

## BACKGROUND

USFS- and BLM-administered lands are typically suitable for a variety of multiple uses (including outdoor recreation, range management, timber harvesting/production, and visitor enjoyment of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat). Identification of areas generally suitable for various uses and activities is an important part of the strategy of this planning process, with the goal being the integration of social, economic, and ecological considerations into the LMP.

Lands are typically suitable for uses and activities unless one of the following conditions applies:

- use is prohibited by law, regulation, Executive Order, and/or agency resource management directives;
- use would result in substantial and permanent impairment of the productivity of the land or renewable resource; and
- use is incompatible with the desired conditions for the relevant portion of the planning area.

Suitability is described in two ways in this DLMP:

- ***Suitability by Management Area (MA)***: These mapped descriptions relate suitability to general uses and activities defined in each Management Area (non-contiguous land areas); and
- ***Suitability by Program***: These descriptions of suitability relate uses and activities to the SJPLC-administered programs that accommodate them.

## SUITABILITY BY MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Areas geographically define suitability for different uses and management activities. Activities and uses in MAs reflect the desired conditions found in Part 1 of the DLMP. MA uses and/or activities may be limited by unit-wide desired conditions and design criteria found in Parts 1 and 3. A description of MAs can also be found in Part 1 “GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND MANAGEMENT AREA DESIRED CONDITIONS.” Unless otherwise indicated, the most restrictive conditions would apply.

All lands within the planning area fall into one of seven different Management Areas (see Figure 10). These MAs provide a spectrum of management that ranges from little to no active management (as in MA 1 - Natural Processes Dominate) to heavily managed and highly altered areas (as in MA 8 - Highly Developed Areas).

To varying degrees, multiple uses would occur within all the MAs. MAs describe the level of management, investment and appearance of landscapes, and the suitable uses and activities that may occur within that area. For each MA, uses and activities are identified as either allowable, restricted, or prohibited.

The activities and use terms contained in the suitability tables for each MA are described below:

- **Wildland Fire Use:** Managing natural fires in order to achieve a management objective and/or a desired condition. Wildland fire is only part of an overall appropriate management response (which may be suitable in most MAs). The application of wildland fire use would always depend on site-specific conditions, current and predicted future weather, and fuel conditions.
- **Prescribed Burning:** Igniting fires in order to achieve a management objective and/or a desired condition. Managed active burning will be prescribed and monitored to burn at specified intensities over a defined area.
- **Mechanical Fuels Treatments:** This includes any method to masticate or thin vegetation by hand or by machine (including thinning with chainsaws or any commercial machine, shredder, chipper, or similar equipment).
- **Timber Production:** This involves the removal of wood fiber for commercial-utilization purposes. Harvesting for timber production purposes is scheduled and regulated.
- **Timbering Harvest as a Tool:** This involves the removal of wood fiber to achieve management objectives and/or desired conditions. If a MA is suitable for timber harvesting as a tool but not suitable for timber production, timber harvesting would only occur in order to achieve a management objective and/or a desired condition (including fuels reduction and/or wildlife habitat improvements).
- **Special Forest Products and Firewood for Commercial and Personal Use:** This includes firewood, Christmas trees, tree transplants, mushrooms, medicinal herbs, boughs, and cones. Commercial use would occur through a permitting process. Personal use (use not involving the sale of forest products) may require a permit.
- **Livestock Grazing:** This includes permitted livestock grazing (as authorized in designated areas, or allotments, under certain terms and conditions). Allotments contain lands determined to be both suitable and otherwise. Stocking rates shown on grazing permits would be based only on the suitable lands, as determined at the project level. (Suitability determinations are, by definition, general determinations derived from modeling exercises and are, by nature, approximations).
- **Recreation Facilities:** This includes infrastructure and structures placed on public lands for resource protection and/or for public enjoyment.
- **Motorized (Summer):** This includes the use of motorized wheeled vehicles (including four-wheel drives, dirt bikes, and ATVs/OHVs) during the year when the ground is not covered by snow.
- **Motorized (Winter):** This includes the use of snowmobiles and other motorized winter vehicles during the snow-covered months.
- **Non-Motorized (Summer and Winter):** This includes hiking, running, walking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and/or other means of non-motorized recreation. Non-motorized use does not include mountain biking (which is included under “mechanized use”). Non-motorized use is generally suitable in most MAs.
- **Motorized Tools:** This includes tools involving internal combustion or electric motors (including the use of chainsaws for trail clearing, welding units, or generators). For some MAs, this use is specified for administrative use only (meaning personal or commercial use would not be generally suitable).
- **Mechanized:** This includes any wheeled vehicle (including mountain bikes, non-motorized carts, wheelbarrows, and other wheeled, non-motorized vehicles). For some MAs, this use is specified as limited to designated routes. This does not include wheelchairs suitable for use inside buildings.

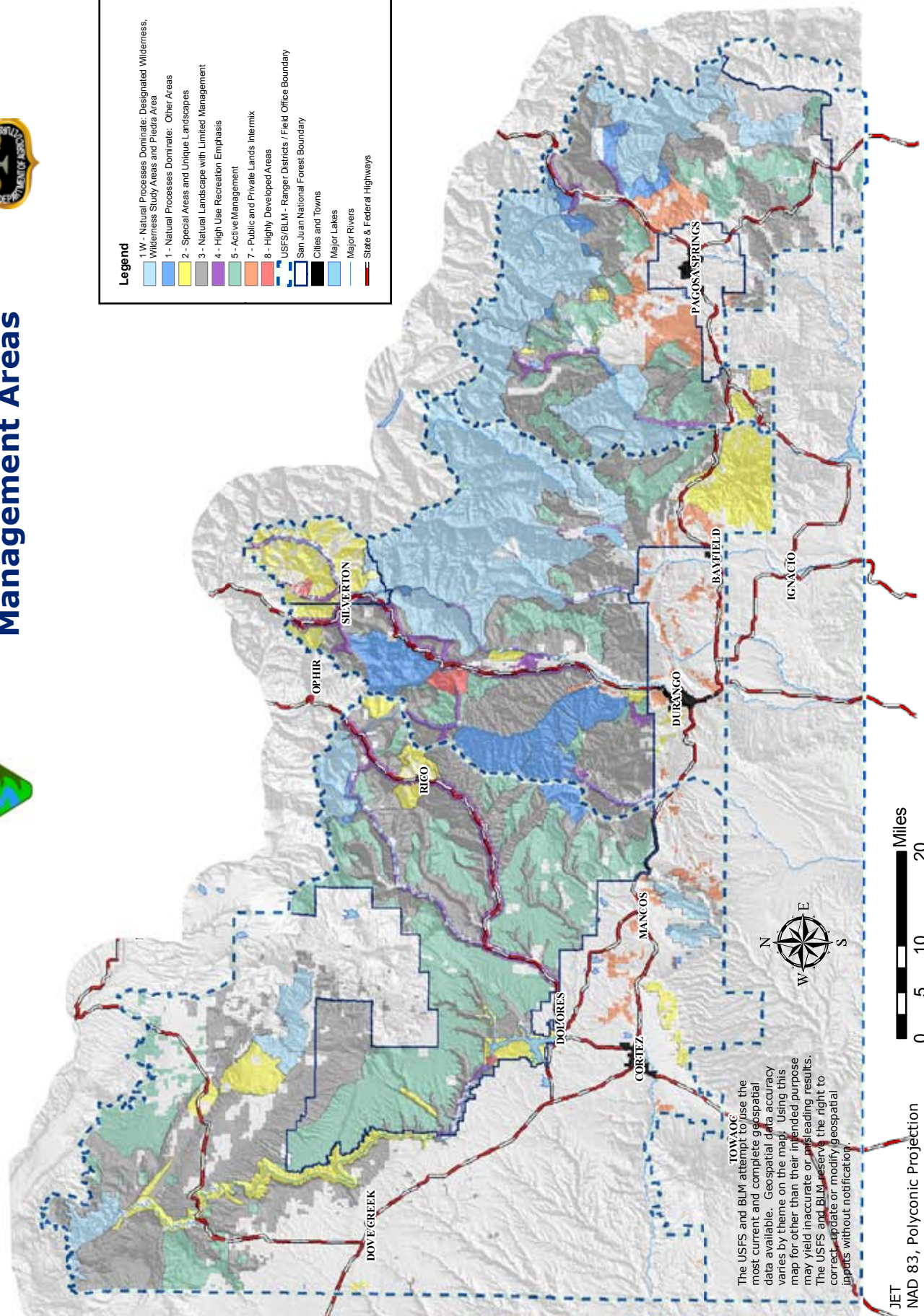
- **Road Construction (Permanent or Temporary):** This includes the building of roads for a specified use or uses, either permanent or temporary.
- **Minerals - Leasable:** This would include oil and gas and other leasable minerals. This use would be permitted through site-specific analysis. Suitability for minerals leasable describes lease stipulations that may apply, and may then be made as part of a lease.
  - **Timing Limitation Stipulation (TL) (Seasonal Restriction):** This includes the prohibition of surface-use during specified time periods in order to protect identified resource values. A TL would be used, when necessary, in order to restrict exploration activities on leased lands for a period of time greater than 60 days.
  - **Controlled Surface Use (CSU):** This includes the allowance of use and occupancy (unless restricted by another stipulation). However, identified resource values would require special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. CSU stipulations would be used for operating guidance, not as a substitute for NSO or TL stipulations.
  - **No Surface Occupancy (NSO):** This includes the prohibition of use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid-mineral exploration or development in order to protect identified resource values. Even though NSO stipulations would prohibit surface occupation for exploration or development of oil and gas resources, the subsurface resources would be legally available if they could be accessed by means other than by occupying the surface specified in the NSO stipulation. Leasing an area with an NSO stipulation, rather than declaring it “not administratively available” for leasing, may allow for development through directional drilling if adjacent lands are available for leasing with surface occupancy or are privately owned.
- **Mineral - Saleable:** This includes gravel and decorative rock, which is permitted for commercial or personal use.
- **Minerals - Locatable:** This includes minerals that are subject to claim under the Mining Law of 1872 that are open to entry for exploration and development (unless withdrawn by law).



# San Juan Public Lands Management Areas



Figure 10 - Management Areas (MAs)



**Legend**

- 1W - Natural Processes Dominate: Designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas and Piedra Area
- 1 - Natural Processes Dominate: Other Areas
- 2 - Special Areas and Unique Landscapes
- 3 - Natural Landscape with Limited Management
- 4 - High Use Recreation Emphasis
- 5 - Active Management
- 7 - Public and Private Lands Intermix
- 8 - Highly Developed Areas
- USFS/BLM - Ranger Districts / Field Office Boundary
- San Juan National Forest Boundary
- Cities and Towns
- Major Lakes
- Major Rivers
- State & Federal Highways

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## SUITABILITY BY MANAGEMENT AREA (MA)

### MANAGEMENT AREA 1 (MA 1) - NATURAL PROCESS DOMINATE

**Table 10 - Management Area 1 Suitability**

ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Allowable
Prescribed Burning	Allowable
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Restricted (Mechanical Treatments would generally involve the use of hand-portable tools and generally be applied only in areas outside designated wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).)
Timber Harvesting as a Tool	Prohibited
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Prohibited
Livestock Grazing	Allowable
Recreation Facilities	Prohibited
Motorized (Summer)	Prohibited
Motorized (Winter)	Prohibited
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Restricted (Motorized tools may be used in the Piedra Area and in areas outside of designated wilderness and WSAs.)
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Restricted (Mountain bikes are suitable in MA 1 landscapes outside of designated wilderness and WSAs.)
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Prohibited
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Restricted (Designated Wilderness and the Piedra Area are withdrawn from mineral leasing. WSAs are administrative not available for mineral leasing. A NSO Stipulation would be applied to IRAs outside of designated Wilderness and WSAs.)
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Prohibited
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted (Designated Wilderness, the Piedra Area, and WSAs are withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. Limited road access and other constraints may increase the cost and complexity of locatable mineral exploration in other MA 1 lands.)

## MANAGEMENT AREA 2 (MA 2) - SPECIAL AREAS AND UNIQUE LANDSCAPES

These areas possess one or more special features or characteristics that make them, and their management requirements, unique from other areas within the planning area. As a result of this, suitability differs for each specific MA 2. Suitability for each MA 2, along with other specific guidance, is described later in this document, in the Special Areas and Unique Landscapes Section.

## Management Area 3 (MA 3) - Natural Landscapes, with Limited Management

**Table 11 - Management Area 3 Suitability**

ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Allowable
Prescribed Burning	Allowable
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Allowable
Timber Harvesting as a Tool	Allowable
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Allowable
Livestock Grazing	Allowable
Recreation Facilities	Restricted (Facilities in MA 3s may be suitable to minimize resource impacts. Facilities for user convenience are not emphasized.)
Motorized (Summer)	Restricted (Summer motorized travel may occur in some MA 3 locations on designated routes.)
Motorized (Winter)	Restricted (Over-snow motorized travel may occur in some MA 3 locations.)
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Restricted (Temporary roads construction may occur in some MA 3 locations in order to achieve hazardous fuels reduction and/or restoration objectives.)
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Restricted (NSO stipulations will be applied to IRAs within MA 3 landscapes. CSU and TL stipulations may be applied to specific locations, as necessary, in order to mitigate resource impacts.)
Minerals - Saleable (materials)	Restricted (Limited road access and other constraints in MA 3 landscapes may limit or preclude mineral collection.)
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted (Limited road access and other constraints may increase the cost and complexity of locatable mineral exploration in MA 3s.)

**MANAGEMENT AREA 4 (MA 4) - HIGH-USE RECREATION EMPHASIS**

**Table 12 - Management Area 4 Suitability**

ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Prohibited
Prescribed Burning	Allowable
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Allowable
Timber Harvesting as a Tool	Allowable
Timber Production (schedule on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Restricted (Key areas for cone, mushroom, and other gathering, and commercial firewood collection can be beneficial.)
Livestock Grazing	Allowable
Facilities	Allowable
Motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Allowable
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	NL
Minerals - Saleable	Restricted (Developed recreation facilities are proposed to be withdrawn from mineral entry.)
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted (Developed recreation facilities are proposed to be withdrawn from mineral entry.)

**MANAGEMENT AREA 5 (MA 5) - ACTIVE MANAGEMENT (commodity production in order to meet multiple-use goals)**

**Table 13 - Management Area 5 Suitability**

ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Allowable
Prescribed Burning	Allowable
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Allowable
Timber Harvesting as a Tool	Allowable
Timber Production (schedule on a rotation basis)	Allowable
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Allowable
Livestock Grazing	Allowable
Facilities	Allowable
Motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Allowable
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Restricted (Depending on the area, leasable minerals may be stipulated in order to protect or mitigate impact to specific resources.)
Minerals - Saleable	Restricted (Depending on the area, saleable minerals may be stipulated in order to protect or mitigate impact to specific resources.)
Minerals - Locatable	Allowable



**MANAGEMENT AREA 7 (MA 7) - PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS INTERMIX**

**Table 14 - Management Area 7 Suitability**

ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Prohibited
Prescribed Burning	Allowable
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Allowable
Timber Harvesting as a Tool	Allowable
Timber Production (scheduled on a rotation basis)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	Allowable
Livestock Grazing	Allowable
Recreation Facilities	Allowable
Motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Allowable
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	Restricted (Depending on the area, leasable minerals may be stipulated in order to protect or mitigate impact to specific resources.)
Minerals - Saleable	Restricted (Depending on the area, saleable minerals may be stipulated in order to protect or mitigate impact to specific resources.)
Minerals - Locatable	Allowable

## MANAGEMENT AREA 8 (MA 8) - HIGHLY DEVELOPED AREAS

**Table 15 - Management Area 8 Suitability**

ACTIVITIES AND USES	ALLOWABLE - RESTRICTED - PROHIBITED
Wildland Fire Use	Prohibited
Prescribed Burning	Allowable
Mechanical Fuels Treatment	Allowable
Timber Harvesting as a Tool	Allowable
Timber Production (permanent or temporary)	Prohibited
Commercial Use of Special Forest Products and Firewood	May be restricted
Livestock Grazing	May be restricted
Recreation Facilities	Allowable
Motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Summer)	Allowable
Non-motorized (Winter)	Allowable
Motorized Tools for Administrative Work	Allowable
Mechanized (e.g., Mountain Bikes)	Allowable
Road Construction (permanent or temporary)	Allowable
Minerals - Leasable (oil and gas, and other)	NSO
Minerals - Saleable	Restricted (Depending on the area, saleable minerals may be stipulated in order to protect or mitigate impacts to specific resources.)
Minerals - Locatable	Restricted (MA 8s contain a provision for assessing the affected area for future mineral withdrawal.)

## SUITABILITY BY PROGRAM

In some cases, suitability varies within a Management Area for a particular activity or use. For example, motorized use of existing roads and trails is allowed in some Management Area 3 locations, but not others. Another example is that timber production (commercial timber harvesting) is generally allowed in Management Area 5s, but not on steep slopes or unstable soils. Suitability direction not contained in the Management Areas is discussed by program, below.

### MOTORIZED TRAVEL SUITABILITY

Within each MA suitability section, motorized suitability has been generally defined (see Figures 11 and 12). The MA boundaries were also a factor used in the development of the over-ground and over-snow motorized suitability maps. The travel suitability maps identified within this planning process identify areas that are generally suitable for designation of routes for both over-ground and over-snow motorized use. Some of the criteria for the eventual selection of specific routes may include the need for access, proximity to private property, desired recreation opportunities, erosion potential and slope, resource protection, route density, and wildlife habitat considerations. Suitability maps have been developed separately for over-ground motorized travel and for over-snow motorized travel. These suitable areas will be used as a framework in subsequent route-by-route motorized designations.

Over-ground motorized suitability is divided into three classes: 1) unsuitable, 2) suitable, and 3) suitable opportunity areas. Unsuitable areas are IRAs and/or areas that are not conducive to road system development for resource, wildlife habitat, and/or constructability reasons. Suitable areas are those that have an existing developed road and/or motorized trail system that adequately serves the recreation and resource access needs of the particular area. Suitable areas would not generally be considered for expansion of the transportation system. Suitable opportunity areas are those that may have an existing road and/or motorized trail system; however, there is a potential that this system may be improved by connecting existing roads or trails in order to create loop opportunities using existing unauthorized roads or trails, or by adding relatively short road or trail segments.

The over-ground motorized suitability provides a framework for subsequent route-by-route designation occurring outside of this LMP. A separate travel management planning process will be conducted under the framework of the Forest Service's 2005 Travel Management Rule (which will work towards making route designations that conform to the suitability classifications defined in this DLMP/DEIS).

Over-snow motorized suitability is divided into two classes: 1) unsuitable, and 2) suitable. Unsuitable areas include regulated areas, Wilderness Areas, WSAs, and most RNAs. Areas utilized as critical winter habitat may also be determined as unsuitable for winter motorized use. In determining suitability for over-snow motorized uses, consideration was given to the availability of parking/staging areas and to the potential of reducing user conflicts. Due to the rapid progress in technology and capabilities of over-snow recreational vehicles, topography was not a consideration in determining suitability unless there was a related resource or wildlife concern.

The over-snow motorized suitability analysis is being evaluated as part of this planning process, and the finalized over-snow suitability area boundaries will be implemented upon adoption of the final approved LMP. However, implementation of closures will require subsequent NEPA analysis.

Figure 11 - Proposed Over-Ground Travel Suitability



# San Juan Public Lands Proposed Over-Ground Travel Suitability

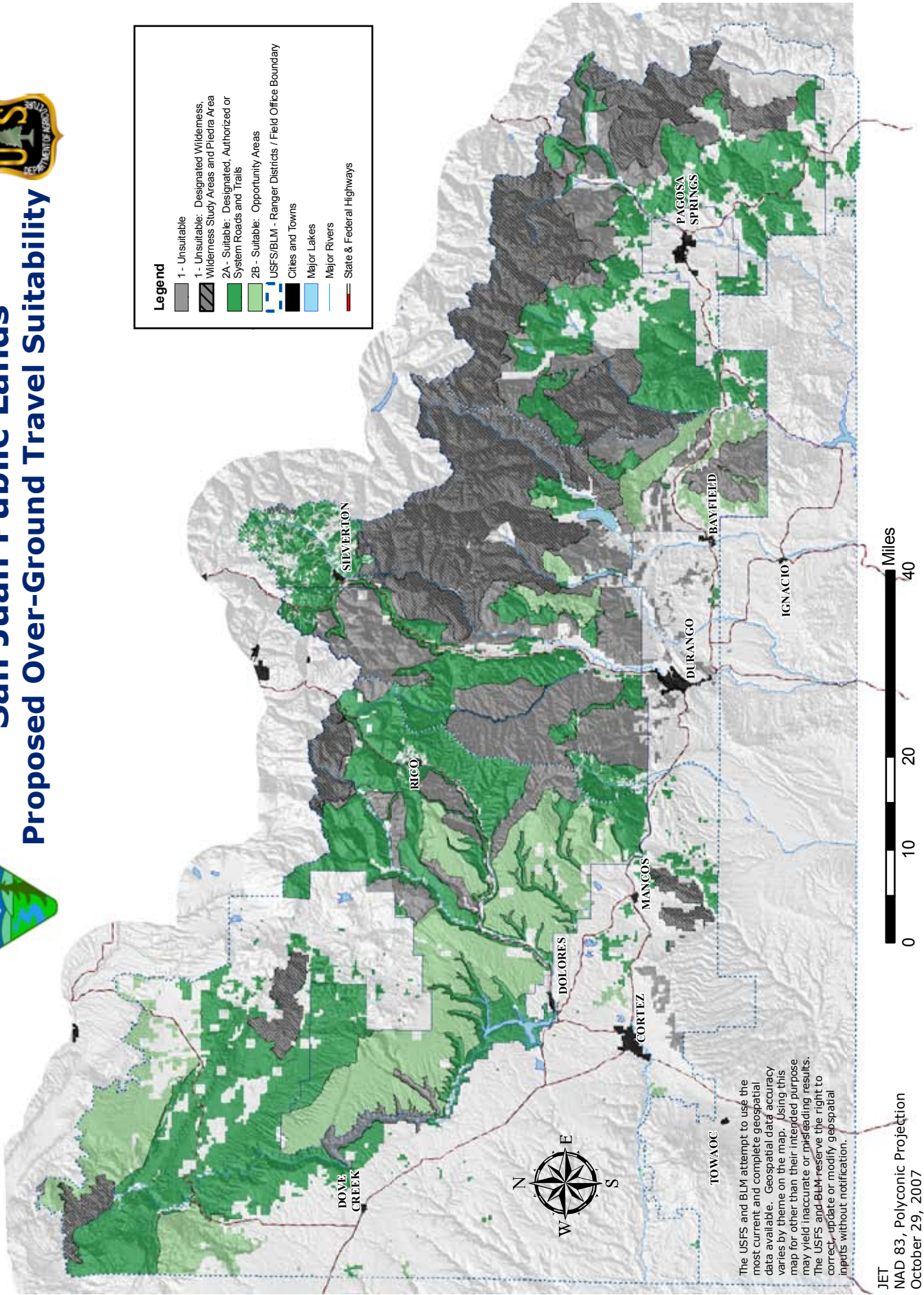
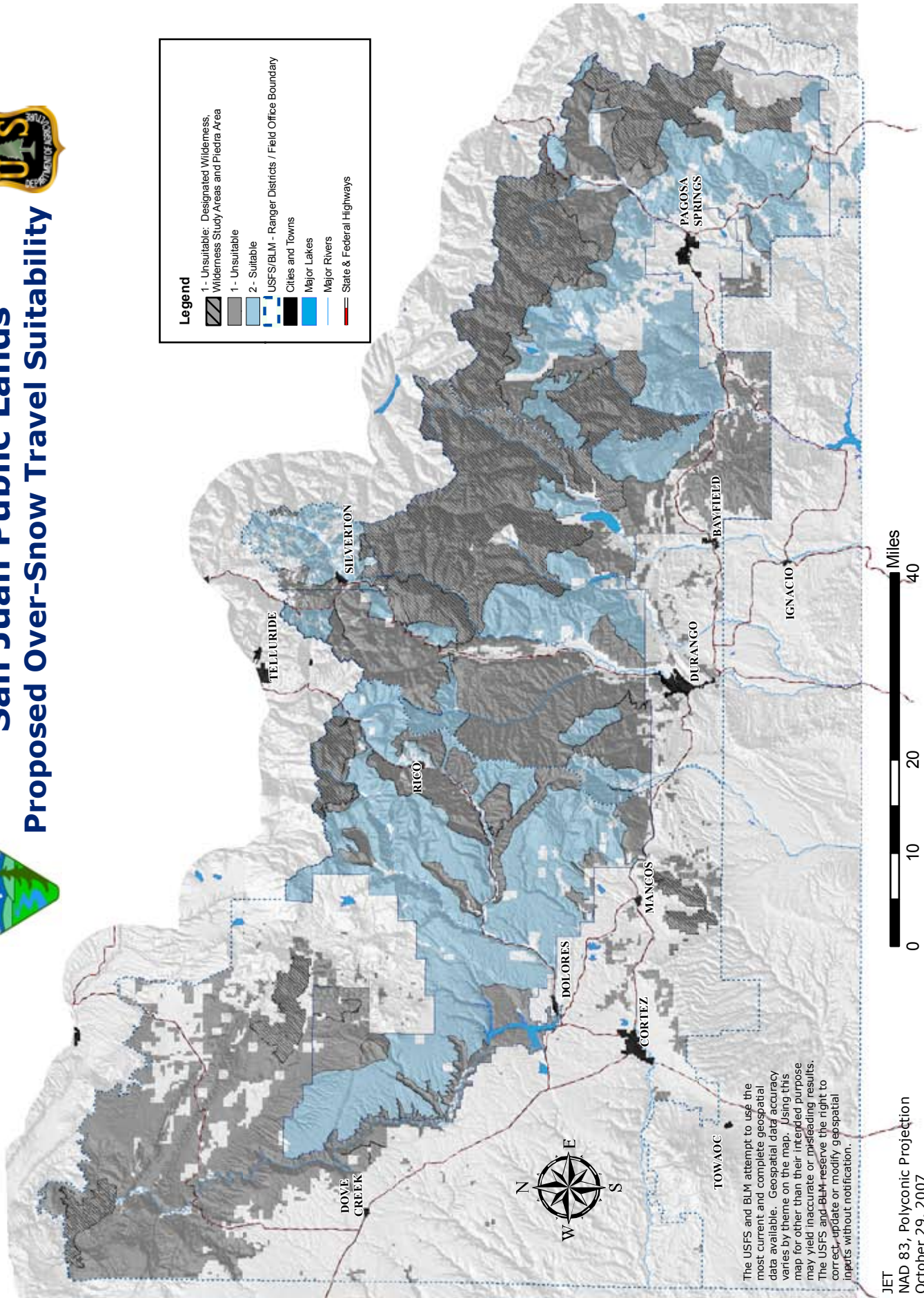


Figure 12 - Proposed Over-Snow Travel Suitability



# San Juan Public Lands Proposed Over-Snow Travel Suitability



**Legend**

- 1 - Unsuitable: Designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas and Piedra Area
- 1 - Unsuitable
- 2 - Suitable
- USFS/BLM - Ranger Districts / Field Office Boundary
- Cities and Towns
- Major Lakes
- Major Rivers
- State & Federal Highways

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## TIMBER SUITABILITY

The timber suitability maps (see Figure 13 - Tentatively Suitable Timber) display areas where timber harvesting could occur. These lands are designated as:

- **Lands Suitable for Timber Production (FSH 2409.13, Chapter 20):** These occur where timber production is compatible with desired conditions and objectives. These lands are in MA 5s where timber harvests will occur on a regulated, scheduled basis.
- **Other Lands (FSH 2409.13, Chapter 20):** These lands are considered not suitable for timber production. Timber harvest may occur on these lands for purposes other than for timber production, but is not scheduled or regulated. If timber harvest occurs on these lands, it must be for the purpose of meeting other desired conditions and/or objectives (such as fuels reduction or wildlife habitat improvement). These lands are found in MAs 3, 4, 7, 8, and in some MA 2s.

Table 16 summarizes the timber suitability classification.

**Table 16 - Timber Suitability Classification**

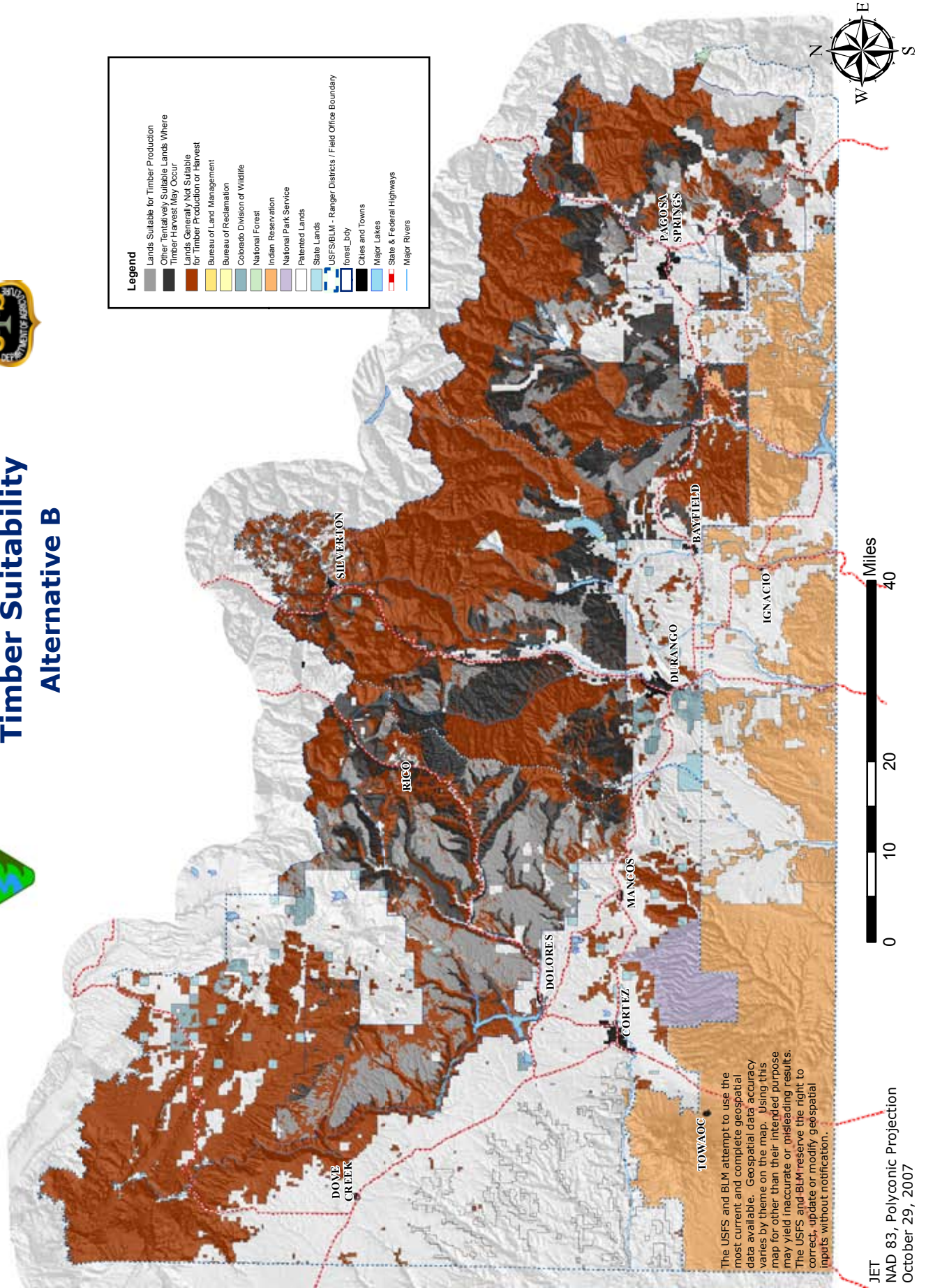
CLASSIFICATION	ACRES
Suitable for Timber Production	313,812
Other Lands	395,979
Lands Not Suitable	1,564,210

Figure 13 - Tentatively Suitable Timber

**San Juan Public Lands  
Timber Suitability  
Alternative B**



Legend	
[Grey Box]	Lands Suitable for Timber Production
[Dark Grey Box]	Other Tentatively Suitable Lands Where Timber Harvest May Occur
[Brown Box]	Lands Generally Not Suitable for Timber Production or Harvest
[Yellow Box]	Bureau of Land Management
[Light Blue Box]	Bureau of Reclamation
[Green Box]	Colorado Division of Wildlife
[Light Green Box]	National Forest
[Light Purple Box]	Indian Reservation
[Light Blue Box]	National Park Service
[White Box]	Patented Lands
[Light Blue Box]	State Lands
[Blue Box]	USFS/BLM - Ranger Districts / Field Office Boundary
[Blue Box]	forest_dby
[Black Box]	Cities and Towns
[Blue Box]	Major Lakes
[Red Box]	State & Federal Highways
[Blue Box]	Major Rivers



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## LIVESTOCK GRAZING SUITABILITY

Using the processes described in the BLM’s Land Use Planning Handbook (H-160-1) and the USFS’s Region 2 Desk Guide, a suitability analysis was conducted in order to meet the intent of 36 CFR 219.20 (a) (See Figure 14 - Suitable Cattle Lands and Figure - 15 Suitable Sheep Lands). This process is a general modeling process and is limited in precision and accuracy. It provides a determination of areas generally suitable for livestock grazing. The determination may be refined at the project level, if doing so will provide improved information to managers; however, it is not required at that level.

The analysis determined that of the 502,154 acres of BLM lands in the planning area, approximately 61% (304,929 acres) are suitable and capable for cattle, and approximately 64% (321,782 acres) are suitable and capable for sheep. Of the 1,862,769 acres of USFS lands in the planning area, approximately 52% (963,607 acres) are suitable and capable for cattle, and approximately 59% (1,107,158 acres) are suitable and capable for sheep.

Table 17 displays the Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available within BLM lands administered by the SJPLC (a similar determination is not required on USFS-administered lands because AUMs under term-grazing permit are determined on an allotment-by-allotment basis; therefore, they can vary according to management, and rangeland condition and trend).

**Table 17 - AUMs Available on BLM Lands Administered by the SJPLC**

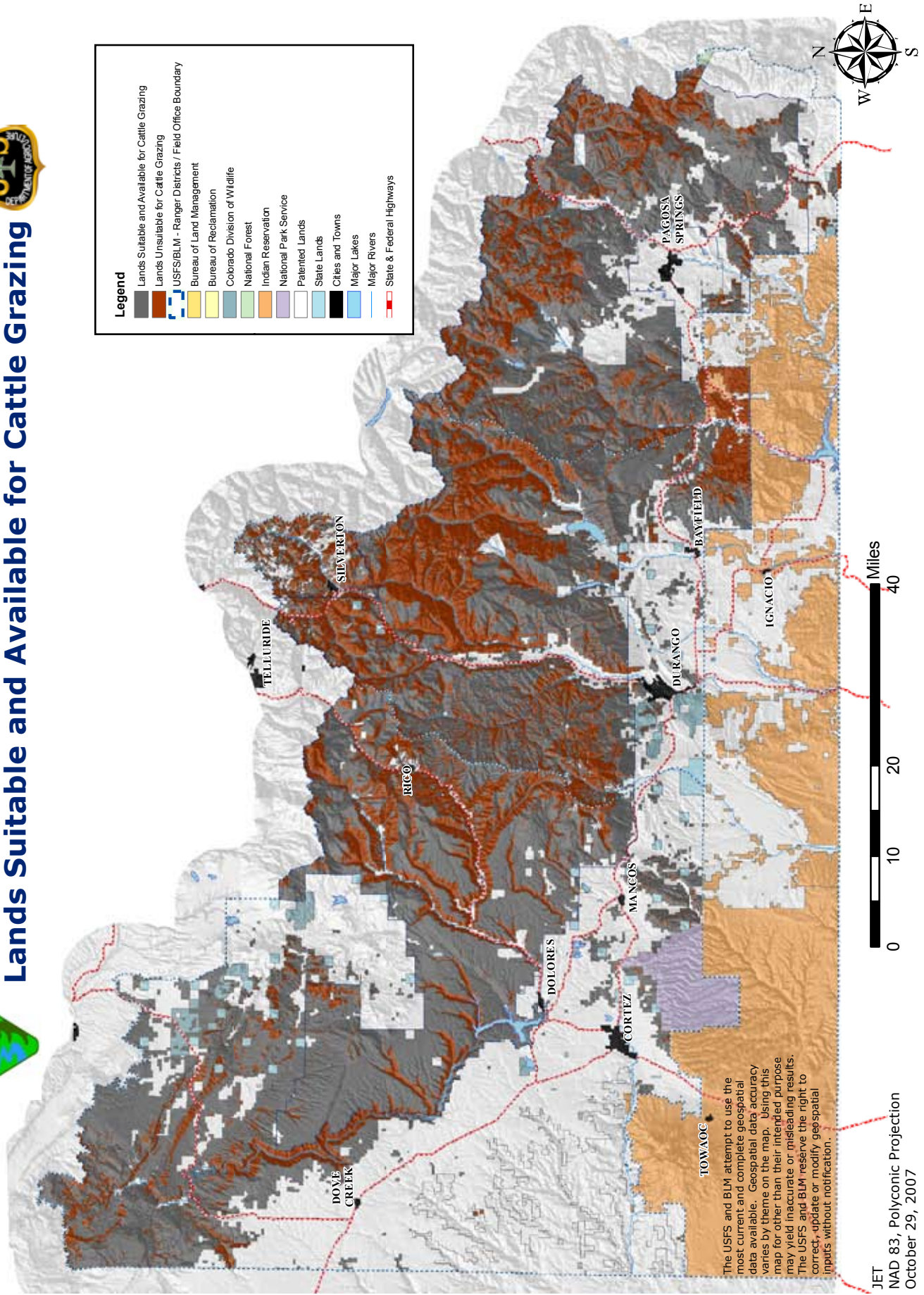
LIVESTOCK CLASS	BLM
Cattle	22,100
Sheep	2,204
Total	24,304



Figure 14 - Cattle Grazing Suitability



# San Juan Public Lands Lands Suitable and Available for Cattle Grazing



**Legend**

- Lands Suitable and Available for Cattle Grazing
- Lands Unsuitable for Cattle Grazing
- USFS/BLM - Ranger Districts / Field Office Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- National Forest
- Indian Reservation
- National Park Service
- Patented Lands
- State Lands
- Cities and Towns
- Major Lakes
- Major Rivers
- State & Federal Highways

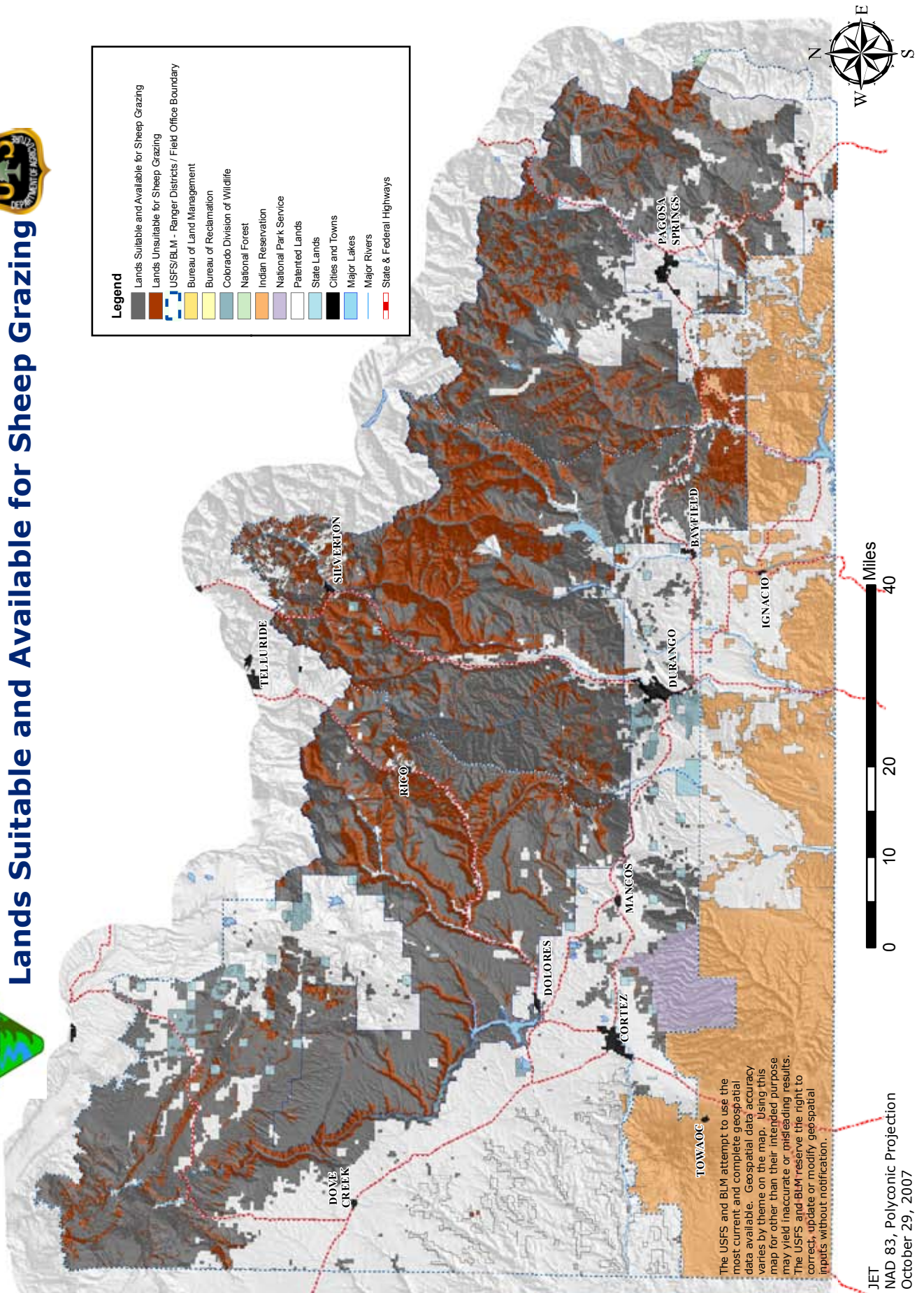
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Figure 15 - Sheep Grazing Suitability



# San Juan Public Lands Lands Suitable and Available for Sheep Grazing



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## **WATER DEVELOPMENT SUITABILITY**

Water development is normally a suitable use for USFS-administered lands, and an allowable use for BLM-administered lands. New water development would be suitable for MA 4s, 5s, 7s, or 8s when water development can occur when, and where, it is compatible with other desired conditions and objectives for the area.

In most cases, MA 1s are not suitable for new water development because natural processes, natural settings, and/or relatively pristine characteristics are central to the desired conditions of the areas.

Suitability of MA 2s for new water developments depends upon the specific characteristics that the area management emphasizes or protects.

The suitability of MA 3s for new water development depends upon compatibility with the particular area's guidance for road construction, motorized use, scenic quality, and ecological sustainability. Project-level decisions will address compatibility, as well as the ability of the project to sustain natural hydrologic regimes in determining suitability for new water development in MA 3.

## **MINERALS AND ENERGY SUITABILITY**

The SJPL contains both known (historic and current) and potential (geologically favorable) areas for the occurrence of valuable mineral deposits and energy resources. An assessment of the San Juan National Forest portion of the SJPL was completed by the US Bureau of Mines (Neubert, 1992) and updated by the Forest Service (Van Loenen and Gibbons, 1994). The 1994 update included the results of field studies, literature review, sample collection and analysis, mine site visits, and review of Forest Service data. An assessment focusing on oil and gas potential and development was completed for the SJPL for this Plan, incorporating and updating the earlier report results (Gault Group, 2006).

### **Solid Minerals**

#### ***Locatable Minerals***

Most Locatable Minerals (such as precious and base metals, uranium, certain types of limestone), Mineral Materials (sand, gravel, and construction stone), and some Leasable Minerals (coal) are extracted by mining methods. Because of the similarity in development techniques and environmental effects, these minerals are discussed as Solid Minerals. The nonsolid or Fluid Leasable Minerals category includes oil, gas, and geothermal energy. Because of the differing methods and effects of development for these minerals, Oil and Gas and Geothermal Energy are discussed in separate sections below.

SJPL lands which have moderate to high potential for the occurrence of locatable mineral deposits include the Slick Rock/Dove Creek area (also known as the Uravan Mineral Belt; uranium, vanadium); the Rico-Dunton area (gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper); the La Plata Mountains (the California Mining District; silver, gold, lead, copper); the Silverton area (silver, gold, lead, zinc, copper); and the Needle Mountains (silver, gold, copper, uranium). Most locatable mineral sites are historic and not currently active. Only the Slick Rock/Dove Creek area and the Silverton area have ongoing lode claim mining activity. The Slick Rock/Dove Creek area also has activity on Department of Energy Uranium Leasing Program lease tracts on withdrawn public land. There are active placer mining claims along Mineral Creek and the Animas River downstream from Silverton, Cascade Creek below the La Plata Mountains, and Dolores River downstream from Rico.

High to moderate locatable mineral potential also occurs within the Lizard Head Wilderness (Mount Wilson/ Navajo Basin area), the Weminuche Wilderness (Piedra headwaters area), and the South San Juan Wilderness (Quartz Creek area) (Van Loenen et al. 1997); but these areas are withdrawn from mineral entry under terms of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and cannot be claimed or developed unless there are valid existing rights.

The most important SJPL locatable mineral commodities, in descending order of number of claims filed, are uranium, vanadium, base metal (lead, copper, and zinc), silver, and gold. Base and precious metals were historically the most valuable of the locatable minerals, but today represent only a minor part of the current activity. The growing level of interest in uranium indicates the importance of energy development in the region today; vanadium likewise is of modern interest as a critical metal for hardening steel.

Limestone valuable for chemical and industrial use is locatable. No development is currently active on SJPL, but deposits of suitable limestone occur across SJPL. The Animas River Valley contains the most significant and accessible resources. Past proposals to mine this material led to withdrawal of deposits to protect scenic values along the US 550 highway corridor.

The suitability of SJPL for locatable mineral entry, a statutory right, is not directly affected by management areas. Management areas do not close suitable areas to mineral entry without further analysis and decision-making and withdrawal of an area from locatable mineral development. Potential availability, access and operating constraints may vary by management areas. Lands that are within MAs 1 and 8 contain provisions that are not generally compatible with mineral resource development; MA1 areas which are recommended in the Plan for designation as wilderness would require withdrawal from mineral location and leasing, to be pursued under a separate analysis and decision process. MA2 requires a specific management plan to be prepared, which may include an assessment for locatable mineral withdrawal, should the resources or values identified under that Management Area be incompatible with mineral activity. MA3 includes limitations on road density and motorized travel, as well as other constraints, that may increase the cost and complexity of locatable mineral exploration and development. MA4 includes an emphasis on recreational values and development, again with constraints that may affect the cost of mineral activity or support a proposal for withdrawal of the affected area. MA5 and MA7 would not materially affect availability of lands suitable for locatable mineral activity. MA8 areas would likely be recommended for locatable mineral withdrawal.

### ***Mineral Materials***

Other solid minerals such as mineral materials (gravel and stone) and coal are extracted by mining methods, but are not subject to claim under the Mining Law. Mineral materials are disposed of under discretionary sale authority. Coal deposits are developed under a federal leasing program.

Mineral materials, also referred to as “Salable” and “Common Variety” minerals, are generally low-value deposits of sand, clay, and stone used for building materials, aggregate, bulk fill, rip-rap, road surfacing, decoration, and landscaping. Disposal of these materials is discretionary; the public does not have a statutory right to these materials.

Deposits of limestone and aggregates were developed to build railroads, roads, and provide a source for concrete along with clay for brick and ceramics. Today, common variety mineral (e.g., sand and gravel) development continues to be important in the subregion and the surrounding western states.

SJPL has conducted an assessment of the potential for occurrence of mineral material deposits (Van Loenen et al. 1997), as summarized below.

Areas with known resources or are favorable for resources of sand and gravel may contain material ready for use, or suitable for screening, washing, or crushing to meet size or fine-material requirements. Areas of Quaternary age alluvium, colluvium and glacial drift, and areas of river terrace deposits, contain sand and gravel suitable for use with minimal treatment. Talus slopes of Late Cretaceous and Tertiary age igneous rock produce material suitable for crushing, lightweight aggregate, and dimension stone. Late Cretaceous and Tertiary age igneous intrusives produce dimension stone and large aggregate. Late Cretaceous sedimentary rock produces dimension stone and aggregates.

Large boulders occur across SJPL in stream deposits, glacial drift, and till, landslides, and floodplains. Most are found at higher elevations and those closest to existing roads are primary targets for purchase.

Unlike most locatable minerals, mineral material resources occur as a result of erosion, deposition, or exposure of widespread geological formations (rock types or layers). Common sites for natural concentrations of small to large amounts of such materials are canyon walls, stream channels, talus slopes, landslides, ancient river terraces, glacial moraines, and floodplains. Road cuts, quarries, and pits increase the amount of material available for extraction.

SJPL has about 20 currently active sand and gravel sites. Because of the informal nature of many borrow pits and lack of reporting, it is likely that this number does not include all sites. Because most mineral materials are collected from road cuts, stream channel banks, or alluvial deposits, the sites typically are located in valley bottoms. Ute Creek, the Animas River, and San Juan River above Pagosa Springs have active sites.

Current mineral material collecting areas are along roads and in areas of natural accumulation of rock (glacial deposits, talus slopes, weathered outcrops). Quarries on SJPL may be developed by private or commercial parties, or local, state or federal agencies.

The suitability of SJPL for the production of mineral materials is affected by management areas. MA1 is closed for mineral material collection. MA2 requires a specific management plan to be prepared, which may include criteria for collection of mineral materials or a closure to such collection, based on the special area management plan. MA3 includes limitations on road density and motorized travel, as well as other constraints, that may limit or preclude mineral material collection. MA4 emphasizes recreation and associated development, potentially resulting in constraints that may limit or preclude mineral material collection. MA5 and MA7 would not materially affect availability of lands suitable for this mineral activity. MA8 emphasizes urban interface uses, which may be compatible with mineral material collection, especially supported by short haul distances to use sites.

## **Solid Leasable Minerals**

### ***Coal***

Coal beds crop out along the margins of the Paradox and San Juan basins in SJPL. These outcrops are of late Cretaceous and early Tertiary age.

Historically, small underground and surface mines to support local markets followed the northern edge of the San Juan Basin between Durango east to Pagosa Springs (more or less along the U.S. Highway 160 corridor). These mines and related prospects are largely abandoned. There are currently six coal mines operating in or adjacent to SJPL, four of which are located immediately west of Durango and two of which are located between Durango and the Piedra River. More recently, large-scale mines have been developed in the region outside of SJPL to feed regional power generation needs.

### **Coal Unsuitability Assessment**

Under the terms of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), the SJNF and BLM conducted Coal Unsuitability Assessments to determine the suitability of lands for surface coal mining leasing and development operations. Twenty Unsuitability Criteria and appropriate Exceptions and Exemptions were applied to the Durango, East Cortez and Menefee Known Recoverable Coal Resource Areas (KRCRA) as identified by the U.S. Geological Survey. In summary, 13,400 acres (9%) of the Durango KRCRA, 720 acres (25%) of the East Cortez KRCRA, and 80 acres (100%) of the Menefee KRCRA were identified as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. Based on the Unsuitability Assessments (BLM RMP 1985; SJNF LRMP 1983), 46,000 acres (31%) of the Durango KRCRA are identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, with an estimated reserve of 1.5 billion tons. One existing surface coal mine in the Durango KRCRA (Chimney Rock Coal Mine) with operations on both NFS and BLM lands was already in the lease extension application process during the Unsuitability Assessments. This application was denied for environmental reasons in 1985. Operations at the mine were terminated and the mine site has been reclaimed. No new coal lease applications have been received by SJPL since the completion of the Unsuitability Assessments.

SJPL has reviewed the existing BLM and FS Coal Unsuitability Assessments for this Plan Revision and found that the need does not exist to revise the Assessments. Acquisition of more detailed information will not affect the results; there have been no public comments or petitions to change the results; there has been no substantial governmental review of the Federal Coal Management Program; and SJPL has not received applications for coal leases or proposed coal mining operations for the affected KRCRA's. The results of the 1983 FS and 1985 BLM Coal Unsuitability Assessments are incorporated and included by reference in this Plan Revision.

### **Fluid Leaseable Minerals**

#### **Oil and Gas**

Oil and gas deposits occur in sedimentary basins throughout the SJPL. Areas of significant potential or known reserves and production are: the Paradox Basin area (roughly the lands west of the Dolores River- high, moderate and low for oil and conventional gas); the Northern San Juan Basin (approximately the area south of U.S. Highway 160 between Durango and Chimney Rock- high for coal-bed methane, moderate for conventional gas); and the San Juan Sag (the area east of Pagosa Springs- high for oil). The central area of the SJPL from the north rim of the San Juan Basin north to Silverton has no known oil and gas potential (See Figure 16).

Development and production is underway in the Paradox Basin area north of Cortez, with limited exploration occurring east and south of Cortez. Significant development and production is underway and planned in the San Juan Basin. Exploration is intermittent in the San Juan Sag, with no production to date or planned. Please refer to the Chapter 3 DEIS for the full report of the reasonable foreseeable development scenario.

#### **Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Decision**

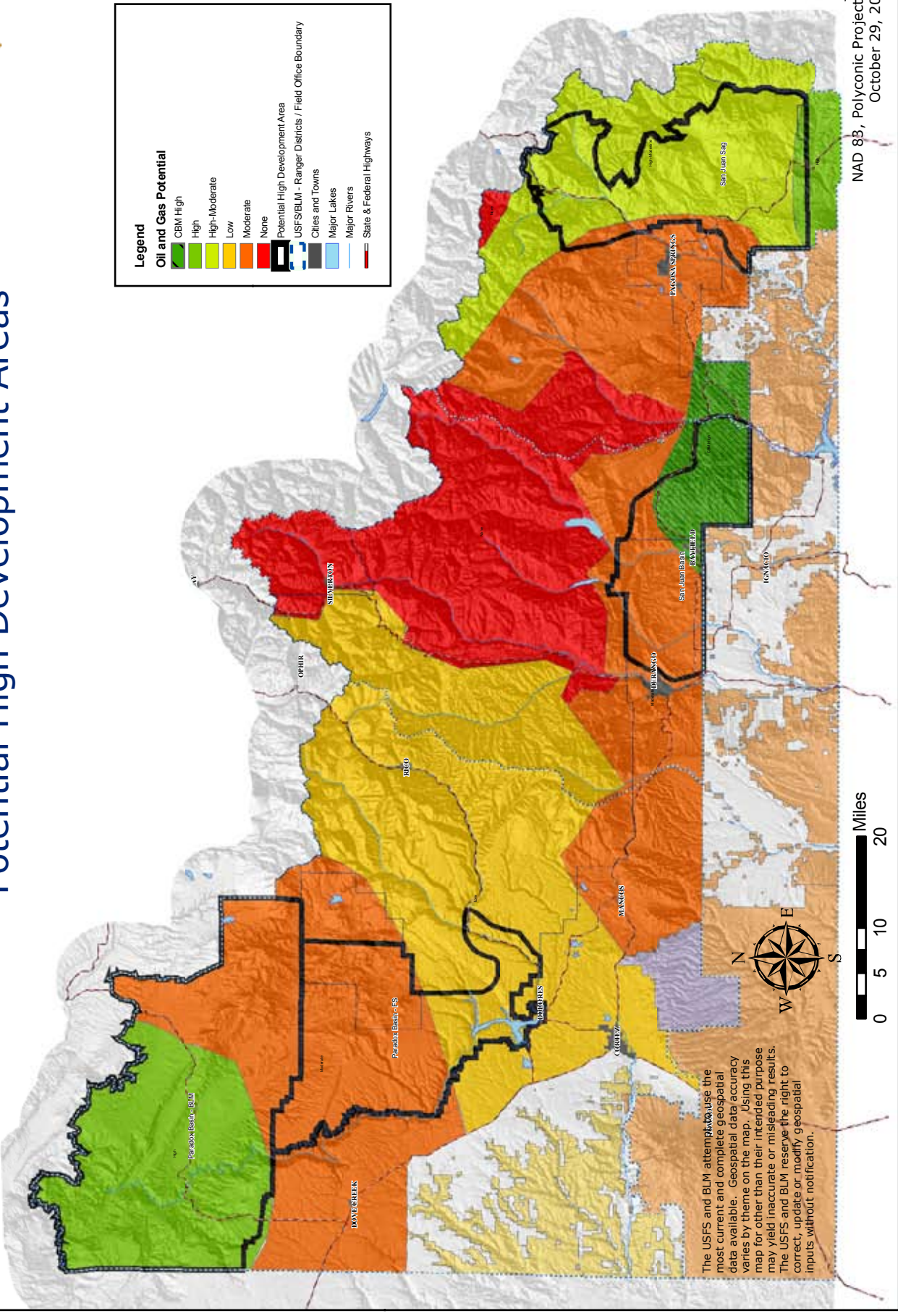
The NEPA analysis for this Plan includes analysis necessary for offering specific lands for lease. The analysis discusses the availability of SJPL for oil and gas leases. In addition, it describes necessary protective stipulations to be attached to leases on National Forest-administered surface, BLM-administered surface, and non-federal surface where the oil and gas estate is owned by BLM. This Plan does not authorize surface disturbance for oil and gas exploration or development. Surface-disturbing activities on leases will require additional NEPA analysis and decisions. The oil and gas leasing decision in this Plan will not apply to existing oil and gas leases. When those existing leases expire or terminate, the leasing decision in this Plan will apply to any new leases issued.

Figure 16 - Favorable Oil and Gas Resource Potential and Potential High Development Areas



# San Juan Public Lands

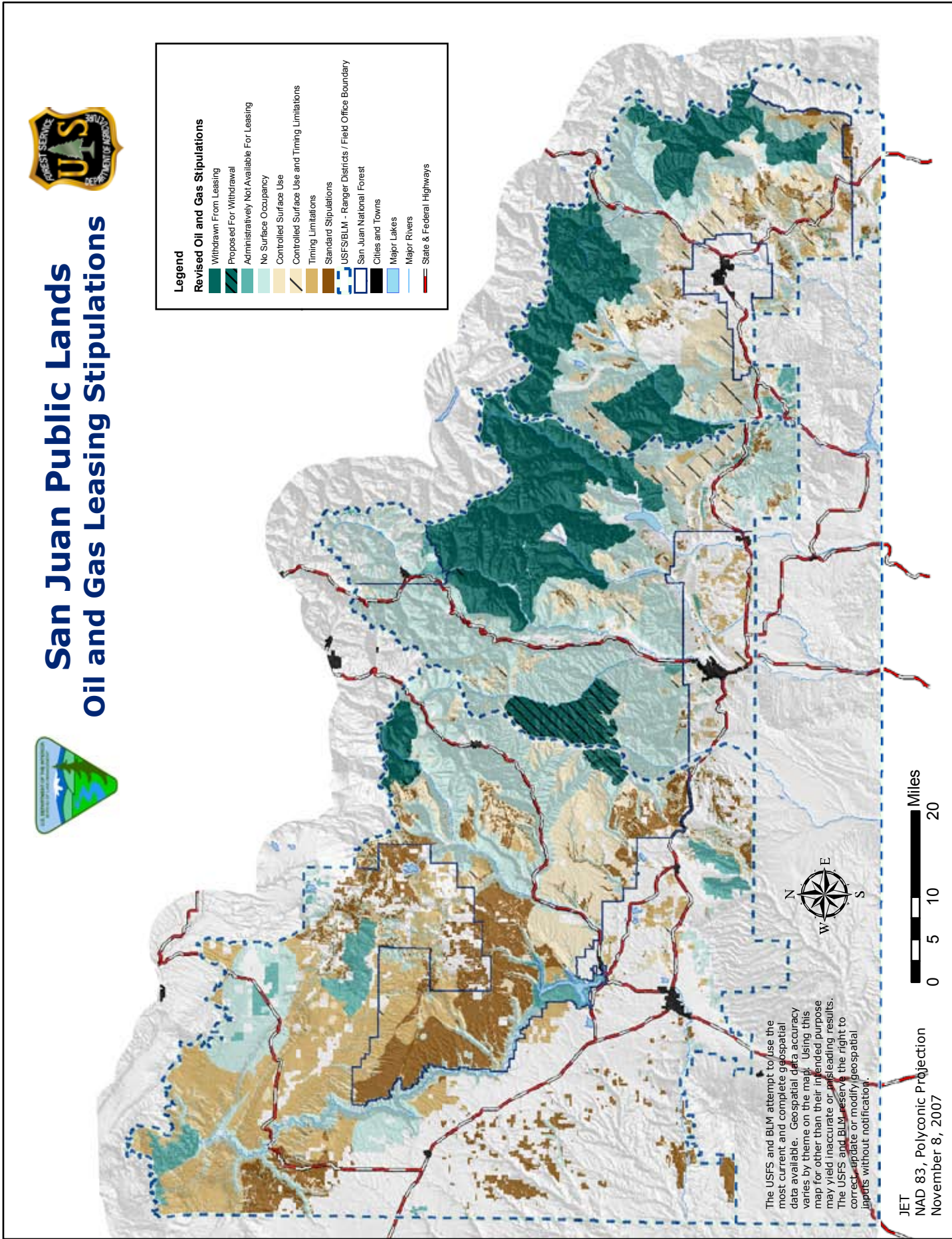
## Favorable Oil and Gas Resource Potential Summary and Potential High Development Areas



The USFS and BLM attempt to use the most current and complete geospatial data available. Geospatial data accuracy varies by theme on the map. Using this map for other than their intended purpose may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USFS and BLM reserve the right to correct, update or modify geospatial inputs without notification.

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Figure 17 - Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations



# San Juan Public Lands Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations





The availability of SJPL lands for oil and gas leasing and development is affected by management areas. MA1 includes a provision for making lands administratively unavailable for lease or for leasing with a No Surface Occupancy stipulation, which requires mineral production from outside the affected area. Mineral development compatibility in MA 2 areas is dependent on the resource values emphasized and the management direction for each MA 2 area. MA3 includes limitations on road density and motorized travel, as well as other constraints, that may allow leasing but may limit or preclude oil and gas exploration or development. MA4 includes an emphasis on recreational values and development with constraints that may allow leasing but may limit or preclude oil and gas exploration or development. MA5 and MA7 would not materially affect availability of lands suitable for this mineral activity. MA8 emphasizes urban interface uses, which may allow leasing but may limit oil and gas exploration or development.

### **Stipulations**

All SJPL oil and gas leases are subject to standard lease terms. These are the least restrictive terms under which an oil and gas lessee may operate. They meet Energy Policy Act direction to encourage development of federal energy resources. They require operators of oil and gas leases to minimize adverse impacts to air, water, land, visual, cultural, and biological resources and to other land uses and users, and to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and formal orders of the agency managing the leased lands. With the exceptions noted below, leases with standard lease terms allow year-round occupancy and use of leased lands. These leases provide full access and the highest potential for discovery and development of oil and gas resources. They also contain the greatest uncertainty for lease operators because some potentially restrictive conditions may not be known until a site-specific field review of the leased lands is conducted. This generally does not occur until an application for a permit to drill is submitted. Lease notices may be included to warn a potential lessee of the likelihood of such conditions, but the extent and restrictive nature of the conditions is still not known at the lease issuance stage. Operations may be prohibited on the affected parts of the lease, or costs may substantially increase due to protective measures required to protect the resource.

Standard lease terms (regulations at 43 CFR 3101.1-2) allow the SJPL (acting through the BLM or FS) to mitigate potential resource effects by moving the proposed drill site up to 200 meters, or delaying proposed operations by up to 60 days. If these provisions will not accomplish the required resource protection, special lease stipulations are necessary.

### **Special Lease Stipulations**

Special lease stipulations are applied to an oil and gas lease if additional restrictions on the rights of lessees are required to protect environmental resources. Stipulations that would be applied to new oil and gas leases under this Plan are described Appendix H Resource Management Stipulations for New Oil and Gas Leases. Areas included within the various stipulations are shown on Figure 17 Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations.

Guidelines for application of special lease stipulations for BLM and FS lands are contained in the Uniform Format for Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations (Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinating Committee, March 1989). Special lease stipulations for oil and gas operations are imposed at the time of lease issuance. Three stipulations are used for oil and gas leases within the SJPL:

- **No Surface Occupancy (NSO):** Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral (oil and gas) exploration or development is prohibited to protect identified resource values. However, oil and gas under lands affected by NSO stipulation are legally available for extraction if extraction can be accomplished without occupying the surface (such as through directional drilling or draining the deposit from adjacent lands). Technological limitations and higher cost will affect the recovery of these resources, but they are available. Leasing with NSO meets Energy Policy Act direction to encourage development of federal energy resources.

The NSO stipulation is intended for application only where the SJPL determines that the standard lease terms are insufficient to provide the level of resource protection necessary to protect the public interest. An NSO stipulation is not needed if the desired level of protection can be accomplished by relocating a proposed facility or activity within the lease area or by avoiding that activity for a specified period.

The equivalent of an NSO for BLM land uses and activities other than oil and gas development is a NGD (No Ground Disturbance).

- **Controlled Surface Use (CSU):** Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral (oil and gas) exploration or development is allowed (unless restricted by a Timing Limitation (TL) stipulation), but identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify lease rights. A CSU stipulation allows the SJPL to require that a proposed facility or activity be relocated by more than 200 meters from the proposed location if necessary to achieve the desired level of protection. CSU provides operating guidance, but does not substitute for NSO or TL stipulations. CSU allows year-round occupancy and accessibility to leased lands while providing mitigation of effects on other resources. Leasing with CSU meets Energy Policy Act direction to encourage development of federal energy resources.

The CSU stipulation is intended for application where the SJPL determines the standard lease terms are insufficient to protect the public interest, but where an NSO is deemed overly restrictive. A CSU is not needed if relocating the proposed facility or activity by up to 200 meters would provide sufficient resource protection.

The equivalent of a CSU for BLM land uses and activities other than oil and gas development is a SSR (Site-Specific Relocation).

- **Timing Limitation (TL):** Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral (oil and gas) exploration or development is prohibited during a specified period of the year. The scope of the TL stipulation goes beyond ground-disturbing activities to encompass any source of protracted or high-intensity disturbance that could interfere with normal wildlife behavior and adversely affect habitat use. The limitation is applied annually for a specified period lasting more than 60 days. The TL stipulation does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities unless the analysis demonstrates the continued need for such mitigation and that less stringent project-specific mitigation measures (such as Conditions of Approval) would not be sufficient. The TL allows the SJPL to restrict exploration operations on leased lands for more than 60 days. The TL stipulation provides for partial accessibility for a portion of the year and maintains the potential for extraction of oil and gas, but may increase costs due to timing constraints (such as a short operating season). Leasing with TL meets Energy Policy Act direction to encourage development of federal energy resources.

A TL stipulation is intended for application where the SJPL deems that standard lease terms are insufficient to protect the public interest, but where an NSO is overly restrictive. A TL is not needed if restricting the proposed operations by up to 60 days would provide sufficient resource protection.

Table 18 displays the availability of SJPL by acres of land for leasing and application of stipulations to leases. BLM acres are listed separately for BLM surface ownership and non-federal surface ownership. Figure 17 displays a map of the specific areas where stipulations will be applied to SJPL oil and gas leases issued under this Plan.

**Table 18 - Acres Available for leasing and Lease Stipulations**

<b>FEDERAL MINERAL STATUS</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
<b><i>National Forest (BLM Mineral &amp; Forest Service Surface Estate)</i></b>	
Total National Forest, SJPL	1,873,427
Withdrawn from Leasing (designated Wilderness, Piedra Area)	480,953
Recommended for withdrawal from leasing (recommended Forest Service Wilderness, recommended suitable Wild River segment)	67,726
Administratively Unavailable for Leasing	20,371
Total National Forest Available for Leasing	1,304,377
Available for Leasing with No Surface Occupancy Stipulation	741,524
Available for Leasing with Controlled Surface Use Stipulation	248,636
Available for Leasing with Controlled Surface Use & Timing Limitation Stips.	77,176
Available for Leasing with Timing Limitation Stipulation	69,935
Available for Leasing with Standard Lease Terms	167,106
<b><i>BLM Public Lands (BLM Surface &amp; BLM Mineral Estate)</i></b>	
Total BLM Surface & Mineral Public Lands, SJPL	504,259
Administratively Unavailable/Deferred from Leasing (BLM Wilderness Study Area, Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat)	64,956
Total BLM Surface & Mineral Public Lands Available for Leasing	439,303
Available for Leasing with No Surface Occupancy Stipulation	166,119
Available for Leasing with Controlled Surface Use Stipulation	31,438
Available for Leasing with Controlled Surface Use & Timing Limitation Stips.	10,437
Available for Leasing with Timing Limitation Stipulation	197,686
Available for Leasing with Standard Lease Terms	33,623
<b><i>BLM Public Lands (BLM Mineral Estate Only; Non-Federal Surface)</i></b>	
Total BLM Mineral Estate/Non-Federal Surface, SJPL	264,366
Administratively Unavailable for Leasing	7,911
Total BLM Mineral Estate/Non-Federal Surface Available for Leasing	256,455
Available for Leasing with No Surface Occupancy Stipulation	72,459
Available for Leasing with Controlled Surface Use Stipulation	23,848
Available for Leasing with Controlled Surface Use & Timing Limitation Stips.	2,325
Available for Leasing with Timing Limitation Stipulation	66,333
Available for Leasing with Standard Lease Terms	91,490

**Geothermal Energy**

The SJPL contains limited reserves of geothermally heated water (identified by the U.S. Geological Survey as “Known Geothermal Resource Areas” (KGRA)) which have minor potential for development. Due to the low temperature, there are no likely industrial uses for these KGRA. Recreational and small-scale space heating are the best uses. Currently, there are no leases or applications for leases in the SJPL.

## **DESIGNATED ENERGY CORRIDORS AND LINEAR ENERGY TRANSMISSION AUTHORIZATIONS**

Right-of-way (ROW) development for oil and gas interstate pipelines, and electricity transmission and distribution are generally suitable in existing energy corridors and along existing linear transmission facilities. Energy corridors, as designated, should be suitable for interstate and intrastate ROW distribution and energy-producing facilities, as required, in order to meet current and 10- to 15-year demand forecasts.

Table 19 shows a listing of designated corridors and existing linear energy transmission authorizations in which future facilities would be encouraged to locate. Figure 18 illustrates the approximate location of corridors and existing transmission facilities across the planning area. Transmission facilities include 69 kV and greater transmission lines and ancillary facilities (Report to Congress, 2005).

Oil and gas interstate pipelines identified as designated corridors are those that do not require Congressional notification (as required by the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, in accordance with 30 USC 185(w)), and are between 16 and 24 inches in diameter. The Trans-Colorado pipeline routes are an existing designated corridor in the current San Juan National Forest Land Management Plan, suitable for upgrading only with Congressional notification.

**Table 19 - Designated Energy Corridors and Energy Transmission Facilities in the SJPL**

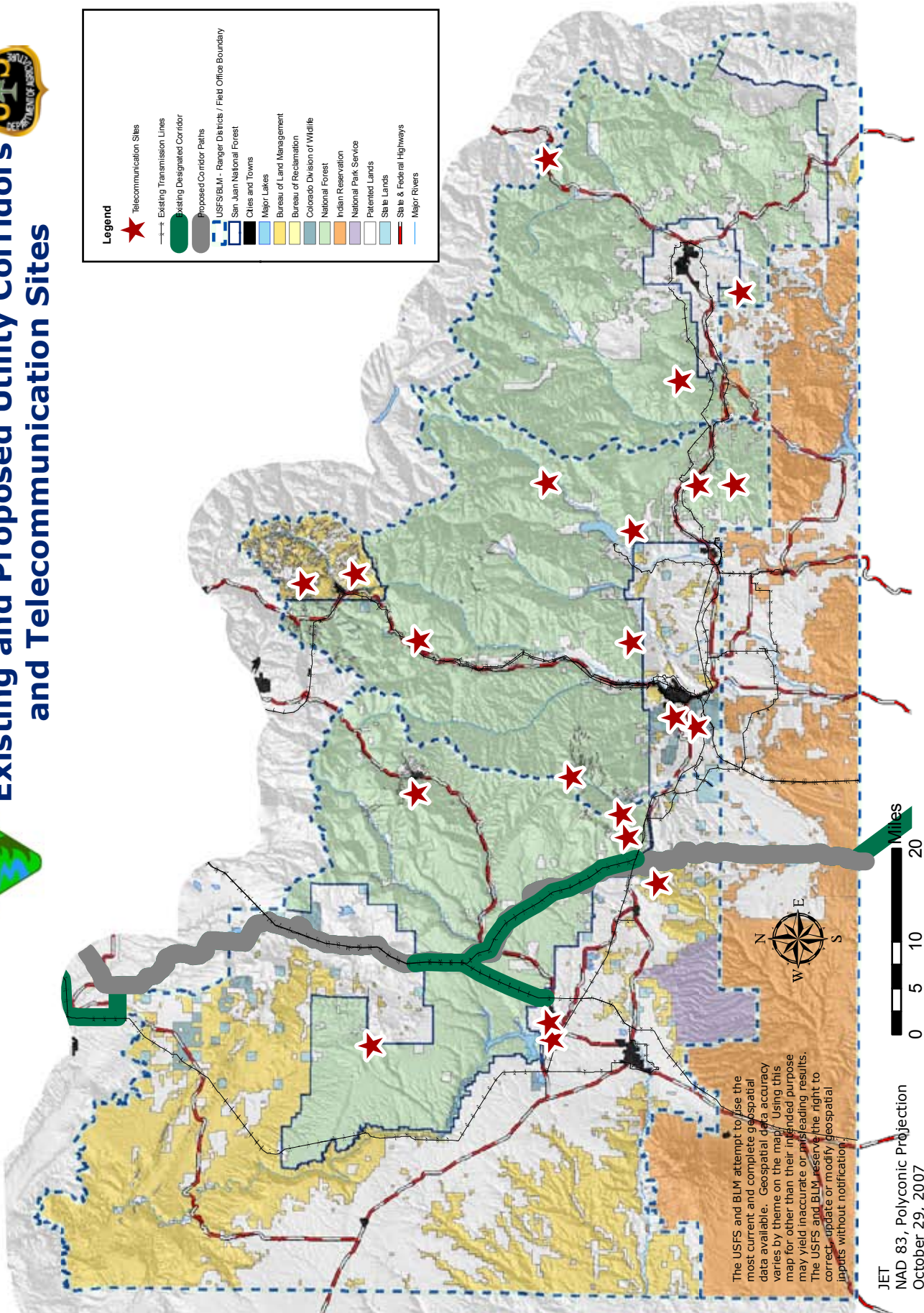
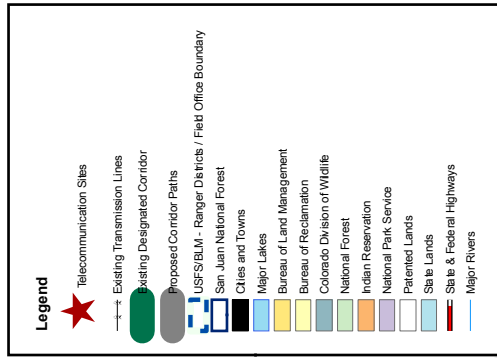
SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION LINES	SIZE	SUITABILITY
Western Area Power Administration – Currecanti to Lost Canyon	230 KV	Upgrade existing facilities; additional facilities considered on a case-by-case basis.
San Miguel Electric Transmission - Burro Ridge to Cascade	115KV	Upgrade existing facilities; additional facilities considered on a case-by-case basis.
Tri-State Electric Generation - Montrose to Hesperus	345KV	Upgrade existing facilities; additional facilities considered on a case-by-case basis.
Tri-State Electric Generation - Nucla to Cahone	230 KV	Upgrade existing facilities; additional facilities considered on a case-by-case basis.
Tri-State Electric Generation - Durango to Bayfield	115KV	Upgrade existing facilities; additional facilities considered on a case-by-case basis.
Tri-State Electric Generation - Bayfield to Pagosa Springs	115KV	Upgrade existing facilities; additional facilities considered on a case-by-case basis.
La Plata Electric Transmission	115KV	Upgrade existing facilities; additional facilities considered on a case-by-case basis.
Northwest Pipeline Corridor - (includes MapCO and Kinder Morgan)	Multiple pipelines	Upgrade existing facilities.
<b><i>Corridors Designated under Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005</i></b>		
Designated Utility Corridor. Trans-Colorado Pipeline Corridor	30-inch gas	Upgrade existing facilities.
Designated Utility Corridor. Tri-State Electric Generation- Nucla <sup>8</sup> - Trans Colorado Pipeline Corridor	230-KV Electric Transmission Line	Proposed designated corridor in WWEC PEIS. Electric Transmission only.

<sup>8</sup> West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WWEC PEIS) is in progress in order to evaluate potential impacts associated with the designation of corridors on Federal land in the 11 Western States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines, as well as electricity transmission and distribution facilities.

Figure 18 - SJPL Existing and Proposed Utility Corridors and Communication Sites



# San Juan Public Lands Existing and Proposed Utility Corridors and Telecommunication Sites



The USFS and BLM attempt to use the most current and complete geospatial data available. Geospatial data accuracy varies by theme on the map. Using this map for other than their intended purpose may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USFS and BLM reserve the right to correct, update or modify geospatial inputs without notification.



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## COMMUNICATION SITES

Within the planning area, proposals for communication and electronic sites are encouraged to use existing sites, within capacity and compatibility limits. Generally, existing communication sites have a low scenic integrity objective. Communication site development is generally suitable at designated communication sites when it is compatible with existing uses. Table 20 lists the location of current communication sites and suitable uses for each site. Figure 18 locates the sites geographically.

**Table 20 - Communication Sites, Locations, and Suitable Uses**

COMMUNICATION SITE	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION <sup>1</sup>			SUITABLE USES
	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEVATION (FT)	
USFS Benchmark	37.76033	-108.5598	9,264	Government Use Only
Menefee	37.31616	-108.2395	8,823	Low-Power; Broadcast and Non-Broadcast
USFS Missionary	37.358166	-107.76966	9,860	Low-Power; Broadcast and Non-Broadcast
USFS Kennebec	37.451	-108.03283	12,240	Government Use Only
Kendall	37.78733	-107.63566	13,400	Low-Power; Non-Broadcast
USFS Tuckerville	37.4895	-107.4585	11,640	Government Use Only
USFS Grassy	37.355166	-107.552166	9480	Government Use Only
USFS Pargin	37.1885	-107.45766	8910	Government Use Only
USFS Devil	37.28066	-107.2605	9922	Government Use Only
USFS Oakbrush	37.1855	-107.089833	8623	Government and Broadcast Use Only
USFS Wolfcreek	37.484833	-106.8266	11680	Government Use Only
YellowJacket	37.252081	-107.458918	8397	Low-Power; Non-Broadcast
Coal Bank	37.688906	-107.766535	10660	Low-Power; Non-Broadcast
Spring Creek	37.1885	-107.457666	8910	Low-Power; Non-Broadcast
Caviness Mt.	37.36303	-108.15083	10,050	High-Power; Broadcast and Non-Broadcast
Dolores	37.4825	-108.5120	7420	High-Power; Broadcast and Non-Broadcast, State and Local Government Use Only
Escalante	37.4780	-108.5460	7080	Low-Power; Broadcast
Expectation Mountain	37.4665	-108.5260	11,600	Passive-Reflector
Parrott Peak	37.375	-108.102.85	11,740	Low-Power; Non-Broadcast
Storm Peak	37.8672	-107.6549	12,979	Passive-Reflector

<sup>1</sup> These Lat/Long coordinates do not delineate the boundaries of the right-of-way use areas; rather, they give approximate locations. Boundaries of the use areas would be defined in individual site plans.

## LANDS

The planning area contains numerous parcels of enclosed private land (in-holdings) that are undeveloped. Land acquisition policies of both the BLM and the USFS recognize the value of acquiring such parcels, especially where the affected private lands contain unique or special values or benefits. Acquisition of these parcels would protect such values for the future and contribute to the SJPLC mission. (See Guidelines in Part 3 of this DLMP for identification of these parcels and prioritization for possible acquisition.)

USFS-administered lands within the planning area are generally suitable for long-term retention under Federal ownership. The USFS does not carry out comprehensive inventories of lands designed to identify potential for disposal or retention. However, USFS-administered lands are generally available for consideration for transfer of ownership where there is determined to be a public or resource benefit. Such actions may occur through land exchange, disposal of small tracts by direct sale under specific authorities, jurisdictional transfer between agencies, and/or through disposal for community purposes. Specific proposals may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

BLM-administered lands within the planning area are classified into categories that establish guidance regarding their suitability for long-term ownership. Category 1 (which is similar to the general guidance for USFS land ownership) is designed to retain lands already under Federal ownership. BLM Category 1 lands are suitable for a wide variety of resource uses that are best served by long-term Federal ownership and management (including native and natural species dominance, archeological values, special or unique plant and animal habitats, recreational opportunities, solitude and open space values, and undeveloped space between communities). Retention would support effective administration and resource protection.

BLM Category 2 identifies lands that are available for disposal through sales, exchanges, or other authorized transfer of ownership (see Figure 19, Lands Available for Disposal). These lands are not suitable for long-term retention under Federal ownership due to a lack of substantial public or resource values, the high cost or the inability of the BLM to manage the land(s), or the potential for greater public value under non-Federal ownership. Disposal can provide trading stock and contribute funds toward acquisition of land(s) with greater public values and benefits. Under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, some lands identified for disposal may be suitable for transfer of ownership to local communities in order to meet community expansion needs (including expansion of facilities, infrastructure, open space and parks, etc.). Category 2 lands are generally isolated from other BLM or Federal ownership, lack legal public or agency access, or are subject to trespass use by adjacent landowners. In general, the cost of management, access, or resolution of trespass is not off-set by resource or by public benefit (see Appendix X, Volume 3, for a listing of BLM Category 2 lands; see also Guidelines in Part 3 of this DLMP for priorities and methods of disposal). Unless identified in Appendix X, Volume 3, all other BLM lands are classified as Category 1 (i.e., lands suitable for a wide variety of resource uses that are best served by long-term Federal ownership and management). (See Guidelines in Part 3 of this DLMP for management of Category 1 lands.)



Figure 19 - Lands Available for Disposal



# San Juan Public Lands Lands for Disposal

