2.0 MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

This chapter details seven land use management alternatives considered in the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Program area emphasis and allowable public use within each of the alternatives and the management actions proposed for each program under each alternative are described in this chapter. The land use management alternatives described in this chapter address identified issues, management concerns, and current and projected future uses of the BLM- administered public lands in the CCMA.

This PRMP/FEIS incorporates guidance provided by numerous laws, mandates, policies, and plans. As a result, many of BLM's goals, objectives, and management actions are applicable to many alternatives or common to all alternatives. These management actions are combined, where possible, under the range of alternatives based on the location and intensity of *Motorized* and *Non-motorized* activities within CCMA. These include management actions for recreation, public health and safety, biological resources, air, water, soils, fire management, livestock grazing, energy and minerals, cultural and heritage resources, paleontological resources, visual resources management, social and economic conditions, and special designations.

Major changes to the Preferred Alternative are identfied in Section 2.3.1 of the CCMA Proposed RMP and Final EIS. The Proposed RMP (i.e. Proposed Action) that is described in Section 2.5 of this PRMP/FEIS is the BLM's Preferred Alternative. Section 2.5 also describes the rationale for the Preferred Alternative, and provides a list of all the management actions from within the range of alternatives that comprise the BLM's Preferred Alternative in this PRMP/FEIS.

Due to concerns associated with protection of human health and the environment, this PRMP/FEIS has been organized so that 1) recreation, 2) public health and safety, and 3) transportation are addressed in the first three sections of each chapter to allow the reader to assess key information related to the human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers in CCMA.

2.1 Overview of the Range of Alternatives

The alternatives presented here incorporate guidance provided by numerous laws, mandates, policies, and plans. These include the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and BLM planning guidance. As a result, many of BLM's goals, objectives, and management actions are applicable to many alternatives or common to all alternatives. These management actions are combined, where possible, under the range of alternatives based on the location and intensity of *Motorized* and *Non-motorized* activities within CCMA. These include management actions for recreation, public health and safety, biological resources, air, water, soils, fire management, livestock grazing, energy and minerals, cultural and heritage resources, paleontological resources, visual resources management, social and economic conditions, and special designations.

Based on the purpose and need identified in Chapter 1, the range of alternatives for the CCMA RMP/EIS includes multiple public use scenarios in the Serpentine ACEC: five of which entail *Motorized* access (Alternatives A, B, C, D, and E), one *Non-motorized* access alternative (Alt. F), and one alternative that considers closure of the Serpentine ACEC to all forms of public entry (Alt. G). The anticipated effects and the need to implement proposed management actions or mitigation measures would vary depending on the public use scenarios associated with each alternative.

In general, Section(s) 2.4.1 through 2.4.18 describe a 'range of alternatives' comprised of different combinations of BLM management actions, resource allocations, and allowable uses that BLM has determined are 'reasonable' to consider based the purpose and need for the CCMA RMP/EIS and the issues identified during the public scoping period. Additional management actions or mitigation measures that would be necessary to manage multiple-uses or protect resources (including public health and safety) under the range of alternatives are identified in Sections 2.4.1 – 2.4.18.

Section 2.5 identifies a combination of management actions, resource allocations, and allowable uses chosen from among the range alternatives that has been compiled to form BLM's Proposed RMP (i.e. Proposed Action) for lands administered by the HFO in the CCMA. The Proposed Action described in Section 2.5 comprises the BLM's preferred alternative.

The BLM's Proposed Action reflects BLM's "preferred alternative" described in the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS (2009), but has been revised in response to comments received during the public review period for the Draft RMP/EIS. Alternatives considered but not analyzed in detail are discussed in this chapter as well. The analysis of the environmental consequences, effectiveness of mitigation measures, and the feasibility of implementing the range of alternatives is detailed in Chapter 4.

The following summarizes the seven alternatives considered in detail in this PRMP/FEIS:

Alternative A *represents the 'No Action' alternative required by NEPA, and would reaffirm current management under the original Hollister RMP (BLM 1984) and its' associated Clear Creek Amendments (1986, 1999, 2006).* Alternative A does not take into account the temporary closure of the Serpentine ACEC. Management of recreation opportunities, special status species habitat, and other resources would be maintained at existing levels prior to the May 1, 2008 closure order. This alternative would not modify allowable uses to address emerging issues on public lands; however, this alternative would incorporate new human health risk information into BLM's public outreach and education asbestos hazard information program and new guidance for management of natural and heritage resource, rangelands, energy and minerals, and lands and realty established after the 1984 Hollister RMP, as amended.

The No-Action Alternative does not to take into account the temporary closure based on the following rationale:

A temporary closure is an administrative action (CCMA closed under 8364.1) and not a formal land use decision approved according to 43 CFR 1610.

The no action alternative is only supposed to reflect current management decisions within a land use plan and should not be considering actions that would constitute an amendment to the existing land use plan.

The no action alternative is supposed to establish a baseline for analysis of impacts to the human environment from a range of alternatives for management of public lands. Therefore, the no action alternative has to consider the effects of current management decisions (i.e. those approved within an existing land use plan) rather than a temporary closure, because management of public lands under a temporary closure substantially alters the baseline for analysis. In other words, the trajectory for impacts to the human environment are much different if BLM compares other reasonable alternatives to a management of public lands under a closure order instead of existing land use decisions.

Furthermore, using this approach to define the no action alternative provides the public and BLM officials with a better understanding of the current management decisions that have contributed to the existing conditions of public land resources, and a better baseline for analysis of impacts from different management alternatives that meet the purpose and need for a land use plan amendment/revision.

Alternative B *emphasizes maintaining current multiple use opportunities in CCMA, and would authorize existing uses based on limited annual visitor use days, seasonal use restrictions, and other mitigation measures to protect public health and safety.* Resources management would focus on conserving natural and heritage resources that are functioning and restoring natural systems that are degraded. Management would focus on protecting human health and safety by restricting season of use and visitor use days/year, applying dust mitigation on major routes, and by eliminating camping and staging in the Serpentine ACEC.

Alternative C *emphasizes limited OHV recreation opportunities in the Serpentine ACEC based on vehicle types, minimum age requirements, and other mitigation measures to protect public health and safety.* Resources management would focus on conserving natural and heritage resources that are functioning and restoring natural systems that are degraded. Management would focus on protecting human health and safety by prohibiting access into the ACEC for visitors under age 18, restricting OHV recreation in the ACEC to motorcycle use only, increasing restrictions on season of use, applying dust mitigation on major routes, and by eliminating camping and staging in the Serpentine ACEC.

Alternative D *emphasizes vehicle access for non-motorized recreation opportunities inside the Serpentine ACEC, and enhancing new OHV recreation opportunities outside of the ACEC*. Resource uses consistent with BLM guidance and within human health risk constraints would be authorized in the ACEC. Emphasis would be on developing OHV recreation opportunities on public lands near Tucker Mtn., Condon Peak, or San Carlos Bolsa (Cantua Zone), where appropriate. Management actions would focus on protecting human health and safety by restricting motorized access in the ACEC to major routes, applying dust mitigation on major routes, installing a public wash rack, and by and eliminating camping and staging in the ACEC.

Alternative E *allows for limited vehicle touring through the Serpentine ACEC, emphasizes pedestrian use in the ACEC and non-motorized recreation opportunities outside the ACEC.* Vehicle touring in the ACEC would be limited to a Scenic Route (Spanish Lake Road) from Idria to Wright Mtn. No OHV use would be allowed in the ACEC. Pedestrian trail day use opportunities would be available at destinations with unique scenic, natural or geologic features in the ACEC. Access into the Serpentine ACEC would be authorized by permit only. Vehicle touring would be limited to less than 5 days/year and pedestrian activity limited to less than 12 days/year. Public health and safety risks would be mitigated by restricting access and use during extreme weather conditions.

Alternative F *restricts public access in the Serpentine ACEC to non-motorized recreation only.* Public access in the Serpentine ACEC would be limited to foot-traffic only, and non-motorized recreation opportunities would be emphasized at outstanding locations throughout CCMA. Public health and safety risks would be mitigated by restricting access and use during extreme weather conditions. Allowable use restrictions would minimize and reduce risk to public health and safety; and BLM land use authorizations would require terms and conditions to minimize risk to human health and the environment.

Alternative G *emphasizes public health and safety by prohibiting all public access and entry into the Serpentine ACEC.* Alternative G would make the existing temporary closure of the 30,000-acre ACEC that was issued by BLM under 43 CFR 8364.1 on May 1, 2008 permanent. Consequently, the impact

analysis for Alt. G provides a baseline for comparison of the impacts associated with the temporary closure of the Serpentine ACEC to other management actions within the range of alternatives for the CCMA RMP/EIS. Allowable use restrictions under Alternative G would minimize CCMA visitor exposure to airborne asbestos emissions and represent the most effective way to reduce risk to public health and safety. BLM would also prohibit other resources uses, such as livestock grazing and energy and minerals development under this alternative to ensure overall protection of human health and the environment from hazardous airborne asbestos emissions.

All the alternatives would place importance on partnerships and agreements with landowners, permit holders, and other local and state agencies to manage BLM public lands for multiple uses on a sustainable basis while providing adequate protection of public health and the environment.

2.1.1 Alternatives Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail

2.1.1.1 CCMA 'Open' Area Designation

Designation of CCMA as an 'open' area for vehicle use is not considered in the range of alternatives, because this type of designation would not meet the purpose and need for this RMP/EIS to minimize human health risks from exposure to asbestos and reducing airborne asbestos emissions from BLM management activities. The Federal government has concluded that all forms of asbestos are hazardous to humans, and that all can cause cancer; although the chrysotile form may be less potent than the amphibole family in causing mesothelioma (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Toxicological Profile for Asbestos).

The purpose and need for the CCMA RMP/EIS is based on the EPA Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment, which concluded that visiting CCMA more than once per year can put adults and children above EPA's acceptable risk range for exposure to carcinogens and an increased long-term cancer risk from engaging in many of the typical recreational activities at the CCMA.

BLM acknowledges that controversy exists regarding the health risks of naturally occurring asbestos; however, EPA and other Federal, State, and local agencies whose missions relate directly to public health support the BLM's decision to limit the range of alternatives to vehicle use area designation that meet the purpose and need for the CCMA RMP described in Section 1.1.

Furthermore, management of the CCMA as an 'open' area for OHV recreation is not analyzed in this document because a large portion of the CCMA has been managed for decades as the Serpentine ACEC due to the health risk from exposure to asbestos and to emphasize protection other unique values associated with the serpentine soils in the area. For example, a portion of the ACEC was also designated a Research Natural Area (RNA) because of the unique forest assemblage and rare plant habitat contained therein. On February 12, 1985 the San Benito evening primrose (*Camissonia benitensis*) was listed as federally threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Following the listing of the primrose, a CCMA Amendment (1995) was prepared that designated CCMA a 'Limited' use area for OHV recreation to prevent jeopardizing the continued existence of the species.

Designation of CCMA as an "open" area for vehicle use would have adverse effects on the values for which the ACEC/RNA was established, including the federally threatened San Benito evening-primrose. As a result, this RMP/EIS only considers the 'Limited' and 'Closed' area designations for CCMA public lands.

2.1.1.2 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

During public meetings for the CCMA RMP/EIS, several commenters suggested that BLM consider the use of personal protection equipment (PPE) to reduce and minimize risks to public health and safety from exposure to asbestos. Comments received by the HFO recommended the use of PPEs, such as dust masks or respirators, to protect CCMA visitors from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers. While using personal protective equipment may reduce exposure to asbestos fibers, respirators must be equipped with HEPA filtered cartridges (color coded purple) or an N-100, P-100 or R-100 NIOSH rating. These cartridges are specific for filtering out asbestos fibers. However, respirators provide little protection if are not fitted properly or facial hair does not allow the respirator to fit properly. The most common respirator is a half face, dual cartridge respirator. Half face respirators cover the nose and mouth and consist of a silicone or rubber face piece, elastic head harness and filter cartridges. Typically, vendors provide instructions on performing a fit check of the respirator seal to ensure a proper fit, and they recommend a fit check is done each time the respirator is worn. Furthermore, respirators cause the lungs to work harder in order to breathe air, and manufacturers recommend checking with a medical doctor to ensure that people are physically able to wear a respirator.

Other respirators, including paper dust masks available at hardware stores, do not filter out asbestos fibers. Although some "dust masks" can actually be fit tested and can provide a very good fit factor, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) specifically prohibits their use for asbestos and manufacturers also specifically indicate that these masks are not acceptable for asbestos. Moreover, the voluntary use of dust masks in atmospheres documented or known to contain levels of asbestos above the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) is unacceptable, and one of the principle foundations of asbestos exposure control is to prevent its spread. Simply using a dust mask does not eliminate the potential for "take home" and subsequent exposure to asbestos.

Additional personal protection equipment such as eyewear, rubber boots, disposable gloves and coveralls are recommended during asbestos abatement activities to prevent contact with asbestos-containing debris. Once exposed to asbestos containing materials, these PPEs are supposed to be removed properly and disposed of in a designated asbestos waste bag to ensure all asbestos debris remains in the area of contamination and avoid the spread of hazardous asbestos fibers. However, most PPEs quickly get hot and uncomfortable because they do not breathe and as a result, are not appropriate for use during recreational activities in CCMA. Therefore, PPEs are not being considered as an appropriate mitigation measure to protect human health and safety from exposure to asbestos in CCMA.

2.1.1.3 Serpentine ACEC Land Tenure Adjustments

During the scoping period for the CCMA RMP/EIS, public comments suggested that BLM consider disposal of public lands though sales or leasing to entities that would manage the properties in the Serpentine ACEC to provide public access for multiple use activities. FLPMA, Section 102(a)(1), 43 U.S.C. § 1701(a)(1) authorizes BLM to consider disposal of BLM-managed lands through the land use planning process if the authorized officer determines that the proposed disposal will serve the national interest. FLPMA also provides criteria for determining whether lands are suitable for disposal, which require BLM to evaluate whether the lands may still serve a federal purpose and whether there is a good reason for disposal.

In general, the public interest determination considers whether resource values and public objectives served by the non-federal lands must equal or exceed those being conveyed, and the intended use of the conveyed federal land must not substantially conflict with management of adjacent federal lands. Based

on the criteria set forth by FLPMA, BLM has determined that land tenure adjustments (including sales and exchanges of public or private lands in the Serpentine ACEC) are not in the public interest. Acquisition of private in-holdings from willing sellers in the Serpentine ACEC to acquire special status species habitat would be in the public interest.

BLM's rationale for this determination is that the intended use of the conveyed Federal lands would significantly conflict with management objectives for overall protection of human health and the environment, and would not meet the purpose and need for the CCMA RMP/EIS identified in Chapter 1.

Furthermore, conveyances of contaminated Federal lands as subject to the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C 9620. Because BLM-managed lands in the Serpentine ACEC are known to be contaminated with asbestos, and remediation of naturally occurring asbestos is not practical or feasible over large tracts of land, any sale, lease, or exchange of these lands to be managed for public access and multiple use activities is not consistent with the standards set forth under CERCLA and the National Contingency Plan for protection of human health and the environment.

2.1.1.4 Wild & Scenic River Designation

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542) was passed by Congress to preserve riverine systems that contain outstanding features. The law was enacted during an era when many rivers were being dammed or diverted, and is intended to balance this development by ensuring that certain rivers and streams remain in their free-flowing condition. Only Congress can designate Wild and Scenic Rivers to be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS), but BLM is mandated to evaluate stream segments on public lands as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) during the resource management planning process under Section 5(d) of the Act. Therefore, the Hollister Field Office prepared a Wild and Scenic River Inventory that is contained in Appendix VI.

The criteria and information upon which WSR river eligibility and suitability determinations are based are also included in Appendix VI. Although many of the river and stream segments on BLM public lands were determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS, when considered in the context of other designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in the region, BLM determined that these river segments were not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. As a result, Wild and Scenic River designation is not recommended for any of the rivers or streams on public lands in CCMA under any of the management alternatives analyzed in this PRMP/FEIS.

2.2 Management Common to All Alternatives

2.2.1 Area and Route Designation

The BLM designates areas as "limited" where it must restrict OHV use to meet specific resource management objectives. In "designating public lands as Open, Limited, or Closed to the use of off-road vehicles," the objective is "to protect the resources of the public lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those public lands." Routes designated as closed under the Limited Area designation in the Proposed RMP do not contribute to achieving the Proposed RMP's resource condition objectives or fulfill the identified Planning Criteria.

The selection of routes is based on the route designation criteria identified in Appendix II, and the Limited Use area designation to promote resources protection and minimize conflicts among existing and potential uses of the management area. Routes designated open, under all alternatives, satisfy the resource based route designation criteria. The designated routes under the range of alternatives provide varying degrees of access to the public lands within select management zones. Designated route networks under each alternative include several miles of "R" routes which have a higher maintenance objective, are generally wider, have less gradient, and are suited for most vehicle types. Designated routes under each alternative were selected from routes previously designated as open in the 2006 CCMA RMP amendment. Criteria used to designate routes under the range of alternatives and the conformance with vehicle use area and route designations is explained below.

2.2.1.2 Conformance with Regulations

Vehicle use area and route designations for BLM public lands under the range of alternatives conform to the two following Executive Orders:

Executive Order 11644 (*Use of Off-Road Vehicles on the Public Lands)*, February 9, 1972 (87 F.R. 2877), to establish policies and provide for procedures to control and direct the use of Off-Highway Vehicles on Federal lands so as to (1) protect the resources of those lands, (2) promote the safety of all users of those lands, and (3) minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands.

Executive Order 11989 (*Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands)*, May 24, 1977 (42 F.R. 26959), amending the previous order. This amendment strengthened protection of the lands by authorizing agency heads to (1) close areas or trails to OHVs causing considerable adverse effects and (2) designate lands as closed to OHVs unless the lands or trails are specifically designated as open to them.

Vehicle use area and route designations for BLM public lands under the range of alternatives also comply with 43 CFR 8342.1, which establishes criteria to consider when the BLM makes route and area designations. The BLM bases designations on the protection of resources of the public lands, the promotion of safety of the users of the public lands, and strives to minimize conflicts among the various users of the public lands.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 8342.1, BLM developed a standardized and stepwise process specifically to address identified minimization criteria; whereby routes were evaluated relative to a list of criteria such as, resource sensitivity, soil loss, manageability, intended route use, and recreation opportunity. The criteria were combined into four tiers, roughly corresponding to the criteria's likelihood of requiring route closure. A more detailed discussion of the tiers, criteria, and designation process is located in Appendix II.

The four tiers used for BLM's route designation (Appendix II) under the range of alternatives correspond to 43 CFR 8342.1 "minimization criteria", as follows:

a. Areas and trails shall be located to minimize the damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.

    - Tier One – Special Status Species and Cultural Resources, Barrens Interface
    - Tier Two – Erosion and Soil Loss Standard
    - Tier Four – Route Proliferation

b. Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats, and for the protection of vernal pools, riparian areas, and known and newly discovered occurrences of sensitive and rare plants and communities and related moderate to high potential habitat. Special attention would be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.

    - Tier One – Riparian Areas, Special Status Species

c. Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflict between OHV use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in the area, taking into account noise and other factors.

    - Tier One – Private/State Lands/Mines
    - Tier Three – OHV Use/Recreation Spectrum
    - Tier Four – Route Management Objective/Manageability, Administrative Use/ROWs, Route Continuity

d. Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Areas and trails would be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off road vehicle use in such locations would not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

    - Tier One – Research Natural Area/WSA

Best Management Practices: BLM will monitor water quality, soil erosion, and sediment conditions within the watersheds of the CCMA. The BLM will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts to watershed resources, and will continue to evaluate and update these measures as needed to minimize impacts to water quality, control erosion and sediment production, and protect sensitive resources. BMPs related to watershed improvement and road maintenance projects will continue to be implemented to reduce erosion and off-site sedimentation transport (ref. Appendix V).

The following statutory requirements were also considered and incorporated into the route designation criteria to minimize impacts of vehicle use on public lands resources.

Federal Endangered Species Act

- Section 7 requires that the plan include steps to assist in the "recovery" of the federally threatened or endangered species.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Fully disclose to the public the purpose, the full range of issues and considerations (including environmental), and details of the proposed action and a range of alternatives.
- Carefully evaluate the cumulative impacts of the proposed action. This analysis shall include: the current situation, as well as the foreseeable future; evaluation of the direct and indirect impacts; and a cumulative impact analysis evaluating biological, natural, and cultural factors, including evaluation of economic and sociological factors.

Federal Land Management Policy Act (FLMPA)

- Manage public lands on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield;

- Resource values to be protected
- Certain lands are to be preserved in their natural condition
- Wild as well as domestic habitat is to be provided for;
- Provide for a balanced and diverse combination of recreational uses.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

- Protect identified significant cultural sites.

Code of Federal Regulations, 43 CFR 8342.1

- The authorized officer shall designate all public lands (including areas, and trails) as either open, limited, or closed;
- Areas and trails shall be located in a manner to minimize impacts to physical resources (soils, watershed, vegetation, air, and other resources) and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability;
- Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats;
- Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses;
- Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas, and shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which established.

State Fish and Game Codes

- Establishes requirements protecting riparian habitat, particularly with respect to governing allowable levels of disturbance.

2.2.2 Route Designation Criteria

The BLM planning team developed extensive criteria for evaluating routes and areas in the designation process. These designation criteria address a variety of management issues and concerns, including compliance with statutory guidelines. Designation decisions are be based on a variety of data, including previous studies, field inventory data, biological, environmental, cultural, natural, and recreation resources, land use, and land ownership. This process is standardized, repeatable, and can be logically followed; it assesses each route and area, and documents that assessment; and establishes a clear link between the designation decision and the rational for that decision. Designated open routes under each alternative in the Proposed RMP have been screened through the route designation criteria (Appendix II).

The first step in developing the designations was to conduct a detailed field inventory and soil loss assessment of routes. This inventory was conducted from 2001 to 2004, assessing and documenting approximately 440 miles of motorized routes within the CCMA. Subsequently, annual resource assessments of the open route network were conducted until implementation of the temporary closure in May 2008. GPS units were used to collect a variety of resource information for GIS applications and Access databases.

Once the field data was collected, the planning team began the work of identifying a network of open and closed routes within the CCMA. Using GIS maps and specific field knowledge, the planning team made full use of background data to determine whether a route should be open or closed.

This data included existing as well as potential environmental concerns that might constrain a route network, including:

- T&E and sensitive species and habitats,
- Cultural and Paleontological resources,
- Riparian areas,
- Soil loss assessment.

Access requirements and other land use data were also mapped, including:

- Route type, condition and use,
- Topographical and hydrological information,
- Private land ownership,
- Abandoned mines,
- Recreation point data.

The BLM planning staff screened all routes within the existing inventory through the criteria tables (Appendix II), made recommendations on the designation, and prepared a written rationale. A Data Element Dictionary was developed for each of the resource screening criteria, representing the data on which decisions about authorized recreation vehicle use of routes is based. The data element dictionary describes the allowed responses for each criterion. As routes are screened through the criteria tables, data element codes are assigned based on staff evaluation. The last digit of the element code also represents a scoring feature based on the degree of mitigation required, with totals greater than nine for all criteria deemed least suitable for open designation. Individual designation records and evaluation forms may be viewed at the Hollister Field Office. The designation record and evaluation form will document final designation of routes and include necessary mitigation measures or restoration as needed.

2.2.3 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

Many of the management actions considered in this PRMP/FEIS are common to all alternatives. Resource management actions are considered common to all alternatives if they meet resource management goals and objectives and they do not conflict with other allowable uses, and resource allocations or protection measures, including mitigation measures for public health and safety. A summary of these actions is provided below. Additional management actions or mitigation measures that would be necessary to manage multiple-uses or protect resources under the range of alternatives are described in Sections 2.4.1 through 2.4.18.

Recreation

- Manage CCMA as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) to provide specific, structured recreation opportunities (i.e., activity, experience, and benefit opportunities).

Public Health and Safety

- Use a combination of best management practices (BMPs) and administrative actions (i.e. supplementary rules) to minimize human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers and reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from BLM land use authorizations and management activities.

- Augment the existing public asbestos hazard information program through improved signing, hand-outs, advisories, monitoring, public contact, and education programs. Any new information on risks to human health will be incorporated into the educational materials.

Water, Resources

- Close roads and trails to public use during periods of extreme wet weather in areas where sustained public use may compromise the integrity of the road or trail surface.
- Manage CWA 303(d)-listed impaired water bodies to meet properly functioning condition (PFC) objectives relative to beneficial uses and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).
- Maintain stable watershed conditions and implement passive and active restoration projects to protect beneficial uses of water and meet TMDLs.

Natural and Heritage Resources

- Manage the Serpentine ACEC and San Benito Mountain RNA to protect significant resource values.
- Protect and monitor all known populations of Camissonia benitensis (CABE).
- Monitor cultural resources - especially those "at-risk" - including archeological sites, historic structures or landscapes, and Native American traditional use areas or sacred sites. Offset on-going or identified potential impacts to cultural resources through protective measures, data retrieval, or a combination of these methods.

Land Use Authorizations

- Maintain rights-of-ways for existing communication sites. Restrict new land use authorizations to existing communication sites on BLM-administered lands in the ACEC.
- Authorize rights-of-way to provide reasonable access for private landowners and existing rights-holders.

2.3 Summary of Proposed RMP (Preferred Alternative)

This chapter also describes the BLM's Proposed Resource Management Plan (i.e. "Proposed Action") in Section 2.5. The Proposed RMP (i.e. Proposed Action) described in Section 2.5 is the BLM's Preferred Alternative. The Proposed Action primarily reflects the "Preferred Alternative" analyzed in the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS (2009), and incorporates aspects of the other management alternatives based on public review and comments on the range of alternatives. These alternatives were developed with public involvement and their associated environmental consequences were described in the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS (2009). In determining the appropriate land use for CCMA, BLM considered the planning criteria identified in Section 1.4 with an emphasis on managing risk to employees and the public. The Proposed Action would limit use that 1) creates high levels of asbestos emissions, 2) creates increased opportunity for human exposure to asbestos, and 3) creates a need to conduct intensive management in areas with high concentrations of asbestos.

BLM finds that the Proposed Action, as described in this chapter, best meets the purpose and need for this project. The Proposed Action details allowable uses, resources protection measures, and management tools that the HFO would implement in order to protect human health and safety, natural and cultural resources, and the CCMA's unique recreation opportunities, which were overwhelmingly identified as a priority in the public scoping process. The proposed management approach to recreation and travel

management in CCMA would allow limited opportunities for visitor use within the Serpentine ACEC. It proposes to provide alternate routes for access to public lands surrounding the ACEC that would not require the public to drive through the ACEC and would create additional recreation opportunities in the surrounding management zones. Limits on annual visitor use days would allow the public to experience the scenic, biological, cultural and geologic features of the Serpentine ACEC within EPA's acceptable risk range for exposure to asbestos, and with less BLM infrastructure and support needs. The Proposed Action would also provide for improving habitat for endangered species, improved riparian habitat, and an opportunity to reduce soil loss and erosion in areas that are contributing to water quality issues in Clear Creek and the San Benito River.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Proposed Action meets the purpose and need, as identified in Chapter 1; is viable and reasonable; and provides a mix of resource protection, management use, and development that is responsive to issues identified in scoping and meets the established planning criteria (also identified in Chapter 1), federal laws and regulations, and BLM's land use planning policies.

2.3.1 Major Changes to the BLM's "Preferred Alternative"

- Adaptive Management Criteria have been inserted under the Transportation and Travel Management resource condition objectives to allow for adjustments to land use in light of new information regarding asbestos exposures. Through adaptive management BLM is committed to evaluating all new and credible information on strategies for continued public use in the area.
- Approximately 21 additional miles of vehicle routes in the Serpentine ACEC have been added to the area designations for limited vehicle use under the Proposed Action that include major routes R1, R10, R13, R14, R15, and other minor routes including T103, T104, T151, T153, and T158. Similarly, an additional 2.75 miles of existing routes are proposed to be designated open in the Condon Zone and an additional 2.75 miles of existing routes are proposed to be designated open near Wright Mountain in the Cantua Zone.
- The public lands that BLM proposed to make available for disposal in the Tucker management zone were identified as valuable wildlife habitat and an important component of a successful partnership that's being developed between private landowners and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in the Hernandez Valley. Due to the issues and concerns associated with disposal of these lands, they would be retained in public ownership under the Proposed Action and BLM would pursue partnerships with local private landowners, non-profit organizations, and CDFG to develop public easements to BLM public lands in the Tucker management zone.

2.3.2 Summary of Proposed RMP (i.e. Proposed Action)

BLM has identified a combination of management actions, resource allocations, and allowable uses from among the range of alternatives analyzed in the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS (2009) as the Proposed Action for lands administered by the HFO in the CCMA. Resource management goals, objectives, and actions were developed to address the issues and concerns identified in the purpose and need for the CCMA RMP/EIS, including mitigation measures for public health and safety. A summary of these actions is provided below.

Recreation

Land Use Plan Decision*:* Prohibit camping and staging for recreation in the Serpentine ACEC, except at Jade Mill Campground. Allow camping and staging for recreation on public lands outside the ACEC.

Implementation Decision: Authorize motorized access in the Serpentine ACEC by permits only, and limit visitor use to 5 days/year for motorized activities. Limit use for non-motorized activities to 12 days/year.

Implementation Decision*:* Limit visitor use in the Serpentine ACEC to one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset (i.e. day use only), except at Jade Mill Campground.

Implementation Decision: Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. trails, designated camp sites, staging areas) to support non-motorized recreation opportunities at destinations with unique biological, natural and geologic features within CCMA.

Land Use Plan Decision*:* Manage the Tucker and Cantua Zones with an emphasis on enhancing hunting opportunity and providing access for other non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Implementation Decision: Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. trails, designated camp sites, staging areas) to support non-motorized recreation opportunities in the Cantua Zone.

Implementation Decision: Acquire public access to BLM lands in the Tucker and Cantua Zones.

Hazardous Materials and Public Safety

Land Use Plan Decision*:* Restrict the type of activity and the number visits for that activity as the primary means to control risk to public from asbestos exposure.

Implementation Decision: Identify mining-related and other public land hazards and eliminate or mitigate as soon as possible.

Implementation Decision: Use best available technologies (BATs) identified in Appendix V for dust abatement on roads and during project implementation.

Implementation Decision: Issue supplementary rules to minimize exposure to hazardous materials and airborne asbestos fibers, considering technical and budgetary constraints and overall effectiveness of the human health and safety mitigation measures

Implementation Decision: Augment the existing public asbestos hazard information program through improved signing, hand-outs, advisories, monitoring, public contact, and education programs. Any new information on risks to human health will be incorporated into the educational materials.

Transportation and Travel Management

Land Use Plan Decision*:* Designate the Serpentine ACEC as a “Limited” vehicle use area.

Implementation Decision: Vehicle use in the Serpentine ACEC would be limited to highway-licensed vehicles for day use only with a permit.

Implementation Decision: Designate the following routes ‘open’ for vehicle use in the Serpentine ACEC: R1, R10, R11, R13, R14, R15, T103, T104, T151, T153. The designated routes identified above would be developed and maintained to BLM standards.

Implementation Decision: All other routes and areas in the Serpentine ACEC would be designated closed including barrens.

Implementation Decision: Develop and maintain transportation facilities (i.e. pull-outs and parking areas) in the ACEC on portions of the vehicle touring route with high scenic values, and other destinations with unique biological, natural and geologic features within CCMA.

Land Use Plan Decision*:* Designate the Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito River Zones as "Limited" vehicle use areas and prepare Travel Management Plans to designate routes of travel. Vehicle use in the Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito River Zones would be limited to highway licensed vehicles and ATV/UTV use only on designated routes (including potential routes and route construction proposals) identified on the Proposed Action Map in Appendix I.

Land Use Plan Decision*:* Develop and maintain approximately 30 miles of routes and trails in the Condon, Tucker, and Cantua Zones for non-motorized recreation following inventory, soil loss assessment, and resources screening using route the designation methodology described in Appendix II and 43 CFR 8342.1 minimization criteria.

Biological Resources

Land Use Decision: Manage listed, proposed, or candidate threatened or endangered species to comply with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Land Use Decision: Manage special status animal and plant species and BLM-recognized significant plant communities consistent with BLM policy on Special Status Species Management (BLM Manual 6840).

Land Use Decision: Utilize management activities that mimic natural disturbance regimes (e.g., fire) to manage and maintain the composition of vegetation communities.

Land Use Decision: Provide a mosaic of vegetation communities to protect soil, watershed, and wildlife; maintain sustained yield of vegetation for consumptive and non-consumptive uses.

Air Quality

Implementation Decision: Incorporate mitigation measures in Appendix V for activities and projects on BLM lands in order to reduce airborne asbestos emissions and comply with applicable Federal, State, and local air quality regulations.

Soils

Implementation Decision: Implement BMPs to manage soil on BLM lands such that the functional biological and physical characteristics are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form.

Water Resources

Implementation Decision: Manage CWA 303(d)-listed impaired water bodies to meet properly functioning condition (PFC) objectives relative to beneficial uses and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).

Implementation Decision: Maintain stable watershed conditions and implement passive and active restoration projects to protect beneficial uses of water and meet TMDLs.

Special Designations

Land Use Decision: Manage the Serpentine ACEC for public health and safety, special status species, and cultural, historic, and scenic values.

Livestock Grazing

Implementation Decision: Make public acres and animal unit months (AUMs) available for a sustainable level of livestock grazing consistent with other resource objectives.

Energy and Minerals

Land Use Decision: Allow no mineral leasing or sales on public lands in the Serpentine ACEC. Recommend withdrawal of the entire 30,000-acre ACEC from locatable mineral entry.

Cultural and Heritage Resources

Land Use Decision: Recognize the potential public and scientific uses of cultural resources on the public lands, and manage the lands and cultural resources so that these uses and values are not diminished but rather are maintained and enhanced.

Land Use Decision: Monitor cultural resources - especially those "at-risk" - including archeological sites, historic structures or landscapes, and Native American traditional use areas or sacred sites. Offset on-going or identified potential impacts to cultural resources through protective measures, data retrieval, or a combination of these methods.

Paleontological Resources

Land Use Decision: Locate, evaluate, manage, and protect, where appropriate, paleontological resources on the public lands.

Social and Economic Conditions

Land Use Decision: Work cooperatively with local populations to provide for customary uses consistent with other resource objectives and to sustain or improve local economies.

Visual Resources

Land Use Decision: Protect, maintain, improve, or restore visual resource values by managing all public lands in accordance with the VRM system.

Fire Management

Land Use Decision: Use fire to restore and/or sustain ecosystem health.

Lands and Realty

Land Use Decision: Retain, consolidate, and/or acquire land or interest in land with high public resource values for access, effective administration, and improvement of resource management.

Land Use Decision: Authorize rights-of-way to provide reasonable access for private landowners and existing rights-holders.

2.3.3 Proposed RMP Area and Route Designation

Under the "proposed action", BLM would improve public health and safety, within the Serpentine ACEC, by reducing the miles of designated routes available for motorized use, and by limiting annual visitor use days. The "proposed action" would prohibit all cross country travel (former barrens), and also limit motorized access in the ACEC to highway-licensed vehicles and emphasize non-motorized recreation opportunities on BLM-administered lands in CCMA.

The BLM designates areas as "limited" where it must restrict OHV use to meet specific resource management objectives. In "designating public lands as Open, Limited, or Closed to the use of off-road vehicles," the objective is "to protect the resources of the public lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those public lands." Designation as a "Limited area' means an area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use." "These restrictions may be of any type," including "types of vehicles;" "permitted or licensed use only;" "use on designated roads;" or other restrictions.

- Outside the Serpentine ACEC, the Limited Use area designation shall be defined as restricting motorized use to designated routes, utilizing the designation methodology described in Appendix II, to satisfy minimization criteria outlined in 43 CFR 8342.1

Routes designated open under the "proposed action," satisfy the resource based route designation criteria described in Appendix II. Routes designated as closed under the Limited Area designation in the Proposed RMP, do not contribute to achieving the Proposed RMP's resource condition objectives, or fulfill the identified Planning Criteria to protect the resources and ensure overall protection of human health.

2.3.3.1 Limited Area Designation (ACEC)

- Within the Serpentine ACEC, the Limited Use area designation shall be defined as restricting motorized use to a concise network (30 – 40 miles) of designated routes providing access to key points within the area as a scenic touring route.

The selection of routes within the ACEC for the "proposed action" was based on the Limited Use area designation for the ACEC, restricting use to a scenic touring route to promote safety (public health) and minimize conflicts among the various uses of the management area. Specific criteria were identified that contributed in selecting the scenic touring route, to ensure overall protection of human health and the environment from hazardous airborne asbestos emissions. The selected route network will provide access to areas of interest, including Clear Creek Canyon, the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area, Wright Mountain/Joaquin Rocks, Goat Mountain, and the upper San Benito River. The selected routes provide the only practical access to the aforementioned areas, while providing transportation manageability, route continuity, and avoid redundancy and route proliferation. It is acknowledged that

some segments of the touring network could be substituted with alternate routes, however it was determined that the selected scenic touring route best provides access to areas of interest with a broad range of recreation opportunities, accommodating a range of highway-licensed vehicles. Segments of the touring route network were primarily selected from the "R" routes which have a higher maintenance objective, are generally wider with less gradient, and best suited to a range of vehicle types. In certain areas routes were selected from the "T" routes to improve connectivity and minimize impacts to sensitive resources. All routes comprising the scenic touring route were selected from routes previously designated as open in the 2006 CCMA RMP amendment. Criteria used to identify an inventory of routes suitable for the scenic touring route, under the Limited Use area designation, and the screening process is explained below.

- The Limited area restrictions will also include type of vehicle (highway licensed), and access by permit only (limiting annual visitor use days within the Serpentine ACEC.)

These restrictions are based on evaluation of a reasonable range of alternatives and the associated impacts as described in the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS; whereas BLM has selected a combination of management actions and objectives from among the range of alternatives for the Proposed RMP, with an emphasis on public health and safety measures to minimize asbestos exposure, reduce airborne asbestos emissions, and reduce human health risks associated with exposure to asbestos in CCMA. It is acknowledged that the Serpentine ACEC portion of the CCMA will no longer be considered an "OHV Recreation Area."

2.3.3.2 Limited Area Designation Criteria

The limited vehicle use area designation is necessary to administer public access to destinations in the Serpentine ACEC that provide numerous non-motorized recreation opportunities, while minimizing impacts to public health from exposure to airborne asbestos. By establishing limits on vehicle types, speed, and the miles of designated routes in the CCMA route network, the designated routes would provide motorized access to areas that support a wide range of non-motorized recreation opportunities and experiences. Route designations would be designed to minimize user impacts to the environment and public health; foster outreach and education to increase public awareness of health issues related to exposure to airborne asbestos and sensitivity to resources; and allow for adaptive management of travel across the CCMA public lands.

In order to designate an appropriate "scenic touring" route network in the Serpentine ACEC, the following criteria were used to screen existing designated open routes in light of the limited vehicle use area designation to protect public health and the environment:

- Transportation Manageability – routes suited to a range of highway-licensed vehicles that have adequate width/clearance, route maintenance objectives, gradient, and suitability for all season use. These routes also must provide continuity, and avoid redundancy and route proliferation.

- Recreation Opportunity – routes that provide access to key areas of interest that have historically provided a broad range of non-motorized recreation opportunities, including Clear Creek Canyon, the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area, Wright Mountain/Joaquin Rocks, and the upper San Benito River.

The BLM's Record of Decision (ROD) for the CCMA RMP Amendment for Route Designation (2006) identifies the Route Maintenance Objectives (RMO's) below, which were used as the first screening

criteria for the level of road best suited to provide motorized access under the range of alternatives considered in this PRMP/FEIS.

1. Improved/Maintained Roads [Width > or = to 14 ft., Vertical Clearance > or = to 14 ft.]

   Discussion: FIMMS level 4 road- this level is assigned to roads where management objectives require the road to be open all year (except may be closed or have limited access due to snow conditions) and to connect major administrative features (recreation sites, local road systems, administrative sites, etc.) to County, State, or Federal roads. Typically, these roads are single or double lane, aggregate, or bituminous surface, with higher volume of commercial and recreational traffic than administrative traffic.

   The entire roadway is maintained at least annually, although a preventive maintenance program may be established. Problems are repaired as discovered. These routes will be maintained for access year-round for all vehicles. Route designation will be open to all vehicles unless designated for administrative use only. - General access to the CCMA

2. 4WD Recommended [Width > or = to 10 ft. Vertical Clearance > or = to 14 ft.]

   Discussion: FIMMS level 3 road- this level is assigned to roads where management objectives require the road to be opened seasonally or year-round for commercial, recreation, or high volume administrative access. Typically, these roads are natural or aggregate surfaced, but may include low use bituminous surfaced roads. These roads have defined crossings section with drainage structures (e.g., rolling dips, culverts, or ditches). User comfort and convenience are not considered a high priority.

   Drainage structures are to be inspected at least annually and maintained as needed. Grading is conducted to provide a reasonable level of riding comfort at prudent speeds for the road conditions. Brushing is conducted as needed to improve sight distance. Slides adversely affecting drainage will receive high priority for removal; otherwise they will be removed on a scheduled basis. Route designation will be open to all vehicles unless designated for administrative use only. - Primary use trail/admin trail

Route selection was based on designated open routes from the 2006 RMP Amendment with "Improved/Maintained Roads" and "4WD Recommended" route maintenance objectives. These routes were then screened for "Transportation Manageability" and "Recreation Opportunity" based on the resource condition objectives identified for the ACEC. Finally, these routes were screened through the route designation criteria in Appendix II to minimize and avoid other resources conflicts.

BLM used the best available data for decisions on process and evaluation of resource conditions and impacts, implementation of monitoring, enforcement, route restoration and route maintenance. Assessments of route condition and soil loss support decisions used in route designations. Information gathered in the future may lead to a re-evaluation of, and possible change in, route and area designation.
An additional subset of routes would be available for "administrative use" by permittees, licensees, rights-of-way holders, and the Federal government and authorized representatives. These routes would not be available for casual recreation use. These routes differ from closed routes, in that they would be regularly maintained and would not be considered for restoration. A majority of closed routes would be identified and prioritized for restoration over a period of years. Restoration refers to reclaiming of closed routes to

revert to a natural state over time and disappear into the landscape. Route restoration would be evaluated through a separate environmental analysis.

2.3.4 Conformance with Regulations

The proposed action is in conformance with the Executive Order 11644 (*Use of Off-Road Vehicles on the Public Lands)*, February 9, 1972 (87 F.R. 2877), Executive Order 11989 (*Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands)*, May 24, 1977 (42 F.R. 26959), and 43 CFR 8342.1 based on the following rationale.

The "Limited" vehicle use area designation would allow for a sustainable transportation network within the ACEC. This takes into account human health and safety and the implementation of mitigation measures (REC-USE-E1. REC-USE-E2. HAZ-BG3. HAZ-BG4. TRANS-E1.) that would effectively reduce the risk to human health based on the type of activity and the duration of exposure to airborne asbestos emissions evaluated in the CCMA Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment (2008).

BLM acknowledges that controversy exists regarding the health risks of naturally occurring asbestos. Therefore, BLM will consider any significant new information related to plan decisions adopted in the CCMA RMP to determine whether adaptive management may be warranted throughout the life of this Plan. For example, Section 2.5.3 (Travel and Transportation Management) identifies "adaptive management criteria" that would allow the BLM to make changes to designated route systems and addresses how routes may be modified within the transportation network in the future. If one of these criteria are met, then BLM would reassess CCMA RMP land use plan decisions associated with human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers, and potentially apply adaptive management should significant new information become available that may warrant modifications in the limits on days of recreation access and the limits on trails available for motorized use in the ACEC.

2.4 Description of the Alternatives

The description of alternatives is organized by resource program (e.g., air quality, soil resources, water resources, etc.). The goals and objectives of each resource program are specified, and specific management actions for each alternative are then presented. Management actions specified for each resource program include area-wide actions and actions specific to five management zones identified on Maps A-G, if applicable.

An alphanumeric system is used to identify management actions and to assist the reader in comparing alternatives and identifying the management actions that are common among the range of alternatives. Where possible, management actions that are common among the range of alternatives are combined under a resource program, provided that they meet resource management goals and objectives, and they do not conflict with other resource management goals and objectives. The effects of the proposed management actions are analyzed in Chapter 4, "Environmental Consequences."

Detailed descriptions of the range of alternatives and the associated management goals, objectives, and allowable uses, management actions, and mitigation measures for BLM's resources programs are provided in Section 2.4.1 through 2.4.18, below.

Table 2.4 (below) provides a summary comparison of the goals, objectives, management actions, and allowable uses outlined under the range of alternative that are analyzed in the CCMA PRMP/FEIS.

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Table 2.4 Comparison of Range of Alternatives

PROGRAM AREA	CCMA PRMP/FEIS Range of Alternatives						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
RECREATION	Provide a variety of experiences and settings for a diversity of users , and provide a range of recreational use opportunities while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources.						
ALLOWABLE USES	OHV Recreation				Vehicle Touring	Foot Traffic Only	ACEC Closure
	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-Motorized, Shooting				Non-Motorized, Mechanized, Non-Motorized, Shooting		
Management Zones	**Serpentine ACEC**			**Cantua** **Condon** **Tucker**	**Serpentine ACEC**		**Cantua** **Condon** **Tucker**
Visitor Services	Maintain existing facilities in CCMA.	Restrict development of new facilities inside the ACEC and locate new facilities outside the ACEC.					Develop & maintain facilities outside the ACEC.
Interpretation/Education	Improve visitor awareness of human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers in CCMA through outreach and education on kiosks, maps, and brochures.						
TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL MGT.	Improve designated route network (and recreation facilities) through surface hardening and other dust suppression techniques, including but not limited to paving or capping roads, or application of dust stabilizers in the soil to protect human health and the environment.						
Vehicle Use Area Designations	Serpentine ACEC = "Limited" Condon, Cantua, Tucker, and San Benito River = "Limited"				Serpentine ACEC = 460-acres "Limited"; Remainder = "Closed" San Benito River, Condon, Cantua, & Tucker = "Limited"	Serpentine ACEC = "Closed" Condon Zone = "Limited" Cantua, Tucker, and San Benito River = "Closed"	
Miles of Routes (Open/Closed)	248.5/0	248.5/0	171.5/77	(≤ 112.5 pending TMP) /199	(≤ 65.5 pending TMP) /216	24.5/227	
Vehicle Type(s): On Major Routes	ALL OHVs				Highway-Licensed Only	Highway-Licensed & ATV/UTVs Only	
Vehicle Type(s): On Network of Trails	ALL OHVs		Motorcycles Only	ALL OHVs	Highway-Licensed & ATV/UTVs Only	Highway-Licensed & ATV/UTVs Only	
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY (Management actions only apply to ACEC)	Use a combination of best management practices (BMPs) and administrative actions (i.e. supplemental rules) to minimize human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers and reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from BLM land use authorizations and management activities.						
Season of Use	Oct. 15-June 1	Dec. 1 - April 15		Jan. 1 - Dec. 31		Oct. 15 - June 1	ACEC closed year-round.
Permit Access to Restrict Visitor Use Days/Year		√			√	√	
Age Limit ≥ 18 yrs. old			√				
Install Public Wash Rack	√	√	√	√			
LANDS & REALTY	Maintain existing rights-of-ways for private landowners, communication sites, and mining claims; and restrict new land use authorizations to existing facilities on BLM-administered lands in the ACEC.						
Land Tenure Adjustments	Acquire lands in the ACEC and Tucker Zone	3.300 acres available for disposal in Tucker, Condon, and SBR Zones		Acquire lands from willing sellers in CCMA.		Make lands identified in Alternatives B and C available for disposal. Ref. Maps F & G in Appendix I	
Land Use Authorizations	Limited to Private Land Owners, Existing Rights-of-Ways & Utility Corridors in the Serpentine ACEC. Considered on a case by case basis in other zones.						Issue Health & Safety Stips. for ROWs

Table 2.4 Comparison of Range of Alternatives (cont.)

PROGRAM AREA	CCMA PRMP/FEIS Range of Alternatives						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
ENERGY & MINERALS	Serpentine ACEC (30,000 acres), includes San Benito Mt. WSA: (1,500 acres): Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito River Zones: (33,000 acres total): Split Estate (3,500 acres)						
Available/Unavailable:	61,400/5,100	65,000/1,500			36,500/30,000		0/66,500
Renewable Energy Exclusions Areas	WSA	WSA			Serpentine ACEC		Entire CCMA
LIVESTOCK GRAZING	Authorize on existing allotments in CCMA.					Exclude grazing inside ACEC.	Exclude grazing in CCMA.
Total acres:					22,140	20,157	0
Total AUMs:					1,354	1,271	0
SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	Protect values for which special designations are established.						
Wilderness & Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)	Manage the 1,500 acre San Benito Mountain WSA pursuant to BLM's Interim Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review						
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) & Research Natural Areas (RNAs)	Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC = 30,000-acres San Benito Mountain RNA = 4,147-acres						
Wild & Scenic Rivers	Recommend none of the rivers and streams in CCMA for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic River System.						
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	5,070 acres in the Cantua Zone would not be managed for protection of wilderness characteristics				Manage the 5,070 acres of lands inventoried for wilderness characteristics in the Cantua Zone to emphasize primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities. Design, construct, and maintain routes and trails in the area to enhance primitive recreation experience by minimizing route-related impacts to solitude, naturalness, and other special features.		Manage 5,070 acres in the Cantua Zone for protection of wilderness characteristics
VISUAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	Protect the quality of scenic values on public lands, and apply standards for VRM according to the established VRM classes. *Class IV unless noted.						
Serpentine ACEC	*	*	*	*	Class II	*	*
San Benito Mountain WSA/RNA	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I	Class I
Condon	Class III	Class III	Class III	Class IV	Class III	Class III	Class III
Cantua	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tucker	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
San Benito River	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Vegetation, Wildlife Habitat, & Special Status Species	Restore, maintain, or improve ecological conditions, natural diversity, and associated watersheds of high value, high-risk, native plant communities and unique plant assemblages.						
	Provide diverse, structured, dynamic, and connected habitat on a landscape level to support viable and sustainable populations of wildlife, fish, and other aquatic organisms.						
	Maintain populations of special status species; and actively contribute to recovery so as to promote downlisting and delisting of special status species.						
Camissonia benitensis	Implement Compliance Monitoring Plan for CABE in the 2006 Record of Decision for the CCMA Route Designation.				Adopt the BLM's Compliance Monitoring Plan for existing *Camissonia benitensis* habitat and populations outlined in Appendix III of this CCMA RMP/EIS.		
Revegetation	Support partnership to continue barrens restoration and to establish small scale soil/plant study plots to investigate plant adaptability and nutritional requirements for rehabilitation purposes.						
Non-natives	Coordinate with California DFG and the USFWS to control non-native species. Prioritize noxious weed eradication based on the BLM and California State lists.						
CULTURAL & HERITAGE RESOURCES	The goals for cultural and heritage resources are to preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations, and seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts on cultural resources, from natural or human-caused deterioration, or from other resource uses.						
Resources Protection	Protect "at-risk" archeological or other cultural resources; utilize a variety of heritage education programs that promote the public stewardship of cultural resources.						
Management Emphasis	Increased Monitoring		Increased	Increased Interpretation			

2.4.1 Recreation

2.4.1.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for recreation management are to (1) provide a variety of experiences and settings for a diversity of users and to meet potential changes in demand while minimizing conflicts with adjacent property owners and among user groups; (2) provide a range of recreational use opportunities while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources from human intrusion; (3) promote sharing of ideas, resources, and expertise to increase the public's appreciation and understanding of natural and cultural resources on BLM public lands; and (4) disseminate information that will foster responsible behavior in order to achieve the highest possible environmental quality on BLM public lands.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Maintain a range of facilities to support recreational uses.
- Design maps and brochures and educational opportunities to improve visitors' appreciation and understanding of natural and cultural resources on BLM public lands.
- Create experiences and settings appropriate for the desired outcome within developed and undeveloped recreation areas.
- Establish and manage intensive-use areas, where the presence of high quality natural resources and the current or potential demand warrants intensive management practices to protect areas for their scientific, educational, and/or recreational values while accommodating anticipated increases in recreational activities in specific areas.
- Manage recreational facilities to protect natural resources and to meet user needs.
- Manage commercial, competitive, educational, and organized group recreational activities.

2.4.1.2 Allowable Uses for No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

REC-USE-A1. Boundary posting and visitor use patrols will be initiated in recreation areas concurrent with access development or enhancement. BLM will cooperate with adjacent private landowners to the extent possible.

REC-USE-A2. Enhance access to public lands for hunting and OHV opportunities in the area north of Clear Creek. Consolidate public lands and manage in conjunction with the Clear Creek SRMA.

REC-USE-A3. Develop recreation activity plans for accessible lands.

REC-USE-A4. Prohibit camping within the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area.

REC-USE-A5. Clear Creek Canyon is designated as a "no shooting" area.

REC-USE-A6. Enforce Dry Season Use Restrictions from June 1st through October 15th, annually.

REC-USE-A7. Manage CCMA public lands as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

Table 2.4-1 Overview of Allowable Use under each Alternative

Mgt. Zones	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F	Alt. G
Serpentine ACEC	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized Non-motorized	Non-motorized	No Public Entry
Condon	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized, Non-motorized	Motorized Non-motorized Shooting	Motorized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized Non-motorized, Shooting
Cantua	Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Mechanized Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized Mechanized, Non-motorized,	Motorized Non-motorized Shooting	Non-motorized, Shooting	Non-motorized, Shooting
Tucker	Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized, Non-motorized,	Non-motorized Shooting	Non-motorized Shooting	Non-motorized Shooting
San Benito River	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Mechanized, Non-motorized, Shooting	Non-motorized	Non-motorized	Non-motorized

2.4.1.3 Management Actions under Alternative B

REC-USE-B1. Prohibit camping and staging for recreation in the Serpentine ACEC, except at Jade Mill Campground. Allow camping and staging for recreation on public lands outside the ACEC.

REC-USE-B2. Limit visitor use in the Serpentine ACEC to one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset (i.e. day use only), except at Jade Mill Campground.

REC-USE-B3. Enforce Dry Season Use Restrictions from April 15th through December 1st, annually.

REC-USE-B4. Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. trails, designated camp sites, staging areas) to support non-motorized recreation opportunities at destinations with unique biological, natural and geologic features within CCMA.

REC-USE-B5. Authorize access by Special Recreation Permits (SRP) only, and limit visitor use in the Serpentine ACEC to less than 5 days/year for motorized activities and less than 12 days/year for non-motorized activities.

REC-USE-B6. Prohibit special recreation permits for organized events in the Serpentine ACEC.

2.4.1.4 Management Actions under Alternative C

REC-USE-C1. Improve major routes and single track trails to support motorcycle recreation opportunities in the Serpentine ACEC.

REC-USE-C2. Prohibit OHV recreation in the Serpentine ACEC for visitors under age 18.

REC-USE-C3. Prohibit special recreation permits for organized events in the Serpentine ACEC.

REC-USE-C4. Enforce Dry Season Use Restrictions from April 15th through December 1st, annually.

2.4.1.5 Management Actions under Alternative D

REC-USE-D1. Prohibit access in the Serpentine ACEC for visitors under age 18.

REC-USE-D2. Develop OHV recreation opportunities on public lands in the Condon, Tucker, and Cantua Zones.

REC-USE-D3. Prohibit special recreation permits for organized events in the Serpentine ACEC.

REC-USE-D4. Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. trails, designated camp sites, staging areas) to support motorized recreation opportunities at outstanding locations in the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua Zones.

2.4.1.6 Management Actions under Alternative E

REC-USE-E1. Provide access on the Scenic Route along T153 and Spanish Lake Road (R11) in the Serpentine ACEC for day use by full-size vehicles only.

REC-USE-E2. Authorize access by Special Recreation Permits (SRP) only, and limit visitor use in the Serpentine ACEC to less than 5 days/year for motorized activities and less than 12 days/year for non-motorized activities.

REC-USE-E3. Manage the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua Zones with an emphasis on enhancing hunting and other non-motorized recreation opportunities.

REC-USE-E4. Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. trails, designated camp sites, staging areas) to support non-motorized recreation opportunities in the Cantua Zone.

2.4.1.7 Management Actions under Alternative F

REC-USE-F1. Restrict public access in the Serpentine ACEC to foot traffic and other uses consistent with resource management goals and objectives.

REC-USE-F4. Maintain the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua management zones with an emphasis on enhancing hunting and other non-motorized recreational opportunities.

REC-USE-F5. Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. trails, designated camp sites, staging areas) to support non-motorized recreation opportunities at outstanding locations in CCMA.

REC-USE-F6. Enforce Dry Season Use Restrictions from June 1st through October 15th, annually.

2.4.1.8 Management Actions under Alternative G

REC-USE-G1. Designate the Serpentine ACEC "Closed" to all forms of public entry on 30,000-acres of serpentine soils high in asbestos fibers.

REC-USE-G2. Authorize motorized access into the Serpentine ACEC for scientific research and education by organizations that may benefit knowledge and understanding of resources in CCMA. Access authorizations would stipulate health and safety requirements, as appropriate.

REC-USE-G3. Provide primitive non-motorized use in the Tucker and Cantua Zones.

REC-USE-G4. Maintain the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua Zones with an emphasis on enhancing hunting and other non-motorized recreational opportunities.

REC-USE-G5. Acquire public access to BLM lands in the Cantua Zone.

REC-USE-G6. Identify potential sites for development of primitive camping/staging areas and new trails leading to points of interest in CCMA.

2.4.1.9 Visitor Services for No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

REC-VIS-A1. Improve public access by vehicle to Condon Peak (primarily for hunting).

REC-VIS-A2. Initiate boundary posting and visitor use patrols in CCMA concurrent with access development or enhancement.

REC-VIS-A3. Provide an interpretive and regulatory panel at each camping/staging area with a map and locator for each site. Contributing agencies and supporting user groups will be identified on this panel as well.

REC-VIS-A4. Provide directional signs identifying mileage at all major road junctions. Make signs as vandal proof/resistant as possible (e.g., metal).

REC-VIS-A5. Install signs identifying the CCMA as a Limited Use Area with all vehicle travel restricted to designated open routes. Clearly mark and identify the designated route network. Post public/private land boundaries where trespass is a problem.

REC-VIS-A6. Develop vehicular (four-wheel drive) access from North Hill into the San Carlos Bolsa area. Install gates to control seasonal access and trespass onto private land.

REC-VIS-A7. Make minor modifications to existing vehicle use designations as a result of land tenure adjustments and to protect significant riparian and special status species habitat.

REC-VIS-A8. Develop Cooperative Management Agreements with user groups to develop trail systems (adopt-a-trail), other project work, and volunteer patrols to the extent possible.

REC-VIS-A9. Increase Law Enforcement patrols and use of Law Enforcement response teams to monitor and enforce compliance with designations.

REC-VIS-A10. Continue providing interpretive map/pamphlet (Clear Creek Management Area map).

REC-VIS-A11. Continue fee program pursuant to Federal Register Notice published on June 27, 2007 to supplement existing funding.

2.4.1.10 Visitor Services Common to Alternative B and C

REC-VIS-BC1. Establish boundary posting and visitor use patrols in recreation areas concurrent with access development or enhancement. To ensure public safety, increase the number of boundary signs at all sites that offer hunting and target shooting near private in-holdings.

REC-VIS-BC2. Provide an interpretive and regulatory panel at each camping/staging area with a map and locator for each site.

REC-VIS-BC3. Collect visitor use fees on BLM public lands consistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (2005).

REC-VIS-BC4. Emphasize non-motorized recreation to increase protection of natural and cultural values.

REC-VIS-BC5. Allow development of facilities to protect public safety and allow for interpretation of natural and cultural values.

REC-VIS-BC6. Close recreation sites where resources are being degraded to facilitate repair and/or rehabilitation.

REC-VIS-BC7. Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to recreation facilities outlined in Appendix V.

2.4.1.11 Visitor Services under Alternative D

REC-VIS-D1. Implement CCMA Visitor Use Fee Program to support implementation of human health risk mitigation measures and maintain recreation opportunities.

REC-VIS-D2. Develop new campgrounds, staging areas and OHV opportunities on public lands within the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua zones.

2.4.1.12 Visitor Services Common to Alternative E and F

REC-VIS-EF1. Improve access for motorized vehicles to Condon Peak.

REC-VIS-EF2. Provide a limited number of recreation facilities in the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua zones to meet increased recreation demand while protecting natural and cultural values and providing for public safety.

REC-VIS-EF3. Maintain existing visitor use facilities outside the Serpentine ACEC, and mitigate human health risk from asbestos emissions from facilities inside the Serpentine ACEC through dust suppression or surface hardening techniques.

2.4.1.13 Visitor Services under Alternative G

REC-VIS-G1. Authorize access into the ACEC for scientific studies, research, and education for accredited institutions and individuals on a case-by-case basis. Access authorizations would stipulate health and safety requirements, as appropriate.

REC-VIS-G2. Enhance visitor use facilities for non-motorized recreation in the Condon Zone.

2.4.1.14 Interpretation and Education for No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

REC-INT-A1. Create outdoor kiosk/display sites for various locations within the CCMA.

REC-INT-A2. Continue outreach and education program to create public and visitor awareness of human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers in CCMA.

REC-INT-A3. Intensify environmental education efforts with the goal of obtaining the maximum level of voluntary compliance with OHV designations.

REC-INT-A4. Provide an information kiosk near the main entrance (ref. map/app.). The kiosk would be located to encourage visitors to stop and view information provided. The kiosk would contain a map and information concerning: asbestos health hazards, OHV use designations, fire prevention, regulations, natural resources of the area, emergency assistance, and BLM Hollister Field Office phone number and address. Other agency/user groups' endorsement of management strategies (also indicating that facilities have been provided using Green Sticker funds) will be incorporated into signing.

REC-INT-A5. Produce and distribute a new user map to allow recreation users to understand the appropriate type of use and clearly identify where OHV use is permitted.

REC-INT-A6. Develop a recreation user education and awareness program to inform the public of the concepts of designated use, encourage safe and environmentally responsible behavior, and an understanding of multiple-use management.

2.4.1.15 Interpretation and Education Common to Alternative B, C, D, E, F, and G

REC-INT-BG1. Provide recreation information such as maps, brochures, and educational opportunities to enhance visitors' experience on BLM public lands. Incorporate the best available information concerning: asbestos health hazards, OHV use designations, fire prevention, BLM regulations, and natural resources of the area into educational materials and on all maps, brochures, and kiosks.

REC-INT-BG2. Cooperate with adjacent private landowners on land management activities to the extent possible.

REC-INT-BG3. Cooperate with museums and education institutions to develop cultural resource education and interpretive programs for CCMA.

2.4.2 Hazardous Materials and Public Safety

2.4.2.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for hazardous materials and public safety are to (1) protect public health and safety and environmental resources by minimizing environmental contamination from past and present land uses (i.e., abandoned mine lands) on public lands and BLM-owned and operated facilities; (2) comply with Federal, State, and local hazardous materials management laws and regulations; (3) maintain the health of ecosystems through assessment, cleanup, and restoration of contaminated lands; (4) manage the costs, risks, and liabilities associated with hazardous materials so that the responsible parties and not the government bear the brunt of financial liabilities; (5) integrate environmental protection and compliance with all environmental statutes into BLM activities.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Identify and control imminent hazards or threats to human health and/or the environment from hazardous substances releases on public lands (including Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) sites).
- Reduce hazardous waste produced by BLM activities and from authorized uses of public lands through waste minimization programs that include recycling, reuse, substitution, and other innovative, safe, cost-effective methods of pollution prevention.
- Ensure that authorized activities on public lands comply with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, policies, guidance, and procedures.
- Promote working partnerships with states, counties, communities, other Federal agencies, and the private sector to prevent pollution and minimize hazardous waste on public lands.
- Protect visitors from safety hazards and/or environmental releases of chemicals of concern associated with abandoned mine lands (AMLs) and mining activity.

2.4.2.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

HAZ-A1. Install a public vehicle wash facility.

HAZ-A2. Monitor for illegal dumping of chemicals on federal lands.

HAZ-A3. Identify mining-related and other public land hazards and eliminate or mitigate as soon as possible.

HAZ-A4. Identify and resolve mining related trespasses with priority given to those cases where conflicts are occurring with visitor use and safety.

HAZ-A5. Apply dust-suppressant on major routes in CCMA. The initial application will be evaluated for continued use on an annual or semi-annual basis.

HAZ-A6. Comply with all provisions of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District's remote location exemption (for CCMA) from the ATCM regulation for control of airborne asbestos emissions relating to construction, road maintenance, and grading activities.

2.4.2.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B through G

HAZ-BG1. Restrict the type of activity and the number visits for that activity as the primary means to control risk to public from asbestos exposure.

HAZ-BG2. Use best available technologies (BATs) identified in Appendix V for dust abatement on roads and during project implementation.

HAZ-BG3. Reduce emissions at staging areas, other recreation facilities, and on major routes with dust suppression and surface hardening techniques as needed. The techniques include, but are not limited to, paving, base rock, chip seal, or applications of surfactants (i.e. biodegradable liquid copolymers) to stabilize and solidify soils or aggregates and control erosion.

HAZ-BG4. Issue supplementary rules to minimize exposure to hazardous materials and airborne asbestos fibers, considering technical and budgetary constraints and overall effectiveness of the human health and safety mitigation measures identified below.

- Require signed waivers of liability to indemnify BLM against risk of tort claims associated with CCMA visitor use and exposure to airborne asbestos fibers.
- Enforce speed limits (20 mph) on designated routes.

HAZ-BG5. Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) and mining activities outlined in Appendix V.

HAZ-BG6. Reduce the use of Federal funds for clean-up of contaminated lands by seeking cost avoidance and/or cost recovery from the legally responsible parties.

2.4.3 Travel and Transportation Management

2.4.3.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for transportation and access are to (1) continue to maintain roads for resource management purposes; (2) continue to support local counties and the State of California in providing a network of roads for movement of people, goods, and services across public lands; (3) manage motorized access use to protect resource values, promote public safety, provide responsible motorized access use opportunities where appropriate and minimize conflicts among various user groups.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Provide travel routes to and through BLM-managed lands as appropriate to meet resource objectives while providing for private and public access needs.
- Manage motorized access and mechanized vehicle use in conformance with OHV designations.

2.4.3.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

TRANS-A1. Designate the entire 75,000-acre CCMA as a “Limited” vehicle use area. Vehicle use in the Planning Area is limited to designated routes identified on Map A in Appendix I, and designated ‘open play areas’ (i.e. barrens) identified in the 2006 Record of Decision for the CCMA RMP Amendment and Route Designation.

TRANS-A2. All routes not designated 'open or limited', are designated as 'closed'. OHV use is authorized only on designated 'open or limited' routes which are signed for use.

TRANS-A3. Additional routes may be added to the designated route network until the total number of routes (including non-BLM administered) available for casual recreation use totals 270 miles; following inventory, soil loss assessment, and resources screening using designation criteria described in Appendix II.

TRANS-A4. Adopt the following route and barren designation methodology:

A. Routes

Designation decisions would be based on a variety of data, including previous studies, field inventory data, biological, environmental, cultural, and natural and recreation resources, land use, and land ownership.

Consider the level of impact of each route and barren; the number, density, and intensity of use of each route and area and its relationship to habitat fragmentation and cumulative effects; and ways to minimize the number and intensity of conflicting land uses.

Evaluate routes relative to designation criteria (see Appendix II) such as, resource sensitivity, soil loss, manageability, intended route use, and recreation opportunity. The route designation criteria are combined in four tiers roughly corresponding to the criteria's likelihood of requiring route closure, described in Appendix II.

Establish a Data Element Dictionary for each of the resource screening criteria, representing the data on which decisions about authorized vehicle use of routes and barren areas is based. The data element dictionary describes the responses for each criterion. As routes and barrens are screened through the criteria tables, data element codes are assigned based on staff evaluation. The last digit of the element code also represents a scoring feature, with totals greater than nine for all criteria deemed least suitable for open designation. Designation of routes and barrens would include mitigation measures or restoration as needed.

B. Barrens

These designation criteria address a variety of management issues and concerns, including compliance with statutory guidelines, resource sensitivity, soil loss, manageability, and recreation opportunity. From this evaluation of criteria a designation on use classification, open, limited, or closed, is made. The Geomorphic Field Evaluation of Serpentinite Soil Barrens, CCMA (Dynamac Corp., 1998), contains data considered in the designation process. Key information from this study used in this designation process include; stream orders present, hydrographic position, vegetation cover, vegetation boundary/buffer, amount of gullying, slope, armoring present, sediment trapping features, and contribution of sediment to sub-watersheds with high erosion rates. For the purposes of this document, the term "barrens" is generally applied "to openings in serpentine hillslopes larger than 10 acres which support almost no herbaceous or woody vegetation". Criteria adopted for barren designation are included in Appendix II.

TRANS-A5. Designated 'closed' routes will be selected and prioritized for restoration and reclamation.

TRANS-A6. Cooperate with private landowners to prevent public access to or across their lands. Negotiate reciprocal rights-of-way with private landowners, as appropriate, to maintain the integrity of the route network.

TRANS-A7. Modify the designated route network to resolve visitor use conflicts and promote safe public access through minor route realignments designed to:

- Avoid sensitive natural or cultural resources,
- Reduce impact on sensitive species and habitats,
- Substantially increase the quality of the recreational experience, but that will not affect sensitive species or habitat, or other sensitive resource values,
- Avoid mines and private lands.

"Minor realignment" is defined as a change of no more than ¼ linear mile of an individual designated route. This could include the opening of an existing previously closed route that serves the same access need as the route that is to be realigned. It could also involve re-routes of a segment of a route, to avoid the above mentioned resource conflicts. All new construction will undergo environmental review and NEPA compliance. All realignments and re-routes will be documented in the official record and kept on file at the BLM Field Office.

TRANS-A8. Enforce seasonal access closures and restrictions to limit vehicle use during periods of extreme wet and muddy conditions and during periods of extreme dusty conditions. Wet season closure criteria are outlined under SOILS-A3. Dry season use restrictions would be implemented from June 1st through October 15th annually.

TRANS-A9. Construct fences and barriers to preclude access to riparian areas and closed areas to prevent vehicle disturbance and off-site transport of sediments. Specifically fence along R002 to control OHV access into the Larious watershed, and fence along T113 to control access to closed barrens in a high erosion watershed on the south side of Clear Creek.

TRANS-A10. Construct fence and barriers to protect boundaries and preclude unauthorized motorized access and trespass into the RNA. Complete corridor fencing of Spanish Lake Road (R11) through the RNA.

TRANS-A11. A difficulty rating system will be implemented for all designated open and limited routes. Ratings will be identified on route markers within the Clear Creek Watershed.

TRANS-A12. Implement California State Soils Loss Standards and Monitoring on all designated open routes and surveys completed on an annual basis. Routes may be temporarily closed until corrective maintenance repairs can be completed if necessary.

TRANS-A13. BLM will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts.

- **Best Management Practices**: BLM will monitor water quality, soil erosion, and sediment conditions within the watersheds of the CCMA. The BLM will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts to watershed resources, and will continue to evaluate and update these measures as needed to minimize impacts to water quality, control erosion and sediment production, and protect sensitive resources. The BMPs will incorporate the soil loss standards for OHV areas, developed jointly by BLM and California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. BMPs related to watershed improvement and road maintenance projects will be implemented to reduce erosion and off-site sedimentation transport (see Appendix V).

- Address all route maintenance activities in an annual corrective route maintenance plan. Implement route maintenance and improvement projects consistent with the following guidance:
    - BLM manuals 9113, H-9113-2, 9114,
    - Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects Standards, US Forest Service Trails Handbook 2309.18, sections 2.32 a, b, and c, and
    - 1995 Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) report will be used for standards, guidelines, and recommendations.
    - Resource awareness training will be completed by all operators to ensure compliance with adopted route maintenance guidelines, with relevant inventory data incorporated into the training as appropriate. The BLM will continue to implement BMPs to reduce impacts to watershed resources and control non-point source pollution. California OHV State soil loss standards will be used in monitoring and assessment of routes and areas, and will serve as the basis in developing corrective route management plans.
- Notify the public with media releases and postings to clubs, landowners, claimants and other permittees regarding scheduled route work and any temporary route closures or route diversions. Include public health and safety information in notifications.
- Implement route maintenance activities at stream crossings during low-flow periods, or if, possible when the channel does not contain flowing water to minimize sediment transport.
- Work on open routes will be done when soil moisture is sufficient to adequately compact the tread and prevent visible airborne asbestos emissions. If work is to be done under dry season conditions, then water will be added in sufficient quantities to maintain adequate soil moisture. Upon mechanical disturbance by the treads of track driven equipment, the soil will be re-compacted in six-inch or less lifts.
- Monitor water quality, soil erosion, and sediment conditions within the watersheds of the CCMA. Continue to evaluate and update BMPs as needed to minimize impacts to water quality, control erosion and sediment production. These measures include drainage improvements, construction of rolling dips, water bars, rock armored/hardened stream crossings, hardened sills, and half-pipe bridges, and are contained in Appendix V.
- Implement measures to minimize off-site sediment transport from barren areas through repair of erosion scars, construction of drainage improvements, sediment control and trapping treatments, and re-vegetation of vegetative buffers. Designated ‘closed’ barrens will be selected and prioritized for restoration and reclamation employing these same techniques.

2.4.3.3 Management Actions for Alternatives B

TRANS-B1. Designate the entire 75,000-acre CCMA as a “Limited” vehicle use area. Vehicle use in the Planning Area would be limited to designated routes identified on Map B in Appendix I.

TRANS-B2. Reduce emissions at staging areas, other recreation facilities, and on major routes with dust suppression and surface hardening techniques including, but are not limited to, paving, base rock, chip seal, or applications of surfactants (i.e. biodegradable liquid copolymers) to stabilize and solidify soils or aggregates and control erosion.

TRANS-B3. Use best management practives (BMPs) for dust abatement on roads and during project implementation.

TRANS-B4. Enforce seasonal access closures and restrictions to limit vehicle use during periods of extreme wet and muddy conditions and during periods of extreme dusty conditions.

TRANS-B5. Implement BMPs related to transportations and roads outlined in Appendix V:

- Address all route maintenance activities in an annual corrective route maintenance plan. Implement route maintenance and improvement projects consistent with the following guidance:
    - BLM manuals 9113, H-9113-2, 9114,
    - Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects Standards, US Forest Service Trails Handbook 2309.18, sections 2.32 a, b, and c; and
    - 1995 Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) report will be used for standards, guidelines, and recommendations.

Resource awareness training will be completed by all operators to ensure compliance with adopted route maintenance guidelines, with relevant inventory data incorporated into the training as appropriate. The BLM will continue to implement BMPs to reduce impacts to watershed resources and control non-point source pollution. Soil loss standards will be used in monitoring and assessment of routes and areas, and will serve as the basis in developing corrective route management plans.

2.4.3.3 Management Actions for Alternatives C

TRANS-C1. Designate the entire 75,000-acre CCMA as a “Limited” vehicle use area. Vehicle use in the ACEC would be limited to highway-licensed vehicles and motorcycle use only on designated routes identified on Map C in Appendix I. Vehicle use in the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua zones would be limited to highway-licensed vehicles and ATV/UTV use only on designated (and proposed) routes identified on Map C in Appendix I.

TRANS-C2. Develop and maintain approximately 150 miles of routes and single track trails in the Serpentine ACEC for off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation following inventory, soil loss assessment, and resources screening using route designation criteria described in Appendix II.

2.4.3.4 Management Actions for Alternatives D

TRANS-D1. Designate the entire 75,000-acre CCMA as a “Limited” vehicle use area. Vehicle use in the ACEC would be limited to full-size vehicles on designated routes identified on Map D in Appendix I. Vehicle use in the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua zones would be limited to designated (and proposed) routes identified on Map D in Appendix I.

TRANS-D2. Develop and maintain approximately 60 miles of routes and trails in the Tucker and Cantua Zones for off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation following inventory, soil loss assessment, and resources screening using route designation criteria described in Appendix II.

TRANS-D3. Maintain approximately 24.5 miles of designated open routes and trails in the Condon Zone.

2.4.3.5 Management Actions for Alternatives E

TRANS-E1. Designate 460 acres in the Serpentine ACEC as a "Limited" vehicle use area for vehicle touring on the Scenic Route identified on Map E in Appendix I. Vehicle use on the Scenic Route is limited to highway-licensed vehicles for day use only. Designate the rest of the 30,000-acre Serpentine ACEC as "Closed" to vehicle use.

TRANS-E2. Develop and maintain transportation facilities (i.e. pull-outs and parking areas) on portions of T153 and Spanish Lake Road (R11) with high scenic values, and other destinations with unique biological, natural and geologic features within CCMA.

TRANS-E3. Designate the Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito River Zones as "Limited" vehicle use areas and prepare Travel Management Plans to designate routes of travel. Vehicle use in the Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito River Zones would be limited to highway licensed vehicles and ATV/UTV use only on designated routes (including potential routes and route construction proposals) identified on the Proposed Action Map in Appendix I.

TRANS-E4. Develop and maintain approximately 30 miles of routes and trails in the Tucker and Cantua Zones for non-motorized recreation following inventory, soil loss assessment, and resources screening using the route designation methodology described in Appendix II and 43 CFR 8342.1 minimization criteria.

TRANS-E5. Enforce temporary closures year-round to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources, especially during periods of extreme wet conditions and during periods of extreme dry conditions.

TRANS-E6. Maintain approximately 24.5 miles of designated open routes and trails in the Condon Zone.

2.4.3.6 Management Actions for Alternatives F and G

TRANS-FG1. Designate the entire 30,000-acre ACEC as "Closed" to vehicle use. Designate the Tucker, Cantua, and San Benito River Zones as "Closed" vehicle use areas. Designate the Condon Zone as a "Limited" vehicle use area. Vehicle use in the Condon Zone would be limited to highway-licensed vehicles and ATV/UTV use only on designated (and proposed) routes identified on Maps F and G in Appendix I.

TRANS-FG2. Maintain approximately 24.5 miles of designated open routes and trails in the Condon Zone.

TRANS-FG3. Decommission Clear Creek Road (R1), and reclaim closed roads to protect sensitive resources, reduce sediment transport, and control erosion.

TRANS-FG4. Implement BMPs to reduce offsite water quality impacts from roads and trails that no longer serve their original purpose, or exceed soil loss standards.

TRANS-FG5. Restrict administrative use of roads and trails during periods of inclement weather.

Table 2.4-2 provides an overview of the designated route mileage under each alternative.

Table 2.4-2(a) Vehicle Use Area Designations by Alternative

Area Designation (acres)	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F	Alt. G
Serpentine ACEC (30,000)	Limited				Limited	Closed	
Condon (9,700)	Limited						
San Benito River (3,600)	Limited					Closed	
Cantua (14,900)	Limited						
Tucker (5,900)	Limited						

Table 2.4-2(b) Route Designations by Alternative

Designated Route (miles)	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F	Alt. G
Serpentine ACEC							
Closed	--	--	77	199	216	227	227
Open	227	227	150	28	11	0	0
Condon & San Benito River Zone(s)							
Closed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Open	21.5	21.5	21.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5
Cantua Zone							
Closed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Open	--	--	--	30	15	--	--
Tucker Zone							
Closed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Open	--	--	--	30	15	--	--

2.4.4 Biological Resources – Vegetation Resources

2.4.4.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for vegetation resources are to (1) restore, maintain, or improve ecological conditions, natural diversity, and associated watersheds of high value, high-risk, native plant communities and unique plant assemblages and (2) to restore degraded landscapes and plant communities.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Maintain or improve current ecological values and processes, productivity, and biological diversity;
- Rehabilitate areas affected by wildland fire and other surface-disturbing activities to stabilize soils and promote growth of desired plant communities;
- Prevent the introduction and proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds.

2.4.4.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

VEG-A1. Consider woodcutting permits on a case-by-case basis. Commercial woodcutting may be considered to meet special management needs.

VEG-A2. Manage the native perennial grassland communities to maintain or increase the population (i.e. the desert needlegrass community in the Condon Peak area).

VEG-A3. Give special consideration to the unique stands of big sagebrush and protect these to the extent practicable, especially in the San Carlos Bolsa.

VEG-A4. Manage conifer forests for their scenic values and unique vegetation characteristics.

VEG-A5. Prohibit commercial harvesting of conifer forests in sensitive areas (i.e. San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area).

VEG-A6. Protect known and newly discovered occurrences of sensitive vegetation resources, including vernal pools and riparian zones, from vehicle and camping disturbances through fencing and other physical barriers.

VEG-A7. Implement brush clearing, prescribed burning, and seed or seedling introductions as appropriate for selected species.

VEG-A8. Use prescribed fire and other management techniques to provide a mosaic of vegetative communities to protect soil, watershed, and wildlife.

VEG-A9. Maintain sustained yield of vegetation for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses.

VEG-A10. Cooperate with the University of California to continue the barrens restoration pilot program and to establish small scale soil/plant study plots to investigate plant adaptability and nutritional requirements for rehabilitation purposes.

2.4.4.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B through G

VEG-BG1. Include mitigation measures to protect or enhance riparian areas in all activity plans.

VEG-BG2. Emphasize locally grown or adapted native seed mixes for restoration activities.

VEG-BG3. Utilize management activities that mimic natural disturbance regimes (e.g., fire) to manage and maintain the composition, mixed age classes, and native wildlife habitat of perennial grasslands, chaparral, oak woodland communities, and wetlands.

VEG-BG4. Rehabilitate vegetation emphasizing use of local genotypes of native species for revegetation materials following wildland fires and/or other surface-disturbing activities. Allow non-invasive, non-native species to be used in re-vegetation materials that are temporary and non-persistent.

VEG-BG5. Avoid surface disturbance to riparian vegetation except for short-term disturbances that are necessary to restore or enhance riparian conditions in the long-term.

VEG-BG6. Mitigate or relocate existing or proposed activities within 100 feet of riparian vegetation that could cause a downward trend in condition of riparian resources.

VEG-BG7. Maintain mixed-aged classes for all riparian communities.

VEG-BG8. Develop an Integrated Pest Management approach that prioritizes invasive and noxious weed eradication based on the BLM and California State lists.

VEG-BG9. Issue non-commercial permits for collecting vegetative products for Native American practices.

VEG-BG10. Initiate riparian restoration/improvement projects within systems that have been identified as not functioning or functioning at risk with a downward or static trend.

VEG-BG11. Provide a mosaic of vegetation communities to protect soil, watershed, and wildlife; maintain sustained yield of vegetation for consumptive and non-consumptive uses.

2.4.5 Biological Resources – Fish and Wildlife

2.4.5.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for fish and wildlife is to provide diverse, structured, dynamic, and connected habitat on a landscape level to support viable and sustainable populations of wildlife, fish, and other aquatic organisms.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Conserve habitat consistent with the *Recovery Plan for Camissonia Benitensis (FWS 2007)*.
- Conserve habitat for migratory birds and species listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of Birds of Conservation Concern.
- Maintain or enhance viable, healthy, and diverse populations of native and desired species, including special status species, where appropriate.

2.4.5.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

HAB-A1. Conduct prescribed burns to maintain unevenly aged brush fields.

HAB-A2. Emphasize upland game habitat maintenance and enhancement through management of other resources (e.g., grazing), water development, and project maintenance.

HAB-A3. Install guzzlers to provide water for deer, wild pigs, quail, and other wildlife.

HAB-A4. Fence sensitive areas such as meadows to preclude livestock and vehicle use.

HAB-A5. Install rock barriers around sensitive areas such as vernal pools to protect them from camping and vehicle use.

HAB-A6. Construct fences in wildlife use areas to meet BLM specifications that permit the movement of identified wildlife.

HAB-A7. Emphasize upland game habitat enhancement through management of other resources (e.g. grazing), water development and project maintenance in the nonserpentine management zones.

HAB-A8. Emphasize protection and/or enhancement of riparian habitat in the Serpentine ACEC.

HAB-A9. Fence portions of eight meadows in the Condon Peak area to preclude livestock and vehicle use (one acre or less at each site).

HAB-A10. Protect the unique vegetation at Spanish Lake from camping and vehicle use. Develop the Agua Buena spring site for the enhancement of wildlife habitat.

2.4.5.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B, C, D, E, and F

HAB-BF1. Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the USFWS to control non-native wildlife species.

HAB-BF2. Preserve fallen trees and snags in occupied and potential habitat for raptors. Prohibit collecting wood in areas known to provide breeding habitat.

HAB-BF3. Mitigate or relocate man-made barriers that substantially impede migration within wildlife travel corridors, as appropriate.

HAB-BF4. Maintain existing water improvements (e.g., guzzlers).

HAB-BF5. Avoid disturbance, including road construction and recreational activities, within a 0.5-mile radius of roosting sites of owls, ospreys, eagles, buteos, accipiters, and falcons.

HAB-BF6. Avoid disturbance, including road construction and recreation activities, within a one-mile radius around nesting sites of of owls, ospreys, eagles, buteos, accipiters, and falcons.

HAB-BF7. Cooperate with the CDFG to reintroduce, release, and/or restore populations of native fish and wildlife species into historic and occupied ranges with suitable habitat.

2.4.5.4 Management Actions for Alternative G

HAB-G1. Remove non-functioning water improvements (e.g., guzzlers) and evaluate the use of functioning man-made water sources in the Serpentine ACEC.

HAB-G2. Cooperate with the CDFG to reintroduce, release, and/or restore populations of native fish and wildlife species into historic and occupied ranges with suitable habitat outside the Serpentine ACEC.

2.4.6 Biological Resources – Special Status Species

2.4.6.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for management of special status species is to (1) maintain populations of special status species; and (2) actively contribute to recovery so as to promote downlisting and delisting of special status species.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Manage listed, proposed, or candidate threatened or endangered species to comply with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Manage special status plant and BLM-recognized significant plant communities consistent with BLM policy on Special Status Species Management (BLM Manual 6840).
- Preclude the need for listing proposed, candidate, and sensitive species under the ESA.
- Improve the condition of special status species and their habitats to the point where their special status recognition is no longer warranted.

2.4.6.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

SSS-A1. Establish appropriate levels of surface disturbance to protect special status species and their associated habitats.

SSS-A2. Monitor the effects of management activities on significant habitat areas.

SSS-A3. Plan development of access roads to follow existing roads and trails and route new roads to avoid sensitive habitat features.

SSS-A4. Provide on- and off-site compensation in the form of rehabilitation, reseeding, and other actions during new construction.

SSS-A5. Enforce seasonal restrictions for certain activities during sensitive periods such as denning and nesting.

SSS-A6. Maintain buffer zones around sensitive habitat features.

SSS-A7. Manage public lands to protect and enhance sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species. Evaluate all known or potential habitat before implementing actions that may affect the habitat. Conduct consultations in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, if appropriate.

SSS-A8. Manage portions of Clear Creek, Sawmill Creek, San Benito River, and San Carlos Creek for introducing the San Benito evening-primrose into suitable habitat.

SSS-A9. Monitor all populations of the San Benito evening-primrose and their protective measures for compliance relating to OHV trespass.

SSS-A10. Monitor water quality, soil erosion, and sediment conditions within the watersheds of the CCMA. Implement BMPs including drainage improvements, construction of rolling dips, water bars, rock armored/hardened stream crossings, hardened sills, and half-pipe bridges, as needed to minimize impacts to water quality, control erosion and sediment production. These BMPs are contained in Appendix V.

SSS-A11. Rehabilitate (by ripping and/or pitting) potential habitat areas for the San Benito evening primrose in Clear Creek Canyon. Seed would be collected from nearby populations and broadcast over these areas (approximately one-half acre each) subsequent to seedbed preparation. Evaluate and implement vegetation manipulations, such as brush clearing, prescribed burns and seed or seedling introductions, for San Benito evening primrose habitat areas of high and moderate potential.

SSS-A12. Initiate an ecological study of the San Benito evening primrose to determine habitat requirements.

SSS-A13. Monitor known populations and potential habitat on a yearly basis. Protect new populations as they are discovered.

SSS-A14. Protect known and newly discovered occurrences of the San Benito evening primrose and other sensitive resources including rare plants such as rayless layia, vernal pools, and riparian zones from vehicle and camping disturbances.

SSS-A15. Monitor all unprotected populations of special status species for possible adverse impacts from vehicles and other uses and implement protective actions as warranted.

SSS-A16. Inventory suitable habitat for all sensitive plant species. Monitor any new populations of special status species documented during inventories for adverse impacts and implement protective actions as warranted.

SSS-A17. Develop long-term studies to determine how disturbances such as human use, storms, and erosion, impact the viability of special status species.

SSS-A18. Conduct compliance monitoring for the protection of San Benito evening-primrose (CABE) to document the condition of the species, habitat, and the protective measures in place according to the Compliance Monitoring Plan for CABE in the 2006 Record of Decision for the CCMA RMP Amendment & Route Designation.

1. Monitoring will record direct disturbance to CABE, CABE habitat, and CABE potential habitat by off-highway vehicle use, including but not limited to tire tracks, trampling of plants, soil compaction, soil displacement, seed displacement, and soil erosion and sedimentation.
2. Biologists will visit occurrences monthly from October to May and on a less frequent basis during the off-season. Additional BLM staff will monitor integrity of protective measures on a more frequent basis.
3. Annual population census monitoring will be conducted and reported to FWS. The intensity and extent of disturbance at each occurrence will be evaluated to determine the need for additional mitigation measures.
4. BLM will coordinate with FWS in revising the compliance monitoring plan to promote the long-term conservation of the primrose.

SSS-A19. Revise Compliance Monitoring Plan to improve the BLM's ability to: 1) coordinate with FWS on implementation of adaptive management actions; 2) conduct annual area-wide monitoring of *Camissonia benitensis* habitat and population estimates; 3) analyze correlations between OHV use patterns and population levels; 4) establish thresholds that will trigger adaptive management, 5) establish thresholds that will trigger downlisting and delisting.

Specifically, working guidance would include the following measures addressing conservation of Camissonia benitensis:

1. **Population and habitat monitoring protocols:** Annual estimates of the distribution and abundance of CABE and the spatial distribution of documented and potential habitat within the CCMA. Methods to provide these estimates are likely to be refined in the future.
2. **OHV and other recreational use compliance monitoring:** Efforts to monitor compliance with rules and regulations governing use of the CCMA. The intensity and frequency of this effort will be commensurate with historical compliance data and other factors that affect risk to CABE and its habitats. Methods used to determine compliance levels are likely to continue to be refined in the future.
3. **Interagency coordination:** The BLM and the FWS will continue to meet annually, or more often as needed to:

    - Review all plant and habitat abundance and distribution data and any relevant circumstances;
    - Review all OHV and other recreational use compliance monitoring data;
    - Evaluate this information and determine whether current accepted risk thresholds have been exceeded;
    - Develop any needed recommendations for managers;
    - Generally evaluate CCMA Plan implementation, management strategy effectiveness, monitoring programs, and listed species risk thresholds;
    - Determine whether either the BLM and/or the FWS believe there is any reason to reinitiate consultation under section 7 of the ESA.
    - Determine whether downlisting or delisting is appropriate.
4. **Erosion process studies and control strategies:** Develop additional strategies to study, more fully understand, and manage soil erosion as it affects CABE habitats.

2.4.6.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B and C

SSS-BC1. Maintain all known special status species habitat. Implement revised Compliance and Monitoring Plan identified above under SSS-A18 and SSS-A19.

SSS-BC2. Prohibit collection of special status species, except for scientific research or Native American traditional use.

SSS-BC3. Protect ponds, wetlands, or riparian areas known to support or that could potentially support California tiger salamander or yellow-legged frog to maintain natural corridors between pools/wetlands and upland habitat so that continuous native plant coverage allows adequate movement of these species.

SSS-BC4. Avoid disturbance, including road construction and recreation activities, within a one-mile radius of nesting sites (and a 0.5 mile radius of roosting sites) of the California condor, eagles, and prairie falcons.

2.4.6.4 Management Actions Common to Alternatives D, E, and F

SSS-DEF1. Adopt the BLM's Compliance Monitoring Plan outlined in Appendix IV for existing CABE habitat and populations.

SSS-DEF2. Mitigate or relocate surface-disturbing activities proposed within occupied or potential habitat for special status species.

2.4.6.5 Management Actions for Alternative G

SSS-G1. Adopt the BLM's Compliance Monitoring Plan outlined in Appendix IV for existing CABE habitat and populations.

SSS-G2. Limit proposed new surface-disturbing activities within occupied or potential habitat for special status species. Limit long-term disturbances in potential habitat.

SSS-G3. Conduct restoration projects in closed areas that disturb or interrupt hydrologic and/or ecological processes to support special status species and significant plant communities.

2.4.7 Air Quality

2.4.7.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for air quality management is to ensure that BLM authorizations and management activities comply with local, State, and Federal air quality regulations, requirements, State Implementation Plans, and Regional Air Board standards and goals.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Manage prescribed fires to comply with established air quality standards;
- Manage energy and mineral development to avoid degradation of established air quality standards; and
- Coordinate with Regional Air Quality Control Districts on resource management activities to ensure consistency with State air basin plans.

2.4.7.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

AIR-A1. The current management strategy for the CCMA is to comply with State and Federal air quality regulations. Specifically, management actions maintain compliance with:

(1) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) primary standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, and lead (40 CFR 50);

(2) NAAQS secondary standards (40 CFR 50); and

(3) The California State Implementation Plan and the California Air Pollution Control Laws (California Health and Safety Code §39606).

AIR-A2. Rely on existing methods of predicting impacts on air quality from prescribed fire projects on BLM-administered lands. Existing methods use modeling software that supports wildland fire-management planning and implementation. Examples of such software are:

CALPUFF – A three-dimensional model designed to predict ground level concentrations of particulate matter and gaseous pollutants from multiple sources in complex terrain.

NPSPUFF – A smoke-dispersal model developed in Region 6 that models smoke plume dispersion and concentrations of pollutants (particulate matter and other pollutants) from prescribed and wildland fires.

RXBURN/RXWEATHER – Analyzes and assesses burn prescriptions.

SASEM – An emission and plume dispersion model that predicts ground-level particulate matter and visibility impacts from prescribed burning of forest and range vegetation in relatively flat terrain in the Western United States.

SMOKE – A smoke prediction system that determines the volume of smoke.

TSAR3 – A three-part smoke dispersion prediction program. Each part can be used independently or together.

AIR-A3. Abate dust during project implementation to maintain ambient air levels for toxic air contaminants and naturally occurring asbestos.

AIR-A4. Use water trucks to spray roads and other areas during project implementation to avoid visible dust emissions in the Serpentine ACEC.

AIR-A5. Comply with all provisions of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Airborne Toxic Control Measures (ATCM) regulation for control of airborne asbestos emissions relating to construction, road maintenance, and grading activities.

2.4.7.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B through G

AIR-BG1. Incorporate mitigation measures in Appendix V for activities and projects on BLM lands in order to reduce airborne asbestos emissions and comply with applicable Federal, State, and local air quality regulations.

AIR-BG2. Manage motorized vehicle travel on dirt roads to minimize air pollution from dust and exhaust by restricting vehicle types and seasons when vehicles could be used.

AIR-BG3. Manage prescribed fire to minimize smoke and coordinate with Federal, State, and local governments in smoke-sensitive areas such as wildland-urban interface areas.

2.4.8 Soil Resources

2.4.8.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for soil resources management is to manage soil on BLM lands such that functional biological and physical characteristics that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form are exhibited (Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines, 2000).

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Control erosion and sediment transport;
- Implement soil loss assessment procedures for road and trail maintenance;
- Implement BMPs for non-point source pollution control;
- Maintain vegetation cover at or above the level necessary to stabilize soils; and
- Protect and restore biological soil crusts on watersheds.

2.4.8.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

SOIL-A1. Use check dams or other erosion control structures, where practical, to decrease soil erosion resulting from management actions.

SOIL-A2. Do not allow surface disturbance, e.g., no road or fire line construction, on slopes in excess of 50 percent.

SOIL-A3. Close roads to vehicle use during periods of extreme wet weather in areas where sustained vehicle use may compromise the integrity of the road surface, to reduce rutting of roads and trails and sediment transfer, and to improve visitor safety.

Wet season closure procedures would be implemented after the annual total precipitation exceeds 8 inches. Once 8 inches of precipitation has been exceeded, the following will apply: Additional rainfall exceeding ½ inch within a 24 hour period or 1 inch within a 72 hour period will result in a three day closure. Once the area has been closed a field inspection will be completed prior to reopening, and daily thereafter to determine suitability of road conditions.

SOIL-A4. Control, plan, and design all surface-disturbing activities to minimize erosion.

SOIL-A5. Perform brush crushing, "high-blading," and/or fireline construction (mechanical pre-burn site preparation) when soil and fuel moisture levels are low enough to prevent undue surface (soil) disturbance and to maximize pretreatment objectives.

SOIL-A6. Recurring corrective maintenance on county and/or administrative routes will be implemented annually as appropriate. Corrective maintenance will also be completed on technical 4WD and 2-track routes as needed with a goal of defining a 3-5 year maintenance cycle for the whole route network.

SOIL-A7. Install erosion control structures over the main route network within 3-5 years, and complete an evaluation and project plan for implementing appropriate drainage structures on the remainder of the routes in the CCMA.

SOIL-A8. Open or limited routes may be closed temporarily if necessary according to soil loss assessment, resource impacts, or required maintenance. Emergency limitations or closures are not OHV designations, but remain in effect until the adverse effects are eliminated, measures are in place to prevent their recurrence, or revised OHV designations are adopted (43 CFR 8341.2).

SOIL-A9. Maintain and update the Access database structure for route inventory, soil loss and erosion, maintenance, and monitoring to evaluate conformity with California State soil loss standards. Annual updates would be incorporated as route work and monitoring are completed.

SOIL-A10. Prioritize designated 'closed' routes for restoration and reclamation to allow them return to a natural state.

SOIL-A11. Prioritize designated 'closed' barrens for restoration and reclamation to minimize off-site sediment transport from barren areas through repair of erosion scars, construction of drainage improvements, sediment control and trapping treatments, and re-vegetation of vegetative buffers.

2.4.8.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B through G

SOIL-BG1. Establish remote automated weather stations (RAWS) or apply the use of other available technologies in order to monitor precipitation and soil moisture content in CCMA.

SOIL-BG2. Require an approved erosion control strategy and topsoil segregation/restoration plan for proposals involving surface disturbance on slopes of 20 to 40 percent. No surface disturbance on slopes greater than 40 percent would be allowed unless it is determined that it would cause a greater impact to pursue other alternatives.

SOIL-BG3. Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to barrens restoration/ management outlined in Appendix V.

2.4.9 Water Resources

2.4.9.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for water resources management are to (1) maintain, restore, or improve water quality and quantity to sustain the designated beneficial uses on BLM lands and (2) ensure that surface and groundwater quality comply with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and with California State standards.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Maintain the existing quality and beneficial uses of water, protect waters where they are threatened, and restore currently degraded waters. This objective is of even higher priority in the following situations:
    - Where the beneficial uses of water bodies have been listed as threatened or impaired pursuant to Section 303(d) of the CWA;
    - Where aquatic habitat is present or has been present for Federal threatened or endangered species, candidate species, and other special status species dependent on water resources; and
    - In water resource-sensitive areas such as riparian or wetland areas.
- Protect all designated beneficial uses by preventing or limiting non-point source pollution.

2.4.9.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

WAT-A1. Implement BMPs outlined in Appendix V for watershed management and restoration, including but not limited to the following:

- Install erosion control structures to decrease erosion resulting from public recreation activities.
- Install additional vehicle barriers to control access to riparian corridors and sensitive watershed areas.
- Stabilize/rehabilitate severely eroding trails, hill climbs and naturally barren areas in CCMA with rock walls, rock armoring of stream crossings, contour trenching, gully plugs, and water diversions.

- Continue a regular planned maintenance program for major routes and trails in the Clear Creek Management area (e.g., waterbar construction and outsloping).
- Implement barren area management and restoration activities outlined in Appendix V.

WAT-A2. Obtain California Department of Fish and Game permits and Clean Water Act Section 404 permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for stream alteration and watershed BMPs as necessary and appropriate.

WAT-A3. File for State appropriative water rights for all existing and any new surface water facilities on which any Federal funding has been expended in the development, construction, or maintenance of the water facility.

WAT-A4. File either solely in the name of the BLM or as a co-holder with the permittee or lessee making beneficial use of the water. Assert Federal reserved water rights for the amounts and uses necessary to accomplish the purposes for which the lands have been withdrawn.

WAT-A5. Allow private individuals to appropriate un-appropriated water on unreserved lands for use on or off the public lands. The appropriation must be in accordance with state laws and consistent with multiple use management of the public lands. Private individuals may also use reserved water when water is available and the proposed use is compatible with the purposes of the reservation and other multiple use management guidelines. Rights-of-way are necessary when water from any source is conveyed across public land.

WAT-A6. Conduct regular maintenance of roads and trails, including silt catchments, out sloping, and contouring to reduce impacts on water resources.

WAT-A7. Maintain or enhance water quality in all watersheds. Reduce erosion and sediment transport in all CCMA watersheds by reducing the number of miles and barren acreage available for vehicle use, and by implementing BMP's for all road work.

2.4.9.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B through G

WAT-BG1. Implement BMPs related to watershed restoration/ management outlined in Appendix V to prevent degradation of water quality.

WAT-BG2. Maintain existing developed water sources (i.e., spring developments and reservoirs). Develop new sources on a case-by-case basis through project-level planning.

WAT-BG3. Maintain adjudicated water rights; inventory water sources not adjudicated or water rights sought, where applicable.

WAT-BG4. Submit request to the California State Department of Water Resources to establish Federal reserved water rights on acquired lands to ensure water availability for multiple use management and for functioning, healthy, riparian and upland systems.

WAT-BG5. Manage CWA 303(d)-listed impaired water bodies to meet properly functioning condition (PFC) objectives relative to beneficial uses and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for mercury and sediment.

WAT-BG6. Maintain stable watershed conditions and implement passive and active restoration projects to protect beneficial uses of water and meet TMDLs for mercury and sediment.

WAT-BG7. Work with Coordinated Resource Management Planning groups and other private landowners or non-profit organizations to prevent water bodies from reaching impairment levels that would result in listing under CWA 303(d).

WAT-BG8. Periodically monitor water quality in seasonal pools and perennial ponds containing known or suspected threatened and endangered (T & E) species. Identify water quality issues and initiate repairs, within environmental constraints.

WAT-BG9. Manage all fluvial systems functioning at risk to achieve proper functioning condition.

2.4.10 Special Designations

2.4.10.1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) /Research Natural Areas (RNAs)

The goals for ACECs and RNAs are to identify and manage ACECs and RNAs to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Manage the Serpentine ACEC to reduce human health risks in areas with high concentrations of asbestos fibers by limiting use that
    - creates high levels of asbestos emissions,
    - creates increased opportunity for human exposure to asbestos, and
    - creates need for intense management presence and infrastructure in the ACEC.
- Manage the Serpentine ACEC to protect special status species associated with the serpentine soils of the New Idria Formation
- Manage the San Benito Mountain RNA for the unique forest assemblage and scientific research and educational opportunities.

2.4.10.1.1 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

ACEC-A1. Designate the area of serpentine soils high in asbestos fiber and the Clear Creek watershed as the Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC (30,000 acres). Maintain 4,147-acre designation of the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area (RNA).

ACEC-A2. Manage the Serpentine ACEC for public health and safety and the RNA for its unique forest assemblage and associated values.

ACEC-A3. Intensify the current asbestos awareness program through signing, pamphlets, and individual user contacts.

ACEC-A4. Continue monitoring programs assessing sedimentation in the Clear Creek drainage from OHVs, mining, and other activities. Identify and prioritize areas requiring further protection and/or stabilization.

ACEC-A5. Asbestos Hazard

- Provide a vehicle washing facility (wash rack) at the main entrance to Clear Creek.

- Provide asbestos hazard pamphlet/brochure to Central California motorcycle shops, sporting goods stores, etc. Issue news releases highlighting the area's asbestos hazard at least twice annually. Provide asbestos warning signs at all roads and trails entering the serpentine area.
- Prohibit organized events June 1st through October 15th.
- Designate asbestos mine areas as closed to motorized vehicle use. Access for mining operations would be granted under 43 CFR 3809 Plans of Operation (see Energy and Minerals).
- Post boundaries of asbestos mining areas as closed to OHV.
- Continue providing information on the asbestos hazard by distributing the CCMA map and other hand-out materials.
- Dust suppressant – Application will be evaluated for continued use on an annual or semi-annual basis using treatments described in Appendix V.

ACEC-A6. Restrict seasonal activities to minimize vehicle traffic, noise, etc. during sensitive periods such as denning, nesting, etc.

ACEC-A7. Provide formal programs to increase employee, including contactor, awareness of cultural resources and local wildlife concerns, emphasizing unique habitat features and values.

ACEC-A8. No surface occupancy (NSO) in occupied or critical habitat for special status species.

ACEC-A9. Adopt the Interim RNA Management Plan, as described in 2006 Record of Decision for the CCMA RMP Amendment and Route Designation (ROD).

- This plan outlines the prescriptions that will permit natural processes to continue without interference. It will also determine what characteristics of the habitat are important and what management response will be to changes in these characteristics, along with monitoring requirements, and specifying resource use limitations. It is important to avoid impacting these areas in ways which could adversely affect the natural, scenic, or ecological values for which the RNA was established.

2.4.10.1.2 ACEC/RNA Management Actions Common to Alternatives B through G

ACEC-BG1. Maintain the area of serpentine soils high in asbestos fiber and the Clear Creek watershed as the Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC (30,000 acres). Maintain 4,147-acre designation of the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area (RNA).

ACEC-BG2. Manage the Serpentine ACEC for public health and safety, special status species, and cultural, historic, and scenic values. Manage the San Benito Mountain RNA for its unique forest assemblage and the associated scientific research and educational values.

ACEC-BG3. Adopt the San Benito Mountain RNA Management Plan described in Appendix III.

ACEC-BG4. Develop stipulations for scientific research and collection in concert with individuals and institutions involved.

ACEC-BG5. Establish appropriate guidelines that protect special status species habitat from surface disturbing activities.

2.4.10.2 Wilderness Study Areas

The goal for managing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) is to manage these areas consistent with the Wilderness Act of 1964, as applicable. More specific management direction can be found in 3 CFR 6300. BLM is required to manage WSAs consistent with Section 603 of the FLPMA and the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (H-8550-1) until Congress designates the areas as wilderness or releases them from the Section 603 FLPMA provision. If the areas are released, they would be managed consistent with the provisions within the RMP.

The goal for managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs) is to emphasize other multiple uses while applying management restrictions (conditions of use, mitigation measures) to reduce impacts to wilderness characteristics. Management of LWCs is part of BLM's multiple use mandate. Lands within the CCMA were inventoried in 2011 in accordance with IM 2011-154 to identify public lands with wilderness characteristics such as naturalness, opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and other associated qualities.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Manage existing WSAs in conformance with the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review.

2.4.10.2.1 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives (A-G)

WILD-AG1. Manage WSAs under the Interim Management Policy (H-8550-1) until Congress designates wilderness areas or until non-suitable WSAs are released.

WILD-AG2. Manage the 1,500-acre San Benito Mountain WSA consistent with the goals and objectives and the resource management actions for the Serpentine ACEC and the San Benito Mountain RNA described in this RMP/EIS, if the area is released from WSA status by Congress.

WILD-AG3. Conduct necessary maintenance of routes through the area to enhance overall wilderness quality by minimizing route-related impacts to the sensitive resources inside the SBMRNA/WSA. Areas along the roadways near the WSA will be rehabilitated using the best management practices outlined in Appendix V.

2.4.10.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers

Pursuant to *BLM Manual 8351 – Wild and Scenic Rivers – Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation and Management*, the BLM evaluates identified river segments for their eligibility and suitability for Wild and Scenic River designation through its RMP process. The criteria and information upon which WSR river eligibility and suitability determinations are based are included in Appendix VI. Only Congress can designate Wild and Scenic Rivers to be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS).

2.4.10.3.1 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives (A-G)

WSR-AG1. None of the river and stream segments on BLM public lands in CCMA were determined to be eligible and suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. Therefore, BLM recommends that none of the rivers and streams identified in Appendix VI be included in the NWSRS.

2.4.10.4 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The goal for managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs) is to emphasize other multiple uses while applying management restrictions (conditions of use, mitigation measures) to reduce impacts to wilderness characteristics. Management of LWCs is part of BLM's multiple use mandate. Lands within the CCMA were inventoried in 2011 in accordance with IM 2011-154 to identify public lands with wilderness characteristics such as naturalness, opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and other associated qualities.

2.4.10.4.1 Management Actions Common to Alternatives A, B, C, and D

LWC-AD1. None of the 5,070 acres of lands inventoried for wilderness characteristics in the Cantua Zone would be managed for protection of wilderness characteristics.

2.4.10.4.2 Management Actions Common to Alternatives E and F

LWC-EF1. Manage the 5,070 acres of lands inventoried for wilderness characteristics in the Cantua Zone to emphasize primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities. Design, construct, and maintain routes and trails in the area to enhance primitive recreation experience by minimizing route-related impacts to solitude, naturalness, and other special features.

2.4.10.4.3 Management Actions Under Alternative G

LWC-G1. All the 5,070 acres of lands inventoried for wilderness characteristics in the Cantua Zone would be managed for protection of wilderness characteristics. Other land use decisions to protect lands with wilderness characteristics include designating the area "closed" to vehicle use and locatable mineral entry, unavailable for mineral leasing and sales, and an exclusion area for renewable energy.

2.4.11 Livestock Grazing

2.4.11.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for livestock grazing management are to (1) provide for a sustainable level of livestock grazing consistent with other resource objectives, (2) identify lands and forage available for livestock grazing, and (3) achieve the standards and implement guidelines for rangeland health as outlined in the Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (BLM 2000) for Central California (hereafter referred to as the Standards and Guidelines).

2.4.11.2 Management Actions Common to Alternatives A through E

RANG-AE1. Make public acres and animal unit months (AUMs) available for livestock grazing as summarized in Table 2.4-7.

RANG-AE2. Ensure that levels and duration of rest or deferment after a wildfire are consistent with site characteristics, ecological site descriptions, land management objectives, short-term emergency stabilization, and rehabilitation objectives such as rehabilitating the desired plant community.

RANG-AE3. In order to meet physiological requirements of key plant species or to meet other resource objectives, control the intensity, duration, and timing of grazing and/or provide for periodic deferment and/or rest where livestock grazing is limiting the achievement of multiple use objectives.

RANG-AE4. Conduct interdisciplinary rangeland health assessments on all grazing allotments to evaluate conformance with the Standards and Guidelines.

RANG-AE5. If new information demonstrates that livestock grazing within a particular allotment is not compatible with conservation or preservation of endangered, threatened, candidate, or special status species, these lands would become unavailable for livestock grazing.

RANG-AE6. When evaluation of rangeland health assessments determines that exclusion of livestock grazing is necessary to meet the resource objectives (i.e., cultural or historical resources protection, geologically unstable area protection, sensitive plant or animal areas, intensive recreational use areas, etc.), these lands would become unavailable for livestock grazing.

RANG-AE7. Where possible, fence spring developments to prevent trampling by livestock.

RANG-AE8. Cancel forage allocations on grazing allotments and make lands unavailable if lands are disposed of through exchange or sale or are devoted to another purpose.

RANG-AE9. Allow prescribed burning for rangeland improvement to prevent vegetative conversion (i.e., chaparral or juniper encroachment into annual grasslands or oak savannahs).

RANG-AE10. Develop allotment management plans to bring allotments not meeting the Standards and Guidelines due to current livestock grazing management into compliance.

RANG-AE11. Allow grazing on newly acquired land inside of allotments not in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines where current livestock grazing management is not the cause.

RANG-AE12. Allow grazing on allotments not in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines where current livestock grazing management is determined as not being the cause of noncompliance.

2.4.11.3 Management Actions for Alternative F

RANG-F1. Same as RANG-AF2 through RANG-AF12 and modify existing lease boundaries to exclude grazing in the Serpentine ACEC. Make public acres and animal unit months (AUMs) available for livestock grazing as summarized in Table 2.4-8

2.4.11.4 Management Actions for Alternative G

RANG-G1. Modify existing leases and allotment boundaries to exclude grazing on all BLM-administered lands in CCMA.

Table 2.4-7 Livestock Grazing Summary for Alternatives A - E

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Mgmt Zone [5]	Public Acres	Public AUMs [1]	Livestock Class [2]	Period Begin Date	Period End Date
4301	Akers [4]	SBR	368	69	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4308	Birdwell, Perry W [4]	S, CON	1,389	72	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
	Birdwell Addition[3,4]		447	5			
4319	Lewis Flat [4]	SBR	190	19	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4352	Willow Spring	SBR	940	80	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4359	Quarter Circle A-1 [3]	S, CON	3,348	155	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4374	Joaquin Rocks [4]	CON	3,568	275	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
	Joaquin Rocks Addition		**3,619**	**210**			
4379	Upper Los Gatos Crk. [3]	S, CON	4,317	1,036	Y	1-Jan	31-May
4398	Adobe [4]	CAN	2,124	162	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4401	Williamson	CON	1,920	126	C	15-Feb	15-Aug
4409	Bar B Ranch	T	1,957	129	Y	1-Mar	28-Feb
4410	Hernandez Ranch [3]	S, T	2,823	159	Y	1-Mar	28-Feb
4411	Ashurst Ranch [3,4]	S, T	12,246	2,104	Y	1-Dec	30-Apr
	Ashurst Ranch Addition		**160**	**0**			
4414	Diamond A [4]	CAN	7,254	1,804	Y	1-Dec	30-Apr
	Diamond A Addition		**10,523**	**1,110**			
4418	Goat Mountain [3,4]	S, SBR	440	32	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
14	**TOTALS**		**57,633**	**7,547**			

[1] AUM (Animal Unit Month) = one cow + one calf.
[2] Livestock Class: C = cattle, Y = yearling.
[3] Includes public lands within HAA.
[4] Includes public lands outside of CCMA.
[5] Management Zone: S = Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC, T = Tucker, CON = Condon, CAN = Cantua, SBR = San Benito River.

Table 2.4-8 Livestock Grazing Summary for Alternative F

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Mgt Zone [5]	Public Acres	Public AUMs [1]	Livestock Class [2]	Period Begin Date	Period End Date
4301	Akers [4]	SBR	368	69	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4308	Birdwell, Perry W [3,4]	S, CON	1,389	72	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
	Birdwell Addition [4]		**432**	**5**			
4319	Lewis Flat [4]	SBR	190	19	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4352	Willow Spring	SBR	940	80	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4359	Quarter Circle A-1 [3]	S, CON	3,329	155	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4374	Joaquin Rocks [4]	CON	3,568	275	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
	Joaquin Rocks Addition [4]		**3,619**	**210**			
4379	Upper Los Gatos Crk. [3]	S, CON	4,183	1,019	Y	1-Jan	31-May
4398	Adobe [4]	CAN	2,124	162	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4401	Williamson	CON	1,920	126	C	15-Feb	15-Aug
4409	Bar B Ranch	T	1,957	129	Y	1-Mar	28-Feb
4410	Hernandez Ranch [3]	S, T	2,470	145	Y	1-Mar	28-Feb
4411	Ashurst Ranch [3,4]	S, T	11,135	2,078	Y	1-Dec	30-Apr
	Ashurst Ranch Addition		**160**	**0**			
4414	Diamond A [4]	CAN	7,254	1,804	Y	1-Dec	30-Apr
	Diamond A Addition [4]		**10,523**	**1,110**			
4418	Goat Mountain [3,4]	S, SBR	87	7	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
14	**TOTALS**		**55,647**	**7,465**			

[1] AUM (Animal Unit Month) = one cow + one calf.
[2] Livestock Class: C = cattle, Y = yearling.
[3] Includes public lands within HAA.
[4] Includes public lands outside of CCMA.
[5] Management Zone: S = Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC, T = Tucker, CON = Condon, CAN = Cantua, SBR = San Benito River.

2.4.12 Energy and Minerals

2.4.12.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for energy and mineral resource management is to allow development of energy and mineral resources to meet the demand for energy and mineral production while protecting natural and cultural resources in the area.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Balance responsible mineral resource development with the protection of other resource values.
- Provide opportunities for mineral exploration and development under the mining and mineral leasing laws.
- Provide mineral materials needed for community and economic purposes.

2.4.12.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

ENERG-A1. Consider minerals exploration, development, and production within environmental and multiple-use management constraints. Withdrawals would be initiated to affect locatable mineral segregations on specified lands.

ENERG-A2. Seek a protective withdrawal for Clear Creek Canyon (1,031 acres) and the San Benito Mountain RNA (4,147 acres) from locatable mineral entry.

ENERG-A3. Consider mineral and geothermal exploration and development in other CCMA locations on a case-by-case basis.

ENERG-A4. Allow oil and gas exploration and development within environmental constraints to protect special status species and paleontological resources.

ENERG-A5. Make public lands available for orderly and efficient development of mineral and energy resources under principles of balanced multiple-use management.

2.4.12.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B and C

ENERG-BC1. Close WSAs to mineral leasing and sales and to locatable mineral activities that require reclamation or degrade wilderness values

ENERG-BC2. Make WSAs exclusion areas for wind energy development. Make all other areas available for wind energy development consideration, subject to the BMPs outlined in Appendix VII.

ENERG-BC3. Require No Surface Occupancy stipulations on all recreation and public purposes (R&PP) lease areas.

ENERG-BC4. Make available all remaining BLM public lands for energy and mineral development, unless withdrawn or otherwise noted.

ENERG-BC5. Consider energy and minerals exploration, development, and production within environmental and multiple-use management constraints.

2.4.12.4 Management Actions Common to Alternatives D, E, and F

ENERG-DEF1. Allow no mineral leasing or sales on public lands in the Serpentine ACEC. Withdraw the entire 30,000-acre ACEC from locatable mineral entry.

ENERG-DEF2. Allow mineral leasing or sales on public lands outside the ACEC, and stipulate that "No Surface Occupancy" is allowed on oil and gas leases on all BLM lands with occupied special status species habitat.

ENERG-DEF3. Make the Serpentine ACEC an exclusion area for renewable energy development. Make all other Zones available for wind energy development consideration, subject to the BMPs outlined in Appendix VII.

2.4.12.5 Management Actions for Alternative G

ENERG-G1. Prohibit mineral leasing or sales, and pursue mineral withdrawal on all BLM-administered lands and split-estate throughout the entire CCMA (66,500 acres).

ENERG-G2. CCMA would be an exclusion area for renewable energy development.

Table 2.4-10 summarizes the acres of land available/unavailable for leasable mineral entry and open/closed for salable mineral entry for each alternative. It also identifies acres of land open or closed to locatable mineral entry (i.e. 1,500-acre San Benito Mountain WSA).

Table 2.4-10 Summary of Energy and Mineral Development by Alternative (Acres)

Type of Entry	Status	Alternative A	Alternatives B & C	Alternatives D,E,F	Alternative G
Leasable	Available	61,400	65,000	36,500	0
	Unavailable	5,100	1,500	30,000	66,500
Salable	Available	65,000	65,000	36,500	0
	Unavailable	1,500	1,500	30,000	66,500
Locatable	Open	36,500	65,000	36,500	0
	Closed	5,100	1,500	30,000	66,500
Renewable	Available	65,000	65,000	36,500	0
	Unavailable	1,500	1,500	30,000	66,500

Note: Calculations based on 63,000 acres of BLM-managed lands, plus 3,500 acres of "split-estate".

2.4.13 Cultural Resources

2.4.13.1 Goals and Objectives

According to BLM policy (DM 8130.23), all RMPs will include the following two primary goals for cultural resources management:

- Preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (per FLPMA Sec. 103(c), 201(a), 202(c); NHPA Sec. 110(a); ARPA Sec. 14(a)).

- Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts on cultural resources, from natural or human-caused deterioration, or from other resource uses (per FLPMA Sec 103(c), NHPA Sec. 106; 110(a)(2)).

Cultural resources management by the BLM is viewed as an integrated system of identifying and evaluating cultural resources, deciding on their appropriate use(s), and administering them according to cultural resource law and policy. The primary objectives for this integrated management system are:

- Respond in a legally sufficient and professional manner concerning historic preservation and cultural resource protection;

- Recognize the potential public and scientific uses of cultural resources on the public lands, and manage the lands and cultural resources so that these uses and values are not diminished but rather are maintained and enhanced.

- Ensure that proposed land uses, initiated or authorized by BLM, avoid inadvertent damage to Federal and non-Federal cultural resources.

To achieve the primary goals and objectives for cultural resources management by the BLM, the following methods are applicable:

- Protect "at-risk" archeological or other cultural resources, including prehistoric and historic sites, using the BMPs available with physical ("on-the-ground") and/or administrative methods to achieve improved site stabilization, protection, or health;

- Utilize a variety of heritage education programs that promote the public stewardship of cultural resources, including but not limited to conventional outreach efforts, and participate in the following programs:

    - *California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program* (CASSP) and the *California Indian Site Stewardship* program, which provide training for volunteer site stewards for site monitoring, protection, and enhancement);
    - *Cooperative Stewardship*, which involves the BLM and the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) in interpretive outreach efforts with involvement from tribes and educational institutions;

    - *Professional and Avocational Societies*, in which the BLM attends meetings and conferences to enhance public outreach, education goals, and increase awareness of

BLM's cultural resource management programs and to support avocational societies to advance cooperative efforts in public outreach and education; and

- *Archeological and Cultural Awareness Program* (ACAP), wherein BLM partners with tribes and other Federal and State agencies to conduct evaluations and enhancement projects using volunteers.

- Evaluate and manage all cultural resource properties appropriately using the Use Allocation and Desired Outcome management criteria for cultural resources in Table 2.4-11:

Table 2.4-11 Cultural Resource Use Allocations and Desired Outcomes

Use Allocation	Desired Outcome
Scientific use	Preserved until research potential is realized
Conservation for future use	Preserved until conditions for use are met
Traditional use	Long-term preservation
Public use	Long-term preservation, on-site interpretation
Experimental use	Protected until used
Discharged from management	No use after recordation; not preserved

2.4.13.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

CULT-A1. Protect cultural resources (ex. archeological sites) as needed through the use of road closures, fences, barriers, or other management strategies.

CULT-A2. Conduct data retrieval (excavations) at specific archeological sites as needed to mitigate unauthorized excavation/vandalism.

CULT-A3. Work with research institutions to the extent possible for improved cultural resources management, including data retrieval.

CULT-A4. Before implementation of surface-disturbing projects, including range developments and vegetation manipulations, evaluate cultural resource potential and avoid adverse impacts to National Register-eligible sites when feasible.

CULT-A5. Protect archeological sites in the White Creek Archeological District by maintaining the closed route designation for White Creek Road.

CULT-A6. Initiate data retrieval at archeological site CA-Fre-1340 per the 1986 Clear Creek Management Plan and Decision Record; working with research institutions to the extent possible.

CULT-A7. Ensure access for Native American traditional uses.

CULT-A8. Maintain the archeological site monitoring program for cultural resources "at-risk."

2.4.13.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B, C, and D

CULT-BCD1. Increase physical protection for archeological sites and other cultural resources with the BMPs available.

CULT-BCD2. Increase scope of archeological site monitoring program with volunteers and Law Enforcement Officers and Park Ranger patrols at archeological sites or other cultural resources as needed; monitor all known prehistoric archeological sites, historic site areas, and potential Native American traditional use areas for impacts.

2.4.13.4 Management Actions Common to Alternatives E, F, and G

CULT-EFG1. Promote research opportunities with academic, professional, and avocational institutions for anthropological, archeological, ethnographic, or historic use studies to improve local and regional cultural resources management.

CULT-EFG2. Maintain access and promote traditional uses of the CCMA by the Native American and California Indian community; work in coordination with tribal communities, groups, and individuals to address issues.

2.4.14 Paleontological Resources

2.4.14.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for paleontological resources are to (1) preserve, protect and manage vertebrate, noteworthy invertebrate, and plant paleontological resources in accordance with existing laws and regulations for current and future generations; (2) facilitate the appropriate scientific, educational, and recreational uses of paleontological resources such as research and interpretation; (3) accommodate permit requests for scientific research by qualified individuals or institutions; (4) ensure proposed land uses do not destroy or damage paleontological resources.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Locate, evaluate, manage and protect, where appropriate, paleontological resources on the public lands;
- Facilitate the appropriate scientific, educational, and recreational uses of paleontological resources, such as research and interpretation;
- Using predictive modeling, identify significant localities that may be in conflict with other resource uses;
- Ensure that proposed land uses, initiated or authorized by BLM, do not inadvertently damage or destroy important paleontological resources on public lands;
- Foster public awareness and appreciation of paleontological resources through educational outreach programs.

2.4.14.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

PALE-A1. Evaluate surface-disturbing activities such as road construction, ground leveling, mining, or oil and gas exploration and development for potential adverse impacts to fossil resources; evaluate each surface-disturbing action on a case-by-case basis for applicability of protective measures.

PALE-A2. Maintain a 100-foot buffer around significant paleontological localities for project related activities.

PALE-A3. Install temporary fences along margins of developments to eliminate off-site vehicle impacts to undisturbed areas.

PALE-A4. Relocate proposed development to avoid impacts on significant paleontological localities.

PALE-A5. Require contract studies if significant paleontological localities cannot be avoided.

PALE-A6. If natural erosion threatens the integrity of significant fossil resources, stabilize and rehabilitate these resources if feasible.

2.4.14.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B, C, and D

PALE-BCD1. Establish a 200-foot buffer for project actions around all paleontological sites and localities.

2.4.14.4 Management Actions Common to Alternatives E, F, and G

PALE-EFG1. Establish a 300-foot buffer for project actions around all paleontological sites and localities.

2.4.15 Social and Economic Conditions

2.4.15.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for social and economic conditions is to manage public lands to provide social and economic benefits to local residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Work cooperatively with private and community groups and local tribal governments to provide for customary uses consistent with other resource objectives and to sustain or improve local economies.
- Maintain and promote the cultural, economic, ecological, and social health of communities associated with BLM public lands.

2.4.15.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

SOCEC-A1. Protect and conserve natural values while allowing for tourism and commodity use of natural resources.

SOCEC-A2. Enhance commodity production consistent with resource management goals and objectives.

2.4.15.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B and C

SOCEC-BC1. Through cooperative and collaborative processes, make contracts and cooperative agreements for services and products available locally when need and conditions permit.

SOCEC-BC2. Manage natural resources on public lands to enhance tourism, maximize production, and attract industry.

SOCEC-BC3. Advertise existing commodities available for extraction or use. Target services and products for competitive contracting to local firms/individuals where legally permitted.

SOCEC-BC4. Provide for commodity production to the maximum extent allowable under environmental restrictions.

2.4.15.4 Management Actions Common to Alternatives D, E, F, and G

SOCEC-DG1. Work collaboratively with local populations to emphasize a high level of natural resource protection, which contributes to tourism and attracts sustainable commodities industries.

SOCEC-DG2. Enhance public land resources to provide for sustainable tourism, production, and industry.

SOCEC-DG3. Emphasize sustainable economic operations while protecting the ecological, social, and cultural integrity of BLM public lands.

2.4.16 Visual Resources Management

2.4.16.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for visual resource management is to manage public land actions and activities in a manner consistent with visual resource management (VRM) class objectives.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objective is established:

1) Protect, maintain, improve, or restore visual resource values by managing all public lands in accordance with the VRM system.

2.4.16.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

VIS-A1. VRM Class IV standards apply to the entire CCMA unless otherwise stated.

VIS-A2. Actions in the San Benito Mountain WSA and RNA must meet VRM Class I standards.

VIS-A3. Actions in the Condon Zone must meet VRM Class III standards.

VIS-A4. Limit bulldozer use on wildfires and prescribed burns when/where possible.

2.4.16.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B and C

VIS-BC1. Manage all acquired lands consistent with the VRM classifications on adjacent public lands.

VIS-BC2. In the event that a river or stream is designated a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) by Congress, the WSR would be managed as VRM Class I.

2.4.16.4 Management Actions under Alternative D

VIS-D1. Actions in the Condon Zone must meet VRM Class IV standards.

2.4.16.5 Management Actions Common to Alternatives E, F, and G

VIS-EFG1. Actions in the Serpentine ACEC must meet VRM Class II standards.

2.4.17 Fire Management

2.4.17.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for fire management are to (1) establish a fire management program that is cost-efficient and commensurate with threats to life, property, public safety, and resources, (2) use fire to restore and/or sustain ecosystem health, (3) cooperate with communities at risk within the wildland-urban interface to develop plans for risk reduction, (4) cooperate with regional partners in fire and resource management across agency boundaries, and (5) reduce man-made fires, with a special emphasis on reductions in developed areas such as communities, campgrounds, and transportation corridors.

To achieve the goal for fire management, the following resource condition objectives are established:

A. Wildfire Suppression

- Provide for firefighter and public safety in all fire-management activities.
- Provide an appropriate management response for all wildland fires, emphasizing firefighter and public safety. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs), Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridors (study and designated), and certain other public lands will require modified suppression techniques to protect the known values. Modified suppression techniques will be identified in the Hollister Fire Management Plan (FMP).
- Limit the intensity of fire suppression efforts to the most economical response consistent with the human and resource values that are at risk.
- Protect sensitive cultural and paleontological resource sites from damage by fire and/or fire suppression actions.

B. Fuels Management

- Reduce the risk of fire in wildland-urban interface communities.
- Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire through fuels management.
- Promote greater diversity within plant communities of the HFO with the use of fire.
- Use fire as natural land management tool for the control and eradication of noxious weeds.

- Use fire as a management tool to improve the ecological condition of the area within HFO jurisdiction.
- Use prescribed burning to reduce the fuel hazard in the chaparral community and for wildlife habitat improvement and increased local water yield and watershed enhancement.

C. Fire Rehabilitation, Stabilization, and Restoration

- Rehabilitate burned areas to mitigate adverse effects of fire on soils, water, and cultural resources and vegetation.

D. Prevention, Risk Mitigation, and Education

- Increase the public's knowledge of fire's natural role in the ecosystem and the hazards and risks associated with living in the wildland-urban interface.
- Educate the public on fire safety and prevention measures.
- Work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to suppress all wildfires involving less than 10 acres 90 percent of the time.

2.4.17.2 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

FIRE-A1. Conduct prescribed burns to provide mosaic patterns of vegetation to protect soil, watershed, and wildlife.

FIRE-A2. Conduct range-improvement burning on a 10- to 20-year rotation and fuels reduction burns on a 20- to 30-year rotation. For wildfire burns, ideally 5 to 7 percent of an area (45 acres per square mile) is burned annually over a 10-year rotation period. However, weather, funding, and scheduling may dictate a 20- to 30 percent burn every three to five years.

FIRE-A3. Maintain consistency with State fire and air pollution laws via DOI regulations and BLM policy. Acceptable burn days are determined in coordination with State and local agencies.

FIRE-A4. Do not allow increases in livestock use in areas where burning for wildlife habitat improvement is the primary objective.

FIRE-A5. Keep prescribed burning during the spring season (April through June) to a minimum.

FIRE-A6. Use prescribed fire for abatement of yellow starthistle (YST) and medusahead grass annually, beginning in June (pending air quality issues and burn plan approval).

FIRE-A7. Brush crushing, "high-blading", and/or fireline construction (mechanical pre-burn site preparation) will be performed when soil and fuel moisture levels are low enough to prevent undue surface (soil) disturbance and to maximize pretreatment objectives.

FIRE-A8. Prescribe burn approximately 21000 acres of chaparral for fuel hazard reduction [in the Tucker Management Zone], as identified in the San Benito County Burn Plan.

FIRE-A9. Participate in the San Benito County Fire Safe Council to address fire management needs in the area. Promote prescribed fire to enhance long-term watershed stability.

FIRE-A10. In accordance with the BLM "10-Year Prescribed Burn Plan for Fresno and Monterey Counties" (1984), 100 acres within the WSA would be burned every two years until the entire area was burned in mosaics on about a 15-year cycle.

FIRE-A11. Prescribe burn to approximately 14000 acres for fuel hazard reduction (in the Condon Management Zone), as outlined in the San Benito and Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plans.

FIRE-A12. Allow the use of fire (action modification and/or prescribed burn) in the SBMRNA to promote natural conditions. The use of prescribed burning will be contingent on the strict control of motorized access and in consultation with qualified botanists.

FIRE-A13. Areas burned by wildfire in the RNA will not be reseeded in order to protect endangered plant species from introduced competition.

FIRE-A14. Continue and/or implement a rotational program of prescribed burning in the Condon Peak, Byles Canyon, San Carlos Bolsa, Sampson Peak and Goat Mountain areas. Burn approximately seven percent per year (average) in scattered spots and patches.

FIRE-A15. Where possible, limit the use of heavy equipment (dozers) in sensitive areas.

FIRE-A16. Implement a modified fire suppression agreement with CDF for the San Benito Mountain Natural Area.

2.4.17.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B through G

FIRE-BG1. Develop and maintain the Hollister Fire Management Plan.

FIRE-BG2. Identify appropriate management response goals, objectives, and constraints by specific Fire Management Units (FMUs) in the Hollister Fire Management Plan (Ref. Fire Map in Appendix I).

FIRE-BG3. Employ fire prevention strategies that reduce man-made fires, with special emphasis on developed areas such as communities, campgrounds, and transportation corridors.

FIRE-BG4. Develop fuels projects to mimic fire's natural role to enhance resource values.

FIRE-BG5. Coordinate with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) or cooperator fire protection entities to develop appropriate management response actions, as documented in the annual operating plan, for wildland fires on or threatening BLM lands. Primary consideration and operational emphasis are placed on firefighter and public safety, minimizing the loss of life and damage to private property, minimizing environmental damage due to suppression efforts, and considering resource values and high value habitat at risk from unwanted wildfire.

FIRE-BG6. Identify high priority wildfire risk areas (e.g., wildland-urban interface, critical habitats and cultural areas). The Hollister Fire Management Plan (FMP) displays the list of values at risk and the communities at risk within each FMU. (These lists may change as communities are removed or added each year).

FIRE-BG7. Work collaboratively with Federal, State, Fire Safe Councils, and local partners to develop cross boundary fire management strategies and prioritize cross agency fire management actions.

FIRE-BG8. Work collaboratively with communities at risk within the wildland-urban interface to develop plans for risk reduction.

FIRE-BG9. Work collaboratively with managing partners to design and implement prescribed fire and fuels management projects across agency boundaries where this interaction would improve the overall success of the project.

FIRE-BG10. Limit the use of fire retardant drops to prevent damage to rock art sites and vernal pools and associated aquatic species. Keep retardant away from rock outcrops and waterways.

FIRE-BG11. Establish a fire effects monitoring system that inventories pre-burn species composition and resulting post-fire response, over time.

FIRE-BG12. Monitor fire/fuels treatment effects and adjust the Hollister FMP as needed.

FIRE-BG13. Implement a chaparral management program within the CCMA to use fire to improve wildlife habitat.

FIRE-BG14. Protect the primitive nature of public lands within the San Benito Mountain WSA from any action affecting the overall "naturalness" of the area.

FIRE-BG15. Prohibit the use of heavy mechanical equipment within the San Benito Mountain WSA. This restriction may be lifted by the Field Manager to protect human life, private property, structures, visitor safety, or sensitive or valuable resources.

FIRE-BG16. Develop local or regional "Normal Fire Year Rehabilitation Plans."

FIRE-BG17. Promote the use of native species in reseedings.

FIRE-BG18. Monitor rehabilitation efforts to facilitate future planning and implementation.

2.4.17.4 Target Acres for Fire Management in Alternatives A thru G

Management actions for prescribed fire and mechanical treatment activities on BLM-administered lands in the CCMA under Alternatives A (No Action) through Alternative G are summarized in Tables 2.4.17-1, 2.4.17-2 and 2.4.17-3. Management actions pertain to prescribed fire and treatment activities on BLM-administered lands in the CCMA.

Table 2.4.17-1 Average Annual Prescribed Fire Target Acres

Geographic Area/ Fire Management Unit (FMU)	Alternative A – F	Alternative G
San Benito Natural Area	0	0
Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC	100	0
Hernandez Valley	125	125
San Joaquin Valley South	100	100
San Joaquin South Continued	1000	1000

Table 2.4.17-2 Decadal Prescribed Fire Target Acres

Geographic Area/ Fire Management Unit (FMU)	Alternative A – F	Alternative G
San Benito Natural Area	0	0
Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC	1000	0
Hernandez Valley	1,250	1,250
San Joaquin Valley South	1,000	1,000
San Joaquin South Continued	10,000	10,000

Table 2.4.17-3 Decadal Mechanical Treatment Target Acres

Geographic Area/ Fire Management Unit (FMU)	Alternative A – F	Alternative G
San Benito Natural Area	0	0
Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC	1000	0
Hernandez Valley	125	125
San Joaquin Valley South	1,000	1,000
San Joaquin South Continued	10,000	10,000

2.4.18 Land and Realty

2.4.18.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for lands and realty management is to provide lands, interests in land, and authorizations for public and private uses while maintaining and improving resource values and public land administration.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Retain, consolidate, and/or acquire land or interest in land with high public resource values for effective administration and improvement of resource management;
- Make public land available for disposal that meets the disposal criteria contained in Section 203(a) of the FLPMA;
- Meet public, private, and Federal agency needs for realty-related land use authorizations and land withdrawals, including those authorizations necessary for wind, solar, biomass, and other forms of renewable energy development;
- Acquire legal public or administrative access to public land; and
- Eliminate unauthorized use of public lands.

2.4.18.2 Land Tenure Adjustments

2.4.18.2.1 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

LTEN-A1. All lands not identified for disposal are identified for retention to be considered on a case-by-case basis for exchange or disposal per the FLPMA. Lands identified for retention are considered as unsuitable for entry under any of the agricultural land laws because of significant multiple-use values.

LTEN-A2. Acquire private lands in Sections 16 and 36 (T 18 S., R 12 E.) and private inholdings through acquisition or land exchange. Acquisition of private inholdings has priority over acquisition of state owned sections.

LTEN-A3. Acquire, through exchange or purchase, state lands and private inholdings in the Byles Canyon/Tucker Mountain, San Carlos Bolsa, as well as the remainder of the management area.

LTEN-A4. Effect consolidation through exchange.

LTEN-A5. No lands would be made available for disposal that would compromise the management objectives for the management area.

LTEN-A6. Consolidate public land immediately north of Clear Creek area (Byles Canyon/Tucker Mountain area) and in the Laguna Mountain area.

LTEN-A7. Acquire or exchange lands in accordance with the FLPMA and other applicable Federal laws and regulations to ensure more efficient management of the public lands, to reduce conflicts with other public and private landowners, and to provide more consistency and logic in land use patterns within the Hollister Field Office.

LTEN-A8. The public lands identified for potential disposal are those that have been screened and considered for disposal to promote management efficiency. All public lands within the Planning Area can be disposed of if they meet the disposal criteria of FLPMA, other Federal laws and regulations, and would not jeopardize management objectives (i.e., disposal would have to be in conformance with the management objectives of the plan). Disposal proposals not in conformance would be subject to the amendment process.

2.4.18.2.2 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B and C

LTEN-BC1. Public lands in the Tucker, Condon, and San Benito River Zones identified on Maps B and C in Appendix I would be available for disposal.

LTEN-BC2. Acquire or exchange lands in accordance with FLPMA and other applicable Federal laws and regulations to ensure more efficient management of the public lands, to reduce conflicts with other public and private landowners, and to provide more consistency and logic in land use patterns within the Hollister Resource Area.

LTEN-BC3. Acquire lands within special designation areas, including WSAs and ACECs.

2.4.18.2.3 Management Actions Common to Alternatives D

LTEN-D1. Acquire lands from willing sellers in the Serpentine ACEC, Tucker Mountain area and south of CCMA to Coalinga-Los Gatos Road.

LTEN-D2. Public lands in the Tucker, Condon, and San Benito River zones would not be available for disposal.

LTEN-D3. Acquisition of private in-holdings with high value for multiple resources including important biological resources and recreational opportunities would be the highest priority

2.4.18.2.4 Management Actions for Alternatives E, F, and G

LTEN-EFG1. Public lands in the Tucker, Condon, and San Benito River Zones identified on Maps E, F, and G in Appendix I would be available for disposal.

LTEN-EFG2. Acquisition of private in-holdings with high value for multiple resources including important biological resources and recreational opportunities would be the highest priority.

LTEN-EFG3. Consider minor boundary adjustments to facilitate management efficiency through sale, exchange, or patent (i.e., less than 50 acres).

Table 2.4-13 Acres of public lands available for disposal under each alternative.

Management Unit	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F	Alt. G
Tucker	--	2320	2320	--	2320	2320	2320
Condon	--	280	280	--	280	280	280
San Benito River	--	90	90	--	90	90	90
Total	0	3,300	3,300	0	3,300	3,300	3,300

2.4.18.3 Land Use Authorizations

2.4.18.3.1 No Action Alternative (Current Management Actions)

LUSE-A1. Maintain existing utility corridors and communication sites on San Benito Mountain, Santa Rita Peak, Spanish Lake, Sampson Peak, and Sampson Creek Ridge.

LUSE-A2. Designate existing utility routes as utility corridors.

LUSE-A3. Consider requests for rights-of-way or construction of utility sites and related facilities outside of designated or established corridors on a case-by-case basis.

LUSE-A4. Permit commercial filming on a case-by-case basis.

LUSE-A5. Allow communication sites on a case-by-case basis.

LUSE-A6. Lands identified for retention are considered as unsuitable for entry under any of the agricultural land laws because of significant multiple-use values.

LUSE-A7. Place special emphasis on resolution of unauthorized uses of public lands. Increase coordination with local, State, and other Federal law enforcement agencies.

LUSE-A8. Maintain consistency with County General Plans and zoning within Department regulations and Bureau policy.

LUSE-A9. Issue apiary permits on a case-by-case basis.

2.4.18.3.2 Management Actions Common to Alternatives B, C, D, E, and F

LUSE-BF1. Lands identified for retention are considered unsuitable for entry under any of the agricultural land laws because of significant multiple-use values.

LUSE-BF2. Place special emphasis on resolution of unauthorized uses of public lands. Increase coordination with local, State and other Federal law enforcement agencies.

LUSE-BF3. Maintain consistency with County General Plans and zoning within Department regulations and Bureau policy.

LUSE-BF4. Permit commercial filming on a case-by-case basis.

LUSE-BF5. Issue apiary permits on a case-by-case basis.

LUSE-BF6. Honor valid existing rights and easements that have been acquired through land acquisitions. Enter rights-of-way into LR2000 to ensure proper recording.

LUSE-BF7. Construction of new communication sites in the ACEC will only be authorized at sites with existing facilities.

LUSE-BF8. Authorize rights-of-way to provide reasonable access for private landowners in CCMA.

LUSE-BF9. Construction within the ACEC would be completed based occupational health and safety requirements.

2.4.18.3.3 Management Actions for Alternative G

LUSE-G1. Stipulate health and safety mitigation measures for existing communication sites and rights-of-way authorizations in the Serpentine ACEC.

LUSE-G2. Prohibit new rights-of-way and/or communication sites and related facilities in the Serpentine ACEC.

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2.5 Description of the Proposed RMP (i.e. Proposed Action)

The Proposed RMP (i.e. Proposed Action) described in Section 2.5 is the BLM's Preferred Alternative. The Proposed Action presented here incorporates guidance provided by numerous laws, mandates, policies, and plans. These include the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and BLM planning guidance. The management actions identified here place importance on partnerships and agreements with landowners, permit holders, and other local and state agencies to manage BLM public lands for multiple uses on a sustainable basis while providing adequate protection of public health and the environment. The analysis of the environmental consequences, effectiveness of mitigation measures, and the feasibility of implementing the Proposed RMP is presented in Chapter 4.

The purpose and need for the CCMA RMP/EIS is based on the EPA's CCMA Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment (2008), which concluded that visiting CCMA more than once per year can put adults and children above EPA's acceptable risk range for exposure to carcinogens and an increased long-term cancer risk from engaging in many of the typical recreational activities at the CCMA. The Federal government has concluded that all forms of asbestos are hazardous to humans, and that all can cause cancer; although the chrysotile form may be less potent than the amphibole family in causing mesothelioma (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Toxicological Profile for Asbestos).

BLM acknowledges that controversy exists regarding the health risks of naturally occurring asbestos; however, EPA and other Federal, State, and local agencies whose missions relate directly to public health support the BLM's decision to limit the public's exposure to asbestos. A large portion of the CCMA has been managed for decades as the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) due to the health risk from exposure to asbestos and to emphasize protection other unique values associated with the serpentine soils in the area.

Detailed descriptions of BLM's *proposed* resources program management goals, resource condition objectives, management actions, and mitigation measures are provided below in Sections 2.5.1 through 2.5.18. The description of the Proposed RMP is organized by resource program (e.g., air quality, soil resources, water resources, etc.). The goals and objectives of each resource program are specified, and specific management actions are then presented. The alphanumeric system used to identify management actions in the CCMA Draft RMP/EIS is used again in this document to assist the reader in comparing the Proposed RMP with the range of alternatives presented in Section 2.4.1 – 2.4.18. Alphanumeric identifiers that start with the letters A through G represent management actions associated with each alternative.

Table 2.5 (below) provides a summary comparison of the goals, objectives, management actions, and allowable uses outlined under current management (i.e. No Action Alternative) in comparison to the Proposed RMP (i.e. Proposed Action) analyzed in the CCMA PRMP/FEIS.

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Table 2.5 Comparison of the Current Management "No Action Alternative" and the Proposed RMP/FEIS "Proposed Action"

PROGRAM AREA	Existing Land Use Decisions (No Action)		Proposed Land Use Decisions (Proposed Action)	
Management Zones	**Serpentine ACEC** **Condon**	**Cantua** **Tucker** **San Benito River**	**Serpentine ACEC**	**Cantua** **Condon** **Tucker** **San Benito River**
RECREATION	Provide a variety of experiences and settings for a diversity of users , and provide a range of recreational use opportunities while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources.			
ALLOWABLE USES	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-Motorized, Shooting	Non-Motorized, Shooting	Motorized, Non-Motorized, Shooting	Motorized, Mechanized, Non-Motorized, Shooting
Recreational Opportunities	Camping and Staging (Year Round)		Day Use Only	Camping and Staging (Year Round)
Visitor Services	Maintain existing facilities in CCMA.		Limit new recreation facilities inside the ACEC.	Develop & maintain facilities outside the ACEC.
Interpretation/Education	Improve visitor awareness of human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers in CCMA through outreach and education on kiosks, maps, and brochures.			
TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL MGT.	Improve designated route network (and recreation facilities) through surface hardening and other dust suppression techniques, including but not limited to paving or capping roads, or application of dust stabilizers in the soil to protect human health and the environment.			
Vehicle Use Area Designations	"Limited" to designated routes approved in the Record of Decision for the CCMA RMP Amendment and Route Designation (2006)		"Limited" to designated routes on Proposed Action Map (Appendix I)	
Miles of Designated Routes	248.5		32	Existing: 24.5; (Up to ≤ 30 pending TMP)
Vehicle Type(s):on Designated Routes	All Off-Highway Vehicles		Highway Licensed Vehicles Only	Highway Licensed Vehicles & ATV/UTVs Only
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY (Management actions only apply to ACEC)	Use a combination of best management practices (BMPs) and administrative actions (i.e. supplemental rules) to minimize human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers and reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from BLM land use authorizations and management activities.			
Season of Use	Oct. 15-June 1	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	
Permit Access to Restrict Visitor Use Days/Year	NA		Motorized up to 5 days/yr, Non-Motorized up to 12 days/yr	NA
Install Public Wash Rack	YES		NO	
LANDS & REALTY	Maintain existing rights-of-ways for private landowners, communication sites, and mining claims; and restrict new land use authorizations to existing facilities on BLM-administered lands in the ACEC.			
Land Tenure Adjustments	Acquire lands in the ACEC and Tucker Zone		Acquire lands from willing sellers in CCMA.	Make lands identified on Proposed Action Map (Appendix I) available for disposal.
Land Use Authorizations	Limited to Private Land Owners, Existing Rights-of-Ways & Utility Corridors in the Serpentine ACEC. Considered on a case by case basis in other zones.			

Table 2.5 Comparison of the Current Management "No Action Alternative" and the Proposed RMP/FEIS "Proposed Action" (cont.)

PROGRAM AREA	Existing Land Use Decisions (No Action)		Proposed Land Use Decisions (Proposed Action)	
Management Zones	**Serpentine ACEC**	**Cantua Condon Tucker San Benito River**	**Serpentine ACEC**	**Cantua Condon Tucker San Benito River**
ENERGY & MINERALS	Allow development of energy and mineral resources to meet the demand for energy and mineral production while protecting natural and cultural resources in the area.			
Available/Unavailable:		65,000/1,500	0/30,000	36,500/0
LIVESTOCK GRAZING	Provide for a sustainable level of livestock grazing consistent with other resource objectives; identify lands and forage available for livestock grazing; achieve the standards and implement guidelines for rangeland health as outlined in the 2000 Central California Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing.			
Total acres:	22,140			
Total AUMs:	1,354			
SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	Protect values for which special designations are established.			
Wilderness & Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)	Manage the 1,500 acre San Benito Mountain WSA pursuant to BLM's Interim Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review			
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) & Research Natural Areas (RNAs)	Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC = 30,000-acres San Benito Mountain RNA = 4,147-acres			
Wild & Scenic Rivers	Recommend none of the rivers and streams in CCMA for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic River System.			
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Manage the 5,070 acres of lands inventoried for wilderness characteristics in the Cantua Zone to emphasize primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities. Design, construct, and maintain routes and trails in the area to enhance primitive recreation experience by minimizing route-related impacts to solitude, naturalness, and other special features.			
VISUAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	Protect the quality of scenic values on public lands, and apply standards for VRM according to the established VRM classes.			
Serpentine ACEC	Class IV		Class II	
San Benito Mountain WSA/RNA	Class I			
Condon	Class III			
Cantua	Class IV			
Tucker	Class IV			
San Benito River	Class IV			
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Vegetation, Wildlife Habitat, & Special Status Species	Restore, maintain, or improve ecological conditions, natural diversity, and associated watersheds of high value, high-risk, native plant communities and unique plant assemblages.			
	Provide diverse, structured, dynamic, and connected habitat on a landscape level to support viable and sustainable populations of wildlife, fish, and other aquatic organisms.			
	Maintain populations of special status species; and actively contribute to recovery so as to promote downlisting and delisting of special status species.			
Camissonia benitensis	Implement Compliance Monitoring Plan for CABE in the 2006 Record of Decision for the CCMA Route Designation.		Adopt the Compliance Monitoring Plan outlined in Appendix III of this CCMA RMP/EIS for existing *Camissonia benitensis* habitat and (newly discovered) populations.	
Revegetation	Support partnership to continue barrens restoration and to establish small scale soil/plant study plots to investigate plant adaptability and nutritional requirements for rehabilitation purposes.			
Non-natives	Coordinate with California DFG and the USFWS to control non-native species. Prioritize noxious weed eradication based on the BLM and California State lists.			
CULTURAL & HERITAGE RESOURCES	The goals for cultural and heritage resources are to preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations, and seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts on cultural resources, from natural or human-caused deterioration, or from other resource uses.			
Resources Protection	Protect "at-risk" archeological or other cultural resources; utilize a variety of heritage education programs that promote the public stewardship of cultural resources.			
Management Emphasis	Increase Monitoring, Protection, and Interpretation			

2.5.1 Recreation

2.5.1.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for recreation management are to (1) provide a variety of experiences and settings for a diversity of users and to meet potential changes in demand while minimizing conflicts with adjacent property owners and among user groups; (2) provide a range of recreational use opportunities while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources from human intrusion; (3) promote sharing of ideas, resources, and expertise to increase the public's appreciation and understanding of natural and cultural resources on BLM public lands; and (4) disseminate information that will foster responsible behavior in order to achieve the highest possible environmental quality on BLM public lands, and (5) reduce public asbestos exposure and asbestos emissions while still providing opportunities for access within the ACEC.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Maintain a range of facilities to support recreational uses.
- Manage recreation use within the ACEC to reduce airborne asbestos emissions and minimize asbestos exposure for recreation users, to address associated public health impacts.
- Design maps and brochures and educational opportunities to improve visitors' appreciation and understanding of natural and cultural resources on BLM public lands.
- Create experiences and settings appropriate for the desired outcome within developed and undeveloped recreation areas.
- Establish and manage intensive-use areas, where the presence of high quality natural resources and the current or potential demand warrants intensive management practices to protect areas for their scientific, educational, and/or recreational values while accommodating anticipated increases in recreational activities in specific areas.
- Manage recreational facilities to protect natural resources and to meet user needs.
- Manage commercial, competitive, educational, and organized group recreational activities.

2.5.1.2 Management Actions

Table 2.5-1 Overview of Allowable Uses

Mgt. Zones	Allowable Use (Proposed Action)
Serpentine ACEC	Motorized (Highway-Licensed Vehicles) Non-motorized Shooting
Condon	Motorized (Highway-Licensed Vehicles & ATV/UTV Only) Mechanized/Non-motorized Shooting

Mgt. Zones	Allowable Use (Proposed Action)
Cantua	Motorized (Highway-Licensed Vehicles & ATV/UTV Only) Mechanized/Non-motorized Shooting
Tucker	Motorized (Highway-Licensed Vehicles & ATV/UTV Only) Mechanized/Non-motorized Shooting
San Benito River	Motorized (Highway-Licensed Vehicles & ATV/UTV Only) Mechanized/Non-motorized Shooting

- **REC-USE-A7. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage CCMA public lands as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

- **REC-USE-B1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Prohibit camping and staging for recreation in the Serpentine ACEC, except at Jade Mill Campground. Allow camping and staging for recreation on public lands outside the ACEC.

  - **REC-USE-B2. Implementation Decision*:*** Limit visitor use in the Serpentine ACEC to one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset (i.e. day use only), except at Jade Mill Campground.

  - **REC-USE-B4. Implementation Decision:** Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. trails, designated camp sites, staging areas) to support non-motorized recreation opportunities at destinations with unique biological, natural and geologic features within CCMA.

- **REC-USE-D3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Prohibit special recreation permits for organized events in the Serpentine ACEC.

- **REC-USE-D4. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage the Condon Zone with an emphasis on enhancing hunting opportunity and other non-motorized recreation opportunities, while providing for limited motorized opportunities.

  - **REC-USE-E1. Implementation Decision:** Provide motorized access on the designated routes in the Serpentine ACEC for day use by highway-licensed vehicles only.

  - **REC-USE-E2. Implementation Decision:** Authorize motorized access in the Serpentine ACEC by permits only, and limit visitor use to 5 days/year for motorized activities. Limit use for non-motorized activities to 12 days/year.

- **REC-USE-E3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage the Tucker and Cantua Zones with an emphasis on enhancing hunting opportunity and providing access for other non-motorized recreation opportunities.

- **REC-USE-E4. Implementation Decision:** Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. trails, designated camp sites, staging areas) to support non-motorized recreation opportunities in the Cantua Zone.

- **REC-USE-G5. Implementation Decision:** Acquire public access to BLM lands in the Tucker and Cantua Zones.

2.5.1.3 Visitor Services

- **REC-VIS-EF1. Implementation Decision:** Improve access for motorized vehicles to Condon Peak.

- **REC-VIS-EF2. Implementation Decision:** Provide a limited number of recreation facilities in the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua zones to meet increased recreation demand while protecting natural and cultural values and providing for public safety.

- **REC-VIS-BC3. Implementation Decision:** Collect visitor use fees on BLM public lands consistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (2005).

- **REC-VIS-BC7. Implementation Decision:** Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to recreation facilities outlined in Appendix V.

- **REC-VIS-EF3. Implementation Decision:** Maintain existing visitor use facilities outside the Serpentine ACEC, and mitigate human health risk from asbestos emissions inside the Serpentine ACEC through evaluation of dust suppression or surface hardening techniques.

- **REC-VIS-G1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Authorize access into the ACEC for scientific studies, research, and education for accredited institutions and individuals on a case-by-case basis. Access authorizations would stipulate health and safety requirements, as appropriate.

2.5.1.4 Interpretation and Education

- **REC-INT-A2. Implementation Decision:** Continue outreach and education program to create public and visitor awareness of human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers in CCMA.

- **REC-INT-BG1. Implementation Decision:** Provide recreation information such as maps, brochures, and educational opportunities to enhance visitors' experience on BLM public lands. Incorporate the best available information concerning: asbestos health hazards, OHV use designations, fire prevention, BLM regulations, and natural resources of the area into educational materials and on all maps, brochures, and kiosks.

- **REC-INT-BG2. Implementation Decision:** Cooperate with adjacent private landowners on land management activities to the extent possible.

2.5.2 Hazardous Materials and Public Safety

2.5.2.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for hazardous materials and public safety are to (1) protect public health and safety from exposure to hazardous materials; (2) protect natural resources by minimizing environmental contamination from past and present land uses (i.e., abandoned mine lands) on public lands and BLM-owned and operated facilities; (3) improve Public Safety by mitigating physical and chemical hazards; (4) comply with Federal, State, and local hazardous materials management laws and regulations; (5) maintain the health of ecosystems through assessment, cleanup, and restoration of contaminated lands; (6) manage the costs, risks, and liabilities associated with hazardous materials management to reduce the governments financial liabilities; (7) integrate environmental protection and compliance with all environmental statutes into BLM activities.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Identify best management practices (BMPs) and administrative actions (i.e. supplementary rules) to minimize human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos. This includes limiting time and duration of exposure to naturally occurring asbestos within the Serpentine ACEC.

- Identify and control imminent hazards or threats to human health and/or the environment from hazardous substances releases on public lands (including Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) sites).

- Reduce hazardous waste produced by BLM activities and from authorized uses of public lands through waste minimization programs that include recycling, reuse, substitution, and other innovative, safe, cost-effective methods of pollution prevention.

- Ensure that authorized activities on public lands comply with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, policies, guidance, and procedures.

- Promote working partnerships with states, counties, communities, other Federal agencies, and the private sector to prevent pollution and minimize hazardous waste on public lands. Continue to support research related to NOA and amphibole asbestos related to impacts to the environment, mineralogy, toxicology, and assessment of exposure risks to public health. At a minimum, the BLM will re-examine the body of peer-reviewed data available on this subject within three years following issuance of a record of decision for the CCMA RMP.

- Protect visitors from safety hazards and/or environmental releases of chemicals of concern associated with abandoned mine lands (AMLs) and mining activity.

2.5.2.2 Management Actions

- **HAZ-BG1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Restrict the type of activity and the number visits for that activity as the primary means to control risk to public from asbestos exposure.

  - **HAZ-A2. Implementation Decision:** Monitor for illegal dumping of chemicals on federal lands.

  - **HAZ-A3. Implementation Decision:** Identify mining-related and other public land hazards and eliminate or mitigate as soon as possible.

- **HAZ-A4. Implementation Decision:** Identify and resolve mining related trespasses with priority given to those cases where conflicts are occurring with visitor use and safety.

- **HAZ-A6. Implementation Decision:** Comply with all provisions of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District's remote location exemption (for CCMA) from the ATCM regulation for control of airborne asbestos emissions relating to construction, road maintenance, and grading activities.

- **HAZ-BG2. Implementation Decision:** Use best management practices (BMPs) identified in Appendix V for dust abatement on roads and during project implementation.

- **HAZ-BG3. Implementation Decision:** Reduce emissions within the ACEC on major routes with dust suppression and surface hardening techniques as needed. The techniques include, but are not limited to, paving, base rock, chip seal, or applications of surfactants (i.e. biodegradable liquid copolymers) to stabilize and solidify soils or aggregates and control erosion.

- **HAZ-BG4. Implementation Decision:** Issue supplementary rules to minimize exposure to hazardous materials and airborne asbestos fibers, considering technical and budgetary constraints and overall effectiveness of the human health and safety mitigation measures identified below.

    - Enforce speed limits (20 mph) on designated routes.

- **HAZ-BG5. Implementation Decision:** Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) and mining activities outlined in Appendix V.

- **HAZ-BG6. Implementation Decision:** Reduce the use of Federal funds for clean-up of contaminated lands by seeking cost avoidance and/or cost recovery from the legally responsible parties.

2.5.3 Travel and Transportation Management

2.5.3.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for travel and transportation management are to (1) continue to maintain roads for resource management purposes; (2) continue to support local counties and the State of California in providing a network of roads for movement of people, goods, and services across public lands; (3) provide motorized access to areas of interest within the ACEC, (4) manage motorized access use to protect resource values, promote public safety, provide responsible motorized access use opportunities where appropriate and minimize conflicts among various user groups.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Reduce asbestos exposure, as well as limit the miles of routes available for motorized use to reduce asbestos emissions; while still providing opportunities for motorized recreation use. Minimize dust emissions from main roads.

- Maintain or enhance water quality in all watersheds. Manage the route network to ensure that sensitive species and communities maintain or enhance their condition. Reduce erosion and sediment transport in all CCMA watersheds by reducing the number of miles available for vehicle use, and by implementing Best Management Practices for all road work.

- Establish a Scenic Touring Route within the ACEC. Limit travel to route maintenance objective level 4 and level 3 roads, to provide safe travel and accommodate a wide range of vehicle types.

- Provide travel routes to and through BLM-managed lands as appropriate to meet resource objectives while providing for private and public access needs.

- Manage motorized access and mechanized vehicle use in conformance with Area and Route designations.

- Adopt the following "adaptive management criteria" to reassess CCMA land use decisions and implementation decisions associated with human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers, should circumstances change or new information becomes available that warrants increases in allowable uses and reducing the limits on trails available for motorized and non-motorized recreational use in the Serpentine ACEC.

  If any of the following "adaptive management criteria" are met, BLM would reinitiate travel management planning in the Serpentine ACEC to modify transportation and travel management decisions adopted in this PRMP/FEIS:

  - Activity based studies that establish effective strategies for reduction in personal exposure to asbestos from off-highway vehicle recreation.
  - Research results in a significant reduction in the toxicity values for asbestos resulting in a reduced excess lifetime cancer risk.
  - Chrysotile asbestos is removed from the list of Toxic and Hazardous regulated substances.

Pursuant to IM 2008-14 and BLM Manual 1626, these adaptive management criteria provide BLM flexibility to change route designations in the future and address how those routes would be managed within the modified transportation network. At a minimum, the BLM will re-examine the body of peer-reviewed data available on this subject within three years following issuance of a record of decision for this CCMA RMP to determine if there's a need to reconsider the decisions in the CCMA RMP.

Under such a scenario, BLM would collaborate with interested parties to evaluate potential changes to the designated route network. The network would be evaluated for suitability for active OHV management and for envisioning potential changes in the existing system or addition of new trails that would help meet land use plan objectives.

Any adaptive management decisions related to recreation access or motorized vehicle use would need to conform with Executive Order 11644 (Use of Off-Road Vehicles on the Public Lands) and 43 CFR 8342.1 minimization criteria.

2.5.3.2 Management Actions

Vehicle Use Area Designation Summary

- Outside the Serpentine ACEC, the Limited vehicle use area designation shall be defined as restricting motorized use to designated routes, utilizing the designation methodology described in Appendix II, to satisfy minimization criteria outlined in 43 CFR 8342.1 Motorized use is restricted to highway licensed vehicles and ATV/UTV use.

- Within the Serpentine ACEC, the Limited vehicle use area designation shall be defined as restricting motorized use to a concise network (30 – 40 miles) of designated routes providing access to key points within the area as a scenic touring route.
- The Limited vehicle use area restrictions in the ACEC also include type of vehicle (highway licensed), and access by permit only (limiting annual visitor use days within the Serpentine ACEC).

➢ **TRANS-E1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Designate the Serpentine ACEC as a "Limited" vehicle use area. The Limited Use area designation shall be defined as restricting motorized use to a concise network (30 – 40 miles) of designated routes providing access to key points within the area as a scenic touring route.

❖ **TRANS-E1.25. Implementation Decision:** Vehicle use in the Serpentine ACEC would be limited to highway-licensed vehicles for day use only with a permit.

❖ **TRANS-E1.50. Implementation Decision:** Designate the following routes 'open' for vehicle use in the Serpentine ACEC: R1, R10, R11, R13, R14, R15, T103, T104, T151, and T153. The designated routes identified above would be developed and maintained to BLM standards.

❖ **TRANS-E1.75. Implementation Decision:** All other routes and areas in the Serpentine ACEC would be designated closed including barrens.

❖ **TRANS-E2. Implementation Decision:** Develop and maintain transportation facilities (i.e. pull-outs and parking areas) in the ACEC on portions of the vehicle touring route with high scenic values, and other destinations with unique biological, natural and geologic features within CCMA.

➢ **TRANS-E3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Designate the Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito River Zones as "Limited" vehicle use areas and prepare Travel Management Plans to designate routes of travel. Vehicle use in the Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito River Zones would be limited to highway licensed vehicles and ATV/UTV use only on designated routes (including potential routes and route construction proposals) identified on the Proposed Action Map in Appendix I.

➢ **TRANS-E4. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Develop and maintain approximately 30 miles of routes and trails in the Tucker and Cantua Zones for non-motorized recreation following inventory, soil loss assessment, and resources screening using the route designation methodology described in Appendix II and 43 CFR 8342.1 minimization criteria.

➢ **TRANS-E5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Enforce temporary closures year-round to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources, especially during periods of extreme wet conditions and during periods of extreme dry conditions.

❖ **TRANS-E6. Implementation Decision:** Maintain approximately 24.5 miles of designated open routes and trails in the Condon Zone.

➢ **TRANS-A2.** A **Land Use Plan Decision*:*** All routes not designated 'open or limited', are designated as 'closed'. OHV use is authorized only on designated 'open or limited' routes which are signed for use.

- **TRANS-A4. Implementation Decision:** Adopt the route designation methodology described below to satisfy minimization criteria outlined in 43 CFR 8342.1 during development of future travel and transportation management plans:

  - Designation decisions would be based on a variety of data, including previous studies, field inventory data, biological, environmental, cultural, and natural and recreation resources, land use, and land ownership.

  - BLM would consider the level of impact of each route; the number, density, and intensity of use of each route and area and its relationship to habitat fragmentation and cumulative effects; and ways to minimize the number and intensity of conflicting land uses.

  - Evaluate routes relative to designation criteria (see Appendix II) such as, resource sensitivity, soil loss, manageability, intended route use, and recreation opportunity. The route designation criteria are combined in four tiers roughly corresponding to the criteria's likelihood of requiring route closure, described in Appendix II.

  - Establish a Data Element Dictionary for each of the resource screening criteria, representing the data on which decisions about authorized vehicle use of routes is based. The data element dictionary describes the responses for each criterion. As routes are screened through the criteria tables, data element codes are assigned based on staff evaluation. The last digit of the element code also represents a scoring feature, with totals greater than nine for all criteria deemed least suitable for open designation. Designation of routes would include mitigation measures or restoration as needed.

  - Refer to Appendix II for a complete listing of resource specific evaluations for each route designated "open" for vehicle use in CCMA PRMP/FEIS and more details about the CCMA route designation methodology.

- **TRANS-A7. Implementation Decision:** Modify the designated route network to resolve visitor use conflicts and promote safe public access through minor realignments[3] designed to:

  - Avoid sensitive natural or cultural resources,

  - Reduce impact on sensitive species and habitats,

  - Substantially increase the quality of the recreational experience, but that will not affect sensitive species or habitat, or other sensitive resource values,

  - Avoid mines and private lands.

[3] *"Minor realignment" is defined as a change of no more than ¼ linear mile of an individual designated route. This could include the opening of an existing previously closed route that serves the same access need as the route that is to be realigned. It could also involve re-routes of a segment of a route, to avoid the above mentioned resource conflicts. All new construction will undergo environmental review and NEPA compliance. All realignments and re-routes will be documented in the official record and kept on file at the BLM Field Office.*

- **TRANS-A13. Implementation Decision:** Implement the following BMP's to reduce environmental impacts from travel and transportation management.

  - **Best Management Practices**: BLM will monitor water quality, soil erosion, and sediment conditions within the watersheds of the CCMA. The BLM will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts to watershed resources, and will continue to evaluate and update these measures as needed to minimize impacts to water quality, control erosion and sediment production, and protect sensitive resources. BMPs related to watershed improvement and road maintenance projects will be implemented to reduce erosion and off-site sedimentation transport (see Appendix V).

- **TRANS-B5. Implementation Decision:** Implement additional BMPs related to transportations and roads outlined in Appendix V. Address all route maintenance activities in an annual corrective route maintenance plan. Implement route maintenance and improvement projects consistent with the following guidance:

  - BLM manuals 9113, H-9113-2, 9114,

  - Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects Standards, US Forest Service Trails Handbook 2309.18, sections 2.32 a, b, and c; and

  - 1995 Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) report will be used for standards, guidelines, and recommendations.

  Resource awareness training would be completed by all operators to ensure compliance with adopted route maintenance guidelines, with relevant inventory data incorporated into the training as appropriate. The BLM will continue to implement BMPs to reduce impacts to watershed resources and control non-point source pollution. Soil loss standards will be used in monitoring and assessment of routes and areas, and will serve as the basis in developing corrective route management plans.

- **TRANS-FG3. Implementation Decision:** Decommission and reclaim closed roads to protect sensitive resources, reduce sediment transport, and control erosion.

- **TRANS-FG4. Implementation Decision:** Implement BMPs to reduce offsite water quality impacts from roads and trails that no longer serve their original purpose, or exceed soil loss standards.

- **TRANS-FG5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Restrict administrative use of roads and trails during periods of inclement weather.

Tables 2.5-2(a) and 2.5-2(b) provide an overview of the vehicle use area designations and designated route mileage under the Proposed Action.

Table 2.5-2(a) Proposed Vehicle Use Area Designation(s)

Management Zone (acres)	Proposed Area Designation
Serpentine ACEC (30,000)	Limited
Condon (9,700)	Limited
San Benito River (3,600)	Limited
Cantua (14,900)	Limited
Tucker (5,900)	Limited

Table 2.5-2(b) Proposed Route Designation(s)

Management Zone	Proposed Route Designation (Miles)
Serpentine ACEC	Open = 32; Closed = 195
Condon & San Benito River Zone(s)	Open = 24.5; Closed = 0
Tucker & Cantua Zone	Open = 30*; Closed = 0
TOTAL:	Open = 86.5*; Closed = 195

(*) Based on approval of Travel Management Plans outlined in TRANS-E3.

2.5.4 Biological Resources – Vegetation Resources

2.5.4.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for vegetation resources are to (1) restore, maintain, or improve ecological conditions, natural diversity, and associated watersheds of high value, high-risk, native plant communities and unique plant assemblages and (2) to restore degraded landscapes and plant communities.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Maintain or improve current ecological values and processes, productivity, and biological diversity;
- Rehabilitate areas affected by wildland fire and other surface-disturbing activities to stabilize soils and promote growth of desired plant communities;
- Prevent the introduction and proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds.

2.5.4.2 Management Actions

- **VEG-A2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage the native perennial grassland communities to maintain or increase the population (i.e. the desert needlegrass community in the Condon Peak area).

- **VEG-A3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Give special consideration to the unique stands of big sagebrush and protect these to the extent practicable, especially in the San Carlos Bolsa.

- **VEG-A4. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage conifer forests for their scenic values and unique vegetation characteristics.

- **VEG-A5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Prohibit commercial harvesting of conifer forests in sensitive areas (i.e. San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area).

- **VEG-A6. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Protect known and newly discovered occurrences of sensitive vegetation resources, including vernal pools and riparian zones, from vehicle and camping disturbances through fencing and other physical barriers.

  - **VEG-A7. Implementation Decision:** Implement brush clearing, prescribed burning, and seed or seedling introductions as appropriate for selected species.

  - **VEG-A8. Implementation Decision:** Use prescribed fire and other management techniques to provide a mosaic of vegetative communities to protect soil, watershed, and wildlife.

- **VEG-A9. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Maintain sustained yield of vegetation for consumptive and non-consumptive uses.

- **VEG-A10. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Cooperate with the University of California to continue the barrens restoration pilot program and to establish small scale soil/plant study plots to investigate plant adaptability and nutritional requirements for rehabilitation purposes.

  - **VEG-BG1. Implementation Decision:** Include mitigation measures to protect or enhance riparian areas in all activity plans.

  - **VEG-BG2. Implementation Decision:** Emphasize locally grown or adapted native seed mixes for restoration activities.

  - **VEG-BG3. Implementation Decision:** Utilize management activities that mimic natural disturbance regimes (e.g., fire) to manage and maintain the composition, mixed age classes, and native wildlife habitat of perennial grasslands, chaparral, oak woodland communities, and wetlands.

  - **VEG-BG4. Implementation Decision:** Rehabilitate vegetation emphasizing use of local genotypes of native species for revegetation materials following wildland fires and/or other surface-disturbing activities. Allow non-invasive, non-native species to be used in re-vegetation materials that are temporary and non-persistent.

  - **VEG-BG5. Implementation Decision:** Avoid surface disturbance to riparian vegetation except for short-term disturbances that are necessary to restore or enhance riparian conditions in the long-term.

- ❖ **VEG-BG6. Implementation Decision:** Mitigate or relocate existing or proposed activities within 100 feet of riparian vegetation that could cause a downward trend in condition of riparian resources.

- ❖ **VEG-BG7. Implementation Decision:** Maintain mixed-aged classes for all riparian communities.

- ❖ **VEG-BG8. Implementation Decision:** Develop an Integrated Pest Management approach that prioritizes invasive and noxious weed eradication based on the BLM and California State lists.

- ❖ **VEG-BG9. Implementation Decision:** Issue non-commercial permits for collecting vegetative products for Native American practices.

- ❖ **VEG-BG10. Implementation Decision:** Initiate riparian restoration/improvement projects within systems that have been identified as not functioning or functioning at risk with a downward or static trend.

- ➢ **VEG-BG11. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Provide a mosaic of vegetation communities to protect soil, watershed, and wildlife; maintain sustained yield of vegetation for consumptive and non-consumptive uses.

2.5.5 Biological Resources – Fish and Wildlife

2.5.5.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for fish and wildlife is to provide diverse, structured, dynamic, and connected habitat on a landscape level to support viable and sustainable populations of wildlife, fish, and other aquatic organisms.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Conserve habitat consistent with the *Recovery Plan for Camissonia Benitensis (FWS 2007)*.

- Conserve habitat for migratory birds and species listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of Birds of Conservation Concern.

- Maintain or enhance viable, healthy, and diverse populations of native and desired species, including special status species, where appropriate.

2.5.5.2 Management Actions

- ➢ **HAB-BF1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the USFWS to control non-native wildlife species.

- ➢ **HAB-BF2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Preserve fallen trees and snags in occupied and potential habitat for raptors. Prohibit collecting wood in areas known to provide breeding habitat.

  - ❖ **HAB-BF3. Implementation Decision:** Mitigate or relocate man-made barriers that substantially impede migration within wildlife travel corridors, as appropriate.

- ❖ **HAB-BF4. Implementation Decision:** Maintain existing water improvements (e.g., guzzlers).

- ➢ **HAB-BF5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Avoid disturbance, including road construction and recreational activities, within a 0.5-mile radius of roosting sites of owls, ospreys, eagles, buteos, accipiters, and falcons.

- ➢ **HAB-BF6. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Avoid disturbance, including road construction and recreation activities, within a one-mile radius around nesting sites of of owls, ospreys, eagles, buteos, accipiters, and falcons.

- ➢ **HAB-BF7. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Cooperate with the CDFG to reintroduce, release, and/or restore populations of native fish and wildlife species into historic and occupied ranges with suitable habitat.

2.5.6 Biological Resources – Special Status Species

2.5.6.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for management of special status species is to (1) maintain populations of special status species; and (2) actively contribute to recovery so as to promote downlisting and delisting of special status species.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Manage listed, proposed, or candidate threatened or endangered species to comply with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

- Manage special status plant and BLM-recognized significant plant communities consistent with BLM policy on Special Status Species Management (BLM Manual 6840).

- Preclude the need for listing proposed, candidate, and sensitive species under the ESA.

- Improve the condition of special status species and their habitats to the point where their special status recognition is no longer warranted.

2.5.6.2 Management Actions

- ➢ **SSS-A7. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage public lands to protect and enhance sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species. Evaluate all known or potential habitat before implementing actions that may affect the habitat. Conduct consultations in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, if appropriate.

- ➢ **SSS-A8. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage portions of Clear Creek, Sawmill Creek, San Benito River, and San Carlos Creek for introducing the San Benito evening-primrose into suitable habitat.

  - ❖ **SSS-A9. Implementation Decision:** Monitor all populations of the San Benito evening-primrose and their protective measures for compliance relating to OHV trespass.

- **SSS-A11. Implementation Decision:** Rehabilitate (by ripping and/or pitting) potential habitat areas for the San Benito evening primrose in Clear Creek Canyon. Seed would be collected from nearby populations and broadcast over these areas (approximately one-half acre each) subsequent to seedbed preparation. Evaluate and implement vegetation manipulations, such as brush clearing, prescribed burns and seed or seedling introductions, for San Benito evening primrose habitat areas of high and moderate potential.

- **SSS-A15. Implementation Decision:** Monitor all unprotected populations of special status species for possible adverse impacts from vehicles and other uses and implement protective actions as warranted.

- **SSS-A16. Implementation Decision:** Inventory suitable habitat for all sensitive plant species. Monitor any new populations of special status species documented during inventories for adverse impacts and implement protective actions as warranted.

- **SSS-BC2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Prohibit collection of special status species, except for scientific research or Native American traditional use.

- **SSS-BC3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Protect ponds, wetlands, or riparian areas known to support or that could potentially support California tiger salamander or yellow-legged frog to maintain natural corridors between pools/wetlands and upland habitat so that continuous native plant coverage allows adequate movement of these species.

- **SSS-BC4. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Avoid disturbance, including road construction and recreation activities, within a one-mile radius of nesting sites (and a 0.5 mile radius of roosting sites) of the California condor, eagles, and prairie falcons.

  - **SSS-DEF1. Implementation Decision:** Adopt the BLM's Compliance Monitoring Plan outlined in Appendix IV for existing CABE habitat and populations.

  - **SSS-DEF2. Implementation Decision:** Mitigate or relocate surface-disturbing activities proposed within occupied or potential habitat for special status species.

- **SSS-G2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Limit proposed new surface-disturbing activities within occupied or potential habitat for special status species. Limit long-term disturbances in potential habitat.

  - **SSS-G3. Implementation Decision:** Conduct restoration projects in closed areas that disturb or interrupt hydrologic and/or ecological processes to support special status species and significant plant communities.

2.5.7 Air Quality

2.5.7.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for air quality management is to ensure that BLM authorizations and management activities comply with with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and local, State, and Federal air quality regulations, requirements, State Implementation Plans, and Regional Air Board standards and goals.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Manage prescribed fires to comply with established air quality standards and smoke management rules and guidelines;
- Manage energy and mineral development to avoid degradation of established air quality standards; and
- Coordinate with Regional Air Quality Control Districts on resource management activities to ensure consistency with State Implementation Plans for air basins affected by activities in the CCMA.

2.5.7.2 Management Actions

- **AIR-A1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Comply with State and Federal air quality regulations, including but not limited to:
  - National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) primary standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, and lead (40 CFR 50);
  - NAAQS secondary standards (40 CFR 50); and
  - The California State Implementation Plan and the California Air Pollution Control Laws (California Health and Safety Code §39606).
- **AIR-A5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Comply with all provisions of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Airborne Toxic Control Measures (ATCM) regulation for control of airborne asbestos emissions relating to construction, road maintenance, and grading activities.
  - **AIR-BG1. Implementation Decision:** Incorporate mitigation measures in Appendix V for activities and projects on BLM lands in order to reduce airborne asbestos emissions and comply with applicable Federal, State, and local air quality regulations.
- **AIR-BG2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage motorized vehicle travel on dirt roads to minimize air pollution from dust and exhaust by restricting vehicle types and seasons when vehicles could be used.
- **AIR-BG3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage prescribed fire to minimize smoke and coordinate with Federal, State, and local governments in smoke-sensitive areas such as wildland-urban interface areas.

2.5.8 Soil Resources

2.5.8.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for soil resources management is to manage soil on BLM lands such that functional biological and physical characteristics that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form are exhibited (Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines, 2000).

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Control erosion and sediment transport;
- Implement soil loss assessment procedures for road and trail maintenance;

- Implement BMPs for non-point source pollution control;
- Maintain vegetation cover at or above the level necessary to stabilize soils; and
- Protect and restore biological soil crusts on watersheds.

2.5.8.2 Management Actions

- **SOIL-A3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Close roads to vehicle use during periods of extreme wet weather in areas where sustained vehicle use may compromise the integrity of the road surface, to reduce rutting of roads and trails and sediment transfer, and to improve visitor safety.

- **SOIL-A10. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Prioritize designated 'closed' routes for restoration and reclamation to allow them return to a natural state.

  - **SOIL-BG1. Implementation Decision:** Establish remote automated weather stations (RAWS) or apply the use of other available technologies in order to monitor precipitation and soil moisture content in CCMA.

- **SOIL-BG2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Require an approved erosion control strategy and topsoil segregation/restoration plan for proposals involving surface disturbance on slopes of 20 to 40 percent. No surface disturbance on slopes greater than 40 percent would be allowed unless it is determined that it would cause a greater impact to pursue other alternatives.

  - **SOIL-BG3.** Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to barrens restoration/ management outlined in Appendix V.

2.5.9 Water Resources

2.5.9.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for water resources management are to (1) maintain, restore, or improve water quality and quantity to sustain the designated beneficial uses on BLM lands and (2) ensure that surface and groundwater quality comply with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and with California State standards.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Maintain the existing quality and beneficial uses of water, protect waters where they are threatened, and restore currently degraded waters. This objective is of even higher priority in the following situations:
- Where the beneficial uses of water bodies have been listed as threatened or impaired pursuant to Section 303(d) of the CWA;
- Where aquatic habitat is present or has been present for Federal threatened or endangered species, candidate species, and other special status species dependent on water resources; and
- In water resource-sensitive areas such as riparian or wetland areas.
- Protect all designated beneficial uses by preventing or limiting non-point source pollution.

2.5.9.2 Management Actions

- ❖ **WAT-BG1. Implementation Decision:** Implement BMPs related to watershed restoration/ management outlined in Appendix V to prevent degradation of water quality.

- ➢ **WAT-BG2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Maintain existing developed water sources (i.e., spring developments and reservoirs). Develop new sources on a case-by-case basis through project-level planning.

- ➢ **WAT-BG3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Maintain adjudicated water rights; inventory water sources not adjudicated or water rights sought, where applicable.

- ➢ **WAT-BG4. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Submit request to the California State Department of Water Resources to establish Federal reserved water rights on acquired lands to ensure water availability for multiple use management and for functioning, healthy, riparian and upland systems.

- ➢ **WAT-BG5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage CWA 303(d)-listed impaired water bodies to meet properly functioning condition (PFC) objectives relative to beneficial uses and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for mercury and sediment.

- ➢ **WAT-BG6. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Maintain stable watershed conditions and implement passive and active restoration projects to protect beneficial uses of water and meet TMDLs for mercury and sediment.

- ➢ **WAT-BG7. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Work with Coordinated Resource Management Planning groups and other private landowners or non-profit organizations to prevent water bodies from reaching impairment levels that would result in listing under CWA 303(d).

  - ❖ **WAT-BG8. Implementation Decision:** Periodically monitor water quality in seasonal pools and perennial ponds containing known or suspected threatened and endangered (T & E) species. Identify water quality issues and initiate repairs, within environmental constraints.

- ➢ **WAT-BG9. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage all fluvial systems functioning at risk to achieve proper functioning condition.

2.5.10 Special Designations

2.5.10.1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) /Research Natural Areas (RNAs)

The goals for ACECs and RNAs are to identify and manage ACECs and RNAs to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Manage the Serpentine ACEC to reduce human health risks in areas with high concentrations of asbestos fibers by limiting use that
  - o creates high levels of asbestos emissions,
  - o creates increased opportunity for human exposure to asbestos, and

  - creates need for intense management presence and infrastructure in the ACEC.
- Manage the Serpentine ACEC to protect special status species associated with the serpentine soils of the New Idria Formation
- Manage the San Benito Mountain RNA for the unique forest assemblage and scientific research and educational opportunities.

2.5.10.1.1 Management Actions

- **ACEC-BG1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Maintain the designation of the 30,000-acre serpentine geologic formation and area of serpentine soils high in asbestos fiber as the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Maintain the 4,147-acre designation of the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area (RNA).

- **ACEC-BG2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage the Serpentine ACEC for public health and safety, special status species, and cultural, historic, and scenic values. Manage the San Benito Mountain RNA for its unique forest assemblage and the associated scientific research and educational values.

  - **ACEC-BG3. Implementation Decision:** Adopt the San Benito Mountain RNA Management Plan described in Appendix III.

  - **ACEC-BG4. Implementation Decision:** Develop stipulations for scientific research and collection in concert with individuals and institutions involved.

  - **ACEC-BG5. Implementation Decision:** Establish appropriate guidelines that protect special status species habitat from surface disturbing activities.

2.5.10.2 Wilderness Study Areas

The goal for managing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) is to manage these areas consistent with the Wilderness Act of 1964, as applicable. More specific management direction can be found in 3 CFR 6300. BLM is required to manage WSAs consistent with Section 603 of the FLPMA and the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (H-8550-1) until Congress designates the areas as wilderness or releases them from the Section 603 FLPMA provision. If the areas are released, they would be managed consistent with the provisions within the RMP.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Manage existing WSAs in conformance with the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review.

2.5.10.2.1 Management Actions

- **WILD-AG1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Manage all designated wilderness consistent with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Public Law 107-370-(2)(2). Manage WSAs under the Interim Management Policy (H-8550-1) until Congress designates wilderness areas or until non-suitable WSAs are released.

- **WILD-AG2. Land Use Plan Decision:** Manage the 1,500-acre San Benito Mountain WSA consistent with the goals and objectives and the resource management actions for the Serpentine

ACEC and the San Benito Mountain RNA described in this RMP/EIS, if the area is released from WSA status by Congress.

- **WILD-AG3. Implementation Decision:** Conduct necessary maintenance of routes through the area to enhance overall wilderness quality by minimizing route-related impacts to the sensitive resources inside the SBMRNA/WSA. Areas along the roadways near the WSA will be rehabilitated using the best management practices outlined in Appendix V.

2.5.10.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers

Pursuant to *BLM Manual 8351 – Wild and Scenic Rivers – Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation and Management*, the BLM evaluates identified river segments for their eligibility and suitability for Wild and Scenic River designation through its RMP process. The criteria and information upon which WSR river eligibility and suitability determinations are based are included in Appendix VI. Only Congress can designate Wild and Scenic Rivers to be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS).

2.5.10.3.1 Management Actions

- **WSR-AG1**. **Land Use Plan Decision*:*** None of the river and stream segments on BLM public lands in CCMA were determined to be eligible and suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. Therefore, BLM recommends that none of the rivers and streams identified in Appendix VI be included in the NWSRS.

2.5.10.4 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The goal for managing Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs) is to emphasize other multiple uses while applying management restrictions (conditions of use, mitigation measures) to reduce impacts to wilderness characteristics Management of LWCs is part of BLM's multiple use mandate. Lands within the CCMA were inventoried in 2011 in accordance with BLM Handbook 6310-1 Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures, to identify public lands with wilderness characteristics such as naturalness, opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and other associated qualities.

- **LWC-EF1. Implementation Decision:** Manage the 5,070 acres of lands inventoried for wilderness characteristics in the Cantua Zone to emphasize primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities. Design, construct, and maintain routes and trails in the area to enhance primitive recreation experience by minimizing route-related impacts to solitude, naturalness, and other special features.

2.5.11 Livestock Grazing

2.5.11.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for livestock grazing management are to (1) provide for a sustainable level of livestock grazing consistent with other resource objectives, (2) identify lands and forage available for livestock grazing, and (3) achieve the standards and implement guidelines for rangeland health as outlined in the 2000 Central California Standards and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing (hereafter referred to as the Standards and Guidelines).

2.5.11.2 Management Actions

- **RANG-AE1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Make public acres and animal unit months (AUMs) available for livestock grazing as summarized in Table 2.5-3.

- **RANG-AE2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Ensure that levels and duration of rest or deferment after a wildfire are consistent with site characteristics, ecological site descriptions, land management objectives, short-term emergency stabilization, and rehabilitation objectives such as rehabilitating the desired plant community.

- **RANG-AE3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** In order to meet physiological requirements of key plant species or to meet other resource objectives, control the intensity, duration, and timing of grazing and/or provide for periodic deferment and/or rest where livestock grazing is limiting the achievement of multiple use objectives.

  - **RANG-AE4. Implementation Decision:** Conduct interdisciplinary rangeland health assessments on all grazing allotments to evaluate conformance with the Standards and Guidelines.

  - **RANG-AE5. Implementation Decision:** If new information demonstrates that livestock grazing within a particular allotment is not compatible with conservation or preservation of endangered, threatened, candidate, or special status species, these lands would become unavailable for livestock grazing.

  - **RANG-AE6. Implementation Decision:** When evaluation of rangeland health assessments determines that exclusion of livestock grazing is necessary to meet public health objectives and resource objectives (i.e., cultural or historical resources protection, geologically unstable area protection, sensitive plant or animal areas, intensive recreational use areas, etc.), these lands would become unavailable for livestock grazing.

  - **RANG-AE7. Implementation Decision:** Where possible fence spring developments to prevent trampling by livestock.

- **RANG-AE8. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Cancel forage allocations on grazing allotments and make lands unavailable if lands are disposed of through exchange or sale or are devoted to another purpose.

- **RANG-AE9. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Allow prescribed burning for rangeland improvement to prevent vegetative conversion (i.e., chaparral or juniper encroachment into annual grasslands or oak savannahs).

- **RANG-AE10. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Develop allotment management plans to bring allotments not meeting the Standards and Guidelines due to current livestock grazing management into compliance.

- **RANG-AE11. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Allow grazing on newly acquired land inside of allotments not in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines where current livestock grazing management is not the cause.

- **RANG-AE12. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Allow grazing on allotments not in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines where current livestock grazing management is determined as not being the cause of noncompliance.

Table 2.5-3 Livestock Grazing Summary for Proposed Action

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Mgmt Zone [5]	Public Acres	Public AUMs [1]	Livestock Class [2]	Period Begin Date	Period End Date
4301	Akers [4]	SBR	368	69	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4308	Birdwell, Perry W [4]	S, CON	1,389	72	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
	Birdwell Addition[3,4]		447	5			
4319	Lewis Flat [4]	SBR	190	19	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4352	Willow Spring	SBR	940	80	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4359	Quarter Circle A-1 [3]	S, CON	3,348	155	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4374	Joaquin Rocks [4]	CON	3,568	275	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
	Joaquin Rocks Addition		**3,619**	**210**			
4379	Upper Los Gatos Crk. [3]	S, CON	4,317	1,036	Y	1-Jan	31-May
4398	Adobe [4]	CAN	2,124	162	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
4401	Williamson	CON	1,920	126	C	15-Feb	15-Aug
4409	Bar B Ranch	T	1,957	129	Y	1-Mar	28-Feb
4410	Hernandez Ranch [3]	S, T	2,823	159	Y	1-Mar	28-Feb
4411	Ashurst Ranch [3,4]	S, T	12,246	2,104	Y	1-Dec	30-Apr
	Ashurst Ranch Addition		**160**	**0**			
4414	Diamond A [4]	CAN	7,254	1,804	Y	1-Dec	30-Apr
	Diamond A Addition		**10,523**	**1,110**			
4418	Goat Mountain [3,4]	S, SBR	440	32	C	1-Mar	28-Feb
14	**TOTALS**		**57,633**	**7,547**			

[1] AUM (Animal Unit Month) = one cow + one calf.
[2] Livestock Class: C = cattle, Y = yearling.
[3] Includes public lands within HAA.
[4] Includes public lands outside of CCMA.
[5] Management Zone: S = Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC, T = Tucker, CON = Condon, CAN = Cantua, SBR = San Benito River.

2.5.12 Energy and Minerals

2.5.12.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for energy and mineral resource management is to allow development of energy and mineral resources to meet the demand for energy and mineral production while protecting natural and cultural resources in the area.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Balance responsible mineral resource development with the protection of other resource values.
- Provide opportunities for mineral exploration and development under the mining and mineral leasing laws.
- Provide mineral materials needed for community and economic purposes.

2.5.12.2 Management Actions

- **ENERG-A1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Consider minerals exploration, development, and production within environmental and multiple-use management constraints. Withdrawals would be initiated to affect locatable mineral segregations on specified lands.
- **ENERG-A3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Consider mineral and geothermal exploration and development in other CCMA locations on a case-by-case basis.
- **ENERG-A4. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Allow oil and gas exploration and development within environmental constraints to protect special status species and paleontological resources.
- **ENERG-A5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Make public lands available for orderly and efficient development of mineral and energy resources under principles of balanced multiple-use management.
- **ENERG-BC3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Require No Surface Occupancy stipulations on all recreation and public purposes (R&PP) lease areas.
- **ENERG-DEF1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Allow no mineral leasing or sales on public lands in the Serpentine ACEC. Recommend withdrawal of the entire 30,000-acre ACEC from locatable mineral entry.
- **ENERG-DEF2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Allow mineral leasing or sales on public lands outside the ACEC, and stipulate that "No Surface Occupancy" is allowed on oil and gas leases on all BLM lands with occupied special status species habitat.
- **ENERG-DEF3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Make the Serpentine ACEC an exclusion area for renewable energy development. Make all other Zones available for wind energy development consideration, subject to the BMPs outlined in Appendix VII.

Table 2.5-4 summarizes the acres of land available/unavailable for leasable mineral entry and open/closed for salable mineral entry for each alternative. It also identifies acres of land open or closed to locatable mineral entry (i.e. 1,500-acre San Benito Mountain WSA).

Table 2.5-4 Summary of Energy and Mineral Development (Acres)

Type of Entry	Status	Alternative A	Proposed Action
Leasable	Available	61,400	36,500
Leasable	Unavailable	5,100	30,000
Salable	Available	65,000	36,500
Salable	Unavailable	1,500	30,000
Locatable	Open	36,500	36,500
Locatable	Closed	5,100	30,000
Renewable	Available	65,000	36,500
Renewable	Unavailable	1,500	30,000

Note: Calculations based on 63,000 acres of BLM-managed lands, plus 3,500 acres of "split-estate".

2.5.13 Cultural Resources

2.5.13.1 Goals and Objectives

In accordance with BLM policy (DM 8130.23), the two primary goals for cultural resources management on CCMA public lands are to 1) Preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (per FLPMA Sec. 103(c), 201(a), 202(c); NHPA Sec. 110(a); ARPA Sec. 14(a)), and 2) Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts on cultural resources, from natural or human-caused deterioration, or from other resource uses (per FLPMA Sec 103(c), NHPA Sec. 106; 110(a)(2)).

The BLM's cultural resources management program relies on an integrated system of identifying and evaluating cultural resources, deciding on their appropriate use(s), and administering them according to cultural resource law and policy.

The primary objectives for this integrated management system are to:

- Respond in a legally sufficient and professional manner concerning historic preservation and cultural resource protection;
- Recognize the potential public and scientific uses of cultural resources on the public lands, and manage the lands and cultural resources so that these uses and values are not diminished but rather are maintained and enhanced.
- Ensure that proposed land uses, initiated or authorized by BLM, avoid inadvertent damage to Federal and non-Federal cultural resources.

2.5.13.2 Management Actions

- **CULT-COM1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Protect "at-risk" archeological or other cultural resources, including prehistoric and historic sites, using the BMPs available with physical ("on-the-ground") and/or administrative methods to achieve improved site stabilization, protection, or health.

- **CULT-COM2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Utilize a variety of heritage education programs that promote the public stewardship of cultural resources, including but not limited to conventional outreach efforts, and participate in the following programs:

  - *California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) and the California Indian Site Stewardship* program, which provide training for volunteer site stewards for site monitoring, protection, and enhancement);

  - *Cooperative Stewardship*, which involves the BLM and the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) in interpretive outreach efforts with involvement from tribes and educational institutions;

  - *Professional and Avocational Societies*, in which the BLM attends meetings and conferences to enhance public outreach, education goals, and increase awareness of BLM's cultural resource management programs and to support avocational societies to advance cooperative efforts in public outreach and education; and

  - *Archeological and Cultural Awareness Program (ACAP)*, wherein BLM partners with tribes and other Federal and State agencies to conduct evaluations and enhancement projects using volunteers.

- **CULT-COM3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Evaluate and manage all cultural resource properties appropriately using the Use Allocation and Desired Outcome management criteria for cultural resources in Table 2.5-5:

Table 2.5-5 Cultural Resource Use Allocations and Desired Outcomes

Use Allocation	Desired Outcome
Scientific use	Preserved until research potential is realized
Conservation for future use	Preserved until conditions for use are met
Traditional use	Long-term preservation
Public use	Long-term preservation, on-site interpretation
Experimental use	Protected until used
Discharged from management	No use after recordation; not preserved

- **CULT-A4. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Before implementation of surface-disturbing projects, including range developments and vegetation manipulations, evaluate cultural resource potential and avoid adverse impacts to National Register-eligible sites when feasible.

- **CULT-A5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Protect archeological sites in the White Creek Archeological District by maintaining the closed route designation for White Creek Road.

- **CULT-EFG1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Promote research opportunities with academic, professional, and avocational institutions for anthropological, archeological, ethnographic, or historic use studies to improve local and regional cultural resources management.

- **CULT-EFG2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Maintain access and promote traditional uses of the CCMA by the Native American and California Indian community; work in coordination with tribal communities, groups, and individuals to address issues.

2.5.14 Paleontological Resources

2.5.14.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for paleontological resources are to (1) preserve, protect and manage vertebrate, noteworthy invertebrate, and plant paleontological resources in accordance with existing laws and regulations for current and future generations; (2) facilitate the appropriate scientific, educational, and recreational uses of paleontological resources such as research and interpretation; (3) accommodate permit requests for scientific research by qualified individuals or institutions; (4) ensure proposed land uses do not destroy or damage paleontological resources.

To achieve these goals, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Locate, evaluate, manage and protect, where appropriate, paleontological resources on the public lands;

- Facilitate the appropriate scientific, educational, and recreational uses of paleontological resources, such as research and interpretation;

- Using predictive modeling, identify significant localities that may be in conflict with other resource uses;

- Ensure that proposed land uses, initiated or authorized by BLM, do not inadvertently damage or destroy important paleontological resources on public lands;

- Foster public awareness and appreciation of paleontological resources through educational outreach programs.

2.5.14.2 Management Actions

- **PALE-A6. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** If natural erosion threatens the integrity of significant fossil resources, stabilize and rehabilitate these resources if feasible.

- **PALE-EFG1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Establish a 300-foot buffer for project actions around all paleontological sites and localities.

2.5.15 Social and Economic Conditions

2.5.15.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for social and economic conditions is to manage public lands to provide social and economic benefits to local residents, businesses, visitors, and future generations.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Work cooperatively with private and community groups and local tribal governments to provide for customary uses consistent with other resource objectives and to sustain or improve local economies.

- Maintain and promote the cultural, economic, ecological, and social health of communities associated with BLM public lands.

2.5.15.2 Management Actions

- **SOCEC-DG1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Work collaboratively with local populations to emphasize a high level of natural resource protection, which contributes to tourism and attracts sustainable commodities industries.

- **SOCEC-DG2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Enhance public land resources to provide for sustainable tourism, production, and industry.

- **SOCEC-DG3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Emphasize sustainable economic operations while protecting the ecological, social, and cultural integrity of BLM public lands.

2.5.16 Visual Resources Management

2.5.16.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for visual resource management is to manage public land actions and activities in a manner consistent with visual resource management (VRM) class objectives.

To achieve this goal, the following objective is established:

- Protect, maintain, improve, or restore visual resource values by managing all public lands in accordance with the VRM system.

2.5.16.2 Management Actions

- **VIS-A1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** VRM Class IV standards apply to the entire CCMA unless otherwise stated.

- **VIS-A2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Actions in the San Benito Mountain WSA and RNA must meet VRM Class I standards.

- **VIS-A3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Actions in the Condon Zone must meet VRM Class III standards.

- **VIS-EFG1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Actions in the Serpentine ACEC must meet VRM Class II standards.

2.5.17 Fire Management

2.5.17.1 Goals and Objectives

The goals for fire management are to (1) establish a fire management program that is cost-efficient and commensurate with threats to life, property, public safety, and resources, (2) use fire to restore and/or sustain ecosystem health, (3) cooperate with communities at risk within the wildland-urban interface to develop plans for risk reduction, (4) cooperate with regional partners in fire and resource management across agency boundaries, and (5) reduce man-made fires, with a special emphasis on reductions in developed areas such as communities, campgrounds, and transportation corridors.

To achieve the goals for fire management, the following resource condition objectives are established:

<u>Wildfire Suppression</u>

- Provide for firefighter and public safety in all fire-management activities.

- Provide an appropriate management response for all wildland fires, emphasizing firefighter and public safety. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Research Natural Areas (RNAs), Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), and certain other public lands in the CCMA Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) will require modified suppression techniques to protect the known values. Modified suppression techniques are identified in the Hollister Fire Management Plan (BLM 2011).

- Limit the intensity of fire suppression efforts to the most economical response consistent with the human and resource values that are at risk.

- Protect sensitive cultural and paleontological resource sites from damage by fire and/or fire suppression actions.

<u>Fuels Management</u>

- Reduce the risk of fire in wildland-urban interface communities.

- Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire through fuels management.

- Promote greater diversity within plant communities of the HFO with the use of fire.

- Use fire as natural land management tool for the control and eradication of noxious weeds.
- Use fire as a management tool to improve the ecological condition of the area within HFO jurisdiction.
- Use prescribed burning to reduce the fuel hazard in the chaparral community and for wildlife habitat improvement and increased local water yield and watershed enhancement.

Fire Rehabilitation, Stabilization, and Restoration

- Rehabilitate burned areas to mitigate adverse effects of fire on soils, water, and cultural resources and vegetation.

Prevention, Risk Mitigation, and Education

- Increase the public's knowledge of fire's natural role in the ecosystem and the hazards and risks associated with living in the wildland-urban interface.
- Educate the public on fire safety and prevention measures.
- Work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) to suppress all wildfires involving less than 10 acres 90 percent of the time.

2.5.17.2 Management Actions

- **FIRE-BG1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Develop and maintain the Hollister Fire Management Plan.
- **FIRE-BG2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Identify appropriate management response goals, objectives, and constraints by specific Fire Management Units (FMUs) in the Hollister Fire Management Plan (Ref. Map 6, Appendix I).
  - **FIRE-BG3. Implementation Decision:** Employ fire prevention strategies that reduce man-made fires, with special emphasis on developed areas such as communities, campgrounds, and transportation corridors.
  - **FIRE-BG4. Implementation Decision:** Develop fuels projects to mimic fire's natural role to enhance resource values.
- **FIRE-BG5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Coordinate with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) or cooperator fire protection entities to develop appropriate management response actions, as documented in the annual operating plan, for wildland fires on or threatening BLM lands. Primary consideration and operational emphasis are placed on firefighter and public safety, minimizing the loss of life and damage to private property, minimizing environmental damage due to suppression efforts, and considering resource values and high value habitat at risk from unwanted wildfire.
- **FIRE-BG6. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Identify high priority wildfire risk areas (e.g., wildland-urban interface, critical habitats and cultural areas). The Hollister Fire Management Plan (FMP) displays the list of values at risk and the communities at risk within each FMU. (These lists may change as communities are removed or added each year).

- **FIRE-BG7. Implementation Decision:** Work collaboratively with Federal, State, Fire Safe Councils, and local partners to develop cross boundary fire management strategies and prioritize cross agency fire management actions.

- **FIRE-BG8. Implementation Decision:** Work collaboratively with communities at risk within the wildland-urban interface to develop plans for risk reduction.

- **FIRE-BG9. Implementation Decision:** Work collaboratively with managing partners to design and implement prescribed fire and fuels management projects across agency boundaries where this interaction would improve the overall success of the project.

- **FIRE-BG10. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Limit the use of fire retardant drops to prevent damage to rock art sites and vernal pools and associated aquatic species. Keep retardant away from rock outcrops and waterways.

  - **FIRE-BG11. Implementation Decision:** Establish a fire effects monitoring system that inventories pre-burn species composition and resulting post-fire response, over time.

  - **FIRE-BG12. Implementation Decision:** Monitor fire/fuels treatment effects and adjust the Hollister FMP as needed.

  - **FIRE-BG13. Implementation Decision:** Implement a chaparral management program within the CCMA to use fire to improve wildlife habitat.

- **FIRE-BG14. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Protect the primitive nature of public lands within the San Benito Mountain WSA from any action affecting the overall "naturalness" of the area.

- **FIRE-BG15. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Prohibit the use of heavy mechanical equipment within the San Benito Mountain WSA. This restriction may be lifted by the Field Manager to protect human life, private property, structures, visitor safety, or sensitive or valuable resources.

  - **FIRE-BG16. Implementation Decision:** Develop local or regional "Normal Fire Year Rehabilitation Plans."

  - **FIRE-BG17. Implementation Decision:** Promote the use of native species in reseedings.

  - **FIRE-BG18. Implementation Decision:** Monitor rehabilitation efforts to facilitate future planning and implementation.

2.5.17.3 Target Acres for Fire Management

Management actions for prescribed fire and mechanical treatment activities on BLM-administered lands in the CCMA under the Proposed Action are summarized in Tables 2.5-6, 2.5-7 and 2.5-8. Management actions pertain to prescribed fire and treatment activities on BLM-administered lands in the CCMA.

Table 2.5-6 Average Annual Prescribed Fire Target Acres

Geographic Area/ Fire Management Unit (FMU)	Proposed Action
San Benito Natural Area	0
Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC	100
Hernandez Valley	125
San Joaquin Valley South	100
San Joaquin South Continued	1000

Table 2.5-7 Decadal Prescribed Fire Target Acres

Geographic Area/ Fire Management Unit (FMU)	Proposed Action
San Benito Natural Area	0
Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC	1000
Hernandez Valley	1,250
San Joaquin Valley South	1,000
San Joaquin South Continued	10,000

Table 2.5-8 Decadal Mechanical Treatment Target Acres

Geographic Area/ Fire Management Unit (FMU)	Proposed Action
San Benito Natural Area	0
Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC	1000
Hernandez Valley	125
San Joaquin Valley South	1,000
San Joaquin South Continued	10,000

2.5.18 Land and Realty

2.5.18.1 Goals and Objectives

The goal for lands and realty management is to provide lands, interests in land, and authorizations for public and private uses while maintaining and improving resource values and public land administration.

To achieve this goal, the following resource condition objectives are established:

- Retain, consolidate, and/or acquire land or interest in land with high public resource values for effective administration and improvement of resource management;
- Make public land available for disposal that meets the disposal criteria contained in Section 203(a) of the FLPMA;
- Meet public, private, and Federal agency needs for realty-related land use authorizations and land withdrawals, including those authorizations necessary for wind, solar, biomass, and other forms of renewable energy development;
- Acquire legal public or administrative access to public land; and
- Eliminate unauthorized use of public lands.

2.5.18.2 Land Tenure Adjustments

2.5.18.2.1 Management Actions

- **LTEN-A7. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Acquire or exchange lands in accordance with the FLPMA and other applicable Federal laws and regulations to ensure more efficient management of the public lands, to reduce conflicts with other public and private landowners, and to provide more consistency and logic in land use patterns within the Hollister Field Office.

- **LTEN-EFG1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Public lands in the Condon and San Benito River Zones identified on the Proposed Action Map in Appendix I would be available for disposal.

- **LTEN-EFG2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Acquisition of private in-holdings with high value for multiple resources including important biological resources and recreational opportunities would be the highest priority.

- **LTEN-EFG3. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Consider minor boundary adjustments to facilitate management efficiency through sale, exchange, or patent (i.e., less than 50 acres).

Table 2.5-9 Acres of public lands available for disposal by management zone

Management Zone	Proposed Action
Serpentine ACEC	0
Tucker	0
Condon	280
San Benito River	88
Total	**368**

2.5.18.3 Land Use Authorizations

2.5.18.3.1 Management Actions

- **LUSE-A2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Designate existing utility routes as utility corridors.

- **LUSE-BF1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Lands identified for retention are considered unsuitable for entry under any of the agricultural land laws because of significant multiple-use values.

- **LUSE-BF2. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Place special emphasis on resolution of unauthorized uses of public lands. Increase coordination with local, State and other Federal law enforcement agencies.

- **LUSE-BF3**. **Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Maintain consistency with County General Plans and zoning within Department regulations and Bureau policy.

- **LUSE-BF4. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Permit commercial filming on a case-by-case basis.

- **LUSE-BF5. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Issue apiary permits on a case-by-case basis.

- **LUSE-BF6. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Honor valid existing rights and easements that have been acquired through land acquisitions. Enter rights-of-way into LR2000 to ensure proper recording.

- **LUSE-BF7. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Construction of new communication sites in the ACEC will only be authorized at sites with existing facilities.

- **LUSE-BF8. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Authorize rights-of-way to provide reasonable access for private landowners in CCMA.

- **LUSE-G1. Land Use Plan Decision*:*** Stipulate health and safety mitigation measures for existing communication sites and rights-of-way authorizations in the Serpentine ACEC.

2.6 COMPARISON OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

The tables below (2.6-1 - 2.6-14) summarize the impacts on the public land resources of CCMA by alternative, as assessed in the reasoned analysis in Chapter 4. See Chapter 4 for more specific details. Negligible impacts are predicted to prime and unique farmlands, floodplains, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness from all of the alternatives because none of the proposed land use decisions would change the existing conditions of these resources, if present. Under all alternatives, the Serpentine ACEC designation would be maintained for the 30,000-acre area with high concentrations of asbestos fibers. Since the analysis of impacts for all of the resources within the CCMA is done in the context of impacts to human health and safety and the environment from asbestos emissions, an analysis covering impacts to the ACEC values would be duplicative. Therefore, a separate detailed analysis of asbestos health risks is not included in the evaluation of impacts to the values for which the ACEC was established, in the Special Designations sections of this PRMP/FEIS.

2.6.1 Recreation

Among the *Motorized* Alternatives (B, C, D, E) considered in the CCMA RMP/EIS, Alternative B and C would continue to provide vehicular access and OHV recreation at existing locations; although, certain allowable uses, competitive events, and commercial activities within the Serpentine ACEC would be restricted. Similarly, under Alternatives D and E, BLM would allow *Motorized* access through the ACEC, but the emphasis would be focused on establishing and managing motorized and non-motorized recreation use areas to provide appropriate recreation opportunities on BLM-managed lands outside of the ACEC.

Alternatives A, B, and C would focus on existing recreation sites and could allow expansion of existing facilities. Alternative C would limit OHV recreation in the ACEC to full-size vehicles and motorcycles only for visitors age eighteen or older. Alternative D would establish new OHV recreation sites outside the ACEC (see Table 2.6-1 below). Under all of the alternatives, except for No Action (Alt. A), overnight camping and staging would be prohibited in the ACEC. Alternative E emphasizes vehicle touring in the ACEC, as well as development of facilities for non-motorized recreation outside the ACEC.

Under the *Non-motorized* Alternatives (F and G), BLM would reduce asbestos emissions by limiting allowable uses to foot traffic only inside the ACEC (Alt. F) or minimize human health risks from exposure to asbestos by prohibiting all public use and entry in the ACEC (Alt G). In other words, Alternative G would make the existing temporary closure of the 30,000-acre ACEC that was issued by BLM under 43 CFR 8364.1 on May 1, 2008 permanent. Consequently, the impact analysis for Alt. G provides a baseline for comparison of the impacts associated with the temporary closure of the Serpentine ACEC to other management actions within the range of alternatives for the CCMA RMP/EIS.

Table 2.6-1 provides a comparison of impacts to recreation resources under each alternative.

Table 2.6-1 Comparison of Impacts to Recreation Resources by Alternative

Allowable Use	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
OHV Recreation	Major beneficial effects because this alternative would maintain existing OHV recreation opportunities.	Minor adverse impacts because motorized access would be limited to less than 5 day/year by permit only.	Moderate adverse impacts because OHV recreation in the ACEC would be limited to visitors ≥ 18 years old, and ATV use would be prohibited in the ACEC.	Moderate beneficial impacts because new OHV recreation opportunities would be developed outside the ACEC.	Major adverse impacts because OHV recreation in the ACEC would be limited to highway-licensed vehicles by permit only. Minor benefits from highway-licensed and ATV/UTV use on designated routes in the Cantua and Condon management zones.	Major adverse impacts because OHV recreation in the ACEC would be prohibited, and BLM would only authorize ATV/UTV use on designated routes in the Cantua and Condon management zones.	Major adverse impacts because OHV recreation in the ACEC would be prohibited, and BLM would only authorize ATV/UTV use on designated routes in the Condon management zones.
Hiking, Hunting, Rockhounding, Firearms and Target Shooting	Minor beneficial effects because this alternative would maintain existing motorized route network to support these recreation opportunities.	Minor adverse impacts because non-motorized access would be limited to less than 12 days/year and motorized access to support these recreation opportunities would be limited to less than 5 day/year by permit only.	Moderate adverse impacts because recreation opportunities would be limited to visitors ≥ 18 years old, and ATV use would be prohibited in the ACEC.	Major beneficial impacts because management of the ACEC would provide motorized access to support these activities, conflicts with OHV would be reduced, and new recreation facilities would be developed outside the ACEC.	Moderate beneficial effects because management of the ACEC would provide motorized access to support these activities, conflicts with OHV would be reduced, and new recreation facilities would be developed outside the ACEC.	Moderate adverse impacts because motorized access in the ACEC to support these activities would be prohibited.	Major adverse impacts because non-motorized recreation in the ACEC would be prohibited, and BLM would only maintain existing recreation facilities outside the ACEC.

Allowable Use	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Camping & Staging within ACEC	Minor beneficial effects because this alternative would allow overnight camping and staging to support recreation opportunities throughout CCMA.	Minor adverse effects because these alternatives would prohibit overnight camping and staging to support recreation opportunities in the ACEC (except for Jade Mill). However, these effects would be mitigated by developing new recreation facilities to support camping and staging for recreation activities in the Tucker, Cantua, and Condon management zones.					

2.6.2 HAZMAT and Public Health & Safety

Under all the alternatives, BLM would continue to ensure proper handling of hazardous materials and wastes; identify mine-related, illegal dumps and other public land hazards, eliminating or mitigating them as soon as possible; and identify and resolve mining-related trespasses, especially public safety conflicts occurring with visitor use. Under Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, BLM would continue current hazardous material management activities as outlined in the 1984 Hollister RMP and associated CCMA amendments. Implementation of Alternatives B and C would emphasize health and safety mitigation measures at visitor use facilities and improvements on major routes to minimize exposure to asbestos. Alternative B would limit the number of annual visitor use days to less than 12 days for non-motorized and less than 5 days for motorized activities. Alternative C includes restrictions on allowable uses by limiting vehicle types on routes and trails, and by limiting OHV recreation in CCMA to visitors age eighteen and older to minimize exposure to asbestos. Alternatives D and E would only authorize motorized access on major routes in the ACEC. Alternatives E and F would authorize access in the Serpentine ACEC by permit only and limit the number of annual visitor use days based on excess lifetime cancer risk of proposed recreation activities. Alternative F would also restrict allowable uses in the Serpentine ACEC to foot-traffic and other non-motorized recreation activities. Alternative G would make the existing temporary closure of the 30,000-acre ACEC that was issued by BLM under 43 CFR 8364.1 on May 1, 2008 permanent. Consequently, the impact analysis for Alt. G provides a baseline for comparison of the impacts associated with the temporary closure of the Serpentine ACEC to other management actions within the range of alternatives for the CCMA RMP/EIS

Table 2.6-2 provides a comparison of impacts to public health and safety and hazardous materials under each alternative.

Table 2.6-2 Comparison of Impacts to Public Health and Safety and Hazardous Materials by Alternative

Management Actions	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Public Safety & Human Health Risk	Major adverse impacts to public health and safety because of excess lifetime cancer risk from exposure to asbestos.	Major beneficial impacts to public health and safety because visitor use restrictions would limit exposure to asbestos within the acceptable risk range.	Moderate adverse impacts because CCMA visitors would have potential excess lifetime cancer risk from exposure to asbestos.	Minor beneficial impacts because allowable use restrictions and management of designated routes in the ACEC would limit exposure to asbestos.	Major beneficial effects because allowable use restrictions and permitting requirements in the ACEC would limit exposure to asbestos within the acceptable risk range.	Major beneficial effects because allowable use restrictions and permitting requirements in the ACEC would limit exposure to asbestos within the acceptable risk range.	Major beneficial effects because ACEC closure would eliminate exposure to asbestos.
Hazardous Materials Disposal	Major beneficial effects because BLM would ensure proper disposal and monitor for illegal dumping.						
Public Land Hazards, Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)	Moderate beneficial effects because BLM would eliminate or mitigate public land hazards, particularly related with mining activity.	Major beneficial effects because BLM would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) and mining activities outlined in Appendix V, and reduce the use of Federal funds for clean-up of contaminated lands by seeking cost avoidance and/or cost recovery from the legally responsible parties.					

Human Health Risk Mitigation Measures	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**
Season of Use	Minor beneficial impacts from Dry Season Closures June 1st – Oct 15th because allowable uses on designated routes would be restricted for four and one-half months out of the year.		Minor beneficial impacts from Dry Season Use Restrictions April 15th – Dec. 1st because allowable uses on designated routes would be restricted for seven and one-half months out of the year.	Negligible effects because human health risk exists year-round, and it appears that only active rainfall reduces asbestos air concentrations (EPA 2008).		Same as A because allowable uses would be restricted for four and one-half months out of the year.	NA
Permit Access to Limit Annual Visitor Use Days	NA	Major beneficial effects because limited annual visitor use would limit exposure to asbestos within the acceptable risk range.	NA	NA	Major beneficial effects because allowable use restrictions and limited annual visitor use would limit exposure to asbestos within the acceptable risk range.		Major beneficial effects because ACEC closure would eliminate exposure to asbestos.
Decontamination Facility	Minor beneficial impacts because installation of a public vehicle wash rack would reduce off-site transportation of asbestos fibers (i.e. track-out).			Minor adverse impacts because of human health risk associated with off-site transportation of asbestos fibers (i.e. track-out).			
Liability Waiver	NA	Moderate adverse effects from signed waivers of liability to indemnify BLM against risk of tort claims associated with CCMA visitor use and exposure to airborne asbestos fibers because this requirement would not reduce human health risk and encourage visitor use in the ACEC.					
Recreation Use - Camping	Major beneficial impacts from eliminating staging for recreation or camping overnight in ACEC (except for Jade Mill).						

Human Health Risk Mitigation Measures	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Recreation Use – Age Restrictions	NA	NA	Moderate beneficial impacts because visitors ≤ 18 and ATV riders would avoid exposure to asbestos in the ACEC.	Moderate beneficial impacts because visitors ≤ 18 and ATV riders would avoid exposure to asbestos in the ACEC.	NA	NA	Major beneficial effects because ACEC closure would eliminate exposure to asbestos for all ages.
Recreation Visitor Services, Interpretation and Education	Negligible impacts because health risk awareness information would be promoted on-site and on maps, brochures, etc.	Minor beneficial impacts because the best available information concerning: asbestos health hazards, OHV use designations, fire prevention, BLM regulations, and natural resources of the area would be incorporated into educational materials and on all maps, brochures, and kiosks.					
Travel and Transportation Management	Negligible effects because BLM would comply with ATCM for asbestos relating to construction and roads.	Moderate beneficial impacts because BLM would reduce emissions at staging areas, other recreation facilities, and on major routes with dust suppression and surface hardening techniques including, but not limited to paving, base rock, chip seal, or applications of surfactants (i.e. biodegradable liquid copolymers) to stabilize and solidify soils or aggregates and control erosion.					

2.6.3 Travel and Transportation Management

Under the seven alternatives, impacts to travel management and vehicle use opportunities would vary, depending on the Alternative's travel management plan. Alternatives A and B would continue current travel management practices; vehicle use on all BLM lands would be limited to designated routes and barrens, unless posted otherwise, and new trails would be constructed, up to a total of 270 miles. Alternatives A and B would emphasize recreational opportunities, and would have the greatest recreational benefit to the motorized community. Alternative B would

limit travel by seasonal duration in consideration of human health and safety. Alternative C would provide basic access to the public while providing limited OHV use specific to motorcycles in an attempt to mitigate dust exposure. Alternative D would restrict access within the ACEC while developing other areas within CCMA for OHV travel. Alternative E would provide for access along T153/Spanish Lake Road only and would be the most restrictive for active ACEC motorized travel, with other areas outside the ACEC developed for non-motorized access. Alternative F would limit the public within the ACEC to pedestrian travel. Alternative G would prohibit any access by the public into the ACEC.

Table 2.6-3 summarizes the management actions under each alternative, and provides (approximate) miles of designated routes under each alternative.

Table 2.6-3 Comparison of Impacts to Travel and Transportation Management by Alternative

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Area Designation	Negligible effects from maintaining designation of the entire 75,000-acre CCMA as a “Limited” vehicle use area because vehicle use would continue to be limited to designated routes.				Moderate adverse impacts from reducing the “Limited” vehicle use area designation within the ACEC to the 460-acre Scenic Route Corridor, and designating the remaining 29,560 acres as “Closed” to vehicle use.	Major adverse impacts from designating the entire Serpentine ACEC a "Closed" vehicle use area because access to support motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities and other resource uses would be prohibited.	

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Route Designation	Negligible effects from maintaining vehicle use in CCMA limited to designated routes identified on Map A in Appendix I and barrens identified in the 2006 ROD for CCMA Route Designation.	Minor adverse impacts from managing vehicle use in CCMA limited to permitted-vehicles on designated routes identified on Map B in Appendix I because 478 acres of barrens would be designated closed to vehicle use.	Moderate adverse impacts from managing vehicle use in CCMA limited to full-size vehicles and motor-cycle use only on designated routes identified on Map C in Appendix I because 478 acres of barrens and 42 miles of ATV/Jeep trails would be designated closed to vehicle use.	Minor adverse impacts from managing vehicle use in the ACEC limited to full-size vehicles on designated routes identified on Map D in Appendix I. Moderate beneficial impacts from managing vehicle use in the other zones limited to designated (and proposed) routes identified on Map D in Appendix I, because BLM would designate approximately 60 miles of new routes for OHV recreation following the route designation methodology described in Appendix II.	Moderate adverse impacts from reducing the miles of designated routes in the ACEC to the 11-mile Scenic Route (T153 &R11) identified on Map E in Appendix I limited to permitted full-size vehicles only. Minor beneficial impacts from managing vehicle use in the Condon, Tucker, and Cantua zones is limited to full-size vehicles and ATV/UTV use only on designated (and proposed) routes identified on Map E in Appendix I because BLM would designate approximately 30 miles of new routes for travel and transportation following the route designation methodology described in Appendix II.	Major adverse designating all routes in the ACEC "Closed" because access to support motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities and other resource uses would be prohibited. Negligible effects from managing vehicle use in the Condon Zone limited to full-size vehicles and ATV/UTV use only on designated (and proposed) routes identified on Map F in Appendix I.	Negligible effects from managing vehicle use in the Condon Zone limited to full-size vehicles and ATV/UTV use only on designated (and proposed) routes identified on Map G in Appendix I.

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Seasonal Closures within the Serpentine ACEC	Negligible effects from seasonal closures because motorized access would continue to be limited to dry season routes from June 1 – Oct. 15 annually, when visitor use is historically low. Major beneficial impacts from restrictions to limit vehicle use during periods of extreme wet and muddy conditions because this type of closure would prevent rutting and soil loss on designated routes.	Moderate adverse impacts from seasonal closures because restrictions on motorized access would be extended for a longer period from April 15th through December 1st annually, which includes several months when traditional visitor uses supported by motorized access take place. Major beneficial impacts from restrictions to limit vehicle use during periods of extreme wet and muddy conditions because this type of closure would prevent rutting and soil loss on designated routes.		Negligible effects from establishing remote automated weather station (RAWS) monitoring of soil moisture to determine need for ACEC closure based on extreme weather conditions because BLM would continue to restrict vehicle use during periods of extreme wet and muddy conditions because this type of closure would prevent rutting and soil loss on designated routes.		Same as A.	NA

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Mitigation Measures	Moderate beneficial impacts from implementation of BMPs to reduce off-site water quality impacts from roads and trails that are no longer designated open, or exceed State soil loss standards.	Major beneficial impacts from implementation of BMPs related to transportations and roads outlined in Appendix V, and addressing all route maintenance activities in an annual corrective route maintenance plan consistent with established guidance.					

2.6.4 Biological Resources – (Vegetation – Fish & Wildlife – Special Status Species)

Under all the alternatives, there would be beneficial impacts from managing sensitive resource areas, implementing wildlife management actions, use of prescribed fire and mechanical vegetation treatments, adoption of Standards for Rangeland Health and the BLM's CABE Compliance Monitoring Plan. The adverse impacts from recreation activities and other land use authorizations would be minor because of mitigation measures or use restrictions under all alternatives. Biological resources goals to maintain sustainable populations would have major long-term benefits on native and non-native plants and animals in CCMA.

Tables 2.6-4(a), 2.6-4(b), and 2.6-4(c) provide a comparison of impacts to biological resources under each alternative.

Table 2.6-4(a) Comparison of Impacts to Biological Resources by Alternative – Vegetation

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
VEG-A1	Negligible effects because requests for woodcutting permits are historically low and would only be authorized where it is consistent with resource management goals and objectives.						
VEG -A2	Negligible effects because native perennial grassland communities would likely be maintained at existing population levels with slight fluctuations annually.						
VEG -A3	Negligible effects because the big sagebrush stands in the San Carlos Bolsa would likely be maintained at existing population levels with slight fluctuations annually.						
VEG -A4	Minor beneficial impacts because management of conifer forests for their scenic values and unique vegetation characteristics would reduce the adverse effects of other resources uses that conflict with these values.						
VEG -A5	Negligible effects because commercial harvesting of conifer forests in the SBMRNA is already prohibited.						
VEG -A6	Minor beneficial effects because existing BLM policy is to protect known and newly discovered occurrences of sensitive vegetation resources, including vernal pools and riparian zones.						

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
VEG -A7	Major beneficial impacts from brush clearing, prescribed burns, and seed or seedling introductions because they would improve habitat available for desired vegetation species and reduce populations of noxious and invasive weeds that compete with native plants.						
VEG -A8	Major beneficial impacts from prescribed fire and other management techniques because annual and decadal targets for prescribed fire and mechanical treatments would provide a mosaic of vegetative communities to protect soil, watershed, and wildlife.						
VEG -A9	Negligible effects because BLM currently maintains a sustained yield of vegetation for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses due to historically low utilization levels.						
VEG -A10	Minor beneficial impacts because BLM currently cooperates with the University of California on the barrens restoration pilot program and establishing small scale soil/plant study plots to investigate plant adaptability and nutritional requirements for rehabilitation purposes						
VEG -BG1.	--	Moderate beneficial impacts form mitigation measures included in all activity plans to protect or enhance riparian areas.					
VEG -BG2	--	Moderate beneficial impacts from emphasis on locally grown or adapted native seed mixes for restoration activities.					
VEG -BG3	--	Major beneficial impacts from management activities that mimic natural disturbance regimes (e.g., fire) because they would improve habitat available for desired vegetation species and reduce populations of noxious and invasive weeds that compete with native plants.					
VEG -BG4	--	Same as VEG-BG2 above. Negligible effects from non-invasive, non-native species that would be used in re-vegetation materials because they would be temporary and non-persistent.					
VEG -BG5	--	Minor beneficial impacts from avoiding surface disturbance to riparian vegetation because limiting disturbances to those that are necessary to restore or enhance riparian conditions in the long-term would maintain or improve overall habitat for riparian vegetation communities.					
VEG -BG6	--	Same as VEG-BG5 above.					
VEG -BG7.	--	Minor beneficial impacts because maintaining mixed-aged classes for all riparian communities would enhance riparian conditions in the long-term.					
VEG –BG8	--	Major beneficial impacts from management of invasive and noxious weed eradication based on the BLM and California State lists because prioritizing these species for abatement and control would reduce populations of noxious and invasive weeds that compete with native plants.					
VEG –BG9	--	Negligible effects because requests for non-commercial permits for collecting vegetative products for Native American practices are historically low and would only be authorized where it is consistent with resource management goals and objectives.					
VEG –BG10	--	Initiate riparian restoration/improvement projects within systems that have been identified as not functioning or functioning at risk with a downward or static trend.					

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
VEG –BG11	--	Minor beneficial impacts because CCMA currently supports a mosaic of vegetation communities to protect soil, watershed, and a sustained yield of vegetation for consumptive and non-consumptive uses.					

Table 2.6-4(b) Comparison of Impacts to Biological Resources by Alternative – Fish & Wildlife

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
HAB-A1	Major beneficial impacts from prescribed burns because they would increase nutrients in soils through combustion of fuels, and from increase habitat available for forage and browsing, and reductions in populations of noxious and invasive weeds that compete with native plants and animals.						
HAB-A2	Minor benefits from enhancing upland game habitat because most of the suitable upland habitat is already managed in cooperation with DFG and hunting clubs in the area to sustain healthy population of game species.						
HAB-A3	Minor benefits from installation of guzzlers because most of the suitable locations are already managed in cooperation with DFG and hunting clubs in the area to provide supplemental water improvements for game species.						
HAB-A4	Minor benefits from fencing of sensitive areas because most of these locations are already protected by vehicle barriers and existing route designations.						
HAB-A5	Same as HAB-A4 above.						
HAB-A6	Same as HAB-A4 above.						
HAB-A7	Minor benefits from improving game habitat in nonserpentine areas because most of the suitable locations are already managed in cooperation with DFG and hunting clubs in the area to sustain healthy population of game species.						
HAB-A8	Same as HAB-A4 above.						
HAB-A9	Same as HAB-A4 above.						
HAB-A10	Same as HAB-A4 above.						
HAB-BF1.	--	Major beneficial impacts from control of nonnative species because of reductions in populations of noxious and invasive weeds that compete with native plants and animals.					--
HAB-BF2	--	Moderate benefits from preserving fallen trees & snags from increase habitat available for nesting and roosting.					--
HAB-BF3	--	Same as HAB-A4 above.					--
HAB-BF4	--	Same as HAB-A3 above.					--
HAB-BF5	--	Moderate benefits from avoiding disturbance of raptor nests because of buffer distances from roosting sites sufficient to reduce by 90% the direct disturbance from human activities.					--

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
HAB-BF6	-	Major benefits from avoiding disturbance of T&E raptor nests because of buffer distances from nesting sites sufficient to reduce the direct disturbance from human activities to near zero.					-
HAB-BF7.	--	Minor benefits from restoring fish and wildlife habitat because most of the suitable habitat is already managed in cooperation with DFG and hunting clubs in the area to sustain healthy population of game species.					--
HAB-G1	--	--					Negligible effects from removal of nonfunctional guzzlers because they no longer serve their intended purpose.
HAB-G2	--	--					Minor benefits from restoring fish and wildlife habitat outside the ACEC because most of these areas are already managed in cooperation with DFG and hunting clubs in the area to sustain healthy population of game species.

Table 2.6-4(c) Comparison of Impacts to Biological Resources by Alternative – Special Status Species

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
SSS-A1 **SSS-BC1** **SSS-DEF1** **SSS-G1**	Negligible effects from establishing appropriate levels of surface disturbance to protect special status species and their associated habitats.	Minor beneficial impacts from maintaining all known special status species habitat and implementing revised Compliance and Monitoring Plan identified under SSS-A18 and SSS-A19.		Moderate beneficial impacts from adopting the BLM's Compliance Monitoring Plan outlined in Appendix IV for existing CABE habitat and populations.			Moderate beneficial impacts from adopting the BLM's Compliance Monitoring Plan outlined in Appendix IV for existing CABE habitat and populations.
SSS-A2 **SSS-BC2** **SSS-DEF2** **SSS-G2**	Negligible effects from monitoring the effects of management activities on significant habitat areas.	Negligible effects from prohibiting collection of special status species, except for scientific research or Native American traditional use.		Moderate beneficial impacts from mitigating or relocating surface-disturbing activities proposed within occupied or potential habitat for special status species.			Moderate beneficial impacts from limiting proposed new surface-disturbing activities within occupied or potential habitat for

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
							special status species.
SSS-A3 **SSS-BC3** **SSS-G3**	Negligible effects from development of access roads to follow existing roads and trails and route new roads to avoid sensitive habitat features.	Minor beneficial impacts from protection of aquatic habitat that could support California tiger salamander or yellow-legged frog s by maintaining natural corridors so that continuous native plant coverage allows adequate movement of these species.		--			Major beneficial impacts from restoration projects in closed areas that disturb or interrupt hydrologic and/or ecological processes to support special status species and significant plant communities.
SSS-A4 **SSS-BC4.**	Minor beneficial impacts from on- and off-site compensation in the form of rehabilitation, reseeding, and other actions during new construction.	Moderate benefits from buffer distances from roosting sites sufficient to reduce by 90% the direct disturbance from human activities. Major benefits from buffer distances from nesting sites sufficient to reduce the direct disturbance from human activities to near zero.		--			--
SSS-A5	Negligible effects from seasonal restrictions for certain activities during sensitive periods such as denning and nesting.	--		--			--
SSS-A6	Negligible effects from buffer zones around sensitive habitat features.	--		--			--
SSS-A7	Major beneficial impacts from evaluation of known or potential habitat before implementing actions that may affect the habitat and consultations with FWS in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered	--		--			--

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Species Act, as appropriate.						
SSS-A8	Minor beneficial impact from managing portions of Clear Creek, Sawmill Creek, San Benito River, and San Carlos Creek for introducing the San Benito evening-primrose into suitable habitat.	--		--			--
SSS-A9	Negligible effects from monitoring all populations of the San Benito evening-primrose and their protective measures for compliance relating to OHV trespass.	--		--			--
SSS-A10	Minor beneficial impacts from implementation of BMPs including drainage improvements, construction of rolling dips, water bars, rock armored/hardened stream crossings, hardened sills, and half-pipe bridges, as needed to minimize impacts to water quality, control erosion and sediment production.	--		--			--
SSS-A11	Moderate beneficial impacts from rehabilitation of potential habitat areas for the San Benito evening primrose in Clear Creek Canyon.	--		--			--
SSS-A12	Negligible effects from an ecological study of the San Benito evening primrose to determine habitat requirements.	--		--			--
SSS-A13	Minor beneficial impacts from monitoring known populations and potential habitat on a yearly basis, and protecting new populations as they are discovered.	--		--			--
SSS-A14	Minor beneficial impacts from protection of known and newly discovered occurrences of the San	--		--			--

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Benito evening primrose and other sensitive resources including rare plants such as rayless layia, vernal pools, and riparian zones from vehicle and camping disturbances.						
SSS-A15	Minor beneficial impacts from monitoring all unprotected populations of special status species for possible adverse impacts from vehicles and other uses and implementation of protective actions as warranted.	--		--			--
SSS-A16	Minor beneficial impacts from inventory of suitable habitat for all sensitive plant species and monitoring of any new populations of special status species documented during inventories for adverse impacts and implement protective actions as warranted.	--		--			--
SSS-A17	Minor beneficial impacts developing long-term studies to determine how disturbances such as human use, storms, and erosion, impact the viability of special status species.	--		--			--
SSS-A18	Minor beneficial impacts from compliance monitoring for the protection of San Benito evening-primrose (CABE) to document the condition of the species, habitat, and the protective measures in place according to the Compliance Monitoring Plan for CABE in the 2006 Record of Decision for the CCMA RMP Amendment & Route Designation	--		--			--

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
SSS-A19	Minor beneficial impacts from revising Compliance Monitoring Plan to improve the BLM's ability to: 1) coordinate with FWS on implementation of adaptive management actions; 2) conduct annual area-wide monitoring of *Camissonia benitensis* habitat and population estimates; 3) analyze correlations between OHV use patterns and population levels; 4) establish thresholds that will trigger adaptive management, 5) establish thresholds that will trigger downlisting and delisting.	--		--			--

2.6.5 Air Quality

Federal, State and local air quality regulations applicable to these activities would be identify permit conditions or other restrictions on activities to manage emissions to within acceptable levels. In general, air quality impacts are expected to decrease with each alternative going from A to G, as allowable uses are increasingly restricted and overall emissions of hazardous air pollutants would be mitigated through dust abatement. Impacts to other resources from air quality management actions are addressed in the respective sections in Chapter 4.

Table 2.6-5 summarizes impacts to air quality under the range of alternatives.

Table 2.6-5 Comparison of Impacts to Air Quality by Alternative

Management Actions	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Compliance	Negligible effects from compliance with all provisions of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District's ATCM regulation for control of	Negligible effects from mitigation for activities and projects on BLM lands in order to comply with applicable Federal, State, and local air quality regulations.	Same as Alternative B.				

Management Actions	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	airborne asbestos emissions.						
Fire Management	Negligible effects from use of CALPUFF and other models to evaluate impacts on air quality from fire management.	Negligible effects from coordination with the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to permit air quality impacts from BLM actions and authorizations.	Same as Alternative B.				
Public Health and Safety – Decontaminaiton Facility	Minor beneficial impacts from installation of a public vehicle wash facility.	--					
Public Health and Safety – Dust Suppression	Minor beneficial impacts from best management practices (BMPs) for dust abatement on roads and during project implementation.	Minor beneficial impacts from reducing emissions on major routes with dust suppression and surface hardening techniques that include, but are not limited to, paving, base rock, chip seal, or applications of surfactants to stabilize and solidify soils or aggregates and control erosion.					
Public Health and Safety – Hazardous Materials	--	Negligible effects from reducing the use of Federal funds for clean-up of contaminated lands by seeking cost avoidance and/or cost recovery from the legally responsible parties.					

2.6.6 Soil Resources

The greatest soil disturbance activities within the CCMA include non-motorized recreation, motorized recreation, energy and mineral exploration, livestock grazing, and plant community restoration and fire management. The primary impact of concern for soil resources is erosion. Erosion is a function of four primary factors including precipitation (amount, intensity, and frequency), soil and bedrock permeability, slope, vegetative cover, and disturbance type and intensity. Erosion is a natural process, but it can be greatly accelerated by human impacts including motorized recreation, development (mining, roads, pipelines, buildings, fences), livestock grazing, and fire. Indirect impacts can result when eroded sediment is transported downstream.

Table 2.6-6 provides a comparison of the impacts to soils from among the range of alternatives.

Table 2.6-6 Comparison of Impacts to Soils by Alternative

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Moderate beneficial impacts from management actions and mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate erosion such as minimizing surface disturbance on steep slopes, erosion control (straw bale check dams, straw rolls), and revegetation of impacted closed areas.	Same beneficial impacts from management actions as Alternative A, plus: A restoration plan will be required for soils with poor restoration potential prior to soil disturbance.					
Moderate beneficial impacts from management actions and mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate erosion such as route maintenance, minimizing surface disturbance on steep slopes, seasonal road closures, erosion control (straw bale check dams, straw rolls), and revegetation of impacted closed areas.	Same beneficial impacts as Alternative A, plus: a restoration plan will be required for soils with poor restoration potential prior to soil disturbance.					
Moderate beneficial impacts from management actions and mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate erosion such as route maintenance, minimizing surface disturbance on steep slopes, seasonal road closures, erosion control (straw bale check dams, straw rolls), and revegetation of impacted closed areas. No disturbance will be permitted on slopes in excess of 50%.	Same beneficial impacts as Alternative A, plus: a restoration plan will be required for soils with poor restoration potential prior to soil disturbance, and no disturbance would be permitted on slopes in excess of 40%.					
Minor beneficial impacts from rangeland health monitoring to prevent excessive soil loss.	Same beneficial impacts as Alternative A					

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Alternatives A - F include restoration of closed routes and degraded lands. Soil erosion control will continue to be installed. Routes will continue to be maintained. No disturbance will be permitted on slopes in excess of 50%.						Same beneficial impacts as other alternative, but disturbance would be permitted on slopes in excess of 40% if adverse impacts would likely result from pursuing other alternatives.

2.6.7 Water Resources

Water resource management decisions generally focus on actions that maintain, restore, or improve water quality and quantity to sustain the designated beneficial uses on BLM lands and ensure that surface and groundwater comply with the U.S. Clean Water Act and California State standards. Other management actions have the potential to impact water resources through the implementation of various resource programs, as described below.

Management decisions can impact water quality, water quantity, and availability of water for multiple uses, as well as the watershed Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) for both surface water and groundwater. Impacts to water quality analyzed in this RMP/EIS include management actions specified for recreation, fire management, livestock grazing, energy and minerals development, and resource protection measures identified under soil resources.

Table 2.6-7 provides a comparison of the impacts to water resources from among the range of alternatives.

Table 2.6-7 Comparison of Impacts to Water Resources by Alternative

A	B through G
Negligible effects from BMPs for watershed enhancement and stabilization measures.	Negligible effects from managing all fluvial systems functioning at risk to meet PFCs.
Moderate beneficial impacts from appropriative water rights for all existing and any new surface water facilities on which any Federal funding has been expended in the development, construction, or maintenance of the water facility.	Moderate beneficial impacts from establishment of Federal water reserves on acquired lands to ensure water availability for multiple use management and for functioning, healthy, riparian and upland systems.
Negligible effects from regular maintenance of roads and trails, including silt catchments, out sloping, and contouring to reduce impacts on water resources.	Moderate beneficial impacts from management of CWA 303(d)-listed impaired water bodies to meet properly functioning condition (PFC) objectives relative to beneficial uses and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).
Negligible effects from allowing private individuals to appropriate un-appropriated water on unreserved lands for use on or off the public lands because the appropriation must be in accordance with state laws and consistent with multiple use management of the public lands.	Major beneficial impacts from maintaining stable watershed conditions and implementation of passive and active restoration projects to protect beneficial uses of water and meet TMDLs.
Negligible effects from DFG permits and CWA Section 404 permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for stream alteration and BMP watershed management practices as necessary and appropriate.	Minor beneficial impacts from monitoring water quality in seasonal pools and perennial ponds containing known or suspected threatened and endangered (T & E) species and initiating repairs within environmental constraints.

2.6.8 Special Designations

The existing special designations within the CCMA include the 30,000-acre Serpentine ACEC, which encompasses 4,147-acre San Benito Mountain RNA and WSA (1,500-acres). The boundaries of the ACEC were defined by mapping of asbestos soils derived from the New Idria serpentine formation based on human health risks associated with exposure to asbestos within the serpentine soils. This ACEC is also referred to frequently as the Hazardous Asbestos Area (HAA).

The purpose and need for this RMP/EIS includes minimizing human health risks from exposure to asbestos and reducing airborne asbestos emissions from BLM management activities. The existing special designations highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect public health and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, and scenic values, fish, or wildlife resources or other systems or processes from natural hazards. Therefore, no changes or modifications to the special designation areas in CCMA were considered in the range of alternatives for the CCMA RMP/EIS.
Table 2.6-8, below, provides a comparison of the impacts to special designation areas form among the range of alternatives.

Table 2.6-8 Comparison of Impacts to Special Designation Areas by Alternative

ACEC/RNA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Serpentine ACEC	Maintaining the existing designation for the 30,000-acre area of serpentine soils high in asbestos fiber and the Clear Creek watershed as the Serpentine ACEC would have major beneficial impacts on public health and safety, special status species, and the cultural, historic, and scenic values associated with these public lands. These long-term benefits would result from visitor use restrictions in the ACEC to reduce human health risk from exposure to asbestos emissions, as well as restoration of special status species habitat and protection of cultural and heritage resources .						
San Benito Mountain RNA	Maintaining the existing designation for the 4,147-acre San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area (RNA) would have major beneficial impacts on its unique forest assemblage and the associated scientific research and educational values because of visitor use restrictions in the ACEC/RNA and long-term studies on barrens restoration and plant species endemic to serpentine soils.						
WSA	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**
San Benito Mountain WSA	Managing the 1,500 acre San Benito Mountain WSA pursuant to BLM's Interim Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review would have negligible effects because the BLM manages the WSA in a manner as to prevent impairment of the area's suitability for wilderness designation while Congress considers whether to designate the WSA as permanent wilderness.						
WSR	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**
Wild and Scenic River Designations	Recommending that none of the river segments on CCMA public lands for addition to National Wild & Scenic River System would have negligible impacts on the outstanding and remarkable values associated with these river segments because none of them are considered suitable for wild and scenic river management.						
LWC	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Moderate adverse impacts because no lands in the Cantua Zone would be managed for protection of wilderness characteristics.				Minor beneficial impacts on LWC in the Cantua Zone because routes and trails would be managed to enhance primitive recreation experience by minimizing route-related impacts to solitude, naturalness, and other special feautures.		Moderate beneficial impacts because all LWC in the Cantua Zone would be managed for protection of wilderness characteristics.

2.6.9 Livestock Grazing

Hollister Field Office land use decisions relating to the management of rangeland resources and livestock grazing are made in accordance with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing regulations and the Central California Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines. Variance from one or more of the standards indicates that rangeland health may be compromised and corrective actions for livestock grazing may be required.

Table 2.6-9 provides a comparison of the impacts to livestock grazing from among the range of alternatives.

Table 2.6-9 Comparison of Impacts to Livestock Grazing by Alternative

Management Action	A - E	F	G
Lands available for livestock grazing (public acres and animal unit months (AUMs) authorized in CCMA).	Maintaining utilization levels at 1,354 AUMS for livestock grazing on 14 allotments covering 22,140 acres within the CCMA boundary would have moderate long-term beneficial impacts on rangeland resources and wildlife habitat in the planning area because livestock grazing would be allowed to improve wildlife habitat and enhance vegetation resources. Yet, approximately 1,986 acres of lands designated for grazing are located in the Serpentine ACEC where livestock grazing could have minor adverse impacts on cultural resources, paleontological resources, and sensitive species habitat from trampling or disturbance, including potential habitat for the San Benito evening primrose.	Under Alterative F, grazing use would continue to be authorized on all 14 allotments, but approximately 83 AUMs that were previously grazed would become unavailable, and 1,986 acres of lands located in the Serpentine ACEC would be excluded from the existing grazing allotments, providing a total of 20,154 acres and 1,271 AUMs available for grazing on public lands in CCMA located outside of the ACEC. This would result in a minor, long-term adverse impact on four (4) grazing lessees in the CCMA and a moderate adverse impact to one lessee due to an eighty percent loss of public lands from their allotment. The modification of allotment boundaries may require construction of additional fence along the boundary of the ACEC.	Under this alternative, livestock grazing would be excluded from public lands within the CCMA boundary. The exclusion of grazing on 22,140 acres in CCMA would be a severe adverse impact to 7 individual grazing operations on seven (7) BLM allotments. A total of six (6) grazing allotments would be eliminated by this action due to significant reductions in available public land within their allotment boundaries. Removing livestock from the entire CCMA could have moderate long-term beneficial impacts on special status animals and their associated habitats because more forage would be available for cover and consumption for terrestrial species. Conversely, eliminating livestock grazing could have minor, long-term adverse effects on aquatic species because natural succession would reduce existing habitat quality in ponds and meadows.
Standards and	Potential impacts to sensitive vegetation, wildlife, and special status species habitat		NA

Management Action	A - E	F	G
Guidelines for Rangeland Health in Central California	from livestock grazing would be identified through rangeland health monitoring. Management actions to achieve compliance with Standards and Guidelines would have minor long-term beneficial impacts on these values.		

2.6.10 Energy & Minerals

Under Alternative A, mineral and geothermal exploration and development are considered on a case-by-case basis, and approximately 5,300 acres in Clear Creek Canyon and the SBMRNA would be withdrawn from mineral entry. Alternatives B, C, and D are less restrictive and would allow energy and mineral development throughout CCMA, except for the San Benito Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Alternatives E and F would pursue withdrawal of the Serpentine ACEC from mineral entry, but continue to authorize or hobby gem and mineral collection through issuance of access permits. Under all alternatives, special status species habitat in the CCMA would be protected. Under Alternative G, BLM would recommend Congress withdraw all public lands in CCMA from mineral entry.

Table 2.6-10 provides a comparison of the impacts to energy and minerals development under the range of alternatives.

Table 2.6-10 Comparison of Impacts to Energy & Minerals by Alternative

Management Action	A - D	E - F	G
Lands available for energy and mineral exploration and development in CCMA.	Impacts would be negligible based on existing conditions and reasonably foreseeable development of energy and minerals in CCMA The absence of a management framework for acquired lands and wind energy under Alternative A would represent a minor to moderate adverse impact because demands for increased energy production would not be fully met.	Restriction of energy development in the 30,000-acre ACEC would have a minor adverse impact on energy and minerals development because while other areas in the Planning Area with higher potential for energy development would be available for development, the goal of meeting the demand for energy and mineral production may not be fully met when the ACEC is closed to development.	Withdrawal of all 63,000 acres of public lands in the CCMA from mineral entry would only have a minor adverse impact on energy and minerals because other public lands in the Hollister Field Office with higher potential for energy development would be available, although the goal of meeting the demand for energy and mineral production may not be fully met, including encouraging the development of renewable energy resources.

2.6.11 Cultural & Paleontological Resources

The CCMA was previously inventoried for cultural resources in order to generate baseline data to be used in CCMA planning efforts. Based upon that report and other data accumulated over the years, a comprehensive cultural resources management strategy for the region has been developed with protection efforts for cultural resources that include site avoidance, physical barriers, site monitoring, and review of proposed undertakings to address potential effects to cultural resources.

Table 2.6-11 provides a comparison of the impacts to cultural and paleontological resources under the range of alternatives.

Table 2.6-11 Comparison of Impacts to Cultural & Paleontological Resources by Alternative

Management Action	A – D	E – F – G
Resources Protection and Resources Uses, including recreation, livestock, energy, fire, and realty actions.	In general, Alternative A (No Action) would result in a moderate amount of disturbance to cultural resources, but Alternatives B, C, and D would actually increase the potential for long-term adverse impacts from activities or development of public lands on cultural and paleontological resources.	Management actions under these alternatives would provide beneficial impacts for the protection of cultural resources by reducing adverse impacts from unauthorized excavation and vandalism. These alternatives would also promote goals to cooperate with research institutions and avocational societies to the extent possible in development areas.
Native American Values	All Alternatives also recognize the increasing importance of government-to-government consultation with Native American tribes and other concerned parties on specific undertakings involving various authorized land uses. Authorized uses with high potential to directly impact historic properties include tree harvesting, mineral extraction, road and pipeline construction, and facilities construction. Undertakings with moderate potential to directly or indirectly impact historic properties include controlled burns and other vegetation management practices, grazing, and increased traffic on public lands as a result of improved recreational opportunities or other land use programs. Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA is intended to promote the protection and preservation of historic properties so that authorized use of public lands would not result in adverse impacts to National Register-eligible archeological sites, traditional cultural properties, or built environment resources. However, when avoidance of adverse impacts is not feasible due to overriding project or land use considerations, mitigation measures may be implemented.	

2.6.12 Social and Economic Conditions

Alternatives A through G offer a range of social and economic opportunities including tourism, production, industry, and other commodity uses of natural resources.

Table 2.6-12 provides a comparison of the impacts to social and economic conditions under the range of alternatives.

Table 2.6.12 Comparison of Social and Economic Effects by Alternative

Management Action	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Recreation and Allowable Uses	Beyond any economic benefits of public land recreation, population growth in the face of a static number of opportunities for dispersed, outdoor recreation would cause the benefits of these alternatives to be magnified.				Communities with comparatively high employment in retail motorcycle sales are most likely to experience long-term adverse effects under these alternatives as motorized recreation on public lands in CCMA decreases significantly.		
Energy and Minerals	Future production of minerals in the CCMA under these alternatives depends more on the demand for the minerals and the extent of recoverable reserves available than on any BLM management strategy. Therefore, the impacts of energy and mineral management actions on socioeconomic conditions would be negligible.						
Land Use Authorizations	Alternatives A-D would provide social and economic benefits from multiple uses to local residents, business, visitors, and future generations by allowing various levels of opportunity for tourism, production, industry, and/or commodity use of natural resources. Beneficial or adverse effects on social and economic conditions are highly influenced by the range of alternatives and management actions under each resources program, such as recreation, livestock grazing, and other natural resources with values requiring maintenance and protection by law.				The respective social and economic condition impacted by natural and cultural resources management, livestock grazing, and lands and realty management actions are the same as those described under Alternatives A, B, C, and D.		

2.6.13 Visual Resources Management

As outlined in Section 3.16.2, visual resource management (VRM) classes are assigned to the various parts of the landscape based on visual characteristics and/or to meet management objectives. These range from preserving a natural landscape and existing characteristics (Class I) to providing for management activities that allow major modification of the landscape (Class IV). While numerous management activities can impact visual values, the most significant impacts are large-scale or cumulative ground-disturbing activities that alter the existing form, line, color, and texture of the existing landscape.

Table 2.6-13 provides a comparison of the impacts to visual and scenic resources under the range of alternatives.

Table 2.6.13 Comparison of Impacts to Visual Resources by Alternative

Management Area/ Program	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Serpentine ACEC and San Benito Mountain WSA/RNA	Management of the WSA as a Class I area would have negligible effects on visual resources because the BLM manages the WSA in a manner as to prevent impairment of the area's suitability for wilderness designation while Congress considers whether to designate the WSA as permanent wilderness.				Alternative E would provide the most protection and enhancement of visual resources in the ACEC/RNA because the Scenic Route Corridor would be managed as a Class II area, and therefore, this alternative would have the most beneficial long-term impact compared to the other alternatives.	Same as Alts. A – D.	
Fire Management	Under all alternatives, management actions would limit bulldozer use on wildfires and prescribed burns in the ACEC due to human health risks, and outside the ACEC, where possible, for other resources concerns. All other actions relating to wildfires and prescribed burns would be designed to maintain a particular area's VRM classification. Under Alternatives B through G, approximately 1,450 acres in the Planning Area would be targeted for annual prescribed burns, and 14,000 acres for decadal prescribed burns. This would have a similar level of adverse impact on visual resources as Alternative A due to the higher acreage targeted for annual burns, but lower acreage for decadal burns.						
Recreation and Allowable Uses	Alternative A would have no adverse impact on visual resources because no new access roads or trails are proposed.	Alternatives B through G would allow new motorized access routes to be established in the Planning Area. This would result in minor adverse impacts to visual resources from road cuts.					
Lands and Realty	Management actions would mitigate impacts by limiting communication towers to utility corridors.	These alternatives also emphasize expansion of existing facilities to accommodate rights-of-ways (ROWs) for communications sites. These actions would have a negligible impact on visual resources because new ROWs would be limited to existing facilities within the designated utility corridor.					

2.6.14 Fire Management

All alternatives would comply with Federal wildland fire policy and target the same number of acres treated for treatment of hazardous fuels. Alternatives B through G specify (1) the use of wildland fire to restore and/or sustain ecosystem health, (2) cooperation with regional interagency partners and wildland urban interface (WUI) communities to reduce fire risk, and (3) public outreach to reduce human-caused fire ignitions, with special emphasis in WUI areas.

Table 2.6-14 provides a comparison of the impacts to resources from fire management under the range of alternatives

Table 2.6-14 Comparison of Impacts from Fire Management for all Alternatives

Management Action	A	B - G
Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire	Under Alternative A, prescribed fire would provide mosaic patterns of vegetation to protect soil, watersheds, and wildlife, especially mature chaparral dwellers. Prescribed fire would be used to reduce the risk of wildland fire or catastrophic fire through fuels management. Prescribed fire for wildlife habitat improvement would annually burn 5 to 7 percent of a management unit over a 10-year rotation period.	Fire management would be consistent with the Hollister FMP and comply with current Federal wildland fire policy. BLM would collaborate with Federal and State land managers, Fire Safe Councils, and private landowners to develop cross-boundary fire management strategies, working with WUI communities to reduce wildfire risk and implement a public outreach program to reduce the frequency of human-caused fires and minimize smoke in the WUI. Fire suppression and fuels management activities would also minimize impacts on the environment, especially surface water, cultural and paleontological resources, and sensitive habitats.
Post-fire rehabilitation and monitoring	Alternative A does not specify post-fire and non-fire fuel treatment rehabilitation and monitoring.	Under Alternatives B through G appropriate rehabilitation and monitoring action would be defined in prescribed fire and fuels treatment plans; however, emergency rehabilitation such as slope stabilization, reestablishment of appropriate native plant species, invasive weed abatement, and/or protection of vegetation and natural and cultural resources may be needed following a wildfire.
Other Management Actions	The potential impacts from prescribed fire activities are minor compared to other alternatives, although the threat of wildfire and associated impacts on these resources is then greater. Livestock grazing can reduce the accumulation of fine fuels and break up their continuity in grazing allotments.	Livestock grazing under Alternatives B, C, D, and E would reduce the accumulation of fine fuels and break up their continuity in grazing allotments. However, excluding grazing from the Serpentine ACEC under Alternative F and the entire CCMA under Alternative G would have the opposite effect of increasing density of vegetation and fine fuels in allotments, which would have a major long-term negative impact on fire management in CCMA.

2.6.15 Lands & Realty

Land tenure adjustments and land use authorizations are BLM activities that would occur under all alternatives. Management actions within the lands and realty program are administrative in nature and require subsequent analysis at the project level to determine site-specific resources issues ad alternatives for implementation. Therefore, there would be no direct environmental impacts to the human environment under any alternatives. Instead, management actions would have beneficial impacts on efficient management of public lands and greater preservation and enhancement of biological resources in important areas. Other programs and resources would be affected by failure to complete the required resources screening and analysis prior to any land use authorization, acquisition, exchange, or disposal.

Table 2.6-15, below, provides a comparison of the acres available for disposal and an overview of land use authorizations under each alternative.

Table 2.6-15 Comparison of Impacts from Lands and Realty by Alternative

Management Actions	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Land Use Authorizations	Management actions would have a minor adverse impact on administration of lands and realty because they would only allow acquisition of lands for efficient management of public lands and to reduce conflicts with other public and private landowners within the CCMA	Impacts from new activities, expanded rights-of-way (ROWs), or construction of utility sites and related facilities outside of designated or established corridors would vary depending on the approval of applications with appropriate mitigation measures. Similarly, allowable impacts from permit applications for apiary, commercial filming, or other uses would be considered on a case-by-case basis with appropriate mitigation measures. Closing and rehabilitation of roads not required for administrative purposes and resolution of unauthorized uses of public lands would have an indirect impact on other resources; however, such actions would benefit the administrative efficiency of BLM activities.					
Land Tenure Adjustments	Retaining all public lands in CCMA would have negligible effects on land tenure in the planning area.	Making 3,300-acres available for disposal in the Tucker, San Benito River, and Condon zones would have negligible adverse impacts on lands and realty, and moderate long-term benefits for management efficiency because BLM would be able to consider exchange or purchase of lands to acquire inholdings with high biologic, geologic or cultural resource values. In general the public land pattern would be consolidated and access to public lands would be improved. Under Alternative D, none of the 3,300 acres in the Tucker, Condon, and San Benito River zones would be available for disposal. Retention of these lands would have minor adverse impacts on management efficiency and public access because all of these parcels have no existing (or reasonably foreseeable) public access. Otherwise, Alternatives E and F would have the same effects as Alternatives B and C.					