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**TECHNICAL GUIDE, NEW MEXICO
TRANSMITTAL NOTICE NO. 1**

SUBJECT: ECS- SECTION I – MAPS.

Purpose. To provide distribution of State of New Mexico Common Resource Areas.

Filing Instructions. This document is located in the Field Office Technical Guide located on the web at <http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/fotg/section-1/maps.html>

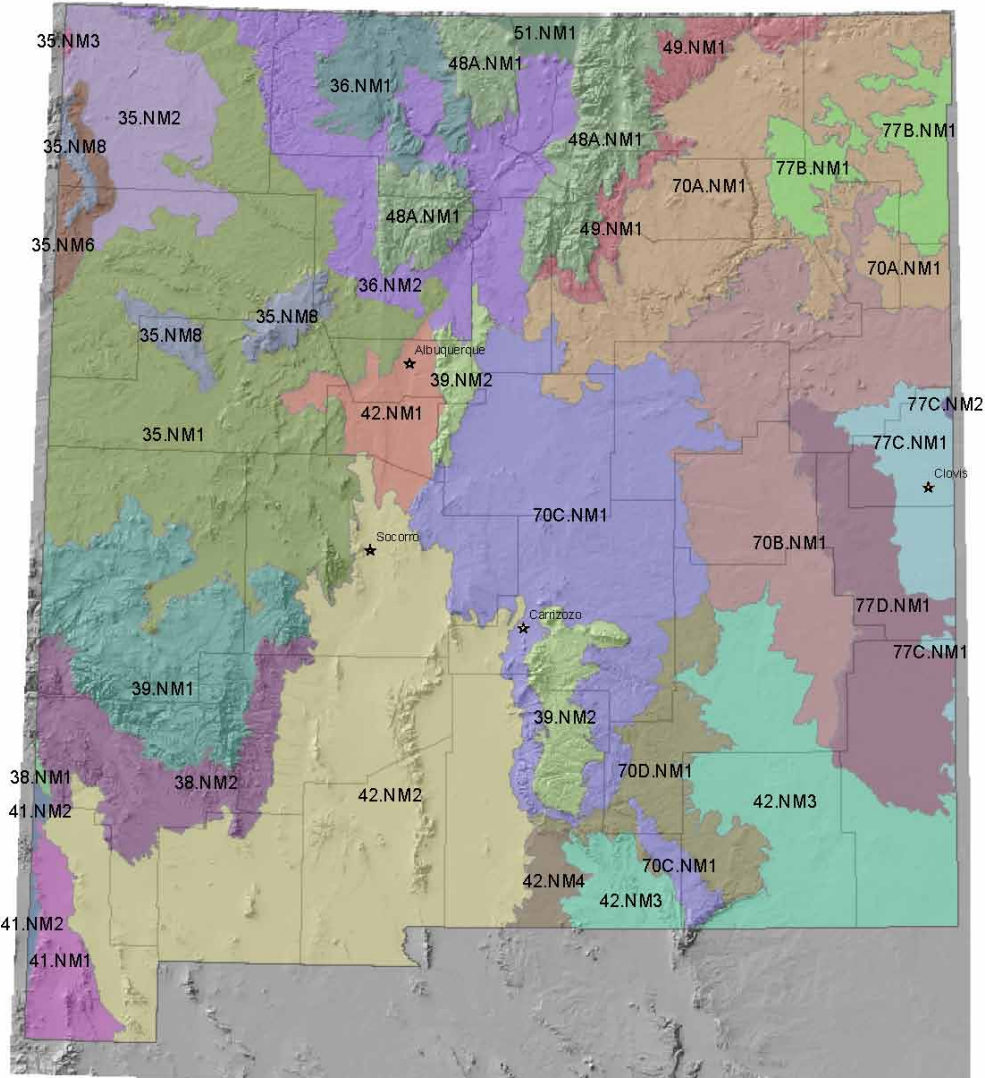
This transmittal notice is posted in the Technical Guide Transmittal Notice Index located on the web at <http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/fotg/transmittals.html>.

KENNETH B. LEITING
State Resource Conservationist

Attachment

Dist:
AO
Director, ECS, NHQ, Washington, DC – (1 ea)
Adjoining States – AZ, CO, OK, TX, UT (1 ea)

New Mexico Common Resource Areas



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Universal Transverse Mercator Projection
 North American Datum 1927
 Draft Common Resource Area Layer Developed by
 The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, New Mexico
 December 12, 2003



Common Resource Areas	
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New Mexico CRA Symbol	National CRA Symbol	National CRA Name	National CRA Primary Distinguishing Characteristics
35.NM1	35.1	Colorado Plateau Mixed Grass Plains	This unit occurs within the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province and is characterized by flat to gently dipping sedimentary rocks eroded into plateaus, valleys and deep canyons. Volcanic fields occur in places. Elevations range from 5100 to 6000 feet. Precipitation averages 10 to 14 inches per year. The soil temperature regime is mesic. The soil moisture regime is ustic aridic. Vegetation includes Stipa, Indian ricegrass, galleta, blue grama, fourwing saltbush, and scattered juniper.
35.NM2	35.2	Colorado Plateau Shrub - Grasslands	This unit occurs within the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province and is characterized by gently dipping sedimentary rocks eroded into plateaus, valleys and deep canyons. Volcanic fields occur in places. Elevations range from 3500 to 5500 feet. Precipitation averages 6 to 10 inches per year. The soil temperature regime is mesic and the soil moisture regime is typic aridic. Vegetation includes shadscale, fourwing saltbush, mormon tea, Indian ricegrass, galleta, and blue and black grama.
35.NM3	35.3	Colorado Plateau Sagebrush – Grasslands	This unit occurs within the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province and is characterized by gently dipping sedimentary rocks eroded into plateaus, valleys and deep canyons. Volcanic fields occur in places. Elevations range from 4500 to 6000 feet. Precipitation averages 10 to 14 inches per year. The soil temperature regime is mesic. The soil moisture regime is ustic aridic. Vegetation includes Wyoming big sagebrush, Utah juniper, cliffrose, Indian ricegrass, needle and thread, and blue grama.
35.NM6	35.6	Colorado Plateau Pinyon-Juniper-Sagebrush	This unit occurs within the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province and is characterized by gently dipping sedimentary rocks eroded into plateaus, valleys and deep canyons. Volcanic fields occur in places. Elevations range from 5500 to 7000 feet. Precipitation averages 13 to 17 inches per year. The soil temperature regime is mesic. The soil moisture regime is aridic ustic. Vegetation includes pinyon, juniper, big sagebrush, muttongrass, prairie junegrass, western wheatgrass, and blue grama.
35.NM8	35.8	Colorado Plateau Ponderosa Pine Forests	This unit occurs within the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province and is characterized by gently dipping sedimentary rocks eroded into plateaus, valleys and deep canyons. Volcanic fields occur in places. Elevations range from 6800 to 8500 feet. Precipitation averages 17 to 25 inches per year. The soil temperature regime ranges from mesic to frigid. The soil moisture regime is typic ustic. Vegetation includes ponderosa pine, white fir, aspen, pinyon, juniper, Gambel oak, and big sagebrush.
36.NM1	36.1	Southwestern Plateaus, Mesas, and Foothills - Cool Subhumid Mesas and Foothills	This area encompasses the higher elevation mesas and foothills that represent a transition to the Southern Rocky Mountains. The temperature regime is frigid, and the moisture regime is ustic. The typical vegetation is big sagebrush, Gambel oak, and ponderosa pine. Land use is mainly forest and grazing land.

New Mexico CRA Symbol	National CRA Symbol	National CRA Name	National CRA Primary Distinguishing Characteristics
36.NM2	36.2	Southwestern Plateaus, Mesas, and Foothills - Warm Semiarid Mesas and Plateaus	This area encompasses the lower elevation mesas and plateaus. The temperature regime is mesic and the moisture regime is transitional from ustic to aridic. Vegetation is typically twoneedle pinyon, Utah juniper, and big sagebrush. Cropland is a significant land use in parts of this area, particularly on soils formed in thick deposits of eolian material. Precipitation ranges from 10 to about 16 inches. Elevations range from about 6,000 to 7,000 feet.
38.NM1	38.1	Lower Interior Chaparral	This unit occurs within the Transition Zone Physiographic Province and is characterized by canyons and structural troughs or valleys. Igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock occurs on rough mountainous terrain. Elevations range from 3000 to 4500 feet. Precipitation averages 12 to 16 inches per year. The soil temperature regime is thermic. The soil moisture regime is ustic aridic. Vegetation includes canotia, juniper, mesquite, shrubby buckwheat, squirreltail, grammas, and desert needlegrass.
38.NM2	38.2	Interior Chaparral - Woodlands	This unit occurs within the Transition Zone Physiographic Province and is characterized by canyons and structural troughs or valleys. Igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock occurs on rough mountainous terrain. Elevations range from 4000 to 5500 feet. Precipitation averages 16 to 20 inches per year. The soil temperature regime ranges from thermic to mesic. The soil moisture regime is aridic ustic. Vegetation includes turbinella oak, silktassel, juniper, pinyon, sugar sumac, and bullgrass.
39.NM1	39.1	Mogollon Plateau Coniferous Forests	This unit occurs within the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province and is characterized by volcanic fields and gently dipping sedimentary rocks eroded into plateaus, valleys and deep canyons. Elevations range from 7000 to 12500 feet. Precipitation averages 20 to 35 inches per year. The soil temperature regime ranges from mesic to frigid. The soil moisture regime ranges from typic ustic to udic ustic. Vegetation includes ponderosa pine, Gambel oak, Arizona walnut, sycamore, and Douglas fir.
39.NM2	39.2	Central New Mexico Mountains	This unit occurs within the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province and is characterized by volcanic fields and gently dipping sedimentary rocks eroded into plateaus, valleys and deep canyons. Elevations range from 7000 to 12000 feet. Precipitation ranges 17 to 25 inches per year. The soil temperature regime ranges from mesic to frigid. Vegetation includes corkbark, Douglas and white fir, Englemann spruce, pinyon and southwestern white pine, and aspen. Grasslands include tufted hairgrass, sedges, and Arizona and Thurber fescue.
41.NM1	41.1	Mexican Oak-Pine Forest and Oak Savannah	This unit occurs within the Basin and Range Physiographic Province and is characterized by valley plains, alluvial fans, and mountains. Sediments are from fluvial, lacustrine, colluvial and alluvial deposits. Igneous and metamorphic rock dominate the mountain ranges. Elevations range from 4500 to 10,700 feet. Precipitation ranges from 16 to 30 inches per year. The soil temperature regime ranges from thermic to mesic. The soil moisture regime ranges from aridic ustic to typic ustic. Vegetation includes Emory oak and Ponderosa pine.

New Mexico CRA Symbol	National CRA Symbol	National CRA Name	National CRA Primary Distinguishing Characteristics
41.NM2	41.2	Chihuahuan – Sonoran Desert Shrubs	This unit occurs within the Basin and Range Physiographic Province and is characterized by valley plains, alluvial fans, and mountains. Sediments are from fluvial, lacustrine, colluvial and alluvial deposits. Igneous and metamorphic rock dominate the mountain ranges. Elevations range from 2600 to 4000 feet. Precipitation ranges from 8 to 12 inches per year. The soil temperature regime is thermic and the soil moisture regime is typic aridic. Vegetation includes mesquite, catclaw acacia, whitethorn, bush muhly and threeawns.
42.NM1	42.1	Upper Rio Grande Rift Valley	This unit occurs within the Basin and Range Physiographic Province and contains the upper Rio Grande Rift Valley. Elevations range from 4500 to 5500 feet. Precipitation ranges from 8 to 11 inches per year. The soil temperature regime ranges thermic to mesic. The soil moisture regime is typic aridic. Indian ricegrass, New Mexico feathergrass, galleta, blue grama and bottlebrush squirreltail characterize vegetation in the cooler portions. Warmer portions include black grama and tobosa. Alkali sacaton, dropseed and threeawns are common.
42.NM2	42.2	Chihuahuan Desert Shrubs	This unit occurs within the Basin and Range Physiographic Province and is characterized by valley plains, alluvial fans, and mountains. Sediments are from fluvial, lacustrine, colluvial and alluvial deposits. Igneous and metamorphic rock dominate the mountain ranges. Elevations range from 3800 to 5200 feet. Precipitation ranges from 8 to 10 inches per year. The soil temperature regime is thermic. The soil moisture regime is typic aridic. Vegetation includes Creosote, tarbush, soaptree yucca, torrey yucca, tobosa, and alkali sacaton.
42.NM3	42.3	Chihuahuan Desert Grassland	This unit occurs within the Basin and Range Physiographic Province and is characterized by valley plains and alluvial fans broken by the Pecos River. Drainage divides are low and inconspicuous forming one great plain. Elevations range from 2800 to 5000 feet. Precipitation ranges from 8 to 13 inches per year. The soil temperature regime is thermic. The soil moisture regime is aridic. Vegetation includes tobosa, alkali sacaton, black grama, burrograss, creosotebush, tarbush, soaptree yucca, catclaw, fourwing saltbush, winterfat, mesquite and desert willow.
42.NM4	42.4	Dry Mixed Prairie	This unit occurs within the Basin and Range Physiographic Province and is characterized by broad prairie grassland. Elevations range from 4700 to 6000 feet. Precipitation ranges from 12 to 14 inches per year. The soil temperature regime is thermic. The soil moisture regime is ustic aridic. Vegetation consists primarily of blue gramma, black grama, and yucca. Swales and drainages include tobosa and alkali sacaton. Creosote and mesquite are common shrubs.

New Mexico CRA Symbol	National CRA Symbol	National CRA Name	National CRA Primary Distinguishing Characteristics
48A.NM1	48A.1	Southern Rocky Mountains - High Mountains and Valleys	This area is best characterized by steep, high mountain ranges and associated mountain valleys. The temperature regimes are mostly frigid and cryic; moisture regimes are mainly ustic and udic. Vegetation is sagebrush-grass at low elevations, and with increasing elevation ranges from coniferous forest to alpine tundra. Elevations range from 6,500 to 14,400 feet.
49.NM1	49.1	Southern Rocky Mountain Foothills	This area is generally a transition between the Great Plains and the Southern Rocky Mountains. The temperature regime is mesic or frigid, and moisture regime is ustic. Characteristic native vegetation ranges from grasslands and shrubs to ponderosa pine and Rocky Mountain Douglas fir forest.
51.NM1	51.1	High Intermountain Valleys	This is an area of low relief composed of valley fill sediments from the surrounding mountains. The temperature regime is mainly frigid but includes mesic in the southern part. The moisture regime is aridic. Characteristic native vegetation is greasewood, fourwing saltbush, and alkali sacaton.
70A.NM1	70A.1	Northern New Mexico Highlands	This unit is characterized by broad, rolling plains broken by closed basins and drainageways that have smooth-shaped valley floors. Rugged breaks are common in the northern part of the area. Native vegetation is mid- to short-grass prairie species in the lowlands, with pinyon and juniper in the higher elevations and on the breaks. The soils are formed in weathered sedimentary rocks of Cretaceous age and igneous rocks of Tertiary and Quaternary age.
70B.NM1	70B.1	Central Pecos Valleys and Plains	This unit is characterized by broad, rolling piedmonts, plains, and tablelands broken by drainageways and tributaries of the Pecos River. Native vegetation is mid- to short-grass prairie species in the lowlands, with pinyon and juniper in the higher elevations and on steeper north-facing slopes. Current land use is predominantly livestock grazing. The soils formed in material weathered from sedimentary rocks of Cretaceous age.
70C.NM1	70C.1	Central New Mexico Highlands	This area is characterized by and tablelands and mesas separated by broad plains and small terraces. The area is dominated by pinyon-juniper savannah and pinyon juniper woodlands at higher elevations, and broad mid to short-grass prairies and basins at lower elevations. Current land use is Livestock grazing. The soils are dominantly formed in Quaternary alluvium and sand dunes in the north and sedimentary rocks of Permian age.
70D.NM1	70D.1	Southern New Mexico Foothills	This unit is characterized by nearly level to steep limestone hills with steep, narrow drainageways. Elevation ranges from 4,000 to 7,000 feet and average annual precipitation is 13 to 18 inches. Native vegetation is sparse and consists of pinyon, juniper, algerita, agave, yucca and cacti. Grasses include blue and black grama, little bluestem, and muhly species. Shrubs include catclaw, ocotillo, sotol and fourwing saltbush. Much of the area is federally owned. Federal and private lands are used for grazing, wildlife habitat, and military training.

New Mexico CRA Symbol	National CRA Symbol	National CRA Name	National CRA Primary Distinguishing Characteristics
77B.NM1	77B.1	High Plains, Northwestern Part	This unit is characterized by nearly level to gently sloping plains with a minimal number of playa depressions and moderately sloping breaks along drainageways. Loamy and sandy soils are generally deep and occur in a mesic soil temperature regime and ustic soil moisture regime bordering on aridic. Current land use is dominantly rangeland with minor cropland. The plains support a short- and mid-grass community characterized by buffalograss, blue grama, sideoats grama, and western wheatgrass.
77C.NM1	77C.1	High Plains, Southern Part	This unit is characterized by nearly level plains with numerous playa depressions, moderately sloping breaks along drainageways, and a steep escarpment along the eastern margin. From southwest to northeast, soils grade from coarse-textured to fine-textured. Soils are generally deep and occur in a thermic soil temperature regime and ustic soil moisture regime bordering on aridic. Current land use is dominantly cropland. Major crops are cotton and grain sorghum to the south with corn and wheat to the north.
77C.NM2	77C.2	High Plains, Corn and Wheat Belt	This unit is characterized by nearly level plains with numerous playa depressions, moderately sloping breaks along drainageways, and a steep escarpment along the eastern margin. Soils are generally deep with clay loam or silty clay loam surface textures and clayey subsoils. Soil temperature regime is thermic and soil moisture regime is ustic bordering on aridic. Current land use is dominantly cropland. Major crops are corn and wheat.
77D.NM1	77D.1	High Plains, Southwestern Part	This area is characterized by nearly level to gently undulating plains with scattered playa depressions. Soil temperature regime is thermic and soil moisture regime is aridic bordering on ustic. Sandy and loamy soils are generally well drained and range from shallow to deep and medium- to coarse-textured. Native vegetation is short- to mid-grasses and sandy sites support tall-grasses with sand shin oak and mesquite. Current land use is mainly rangeland, although irrigated cropland is expanding.

Comment [cn1]: This item was left out of the original document. Added on 4-7-04