

Part 2 of the Draft Land Management Plan, “Strategy,” describes management direction intended to move the San Juan Public Lands closer to the desired conditions stated in Part 1. Part 2 includes some general management principles, followed by 4 sections: Objectives; Suitability; Special Areas and Unique Landscapes; and Monitoring.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Sustainability

People are an integral part of ecosystems and fully depend upon them for their short- and long-term well-being. Balancing the need for short-term goods and services with the long-term need for ecosystem persistence is a management challenge for land managers. In order to meet this challenge, the lands within the planning area need to be managed for long-term sustainability. This means managing within the physical and biological capabilities of the land, protecting and preserving all of the ecological pieces, not irreversibly impacting ecosystem resilience or ecosystem resistance to change, and preserving the ability of ecosystems to meet the needs of future generations.

This Draft Land Management Plan aims to provide a sustainable framework of social, economic, and ecological conditions that will sustain native ecosystems and support diversity of native plant and animal species in the planning area.

Community-Based Stewardship

The San Juan Public Lands have a national reputation as a place where people are willing to actively engage in caring for the land and resources. Community-based stewardship attempts to incorporate local land stewardship ethics into a context of open citizen participation, inclusion of all interests, and the integration of ecological, social and economic knowledge. A variety of organizations and individuals volunteer to work in stewardship roles and are an integral part of the management of the San Juan Public Lands. Some user groups and permittees are willing to assume stewardship responsibilities in order to help maintain opportunities for their interests, and in order to contribute to land sustainability. Community-based stewardship provides more opportunities for creative solutions to land management issues and the SJPL managers intend to continue to foster relationships, as well as to set the stage for additional stewardship successes.

Fire

Fires do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries; therefore, local, State, and Federal fire protection entities have come together in recent years in order to develop coordinated mapping and community fire plans. SJPL managers have been a key participant in these community fire plans and are committed to participating in interjurisdictional fire planning in the future.

Water

Water is the lifeblood of Colorado; therefore, the allocation and management of water resources plays a crucial role in the vitality of Colorado's economy and way of life. Water-dependant terrestrial and aquatic wildlife; as well as the scenic, aesthetic, ecological, agricultural, municipal, industrial, and recreational values of the planning area contribute substantially to the economy of the State, and to the enjoyment of the public.

It is in the public interest to find reasonable solutions to challenging natural resource issues through the development of cooperative agreements. Cooperative approaches hold the promise of greater benefits to the public and the water resources than other means.

Water-resources management policy recognizes the distinctions between State and Federal roles and acknowledges the need to work cooperatively in order to achieve the best results; therefore, the following principles apply:

- The USFS and the BLM recognize and respect the authority of states to allocate water available for appropriation, and to manage water quality under the Clean Water Act.
- The USFS and the BLM are responsible for managing water uses within the planning area, consistent with both State and Federal law, as required under the Organic Administration Act of 1897, the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.
- The USFS and the BLM agree to explore creative management strategies in order to assure continued operation of water-use facilities within the planning area while, at the same time, protecting aquatic resources. SJPL managers will seek opportunities that can be implemented in the near future in order to demonstrate a constructive, trusting relationship upon which all interested parties and partners can build.
- Recognition and respect for valid existing water rights is a fundamental tenet of responsible Federal land management; therefore, it is essential to maintaining order and predictability among water uses and water users. Frequently, the exercise of a water right is connected to, or dependent upon, the permitted occupancy or use of public lands. In these instances, it is incumbent upon the Federal land manager to pursue land, water, and other resource management objectives in a manner that minimizes potential adverse impacts to the ability to exercise these rights. As noted below, there are some cases where conflicts would continue to exist. However, such conflicts can and should be resolved through cooperation between the USFS; the BLM; water-rights holders; and where appropriate, tribal, State, and local governments; and other interested parties.
- Occasionally, conflicts will occur between different management responsibilities, such as between the requirement to protect and recover federally listed threatened and endangered species and the administration of water rights pursuant to State authority. These conflicts are best avoided through careful advanced planning. However, in the instances when conflicts do arise, they should be resolved by Federal and State authorities working together in cooperation with water-rights holders (and, where appropriate, tribal, State, and local governments; and other interested parties), not through unilateral regulatory action on the part of the USFS or BLM.
- The USFS and the BLM agree to maintain, protect, and restore watersheds, as appropriate, through cooperative adaptive management.

Native American Rights and Interests

The USFS and BLM work collaboratively with the 25 Native American tribes and pueblos (See Table 7) that claim cultural affiliation with the San Juan Public Lands. The goal is to ensure that management issues of concern to the tribes and to the pueblos are addressed. All applicable USFS and BLM policies addressing tribal treaty rights and Federal trust responsibilities will continue to be followed. The USFS and BLM will continue to recognize the unique sovereign nation status that the Native American tribes and pueblos have with the United States government.

Table 7 - Tribes and Pueblos that Claim Cultural Affiliation with the SJPL

Southern Ute	Pueblo of Isleta	Pueblo of Sandia
Northern Ute	Pueblo of Jemez	Pueblo of Santa Ana
Ute Mountain Ute	Pueblo of Laguna	Pueblo of Santa Clara
Navajo	Pueblo of Nambe	Pueblo of Santo Domingo
Jicarilla Apache	Pueblo of Picuris	Pueblo of Taos
Hopi	Pueblo of Pojoaque	Pueblo of Tesuque
Zuni	Pueblo of San Felipe	Pueblo of Zia
Pueblo of Acoma	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	
Pueblo of Cochiti	Pueblo of San Juan	

Managers of the SJPL will maintain and strengthen the existing relationship of government-to-government consultation between the USFS and the BLM, and these 25 Native American tribes and pueblos. SJPL managers will continue to ensure that the hunting rights granted under the Brunot Agreement of 1873 are upheld throughout the planning area, and that traditional wildlife resources are available for the use of affiliated Native Americans, under established treaties and agreements. SJPL managers will develop consultation protocols and other formal agreements between the USFS and the BLM and Native American tribes and pueblos -- ensuring direct communication between SJPL managers and Native American tribal officials.

SJPL managers will continue to allow Native Americans to collect botanical and other special forest products from public lands within the constraint of ecological sustainability. SJPL managers will also coordinate and collaborate with Native American governments in order to increase awareness and knowledge of culturally significant plants. SJPL managers will consider potential impacts on culturally significant plants in project design and implementation. Prescribed burn plans, noxious weed control, and other management projects should address and consider traditional uses of, and traditional management of, culturally significant plants. Important cultural areas and traditional cultural properties within the planning area will continue to be protected for current and future Native American use. SJPL managers will continue to consult with tribes and pueblos (and knowledgeable individuals) in order to identify important cultural areas and traditional cultural properties. If requested by the tribes and/or by the pueblos, SJPL managers will keep information on such localities and uses confidential. SJPL managers will continue to conduct Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) consultation with tribes and pueblos regarding collections of human remains and items of cultural patrimony.

SJPL managers will provide opportunities for participation and partnerships in educational, interpretive, social, and economic programs. SJPL managers will continue to work with the tribes and pueblos in order to educate the public on appropriate and respectful etiquette when visiting culturally sensitive sites.