

Paved Roads

The construction of a 2.65 mile return road from Sandstone Quarry to the Visitor Center is included in this plan as a future option and is not considered as a primary action.

Construct Calico III parking area between the Calico II and Sandstone Quarry sites.

Calico III will accommodate long-term parking, while Calico I and Calico II will limit parking duration to better serve short-term visitors.

COMMERCIAL USE

Special Recreation Permits

Commercial uses have grown steadily in the last five years. In order to avoid establishing use patterns that might be detrimental to RRCNCA, and to give a benchmark for analysis, initial allocations of commercial permits will be established as listed below. As monitoring results are evaluated, the number of permits could increase or decrease in the future. Initial permit allocations will be as follows:

1) Rock Climbing Guides and Schools

5 year-round permits

"guest" permits (number to be determined in climbing plan)

2) Guided Horse Ride Operations

3 permits (no trail/use area overlap between permittees)

3) Bus and Limo Tours (on Scenic Drive)

No limits on number of tours

4) 4X4 Vehicle Tour Operations (on designated roads)

4 permits

5) Guided Bike Tours

4 permits (includes mountain bike and road bike touring)

6) Guided Interpretive Hikes

5 permits

New types of commercial uses proposed will be evaluated to determine if they are appropriate and consistent with RRCNCA management guidelines.

The Bureau of Land Management will work in cooperation with local agencies and schools in the Clark County vicinity to further the outdoor experience and educational opportunities offered within the local community. The administration of such agreements will be at the discretion of the National Conservation Area Manager. Agreements determined to fall under this category will not be deducted from the limits set for the previously mentioned categories.

Film Permits

Film permits, including still photography and video, are considered "lands actions". Land use authorizations are processed on a case-by-case basis as proposals are received. The authorization process involves analysis of potential impacts to the environment that could result from the proposed action. An Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement, if appropriate, is prepared and resource protection stipulations are developed prior to the approval of such uses.

CULTURAL RESOURCES AND NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS

Objectives for Cultural Resources will include the following:

1. Manage for "Information Potential" in regards to any scientific, historic or prehistoric data which could be recovered.

Protection of site integrity is essential until information has been collected.
2. Manage to preserve cultural resources so that these remnants from the past are not lost forever.
3. Manage for "Public Values" such as socio-cultural, educational, and recreational benefits.

Although these resources need to be preserved, it is also important to provide visitors the opportunity to experience cultural resources firsthand to instill an appreciation for past cultures. Some areas may be restricted from use, due to sensitive or fragile resources, or to protect sites sacred to Native Americans.

Management Direction

Continue the process of determining site eligibility for nomination

to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria in 36 CFR 60.4, including, but not limited to, the Red Spring, Sandstone Quarry, Willow Spring and Lost Creek areas.

Install interpretive signing at Brownstone Canyon, Lost Creek, Pine Creek, Red Spring, Sandstone Quarry, Willow Spring and on Highway 160 near the Spanish Trail in Cottonwood Valley, explaining the historic and cultural resources.

Maintain the vehicle closure at the entrance to Brownstone Canyon. Consider placing a low-level fence in front of the site along with an interpretive sign if this would be the minimum tool to protect the panel. Consider additional protective measures if fencing is not successful.

Install Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) signs in the immediate vicinity of all rock art sites in RRCNCA. Signs will be placed so as not to draw attention to the sites.

Consult with Native American groups and individuals prior to implementing actions which may impact areas of significance to Native Americans. Develop a cooperative agreement with the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe to assist BLM with the preparation of informational and interpretive signs and brochures.

Cultural resources managed for information potential may be studied upon BLM and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) approval of a plan of study presented by an accredited institution. The proponent would be required to provide a report of the information gained for use by the NCA interpretive staff.

Locate trails and human activities away from cultural and paleontological sites, so that physical damage does not occur.

Inventory the known historic and prehistoric sites acquired in the 1994 additions to RRCNCA. Submit 36 CFR 60.4 National Register of Historic Places nominations for eligible sites.

Coordinate with Native American interests on educational, interpretive and other related program activities.

Enhance partnerships using volunteers to conduct photo monitoring and patrolling of sites to monitor recreational use.

Maintain existing interpretive exhibits at the Visitor Center, Willow Spring/Lost Creek, Sandstone Quarry, White Rock, Rocky Gap, La Madre Spring and Red Spring.

Provide BLM-sponsored guided activities at cultural sites where management deems such activities safe for the resources.

(For more information on interpretive planning, see Appendix 24)

Native American Concerns

Solicit Native American comments on proposed actions which may have an impact on cultural resources or Native American values. Provide partnership opportunities for Native Americans to express their interest in RRCNCA.

Work closely with the USDA Forest Service, Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, to develop coordinated management direction regarding Native American relations.

Locate trails and human activities to avoid impacting cultural sites.

Enhance existing Visitor Center cultural exhibits by incorporating local Native American beliefs and knowledge.

Allow for Native American use of sensitive resources when involved with traditional ceremonial purposes.

Invite Native Americans to present cultural/educational activities for volunteers and the general public at RRCNCA.

ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Cave Management

Caves within the NCA will be managed to protect their fragile resource values, including not only the formations and features of the caves themselves, but for other resource values such as providing nesting and perching habitat for bats or any cultural resource values that might pertain. In some instances, cave entrances may be gated (at least seasonally) to protect resources.

The BLM will continue to work cooperatively with the Southern Nevada Grotto. Because of their fragile nature, information regarding local caves is not made readily available to the general public. Those requesting specific cave information will normally be referred to the Southern Nevada Grotto.

Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

An Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is an area which requires special management emphasis or attention. This administrative designation, created with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, may be made for a variety of reasons, including protection of rare, endemic or threatened species, protection of unique areas, and public safety. Designating an area as an ACEC commits the BLM to prepare a management plan for the ACEC,

but does not provide any form of statutory protection or withdrawal.

During the scoping process for the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan, a large area including and surrounding the Red Rock Canyon NCA was nominated for ACEC status. The pursuit of considering the ACEC designation has been dropped, because the protective measures provided through the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act already exceed any protective measures which could be implemented through an ACEC plan.

Oliver Ranch

A specific site plan will be developed for this area. One proposal that will be pursued is the development of an environmental education center. Other issues will involve the preservation or removal of the existing structures and additional potential uses of the site:

Red Spring Site Plan

This sensitive area of natural and cultural resources includes threatened and endangered plant and animal species, natural springs, and significant archeological resources. A new site plan will be developed and will focus on restoring Red Spring to a more natural condition and reducing the vehicle access.

Scenic Drive Mass-Transit System

Preliminary analysis for implementation of a shuttle system for the Scenic Drive has proven to be very complex, as there are a multitude of factors that must be considered. The concept has received strong support through public comment and with the rapidly expanding Las Vegas community, actions will need to be taken to handle the increasing visitor use.

The BLM will have an in-depth mass-transit feasibility analysis conducted by a qualified contractor to determine the most suitable option to pursue.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The following management guidance applies to, and is a part of, the Proposed Management Prescription. All Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are based on existing laws, regulations and policy.

Allowable Uses

The public lands will be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Any authorized use, occupancy, or development of the public lands that conforms with the GMP will be considered. Those uses, including rights-of-way, leases, and permits, will be subject to environmental review and may require limitations or stipulations to protect and preserve natural resources. Limitations may also be imposed on either the type or intensity of use, or both, because of environmental values, hazards, or special management considerations. Some limitations have already been identified for specific areas, and are included in the management objectives in this plan.

Coordination With Other Agencies, State and Local Governments, and Indian Tribes

BLM will ensure that the detailed management plans and individual projects resulting from the GMP are consistent with officially adopted and approved plans, policies, and programs of other agencies, state and local governments, and Indian Tribes. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding will be developed as needed to promote close cooperation between BLM and other federal agencies, state and local governments, organizations and Indian Tribes.

Air Quality

Under the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977), BLM administered lands were given a Class II air quality classification, which allows moderate deterioration associated with moderate, well controlled industrial and population growth. BLM will manage all public lands as Class II unless they are reclassified by the state as a result of the procedures prescribed in the Clean Air Act (as amended, 1977). Administrative actions on the public lands will comply with the air quality classification for that specific area and appropriate State Implementation Plans.

When applicable (activities with the potential to affect air quality), the BLM would determine and document "conformity" with local, state, tribal and Federal air quality laws, regulations, and standards (per 40 CFR 93.100 et seq). Conformity determinations would be included in site-specific activity plans and/or NEPA documentation.