

APPENDIX K—PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the discretion to select an alternative in its entirety or to combine aspects of the various alternatives presented in the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP-EIS) to develop the Proposed RMP. Below is the description of the Proposed RMP.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

When an approved land use plan decision document (i.e., record of decision [ROD]) is signed, most of the land use plan decisions are effective immediately and require no additional planning or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. Some programs have specific requirements that must be taken in order to make certain decisions effective. Upon approval of the land use plan, subsequent implementation decisions are put into effect by developing implementation (project-specific) plans. Implementation decisions are made with the appropriate level of NEPA analysis along with any procedural and regulatory requirements for individual programs.

The regulations in 43 CFR 1610.4-9 require that land use plans establish intervals and standards for monitoring and evaluations, based on the sensitivity of the resource decisions involved. Land use plan monitoring is the process of (1) tracking the implementation of land use planning decisions (implementation monitoring) and (2) collecting data/information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of land use planning decisions (effectiveness monitoring).

The BLM field offices must determine what management actions are needed to implement those decisions. Sometimes actions occur just once, e.g., the development of an implementation plan; or actions occur on a fairly regular basis, e.g., steps taken to repair a damaged watershed. Monitoring is the process of following up on these management actions and documenting the BLM's progress toward full implementation of the land use plan and the achievement of desired outcomes. Field offices are encouraged to involve state and local governments and the public if they express an interest in participating in this process.

Evaluation is the process of reviewing the land use plan and the periodic plan monitoring reports to determine whether the land use plan decisions and NEPA analysis are still valid and whether the plan is being implemented. Land use plans are evaluated to determine if: (1) decisions remain relevant to current issues, (2) decisions are effective in achieving (or making progress toward achieving) desired outcomes, (3) any decisions need to be revised, (4) any decisions need to be dropped from further consideration, and (5) any areas require new decisions. In making these determinations, the evaluation should consider whether mitigation measures are satisfactory, whether there are significant changes in the related plans of other entities, and whether there is new data of significance to the plan.

The plan should be periodically evaluated (at a minimum every 5 years) as documented in an evaluation schedule. Plan evaluations should also be completed prior to any plan revisions and/or major plan amendments. Special or unscheduled evaluations may also be required to review unexpected management actions or significant changes in the related plans of other Federal agencies, and state and local governments, or to evaluate legislation or litigation that has the potential to trigger an RMP amendment or

revision. Evaluations may identify resource needs and means for correcting deficiencies and addressing issues through plan maintenance, amendments, or new starts. They should also identify where new and emerging resource issues and other values have surfaced. Evaluations may also identify new and innovative practices that improve effectiveness and efficiency so that other offices may benefit.

PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Standard Management Common to All Alternatives

Air Quality

The goals and objectives for air quality are to comply with local, State, and Federal air quality regulations, requirements, and implementation plans.

Actions authorized on BLM-administered lands and non-USFS FMO would need to be conducted so as to comply with Clean Air Act requirements, including the applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (Section 109); the State Air Quality Implementation Plan (SIP) (Section 110); control of pollution from Federal facilities (Section 118); prevention of significant deterioration (PSD), including visibility impacts to mandatory Federal Class I areas (Section 160 et seq.); and conformity analyses and determinations (Section 176(c)). Section 118 of the Clean Air Act requires Federal agencies to comply with all Federal, State, and local air pollution requirements. Section 176(c) prohibits Federal agencies from taking any actions that contribute to a new violation of Ambient Air Quality Standards, increase the frequency or severity of an existing violation, or delay the attainment of a Standard. It also requires Federal agencies to conform to SIPs. BLM policy provides requirements to minimize air quality impacts. For example, prescribed burns must comply with BLM Manual 9214 for air quality maintenance requirements, to minimize air quality impacts from particulates such as smoke.

Soil Resources

The goals and objectives for soil resources are to maintain or improve soil conditions and prevent or minimize accelerated soil erosion.

Standards and goals under the Clean Water Act (CWA) require measures to minimize non-point source pollution and soil erosion. Measures for minimizing accelerated soil erosion would continue to be made on a site-specific basis through evaluation of management actions and implementation of best management practices (BMP). Examples of soil BMPs can be found in the *Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development, Gold Book (BLM 2006)* and at <http://www.blm.gov/bmp>.

Unique and Prime Farmland

The goals and objectives for unique and prime farmland are to minimize the impact of BLM-authorized activities on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses and comply with State and local government policies to protect farmland.

Before any decision authorizing surface disturbance, a determination would be made as to if prime or unique farmland as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.) is in an area that may be affected by a proposed action. If prime or unique farmland is present, then an appropriate level of analysis would be prepared to determine if the proposed action may have an adverse effect and

identify appropriate mitigation measures to minimize any unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses.

Water Resources

The goals and objectives for water resources are to maintain water quality where it presently meets Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved State water quality standards and improve water quality on public lands where it does not meet standards as defined by Section 303(d) of the CWA.

Standards and goals under the CWA and water quality management objectives developed by the States, as required by the 1987 Water Quality Act Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, were created to protect the quality of States' waters and to prevent, abate, and control water pollution. Any water discharged on the surface by industry is controlled through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Actions authorized on BLM lands must also comply with the mitigation requirements defined by the Office of Surface Mining regulations for coal leasing and by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit requirements. Management actions would be conducted in conformance with the various regulations in the CWA, the State regulations, and the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) to achieve the water quality classifications and standards for surface and ground waters developed by the States. Management actions would be conducted in a manner conforming to water quality management objectives developed by the States. Standards and goals under the CWA require measures to minimize non-point source pollution and soil erosion. Measures for minimizing accelerated soil erosion would continue to be made on a site-specific basis through evaluation of management actions and implementation of BMPs. Examples of soil BMPs can be found in the *Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development, Gold Book* (BLM 2006) and at <http://www.blm.gov/bmp>.

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 established a national policy of protecting, and, where possible, restoring and enhancing coastal areas. The National Coastal Zone Management Program fosters an effective partnership among federal, state, and local governments. For proposed actions on tracts that are within coastal areas, the BLM would recognize and comply with the requirements of the state coastal area management program.

Vegetative Communities

The goals and objectives for vegetative communities are to manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status plant species and imperiled plant communities and control noxious and invasive plant species.

The BLM's role in the management of vegetative communities is to provide habitats that support desired plants and animals. The BLM would manage for desired outcomes of vegetative communities, including control of noxious and invasive species, that incorporate the conservation actions identified in the approved State comprehensive conservation strategies. Unless otherwise specified in an alternative, vegetation manipulation (e.g., prescribed burning, mechanical alteration, chemical treatment, manual, biological) would be allowed if needed to meet resource management objectives.

Fish and Wildlife

The goals and objectives for fish and wildlife are to manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance habitat for fish and wildlife species.

The BLM's role in the management of fish and wildlife is to provide habitats that support desired animal species. The BLM would support and coordinate with the State and other partners on habitat improvements and protection in compliance with approved comprehensive State fish and wildlife conservation strategies. This may include actions such as control of invasive plant species, use of prescribed fire, and wetland enhancements. Hunting regulations and game management are under the authority of the State fish and wildlife agency.

Special Status Species

The goals and objectives for special status species are to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status species and their habitat.

Special status species include all Federal and State-listed species, proposed or candidates for Federal or State listing, and those species identified by the BLM as sensitive species. BLM Eastern States policy designates as "BLM sensitive" those additional species that are considered to be critically imperiled (S-1) or imperiled (S-2) by the State Natural Heritage programs.

The BLM would avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of any Federally listed, State listed, or proposed species; actively promote species recovery; and work to improve the status of candidate and sensitive species. If a Federally listed species may be affected by a proposed management action, there would be consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 United States Code [USC] 1531 *et seq.*). If a proposed management action might impact a State-listed species, there would be consultation with the appropriate State game and fish agency. Harvesting of any sensitive species would be prohibited, except when explicitly authorized for scientific purposes by an appropriate State and/or Federal agency.

If a proposed activity could affect candidate or sensitive species or their habitat, the BLM would avoid activities that would contribute to a need to list such species or their habitat. Thus, the BLM could require modifications to or reject a proposed activity that could jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or that could result in destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. The BLM would not approve any surface-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until obligations are met under applicable requirements of ESA, as amended, including completion of any required procedure for conference or formal consultation.

Wildland Fire Ecology and Management

The goals and objectives for wildland fire ecology and management are to manage fire and fuels to protect life, firefighter safety, property, and critical resource values.

Unless a separate, site-specific plan is in place, wildfires would be suppressed. Agreements, as needed, would be pursued with Federal, State, and local government fire protection agencies for fire suppression. Prescribed burning would be allowed on a case-by-case basis if needed to meet vegetative communities or fish and wildlife habitat management objectives.

Cultural Resources

The goals and objectives for cultural resources are to identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (FLPMA, Section 103 (c), 201(a) and (c); National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended (16 USC 470), Section 110(a); Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), Section 14(a)). In addition, to seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused

deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses (FLPMA Sec. 103(c), NHPA 106, 110 (a) (2)) by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use will comply with the NHPA Section 106.

Management actions would comply with the NHPA, which provides protection for significant cultural resources. An appropriate level of inventory would be conducted for all actions with a potential to affect these resources, in compliance with the requirements of Section 110 of the NHPA. Actions would require additional consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), in compliance with Section 106 of NHPA, and/or the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800).

Cultural resources would be identified and protected on a case-by-case basis, according to site-specific needs. Any significant sites discovered would be available for scientific, conservation, traditional, or interpretation uses. A site that is not significant (as determined by the BLM with SHPO consultation) would be released from management concerns.

Cultural resource surveys conducted prior to 1996, when the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) cultural resource assessment standards were established, will have to be resurveyed. Because of this, consultation with the Alabama SHPO will occur prior to any property disposal or mineral leasing to determine if a cultural resource survey was conducted prior to 1996.

Paleontological Resources

The goals and objectives for paleontological resources are to protect their important scientific values.

Significant paleontological sites are protected under FLPMA. FLPMA charges the BLM to (1) manage public land so as to protect the quality of scientific and other values and (2) see that land and resources are periodically and systematically inventoried. Known paleontological resources would be managed according to the BLM 8270 *Handbook* and the BLM *Manual for the Management of Paleontological Resources*.

If discovered, paleontological resources would be managed to protect their important scientific values. Area closures, restrictions, or other mitigation requirements for the protection of paleontological values would be determined on a case-by-case basis. Collecting of scientifically significant vertebrate and invertebrate fossils by qualified paleontologists would be allowed by permit only.

Visual Resources

The goals and objectives for visual resources are to protect scenic values while providing for overall multiple use and quality of life for local communities and visitors to public lands.

Because of their small size, the surface tracts are a relatively small component of the visual landscape. Consequently, they have not been the subject of a traditional BLM visual resource management (VRM) inventory and are not assigned VRM classes (defined in Section 3.2.9). Case-by-case processing of land use and mineral development proposals would consider impacts to visual resources where these have been identified as public concerns. Interim visual management classes would be assigned in accordance with VRM Manual 8400 and Visual Resource Inventory Handbook H-8410-1. All surface tracts would be managed as VRM Class III, except for the Coosa River tracts in Alabama and the Hancock County tract in Mississippi, which would be managed as VRM Class II.

Minerals

The goals and objectives for minerals are to provide for leasing, exploration, and development of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO, while protecting other resource values.

Federal mineral estate would be available for conveyance to owners of the surface estate as provided in Section 209 of FLPMA. Section 209 provides for this conveyance if there are no known mineral values in the land or if reservation of the mineral rights to the United States is interfering with or precluding appropriate surface development of the land and such development is a more beneficial use of the land. The BLM would retain the FMO with known mineral value.

As discussed in Section 1.3, BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO in the planning area includes Federal mineral estate underlying lands of BLM or other Federal surface management agencies (excluding USFS) and split-estate whereby the Federal Government owns all or a portion of the mineral estate, but the surface estate is State-owned or privately owned (i.e., non-Federal). BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO under the jurisdiction of another Federal surface managing agency would be available for exploration and development as directed by the surface managing agency. Split-estate (i.e., non-USFS FMO underlying private or State-owned surface lands) would be subject to stipulations deemed necessary to protect existing surface improvements or use. The BLM would apply stipulations to oil and gas leases as determined through this plan; however, surface management agencies may provide their own stipulations that would be attached to a lease during the lease-approval process.

After this plan is approved, it is expected that additional FMO tracts will be identified or acquired through mineral leasing applications. If these tracts are similar in resource values and within the environmental issues analyzed in this plan, the new FMO tracts will be managed according to the guidance of this plan and incorporated into the plan through plan maintenance.

Coal leasing potential within the planning area is limited to the Warrior Basin¹ in Alabama because of the distinctive presence of the appropriate geological conditions (e.g., continuity of coalbeds, thickness of coal, quality of coal seams) and existing infrastructure (e.g., existing subsurface mining operations and access roads) for development of coal resources. BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO available for coal leasing is located in Walker, Fayette, Jefferson, and Tuscaloosa Counties. Coal is also present to a lesser degree in Marion and Winston Counties, but the development of Federal coal in these counties is unlikely. Non-USFS FMO in the Warrior Basin would be available for further coal leasing consideration and limited to underground mining methods. BMPs would be applied as appropriate when processing a Lease by Application (LBA).

Recreation

The goals and objectives for recreation are to allow recreation use and travel compatible with other resource management objectives.

The BLM surface tracts are open to dispersed recreational use, including hunting, fishing, hiking, and nature study. Case-by-case processing of land use and mineral development proposals would consider impacts to recreation where it has been identified as a public concern. Due to the scattered nature of the small surface tracts and lacking recreation interest, special recreation management areas (SRMA) would not be designated within this RMP, and all surface tracts would be managed as extensive recreation management areas (ERMA).

¹ The term "Warrior Basin" is a geologic province. The Black Warrior Basin is the drainage area of the Black Warrior River.

Lands and Realty

The goals and objectives for lands and realty are to manage the land ownership pattern, withdrawal, and use of public lands to promote efficiency of management and protect important resource values. In addition, to make public lands available for purposes such as transportation routes or utilities, when consistent with other resource goals.

All land use proposals would be evaluated for conformance with plan objectives and land use decisions. Case-by-case processing would include analysis of environmental impacts through the NEPA compliance process. Land disposals would be conducted to meet the requirements identified under applicable authorities. To be considered suitable for disposal through sale, lands must meet the following criteria outlined in Section 203 of the FLPMA:

- (1) Such tract, because of its location or other characteristics, is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency
- (2) Such tract was acquired for a specific purpose, and the tract is no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose
- (3) Disposal of such tract will serve important public objectives, including, but not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development, which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land and which outweigh other public objectives and values, including, but not limited to, recreation and scenic values, which would be served by maintaining such tract in Federal ownership.

Lands may be exchanged as authorized by Section 206 of the FLPMA when the exchange would serve the national interest and benefit BLM programs or the programs of other Federal agencies. Lands may be conveyed to State and local government agencies and other qualified organizations under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926 (R&PP), as amended. Under R&PP, lands may be conveyed or leased only for an established or proposed project for which there are development and management plans, as well as adequate funding by the R&PP applicant to complete the development and a reasonable timetable of development.

Specific surface tracts identified for disposal under the various management alternatives would be evaluated for the presence of significant resource values before such action. Resources to be evaluated would include minerals, recreation, cultural resources, wetlands, and special status species. This evaluation would also be applied before disposal of any additional BLM-administered surface tracts that are identified or verified after approval of the RMP.

Some tracts may have uncertain titles. These are cases in which the tracts are claimed by private owners but government land records show that they were not transferred from Federal ownership. Tracts with uncertain titles would be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the Color-of-Title Act, under which claimants may apply for transfer of these tracts and, if qualified, purchase the tracts to obtain title. Appendix B provides a list of lands of uncertain title occurring within the planning area.

Existing withdrawals (listed in Appendix I) would be subject to review to determine if they are serving their intended purpose. The BLM has the authority to revoke, modify, extend, or change withdrawals in accordance with the provisions and limitations of Section 204 of FLPMA.

After this plan is approved, it is expected that some additional surface tracts may return to BLM administration after revocation of withdrawals, reversion of R&PP lands, and resolution of title. These additional surface tracts will be managed according to applicable guidance of this plan.

This plan does not identify specific utility corridors because of fragmented BLM surface land ownership within the planning area and uncertainties in demand. Right-of-way (ROW) avoidance areas, established for protection of sensitive resources and tracts that may be suitable for corridors, are identified in the management alternatives presented in Section 2.4. Tracts identified as available for disposal through sale or exchange would be managed as avoidance areas if granting of an ROW might adversely affect tract marketability, unless otherwise specified in the alternatives.

Resolution of unauthorized use would be pursued on a case-by-case basis. Resolution would include termination of use and payment of damages, including reclamation of disturbed land, if needed. In some cases, use may be authorized through ROWs, permits, leases, or land disposal. Valid authorizations would be protected if the land undergoes disposal.

Hazardous Materials

The goals and objectives for hazardous materials are to minimize or eliminate the potential for intentional or accidental releases of hazardous materials or wastes from BLM-authorized actions.

Proposed activities on BLM-administered surface tracts and non-USFS FMO would be evaluated for their potential to release hazardous materials into the environment. Authorized use of hazardous materials must comply with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Disposal of hazardous materials is prohibited. Discovery of hazardous materials that have not been permitted would be handled in accordance with the reporting, removal, and remediation requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

MANAGEMENT OF NON-USFS FMO

The discussion of proposed management of mineral leasing and development of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO presented in this section is limited to oil and gas leasing. Non-USFS FMO includes mineral ownership underlying BLM-administered surface tracts. Proposed management for coal leasing is presented in the Standard Management Section of this appendix. Where non-USFS FMO is concerned, decisions of this RMP will pertain only to the BLM's role in administering the minerals.

There are four oil and gas leasing categories. Following is a description of each.

- **Open to leasing, subject to standard lease terms and conditions.** Includes areas in which standard lease terms and conditions are determined to be sufficient to protect other land uses or resource values.
- **Open to leasing, subject to minor constraints.** Comprises areas in which moderately restrictive lease stipulations such as timing limitations or distance setbacks are required to mitigate impacts to other land uses or resource values. Such constraints are often referred to as Controlled Surface Use (CSU).
- **Open to leasing, subject to major constraints.** Encompasses areas in which highly restrictive lease stipulations, such as No Surface Occupancy (NSO), are required to mitigate impacts to other land uses or resource values.

- **Closed to leasing.** Designated for areas where other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected by even the most restrictive lease stipulations. Appropriate protection can be ensured only by closing the lands to leasing.

The acreage of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO available for oil and gas leasing in Alabama and Mississippi, by alternative, is shown in Table 1 and Table 2. Federal oil and gas leases contain standard lease terms that are included on the lease form, many of which are designed to protect natural resources. As described previously, special stipulations can be attached to a lease to respond to specific environmental or resource concerns for a particular lease area. Special stipulations are developed during the land use planning process, such as this RMP. Stipulations are attached to and made part of the lease and modify standard lease terms or the manner in which operations may be conducted. The variation of acreage by alternative for leasing stipulations associated with oil and gas potential in Alabama and Mississippi is shown in Table 3 and Table 4. Conservation measures, including stipulations and BMPs, are provided in Appendix D.

Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario for Minerals

Alabama and Mississippi have been classified as having high occurrence potential for oil and gas resources, based on the Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario (RFDS) prepared by the BLM. It is estimated that 20 wells would be drilled on non-USFS FMO in Alabama and 10 wells would be drilled on non-USFS FMO in Mississippi over the next 20 years (BLM 2004). These actions are expected to disturb a total of 105 acres in Alabama and 55 acres in Mississippi.

Table 1. Oil and Gas Leasing Categories in Alabama

Oil and Gas Leasing Category	Proposed Plan (Acres)
Open to leasing, subject to standard lease terms and conditions	144,895
Open to leasing, subject to minor constraints	117,506
Open to leasing, subject to major constraints	43,239
Closed to leasing	8,179
TOTAL	313,819^a

Notes:

- a Represents all BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO within the State of Alabama.

Table 2. Oil and Gas Leasing Categories in Mississippi

Oil and Gas Leasing Category	Proposed Plan (Acres)
Open to leasing, subject to standard lease terms and conditions	359,640
Open to leasing, subject to minor constraints	3,021
Open to leasing, subject to major constraints	92,269
Closed to leasing	63,004
TOTAL	517,934^a

Notes:

- a Represents all BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO within the State of Mississippi.

Proposed Stipulations

Three types of lease stipulations would be applied, defined as follows:

- **No Surface Occupancy (NSO).** A constraint that prohibits occupancy or disturbance on all or part of a lease surface to protect special values or uses. Lessees may exploit the fluid mineral resources under the lease surface through use of directional drilling from outside the NSO area.
- **Controlled Surface Use (CSU).** A constraint under which use and occupancy is allowed (unless restricted by another stipulation), but identified resource values require special operational limitations that may modify lease rights.
- **Seasonal (Timing Limitation).** A constraint that prohibits surface use during specified periods to protect identified resource values.

For each stipulation, there are provisions for exception, modification, and waiver. An exception is a one-time exemption to the stipulations, determined on a case-by-case basis. A modification is a change to the provisions of the stipulation, either temporarily or for the term of the lease. A waiver is a permanent exemption to the stipulation. For Federally listed species, exception, modification, and waiver will typically require coordination and possibly formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Bald Eagle

Stipulation (NSO): No surface occupancy or disturbance will be permitted within a 1,500-foot buffer zone around active or inactive bald eagle nests and communal roost sites (primary zone).

Objective: To avoid impact to nesting eagles, including impact to important courtship and nesting behavior, egg laying and incubation, and feeding and fledging activity.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in consultation with USFWS and appropriate State agencies.

Modification: This stipulation may be modified to remain consistent with Federal or State guidelines or if a portion of the stipulated area is no longer within the 1,500-foot buffer zone.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if no suitable nest sites are within 1,500 feet of any portion of the leased tract or if the nest site has not been used for at least 5 years.

Stipulation (CSU): BLM-permitted projects will not remove trees suitable for nesting within a 1.5-mile buffer zone around active or inactive bald eagle nests and communal roost sites (secondary zone).

Objective: To protect foraging habitat, promote nest fidelity, and maintain habitat integrity around bald eagle nests and communal roosting sites.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in consultation with USFWS and in coordination with State agencies.

Modification: This stipulation may be modified to remain consistent with Federal and State guidelines or if a portion of the stipulated area is no longer within the 1.5-mile buffer zone.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if no nest or communal roosting site can be identified within 1.5 miles of the leased tract or if the applicant can document that no sites have been used by bald eagles for 5 consecutive years.

Stipulation (Timing Limitation): Surface-disturbing and other activities that are potentially disruptive to nesting bald eagles are prohibited within 1.5 miles of a bald eagle nest or communal roosting site between December 1 and August 1.

Objective: To protect foraging habitat, promote nest fidelity, and maintain habitat integrity around bald eagle nest and roosting sites.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in consultation with USFWS and in coordination with State agencies.

Modification: This stipulation may be modified to remain consistent with Federal and State guidelines or if a portion of the stipulated area is no longer within the 1.5-mile buffer zone.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if no nest site can be identified within 1.5 miles of any portion of the leased tract or if the applicant can document that no sites have been used by bald eagles for 5 consecutive years.

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

Stipulation (NSO): No surface occupancy or disturbance within 0.5 mile of a red-cockaded woodpecker cluster, defined as the area containing all active and inactive cavity trees and a 200-foot buffer zone surrounding that area. Vehicle use is prohibited within a cluster except for through-travel on existing, maintained, paved roads.

Objective: To protect red-cockaded woodpecker nest sites from disturbance and habitat degradation.

Exception: An exception may be granted to allow surface occupancy within 0.5 mile of a cluster if the operator agrees to measures developed in consultation with USFWS and in coordination with State agencies.

Modification: This stipulation may be modified if a portion of the stipulated area is no longer within the 0.5-mile buffer zone.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if no cluster can be identified within 0.5 mile of the leased tract.

Sea Turtles

(Green sea turtle, hawksbill sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, and loggerhead sea turtle)

Stipulation (NSO): No surface occupancy or disturbance is permitted in suitable sea-turtle nesting habitat.

Objective: To protect sea turtle nesting habitat.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in consultation with USFWS and in coordination with State agencies.

Modification: This stipulation may be modified if a portion of the stipulated area is no longer suitable sea turtle nesting habitat.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if it is determined that none of the leased area is suitable sea turtle nesting habitat.

Gopher Tortoise, Eastern Indigo Snake, Gopher Frog, and Black Pine Snake

Stipulation (CSU): BLM-approved surveys will be required in all suitable gopher tortoise habitat where the tortoise is listed, including: Choctaw, Washington, Sumter, and Mobile counties in Alabama; and Clarke, Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone, Walthall, and Wayne counties in Mississippi. No surface disturbance or activity is permitted within 600 feet of a gopher tortoise burrow.

Suitable habitat includes areas with deep, well-drained and excessively well-drained sandy soils, especially the following U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil series with an open understory with grass and forb groundcover open areas. Suitable soils include Alaga, Bigbee, Eustis, Lakeland, Wadley or Troup, McLaurin, Benndale, Heidel, Bama, Smithdale, Ruston, Lucedale, Lucy, Shubuta, Baxterville, Malbis, Poarch, Saucier, Susquehanna, Boswell, Lorman, Freestone, Freest, Prentiss, Savannah, Basin, and Petal.

Objective: To protect gopher tortoise habitat and commensal species.

Exception: Exceptions may be granted if the proponent agrees to implement measures developed in consultation with USFWS and in coordination with State agencies.

Modification: This stipulation may be modified if suitable gopher tortoise habitat does not exist in the stipulated area and that area does not provide forage habitat for adjacent tortoise populations. Survey requirements may be modified if current tortoise surveys of the tract are approved by the BLM and USFWS.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if suitable gopher tortoise habitat does not exist on the tract and the tract does not provide forage habitat for gopher tortoises in adjacent areas.

Alabama Beach Mouse

Stipulation (NSO): No surface occupancy or disturbance will be permitted within suitable Alabama beach mouse habitat or its Federally designated critical habitat.

Objective: To avoid impacts to suitable Alabama beach mouse habitat and designated critical habitat.

Exception: An exception may be granted if measures are developed and implemented in consultation with USFWS to avoid potential take of the species. These measures must also be coordinated with State agencies.

Modification: This stipulation may be modified if a portion of the stipulated area is found to be no longer suitable Alabama beach mouse habitat.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if it is determined that none of the leased area is suitable Alabama beach mouse habitat.

Gray Bat, Indiana Bat, Alabama Cave Shrimp, and Alabama Cavefish

Stipulation (NSO): No surface occupancy or disturbance is permitted within 250 feet of caves, fractures, large sinkholes, and perennial or intermittent streams in or adjacent to counties with documented gray bat or Indiana bat populations.

Objective: To prevent any impact to hydrologic networks connected to cave habitats and to protect flight paths and food sources for the bats.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in coordination with USFWS and appropriate State agencies. Formal consultation with USFWS may be required if determined necessary to protect species and associated habitat.

Modification: This stipulation may be modified if a portion of the stipulated area is found to be no longer within the 250-foot buffer zone.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if no portion of the leased area is within the 250-foot buffer zone.

Stipulation (NSO): No surface occupancy or disturbance is permitted within 0.5 mile of an Indiana bat or gray bat summer roost or gray bat wintering-cave hibernacula.

Objective: To prevent fatal disturbance during summer nursery roosting or winter hibernation.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in coordination with USFWS and appropriate State agencies. Formal consultation with USFWS may be required if determined necessary to protect species and associated habitat.

Modification: This stipulation may be modified if the project does not adversely affect Indiana or gray bat hibernacula, with concurrence from USFWS and the appropriate State agencies.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if the lease is not within 0.5 mile of an Indiana bat or gray bat hibernacula.

Stipulation (CSU): A BLM-permitted action will not remove shagbark hickory trees or snags within 1.5 miles of an Indiana bat or gray bat hibernacula.

Objective: To prevent fatal disturbance during summer nursery roosting or winter hibernation.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in coordination with USFWS and appropriate State agencies. Formal consultation with USFWS may be required if determined necessary to protect species and associated habitat.

Modification: None.

Waiver: None.

Stipulation (CSU): Injection or disposal of produced water or water withdrawal will not be allowed into identified karstic habitat or any hydrologic network connected to caves used by the bats or other listed cave species.

Objective: To prevent any impact to hydrologic networks connected to bat caves and flight paths, and to protect food sources for the bat.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in coordination with USFWS and appropriate State agencies. Formal consultation with USFWS may be required if determined necessary to protect species and associated habitat.

Modification: The stipulation may be modified if a portion of the stipulated area is not in karstic habitat or a hydrologic network connected to caves used by the bats.

Waiver: The stipulation may be waived if none of the lease area is karstic habitat or is not hydrologically connected to caves used by the bats.

Aquatic Habitats

(Habitat for special status species including the Mississippi gopher frog; Alabama red-bellied turtle; flattened musk turtle; yellow-blotched map turtle; ringed map turtle; blue shiner; Gulf sturgeon; slackwater darter; sensitive clam and snail species including the ovate clubshell, southern clubshell, fine-lined pocketbook, and Tulotoma snail; and wood stork)

Stipulation (NSO): No surface occupancy or disturbance, including discharges, are permitted within 250 feet of a river, stream, wetland spring, headwaters, wet meadows, wet pine savannas, pond, tributary, lake, coastal slough, sand bars, vernal pools on granite outcrops, calcareous seepage marshes, brackish marshes, saltmarsh or small, marshy calcareous streams. This buffer may be extended to 600 feet where the slope exceeds 10 percent and to protect vernal pools in southeastern Mississippi between Highways 98 and 59 providing suitable habitat for endangered Mississippi gopher frog.

Objective: To protect the water quality of watersheds and natural stream substrate and morphology and to avoid potential impacts to Federal- and State-listed aquatic species.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to 1) span creeks and floodplains by attaching pipelines to bridges; 2) directionally drill under creeks, rivers, and other waters supporting listed species; or 3) implement other measures developed in consultation with USFWS and in coordination with State agencies.

Modification: The buffer may be reduced if the adjacent waterway has been surveyed for 100 yards upstream and 300 yards downstream of the site, and the results document the lack of suitable/occupied habitat for special status species within the mixing zone downstream of the project, as determined by the BLM and USFWS.

Waiver: The stipulations may be waived if it is determined that the lease area has no hydrological connection to habitat of sensitive aquatic species.

Louisiana Black Bear

Stipulation: No surface disturbance, including removal of potential den trees, is permitted within a 1,500-foot buffer around den trees in occupied bottomland hardwood and floodplain forest habitats.

Objective: To protect Louisiana black bear denning and foraging habitat.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in coordination with USFWS and appropriate State agencies.

Modification: Temporary surface use may be permitted if USFWS concurs that the action would not adversely affect Louisiana black bear or suitable habitat.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if the tract does not contain suitable Louisiana black bear habitat.

Piping Plover, Least Tern

Stipulation: No surface disturbance in piping plover and least tern habitat from the debris wrack line to the low-tide line of coastal beaches.

Objective: To protect wintering piping plover and least terns.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in consultation with the USFWS and in coordination with State agencies.

Modification: Temporary surface use may be permitted if USFWS concurs that the action would not adversely affect piping plover or least tern or suitable habitat.

Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if the tract does not contain suitable piping plover or least tern habitat.

Sensitive Plant Species

(Including Alabama canebreak pitcher plant, green pitcher plant, Alabama leather flower, Eggert's sunflower, Kral's water-plantain, Mohr's Barbara's buttons, Morefield's leather flower, Price's potato-bean, and harperella)

Stipulation (CSU): All suitable special status plant species habitat will be identified during environmental review of any proposed surface use activity. If field examination indicates that habitat of one or more of these species is present, the BLM will require a survey by a qualified botanist for special status plants during periods appropriate to each species. Operations will not be allowed in areas where sensitive plants would be affected.

Objective: To protect threatened, endangered, candidate, proposed, and BLM sensitive plant species.

Exception: An exception may be granted if the operator agrees to implement measures developed in consultation with USFWS and in coordination with State agencies.

Modification: The stipulation may be modified if it is determined that a portion of the lease area does not support sensitive plant species.

Waiver: The stipulation may be waived if it is determined that the lease area does not support sensitive plant species.

Hancock County Marshes

Stipulation (NSO): No surface occupancy will be permitted within the component of the Mississippi Coastal Preserve System (MCPS) designated as Hancock County Marshes.

Objective: To promote the preservation of marsh habitat in the MCPS, including the following ecological communities expected or known to occur: estuarine subtidal, 1) large tidal creek; estuarine intertidal, 1) sand shore 2) mesohaline marsh 3) oligohaline marsh; and other shell middens.

Objective: For the protection of coastal marshes within this State-designated preserve.

Exception: An exception may be allowed if, in consultation with the State agency responsible for the MCPS, it is determined that potential affects of the proposal would be adequately mitigated.

Modification: The stipulation may be modified if a portion of the leased area is no longer identified as part of the MCPS.

Waiver: The stipulation may be waived if the leased area is no longer identified as part of the MCPS.

Best Management Practices

BMPs are mitigation measures applied on a site-specific basis to reduce, prevent, or avoid adverse impacts. They may be incorporated as design features when actions are proposed or may be attached as conditions of approval for BLM-permitted Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) for oil and gas.

The BMPs described below will be considered mandatory in Alternatives 3 and 4, and will be applied to oil and gas operations on new and existing leases. Note that the objective of each BMP is to reduce adverse impacts to specific resources, and that there is some flexibility in implementation. The degree of flexibility will vary. Application of BMPs when there is potential to affect Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or designated critical habitat will typically require coordination and possibly formal consultation with USFWS. Examples of national environmental BMPs are listed below; other BMPs that could be applied during site-specific evaluation can be found in the *Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development, Gold Book* (BLM 2006) and at <http://www.blm.gov/bmp>.

- Interim reclamation of the well and access road
- Painting of all facilities to blend into the background

- Design and construct all new roads to a safe and appropriate standard, “no higher than necessary” to accommodate intended vehicular use
- Final reclamation of all disturbed areas, including access roads, to the original or similar contour
- Raptor perch-avoidance devices on powerlines
- Burial of powerlines and flow lines in or immediately adjacent to access roads
- Centralized production facilities
- The use of submersible pumps where feasible
- Below-ground wellheads where feasible
- Multiple wells from a single well pad where feasible
- Noise-reduction techniques to reduce noise from compressors or other motorized equipment
- Seasonal restrictions on public vehicular access where there are wildlife-conflict or road damage/maintenance issues
- Avoidance of production facilities on hilltops and ridgelines

Disposal of Produced Water

Objective: To protect aquatic habitats for and to avoid potential impacts to special status fish, mussels, turtles, snails, plants, and migratory birds.

The preferred method for disposal of produced water will be through reinjection to a permeable formation with total dissolved solids (TDS) content higher than 10,000 milligrams per liter (mg/L) where the aquifer is not hydrologically connected to caves, wetlands, or surface water. In Alabama, the injection of produced water is regulated by the Alabama State Oil and Gas Board. In Mississippi, the injection of produced water is regulated by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board.

Alabama’s Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) prohibits injection of pollutants from Class I Wells below an Underground Source of Drinking Water (USDW); injection of wastes from oil and gas production (Class III Wells) is regulated by the Alabama State Oil & Gas Board; ADEM regulates Class III Wells involving solution mining of certain minerals, such as salt. Class IV Wells are banned nationally by federal regulations; all others (Class V Wells) comprise about 90% of permitted injection wells in Alabama. EPA regulates all classes of injection wells on Tribal lands in Alabama. For surface water discharges into waters of the U.S., applicants would need State-issued National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, or federally-issued NPDES permits if the receiving water were on Tribal lands.

The UIC Program in Mississippi is implemented by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Mississippi Oil & Gas Board. The Oil and Gas Board regulates Class II wells, and the DEW Management Support Branch, regulates all other well classes. In addition to Class II injection wells, Mississippi has Class I hazardous waste injection wells, Class I non-hazardous injection wells, and Class V injection wells. EPA regulates all classes of injection wells on Tribal lands in Mississippi. For surface water discharges into waters of the U.S., applicants would need State-issued NPDES permits, or federally-issued NPDES permits if the receiving waters were on Tribal lands.

If reinjection is not practicable, closed-containment treatment systems should be used to contain and treat produced water for those contaminants and sediments exceeding State standards or EPA criteria. Salt content of any surface ponds for produced water, pigging pits, or other fluids must be less than 7,500 microsiemens per centimeter ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$). If surface pond salt content is greater than 7,500 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, if other bird toxicity is present, or if the surface exhibits sheen, then the ponds must be netted or covered with floating balls, or other methods must be used to exclude migratory birds.

Produced waters may be released into an impounded reservoir if there is documentation that the discharge site and affected waters do not support special status species, are not designated critical habitat, and State and Federal water quality standards/criteria are met.

Produced waters may be released into a stream/river if the discharge site and affected waters have been recently surveyed and lack special status species, or if the applicant conducts approved surveys documenting the absence of special status species, State and Federal water quality standards/criteria are met, and a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is obtained. The applicant should be aware that some species can be surveyed only during certain times of the year.

Produced waters may be released into a stream/river if the applicant can document that the produced waters would not adversely affect special status species. Water quality tests would be conducted on stream segment(s) or other locations proposed as discharge points, volumes to be released, and any settling ponds or other treatments proposed to improve wastewater quality. The water quality test data, any monitoring proposed, and other available information about general coalbed methane effluent characteristics (from published or unpublished literature) shall be reviewed by USFWS. Information about timing of the releases in relation to low water and other planned BMPs would also be required. Testing would include analysis of the discharge site and affected waters for chemical oxygen demand (COD), conductivity, total suspended solids (TSS), As, Hg, Se, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). Dissolved oxygen and ammonia standards/criteria must be met in bottom waters if they support listed benthic or epibenthic species. If a special status species has been documented to be more sensitive than State/Federal standards/criteria, site-specific standards for that species may be imposed. Calculations would be based on State standards (or Federal CCC criteria for protection of freshwater aquatic life when the State has not determined a standard for these parameters).

Invasive and Non-Native Species

Objective: To discourage the spread of invasive, non-native plants.

Use of native or non-invasive cover plants in seeding mixtures will be encouraged to stabilize disturbed areas and during restoration activities. Construction areas will be surveyed for invasive species prior to ground disturbance. If invasive species are found, the proper control techniques will be used to either eradicate the species from the area or minimize its spread to other areas. If cogongrass is found on site equipment should be washed before exiting the site to prevent the spread of this highly invasive species to other locations. Post-construction monitoring for cogongrass and other invasive plant species should be conducted to ensure early detection and control. In the case of split-estate land, final seed mixtures will be formulated in consultation with the private landowner.

Migratory Birds and Federally Listed Wildlife

Objective: To protect perch and roosting sites and terrestrial habitats for and to avoid potential impacts to migratory birds and Federally listed wildlife.

Any reserve pit that is not closed within 10 days after a well is completed and that contains water must be netted or covered with floating balls, or another method must be used to exclude migratory birds.

Maximum design speed on all operator-constructed and maintained (non-public) roads shall not exceed 25 miles per hour to minimize the chance of a collision with migratory birds or other listed wildlife species.

All powerlines must be built to protect raptors and other migratory birds, including bald eagles, from accidental electrocution, using methods detailed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC 2006)².

Objective: To avoid or minimize the possibility of the unintentional take of migratory birds during periods of concentrated nesting activity and to provide long-term benefits and improved vegetation community condition.

The BLM or other qualified personnel may be required identify suitable migratory bird nesting habitat within the project site. Opportunities should be evaluated to shift disturbance away from high value migratory bird nesting or foraging habitats, or to replace habitat on or off site.

A Timing Limitation may be imposed on use authorizations to mitigate large-scale vegetative disturbing activities during the primary portion of the nesting season. Dates could be adjusted for the species and environmental conditions.

Perching and Nesting Birds and Bats

Objective: To prevent birds and bats from entering or nesting in or on open vent stack equipment.

Open vent stack equipment, such as heater-treaters, separators, and dehydrator units, will be designed and constructed to prevent birds and bats from entering or nesting in or on such units and, to the extent practical, to discourage birds from perching on the stacks. Installing cone-shaped mesh covers on all open vents is one suggested method. Flat mesh covers are not expected to discourage perching and will not be acceptable.

Pesticide Application

Objective: To protect the water quality of watersheds and natural stream substrate and morphology supporting special status species and their host species.

Any ground application of herbicides or other pesticides, sterilants, or adjuvants within 150 feet of listed species or habitat will require site-specific control measures developed in coordination or formal consultation with USFWS. No aerial application of herbicides or pesticides will be permitted.

Table 3. Leasing Stipulations in Alabama ^a

Area	Total non-USFS FMO (Acres) ^{a, b}
NO LEASE	
Other Surface-Management Agency Lands	
USFWS	3,384
Department of Defense (DoD—Maxwell Air Force Base)	1,495
National Park Service (NPS)	3,300
Total Affected Area ^b	8,179

² APLIC 2006. *Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines—The State of the Art 2006*. APLIC, Edison Electric Institute, and the California Energy Commission. Washington, D.C. and Sacramento, CA.

Area	Total non-USFS FMO (Acres) ^{a, b}
NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY/NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE	
Bald eagle nests (1,500-foot buffer around active or inactive nests and communal roost sites)	30
Red-cockaded woodpecker (0.5-mile cluster plus a 200-foot buffer zone surrounding that area)	888
Sea turtle suitable nesting habitat (100-foot buffer from the mean high-tide line of coastal beaches)	513
Gray bat, Indiana bat, Alabama cave shrimp, Alabama cavefish (600-foot buffer around caves, fractures, large sinkholes or 250-foot buffer around perennial or intermittent streams in or adjacent to counties with documented populations)	12,898
Gray bat or Indiana bat summer roost or gray bat wintering cave hibernacula (0.5-mile buffer)	3,044
Freshwater aquatic species (250-foot buffer around river, stream, wetland spring, headwaters, wet meadows, wet pine savannas, pond, tributary, lake, coastal slough, sand bars, vernal pools on granite outcrops, calcareous seepage marshes, or small, marshy calcareous streams; buffer may be extended up to 600 feet if slope exceeds 10 percent)	38,111
Piping plover/least tern habitat (from the debris rack line to the low-tide line of coastal beaches)	2,200
Alabama beach mouse suitable habitat or Federally designated critical habitat	365
Total Affected Area^b	58,049
CONTROLLED SURFACE USE	
Bald eagle nests (no tree removal within 1.5-mile buffer zone around active or inactive bald eagle nests and communal roost sites)	1,000
Gopher tortoise burrow (600-foot buffer)	ND
Gray bat/Indiana bat hibernacula (1.5-mile buffer)	11,573
Identified karstic habitat or any hydrologic network connected to caves used by listed bat species or other listed cave species	112,368
Sensitive plant species habitat	103
Total Affected Area^b	125,044
SEASONAL LIMITATIONS	
Bald eagle nest or communal roosting sites (timing restriction within 1.5 miles between December 1 and August 1)	1,299
Total Affected Area^b	1,299
OPEN TO LEASING, SUBJECT TO STANDARD LEASE TERMS AND CONDITIONS	
Total Affected Area^b	144,895

Notes:

- a All Federal mineral estate in Alabama has high potential for oil and gas resources.
- b Total acres under each alternative do not represent accurate totals shown in Table 1 because of the overlap of land resources and land use restrictions.
- ND No habitat data available to estimate affected area.

Table 4. Leasing Stipulations in Mississippi ^a

Area	Total non-USFS FMO (Acres) ^{a,b}
NO LEASE	
Other Surface Management Agency Lands	
USFWS	60,207
NPS	2,797
Total Affected Area^b	63,004
NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY/NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE	
Hancock County Marsh	1,810
Bald eagle nests (1,500-foot buffer around active or inactive nests and communal roost sites)	1,089
Red-cockaded woodpecker (0.5-mile cluster plus a 200-foot buffer zone surrounding that area)	11,710
Sea turtle suitable nesting habitat (100-foot buffer from the mean high-tide line of coastal beaches)	997
Gray bat, Indiana bat (600-foot buffer around caves, fractures, sinkholes or 250-foot buffer around perennial or intermittent streams in or adjacent to counties with documented populations)	2,564
Gray bat or Indiana bat summer roost or gray bat wintering cave hibernacula (0.5-mile buffer)	7,073
Freshwater aquatic species (250-foot buffer around river, stream, wetland spring, headwaters, wet meadows, wet pine savannas, pond, tributary, lake, coastal slough, sand bars, vernal pools on granite outcrops, calcareous seepage marshes, or small, marshy calcareous streams; buffer may be extended up to 600 feet if slope exceeds 10 percent)	68,656
Louisiana black bear (1,500-foot buffer around den trees in occupied bottomland hardwood and floodplain forest habitats) ^c	ND
Piping plover/least tern habitat (from the debris rack line to the low tide line of coastal beaches)	4,237
Total Affected Area^b	98,136
CONTROLLED SURFACE USE	
Bald eagle nests (no tree removal within 1.5-mile buffer zone around active or inactive bald eagle nests and communal roost sites)	8,917
Gopher tortoise burrow (600-foot buffer)	122
Gray bat/Indiana bat hibernacula (1.5-mile buffer)	1
Identified karstic habitat or any hydrologic network connected to caves used by listed bat species or other listed cave species	ND
Sensitive plant species habitat	ND
Total Affected Area^b	9,040
SEASONAL LIMITATIONS	
Bald eagle nest or communal roosting sites (timing restriction within 1.5 miles between December 1 and August 1)	13,742
Total Affected Area^b	13,742

Area	Total non-USFS FMO (Acres) ^{a,b}
OPEN TO LEASING, SUBJECT TO STANDARD LEASE TERMS AND CONDITIONS	
Total Affected Area^b	359,640

Notes:

- a All Federal mineral estate in Mississippi has high potential for oil and gas resources.
- b Total acres under each alternative do not represent accurate totals shown in Table 2 because of the overlap of land resources and land use restrictions.
- c No habitat data available to estimate affected area. No surface disturbance, including removal of potential den trees, is permitted within a 1,500-foot buffer around den trees in occupied bottomland hardwood and floodplain forest habitats.
- ND No habitat data available to estimate affected area.

MANAGEMENT OF SURFACE TRACTS

For the purposes of this plan, the surface tracts were grouped on the basis of geographic proximity and similar management needs. The surface tract groups to be discussed in this section include the Coosa River Tracts, Fort Morgan Beach Tracts, Fort Morgan Highway Tracts, Fowl River Tract, Geneva Tract, and Jordan Lake Tract in Alabama and the Hancock County Tract in Mississippi. These surface tracts and their associated acreage, county, and legal description are listed in Table 5. Proposed planning decisions for each surface tract grouping are detailed later in this appendix and are accompanied by maps depicting the tract locations (Maps 1–7).

Table 5. Surface Tracts in Alabama and Mississippi

Name of Tract Group	Acres	County	Legal Description ^a
Alabama			
Coosa River Tracts			
St. Stephens Meridian			
Foshee Islands	9.58	Coosa	T. 22N, R. 16E, Sec. 5, Lots 1, 2, and 5
	3.25	Coosa	T. 22N, R. 16E, Sec. 8, Lot 1
Little Rock Island	0.45	Coosa	T. 22N, R. 16E, Sec. 5, Lot 3
Big Rock Island	6.09	Coosa	T. 22N, R. 16E, Sec. 5, Lot 4
Gilchrist Island	4.38	Coosa	T. 23N, R. 16E, Sec. 32, Lot C
Huntsville Meridian			
Unnamed Island	0.07	Calhoun	T. 14S, R. 5E, Sec. 24, Lot 2
Smith Island	5.58	Shelby	T. 20S, R. 2E, Sec. 24, Lot 1
Prince Island	12.74	Talladega	T. 20S, R. 2E, Sec. 24, Lot 2
			T. 20S, R. 2E, Sec. 13, Lot 1
			T. 20S, R. 3E, Sec. 18, Lot 1
Total Acreage of Tract Group	42.14		
Fort Morgan Beach Tracts			
St. Stephens Meridian			
Fort Morgan Beach Tract	0.84	Baldwin	T. 9S, R. 1E, Sec. 25, Lot 24
Fort Morgan Beach Tract	5.32	Baldwin	T. 9S, R. 1E, Sec. 26, Lots 13 and 14

Name of Tract Group	Acres	County	Legal Description ^a
Fort Morgan Beach Tract	10.60	Baldwin	T. 9S, R. 2E, Sec. 27, Lots 54 and 55
Fort Morgan Beach Tract	11.94	Baldwin	T. 9S, R. 2E, Sec. 25, Lots 73 and 74
Total Acreage of Tract Group	28.70		
Fort Morgan Highway Tracts			
			St. Stephens Meridian
Fort Morgan Highway Tract	20.16	Baldwin	T. 9S, R. 1E, Sec. 25, Lot 5 T. 9S, R. 1E, Sec. 26, Lot 15
Fort Morgan Highway Tract	8.88	Baldwin	T. 9S, R. 2E, Sec. 28, Lot 43
Fort Morgan Highway Tract	12.24	Baldwin	T. 9S, R. 2E, Sec. 27, Lot 56 T. 9S, R. 2E, Sec. 28, Lot 44
Total Acreage of Tract Group	41.28		
Fowl River Tract			
			St. Stephens Meridian
Fowl River Tract	41.73	Mobile	T. 7S, R. 2W, Sec. 25, Lots 2–5
Geneva County Tract			
			Tallahassee Meridian
East Fork Choctawhatchee River Tract	0.95	Geneva	T. 7N, R. 16W, Sec. 22, Lot 4
Jordan Lake Tract			
			St. Stephens Meridian
Jordan Lake Tract	4.3	Chilton	T. 21N, R. 16E, Sec. 14, Lot 1
Total Surface Estate in Alabama	159.10		
Mississippi			
Hancock County Tract			
			St. Stephens Meridian
Hancock County	174.25	Hancock	T. 9S, R. 15W, Sec. 25, Lots 2–5, SESE
Total Surface Estate in Mississippi	174.25		

a The legal description is abbreviated according to a rectangular survey system in which T. 22N, R. 16E, Sec. 5, Lot 1 means that the area is located at Lot 1 of Section 5 in Township 22 North, Range 16 East, in the meridian specified above. Townships are divided into 36 numbered sections. A standard section comprises 1 square mile or 640 acres of land and consists of aliquot parts of sections (e.g., half section of 320 acres, quarter section of 160 acres, 16th section of 40 acres). The township number indicates how far in a given direction (north or south) of a surveyed parallel the township is located. The range number indicates how far in a given direction (east or west) of a surveyed meridian the township is located.

Coosa River Tracts (Maps 1a, 1b, 1c)

Vegetative Communities

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status plant species and imperiled plant communities.
- Control noxious and invasive plant species.

- Protect mature stands of mixed hardwood/pine overstory and a diversity of understory species.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Remove invasive species, such as mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin Durazz L.*) by hand and with selective, hand application of herbicide.
- Conduct baseline inventories for special status plants.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status fish and wildlife species and their habitat.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Monitor fledgling success of active bald eagle nests.

Minerals

Management Goals and Objectives

- Provide for leasing, exploration, and development of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO while protecting other resource values.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tracts would be open to leasing and subject to standard lease terms and conditions and BMPs, except for an NSO stipulation of a 250-foot buffer from aquatic habitats, and stipulations to protect bald eagle nesting and roosting habitat, as described in Appendix D.

Recreation and Travel Management

Management Goals and Objectives

- Allow recreation use and travel compatible with other resource management objectives.
- Support water-based recreation opportunities consistent with the Coosa River Recreation Plan (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] Project Nos. 2146, 082, and 618).

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tracts would be open to recreation use including fishing, picnicking, rest stops of boaters and canoeists, and wildlife observation.
- The tracts would be designated as closed.

Lands and Realty

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage the land ownership pattern, withdrawal, and use of public lands to promote efficiency of management and protect important resource values.
- Make public lands available for purposes such as transportation routes or utilities, when consistent with other resource goals.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tracts would be available for disposal under the condition that uses would be consistent with the resource management goals and objectives and allowable uses and management actions established under this alternative.
- In the case of R&PP conveyance, use after disposal would be controlled through approval of and compliance with the plan of development. In the case of FLPMA disposal (e.g., sale), restrictive covenants would be required to protect sensitive resources.
- These island tracts would be avoidance areas for ROWs to protect native vegetative communities and adjacent aquatic habitat.

Map 1a

Mississippi - Alabama RMP-EIS

Coosa River Tracts (42.14 total acres)

Unnamed Island (0.07 acres)
Calhoun County, AL

T. 14 S, R. 5 E,
Sec. 24, Lot 2

Huntsville Meridian

Projection: UTM, Zone 18 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27)

 Public Domain Lands

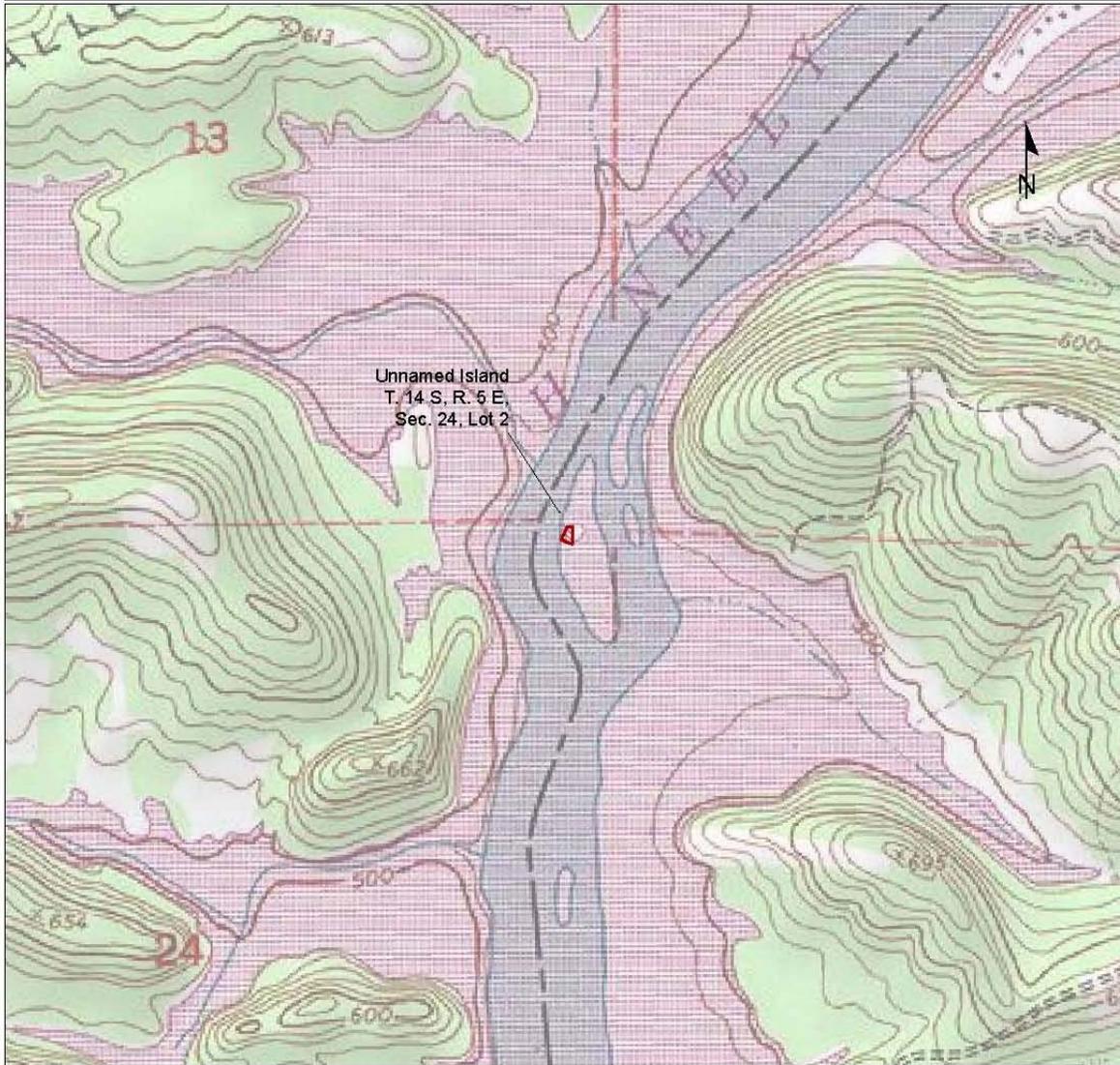
Sources: BLM, Jackson Field Office
USGS - National Elevation Data
Environmental Systems Research Institute
TOPOI, 2003 National Geographic Maps



Scale: 1:180,000

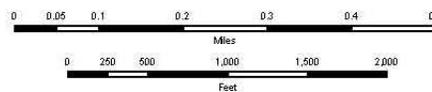


Scale: 1:12,000,000



Scale: 1:12,000

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of this data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



Map 1b

Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS

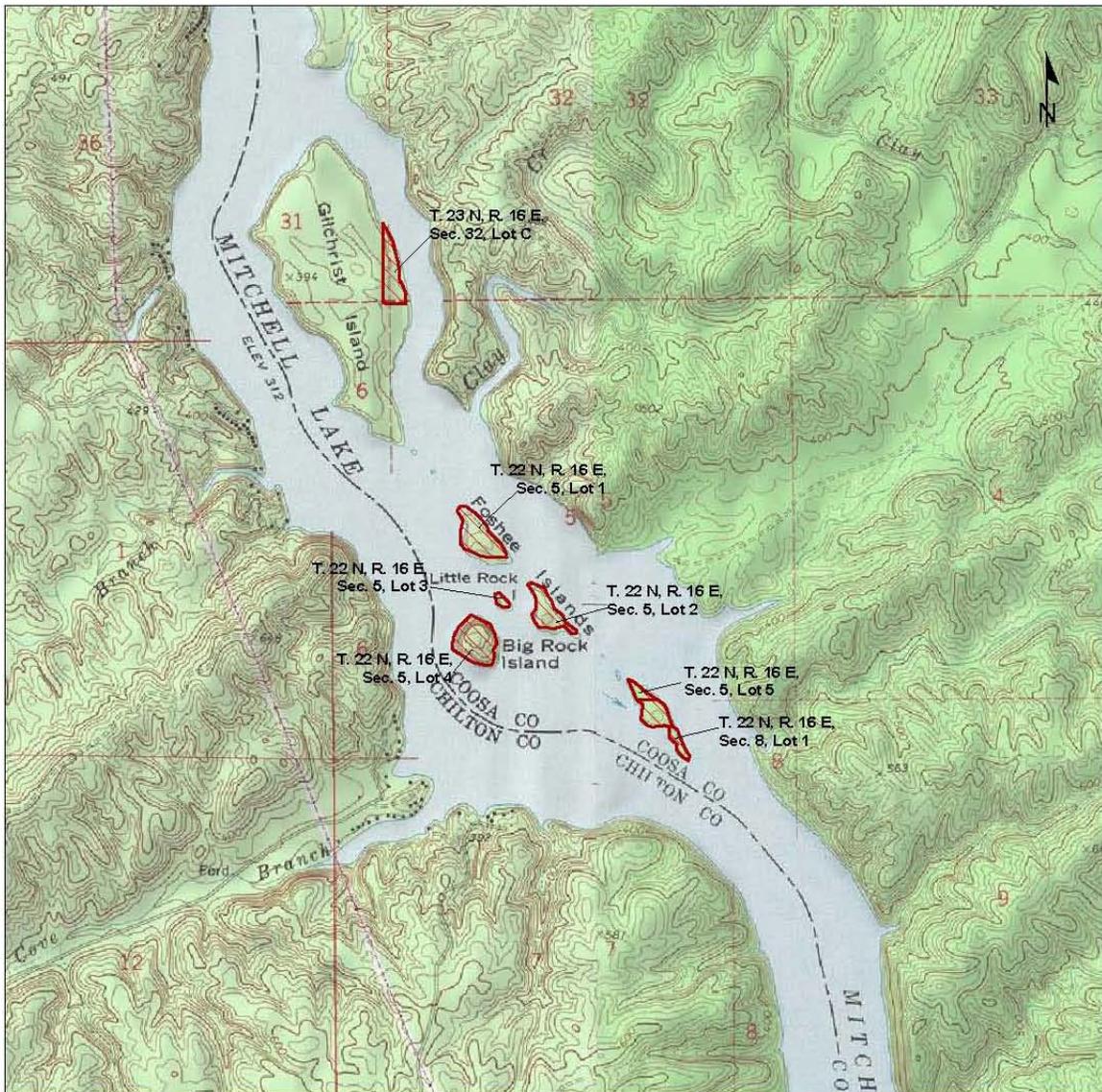
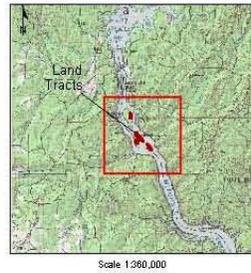
Coosa River Tracts (42.14 total acres)

Coosa County, AL
 Big Rock Island (6.09 acres)
 T. 22 N, R. 16 E, Sec. 5, Lot 4
 Foshee Islands (12.83 acres)
 T. 22 N, R. 16 E, Sec. 5, Lot 1
 T. 22 N, R. 16 E, Sec. 5, Lot 2
 T. 22 N, R. 16 E, Sec. 5, Lot 5
 T. 22 N, R. 16 E, Sec. 8, Lot 1
 Gilchrist Island (4.38 acres)
 T. 23 N, R. 16 E, Sec. 32, Lot C
 Little Rock Island (0.45 acres)
 T. 22 N, R. 16 E, Sec. 5, Lot 3
 St. Stephens Meridian

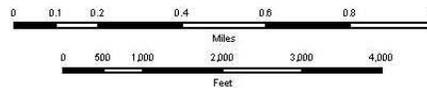
Projection: UTM, Zone 18 North
 Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27)

Sources: BLM, Jackson Field Office
 USGS - National Elevation Data
 Environmental Systems Research Institute
 TOPOI, 2003 National Geographic Maps

 Public Domain Lands



Scale 1:24,000



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Map 1c

Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS

Coosa River Tracts (42.14 total acres)

Shelby County, AL
Smith Island (5.58 acres)
 T. 20 S, R. 2 E, Sec. 24, Lot 1

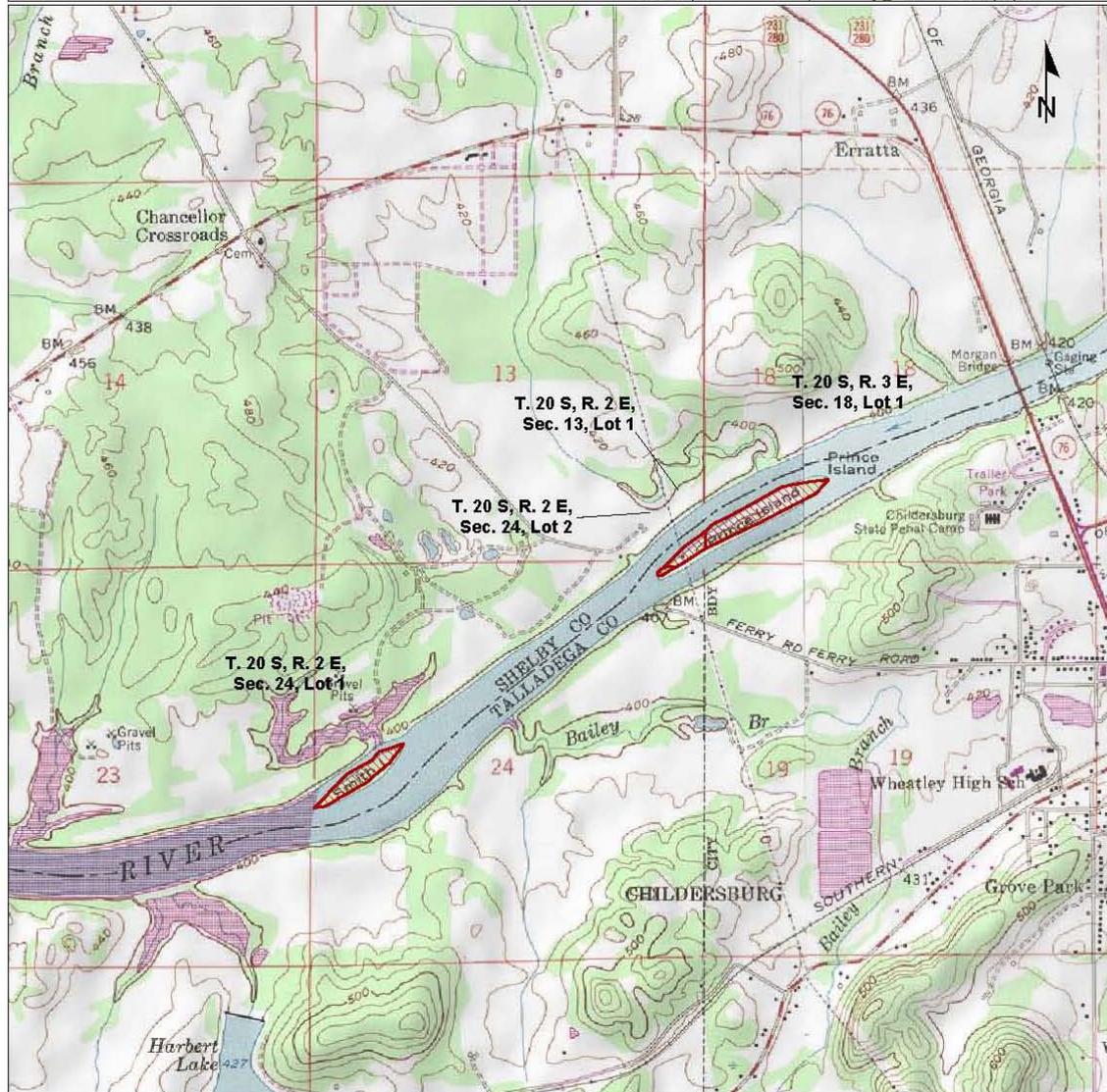
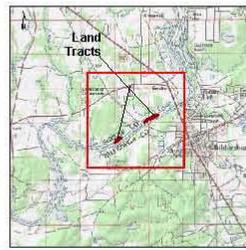
Talladega County, AL
Prince Island (12.74 acres)
 T. 20 S, R. 2 E, Sec. 13, Lot 1
 T. 20 S, R. 2 E, Sec. 24, Lot 2
 T. 20 S, R. 3 E, Sec. 18, Lot 1

Huntsville Meridian

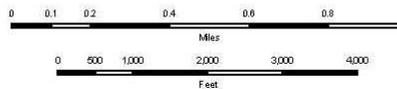
 Public Domain Lands

Projection: UTM, Zone 16 North
 Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27)

Sources: BLM, Jackson Field Office
 USGS - National Elevation Data
 Environmental Systems Research Institute
 TOPOI 2003 National Geographic Maps



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Fort Morgan Beach Tracts (Map 2)

Vegetative Communities

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status plant species and imperiled plant communities.
- Control noxious and invasive plant species.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Promote establishment and retention of native coastal-dune vegetative communities by planting native species and installing sand fencing to protect existing dune habitat.
- Control invasive species through hand pulling, as needed.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status fish and wildlife species and their habitat.
- Maintain existing fish and wildlife habitat diversity. Actively promote the recovery of Federally listed species, such as Alabama beach mouse, piping plover, least turn, nesting sea turtles.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Construct protective, two-dune walk-over structures (approx. 300 feet each) and install sand fencing to enhance and protect existing dune habitat.
- Reintroduce Alabama beach mice in suitable unoccupied habitat.
- Monitor sea turtle nesting and mark active nests for protection to maximize nestling survivorship.

Minerals

Management Goals and Objectives

- Provide for leasing, exploration, and development of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO while protecting other resource values.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tracts would be open to leasing and subject to standard lease terms and conditions and BMPs, except for an NSO stipulation (as described in Appendix D) to protect habitat for Alabama beach mouse, piping plover, least tern, and sea turtle nesting habitat.

Recreation and Travel Management

Management Goals and Objectives

- Allow recreation use, beach access, and travel compatible with other resource management objectives.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tracts would be open to recreation compatible with habitat management, including use of the beach and saltwater fishing.
- The tracts would be designated as closed.

Lands and Realty

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage the land ownership pattern, withdrawal, and use of public lands to promote efficiency of management and protect important resource values.
- Make public lands available for purposes such as transportation routes or utilities, when consistent with other resource goals.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Lots 24 (Section 25), 13 and 14 (Section 26), and 54 and 55 (Section 27) (Table 1 and Map 2) would be available for transfer to the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).
- If the tracts are not transferred to the Bon Secour NWR, the BLM will retain the tracts.
- Lots 24 (Section 25), 13 and 14 (Section 26), and 54 and 55 (Section 27) would be avoidance areas for ROWs because of the presence of listed species and designated critical habitat.
- Lots 73 and 74 would be transferred to USFWS as part of the Bon Secour NWR because they occur within the boundaries of the refuge.

Map 2 Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS

Ft. Morgan - Beach Tracts (28.70 total acres)

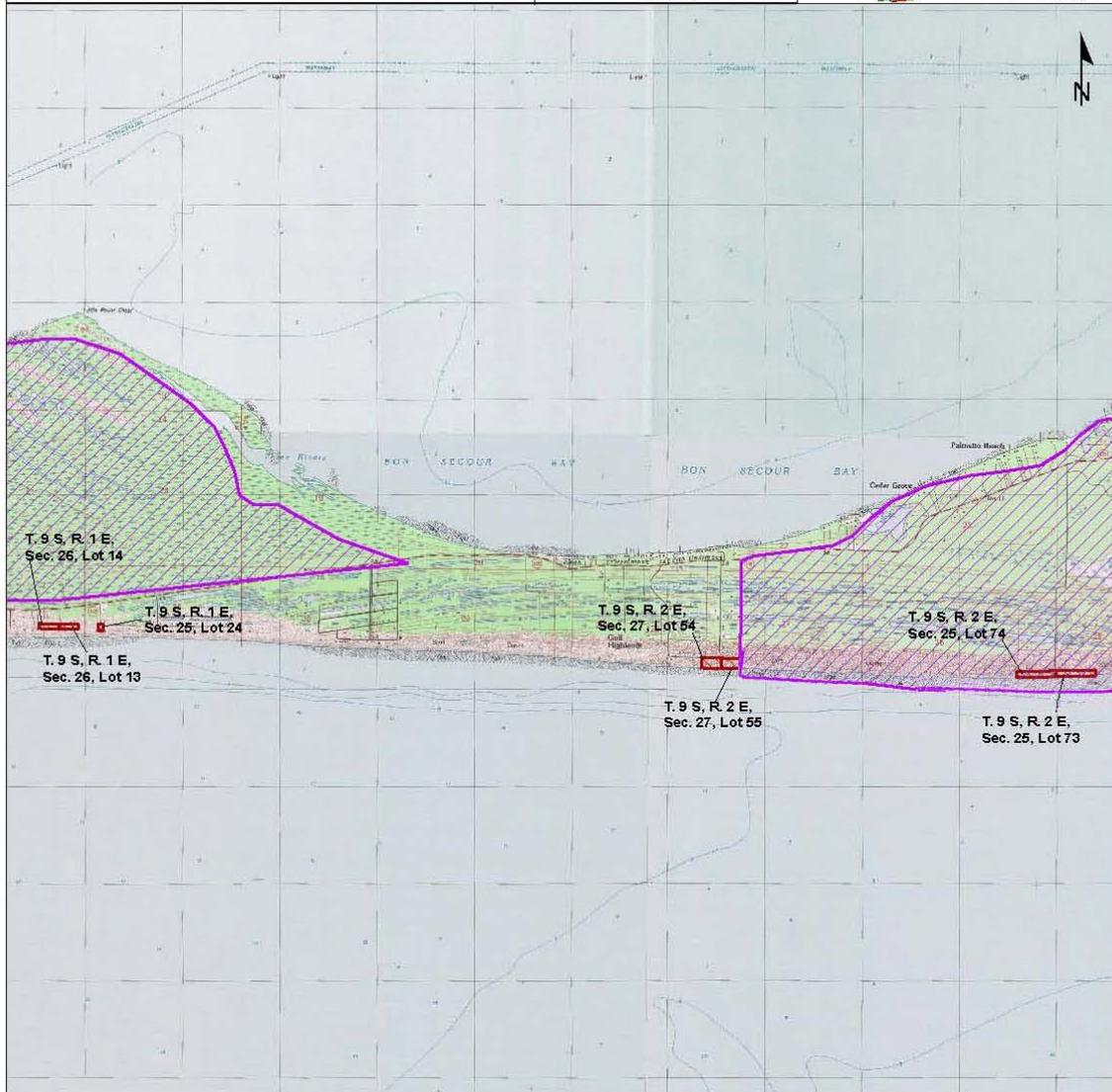
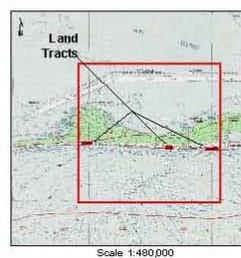
Baldwin County, AL
 T. 9 S., R. 1 E., Sec. 25, Lot 24
 T. 9 S., R. 1 E., Sec. 26, Lot 13
 T. 9 S., R. 1 E., Sec. 26, Lot 14
 T. 9 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 25, Lot 73
 T. 9 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 25, Lot 74
 T. 9 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 27, Lot 54
 T. 9 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 27, Lot 55

Projection: UTM, Zone 18 North
 Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27)

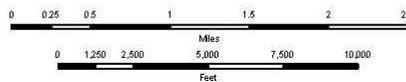
Sources: BLM, Jackson Field Office
 USGS - National Elevation Data
 Environmental Systems Research Institute
 TOP01, 2003 National Geographic Maps

St. Stephens Meridian

-  Public Domain Lands
-  Bon Secur National Wildlife Refuge



Scale 1:60,000



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Fort Morgan Highway Tracts (Map 3)

Vegetative Communities

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status plant species and imperiled plant communities.
- Control noxious and invasive plant species.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Remove invasive species such as cogon grass and Chinese tallow by using an integrated program of hand removal and selective, hand application of herbicide.
- Establish baseline inventories of special status plant species.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status fish and wildlife species and their habitat.
- Maintain existing fish and wildlife habitat diversity. Actively promote the recovery of the Federally listed Alabama beach mouse and other endemic species, particularly migratory songbirds and raptors, using the flatwood, scrub, and wetland habitats occurring on these tracts.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Incorporate Lots 5 and 15 (29 acres) into future prescribed burns conducted on adjacent Bon Secour NWR land to improve habitat values for migratory birds and scrub endemics as needed, depending on resource conditions, and in cooperation with USFWS.

Minerals

Management Goals and Objectives

- Provide for leasing, exploration, and development of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO while protecting other resource values.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tracts would be open to leasing and subject to standard lease terms and conditions and BMPs, except for an NSO stipulation (as described in Appendix D) to protect habitat for Alabama beach mouse and a 250-foot buffer from wetlands and aquatic habitat.

Recreation and Travel Management

Management Goals and Objectives

- Allow recreation use compatible with other resource management objectives.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tracts would be open to recreation compatible with habitat management, including sightseeing and hiking.
- The tracts would be designated as closed.

Lands and Realty

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage the land ownership pattern, withdrawal, and use of public lands to promote efficiency of management and protect important resource values.
- Make public lands available for purposes such as transportation routes or utilities, when consistent with other resource goals.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tracts would be available for transfer to the Bon Secour NWR.
- If the tracts are not transferred to the Bon Secour NWR, the BLM will retain the tracts.
- Existing facilities within the highway ROW corridor would be allowed. New disturbance would be avoided because of the presence of Federally listed species and designated critical habitat.

Map 3 Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS

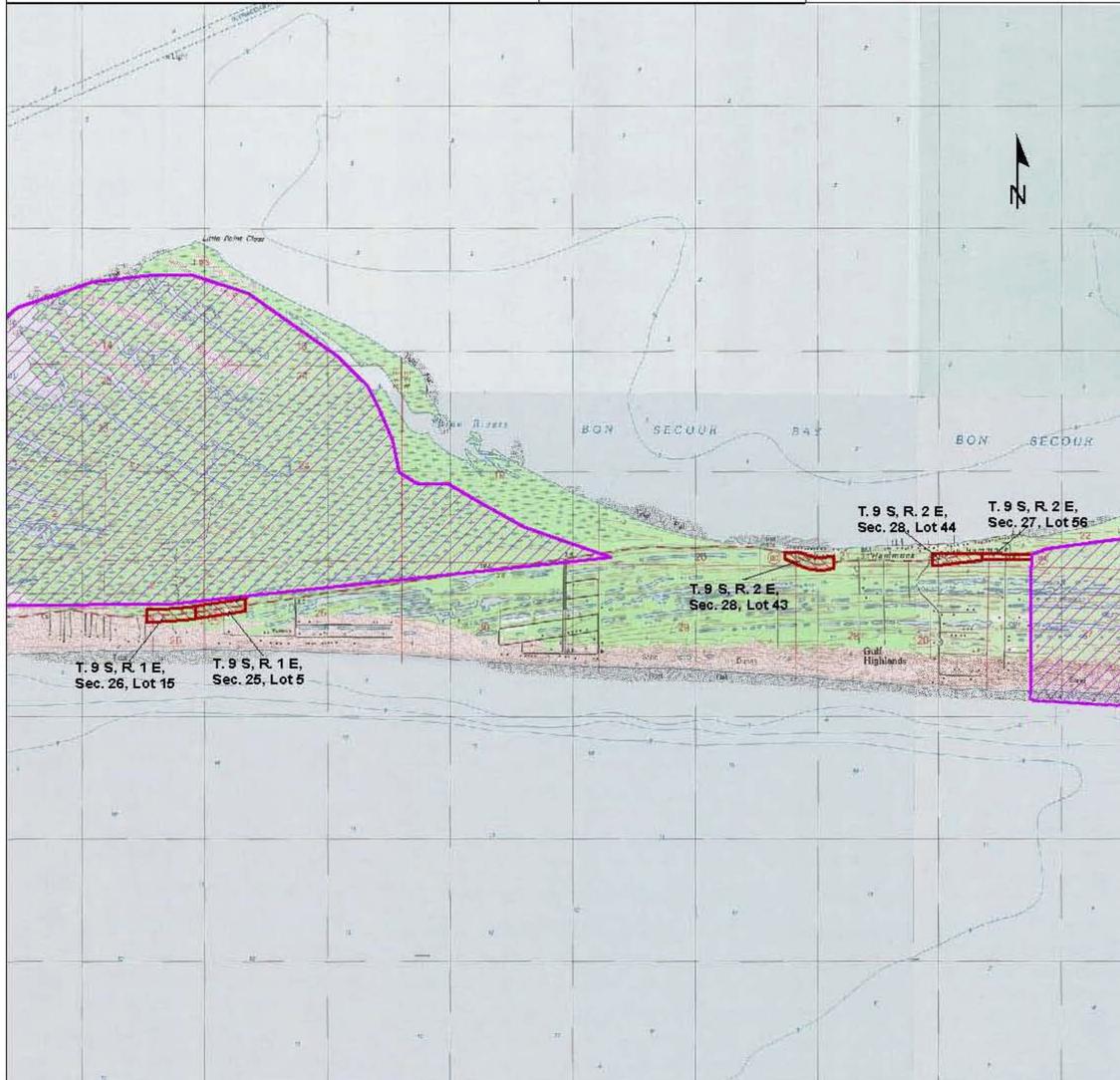
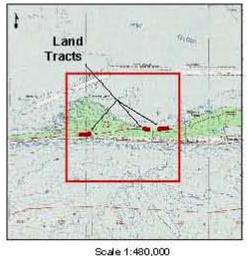
Ft. Morgan - Highway Tracts (41.28 total acres)

Baldwin County, AL
 T. 9 S., R. 1 E., Sec. 25, Lot 5
 T. 9 S., R. 1 E., Sec. 26, Lot 15
 T. 9 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 27, Lot 56
 T. 9 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 28, Lot 43
 T. 9 S., R. 2 E., Sec. 28, Lot 44

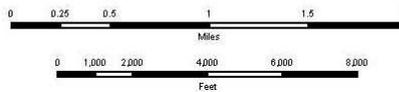
Projection: UTM, Zone 16 North
 Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27)

Sources: BLM, Jackson Field Office
 USGS - National Elevation Data
 Environmental Systems Research Institute
 TOP01, 2003 National Geographic Maps

-  Public Domain Lands
-  Bon Secur National Wildlife Refuge



Scale 1:48,000



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Fowl River Tract (Map 4)

Vegetative Communities

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status plant species and imperiled plant communities.
- Control noxious and invasive plant species.
- Promote establishment and retention of native wetland and flatwood plant communities.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Remove invasive species such as mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin Durazz L.*) by hand and with selective, hand application of herbicide.
- Establish baseline inventories to monitor plant communities.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status fish and wildlife species and their habitat.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Monitor fledgling success of active bald eagle nests.

Minerals

Management Goals and Objectives

- Provide for leasing, exploration, and development of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO while protecting other resource values.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be open to leasing and subject to standard lease terms and conditions and BMPs, except for an NSO stipulation of a 250-foot buffer from wetlands and aquatic habitat, and stipulations to protect bald eagle nesting and roosting habitat, as described in Appendix D.

Recreation and Travel Management

Management Goals and Objectives

- Allow recreation use compatible with other resource management objectives.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be open to recreation use including access for fishing, canoeing, and kayaking.
- The tract would be designated as closed.

Lands and Realty

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage the land ownership pattern, withdrawal, and use of public lands to promote efficiency of management and protect important resource values.

- Make public lands available for purposes such as transportation routes or utilities, when consistent with other resource goals.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be available for disposal under the condition that uses would be consistent with the resource management goals and objectives and allowable uses and management actions established under this alternative.
- In the case of R&PP conveyance, use after disposal would be controlled through approval of and compliance with the plan of development. In the case of FLPMA disposal (e.g., sale), restrictive covenants would be required to protect sensitive resources.
- The tract would be an avoidance area for ROWs to protect native vegetative communities and adjacent wetland/aquatic habitat.

Map 4

Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS

Fowl River Tract (41.73 total acres)
Mobile County, AL

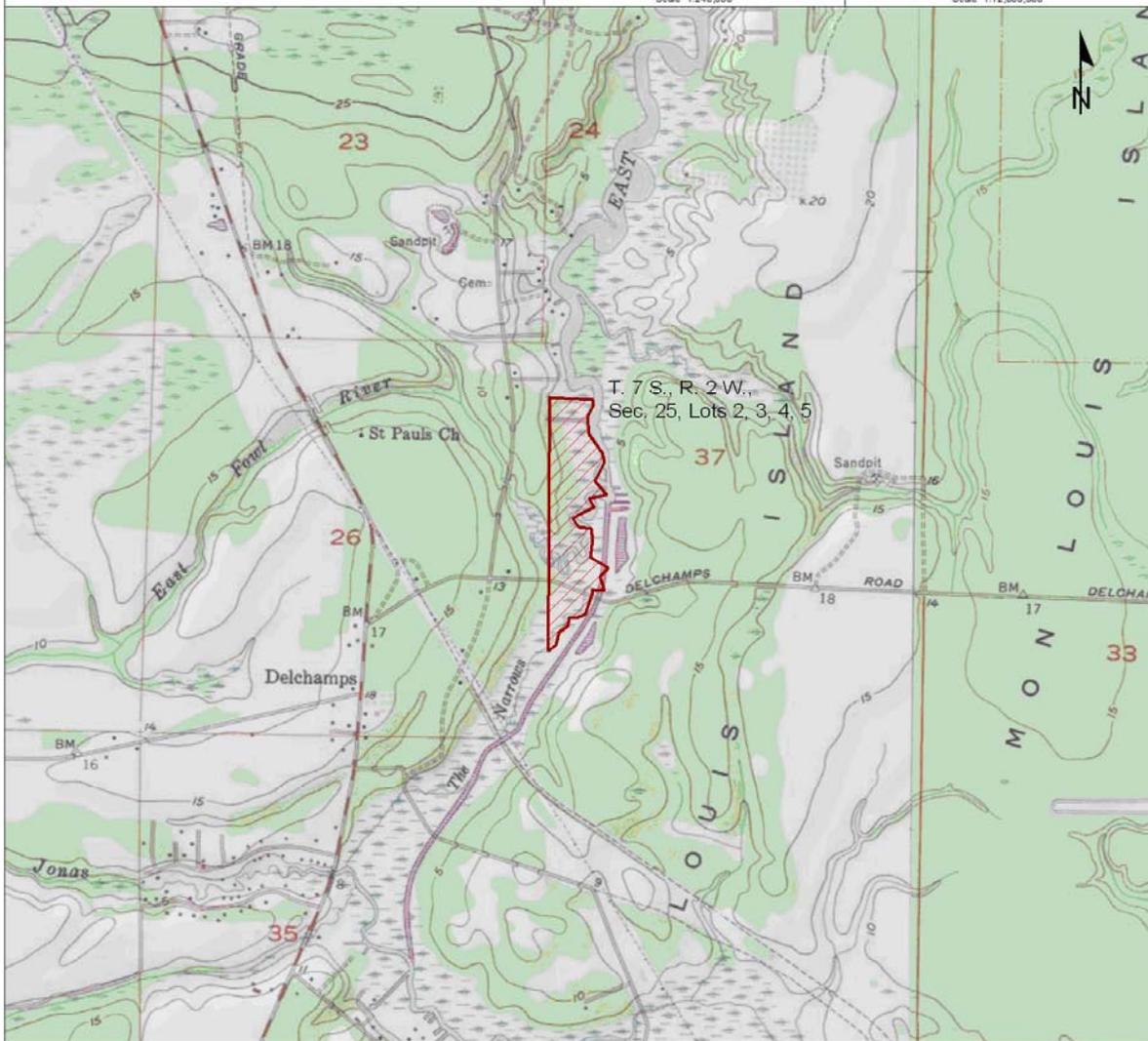
T. 7 S., R. 2 W.,
Sec. 25, Lots 2, 3, 4, 5

St. Stephens Meridian

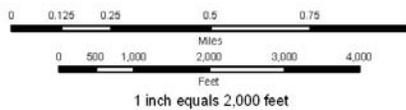
Projection: UTM, Zone 16 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27)

 Public Domain Lands

Sources: BLM, Jackson Field Office
USGS - National Elevation Data
Environmental Systems Research Institute
TOPOI, 2003 National Geographic Maps



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Geneva Tract (Map 5)

Vegetative Communities

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status plant species and imperiled plant communities.
- Control noxious and invasive plant species.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- No specific actions are proposed.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status fish and wildlife species and their habitat.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- No specific actions are proposed.

Minerals

Management Goals and Objectives

- Provide for leasing, exploration, and development of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO while protecting other resource values.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be open to leasing and subject to standard lease terms and conditions and BMPs, except for an NSO stipulation (as described in Appendix D) of a 250-foot buffer from aquatic habitat.

Recreation and Travel Management

Management Goals and Objectives

- Allow recreation use compatible with other resource management objectives.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be open to recreation use including canoeing, kayaking, and fishing.
- The tract would be designated as closed.

Lands and Realty

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage the land ownership pattern, withdrawal, and use of public lands to promote efficiency of management and protect important resource values.
- Make public lands available for purposes such as transportation routes or utilities, when consistent with other resource goals.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be available for disposal from Federal ownership.
- The tract would be a ROW avoidance area because it is in a floodplain and is critical habitat for Gulf sturgeon.

Map 5 Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS

Geneva Tract (0.95 total acres)
East Fork Choctawhatchee River
Geneva County, AL

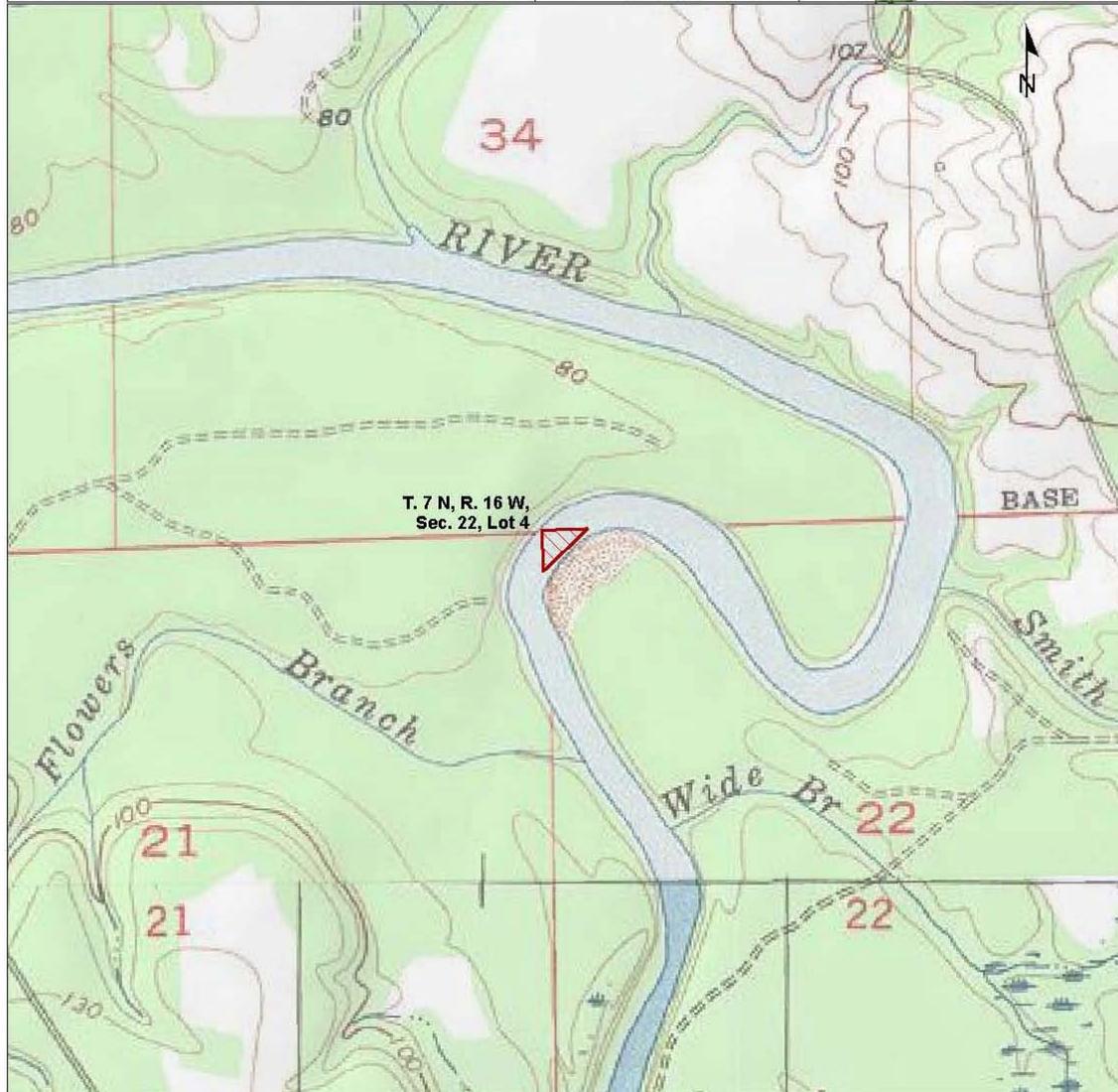
T. 7 N, R. 16 W,
Sec. 22, Lot 4

Tallahassee Meridian

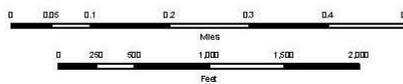
Projection: UTM, Zone 18 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27)

 Public Domain Lands

Sources: BLM, Jackson Field Office
USGS - National Elevation Data
Environmental Systems Research Institute
TOPOI, 2003 National Geographic Maps



Scale 1:12,000



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Jordan Lake Tract (Map 6)

Vegetative Communities

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status plant species and imperiled plant communities.
- Control noxious and invasive plant species.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- No specific actions are proposed.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status fish and wildlife species and their habitat.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- No specific actions are proposed.

Minerals

Management Goals and Objectives

- Provide for leasing, exploration, and development of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO while protecting other resource values.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be open to leasing and subject to standard lease terms and conditions and BMPs, except for an NSO stipulation (as described in Appendix D) of a 250-foot buffer from aquatic habitat.

Recreation and Travel Management

Management Goals and Objectives

- Allow recreation use compatible with other resource management objectives.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be open to recreation use including access to Jordan Lake for swimming and fishing.
- The tract would be designated as limited. Motorized vehicle use would be limited to State- or county-maintained roads or other transportation routes specifically designated by a BLM-issued ROW. Other motorized vehicle access would be limited to administrative use and emergency response.

Lands and Realty

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage the land ownership pattern, withdrawal, and use of public lands to promote efficiency of management and protect important resource values.

- Make public lands available for purposes such as transportation routes or utilities, when consistent with other resource goals.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be available for disposal from Federal ownership.
- The tract would be open for ROWs because of adjacent development and uses. ROWs would be collocated if possible.

Map 6 Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS

Jordan Lake Tract (4.30 total acres)
Chilton County, AL

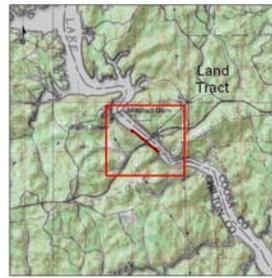
T. 21 N. R. 16 E.
Sec. 14, Lot 1

St. Stephens Meridian

Projection: UTM, Zone 16 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27)

 Public Domain Lands

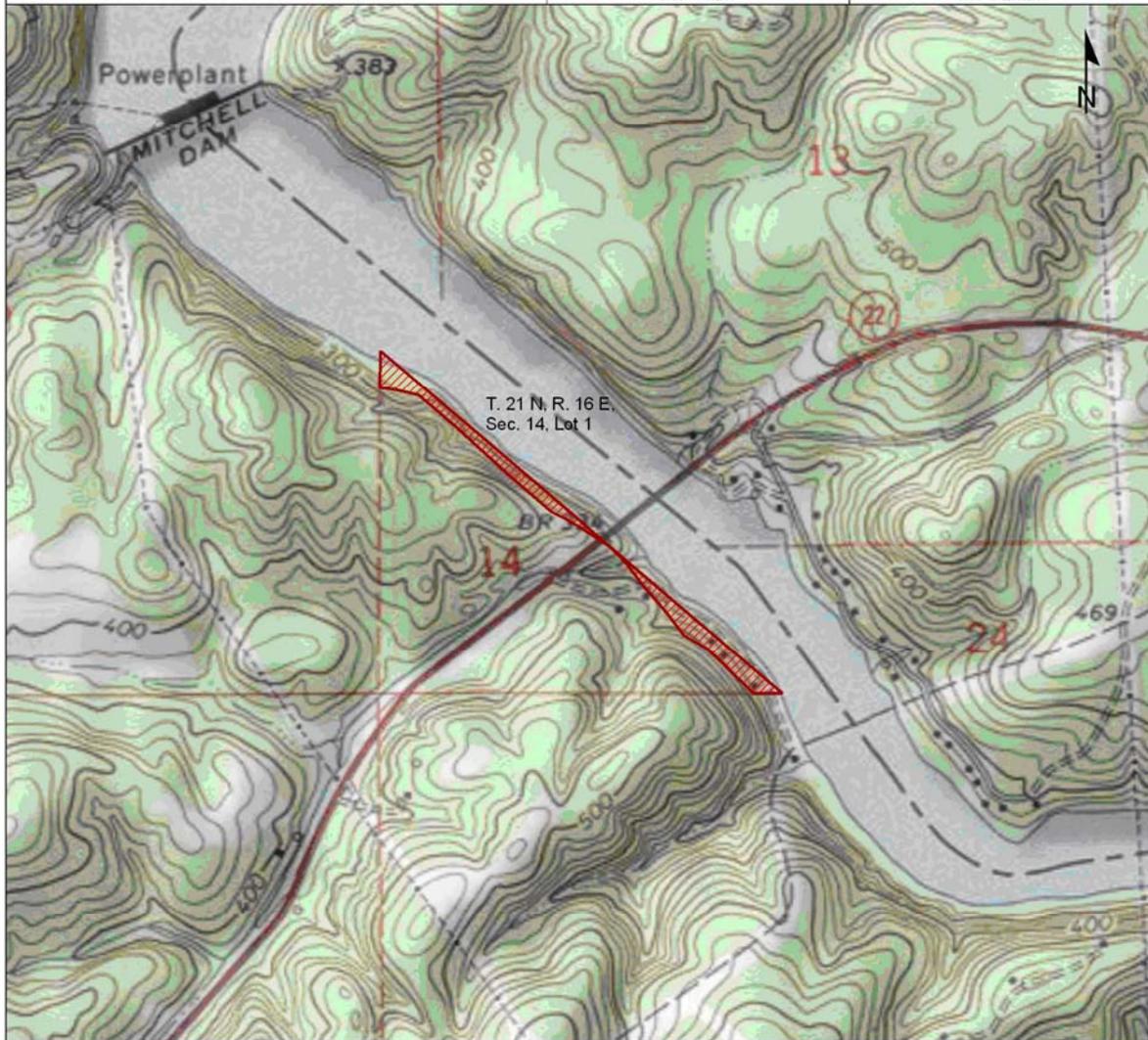
Sources: BLM, Jackson Field Office
USGS - National Elevation Data
Environmental Systems Research Institute
TOPOI, 2003 National Geographic Maps



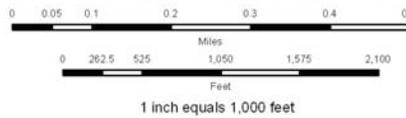
Scale 1:180,000



Scale 1:12,000,000



Scale 1:12,000



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Hancock County Tract, Mississippi ³(Map 7)

Vegetative Communities

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status plant species and imperiled plant communities.
- Control noxious and invasive plant species.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Monitor for early detection of invasive plant species such as cogon grass and Chinese tallow. If detected, invasive species would be removed by hand or through selective, hand application of herbicide.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage vegetative communities to protect, preserve, or enhance Federally listed and other special status fish and wildlife species and their habitat.
- Protect and enhance the estuarine coastal wetland marshes in support of the Mississippi Coastal Preserve System (MCPS).

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- Prescribed burns would be used as needed, depending on resource conditions and in cooperation with the State of Mississippi, to promote marsh health.

Minerals

Management Goals and Objectives

- Provide for leasing, exploration, and development of BLM-administered, non-USFS FMO while protecting other resource values.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be open to leasing and subject to standard lease terms and conditions and BMPs, except for an NSO stipulation (as described in Appendix D) for protection of Hancock County Marshes.

Recreation and Travel Management

Management Goals and Objectives

- Allow recreation use compatible with other resource management objectives.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be open to recreation use including fishing and waterfowl hunting.
- The tract would be designated as limited to motorized boats in areas of open water. Other motorized vehicle use would be limited to administrative use and emergency response.

³ These allowable uses and management actions would not occur unless the R&PP patent were to revert to BLM.

Lands and Realty

Management Goals and Objectives

- Manage the land ownership pattern, withdrawal, and use of public lands to promote efficiency of management and protect important resource values.
- Make public lands available for purposes such as transportation routes or utilities, when consistent with other resource goals.

Allowable Uses and Management Actions

- The tract would be retained by the BLM. The BLM would pursue opportunities to manage the tract in partnership with other agencies and organizations.
- The tract would be an avoidance area for ROWs to protect wetland habitat.

Map 7 Alabama and Mississippi RMP-EIS

Hancock County Tract (174.25 total acres)
Hancock County, MS

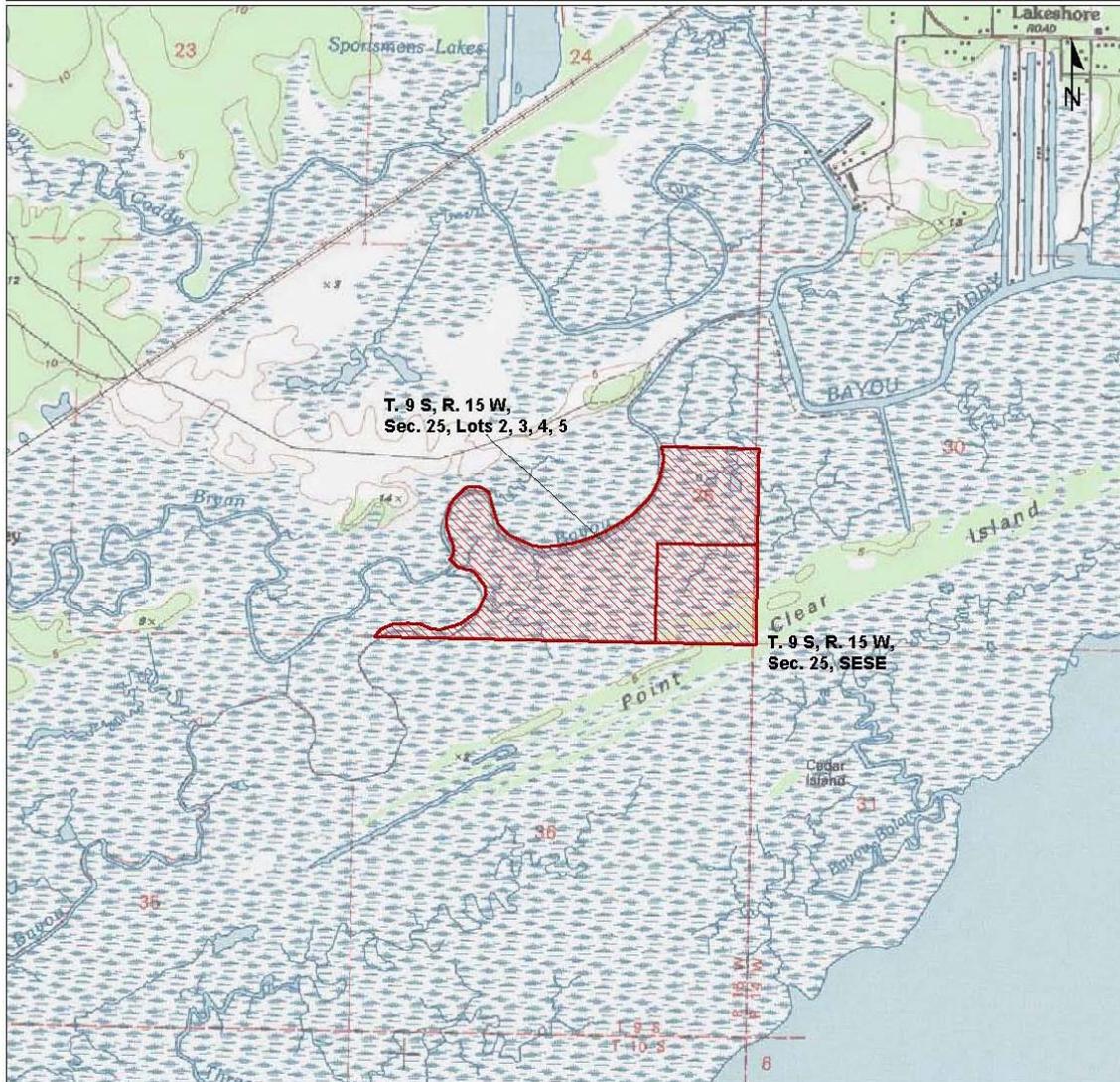
T. 9 S., R. 15 W., Sec. 25,
Lots 2, 3, 4, 5
T. 9 S., R. 15 W., Sec. 25,
SESE

Projection: UTM, Zone 18 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27)

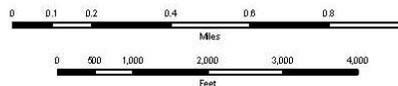
St. Stephens Meridian

 **Public Domain Lands**

Sources: BLM, Jackson Field Office
USGS - National Elevation Data
Environmental Systems Research Institute
TOP25, 2002 National Geographic Maps



Scale 1:24,000



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