CHAPTER 1—PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern States, Jackson Field Office (JFO) has initiated the planning process to develop a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for public lands and mineral estate dispersed across the States of Alabama and Mississippi. A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is being prepared as part of this project. The State of Mississippi is a cooperating agency, as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), for this RMP.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PLAN

The purpose of the Alabama and Mississippi RMP is to prepare a single land use plan for the two (2) States so that the BLM will be able to respond to mineral leasing proposals and deal efficiently with the long-term management of its scattered land. In addition, the RMP includes decisions on a wide range of other resource management concerns, including air quality, soil resources, water resources, vegetative communities, fish and wildlife habitat, special status species, wildland fire ecology and management, cultural resources, visual resources, recreation and travel management, social and economic resources, and hazardous materials. The Alabama and Mississippi RMP will provide the JFO with a comprehensive framework for managing BLM-administered land and minerals within these States. Completion of the RMP will meet the mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA; 43 U.S.C. §1701 *et seq*.) that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield under an approved RMP. Preparation of the RMP will also fulfill BLM's responsibilities for public involvement and environmental impact analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq*.). NEPA requires Federal agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for any Federal action that could significantly affect the human environment. Preparation and adoption of an RMP constitutes such an action. The FEIS prepared in conjunction with this Proposed RMP serves to analyze proposed actions and decisions affecting BLM-administered land in the planning area.

A primary goal of the RMP is to develop management practices, including stipulations, to ensure long-term sustainability of a healthy and productive landscape. An RMP is a set of comprehensive, long-range decisions concerning the use and management of resources administered by BLM. In general, the RMP will serve two purposes: (1) provide an overview of goals, resource condition objectives, and needs associated with public lands management and (2) resolve multiple use conflicts or issues. When the RMP is approved, its management decisions will remain in effect until the RMP is amended, revised, or replaced by a new plan.

There is a need for this RMP because, until now, BLM resource management in the States of Alabama and Mississippi has been governed by project-specific planning analyses and environmental assessments (EA). Preparing separate project-specific documents whenever BLM receives external proposals has been inefficient, costly, and has delayed decisionmaking on industry-driven requests to lease Federal minerals and land tenure adjustments where BLM retains surface management responsibilities. In responding to this need, the planning criteria, identified in Section 1.5, sets out BLM's primary responsibilities in Alabama and Mississippi, which is to make minerals available for leasing, where appropriate, and to make land tenure adjustments according to the criteria set forth in the FLPMA.

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

This Proposed RMP-FEIS covers all the public lands resources administered by the BLM in the States of Alabama and Mississippi. Within the two States combined, the BLM administers approximately 333 acres of public land surface and mineral estate (referred to as "surface tracts") and 704,850 acres of Federal minerals where the surface estate is in non-Federal ownership. The BLM also has responsibility for 126,570 acres of mineral estate where the surface is managed by other Federal agencies (excluding BLM and U.S. Forest Service [USFS]). On these lands, leasing of Federal minerals is subject to management as directed by the surface management agency, and the decisions of this RMP will pertain only to the BLM's role in administering the minerals. The BLM has the responsibility of 1,640,621 acres of mineral estate where the surface is managed by USFS. However, the RMP will not make decisions on oil and gas leasing of national forest acreage because, by regulation, USFS is responsible for land use planning decisions on oil and gas leasing. For the purposes of this document, RMP mineral leasing decisions will apply to "BLM-administered, non-USFS Federal mineral ownership (FMO)," which refers to BLM-administered, Federal minerals where the surface estate is in non-Federal ownership and Federal agencies excluding USFS.

Within the two States, there are also 8,077 acres of lands with uncertain title. These are public domain lands, according to General Land Office records, but may have private claims of ownership. The RMP will not make management decisions on these lands per se; however, these lands, which are listed in Appendix B, will be available for disposal to qualified applicants under the Color-of-Title Act. The above categories of BLM-administered land ownership that will be covered by this RMP are listed and described in Table 1-1 for Alabama and Table 1-2 for Mississippi.

Table 1-1. Land and Mineral Ownership and Administrative Jurisdictions within the RMP Planning Area in Alabama

Jurisdiction	Acreage[1]
Areas in Alabama covered by the Alabama and Mississippi RMP-FEIS	
A. BLM surface land—Federal minerals[2]	159
B. Non-Federal surface land—Federal minerals[3]	303,440
C. Federal agency (other than BLM or USFS) surface land—Federal minerals[4]	10,220
Total BLM-administered Federal land surface to be covered by RMP decisions	**159**
Total BLM-administered Federal mineral estate to be covered by RMP decisions	**313,819**
D. Lands of uncertain title[5]	3,057
Areas in Alabama *not* covered by the Alabama and Mississippi RMP-FEIS	
E. USFS land—Federal minerals[6]	585,394

1 Where one or more mineral resource categories are Federally owned, the acreage is listed as if all minerals are Federally owned. Where mixed minerals ownership occurs (for example, privately owned coal interest overlapping with Federally owned oil and gas interest), minerals planning and management decisions in the RMP will pertain only to the Federally owned mineral interests. Federal mineral acreage is derived from BLM data of current and former oil and gas leases. Data includes lands described by aliquot parts, metes and bounds, or lot number. In the case of metes and bounds and lot number descriptions, the acreage reflects that of the entire section associated with the description, otherwise known as "nominal acreage."

2 In those areas where the Federal land surface and Federal mineral estate are both administered by the BLM, the RMP decisions will cover both the land surface and the mineral estate.

3 In those areas where (1) the land surface is privately owned or owned by a non-Federal government jurisdiction and (2) the minerals are Federally owned, the RMP decisions will cover only the BLM-administered Federal mineral estate. Although the land and resource uses and values on the non-Federal surface will be taken into account and will affect development of the Federal mineral management decisions, these decisions will pertain only to the Federally owned minerals.

4 In those areas where (1) the Federal land surface is administered by a Federal agency other than the BLM or USFS,

including the Department of Defense and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and (2) the Federal mineral estate is administered by the BLM, the land surface planning and management decisions are the responsibility of the other Federal surface management agency, lease of the Federal minerals is subject to management as directed by the surface management agency. These are lands that were either acquired by a Federal agency, or were withdrawn from the public domain; withdrawn lands are listed in Appendix I. RMP decisions for these lands will pertain only to the BLM's role in administering the Federal minerals.

5 These are public domain lands according to General Land Office records, but may have private claims of ownership. The RMP will not make decisions on these lands per se; however, these lands, which are listed in Appendix B, will be available for disposal to qualified applicants under the Color-of-Title Act.

6 In those areas where (1) the Federal land surface is administered by the USFS, and (2) planning decisions for surface management and for mineral leasing, pursuant to the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 and Federal regulation (36 CFR 228.102), are the responsibility of USFS, and (3) the BLM has responsibility for issuing and administering mineral leases; the RMP will not include management decisions for the Federal minerals on these lands, and the BLM will carry out its minerals management responsibilities under the guidance of USFS land use plans. At the same time, surface and minerals management actions and development activities anticipated on these lands will be taken into account for purposes of cumulative impact analysis.

Table 1-2. Land and Mineral Ownership and Administrative Jurisdictions within the RMP Planning Area in Mississippi

Jurisdiction	Acreage[1]
Areas in Mississippi covered by the Alabama and Mississippi RMP-FEIS	
A. BLM surface land-Federal minerals[2]	174
B. Non-Federal land-Federal minerals[3]	401,410
C. Federal agency (other than BLM or USFS) surface land / Federal minerals[4]	116,350
Total BLM-administered Federal land surface to be covered by RMP decisions	**174**
Total BLM-administered Federal mineral estate to be covered by RMP decisions	**517,934**
D. Lands of uncertain title[5]	5,020
Areas in Mississippi *not* covered by the Alabama and Mississippi RMP-FEIS	
E. USFS land-Federal minerals[6]	1,055,227

1 Where one or more mineral resource categories are Federally owned, the acreage is listed as if all minerals are Federally owned. Where mixed mineral ownership occurs (for example, privately owned coal interest overlapping with Federally owned oil and gas interest), minerals planning and management decisions in the RMP will pertain only to the Federally owned mineral interest. Federal mineral acreage is derived from BLM data of current and former oil and gas leases. Data includes lands described by aliquot parts, metes and bounds, or lot number. In the case of metes and bounds and lot number descriptions, the acreage reflects that of the entire section associated with the description, otherwise known as "nominal acreage."

2 This is a tract of land in Hancock County where the mineral estate is Federally owned and the surface is currently owned by the University of Mississippi. The tract was conveyed to the University in 1961, under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, for recreational and research site purposes. The patent contains a clause stating that ownership of the surface estate shall revert to the United States if the land is devoted to a use other than that for which the land was conveyed. It is expected that the University will relinquish this tract and that title will revert to the United States. In anticipation of the title transfer, this tract will be considered BLM-managed surface estate for land use planning purposes; therefore, the RMP decisions will cover both the land surface and the mineral estate.

3 In those areas where (1) the land surface is privately owned or owned by a non-Federal government jurisdiction and (2) the minerals are Federally owned, the RMP decisions will cover only the BLM-administered Federal mineral estate. Although the land and resource uses and values on the non-Federal surface will be taken into account and will affect development of the Federal mineral management decisions, these decisions will pertain only to the Federally owned minerals.

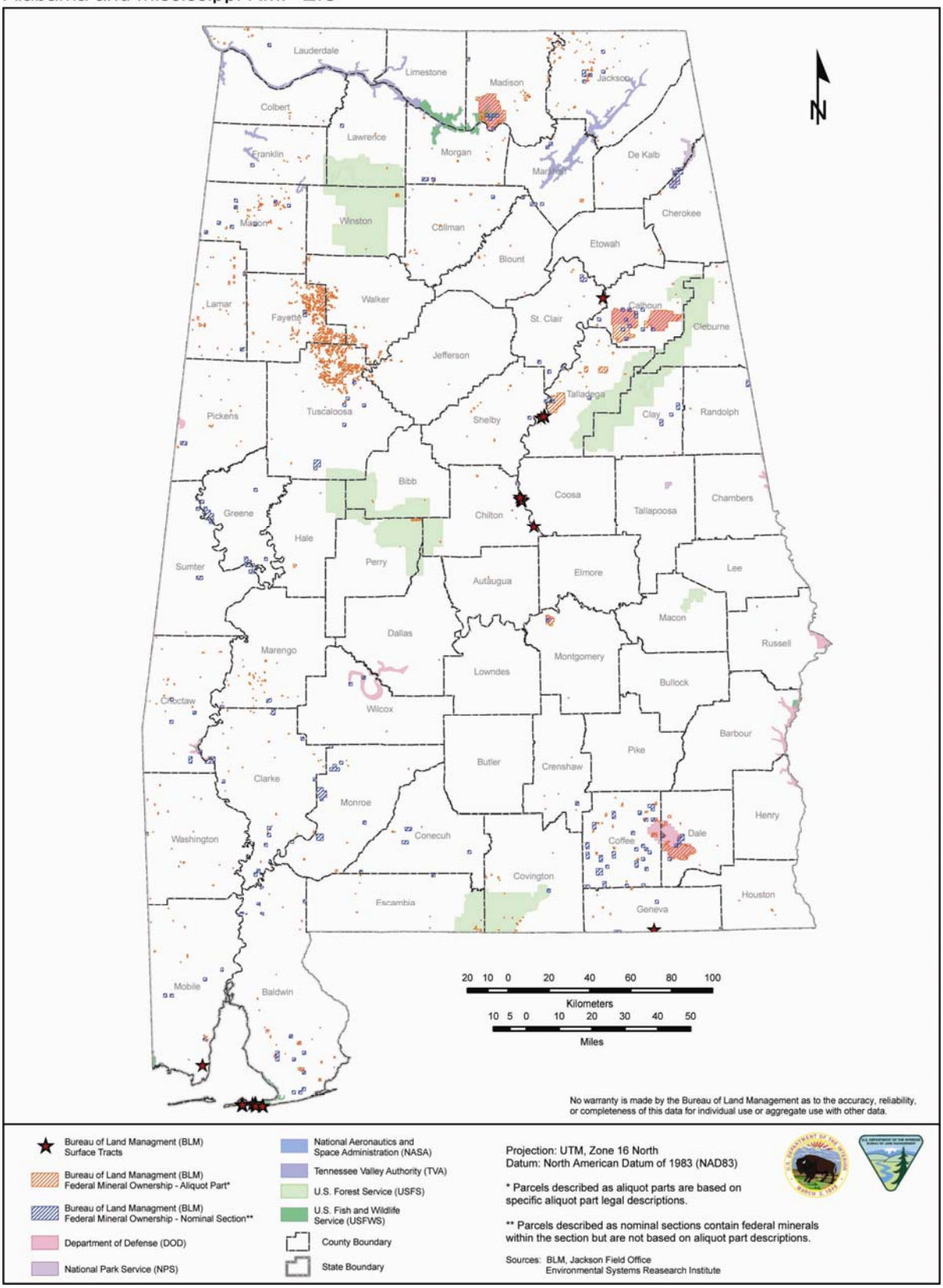
4 In those areas where (1) the Federal land surface is administered by a Federal agency other than the BLM or USFS, including the Department of Defense and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and (2) the Federal mineral estate is administered by the BLM, the land surface planning and management decisions are the responsibility of the other Federal surface management agency, and lease of the Federal minerals is subject to management as directed by the surface management agency. These are lands that were either acquired by a Federal agency or were withdrawn from the public domain. Withdrawn lands are listed in Appendix I. RMP decisions for these lands will pertain only to the BLM's role in administering the Federal minerals.

5 These are public domain lands, according to General Land Office records, but may have private claims of ownership. The RMP will not make decisions on these lands per se; however, these lands, which are listed in Appendix B, will be available for disposal to qualified applicants under the Color-of-Title Act.

6	In those areas where (1) the Federal land surface is administered by the USFS, and (2) planning decisions for surface management and for mineral leasing, pursuant to the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 and Federal regulation (36 CFR 228.102), are the responsibility of USFS, and (3) the BLM has responsibility for issuing and administering mineral leases; the RMP will not include management decisions for the Federal minerals on these lands, and the BLM will carry out its minerals management responsibilities under the guidance of USFS land use plans. At the same time, surface and minerals management actions and development activities anticipated on these lands will be taken into account for purposes of cumulative impact analysis.

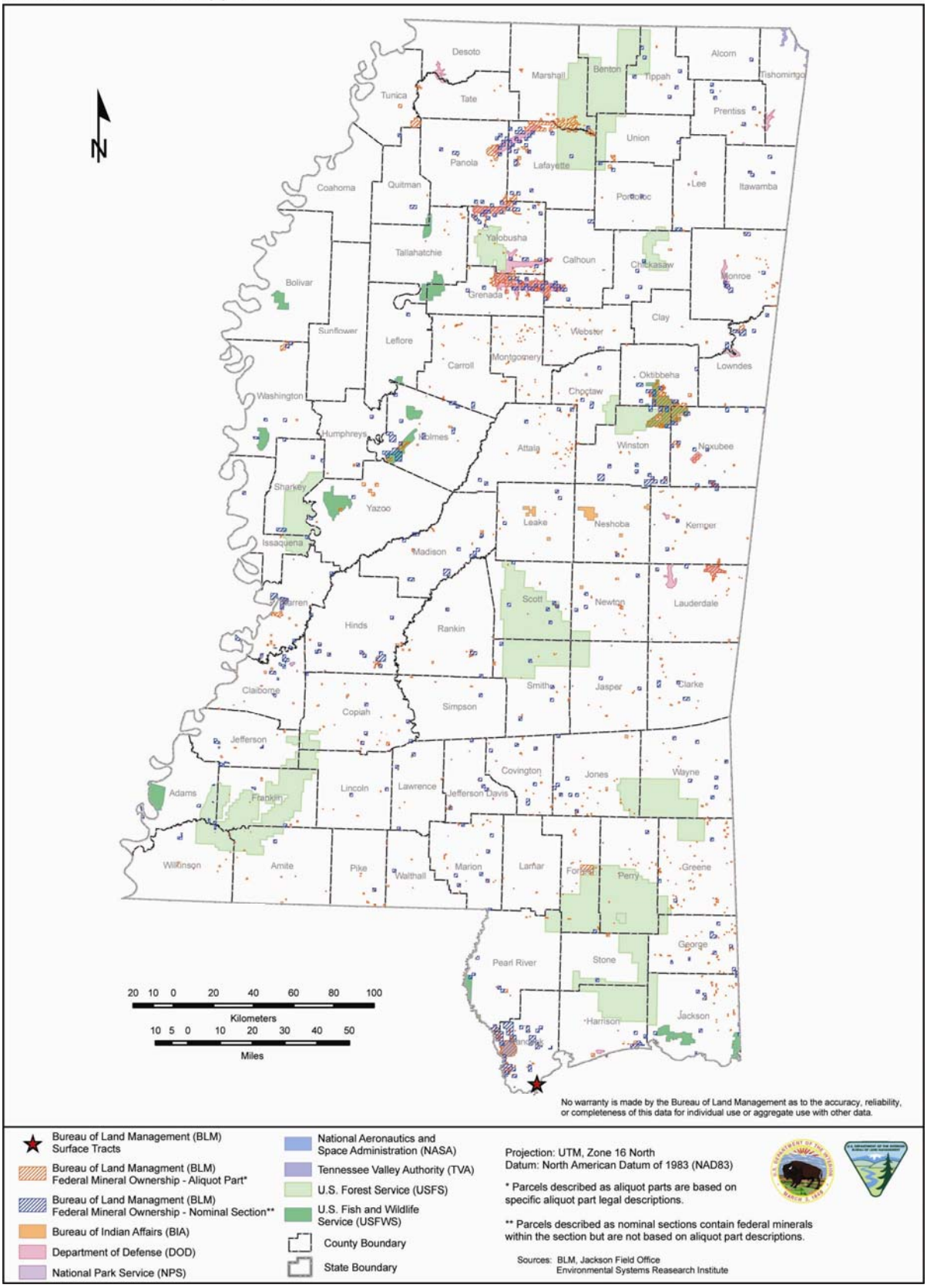
Map 1-1: Federal Lands and Mineral Ownership in Alabama

Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS



Map 1-2: Federal Lands and Mineral Ownership in Mississippi

Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS



1.4 PLANNING ISSUES

In addition to the planning issues identified below, the Proposed RMP-FEIS includes decisions on a wide range of other resource management concerns as identified in the July 12, 2002 *Federal Register* notice, including air quality, soil resources, water resources, vegetative communities, fish and wildlife habitat, special status species, wildland fire ecology and management, cultural resources, visual resources, recreation and travel management, social and economic resources, and hazardous materials.

1.4.1 Mineral (Oil, Gas, and Coal) Leasing

There is a potential for continued mineral development of BLM-administered FMO in both Alabama and Mississippi. In some cases, there could be potential for impacts on sensitive resources or conflicts with other uses. These impacts and conflicts need to be considered when making decisions on the availability of non-USFS FMO for development. The RMP addresses mineral leasing by offering a variety of alternative solutions, as described in Chapter 2.

1.4.2 Land Ownership Adjustments

BLM-administered lands in both Alabama and Mississippi are relatively small, isolated parcels. Some of the parcels could have natural resources of significant value to the public and could be suitable for management by the BLM or other agencies. Other parcels could be suitable for disposal. The RMP addresses land ownership adjustments by offering a variety of alternative solutions, as described in Chapter 2.

1.5 PLANNING CRITERIA

Planning criteria are constraints or ground rules that guide development of BLM land use plans. These criteria ensure that the planning team focuses on relevant uses and collects applicable data for analysis, and the criteria include applicable Federal laws, regulations, executive orders, and policies. As identified in the *Federal Register* on July 12, 2002, the following criteria were developed to guide the preparation of the RMP—

1. Land use planning and environmental analysis will be conducted in accordance with laws, regulations, executive orders, and manuals. Planning will be conducted for BLM-administered lands (tracts) and minerals (BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO).
2. Surface tracts will be mapped and identified by legal description. Land use policy will be established for BLM-administered lands identified after the RMP is completed.
3. A reasonably foreseeable development scenario (RFDS) will be prepared for the future leasing (and development) of fluid minerals under split-estate lands (e.g., non-BLM surface and BLM minerals). The RFDS will be developed on a regional (county) basis. Areas of high, moderate, and low oil and gas potential will be identified (mapped) for each State.
4. Areas with the potential for non-energy solid mineral leasing (e.g., phosphates, sodium) will be evaluated for inclusion in the RMP.
5. Resource data needed to evaluate the impacts of future (foreseeable) mineral development will be collected on a regional basis.
6. The planning team will work cooperatively with Federal, State, county, and local governments and agencies; tribal governments; groups and organizations; and individuals.

Based on further analysis, these criteria have been revised as follows:

1. Land use planning and environmental analysis will be conducted in accordance with laws, regulations, executive orders, and manuals. Planning will be conducted for BLM-administered lands (tracts) and minerals (BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO).
2. Surface tracts will be mapped and identified by legal description. Lands of uncertain title will be listed. These lands could potentially be available for disposal under the Color-of-Title Act.
3. An RFDS will be prepared for the future leasing (and development) of oil and gas. The RFDS will be developed on a statewide basis. Areas of high, moderate, and low oil and gas potential will be identified (mapped) for each State.
4. The evaluation of lands based on their suitability for further coal leasing consideration will be limited to underground mining of non-USFS FMO in the Warrior Basin in Alabama.
5. Areas with the potential for non-energy solid mineral leasing (e.g., phosphates, sodium) were evaluated for inclusion in the RMP. No potential was identified for development of these minerals on non-USFS FMO; therefore, non-energy solid mineral leasing is not addressed.
6. Resource data needed to evaluate the impacts of future (foreseeable) mineral development will be collected on a statewide basis.
7. The planning team will work cooperatively with Federal, State, county, and local governments and agencies; tribal governments; groups and organizations; and individuals.

1.6 OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The BLM planning process is detailed in the *BLM Land Use Planning Handbook* (H-1601-1), which provides guidance to BLM employees for implementing the BLM land use planning requirements established by Section 202 of the FLPMA and the regulations in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610. The process for preparing an EIS is determined by Federal regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508). The major steps in the BLM planning process are shown in Figure 1-1 and are further described below.

- **Preparation Plan.** The BLM developed a preparation plan to outline anticipated planning issues and management concerns, preliminary planning criteria, data needs, process participants, plan format, schedule, and public involvement.

- **Notice of Intent.** The BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on July 12, 2002, to announce its intention to prepare an RMP and EIS. The NOI also solicited coal information for BLM-administered coal in Alabama and Mississippi and identified planning criteria to guide the preparation of the RMP.

- **Scoping Period.** Public scoping was conducted from June through September 2002. The objectives of scoping were to involve the public in the planning process and to comply with FLPMA and NEPA. Scoping is a process of soliciting public input and identifying concerns regarding management of public lands and BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO in the planning area. Scoping consisted of public notification through the *Federal Register* (i.e., publication of the NOI) and by letter and e-mail. Letters of invitation to participate as cooperating agencies were sent to government agencies in Alabama and Mississippi. The BLM also notified local, State, and Federal agencies and Native American tribes during this period.

- **Analysis of Management Situation.** As part of preparing the RMP-EIS, the BLM analyzed the resource conditions, capabilities, and effects of current management for use as a reference throughout the planning process. As contained in Chapter 3 of the RMP-EIS, this analysis

included a description of the physical and biological characteristics and condition of the resources within the planning area and how they are being used and/or protected.

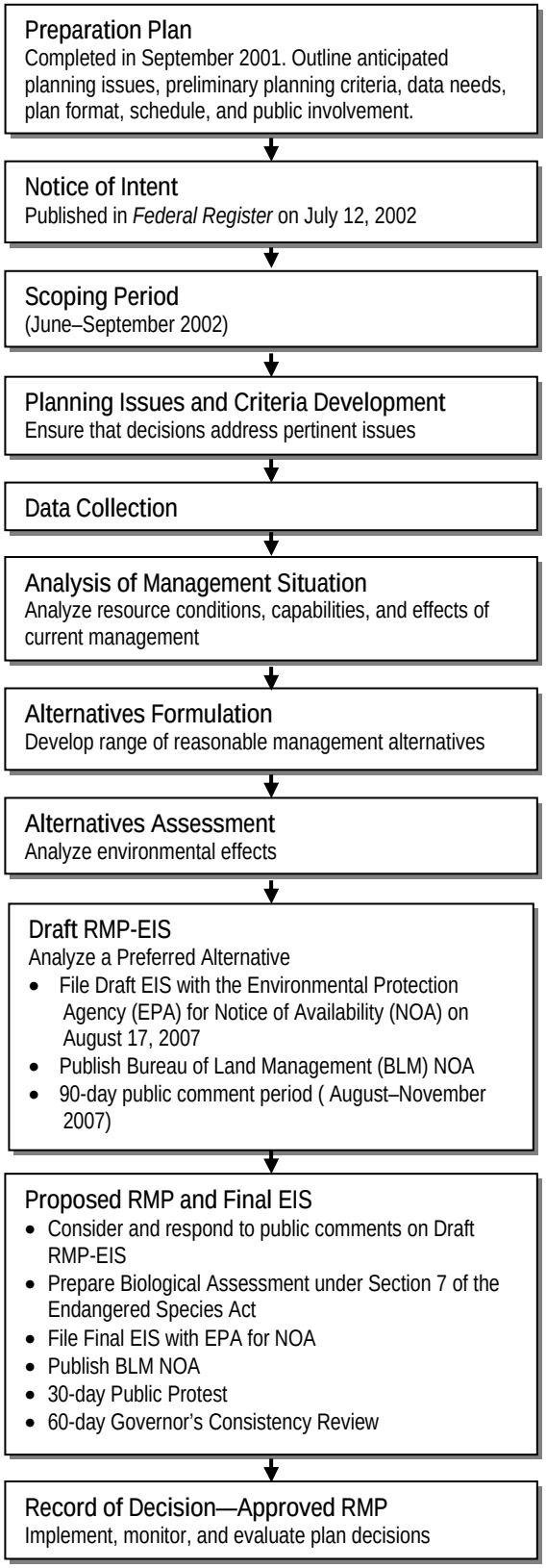
- **Draft RMP-EIS.** This Draft RMP-EIS considers public and agency comments received during the scoping period, includes a description of alternatives and the affected environment, and offers an assessment of potential impacts from implementing the alternatives. A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft RMP-EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on August 17, 2007.

- **Comment Period and Public Meetings.** The public and local, State, and Federal agencies and Native American tribes had an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft RMP-EIS during a 90-day comment period, beginning the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published their NOA in the *Federal Register* on August 17, 2007 and ended on November 29, 2007. The BLM held three public meetings in October 2007 to receive comments from the public. Opportunities for public involvement are further described in Chapter 5, Consultation and Coordination.

- **Proposed RMP and Final EIS.** The purpose of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS is for the BLM to assess, consider, and respond to public and agency comments received on the Draft RMP-EIS. An NOA will be published in the *Federal Register* by the BLM when the Proposed RMP-FEIS becomes available. A 30-day public protest period, beginning the date the EPA publishes their NOA in the *Federal Register*, will follow the release of the Proposed RMP-FEIS. A 60-day Governor's consistency review will also occur at this time.

- **Biological Assessment (BA).** Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. Section 1536(a)(2)) requires all Federal agencies to determine whether their actions may affect listed or proposed species and designated and proposed critical habitat. A BA was prepared for each state to analyze the potential effects of the project on Federally listed species and critical habitat in order to establish and justify an "effect determination." The BAs were reviewed by the

Figure 1-1. RMP-EIS Process



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the ESA Section 7 consultation requirements.

- **Record of Decision.** The Record of Decision (ROD) is a separate and concise public record that clearly identifies and describes the approved RMP and links the BLM's decision to the analysis presented in the EIS. The ROD addresses how environmental impacts and other factors were considered in the decisionmaking process.

This Proposed RMP-FEIS provides a comprehensive evaluation of the BLM's potential management and land tenure adjustment actions for public lands in Alabama and Mississippi and their natural resources. A comprehensive RMP-EIS that includes all of the BLM's management programs is needed to address potential conflict among interrelated management actions. This FEIS also allows for tiering (40 CFR 1505.28) subsequent activity or project-specific EISs or EAs conducted on public lands within Alabama and Mississippi. Subsequent lower-level EISs or EAs will reference and adopt relevant information and goals from this broader, two-State RMP-EIS as formal NEPA documentation, thereby avoiding duplication of effort and reducing costs associated with completing future NEPA analyses.

1.7 RELEVANT STATUTES, LIMITATIONS, AND GUIDELINES

This section provides a listing of the authorities that apply to the selection and implementation of management actions in the RMP.

1.7.1 Environmental Policy

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

NEPA (42 USC 4321 et seq.) requires the preparation of EISs for Federal projects that may have a significant effect on the environment. It requires systematic, interdisciplinary planning to ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts in making decisions about major Federal actions that may have a significant effect on the environment. The procedures required under NEPA are implemented through the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR §1500.

Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards (EO 12088)

Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards (EO 12088) states that Federal agencies must comply with applicable pollution control standards.

Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality (EO 11514)

Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality (EO 11514, as amended by EO 11991) establishes the policy for Federal agencies to provide leadership in environmental protection and enhancement.

1.7.2 Land Use and Natural Resources Management

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976

FLPMA, as amended (43 USC 1701, et seq.), provides for public lands to be generally retained in Federal ownership for periodic and systematic inventory of the public lands and their resources; for a review of existing withdrawals and classifications; for establishment of comprehensive rules and regulations for administering public lands statutes; for multiple-use management on a sustained yield basis; for protection of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource,

and archeological values; for receiving fair market value for the use of the public lands and their resources; for establishment of uniform procedures for any disposal, acquisition, or exchange; for identification and protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs); for recognition of the nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands, including implementation of the Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970; and for payments to compensate States and local governments for burdens created as a result of the immunity of Federal lands from State and local taxation. The general land management regulations are provided in 43 CFR §2000, Subchapter B.

General Mining Law of 1872

The General Mining Law of 1872, as amended (30 USC 22, et seq.), provides for locating and patenting mining claims where a discovery has been made for locatable minerals on public lands in specified States. Regulations for staking and maintenance of claims on BLM-administered lands are listed in 43 CFR §3800.

Mineral Leasing Act of 1920

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 USC 181, et seq.), provides for the leasing of deposits of coal, phosphate, sodium, potassium, oil, oil shale, native asphalt, solid and semisolid bitumen, bituminous rock or gas, and lands containing such deposits owned by the United States, including those in national forests but excluding those acquired under other acts subsequent to February 25, 1920, and those lands within the national petroleum and oil shale reserves. Regulations for onshore oil and gas leasing are provided in 43 CFR §3100.

Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976

The Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976 (30 USC 201, et seq.) requires competitive leasing of coal on public lands and mandates a broad spectrum of coal operations requirements for lease management. Coal leasing regulations for BLM-administered lands are provided in 43 CFR §3400.

Materials Act of 1947

The Materials Act of 1947, as amended (30 USC 601–604, et seq.), provides for the sale of common variety materials for personal, commercial, or industrial uses and for free use for local, State, and Federal governmental entities. The sales of mineral materials are controlled by the regulations listed in 43 CFR §3600.

Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974

The Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 USC 2814), provides for the designation of a lead office and a person trained in the management of undesirable plants, establishment and funding of an undesirable plant management program, completion and implementation of cooperative agreements with State agencies, and establishment of integrated management systems to control undesirable plant species.

Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act serves to further the Healthy Forests Initiative to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes. The Act strengthens public participation in developing high-priority forest health projects; reduces the complexity of environmental analysis, allowing Federal land agencies to use the best science available to actively manage land under their protection; provides a more effective

appeals process, encouraging early public participation in project planning; and issues clear guidance for court action against forest health projects.

Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of 1988

The Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act amended FLPMA with respect to BLM land exchanges. It was designed to streamline land exchange procedures.

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000

The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) provides for the use of revenues from the sale or exchange of public lands identified for disposal under land use plans in effect as of the date of the FLTFA.

Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926

In 1954, the Congress enacted the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (43 U.S.C 869 et. seq.) as a complete revision of the Recreation Act of 1926 in response to the public need for a nationwide system of parks and other recreational and public purposes areas. This law is administered by the BLM. The Act authorizes the sale or lease of public lands for recreational or public purposes to State and local governments and to qualified nonprofit organizations. Examples of typical uses under the Act are historic monument sites, campgrounds, schools, fire houses, law enforcement facilities, municipal facilities, landfills, hospitals, parks, and fairgrounds.

Bureau of Land Management Energy and Non-Energy Mineral Policy

This statement sets forth BLM policy for the management of energy and non-energy mineral resources (mineral resources) on public lands. It reflects the provisions of five important acts of Congress relating to mineral resources: the Domestic Minerals Program Extension Act of 1953, the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980, and the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This policy represents a commitment by the BLM to implement the requirements of these statutes consistent with the BLM's other statutory obligations, as follows:

The Domestic Minerals Program Extension Act of 1953 states that each department and agency of the Federal Government charged with responsibilities concerning the discovery, development, production, and acquisition of strategic or critical minerals and metals shall undertake to decrease further, and to eliminate where possible, the dependency of the United States on overseas sources of supply of each such material.

The Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 declares that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of a stable domestic minerals industry and the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources. This act includes all minerals, including sand and gravel, geothermal, coal, and oil and gas.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 reiterates that the 1970 Mining and Minerals Policy Act shall be implemented and directs that public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other resources.

The National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 requires the Secretary of the Interior to improve the quality of minerals data in Federal land use decision-making.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 encourages energy efficiency and conservation; promotes alternative and renewable energy sources; reduces dependence on foreign sources of energy; increases domestic production; modernizes the electrical grid; and encourages the expansion of nuclear energy.

The BLM recognizes that public lands are an important source of the Nation's energy and non-energy mineral resources, some of which are critical and strategic. The BLM is responsible for making public lands available for orderly and efficient development of these resources under principles of multiple use management, and the concept of sustainable development as was defined at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The following principles will guide the BLM in managing mineral resources on public lands:

1. Except for Congressional withdrawals, public lands shall remain open and available for mineral exploration and development unless withdrawal or other administrative actions are clearly justified in the national interest in accordance with the Department of the Interior Land Withdrawal Manual 603 DM 1, and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR §2310. Petitions to the Secretary of the Interior for revocation of land withdrawals for mineral exploration and development will be evaluated through the land use planning process.
2. The BLM endorses the Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation applicable to mineral resources signed by 193 countries, including the United States; in Johannesburg in 2002. This plan encourages social, environmental, and economic considerations before decisions are made on mineral operations. The BLM actively encourages development by private industry of public land mineral resources, and promotes practices and technology that least impact natural and human resources.
3. The BLM will adjudicate and process mineral patent applications, permits, operating plans, mineral exchanges, leases, and other mineral use authorizations for public lands in a manner to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation, and in a timely and efficient manner, and will require financial assurances to provide for reclamation of the land and for other purposes authorized by law. Mine closure and reclamation considerations include alternative forms of use such as for landfills, wind farms, biomass facilities and other industrial uses, to attract partnerships to utilize the existing mine infrastructure for a future economic opportunity.
4. The BLM land use planning and multiple-use management decisions will recognize that, with few exceptions, mineral exploration and development can occur concurrently or sequentially with other resource uses. The least restrictive stipulations that effectively accomplish the resource objectives or uses will be used. The BLM will coordinate with surface owners when the Federal minerals estate under their surface ownership is proposed for development.
5. Land use plans will reflect geological assessments and mineral potential on public lands through existing geology and mineral resource data, and to the extent feasible, through new mineral assessments to determine mineral potential. Partnerships with State Geologists and the U.S. Geological Survey for obtaining existing and new data should be considered.
6. The BLM will work closely with Federal, State and Tribal governments to reduce duplication of effort while processing mineral related permit applications.
7. The BLM will monitor locatable, salable and leasable mineral operations to ensure proper resource recovery and evaluation, production verification, diligence and enforcement of terms and conditions. The BLM will ensure receipt of fair market value for mineral materials, and appropriate royalty rates for leasable commodities unless otherwise provided for by statute.
8. The BLM will continue to develop e-Government solutions that will provide for electronic submission and tracking of applications for exploration and development of mineral resources. The BLM will continue to provide public access to mineral records, including spatial display of all types of authorizations and mineral resource data.

9. The BLM will maintain and enhance the understanding, skills, and abilities of effective professional, technical, and managerial personnel knowledgeable in adjudication, geology, mineral exploration and development.
10. To the extent provided by law, regulation, secretarial order, and written agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the BLM will apply the above principles to the management of mineral resources and operations on Indian Trust lands in order to comply with its Trust Responsibilities.

1.7.3 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act of 1990

The Clean Air Act of 1990, as amended (42 USC 7401, 7642), requires the BLM to protect air quality, maintain Federal- and State-designated air quality standards, and abide by the requirements of the State implementation plans.

State Air Quality Standards and Regulations

The State air quality standards and regulations specify the requirements for air permitting and monitoring to implement Clean Air Act and State ambient air quality standards.

1.7.4 Water Quality

The Clean Water Act of 1987

The Clean Water Act of 1987, as amended (33 USC 1251), establishes objectives to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's water. The Act also requires permits for point source discharges to navigable waters of the United States and the protection of wetlands and includes monitoring and research provisions for protection of ambient water quality.

The Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was originally passed by the Congress in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. The law was amended in 1986 and 1996 and requires many actions to protect drinking water and its sources: rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and ground water wells. SDWA authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally occurring and manmade contaminants that may be found in drinking water. The EPA, States, and water systems then work together to ensure that these standards are met.

State Water Quality Standards and Regulations

State water quality standards and regulations implement permitting and monitoring requirements for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, operation of injection wells, groundwater protection requirements, and prevention and response requirements for spills.

1.7.5 Protection of Wetlands (EO 11990)

Protection of Wetlands (EO 11990) requires Federal agencies to take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands.

Floodplain Management (EO 11988)

Floodplain Management (EO 11988) provides for the restoration and preservation of national and beneficial floodplain values, and enhancement of the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out programs affecting land use.

1.7.6 Cultural Resources

Historic Sites Act of 1935

The Historic Sites Act (16 USC 461) declares national policy to identify and preserve historic sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, thereby providing a foundation for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended (16 USC 470), expands protection of historic and archeological properties to include those of national, State, and local significance. The NHPA (in Section 106) requires Federal agencies to take into account the potential effects of agency actions on properties listed on or eligible for the NRHP. Agencies are also required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and sometimes with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, concerning those effects. The SHPO is also sometimes consulted concerning applicable methods for determining whether or not there are NRHP-eligible properties in the area of potential effect of an agency undertaking, whether properties are eligible, and appropriate mitigation measures. The NHPA (in Section 110) also requires Federal agencies to identify properties that may qualify for listing on the NRHP, to evaluate and nominate such places to the register, and to develop plans for their management. Both Section 110 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 require Federal agencies to develop proactive programs to interpret archeological resources for the benefit of the public. The 1992 amendments to the NHPA call for Federal agencies to conduct Native American consultation on projects that may affect sites or resources that tribal representatives consider sensitive, sacred, or culturally important.

Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979

The Archeological Resource Protection Act, as amended (16 USC 470a, 470cc, 470ee), requires permits for the excavation or removal of Federally administered archeological resources, encourages increased cooperation among Federal agencies and private individuals, provides stringent criminal and civil penalties for violations, and requires Federal agencies to identify important resources vulnerable to looting and to develop a tracking system for violations.

The Antiquities Act of 1906

The Antiquities Act of 1906 protects objects of historic and scientific interest on public lands. It authorizes the President to designate historic landmarks and structures as national monuments and

provides penalties for people who damage these historic sites. The Act has two main components: (1) a criminal enforcement component, which provides for the prosecution of persons who appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity on lands owned or controlled by the United States, and (2) a component that authorizes a permit for the examination of ruins and archeological sites and the gathering of objects of antiquity on lands owned or controlled by the United States.

Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment of 1971

Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (EO 11593) directs Federal agencies to locate, inventory, nominate, and protect Federally owned cultural resources eligible for the NRHP and to ensure that their plans and programs contribute to preservation and enhancement of non-Federally owned resources.

Preserve America (EO 13287)

EO 13287, signed in 2003, requires the Federal Government to lead the preservation of America's heritage by actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of the historic properties owned by the government and by promoting intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships for the preservation and use of historic properties.

1.7.7 Hazardous Materials

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 USC 9601–9673), provides for liability, risk assessment, compensation, emergency response, and cleanup (including the cleanup of inactive sites) for hazardous substances. The Act requires Federal agencies to report sites where hazardous wastes are or have been stored, treated, or disposed of, and requires responsible parties, including Federal agencies, to clean up releases of hazardous substances.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended by the Federal Facility Compliance Act of 1992 (42 USC 6901–6992), authorizes the US EPA to manage, by regulation, hazardous wastes on active disposal operations. The Act waives sovereign immunity for Federal agencies with respect to all Federal, State, and local solid and hazardous waste laws and regulations. Federal agencies are subject to civil and administrative penalties for violations and to cost assessments for the administration of the enforcement.

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA; 42 USC 11001–11050) requires the private sector to inventory chemicals and chemical products, to report those in excess of threshold planning quantities, to inventory emergency response equipment, to provide annual reports and support to local and State emergency response organizations, and to maintain a liaison with the local and State emergency response organizations and the public.

1.7.8 Wildlife

Endangered Species Act of 1973

The purpose of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. It is administered by the Department of the Interior's USFWS and the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The USFWS has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms, while the responsibilities of NMFS are mainly marine species such as salmon and whales.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The Bald Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668) prohibits the take, possession, sale, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase, transport, export or import, of any bald eagle, alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof. "Take" includes pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, or molest, or disturb (50 CFR §22.3).

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958

The Act of March 10, 1934, (16 USC 661 et seq.) as amended, authorizes the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce to provide assistance to and cooperate with Federal and State agencies to protect, rear, stock, and increase the supply of game and fur-bearing animals, as well as to study the effects of domestic sewage, trade wastes, and other polluting substances on wildlife. The Act also directs the Bureau of Fisheries to use impounded waters for fish-culture stations and migratory-bird resting and nesting areas and requires consultation with the Bureau of Fisheries before the construction of any new dams to provide for fish migration. In addition, the Act authorizes the preparation of plans to protect wildlife resources, the completion of wildlife surveys on public lands, and the acceptance by the Federal agencies of funds or lands for related purposes provided that land donations received the consent of the State in which they are located.

The amendments enacted in 1946 require consultation with the USFWS and the fish and wildlife agencies of States where the "waters of any stream or other body of water are proposed or authorized, permitted or licensed to be impounded, diverted…or otherwise controlled or modified" by any agency under a Federal permit or license. Consultation is to be undertaken for the purpose of "preventing loss of and damage to wildlife resources."

Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978

The Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 USC 7421; 92 Stat. 3110), Public Law 95-616, authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to establish, conduct, and assist with national training programs for State fish and wildlife law enforcement personnel. It also authorized funding for research and development of new or improved methods to support fish and wildlife law enforcement. The law provides authority to the Secretaries to enter into law enforcement cooperative agreements with State or other Federal agencies and authorizes the disposal of abandoned or forfeited items under the fish, wildlife, and plant jurisdictions of these Secretaries. Public Law 105-328, signed October 30, 1998, amended the Act to allow the USFWS to use the proceeds from the disposal of abandoned items derived from fish, wildlife, and plants to cover the costs of shipping, storing, and disposing of those items.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (USC 2901–2911), commonly known as the Nongame Act, encourages States to develop conservation plans for nongame fish and wildlife of ecological, educational, aesthetic, cultural, recreational, economic, or scientific value. The States may be reimbursed for a percentage of the costs of developing, revising, or implementing conservation plans approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Amendments adopted in 1988 and 1989 directed the Secretary to undertake research and conservation activities for migratory nongame birds.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

Taking, killing, or possessing migratory birds is unlawful (16 USC 703-712. § 703). Take is defined (50 CFR §10.12); it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to barter, barter, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, export, import, cause to be shipped, exported, or imported, deliver for transportation, transport or cause to be transported, carry or cause to be carried, or receive for shipment, transportation, carriage, or export, any migratory bird, any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird, or any product, whether or not manufactured, which consists, or is composed in whole or part, of any such bird or any part, nest, or egg thereof, included in the terms of the conventions between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds concluded August 16, 1916 (39 Stat. 1702), the United States and the United Mexican States for the protection of migratory birds and game mammals concluded February 7, 1936, the United States and the Government of Japan for the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction, and their environment concluded March 4, 1972 [1] and the convention between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the conservation of migratory birds and their environments concluded November 19, 1976.

Sikes Act of 1960

The Sikes Act (16 USC 670a-670o, 74 Stat. 1052), as amended, Public Law 86-797, approved September 15, 1960, provides for cooperation by the Departments of the Interior and Defense with State agencies in planning, development, and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources on military reservations throughout the United States. Key amendments to the Act that affect this EIS are highlighted below:

- An amendment enacted August 8, 1968 (P.L. 90-465, 82 Stat. 661), authorized a program for development of outdoor recreation facilities.
- Public Law 93-452, signed October 18, 1974 (88 Stat. 1369), authorized conservation and rehabilitation programs on Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Forest Service, and BLM lands. These programs are carried out in cooperation with the States by the Secretary of the Interior and on Forest Service lands by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Public Law 97-396, approved December 31, 1982 (96 Stat. 2005), provided for the inclusion of endangered plants in conservation programs developed for the BLM, Forest Service, NASA, and DOE lands.
- Public Law 105-85, approved November 18, 1997 (11 Stat. 2017,2018,2020,2022), added that each integrated natural resources management plan (INRMP) prepared under this act should provide for the sustainable use by the public of natural resources, to the extent that the use is not inconsistent with the needs of fish and wildlife resources. PL 105-85 also requires that the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with State fish and wildlife agencies, submit a report annually on the amounts expended by the Department of the Interior and State fish and wildlife agencies on activities conducted pursuant to INRMPs to respective congressional committees with oversight responsibilities.

Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988

The purposes of the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act (16 USC 63) are to secure, protect, and preserve significant caves on Federal lands for the perpetual use, enjoyment, and benefit of all people and to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities and those who use caves located on Federal lands for scientific, education, or recreational purposes.

1.8 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PLANS

BLM land use plans and amendments must be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource related plans, and the policies and programs contained therein, of other Federal agencies, State and local governments and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and RMPs are also consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands, including Federal and State pollution control laws as implemented by applicable Federal and State air, water, noise, and other pollution standards or implementation plans.

There are multiple State plans and programs that address land and resources common to this RMP. In accordance with BLM policy, the RMP will be consistent to the extent practical with officially approved or adopted plans for the following:

- Alabama Coastal Zone Management Program
- Mississippi Coastal Zone Management Program
- Alabama Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Mississippi Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Upper Coosa Basin Watershed Management Plan
- Coosa River Recreation Plan
- Hancock Marshes Coastal Preserve

There are 313,819 acres of non-USFS FMO in Alabama and 517,934 in Mississippi that underlie various surface ownership. Surface owners include the BLM, the Department of Defense (DoD), USFWS, National Park Service (NPS), and other Federal agencies. In accordance with BLM policy, the RMP will be consistent to the extent practical with officially approved or adopted plans for the following areas:

- USFWS
  - Bon Secour NWR
  - Wheeler NWR Complex
  - Grand Bay NWR
  - Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR
  - Bogue Chitto NWR
  - Panther Swamp NWR
  - Hillside NWR
  - Noxubee NWR
- DoD
  - Barin Field (Navy)
  - Summerdale Outlying Landing Field (Navy)
  - Silverhill Outlying Landing Field (Navy)
  - Fort Rucker Military Reservation (Army)
  - Fort Rucker Military Reservation (Army)
  - Fort McClellan Military Reservation (Army, Closed)
  - Anniston Army Depot (Army)

- Redstone Arsenal (Army)
- Lake Tholocco (Army Corps of Engineers)
- Coffeeville Lake (Army Corps of Engineers)
- William Dannelly Reservoir (Army Corps of Engineers)
- Maxwell Air Force Base (Air Force)
- Meridian Naval Air Station (Navy)
- Alpha Naval Auxiliary Station (Navy)
- Multipurpose Target Range (Navy)
- Aliceville Lake (Army Corps of Engineers)
- Columbus Lake (Army Corps of Engineers)
- Aberdeen Lake (Army Corps of Engineers)
- Grenada Lake (Army Corps of Engineers)
- Enid Lake (Army Corps of Engineers)
- Sardis Lake (Army Corps of Engineers)

• NPS
- Little River Canyon Preserve
- Vicksburg National Military Park
- Natchez-Trace National Parkway
- Gulf Island National Seashore

In addition, there are Recovery Plans for multiple species that occur on lands and mineral estate administered by the BLM in Alabama and Mississippi. In accordance with BLM policy, the RMP will be consistent to the extent practical with officially approved or adopted plans for Federally listed species and habitats, including the following:

- Recovery Plan for U.S. Population of Loggerhead Turtle (NMFS)
- Recovery Plan for Chotawhatchee, Perdido Key and Alabama Beach Mouse (USFWS 1987)
- Recovery Plan for *Adios oriceana* (USFWS 1993)
- Louisiana Black Bear Recovery Plan (USFWS 1995)
- Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Plan (USFWS 1995)
- Blue Shiver Recovery Plan (USFWS 1995)
- Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalist*) Revised Recovery Plan (USFWS 1999)
- Mobile River Basin Aquatic Ecosystem Recovery Plan (USFWS 2000)
- Recovery plan for the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) (USFWS 2003).

1.9 TOPICS NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Laws, regulations, policies, and executive orders require specific resource topics to be examined during the NEPA process. In some instances, initial evaluation reveals topics that are not relevant to the planning area or do not require further analysis. These topics that are not addressed in this RMP are listed below.

Native American Concerns. Sites of concern to Native Americans are not known to occur on BLM administered surface lands or FMO in Alabama and Mississippi. Known sites, such as Nanih Waya in Mississippi and Hickory Ground in Alabama, would not be affected by any of the alternatives considered in this plan. Therefore, Native American concerns are not analyzed in detail.

The BLM will continue consultation and coordination to identify and consider Native American concerns where future actions might affect cultural or religious values. Consultation with Federally recognized tribes would take place in accordance with Executive Order 13175 *Consultation and Coordination with*

Indian Tribal Governments and would occur before planned excavations or undertakings on BLM-administered lands and FMO in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The BLM would protect and preserve Native American religious and cultural rights and practices on Federal lands in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA).

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). There are no designated ACECs within the scope of this plan, and no ACECs were proposed internally or externally for designation.

Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, and Land with Wilderness Characteristics. There are no designated or proposed wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or lands with wilderness characteristics on lands administered by the BLM in the planning area.

Minerals Underlying USFS Lands. The BLM has the responsibility for lease issuance and post-lease administration of 1,640,621 acres of mineral estate where the surface is managed by USFS. However, the RMP will not make decisions on oil and gas leasing of national forest acreage because the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Reform Act of 1987 requires the USFS to conduct a leasing analysis to make land use planning decisions on oil and gas leasing. This legal requirement does not apply to other Federal surface management agencies. For the purposes of this document, RMP decisions will apply to "BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO," which refers to BLM-administered Federal minerals where the surface estate is in non-Federal ownership and Federal agencies excluding USFS.

Locatable and Salable Minerals. There is no reasonable foreseeable development for locatable and salable resources; therefore, such resources in Alabama and Mississippi are not discussed herein. Types of locatable minerals include gold, silver, and copper. Examples of salable minerals include stone, sand, and gravel.

1.10 READER'S GUIDE TO THIS DOCUMENT

This Proposed RMP-FEIS is organized according to BLM's land use planning guidance (H-1610-1 and 43 CFR 1601 *et seq.*), the *BLM NEPA Handbook* (H-1790-1), CEQ guidelines, and Federal regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508). This Proposed RMP-FEIS has been developed to address issues, concerns, and conflicts within the planning area and to provide guidance for management of BLM-administered lands in both States. It contains the following major chapter headings and information:

Chapter 1—Purpose and Need. Contains background and introductory material such as the purpose and need for the Proposed RMP-FEIS and the BLM planning process.

Chapter 2—Alternatives. Identifies BLM-administered surface tracts and non-USFS FMO and describes alternative development and management guidance common to all alternatives. This chapter presents specific management actions proposed under the alternatives and a comparative summary of the impacts of the alternatives that have been analyzed in detail. It also identifies the Proposed RMP.

Chapter 3—Affected Environment. Describes the affected environment, focusing on the existing environmental conditions that would be affected by implementation of the alternatives.

Chapter 4—Environmental Consequences. Describes the impacts of the alternatives. This section forms the scientific and analytic basis for the comparison of impacts presented in Chapter 2.

Chapter 5—Consultation and Coordination. Describes the overall EIS scoping process and other agency consultation and public involvement activities. Responses to public comments received on the Draft RMP-EIS and a list of agencies, organizations, and individuals who were sent the Proposed RMP-FEIS is also presented.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms. Provides an alphabetized list of abbreviations and acronyms used in this Proposed RMP-FEIS.

Glossary. Provides definitions of terms used in this Proposed RMP-FEIS.

References. Provides information for all references cited, most of which are available to the public at libraries or on the Internet. Many of the documents cited are available for public review at JFO.

Appendices. Provide additional supporting information as follows—

- Appendix A—Recreation and Public Purposes Act Lands
- Appendix B—Lands of Uncertain Title
- Appendix C—Relevant Statutes, Regulations, Orders, and Guidelines
- Appendix D—Proposed Conservation Measures and Best Management Practices
- Appendix E—Special Status Species in Alabama and Mississippi
- Appendix F—Soils
- Appendix G—Socioeconomic Figures
- Appendix H—Water Resources
- Appendix I—Withdrawn Lands
- Appendix J—Summary of the Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario
- Appendix K—Proposed Resource Management Plan.

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