

THE PROPOSED GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

BIODIVERSITY

Includes: wildlife, biodiversity, ecosystem management and wild horses and burros

Biodiversity Preservation

Conduct an ongoing program of population monitoring for T&E species, Candidate species (Blue Diamond cholla) and other Special Status Species (Angelica scabrida; Calochortus striatus; Astragalus mohavensis var. hemigyrous, (peregrine and springsnail). (App. 1, Special Status Species)

Re-introduce springsnails (Pyrgulopsis deaconi and P. turbatrix) into restored Willow Spring riparian habitat. (App. 2, Priority Management Areas)

Areas where raptors, in particular Peregrine falcons, are suspected to be nesting will be monitored to confirm nesting status. If nesting is confirmed, recreational uses, primarily rock climbing on canyon cliffs, will be monitored and evaluated to determine if use restrictions are needed.

The Blue Diamond cholla habitat on Blue Diamond Hill will be protected through the implementation of a Conservation Agreement between BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and James Hardie Gypsum mine. BLM will continue to support a land exchange with James Hardie Gypsum in which BLM will acquire most of the known cholla habitat in exchange for BLM lands within the mine area.

Continue to encourage and support researchers inventorying caves and abandoned mines for bat colonies and potential roost sites. Bat gates will be installed where appropriate, starting with a gate in Wounded Knee Cave. Controlled public use will still be allowed.

Remove and rehabilitate unauthorized trails within Pine Creek WSA.

Monitor cumulative recreation use impact on Bridge Mountain (biodiversity hotspot; global population of Ionactis caelestris). (App. 2, Priority Management Areas)

Emphasize conservation management for the North Fork Pine Creek Canyon Natural Area (biodiversity hotspot) with emphasis on:

- Sensitive species, including Spring Range endemics (Astragalus remotus; Angelica scabrida)
- 9 species of fern or fern allies, including Polystichum scopulinum (rare in Nevada)
- 2 spikemosses, both rare in NV (Spring Range only) - Selaginella leucobryoides; S. utahensis (only RRCNCA)

population)

Implement management actions to preserve and ensure habitat suitability for native wildlife species; minimize habitat fragmentation from roads; work as a partner in implementing the Clark County Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan. (App. 1, Part C., Special Status Species)

Ecosystem Management

Identify core habitat for the Bighorn sheep herd north of SR 160 and monitor for recreation impacts in coordination with the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW). Implement visitor use restrictions as needed. Utilize Bighorn as an umbrella species to monitor and evaluate habitat and the potential for fragmentation due to human use in the upper elevations of the Spring Range within the NCA.

Modify or re-construct Bird, Tunnel and Grapevine springs to ensure that the diversion of waters into storage tanks does not deny water to wildlife and begin to restore the riparian area. Ensure that wildlife drinkers at these springs are receiving water. Coordinate with NDOW to improve upland game bird habitat conditions.

Implement prescribed natural fire program to restore fire ecology to montane chaparral communities in the escarpment canyons.

Establish a minimum response fire suppression policy for pinyon-juniper uplands to promote mosaic habitats, in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, Spring Mountain National Recreation Area.

Implement strategies to minimize habitat type conversion fires stemming from invasive exotic annual grasses.

Implement aggressive fire suppression policy for all fires in low elevation communities (Blackbrush).

Develop a new site plan for Red Spring, focusing on restoration of the natural resources (see Appendix 24).

Establish "Limits of Acceptable Change" and monitor dispersed recreational use impacts focused on, but not limited to, riparian areas and other high density visitor use locales.

Wild Horses and Burros

Red Rock Herd Management Area (HMA)

The Red Rock HMA lies on BLM lands both inside and outside of RRCNCA and on U.S. Forest Service lands in the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area (SMNRA).

The Red Rock HMA will remain as shown in the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan, with the exception of two adjustments:

- Minor adjustments will be made to the HMA south of State Route 160 in order to provide a logical boundary that can be easily located on the ground.
- An area along the southeast HMA boundary will expand eastward to incorporate an area that is commonly used by wild horses.

(see following HMA map)

Burros will be managed throughout the HMA in accordance with their normal use patterns. Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) are being assessed through a separate BLM effort. Subsequent to adjusting AMLs, a Herd Management Plan (HMP) will be developed for the lands managed by the Las Vegas Field Office.

Wild horses will be managed south of SR 160 while AMLs will be determined and an HMP developed. A small herd of 6 to 10 horses will be managed in the area north of SR 160, west of SR 159 and south of Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. Vegetation will be monitored in this area to determine if recovery toward Potential Natural Community (PNC) can be achieved with the horses present.

Depending on the determinations derived from the analysis for the HMP planning process, several water developments may be considered south of SR 160 to disperse utilization of the available range.

During the foaling season (from March through May), special consideration will be addressed when issuing Special Recreation Permits for events proposed in Cottonwood Valley south of SR 160. Potential impacts to foaling must be mitigated as a prerequisite to permit issuance.

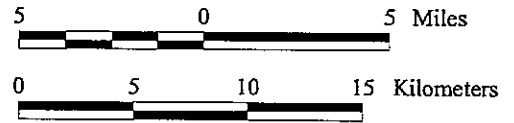
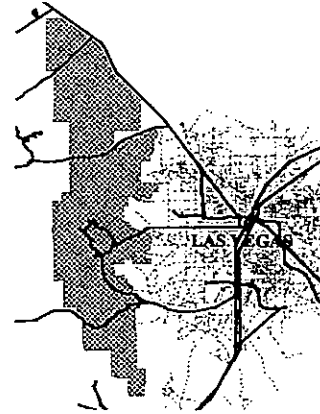
Wheeler Pass Herd Management Area

Because the majority of the Wheeler Pass HMA is now managed by the U.S. Forest Service SMNRA (SMNRA plan calls this the Spring Mt. Territory), that agency has the lead role in management of the HMA. In the SMNRA management plan, the decision was made to remove horses from Forest Service lands in Kyle, Lee and Upper Deer Creek canyons and establish a 0 AML.

The SMNRA plan set an AML of 26 horses and 0 burros for the Cold Creek area of the Wheeler Pass HMA (Cold Creek portion of USFS Spring Mt. Territory). Some of these animals will undoubtedly utilize the northern end of RRCNCA.

HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS

Red Rock Canyon
National Conservation Area
General Management Plan

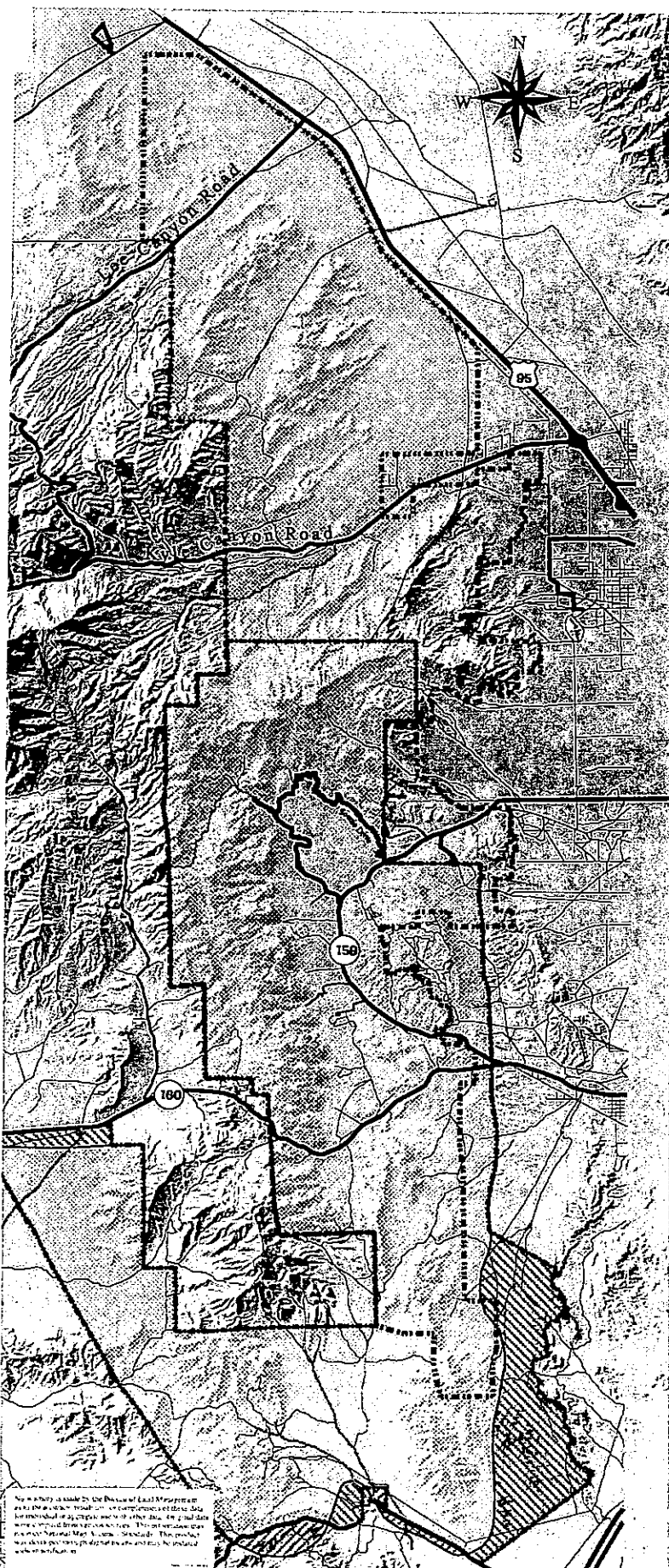


Legend

-----	Red Rock Canyon NCA Boundary	□	Other HMAs in the RRCNCA
□	Red Rock HMA	□	Wheeler Pass HMA
□	No change		
▨	Areas to be added		
▩	Areas to be removed		

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Las Vegas Field Office

4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108 (702) 647-5000



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parking areas to reduce creation of suspended particulate matter (PM 10) in conformance with local government's efforts to improve air quality within the Las Vegas Valley Non-attainment Area. Primary focus will be on areas around the Scenic Drive, the campground and the Red Spring Picnic Area.

Vegetation

Protect threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species listed by Federal or State agencies by continuing to inventory NCA lands to more accurately determine the locations and population densities. (App. 1, Special Status Species)

Maintain or improve the condition of vegetation to its Potential Natural Community (PNC).

Maintain a canopy cover of 20% (minimum), a basal cover of 5% (minimum) perennial native grass species, and manage for perennial native grass species composition (by dry weight) of 5-10%, as limited by PNC.

Restore plant productivity on disturbed areas.

Rehabilitate, reclaim or revegetate with native species, areas subjected to surface disturbing activities and closed roads, where feasible.

Visitor Education/Environmental Awareness

Modify existing educational brochures and visitor information to deter recreational impacts in biologically sensitive areas (North Fork Pine Creek Canyon, Bridge Mountain, and La Madre Spring).

Devise signing/visitor outreach program to publicize Red Rock's significant biological quality and value:

- Landscape ecosystem integrity, high biodiversity, endemism (rarity of both species and communities)
- Threats to biological and ecosystem integrity.

A site plan will be completed for Oliver Ranch and will include a proposal for the development of an Environmental Education Center.

Riparian Restoration

Camouflage and close trail spurs and braids (Oak Creek, First Creek, Pine Creek, Lost Creek, Red Spring, Bootleg, Rainbow, Mormon Green #1, Wheeler Camp Spring, and Mud Spring #1).

Adopt a policy of discouraging recreation use in riparian habitats:

- Evaluate and rehabilitate present high use areas and minimize future promotion; deflect use to non-riparian areas.

Eradicate non-native species with emphasis on tamarisk removal. (App. 15, Part A., Disturbed Habitat Areas)

As a minimum, ensure proper functioning condition of riparian areas. Restore surface flow for riparian vegetation where it has been decreased or eliminated by diversion or impoundment (App 10, Inventory of Springs).

Restore spring brook flows and riparian areas in Red Spring and Willow Spring to ensure adequate habitat for springsnails (pyrgulopsis deaconi and P. turbatrix). Maintain protective fencing around key habitat areas as needed.

Implement protective measures at degraded spring sites sufficient to allow natural revegetation to occur (Shovel, Mud #1, Lone Willow, and Schumacher). Utilize fencing only as a last resort. Remove fencing when no longer needed.

Design all future trails to minimize impacts to riparian areas.

Air Quality

Pave, or treat with soil stabilizers, all high use dirt roads and

parking areas to reduce creation of suspended particulate matter (PM 10) in conformance with local government's efforts to improve air quality within the Las Vegas Valley Non-attainment Area. Primary focus will be on areas around the Scenic Drive, the campground and the Red Spring Picnic Area.

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RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Includes camping, rock climbing, target shooting, trails and roads issues.

Camping

All camping, whether dispersed or in the designated campground, is limited to a 14 day maximum stay.

Expand the public education program of "Leave No Trace" recreation ethics and land stewardship.

The 13 Mile Campground will be the only campground designated in RRCNCA.

Camping along Rocky Gap Road or on the escarpment of the Pine Creek WSA will be authorized by permit only.

From La Madre Mountain to the Forest Service/BLM boundary, 3 miles south of SR 160, camping will be managed as follows (see following "Camping" map):

- camping northwest of the 6,500 ft elevation contour on La Madre Mountain does not require a permit;
- camping west of the Spring Mountains escarpment crest does not require a permit;
- within the Pine Creek WSA, camping between the escarpment crest and eastward to the canyon floor (4,400 ft. contour) requires a camping permit;
- no other camping is allowed in this area except in the designated campground or unless specifically agreed upon in writing by an authorized BLM representative;

Dispersed camping is allowed north of La Madre Mountain on existing disturbed areas. If monitoring shows that additional impacts occur as a result, camping will be limited to specific designated sites.

Dispersed camping is allowed within 200 feet of designated roads east of the Bird Spring Range on existing disturbed areas.

No camping is allowed within 1/4 mile of springs and riparian areas.

Camping at the base of the escarpment is not allowed. The intention of "bivouac" is an overnight stay on the rock wall, above the base, on a multi-day climb.