

**RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
and
RECORD OF DECISION**

The approval of this Record of Decision for the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) Resource Management Plan (RMP) completes the planning and environmental analysis process for this planning effort. The RMP provides management guidance and identifies land use decisions to be implemented for management of 198,000 acres of public lands in Clark County.


The approved RMP, which is incorporated by reference and displayed in Appendix A, consists of the proposed decisions described in the Proposed RMP for Red Rock Canyon NCA. Minor changes to address comments received during the protest period and the governor's consistency review period are identified in this record of decision as bold text following the original text. This plan is consistent with the plans and policies of other federal, state and local government agencies, as well as those of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

This record of decision for the Red Rock Canyon NCA RMP, fulfills the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 CFR 1600) and the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1990. This document meets the requirements for a Record of Decision as provided in 40 CFR 1505.2.

Although decisions described in this record of decision are not appealable in accordance with BLM regulation 43 CFR 1610.5-2(b), citizens are encouraged to participate during implementation of these decisions. For Additional information contact:

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Approved by



Robert V. Abbey
State Director, Nevada

5-20-05
DATE

INTRODUCTION

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) contains proposed management direction, decisions and actions for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA). BLM policy states that all plans of this level must be a Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1990 called for a General Management Plan to be written as the managing document for the new NCA. This plan, herein after is referred to as a RMP, and followed all the BLM planning regulations under the 43 CFR 1610. The RMP is the result of an extensive planning process involving numerous individuals, organizations, interest groups and government agencies from all levels. The RMP is a stand-alone plan for the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, and is not considered to be a Plan Amendment to the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan RMP. The RMP replaces the Interim General Management Plan (1995), which replaced the outdated Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands Master Plan (1976), and served as a basic plan to administer the NCA until completion of the final RMP.

This planning process began in late 1990 with the passage of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Establishment Act. The legislation shifted the designation of Red Rock Canyon from “Recreation Lands” to “National Conservation Area” and called for the development of a resource management plan to “describe the appropriate uses and development of the conservation area.” Additional legislation was passed in 1994 to enlarge the NCA from the originally designated 83,000 acres to 196,000 acres. Due to the additional acreage, which had not been analyzed, and the fact that the level of analysis done (Environmental Assessment) thus far in the planning process did not provide enough depth, the planning process was reinitiated and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed.

The Draft RMP/Draft EIS was distributed for public comment and review in July of 1999. Comment letters received are on file at the Las Vegas BLM Field Office and concerns and responses are included in the appendices of the final RMP. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS was released at the beginning of 2001 for public review and a 30 day protest period. Four protest letters were received.

The ROD for the Red Rock Canyon RMP contains certain minor changes from the Proposed RMP as a result of resolving the five protests, and the passage of the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (CCCPLNRA). These changes are detailed below under Changes from the Final RMP

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Record of Decision (ROD) completes the planning process and finalizes the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA). The RMP addresses, updates, and sets management policy for the present and future needs of Red Rock Canyon. The signing of the ROD by the State Director approves the policies and decisions

included in the RMP. Some of the proposals in the RMP will occur over time as funding becomes available and site-specific project plans are completed.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA

Red Rock Canyon (RRC) is located in Clark County, Nevada, approximately 15 miles west of the city of Las Vegas. It is bordered on the west by the Spring Mountain range, extends north to the mouths of Lee Canyon and Cold Creek and extends south to include the Bird Spring Range. A substantial portion of the eastern boundary is the western limit of the Summerlin Master Planned Community. Lands immediately adjacent to RRCNCA are now being developed.

RRCNCA consists of approximately 198,000 acres. Acreage may vary from source to source due to minor adjustments to the NCA boundary and land which has been acquired through several exchanges. The latest adjustments occurred with the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, passed in 1998. Some of the boundary changes designated in the Act follow land forms as opposed to section lines and will require land surveys to be done before exact boundary location and true acreage can be determined.

RRC has long been a popular location for public recreation and leisure due to unique geological and ecological characteristics occurring in a natural setting so close in proximity to a major population center. The geologic features of the area include an abundance of limestone and sandstone formations, including unique features such as older limestone covering and protecting younger and less weather resistant sandstone. The result is a 3000 foot escarpment running north-south along the west side of RRC. Running along the east side of the Scenic Drive are the Calico Hills, which are another magnificent sandstone formation displaying shades of red, brown, buff and gray. Weathering has added form and texture, including potholes, domes, and arches.

When the Red Rock Canyon RMP was originally written Red Rock Canyon NCA had two WSAs. The names of the WSAs were Pine Creek and La Madre Mountain. Currently the two WSAs have been designated as wilderness and there is no longer any WSA within the boundaries of the NCA., Congress designated portions of the former Pine Creek and La Madre Mountain WSAs as Wilderness and released the remaining portions of the WSAs from further study, in the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002

The Rainbow Mountain wilderness area includes the escarpment along the western border of and extends onto the adjacent Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA). The La Madre Mountain wilderness area is north of the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness area and the two are separated by the Rocky Gap Road. La Madre Mountain, with the peak elevation recorded at 8754 feet is the highest point in the NCA. The lowest elevation occurs along the east boundary of the NCA just south of the Lucky Strike road, and is 3000 feet.

Water is not a plentiful resource, but due to the past geologic fault activity and the permeable strata, RRCNCA contains over 40 springs as well as many tinajas (natural catchment basins). This creates a reliable source of water for wildlife, provides some unique ecological

environments and allows for higher concentrations of plants and animals than can be found in the surrounding Mojave Desert. Many species of plants and animals are endemic to southern Nevada with some being found only within the Spring Mountains ecosystem.

In addition to the wildlife, RRC is the home of wild horses and burros that roam various parts of the NCA, within the Red Rock Herd Management Area. The situation is unique, due to the presence of the wild horses and burros in close proximity of a major metropolitan area.

RRCNCA also offers a wealth of cultural resources from both historic and prehistoric eras. To date, studies have shown the presence of human inhabitants as early as 3500 B.C. and possibly several thousand years earlier. Some of the cultural resources include shelter caves, roasting pits, rock art (petroglyphs and pictographs) and a portion of the Spanish Trail.

DECISION

The decision is hereby made to select the Resource Management Plan for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area including changes noted in bold as depicted in Appendix A. This plan was prepared under the regulations implementing the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 CFR 1600). An environmental impact statement was prepared for this Plan in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The Plan is similar to the one set forth in the Red Rock Canyon General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement published in December 2000. The decisions in the ROD are consistent with the historical and current land uses and respective management prescriptions of the applicable parts of the NCA with no change in impacts due to the results of the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002. Specific management decisions for public lands under the jurisdiction of the Las Vegas Field Office are presented in Chapter Two of the Plan. Major decisions include the writing of four mid level plans that will tier to the RMP. The activity plans are discussed later in this document. Some other decisions included are closure of roads within the NCA, the amount of commercial and competitive Special Recreation Permits issued, Wild Horse and Burro Management, measures to protect riparian habitat, biodiversity, and cultural resources, and how recreational activities are to be managed.

ALTERNATIVES SELECTED FOR ANALYSIS

An important aspect of the planning process for all major actions is to create a range of alternatives from which to select the preferred plan to govern the proposed action. Each alternative should be based on the project goals and objectives, the list of developed issues, and the effects that implementing the actions proposed will have on the natural environment. Although each alternative considers these criteria, they differ in that the focus of each leans more toward certain aspects that need to be considered and less on others. In all circumstances, one of the alternatives proposed must be a "No Action" alternative, under which no changes to the current management regime would occur.

Five alternatives were considered during the RMP planning process.

ALTERNATIVE 1

This alternative focuses heavily on facilities development and, in most cases, associated recreation opportunities. Most springs and water sources would be developed to accommodate wild horse and burro use. Access would be more readily available with a more extensive trail system and fewer dirt roads being closed. Biodiversity enhancement would be less encompassing than in other alternatives with fewer specific enhancement actions being proposed.

ALTERNATIVE 2

This is the "No Action" alternative, meaning that the NCA would continue to be managed under the existing situation. Presently, the governing document for the NCA is the Interim General Management Plan (IGMP). The original intent of the IGMP was to administer the NCA until the completion of a final plan. The planning analysis for the IGMP did not include the expanded portions of the NCA since the expansion occurred after analysis had been completed.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Alternative 3 was the Preferred Alternative in the Draft RMP. It features a full array of actions promoting biodiversity, with some reduction to dirt road access and moderate enhancement of the trails network. Various facilities would be developed to contend with increasing visitor use in the Scenic Drive vicinity and to accommodate the relocation of wild horses to the south side of SR 160.

ALTERNATIVE 4

This alternative favors biodiversity, providing a greater number of actions promoting riparian restoration, biological preservation, and ecosystem management. The dirt road network is reduced to a minimum and the fewest recreation enhancements are proposed. Wild horses would be permanently relocated to the south side of SR 160.

ALTERNATIVE 5

This alternative was the environmentally preferable alternative. Alternative 5 emphasizes biodiversity enhancement. Included are specific actions designed to enhance riparian restoration, biological preservation, and ecosystem management. Recreational access and proposed facilities are concentrated within the developed Scenic Drive area. The miles of dirt roads remaining open, while still substantial, are reduced to a minimum and limited recreation enhancements and developments are proposed. All NCA lands would be removed from the Red Rock Herd Management Area (HMA), allowing for the removal of fences around riparian sites and removal of most spring developments.

PROPOSED ACTION

Of the 5 alternatives included in the Draft Plan, a modification of Alternative 3 was put forth as the BLM's "Preferred Alternative." The Proposed Action was developed by modifying the Preferred Alternative after reviewing public comment on the Draft Plan. Changes that were made to arrive at the Proposed Action include modification of wild horse and burro management, direction to develop an in depth climbing plan, minor changes to trail and road proposals, and a reduction in the number of permits offered for various commercial operations. The Proposed Action can be viewed in Appendix A.

The Red Rock Canyon RMP is written to ensure compliance with provision of the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) and subsequent Programmatic Biological Opinion #1-5-04-F-526 and any subsequent Biological Opinions, as well as the *Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Recovery Plan* (often referred as *Tortoise Recovery Plan*). The Red Rock Canyon RMP will guide future management of public lands in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Proposed Plan was developed to best address diverse public interest while maintaining or improving the condition of natural resources within the NCA. The "preferred" alternative (Alternative 3 above) was not selected as detailed above. The final alternative selected was a combination of all the above listed alternatives. The primary direction for this plan is to conserve and protect the natural resources of the NCA. Environmental safe guards adopted in the Proposed Plan are designed to provide recreation opportunities allowing the public to enjoy and appreciate the unique natural setting which composes Red Rock Canyon. The public review of the Draft EIS and public protest period which took place after distribution of the Proposed RMP resulted in various minor changes to the plan. These changes are summarized here in the Record of Decision. The full details for the changes can be identified in Appendix A as bold text following the original text.

Changes from the Final RMP

The Red Rock Canyon RMP management directions are hereby incorporated by reference as decisions for implementation. The following minor changes address corrections and concerns identified during the protest review and the passage of the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002.

The ROD for the Red Rock Canyon RMP includes a modification of the Management Emphasis Areas map to reflect the existing Red Rock Fire Station. The need for this facility in RRCNCA was based on increasing resource protection through reduced initial attack response times, providing assistance to Clark County Fire & Rescue for fires occurring at local residences, and enhancing public safety for the expanding number of visitors to Red Rock Canyon. The fire

station is located adjacent to the 13 Mile Campground road. Refer to the amended MEA map, pg 34.

The Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 designated Pine Creek and La Madre WSAs as wilderness. The Pine Creek WSA was renamed Rainbow Mountain Wilderness. There were some small areas of land that were released from the WSA status and are not part of the wilderness. The slivers will continue to be managed under the Primitive Management Emphasis Area Designation. The Rainbow Mountain Wilderness has a total of 24,997 acres, of which 20,311 acres is managed by the BLM. The La Madre Mountain Wilderness has a total of 47,180 acres of which 27,879 acres are managed by the BLM. The USDA Forest Service manages the remainder of the acreage in the two wilderness areas. The total acres designated for these two wilderness areas include some additional acres which did not have WSA status. The wilderness areas are managed under the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002, specific wilderness plans written for each wilderness area, BLM regulations under 43 CFR 6300, and any existing cooperative conservation agreements.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Implementation

Implementation of the RMP is gradual and takes place throughout the life of the RMP. Each project detailed in the RMP will be approved based upon priority and available funding.

This plan is designed to maintain flexibility in order to maximize its useful life. This is done by incorporating a "Management Emphasis Area" (MEA) concept. All areas within the NCA are assigned a land classification value, which, in the future, determines what actions/changes are appropriate and in which areas of the NCA they may occur. Proposed actions which are not consistent with the standards for future condition will not be permitted. Proposed actions which are consistent with NCA resource management goals and the standards for the MEA zone in which they are proposed, will be evaluated. In this manner, future options may be considered and the Plan is not limited to our present awareness, information on RRCNCA resources or only one set of actions (the MEA's are described in more detail in Appendix A).

Implementation of all management actions, whether already included in the RMP or proposed at a future date, will require the appropriate NEPA documentation to be completed prior to approval for the action.

There are four actions in this plan that will require a separate in-depth planning effort, thus specific actions are not proposed in this plan, because it is unknown what future analysis will determine to be most appropriate. The four plans to be completed include a specific plan for technical rock climbing, a new design and emphasis for the Red Spring site in the Calico Basin area, a feasibility study and plan for mass-transit on the Scenic Drive, and a site plan for Oliver

Ranch. All four plans are actions that should begin within the first year after the Resource Management Plan is finalized.

Monitoring

Several actions and programs proposed in this plan also include a monitoring program as part of the proposal. There are specific references to monitoring in regards to wildlife, ecosystem management, commercial uses, wild horses and burros, and other concerns. Monitoring is actually an integral part of all actions and programs in order to measure the effectiveness of actions implemented or record the impacts to the natural resources. Whenever monitoring shows impacts considered significant, or surpass the limits of acceptable change, (LAC) mitigation will be taken to reverse the situation. This may include a reduction in or elimination of the action or situation causing the impact.

Some program areas have monitoring systems developed or in place while others would need to have monitoring techniques developed and tested to determine how to best evaluate conditions and implementation results.

Public Involvement

The Red Rock Canyon RMP is a product of comprehensive public involvement. The process was initiated with the publication of the original Notice of Intent, initiating the planning and scoping process for the Resource Management Plan, was published in the Federal Register January of 1992. During the planning process, BLM held 18 open public meetings, hosted 4 open public field trips, and held 2 formal public hearings, which were attended by over 750 participants. In addition, multiple presentations were made for special interests through special presentations or as part of their agendas at monthly meetings. A Notice of Availability for the Draft Interim General Management Plan (IGMP) was published in April 1994.

In November of 1994, legislation was passed which expanded the size of RRCNCA to 195,610 which more than doubled the size of the original designated NCA. It was determined that the planning process should be re-initiated at the scoping phase to consider the entire acreage. In June of 1995 IGMP became the governing document for the NCA. In September of 1995, the planning process resumed and scoping was revisited.

To maintain constant public involvement during the development of the Draft RMP/DEIS, an expanded planning team was formed. The expanded planning team was composed of individuals representing the various environmental and recreational interests throughout the local community, along with representatives from commercial interests, the Native American community and other federal and local government agencies. The expanded planning team met on a monthly basis, contributing to the development of the Draft RMP.

A Notice of Availability for the Draft GMP was published in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 64, No.123, June 28, 1999). A Notice of Availability for a public hearing on the Draft GMP was

published in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 64, No. 150, August 5, 1999). A Notice of Availability for a public protest period was published in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 66, No. 31, February 14, 2001).

Protest Issues

The Bureau of Land Management received a total of 5 protest letters regarding the Red Rock Canyon NCA Proposed RMP/FEIS. One of the letters was intended as a comment letter, and upon the realization that the letter was accepted as a formal protest; the author withdrew the letter, leaving a total of 4 official protest letters. The following summarizes the issues of protest.

Wild Horse and Burro issues:

The document failed to analyze impacts to wildlife (especially big horn sheep) that could occur as a result of developing new water sources for horses and burros.

The proposed plan allows for more feral animals on more acreage than the preferred alternative in the Draft EIS. The proposed plan does not present any data to support a significant change from the preferred alternative.

Oppose reducing the wild horse herd (16-17 to 6-10) in the core area. There needs to be a good base of unrelated genes and should be at least 12-14.

In developing a proposed amendment to the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) wild horse decisions, incorporated in to the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the Nevada BLM failed to follow BLM planning procedures or to accomplish any of the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality. This includes failure to issue a notice of intent to amend the plan, develop planning criteria, provide opportunity for public comment, or analyze alternatives and their environmental effects. The proposed amendment would change the boundary of, and increase the size of the Red Rock Herd Management Area (HMA).

Issues with Parking along the Scenic Drive:

The new climbers' parking area at Calico III and any other parking area, road widening or change to the Scenic Loop Drive should wait until the public transit study is done. A public transit system may result in significant changes to many of the traffic handling areas within the NCA.

Issues with Prescribed burning:

Opposed to use of prescribed burns, as prescribed burns can escape and become wild fires.

As a result of protest resolution, the proposal to amend the Las Vegas RMP wild horse and burro program decisions and change the boundary of the Red Rock Herd Management Area was dropped. All other protest issues were dismissed by the Director.

APPENDIX A

THE FINAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A code with one to five numbers and letters is used to designate each resource section and subsection. (Refer to sections listed below).

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 – Biodiversity | 5- Commercial Use |
| 2 – Air Quality | 6 – Cultural Resources |
| 3 –Vegetation | 7 – Additional Management Considerations |
| 4 – Recreation Management | |

(1) BIODIVERSITY

Includes: (1A) biodiversity preservation, (1B) ecosystem management, and (1C) wild horses and burros, (1D) visitor education/environmental awareness (1E) riparian restoration

(1A) Biodiversity Preservation

1A.1 - 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)

1A.2 - Re-introduce springsnails (Pyrgulopsis deaconi and P. turbatrix) into restored Willow Spring riparian habitat. (App. 2, Priority Management Areas)

1A.3 - 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.

1A.4 - 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.

1A.5 - 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.

1A.6 - Remove and rehabilitate unauthorized trails within Pine Creek WSA **Rainbow Mountain Wilderness**.

1A.7 Monitor cumulative recreation use impact on Bridge Mountain (biodiversity hotspot; global population of Ionaectis caelestris). (App. 2, Priority Management Areas)

1A.8 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)

(1B) Ecosystem Management

1B.1 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.

1B.2 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.

1B.3 Implement prescribed natural fire program to restore fire ecology to montane chaparral communities in the escarpment canyons.

1B.4 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.

1B.5 Implement strategies to minimize habitat type conversion fires stemming from invasive exotic annual grasses.

1B.6 Implement aggressive fire suppression policy for all fires in low elevation communities (Blackbrush).

1B.7 Develop a new site plan for Red Spring, focusing on restoration of the natural resources (see Appendix 24 in the Proposed General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement).

1B.8 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.

(1C) Wild Horses and Burros

Red Rock Herd Management Area (HMA)

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

1C.1 The Red Rock HMA will remain as shown in the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan, with the exception of two adjustments:

- **1C.1a** 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. **In the Record of Decision for the Final RMP the proposed wild horse boundary amendment is withdrawn and will be pursued through a formal amendment process, under full NEPA compliance.**
- **1C.1b** An area along the southeast HMA boundary will expand eastward to incorporate an area that is commonly used by wild horses.

1C.2 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.

1C.3 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. **The number of 6-10 horses is retracted in the Record of Decision for the Final RMP. A herd of horses will be managed in the area north of SR 160, west of SR159 and south of Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. The number of wild horses and burros will be managed at the Appropriate Management Levels as defined in Environmental Assessment (NV050-04-346), The Decision Record for the EA was signed on September 1, 2004.** Vegetation will be monitored in this area to determine if recovery toward Potential Natural Community (PNC) can be achieved with the horses present.

1C.4 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.

1C.5 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.

(1D) Visitor Education/Environmental Awareness

1D.1 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).

1D.2 Devise signing/visitor outreach program to publicize Red Rock's significant biological quality and value:

- **1D.2a** Landscape ecosystem integrity, high biodiversity, endemism (rarity of both species and communities)
- **1D.2a** Threats to biological and ecosystem integrity.

1D.3 A site plan will be completed for Oliver Ranch and will include a proposal for the development of an Environmental Education Center.

(1E) Riparian Restoration

1E.1 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).

1E.2 Adopt a policy of discouraging recreation use in riparian habitats:

- **1E.2a** Evaluate and rehabilitate present high use areas and minimize future promotion; deflect use to non-riparian areas.

1E.3 Eradicate non-native species with emphasis on tamarisk removal. (App. 15, Part A., Disturbed Habitat Areas)

1E.4 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).

1E.5 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.

1E.6 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.

1E.7 Design all future trails to minimize impacts to riparian areas.

(2) Air Quality

2.1 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.

(3) Vegetation

3.1 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)

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

3.2a 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.

3.3 Restore plant productivity on disturbed areas.

3.3a Rehabilitate, reclaim or revegetate with native species, areas subjected to surface disturbing activities and closed roads, where feasible.

(4) RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Includes: (4A) camping, (4B) rock climbing, (4C) target shooting and hunting, (14D) trails (4E) roads issues.

(4A) Camping

4A.1 All camping, whether dispersed or in the designated campground, is limited to a 14 day maximum stay.

4A.2 Expand the public education program of "Leave No Trace" recreation ethics and land stewardship.

4A.3 The 13 Mile Campground will be the only campground designated in RRCNCA.

4A.4 Camping along Rocky Gap Road or on the escarpment of the Pine Creek WSA will be authorized by permit only.

4A.5 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):

- **4A.5a** camping northwest of the 6,500 ft elevation contour on La Madre Mountain does not require a permit;
- **4A.5b** camping west of the Spring Mountains escarpment crest does not require a permit;
- **4A.5c** within the Pine Creek WSA, camping between the escarpment crest and eastward to the canyon floor (4,400 ft. contour) requires a camping permit;
- **4A.5d** 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;

4A.6 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.

4A.7 Dispersed camping is allowed within 200 feet of designated roads east of the Bird Spring Range on existing disturbed areas.

4A.8 No camping is allowed within 1/4 mile of springs and riparian areas.

4A.9 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.

(4B) Rock Climbing

(4B1) Climber's Liaison Council

4B1.1 Manage rock climbing in partnership with the "Climber's Liaison Council" (CLC) as specified through a cooperative agreement.

(4B2) Climbing Restrictions

4B2.1 The BLM is engaged in long-term monitoring of various RRCNCA plants and animals. If raptor nest sites are found, climbing restrictions may be imposed during critical nesting periods. Should any T&E species become an issue, appropriate mitigation actions will be taken.

4B2.2 Alteration of the rock surfaces by gluing, chipping or chiseling is not allowed.

4B2.3 Restrictions regarding cultural resources include the following:

- **4B2.3a** no climbing allowed within 50 feet of rock art;
- **4B2.3b** known cultural sites, such as in Sandstone Quarry, Willow Spring and Red Spring, will be signed to alert climbers about restrictions.

4B2.4 No permanent fixed ropes or cables for climbing or belaying purposes are allowed.

4B2.5 Bolting is not allowed in the following locations:

- **4B2.5a** Sandstone Quarry area within 1/4 mile from each side of the parking area

The Sandstone Quarry area has an abundance of cultural resources and is considered a historic area because of the quarry and related artifacts. To avoid detracting from the visual experience of scenic viewers and because of the abundance of cultural resources, no new bolting will take place in the vicinity as stated above.

- **4B2.5b** Within the Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) **Wilderness Areas**

4B2.5c The placement of new bolts will not be allowed in WSAs. The Pine Creek and La Madre Mt. WSAs are recommended for Wilderness designation. Should the (eventual) Congressionally designated boundaries be different from those proposed, NCA policy and management will adjust accordingly. In addition, if the direction regarding bolting set forth in the *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* changes, the issue may be reconsidered depending on the new direction.

- **4B2.5d** Replacement of existing bolts in the aforementioned locations is allowed for safety purposes, but should be presented to the Climber's Liaison Council for review and concurrence.

4B2.6 BLM strongly encourages the use of the following equipment:

- **4B2.6a** tinted bolts and hangers which blend with the rock face;
- **4B2.6b** drab colored web gear, when used for a rappel anchor.

(4B3) Commercial Climbing

4B3.1 The following policies are designed to provide visitors the opportunity to enlist professional climbing instruction/guiding in RRCNCA and allow continued access for commercial climbing interests. At the same time, limits are set to avoid overcrowding of climbing locations.

1. All commercial guiding (guiding for pay) requires a Special Recreation Permit issued by the Bureau of Land Management.
2. The number of commercial (outfitter and guide) rock climbing permits, authorizing full time year-round use, will be limited to no more than five at any one time. In addition, "guest permits" will be available to allow limited use to commercial operations who wish to offer Red Rock Canyon as an option to clients. The guest permit allows limited visitation within a calendar year and has no guaranteed consecutive year renewal.

(4B4) Future Planning

4B4.1 Complete a management plan specific to rock climbing in Red Rock Canyon to tier from the RMP (this plan). Climbing policy in the RMP may be modified if the development of the climbing plan demonstrates the need.

4B4.2 Issues to be addressed in the climbing plan will include, but not be limited to:

- **4B4.2a** Commercial group size limitations at specific climbing locations
- **4B4.2b** Number of different commercial groups within a specific area at the same time
- **4B4.2c** Early access to the Scenic Drive (the possibility of opening the Scenic Drive at 6:00am may eliminate the need for early access)
- **4B4.2d** Late access and overnight parking on the Scenic Drive
- **4B4.2e** The number of guest permits issued each year
- **4B4.2f** Working cooperatively with school programs

(4C1) Target Shooting

4C1.1 The entire NCA is closed to target shooting. There is no legal discharge of firearms, except in the act of hunting in accordance with regulations set by the State of Nevada, as discussed below.

(4C2) Hunting

4C2.1 The area north of SR 160, east of the Spring Mountains escarpment, south of La Madre and west of the NCA east boundary is closed to hunting. In all other areas of the NCA, the BLM will manage in accordance with the State of Nevada. Hunting will be allowed during set seasons as specified by State regulations.

4C2.2 The trails in the vicinity of Cottonwood Valley south of SR 160 will be closed, for safety purposes, the first nine days of the upland game bird season in October.

(4D) Trails

(4D1) General Direction

4D1.1 No new trail development is allowed without BLM concurrence. All trails developed in this manner will be restored to nature upon discovery.

4D1.2 Monitor the existing designated trails in the Scenic Drive vicinity south to First Creek. Implement mitigative measures as needed to avoid excessive impacts.

4D1.3 Portions of the trail network designated in the Cottonwood Valley Equestrian and Mountain Bike EA will be realigned as needed to accommodate changing needs and environmental concerns.

4D1.4 Provide a trail in Calico Basin to access Kraft Rocks and Gateway Canyon, while alleviating visitor traffic problems in the Calico Basin Community.

4D1.5 New trail proposals must be at least 1/4 mile from springs and riparian areas, unless specifically designed to interpret those resources. Where feasible, realign existing trails to avoid springs and riparian areas.

4D1.6 All commercial trail guiding (guiding for pay) requires a Special Recreation Permit issued by the Bureau of Land Management.

(4D2) Mountain Bike Trail Use

4D2.1 Mountain bikes are allowed on designated trails only.

4D2.2 Trails between Spring Mountain Ranch State Park and La Madre Mountain, including all

trails around the Scenic Drive, are not designated for mountain bikes.

4D2.3 The following routes will be designated as trails and will include mountain bike use:

- **4D2.3a** the Blue Diamond to Jean trail (portion within RRCNCA) that has been used annually for a group ride event
- **4D2.3b** the "Twilight Zone" existing routes north of Kyle Canyon road.

(4D3) Equestrian Trail Use

4D3.1 In the area from La Madre Mountain south to Cottonwood Pass 3 miles south of SR 160, and from the Spring Mountains escarpment to the eastern boundary of the NCA (the area contained in the original NCA designation), equestrian use is limited to designated trails (no cross country riding).

4D3.2 The following trails are designated to include equestrian use:

- **4D3.2a** White Rock Loop and Keystone Thrust trails - provide a water trough near the intersection of Rocky Gap Road and the La Madre trailhead
- **4D3.2b** the Oak Creek trails
- **4D3.2c** the old road from the Willow Spring area to the Visitor Center
- **4D3.2d** the Escarpment Base Trail between Pine Creek and Oak Creek
- **4D3.2e** First Creek Trail
- **4D3.2f** Brownstone Canyon, beyond the gate
- **4D3.2g** the Cottonwood Valley Trails Network.

4D3.3 The following existing routes will be designated as trails and include equestrian use:

- **4D3.3a** the old road beginning at the Scenic Drive/Oak Creek Road junction and following the ridge just south of Pine Creek
- **4D3.3b** the Blue Diamond to Jean route (portion within NCA) which has been used for an annual equestrian ride event
- **4D3.3c** from First Creek to Lost Creek, out away from the base of the escarpment
- **4D3.3d** the loop route directly north of Red Rock Vista (the Dedication Site)

- **4D3.3e** the existing trails tying the Scenic Drive exit lot to adjacent trails.

4D3.4 The following trails will require new construction and will include equestrian use:

- **4D3.4a** the final portion of the Escarpment Base Trail (between First Creek and Oak Creek)
- **4D3.4b** a separate trail paralleling the Red Valley Trail, to separate horses and mountain bikes due to safety concerns
- **4D3.4c** the trail in Calico Basin accessing Kraft Rocks and Gateway Canyon.

4D3.5 Designate equestrian trailhead/staging areas at the Scenic Drive exit lot, the Oak Creek lot (old campground location), and at the 12 mile location on Kyle Canyon Road.

(4D4) Hiking Trail Use

4D4.1 Hiking is allowed on all designated trails in the NCA, although hikers should be aware that the Cottonwood system was primarily designated to accommodate mountain bike and equestrian needs.

4D4.2 Designate the following trails for hiking use only:

- **4D4.2a** the Arnicht Trail from the North Oak Creek trailhead to Pine Creek
- **4D4.2b** the La Madre Spring Trail (spur) north of the intersection with the White Rock Loop Trail
- **4D4.2c** the first half of the Grand Circle Trail, from the Visitor Center to the White Rock Road
- **4D4.2d** Pine Creek, Ice Box and Lost Creek trails
- **4D4.2e** the Dale Trail (Pine Creek to Ice Box) and the SMYC Trail (Ice Box to Lost Creek) parts of the Escarpment Base Trail.

(4E)Roads

(4E1) Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Access

4E1.1 OHV use in the NCA is restricted to designated roads. By reviewing the following information on dirt roads, the OHV access can be determined.

4E1.2 Competitive OHV events will not be permitted in the NCA.

(4E2) Dirt Roads

4E2.1 Dirt roads which would remain open in the NCA core area (North and west of the Bird Spring Range and south of La Madre Mountain) include the following:

- **4E2.1a** Little Red Rock access (may be converted to trail use depending on access through private lands)
- **4E2.1b** Rocky Gap Road
- **4E2.1c** White Rock access road (planned for paving)
- **4E2.1d** Oak Creek access road from the Scenic Drive (planned for paving)
- **4E2.1e** access road to Rainbow Spring (1/4 mile shy of actual spring location)
- **4E2.1f** Wildhorse Loop roads and access to the Black Velvet area
- **4E2.1g** Cottonwood Valley road (to Goodsprings)
- **4E2.1h** access roads related to private inholdings

4E2.2 Other dirt roads in the core area will be gated for administrative use only or closed and allowed to revert to a natural state.

4E2.3 The access road to the Cottontail area will remain open to the site boundary, but closed beyond, to provide additional protection to cultural resources.

4E2.4 The following maps indicate which dirt roads are to be closed and which will be left open. Short minor routes not indicated on the maps are to be closed and used only for administrative purposes or restored to a natural state.

4E2.5 Before the actual closure of a dirt road takes place; BLM will contact Clark County to check for RS-2477 status.

4E2.6 If adequate need is determined for dirt roads slated for closure or restoration, the decision for closure may be reconsidered.

4E2.6 The ways (dirt roads or routes not officially recognized) labeled 14, 15, 16 and 17 (see following map) fall within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). None of these ways have been cherry stemmed (altering wilderness boundary around roads to allow them

to remain open). Until Congress decides the wilderness designation issue, the study area must maintain the character that made it eligible for wilderness consideration and each of these ways will be closed. If any of these ways fall outside of a future designated La Madre Mountain Wilderness, they will be reconsidered and may be designated for motor vehicle use.

(4E3) Paved Roads

4E3.1 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.

4E3.2 Construct Calico III parking area between the Calico II and Sandstone Quarry sites.

4E3.2a Calico III will accommodate long-term parking, while Calico I and Calico II will limit parking duration to better serve short-term visitors.

(5) COMMERCIAL USE

Includes: (5A) Special Recreation Permits (5B) Film permits

(5A) Special Recreation Permits

5A.1 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:

5A.1a) Rock Climbing Guides and Schools

5 year-round permits

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

5A.1b) Guided Horse Ride Operations

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

5A.1c) Bus and Limo Tours (on Scenic Drive)

No limits on number of tours

5A.1d) 4X4 Vehicle Tour Operations (on designated roads)

4 permits

5A.1e) Guided Bike Tours

4 permits (includes mountain bike and road bike touring)

5A.1f) Guided Interpretive Hikes

5 permits

5A.2 New types of commercial uses proposed will be evaluated to determine if they are appropriate and consistent with RRCNCA management guidelines.

5A.3 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.

5B Film Permits

5B.1 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.

(6) 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.

(6A) Management Direction

6A.1 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.

6A.2 Install interpretive signing at Brownstone Canyon, Lost Creek, Pine Creek, Red Spring, Sandstone Quarry, and Willow Spring and on Highway 160 near the Spanish Trail in Cottonwood Valley, explaining the historic and cultural resources.

6A.3 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.

6A.4 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.

6A.5 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.

6A.6 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.

6A.7 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.

6A.8 Coordinate with Native American interests on educational, interpretive and other related program activities.

6A.9 Enhance partnerships using volunteers to conduct photo monitoring and patrolling of sites to monitor recreational use.

6A.10 Maintain existing interpretive exhibits at the Visitor Center, Willow Spring/Lost Creek,

Sandstone Quarry, White Rock, Rocky Gap, La Madre Spring and Red Spring.

6A.11 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 in the Proposed RMP)

(6B) Native American Concerns

6B.1 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.

6B.2 Work closely with the USDA Forest Service, Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, to develop coordinated management direction regarding Native American relations.

6B.3 Locate trails and human activities to avoid impacting cultural sites.

6B.4 Enhance existing Visitor Center cultural exhibits by incorporating local Native American beliefs and knowledge.

6B.5 Allow for Native American use of sensitive resources when involved with traditional ceremonial purposes.

6B.6 Invite Native Americans to present cultural/educational activities for volunteers and the general public at RRCNCA.

(7) ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Includes: (7A) Cave Management, (7B) Designation of Area of Environment Concern, (7C) Oliver Ranch, (7D) Red Spring Site Plan, (7E) Scenic Drive Mass-Transit System

(7A) Cave Management

7A.1 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.

7A.2 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.

(7B) Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

7B.1 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.

7B.2 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.

(7C) Oliver Ranch

7C.1 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.

(7D) Red Spring Site Plan

7D.1 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.

(7E) Scenic Drive Mass-Transit System

7E.1 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.

7E.2 The BLM will have an in-depth mass-transit feasibility analysis conducted by a qualified contractor to determine the most suitable option to pursue.

The Standard Operating Procedures for the Red Rock Canyon RMP can be found on page 60 of the Proposed General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

APPENDIX B

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS AREAS

Management Emphasis Areas (MEAs) provide a framework for indicating the management intent for a particular geographic area and for evaluating the appropriateness of future actions and proposals. By zoning all parts of RRCNCA under corresponding MEA categories, so that future actions can be considered that have not been specifically addressed in this plan, the RMP remains flexible and may serve a longer span before becoming outdated.

Using a modification of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) method of planning, RRCNCA has been divided into five MEA zones. Each MEA zone has a set of guidelines which both describes its current setting and provides a standard for future management. Any actions or improvements must be consistent with what is normally expected in that particular setting so the visitor is provided a positive experience consistent with expectations. For planning purposes the following settings and characteristics have been used.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS AREA ZONE DESCRIPTIONS

1. Developed

- Substantial modification of natural environment
- Intensified motorized use and parking available
- Human interaction level moderate to high
- On site controls obvious and facilities widely available
- Law enforcement moderately visible

2. Roaded Developed

- Recreation activities rely on and are consistent with the natural environment
- May include paved roads and buildings, but the design should blend with the natural environment
- Human interaction level moderate to high in more developed portions and low to moderate elsewhere
- On site controls, facilities and law enforcement noticeable

3. Roaded Natural

- Developments limited to improved access and those consistent with the natural environment
- The recreational experience is based on the natural setting
- May include roads, trails and camping areas (new improvements for resource protection only)
- Human interaction level is low to moderate, more often on the low side
- On site controls present, but subtle
- Includes areas with existing dirt roads

4. Non-motorized

- Area(s) may not necessarily be remote and access may be easy, but human interaction level would be low
- Opportunities provided could include trails for mountain bikers, horse riders and hikers

- Existing roads closed and converted to trails; motorized use is prohibited
- Off site controls preferred
- Facilities are avoided, but may be provided for resource protection or user safety

5. Primitive

- More risk is assumed and self-reliance is necessary
- Remote areas not on primary travel routes or easily accessed
- Access is by hiking and horseback; no mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) would be allowed
- Human interaction is rare to low and evidence of other users would be minimal
- No on site controls or facilities provided except those required for resource protection

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS AREA DESIGNATIONS

The NCA has been divided into the following Management Emphasis Areas as a planning tool for establishing desired conditions for proposed and future actions (see amended MEA map on pg 45). These designations do not include private inholdings.

Developed

Includes the following areas:

- Oliver Ranch

Roaded Developed

Includes the following areas:

- Scenic Drive vicinity
- 13 Mile Campground vicinity

Roaded Natural

Includes the following areas:

- From Lee Canyon road south to the northern boundary of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness
- East of Calico Hills and north of SR 159, **outside of the former La Madre Mountain WSA**
- All NCA land south of Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, excluding the Pine Creek WSA and the Oliver Ranch area
- All cherry-stemmed road corridors within WSAs

Non-Motorized

Includes the following areas:

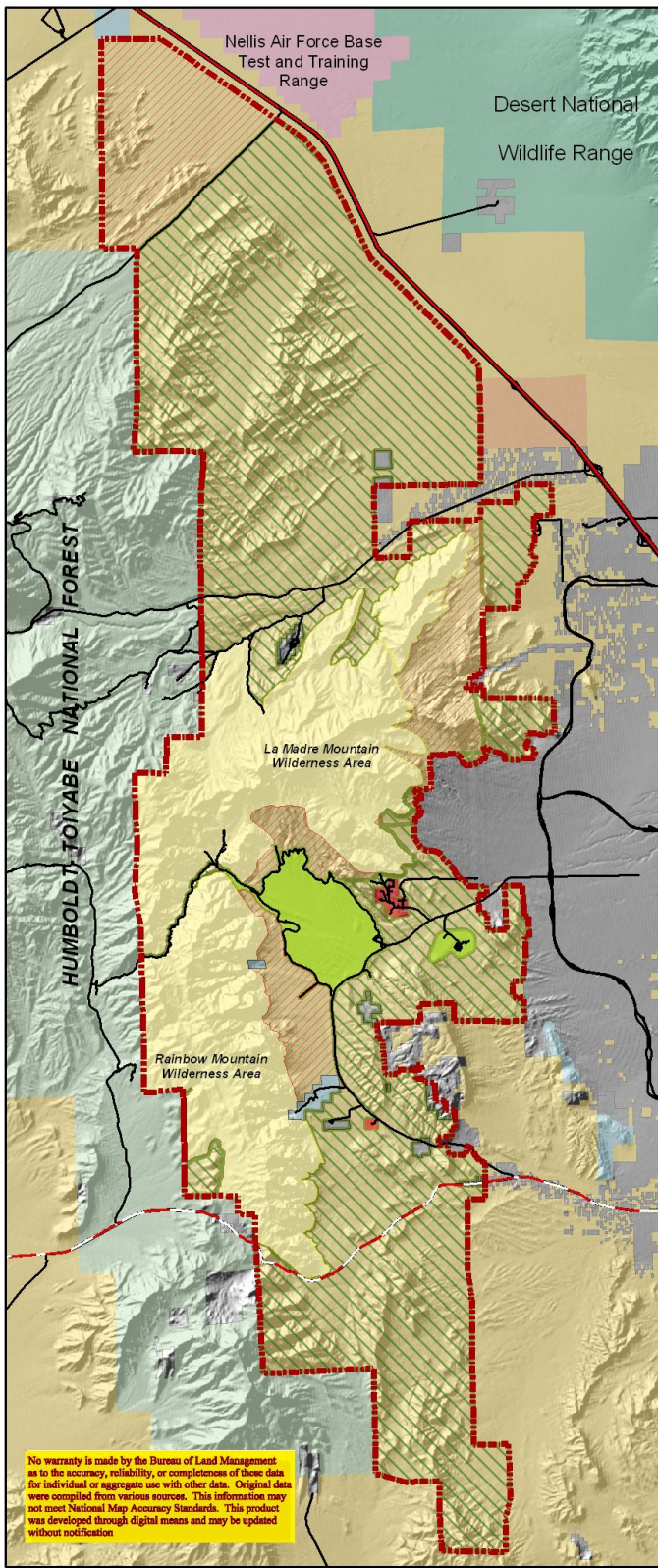
- North of Lee Canyon Road
- NCA land adjacent to the Eastern boundary of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness to the NCA eastern boundary **that was formally the La Madre Mountain WSA.**

- Area between the Scenic Drive vicinity and **Rainbow Mountain Wilderness**, south to Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, and east to SR 159
- **Area north of the Scenic Drive vicinity to the southern boundary of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness**
- The horse guiding operation adjacent to Spring Mountain Ranch State Park is grandfathered into this area. However, should this permit be vacated, the site will become non-motorized and a new permit will not be issued at this location.

Primitive

Includes the following areas:

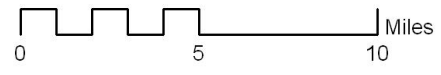
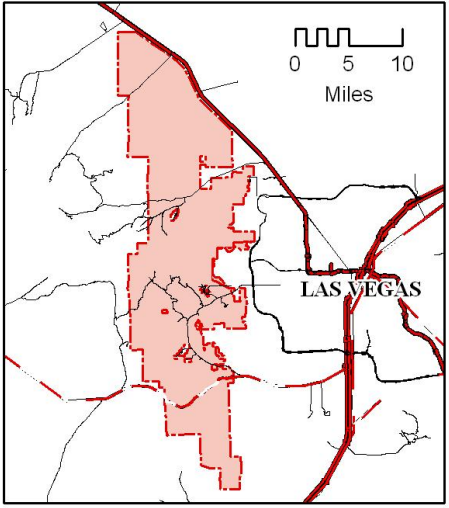
- **Rainbow Mountain and Las Madres Mountain wilderness areas**
* **NOTE – The Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 designated Pine Creek and La Madre Mountain WSAs as wilderness. The Pine Creek WSA was renamed Rainbow Mountain Wilderness. There were some small slivers of land that were released from the WSA status and were not part of the wilderness. These slivers will continue to be managed under the Primitive Management Emphasis Area Designation.**



MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS AREAS

April 5, 2005

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area General Management Plan



- NCA boundary
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private inholding
- Developed
- Roaded developed
- Roaded natural
- Non-motorized
- Primitive
- Clark County, Nevada
- Department of Defense
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- Nevada State
- Private

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