



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd., P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

In Reply Refer To:
1610 (LVFO)
(NV930.1)(NV050)

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Proposed General Management Plan (Plan) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA). The Proposed Plan outlines the various decisions for the management of approximately 196,000 acres composing RRCNCA. The Plan is open for a 30 day protest period beginning on January 30, 2001.

The Proposed Plan and FEIS has been developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. This plan is a variation of Alternative 3 which was presented in the Draft General Management Plan released in July of 1999. Revisions have been made, based on the comments received during the comment period for the Draft Plan.

The Proposed Plan may be protested by any person who participated in the planning process, and who has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval of the Proposed Plan. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process (see 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-2). Protests must be filed with the Director, Bureau of Land Management, Attn. Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

All protests must be written and must be postmarked on or before February 28, 2001 and shall contain the following information:

- The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
- A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
- A statement of the part or parts of the document being protested.
- A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues previously submitted during the planning process by the protesting party, or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.
- A concise statement explaining precisely why the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Director's decision is wrong.

Upon resolution of any protests, an Approved Plan and Record of Decision will be issued. The approved Plan/Record of Decision will be mailed to all individuals who participated in this planning process and all other interested publics upon their request.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Abbey
State Director, Nevada

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| COMPARISON SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES | S1 |
|--|----|

CHAPTER 1 - PURPOSE AND NEED

| | |
|---|----|
| Purpose and Need | 1 |
| Description of Planning Area | 4 |
| Issue Identification | 5 |
| Expanded Discussion of the Issues | 6 |
| Planning Considerations and Criteria | 15 |
| Planning Process and Selection of Proposed Action | 18 |
| Consistency With Other Plans | 20 |

CHAPTER 2 - ALTERNATIVES

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 23 |
| Management Emphasis Areas | 23 |
| Alternatives Selected for Analysis | 27 |
| Changes from Draft to Proposed Plan | 28 |
| The Proposed General Management Plan | |
| Biodiversity | |
| Biodiversity Preservation | 31 |
| Ecosystem Management | 32 |
| Wild Horses and Burros | 32 |
| Visitor Education/Environmental Awareness | 36 |
| Riparian Restoration | 36 |
| Air Quality | 36 |
| Vegetation | 37 |
| Recreation | |
| Camping | 37 |
| Rock Climbing | 40 |
| Target Shooting | 42 |
| Hunting | 42 |
| Trails | 42 |
| Roads | 48 |
| Commercial Use | 55 |
| Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns | 56 |
| Additional Management Considerations | |
| Cave Management | 58 |
| Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern | 58 |
| Oliver Ranch | 59 |
| Red Spring Site Plan | 59 |
| Scenic Drive Mass-Transit System | 59 |
| Standard Operating Procedures | 60 |
| Implementation and Monitoring | 67 |

11:30

CHAPTER 3 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Land Status | 69 |
| Facilities | 71 |
| Visitor Demographics | 87 |
| Wilderness | 88 |
| Biodiversity | 96 |
| Wild Horses and Burros | 122 |
| Soils | 127 |
| Water Resources | 131 |
| Recreation | 137 |
| Visual Resources | 145 |
| Geology | 149 |
| Cultural Resources | 151 |
| Air Quality | 154 |
| Fire History Summary | 158 |

CHAPTER 4 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

| | |
|--|-----|
| Biodiversity | |
| Biodiversity Preservation | 161 |
| Ecosystem Management | 162 |
| Wild Horses and Burros | 162 |
| Riparian and Water Resources | 163 |
| Vegetation | 164 |
| Recreation Opportunities | |
| Camping | 165 |
| Rock Climbing | 165 |
| Target Shooting | 166 |
| Trail Opportunities | 166 |
| Touring Opportunities | |
| Dirt Roads | 166 |
| Paved Roads | 167 |
| Visual Resources | 167 |
| Wilderness Characteristics | 168 |
| Cumulative Effects | 169 |

CHAPTER 5 - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| General | 173 |
|-------------------|-----|

APPENDICES

Biological Data (1-16)

| | | |
|----|--|------|
| 1 | Special Status Species | A-2 |
| 2 | Priority Management Areas | A-9 |
| 3 | Floristic Summary | A-12 |
| 4 | Vegetative Community Types | A-16 |
| 5 | Species List - Mammals | A-21 |
| 6 | Species List - Bats | A-23 |
| 7 | Species List - Reptiles & Amphibians | A-24 |
| 8 | Species List - Birds | A-26 |
| 9 | Species List - Invertabrates | A-33 |
| 10 | Inventory of Springs | A-36 |
| 11 | Spring Discharge Measurements | A-38 |
| 12 | Spring Developments | A-40 |
| 13 | Artificial Waters | A-42 |
| 14 | Important Habitat Areas | A-43 |
| 15 | Disturbed Habitat Areas | A-46 |
| 16 | Fire Occurrence History | A-50 |

Legislation (17-18)

| | | |
|----|---|------|
| 17 | Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1990 | A-58 |
| 18 | Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Boundary Expansion | A-64 |

Other Information

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 19 | Acronyms List | A-67 |
| 20 | Road and Trails Data | A-69 |
| 21 | Fire Management | A-78 |
| 22 | Cultural Resources Report | A-88 |
| 23 | Law Enforcement Analysis | A-138 |
| 24 | Interpretive Plan | A-147 |
| 25 | DEIS Comments and Responses | A-159 |

LIST OF MAPS
(in FEIS document)

| <u>MAP</u> | <u>MAP#</u> | <u>PAGE#</u> |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| COMPARISON SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES | | |
| Camping within the Original NCA | M1 | S-7 |
| Existing Trails - Scenic Drive | M2 | S-11 |
| Existing Routes - Scenic Drive | M3 | S-14 |
| Blue Diamond to Jean and Twilight Zone Trails | M4 | S-15 |
| CHAPTER 1 | | |
| Vicinity Map | M5 | 3 |
| CHAPTER 2 | | |
| Management Emphasis Areas | M6 | 26 |
| Herd Management Areas | M7 | 34 |
| Red Rock HMA Adjustments | M8 | 35 |
| Camping within the Original NCA | M9 | 39 |
| Existing Designated Trails | M10 | 45 |
| Trails in the Scenic Drive Vicinity | M11 | 46 |
| Trails in the Expanded Portion of RRC | M12 | 47 |
| Dirt Roads (Ways) within the Original NCA | M13 | 50 |
| Roads in the North Expansion Area | M14 | 51 |
| Roads in the South Expansion Area | M15 | 52 |
| La Madre Mountain WSA Roads (Ways) | M16 | 54 |
| CHAPTER 3 | | |
| Land Status | M17 | 70 |
| Major Roads in Red Rock Canyon | M18 | 80 |
| Cottonwood Valley Mountain Bike/Equestrian Trails | M19 | 83 |
| Existing Designated Trails - Scenic Drive | M20 | 85 |
| Wilderness Study Areas | M21 | 95 |
| Herd Management Areas | M22 | 124 |
| Visual Resource Management | M23 | 148 |
| APPENDICES | | |
| Dirt Roads (Ways) North of La Madre | M24 | A-73 |
| Dirt Roads (Ways) in South Expansion Area | M25 | A-75 |