

The Outland

1. Resource Verticals

- **Mandate:** A Resource Vertical is a hyper-localized, self-contained industrial compound designed to consolidate an entire commodity supply chain into a single physical location. To mitigate the immense logistical costs and security risks of transporting materials across the unincorporated Outlands, all operations—ranging from raw material extraction and cultivation to refining, manufacturing, and final packaging—occur within a single perimeter.
- **Land Procurement:** Because the Outlands are officially federal territory managed by the executive branch, corporate interests from the `Mega City`s must nominate specific territorial tracts to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM hosts public, competitive auctions for these commercial exploitation rights. Once a bid is won, the Department of the Treasury issues a formal, time-bound federal land lease contract, granting the corporate entity exclusive extraction and private security rights over that physical sector.
- **Closed-Loop:** Verticals operate independently of external public infrastructure. They utilize self-contained utility loops where industrial byproducts are instantly reclaimed and repurposed as inputs for adjacent production phases (e.g., recycling process water, converting organic waste into agricultural fertilizer or fuel, and generating baseline electricity via localized nuclear reactors). The only output that leaves the perimeter is the final, consumer-ready retail product designated for direct transit to a `Mega City`.
- **Labor Relations:** Because a Vertical houses a complete economic engine, it functions as a heavily fortified corporate company town. It features a private security perimeter, dedicated defensive force proxies, and a completely isolated workforce drawn from the Outland labor pool. It remains entirely self-reliant, self-governing, and closed to external civil interaction.
- **Logistics:** Workforce compensation within a Vertical adapts to the worker's legal and economic standing. Employees who possess an active digital presence can choose to have their wages routed directly onto their digital USD ledger. Conversely, those operating without an active digital profile or navigating outside `Mega City` banking channels are paid physically in newly minted, un-counterfeitable polymer US dollars.

2. Major Outland Factions

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is indifferent to these factions, legally viewing them as citizens squatting on federal territory because their communities lack a formal sovereign charter. While these groups wield functional day-to-day power across the Rio Grande Valley, they hold no

tenure over the land. The moment a powerful **Mega City** interest secures a formal federal lease, the BLM will authorize the repurposing of that territory regardless of the current population.

- **Keystone:** A single-interest corporate police state operating out of the ruins of old Socorro. Keystone's primary economic engine is the systematic harvesting, sorting, and refurbishing of industrial waste and consumer trash discarded by the **Mega Cities**. They repackage these materials into functional tech, machinery, and goods for trade across the valley. Their overarching strategic goal is to build enough capital, population density, and institutional leverage to formally apply for and be admired as a sovereign **Mega City** by the federal government.
- **Los Chingones:** A highly organized consolidation of the historic northern Mexican cartels, centered in the combined El Paso and Juárez metroplex. The organization operates under the absolute leadership of a single commander who presents themselves to the public as a digitally masked telenovela archetype—acting simultaneously as a strong father figure and a nurturing mother. This leader wears a specialized digital mask that obscures their physical identity, projecting pixelated emojis to broadcast their emotional and psychological state.
- **Las Cruces:** A resilient regional enclave operating out of the ruins of Las Cruces. The faction originated during the era of slow attrition as a loose consolidation of abandoned municipal first responders and local civil servants who refused to leave the remaining population without aid. Over generations, this alliance morphed into a fortified, self-sustaining society operating under a formal, Charter-backed anarchist framework. Decisions require deep consensus, making the enclave slow to mobilize or pivot, but structurally resilient against external pressure.

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