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Geno C. Baroni,

Assistant Secretary for Neighborhoods,  
Voluntary Associations and Consumer  
Protection.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Proposed Findings for Federal Acknowledgment of Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians as an Indian Tribe

October 5, 1979.

This notice is published in the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Pursuant to 25 CFR 54.9(f) notice is hereby given that the Assistant Secretary proposes to acknowledge that the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, c/o Ardith Harris, Post Office Box 37, Sutton's Bay, Michigan 49682, exists as an Indian tribe. This notice is based on a determination that the group satisfies the criteria set forth in 25 CFR 54.7.

Under § 54.9(f) of the Federal regulations, a report summarizing the evidence for the proposed decision is available to the petitioner and other parties upon written request.

Section 54.9(g) of the regulations, provides that any individual or organization wishing to challenge the proposed findings may submit factual or legal arguments and evidence to rebut the evidence relied upon. This material must be submitted within 120 days of the publication of this notice. Comments and requests for a copy of the report should be addressed to: Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, NW., Washington, D.C. 20242, Attention: Federal Acknowledgment Project.

Within 60 days after the expiration of the response period, the Assistant Secretary will publish his determination regarding the petitioner's status in the Federal Register as provided in § 54.9(h).

Rick Lavis,

Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 79-32135 Filed 10-17-79; 8:45 am]

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### Bureau of Land Management

#### New Mexico Off-Road Vehicle Designations

October 9, 1979.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.

ACTION: Notice of Off-Road Vehicle  
Designation Decisions.

**DECISION:** Notice is hereby given relating to the use of off-road vehicles on public lands in accordance with the authority and requirements of Executive Orders 11644 and 11989, and regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 8340. The following described lands under administration of the Bureau of Land Management are designated as closed, limited or open to off-road motorized vehicle use.

The area affected by these designations is known as the East Chaves Planning Unit, containing all public lands in Chaves County, New Mexico, that are east of the Pecos River. These designations are a result of land use decisions developed with broad public involvement in the 1976 East Chaves Management Framework Plan. This area contains 425,264 acres of public land.

The areas of East Chaves Planning Unit which are designated as *closed* are:

1. *Comanche Hill Areas A and C.* Comanche Hill is located approximately seven miles east of Roswell, New Mexico. Closure of Area A is necessary to protect scenic quality, prevent disturbance of waterfowl at the adjacent Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and to protect raptor nesting habitat in the area. There are approximately 660 acres in Area A. Closure of Area C is necessary to protect the scenic value of this area which is highly visible from the adjacent U.S. Highway 380. Area C contains approximately 240 acres.

2. *Mathers Natural Area.* The Mathers Natural Area is located approximately 35 miles east of Roswell, New Mexico, and contains 96 acres. Closure to off-road vehicles is necessary to protect a unique climax shinnery oak-bluestem vegetative type.

3. *Mescalero Sands South Dune Area A.* This area is located in the Mescalero Sands Recreation Complex approximately 33 miles east of Roswell, New Mexico. South Dune Area A is fenced and closed to off-road vehicles in order to protect the unique scenic, cultural, biological, and geological values of the area. This area contains approximately 1,512 acres.

The areas of East Chaves Planning Unit which are designated as *limited* are:

1. *Mescalero Sands Recreation Complex.* Vehicle use in the Mescalero Sands Recreation Complex will be restricted to designated roads and trails, which will be marked by appropriate signs and recorded on maps. Until road and trail designations are made, vehicular use in this area is restricted to existing roads and trails. This restriction is necessary to protect the biological and cultural resources of this 19,068 acre area.

The 640 acre North Dune Area within Mescalero Sands Recreation complex is proposed for development as an intensive vehicle use area. Potential impacts to an endangered wildlife species that may inhibit this area must be determined through an inventory effort scheduled for completion during the Spring of 1980. Prior to the completion of that inventory, vehicle use in the North Dunes Area is restricted to existing trails and active sand dunes.

2. *Haystack Mountain Area.* This area is located approximately 20 miles northeast of Roswell, New Mexico. The limited designation is for the purpose of establishing and managing this area for intensive motorcycle use. Legal public access is not available to this area and other resource values are present which require protection prior to promoting or allowing intensive vehicular use. The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of negotiating legal access and providing protection for other resource values to facilitate the proposed intensive recreational use. Until access and protection requirements are completed, vehicular use is restricted to existing roads and trails in this area. Additional public notification will be given when this area is available for the proposed intensive use. Continuing management of this area will be specified in an activity plan, developed with public input, which will prescribe applicable limitations to allow off-road vehicle use and protect natural resources. The area affected by this limited designation contains approximately 3,520 acres.

The remainder of all public lands in East Chaves Planning Unit are designated as open to off-road vehicle use. Open designations for these public lands are made for the following reasons; the majority of off-road vehicle activity will be directed to intensive use areas; concentrated use of these areas does not presently occur; and significant resource values requiring special protection or management have not been identified on these areas. The area affected by this open designation contains approximately 399,528 acres of public land.