

- 1 ■ Nominate historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places on a regular interval.
- 2 ■ Integrate natural and cultural resources as part of project planning, employing current available
- 3 knowledge of the types and existing conditions of historic properties, other cultural resources,
- 4 and traditional uses within the project area in the development of a proposed action.

## 5 Land Ownership Adjustment and Boundary Management

### 6 Background and Description

7 The two primary functions of the Land Ownership Adjustment and Boundary Management Program  
8 is to provide legally defensible boundary line, and title for lands managed by the Forest Service. The  
9 Boundary Management Program is the identification and maintenance of boundary line locations  
10 between National Forest System lands which include (but are not limited to) public domain lands, or  
11 those lands that were acquired by the United States from another sovereign and have never left  
12 Federal ownership and land of other ownership, and land adjustment. Boundary management needs a  
13 great deal of maintenance to ensure that no management activity near or adjacent to a property line  
14 creates a false or misleading boundary line.

15 Land adjustments consolidate and improve management efficiency through real estate transactions  
16 including sales, purchases, donations, exchanges, conveyances, and rights-of-ways within the  
17 proclaimed Cibola National Forest boundaries.

### 18 Desired Conditions

- 19 ■ Right-of-way and easements provide for broader access to lands within the Cibola National  
20 Forest without impacting private inholding rights-of-way and easements.
- 21 ■ Acquisition of lands facilitates efficient management strategies for the Cibola National Forest.
- 22 ■ Encroachment issues are resolved equitably for both adjacent landowners and the Cibola  
23 National Forest.
- 24 ■ National Forest System lands exists in a pattern that promotes more well-organized management  
25 of various lands in and around the Forest as well as provide efficient and effective resource  
26 management within and across National Forest System lands.

### 27 Guidelines for Land Exchanges

- 28 ■ Land exchanges should result in an improved land ownership pattern, more effective  
29 management of National Forest System lands, and foster sound community development.
- 30 ■ Land exchanges should not result in the creation of isolated National Forest System parcels  
31 surrounded by non-Federal lands or isolated non-Federal parcels surrounded by National Forest  
32 System lands, unless it is found to be a public benefit.
- 33 ■ The non-Federal lands considered for exchange into Federal ownership should meet one or more  
34 of the following criteria:
  - 35 • Lands that provide needed public and administrative access, protect public lands from fire or  
36 trespass, or prevent damage to Cibola resources.
  - 37 • Lands that contain vital threatened and endangered species habitat or vital wildlife habitat.
  - 38 • Lands providing services to the public (such as developed and dispersed recreation and open  
39 space).

- 1 • Wetlands, riparian areas, and other lands with water features.
- 2 • Lands that contain unique, scenic, natural, or cultural values.
- 3 • Lands within designated wilderness.
- 4 • Lands that will improve public land management, meet specific administrative needs, or
- 5 benefit other national forest programs.
- 6 • Lands that meet programs prescribed or endorsed by acts or reports of Congress or the
- 7 Department of Agriculture.
- 8 • Lands that possess high value cultural resources for the Cibola National Forest (see the
- 9 “Identity and Cultural Landscapes” section).
- 10 ■ Federal lands offered by the United States in a proposed land exchange should meet one or more
- 11 of the following criteria:
  - 12 • Lands needed to meet the needs of communities and the public.
  - 13 • Lands that provide improved public land management.
  - 14 • Lands that will improve management, benefit specific resources, or increase management
  - 15 efficiency.
  - 16 • Lands that have lost their wildland characteristics.
  - 17 • Lands with long-term land occupancy commitments and high management and operating
  - 18 costs, do not contribute significantly to achieving management objectives, have minimal
  - 19 benefit to the public, and would not create an isolated non-Federal parcel surrounded by
  - 20 National Forest System lands such as, but not limited to, recreation residence areas and
  - 21 administrative sites.

## 22 Guidelines for the Boundary Management Program

- 23 ■ Boundary management surveys should be prioritized by the following criteria:
  - 24 • Where known litigation is pending, a title claim has been asserted, encroachments are
  - 25 suspected, or the probability of encroachment can be reduced.
  - 26 • Where significant resource values exist and use or manipulation of resources is planned (this
  - 27 includes the location, by survey, of right-of-way easements necessary for resource
  - 28 management).
  - 29 • To ensure that any land, resource, or restoration project that occurs near or adjacent to any
  - 30 Forest Service boundary line does not proceed until the legal National Forest System
  - 31 boundary lines are properly located and physically marked in the field prior to any
  - 32 management action.
  - 33 • To provide an accurate delineation and location of National Forest System boundary lines
  - 34 will help prevent boundary disputes and/or loss of valued National Forest System land and
  - 35 its resources.
  - 36 • All remaining property lines.
- 37 ■ A Bureau of Land Management (BLM) resurvey should be requested where there has been an
- 38 extensive loss or obliteration of original corner monuments and/or where the potential for future
- 39 litigation regarding the property boundaries between the national forest and private lands are
- 40 high.

- 1 ■ Property boundaries should be clearly identified to avoid creating false or misleading  
2 boundaries.

### 3 Management Approaches for Boundary Management

- 4 ■ Identifying encroachment cases and resolving present encroachments is a priority.
- 5 ■ Consider opportunities to resolve boundary issues permanently with adjacent landowners at a  
6 cost savings by consolidating non-Federal (State trust, county, private, and other ownerships)  
7 and National Forest System lands through the land adjustment program.
- 8 ■ When trespasses are identified they are to be documented in the Title Claims and Encroachment  
9 Management System.
- 10 ■ Act on cooperative and joint land surveying opportunities with adjoining non-Federal land  
11 owners (State trust, county, and other ownerships).

### 12 Management Approaches for Land Ownership Adjustments

- 13 ■ Consolidate the National Forest System land ownership pattern through exchange, purchase, or  
14 donation, and other land ownership adjustment authorities.
- 15 ■ Consider conveying administrative sites that are no longer required for Forest Service use.
- 16 ■ Acquiring non-Federal lands or interest in lands from willing non-Federal landowners (State,  
17 county, private, and others ownerships) that resolve public access issues or contain scenic,  
18 cultural and historic resources, traditional cultural properties, Tribal cultural resources, sacred  
19 sites, vital threatened and endangered species habitat and/or wildlife.

### 20 Management Approaches for Land Exchanges

- 21 ■ Considering opportunities to consolidate and exchange lands that are mutually beneficial to  
22 improve landownership patterns or other resource objectives.

### 23 Management Approaches for Rights-of-way

- 24 ■ Ensuring administrative and public access to National Forest System lands by acquiring road and  
25 trail rights-of-way needed to meet public access objectives using various acquisition methods.  
26 Priority for road and trail rights-of-way acquisitions is as follows:
  - 27 • Public access to National Forest System lands.
  - 28 • Administrative access to National Forest System lands.

### 29 Other Sources of Information, Regulations, Memorandums of Understanding, 30 Guidance

31 Land Adjustments and Boundary Management Authorities include:

- 32 36 CFR 254 Landownership Adjustments
- 33 FSM 5400 Landownership
- 34 FSH 5409.12 Appraisal Handbook
- 35 FSH 5409.13 Land Acquisition Handbook
- 36 FSH 5409.17 Rights-of-Way Acquisition Handbook
- 37 FSH 5509.11 Title Claims, Sales, and Grants Handbook
- 38 FSM 5460 Right-of-Way Acquisition
- 39 FSM 7150 Surveying.