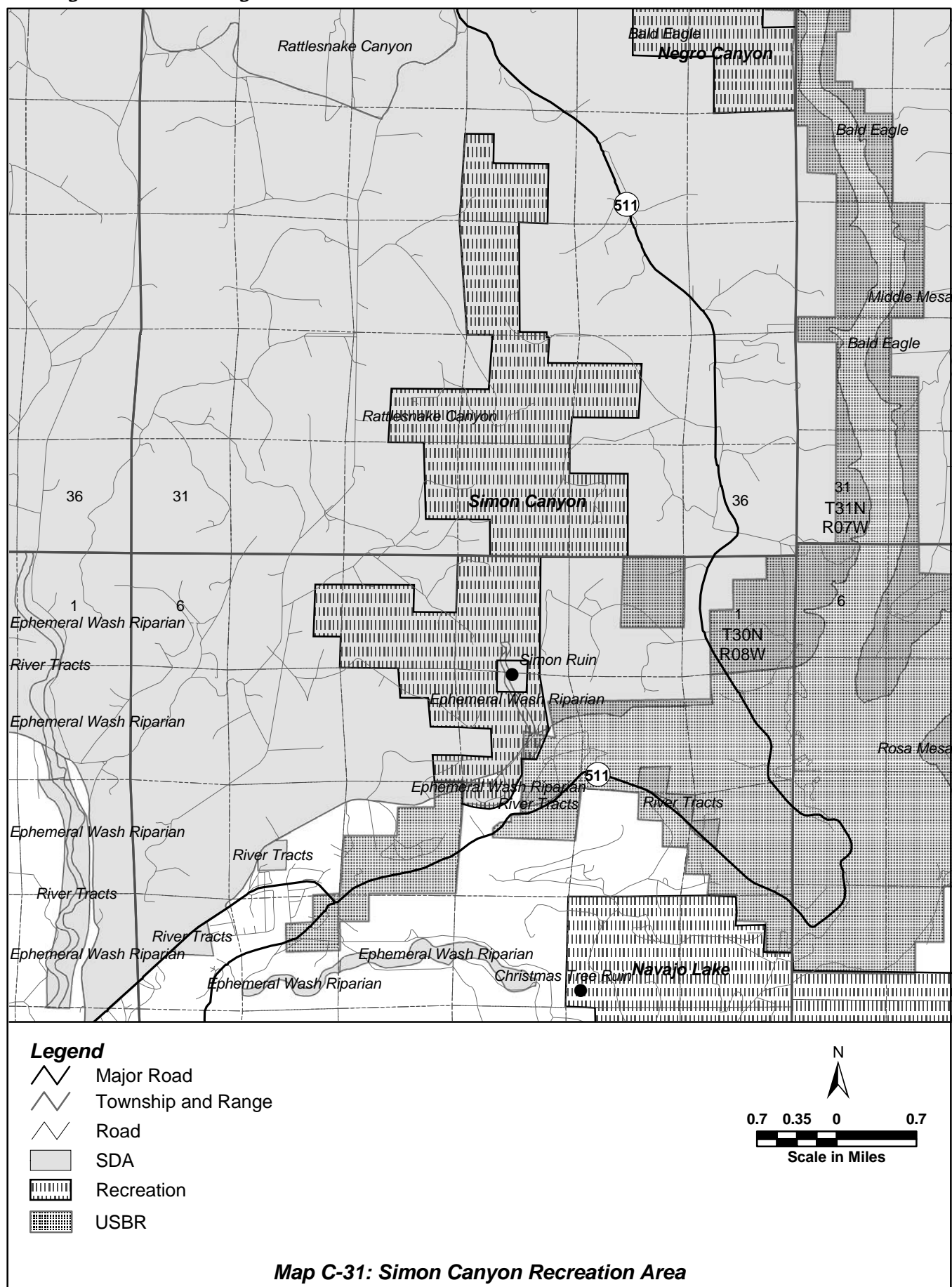
Management Goal:

Continue to manage Simon Canyon ACEC to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy a variety of semi-primitive recreational activities and challenges, including fishing, hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, tent camping and cultural interpretation.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under No Surface Occupancy constraint for acreage within the canyon drainage and bottom flatlands. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint for acreage above the canyon rim.
2. Discretionary closure on new oil and gas leasing.
3. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
4. Acquire easements. Not available for disposal.
5. ROWs precluded from Simon Canyon drainage. Granted in remainder of ACEC on a case-by-case basis with management constraints to maintain natural, recreation, and visual values.
6. Simon Canyon drainage closed to OHVs, except for authorized use. In remainder of ACEC, use will be limited to maintained roads.
7. Implement Class II VRM designation. No construction activity or equipment will be visible from Simon Canyon drainage.
8. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation staff approval.
9. Close to vegetative sales except for administrative needs. Vegetation treatments must benefit recreation experiences managed for and be approved by recreation staff. All reclamation in the ACEC will use only native species seed/plants unless approved by recreation staff.

10. Continue current livestock grazing permitting; grazing allowed on the rim and prohibited in the flatlands and canyon bottom.
11. Apply semi-private non-motorized ROS objectives in the canyon. Apply semi-primitive motorized ROS objectives above the rim.
12. No shooting in the developed recreation area. No shooting in Simon Canyon drainage.
13. Apply limited/conditional wildfire suppression methods.
14. Review/revise Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) as necessary, to include ACEC revision.
15. Continue implementation of RAMP.
16. Designate noise receptor points on rim, canyon including ruin, and bottom flatland. Stricter standards may apply.



THOMAS CANYON RECREATION/WILDLIFE AREA

Site Description:

Thomas Canyon was originally designated a 4,630-acre SDA in the 1988 Farmington RMP. The boundary has been expanded to the south in this planning document to provide for better management of wildlife that uses the area. There are now approximately 15,644 acres within the boundary of the Thomas Canyon Natural/Wildlife Area, of which 8,156 acres are public land (BLM) and 12,775 acres contain federal minerals.

The area abuts the Colorado state border to the north and the Ute Mountain Indian Reservation to the west. Access is provided by proceeding west from NM State Highway 170 along a system of unmarked graded and unmaintained routes.

The area is heavily forested (piñon and juniper) with small pockets of ponderosa pine. The topography generally slopes from higher elevations in the west to lower elevations in the east with dissecting steep-sided canyons. The piñon-juniper habitat site supports large herds of wintering mule deer.

Noticeable intrusions on the original SDA acreage include a few primitive two-track routes and a gas well. Adjacent lands to the east and south are scattered with oil and gas wells, storage facilities and related roads.

Natural values within the area are considered important and somewhat rare in an otherwise extensively developed region. The area lies approximately 14 air miles north of Farmington, NM and is the only relatively undisturbed natural environment of its size within a 30-mile radius of the city. Scenic values are associated with the botanical, wildlife, geological, and natural features of the area.

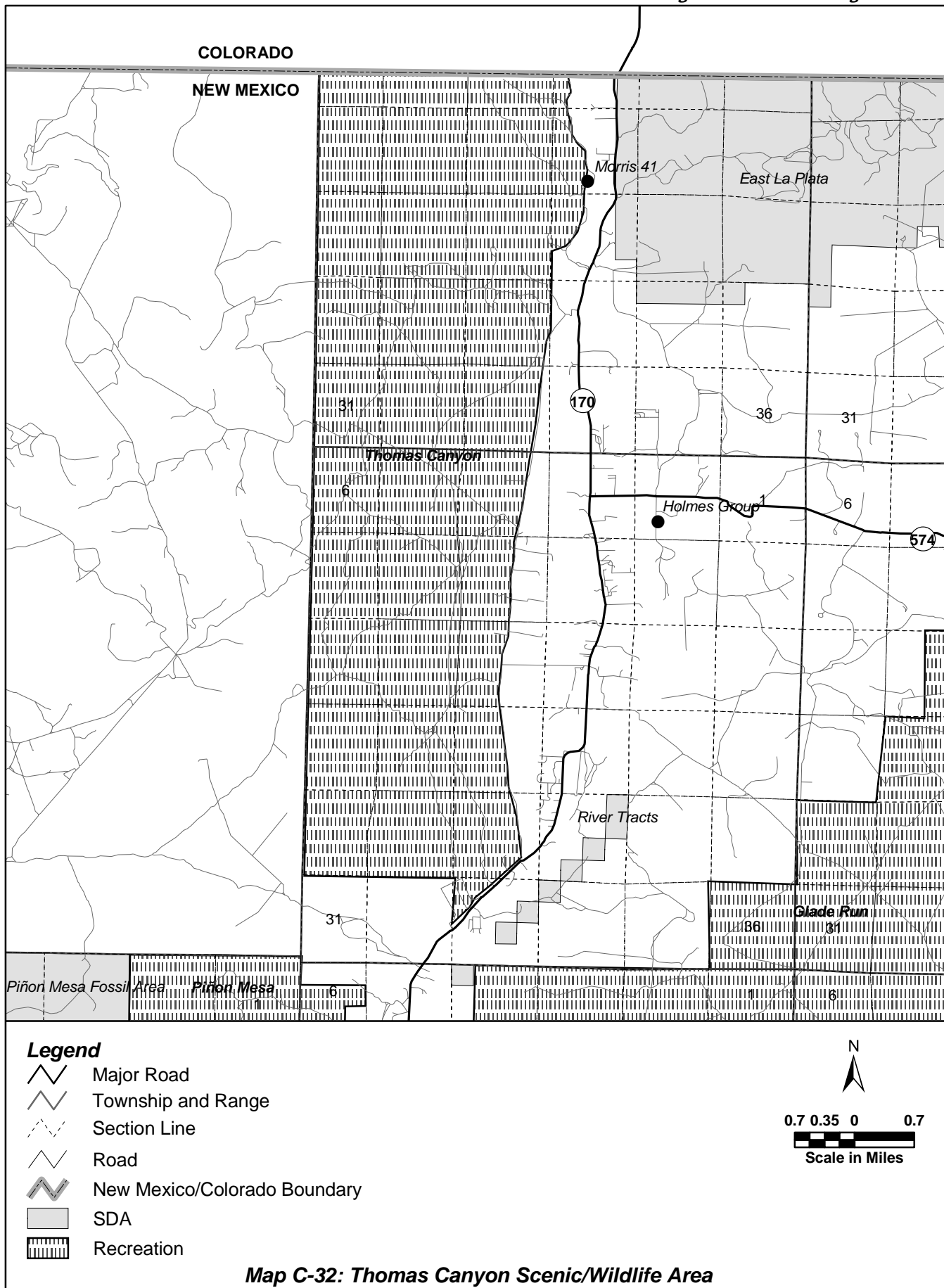
Management Goal:

Manage the area for the optimal combination of primitive recreational opportunities and wildlife protection.

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint.
2. Discretionary closure on new oil and gas leases.
3. No construction, drilling, plugging, seismic exploration, and workover activity allowed 11/1 through 4/15.
4. Close to all other forms of mineral entry.
5. Acquire non-BLM inholdings and easements. Not available for disposal.
6. Preclude ROW placement on unleased acreage. ROWs on Controlled Surface Use acreage permitted on a case-by-case basis with site-specific management constraints that maintain recreation and natural values, VRM objectives and wildlife habitat.
7. Implement Thomas Canyon ORV Implementation Plan (closed) on original SDA acreage and limit OHVs to maintained roads in expanded SDA acreage.
8. Implement Class I VRM objectives for original acreage. Designate expanded acreage as VRM III area.
9. Close to all wood gathering and sales except for administrative needs with recreation and wildlife staff approval.
10. Close to vegetative sales. Vegetative treatments must benefit recreation, visual and wildlife values managed for and be approved by recreation and wildlife staff. All reclamation activity in SDA will use only native species seeds/plants unless approved by recreation staff.
11. Continue current livestock grazing permitting.
12. Apply semi-primitive, non-motorized ROS objectives in original acreage. Apply roaded natural ROS objectives in expanded acreage.

13. If recreational development occurs, shooting restrictions would apply at developed areas.
14. Provide for possible development of hiking trail(s) and trailhead(s) for recreational access to the backcountry.
15. Apply limited/conditional wildfire suppression methods.
16. Designate entire SDA as critical big game habitat.
17. Designate original SDA acreage as a Noise Sensitive Area.



5. RIPARIAN

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Riparian habitat management by federal agencies across the west has become a priority for federal land management agencies because of the rarity and importance of this habitat for wildlife and recreation. Some riparian areas managed by the FFO support potential habitat for species that are federally listed as endangered, threatened, or are proposed for listing. BLM policy mandates that lands

supporting habitat for endangered species should be retained in federal ownership and sensitive species should be managed so they will not need to be listed under the Endangered Species Act in the future. The designation of the Ephemeral Wash Riparian Area will provide some additional protection for these riparian systems and facilitate the attainment and maintenance of proper functioning condition.

EPHEMERAL WASH RIPARIAN AREA

Site Description:

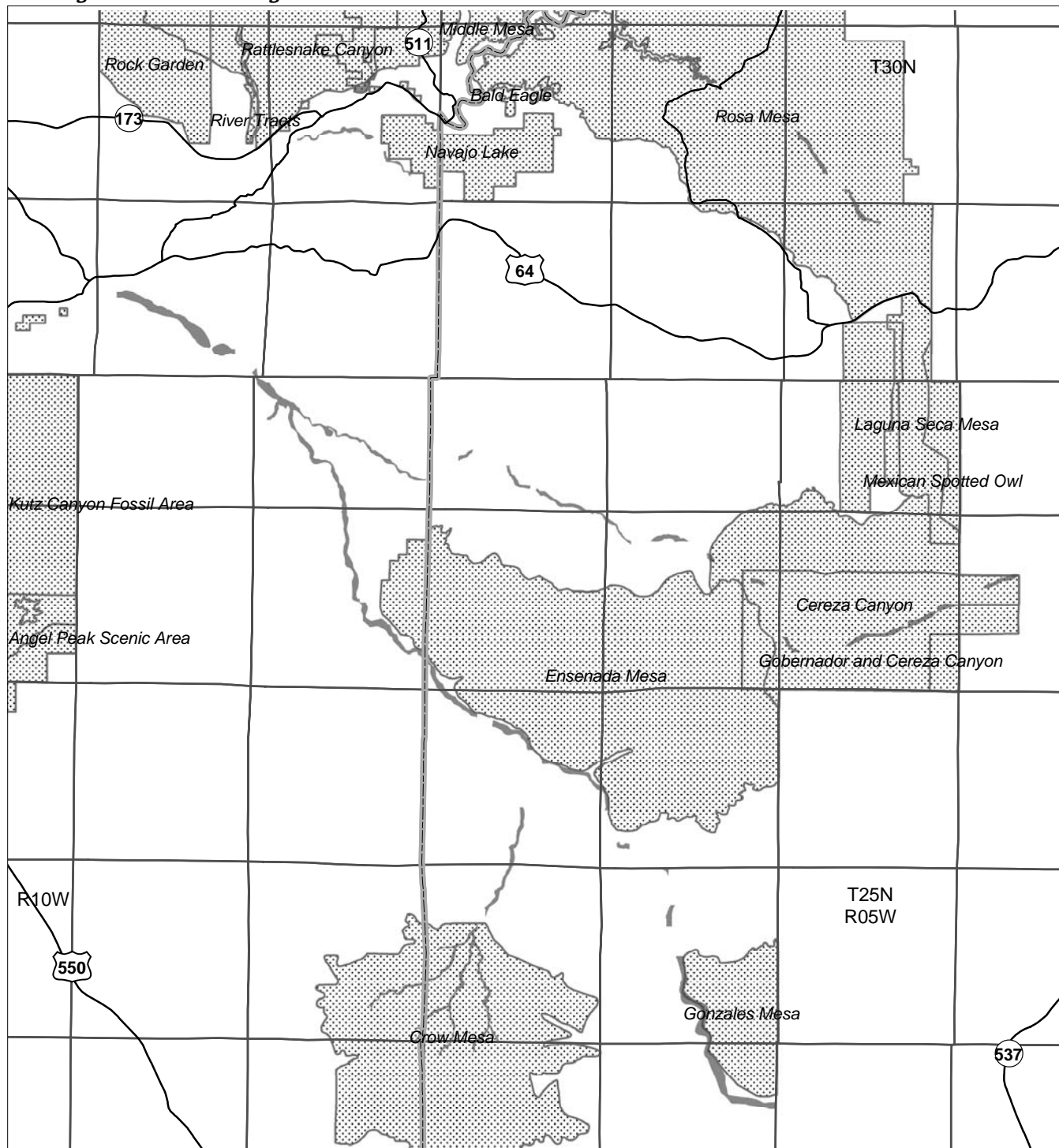
There are a total of 7,499 acres within the boundary of the Ephemeral Wash Riparian Area, of which 7,331 acres are public land (BLM) and 7,363 acres contain federal minerals. Riparian habitat management by Federal agencies across the west has come under intense scrutiny because of the rarity and importance of this habitat type. The designation of the Ephemeral Wash Riparian Area will provide some additional protection for these riparian systems and facilitate the attainment and maintenance of proper functioning condition.

Management Goal:

Manage to protect these riparian systems and facilitate the attainment and maintenance of proper functioning condition as outlined in the Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan (HMP) (2000).

Management Prescriptions:

1. Manage existing oil and gas leases under No Surface Occupancy constraint on acreage in active floodplain. Manage existing oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint in 100-year floodplain.
2. Manage new oil and gas leases under No Surface Use constraint on acreage in active floodplains. Manage new oil and gas leases under Controlled Surface Use constraint on acreage in 100-year floodplains in designated riparian areas.
3. In 100-year floodplain, special management constraints and mitigation would apply to leasables/salables.
4. In 100-year floodplain, special management constraints and mitigation would apply to locatables.
5. Acquire non-federal minerals.
6. Special management constraints and mitigation would apply on ROWs.
7. OHV designation limited to maintained roads, designated routes, and trails.
8. Designate as VRM Class II, III, and IV Area.
9. Close to all wood cutting and gathering except for administrative purposes with approval of wildlife staff.
10. Vegetative management must benefit the values for which the SDA was established.
11. Ranges from no grazing where no authorized grazing already exists to dormant season grazing where permits do exist.

**Legend**

- Major Road
- Township and Range
- San Juan/Rio Arriba County Boundary
- SDA
- Riparian



2.5 1.25 0 2.5

 Scale in Miles

Map C-33: Ephemeral Wash Riparian Area