

APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Final Environmental Impact Statement

2.0 APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

In November 2002, Congress designated the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) to preserve and protect a portion of southern Nevada's Mojave Desert as a permanent asset for future generations. The Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (the Clark County Act) established the Sloan Canyon NCA and the North McCullough Wilderness, which is entirely contained within the NCA (Figure 1.1). The 48,438-acre NCA, which forms the natural, mountainous southern skyline of the City of Henderson and Las Vegas, contains unique scenic and important archaeological sites. The centerpiece of the NCA is the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site, one of the most significant cultural resources in southern Nevada. More than 300 rock art panels with nearly 1,700 designs represent native cultures dating from the Archaic to historic era. Eventually, residential housing, schools, parks, and businesses will border much of the northern and western edges of the NCA.

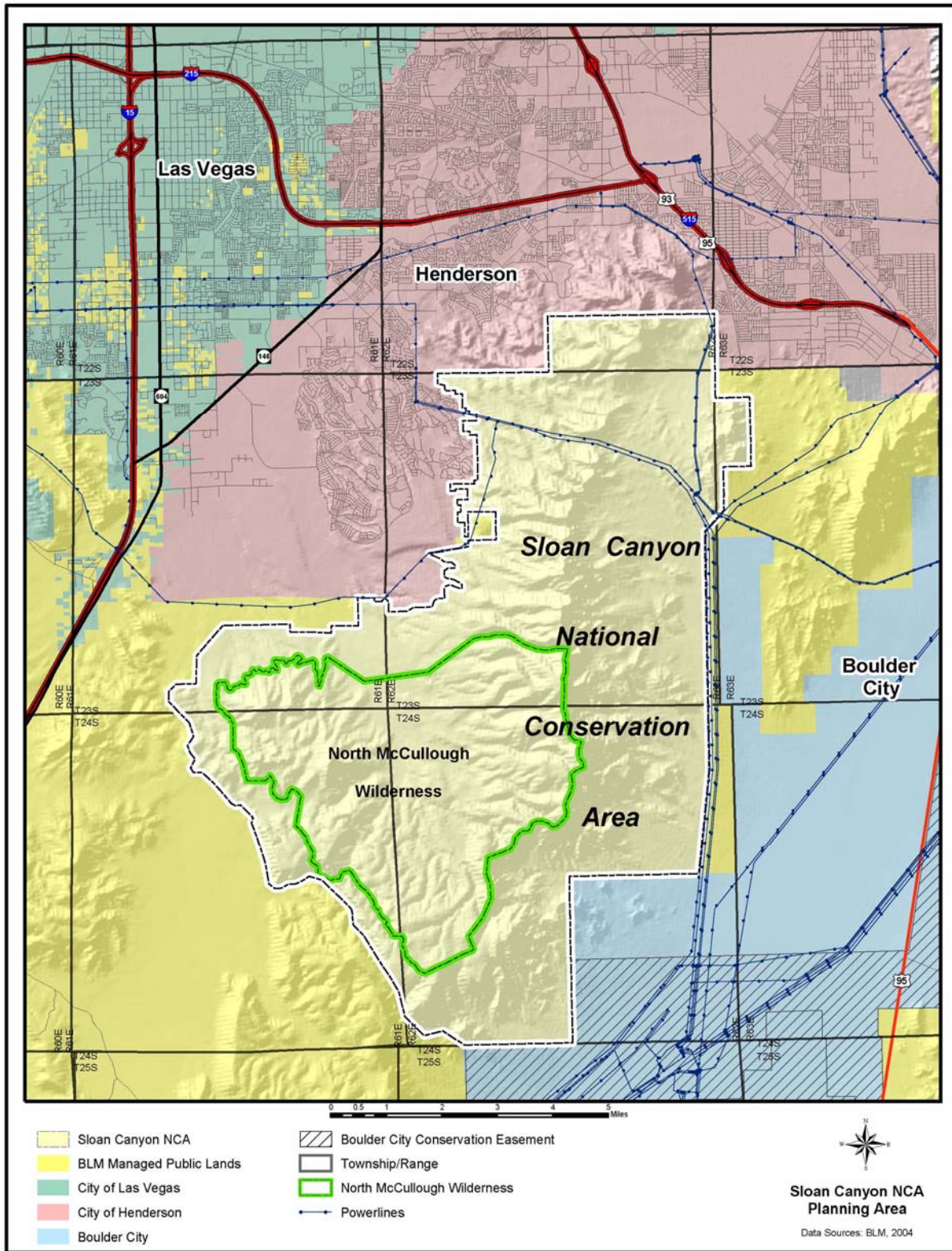
Title VI of the Clark County Act (the Sloan Canyon NCA Act, Appendix A), required BLM to develop a plan for the appropriate use and management of the NCA and Wilderness within 3 years of enactment. This record of decision is the culmination of nearly 3 years of intense, systematic work by BLM, cooperating agencies, stakeholders and the public to develop an approach for managing the NCA. The approach incorporates the vision of the NCA, which is to protect its valuable resources while allowing as wide a range of activities as reasonable. The Approved RMP provides guidance for planning and management actions for the NCA for next 15 to 20 years.

2.1 CORRECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED RMP

The following corrections to the proposed RMP were made based on comments BLM received on the Proposed RMP. These corrections provide clarification but do not affect approved RMP decisions.

1. pg. 3-23: Change "Foothill" to "Mission" on the discussion of where the northern alignment begins.
2. pg 4-3: Bottom sentence; remove the word trail from "road and trail." The Act did not require a recommended location for the trail.
3. Wilderness Decision WLD 4, was modified to reflect BLM's intention that multiple guides may accompany groups to the Sloan Petroglyph Management Area, as appropriate.

Figure 1.1. Sloan Canyon NCA Planning Area



2.2 MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Management direction for lands within the NCA is discussed below, in the accompanying North McCullough Wilderness Management Plan, and in the attached appendices.

2.2.1 Management Emphasis Areas

Management emphasis areas (MEA) provide a framework for identifying BLM's management intent for a particular geographic area and for evaluating future actions and proposals. By assigning appropriate MEA categories to all portions of the NCA, future actions can be considered that have not been specifically addressed in this plan. This management approach will help ensure that the Approved RMP remains flexible and current over time.

Management Direction

The MEAs reflect the potential for increased development at the main access points for the NCA. The north access to Sloan Canyon around the potential visitor center is zoned as Developed, and the highly visited Petroglyph Management Area is a Semi-Primitive zone. In addition, the area north of the North McCullough Road and Trail ROW (N-65874) near the Dutchman Pass Trailhead is zoned Roded Natural, as will the area south of the Quo Vadis Trailhead.

MEA 1: Manage use of the NCA consistent with the objectives of the MEAs identified in Figure 2.1.

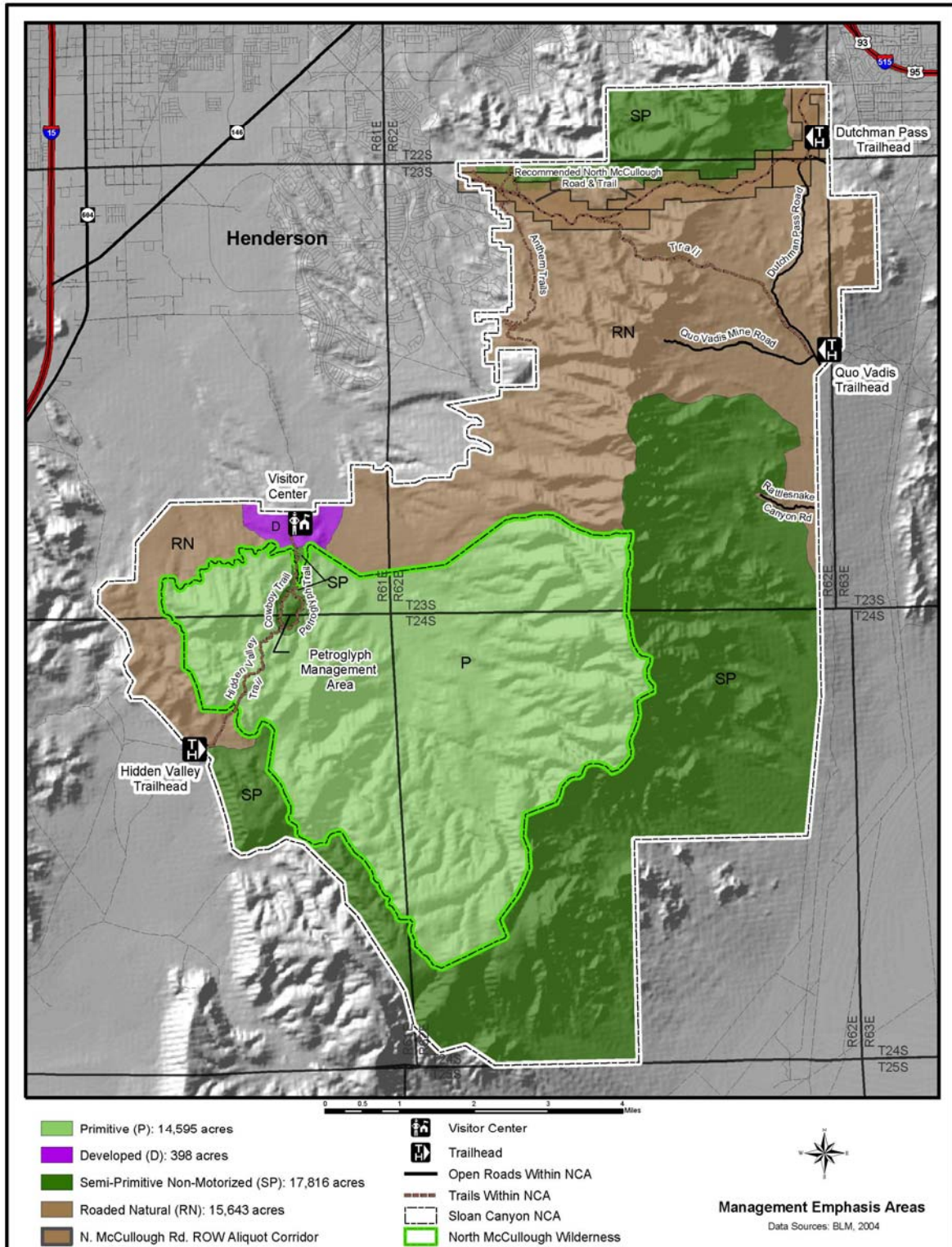
Each MEA zone has a set of objectives that describe the physical, social, and managerial setting of the area and that provide standards for future management. To provide for a positive visitor experience, any future actions or improvements within a zone must be consistent with the established guidelines and expectations.

Objectives

Primitive

- Includes remote areas not on primary travel routes or easily accessed.
- Access is by hiking and horseback; no mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are allowed.
- Human interaction is rare to low; evidence of other uses is minimal.
- No onsite controls or improvements provided except those required for resource protection.
- More visitor risk is assumed; self-reliance is necessary.

Figure 2.1. Management Emphasis Areas



Semi-Primitive; Non-Motorized

- Areas might not necessarily be remote and access might be easy, but human interaction is low.
- Motorized use is prohibited; existing roads may be closed and could be converted to trails.
- Opportunities provided could include mountain bike, equestrian, and hiking trails.
- Offsite controls are preferred.
- Construction of facilities will be avoided except where they provide resource protection or aid in visitor safety.

Roaded Natural

- The recreational experience is based on the natural setting.
- Human interaction is low to moderate, but more often on the low side.
- Includes areas with roads.
- Developments limited to improved access and those consistent with the natural environment.
- Opportunities provided may include roads, trails, and camping sites (new improvements for resource protection only).
- Onsite controls present but subtle.

Developed

- Natural environment is substantially modified.
- Human interaction level is moderate to high.
- Motorized use and parking are available.
- Onsite controls obvious and facilities are widely available.
- Law enforcement is moderately visible.

2.2.2 Recreation**Goal**

Provide recreation opportunities within the NCA, including the North McCullough Wilderness, consistent with the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and the Clark County Act, Title II (“Wilderness Areas”).

Objectives

- Provide an array of outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences within the NCA.
- Manage recreation uses so that recreation-related disturbances are minimized.

Management Direction

Recreational use of the NCA historically has been at low to moderate levels, and future actions by both BLM and the surrounding communities contribute to the kinds of recreational opportunities available in the NCA. To be flexible and responsive to increased user demands, recreation will be managed for experiences and beneficial outcomes based on the MEA zone objectives described in Section 2.2.1. The character of the management zones ranges from Primitive to Developed in terms of their physical, social,

and administrative attributes, and these attributes define the character of the respective recreation opportunities (e.g., activities available).

Because use of the NCA will likely change dramatically over the coming years, the Approved RMP contains flexible management guidance, which will be refined into specific management criteria based on use and resource monitoring. Visitation and resource monitoring will be used to assess and establish the NCA's baseline resource conditions and document any changes to them (Appendix B, Recreation Monitoring Plan). Once the resource baselines are determined, a system such as Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) will be used to establish thresholds for future actions.

REC 1: Use fees may be charged in designated areas of the NCA. Specific fee guidelines and amounts will be determined at a later time, consistent with nearby State and federal facilities.

REC 2: Interpretive information and materials pertaining to the NCA's unique cultural and natural resources will be provided to visitors to enhance their recreational experiences.

Hiking/Equestrian Use/Mountain Biking Areas

Based on likely amounts of use and in an effort to preserve visual and biological resources, the subsequent need for administrative controls, and the reduction of conflicts among users, the NCA will designate use areas for hiking, equestrian use, and mountain biking.

Cross-country hiking is allowed in trail-use-only areas until BLM trails are established and in use, after which some or all of these areas may be restricted to hiking on designated trails. Additional trails will be planned, designed, and constructed through a systematic process that will evaluate needs, potential uses, suitable destinations, and public interest, through an environmental assessment. Under the approved plan, a hiking trail system with a wide range of uses is anticipated. Hiking trails will not be limited to the two ROWs for hiking trails that were previously issued to the City of Henderson as prescribed by the Sloan Canyon Act (one is included in the ROW for the North McCullough Road).

REC 3: Designate hiking use areas: an area in which hiking will be limited to trails once they have been designated, constructed, and in use; and the another for cross-country hiking (Figure 2.2).

REC 4: In some areas, horses and pack animals are required to remain on designated trails once trails are designated, constructed, and in use. Cross-country equestrian use is allowed in other areas and horses and pack animals are prohibited in high-use portions of the NCA (Figure 2.3).

REC 5: No animal, other than a horse, burro, or mule, may be used in the NCA for the purpose of transporting people or their possessions.

REC 6: Horse feed and hay must be certified weed-free to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.

REC 7: Watering of animals is prohibited at wildlife water developments, and animal waste must be removed from trailheads.

REC 8: Mountain biking is allowed only on a limited system of designated multiple-use trails and on designated vehicle roads (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.2. Hiking

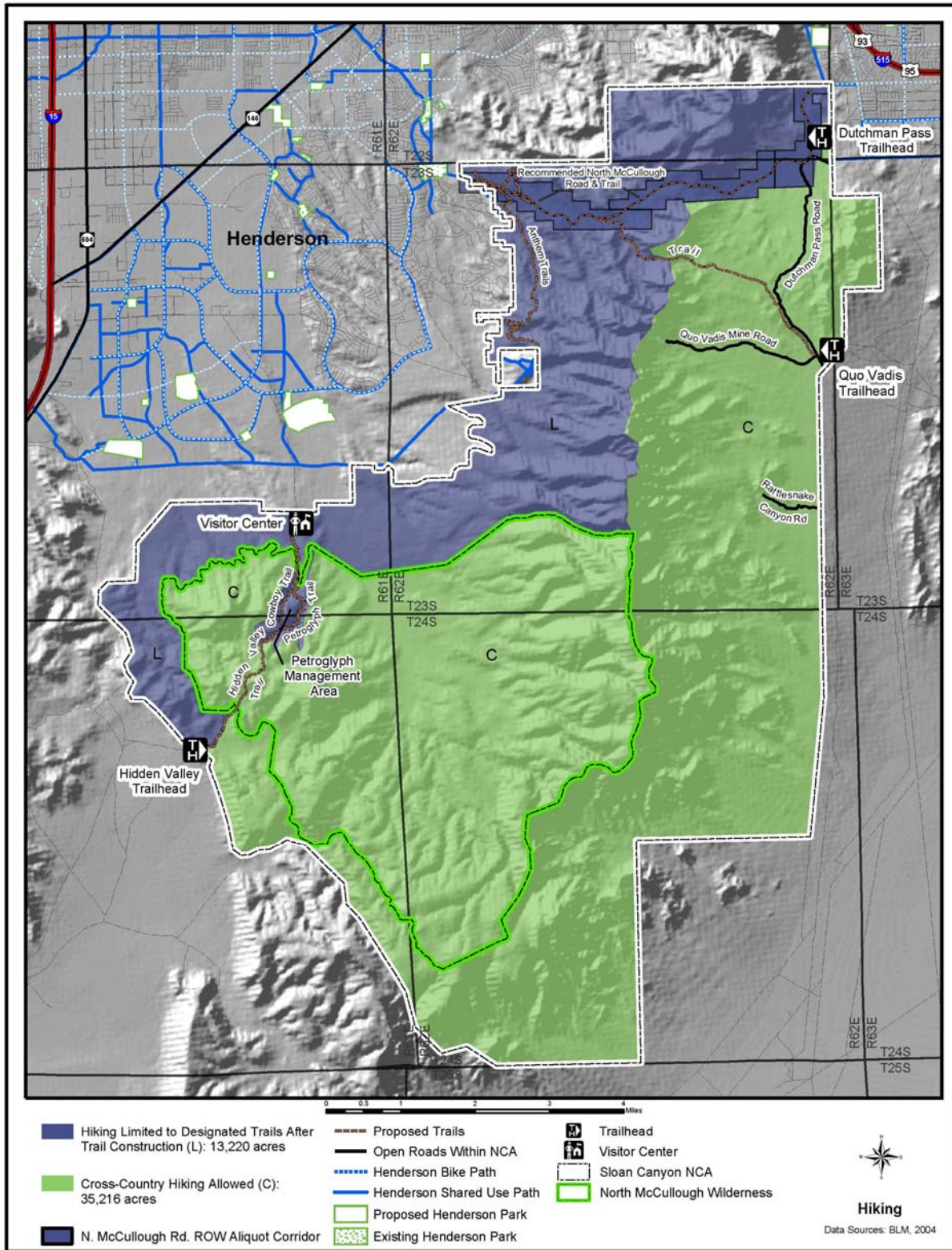


Figure 2.3. Equestrian Use

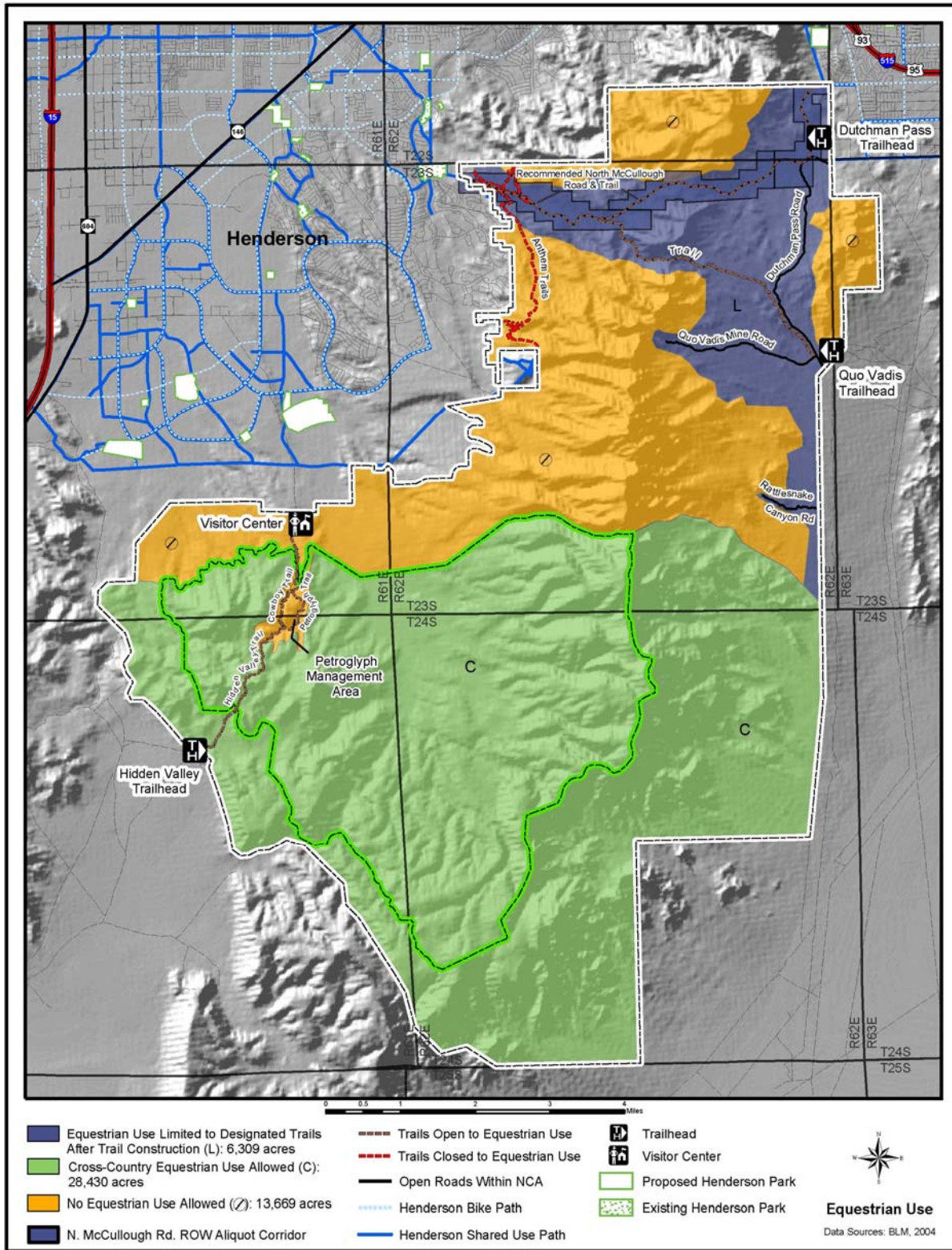
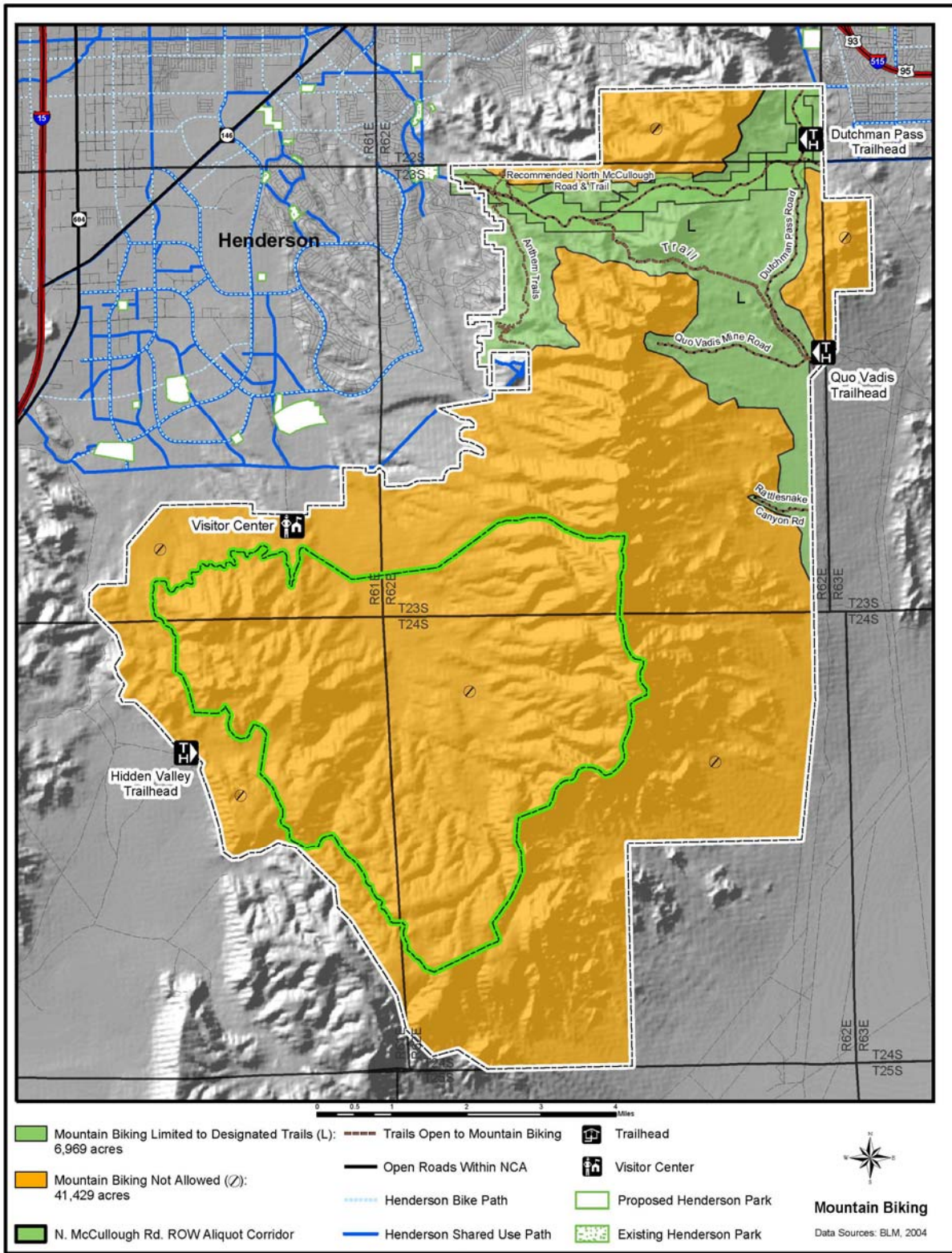


Figure 2.4. Mountain Biking



Trails

A trail system will be designed and constructed to accommodate multiple uses (hiking, biking, and equestrian use), as appropriate.

REC 9: Initially, the following trails are designated:

| Desognated Trails | Activities |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Petroglyph Trail | Hiking |
| Cowboy Trail | Hiking |
| Hidden Valley Trail | Hiking, equestrian use |
| Anthem Trail System (N-76312) | Hiking, mountain biking |
| North McCullough Trail (N-65874) | Hiking, equestrian use, mountain biking |
| Unnamed trail following east-west power line road | Hiking, equestrian use, mountain biking |

Additional trails will be planned, designed, and constructed through a systematic process that will evaluate needs, potential uses, suitable destinations, and public interest. Under the approved plan, a trail system with a wide range of uses is anticipated.

Site-specific resource conditions will be considered when selecting trail locations and designing trail features; for example, trails will not be constructed within 1/4-mile of wildlife water developments. Trails development in sensitive natural or cultural areas will be avoided, if possible. Wheelchairs are allowed in the Wilderness, but BLM is not required to facilitate such uses.

REC 10: Trails will be added, as needed, and if their design and construction will not cause unacceptable impacts on sensitive cultural resources, natural resources, or wilderness values.

REC 11: All trails outside the Wilderness will be evaluated and developed with consideration to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 before construction and designation.

REC 12: Any unauthorized constructed or social trails will be evaluated and considered as to whether to close, restore, or adopt them into the trail system. Any unauthorized surface disturbance will be treated as a trespass and subject to appropriate administrative or law enforcement action.

OHV

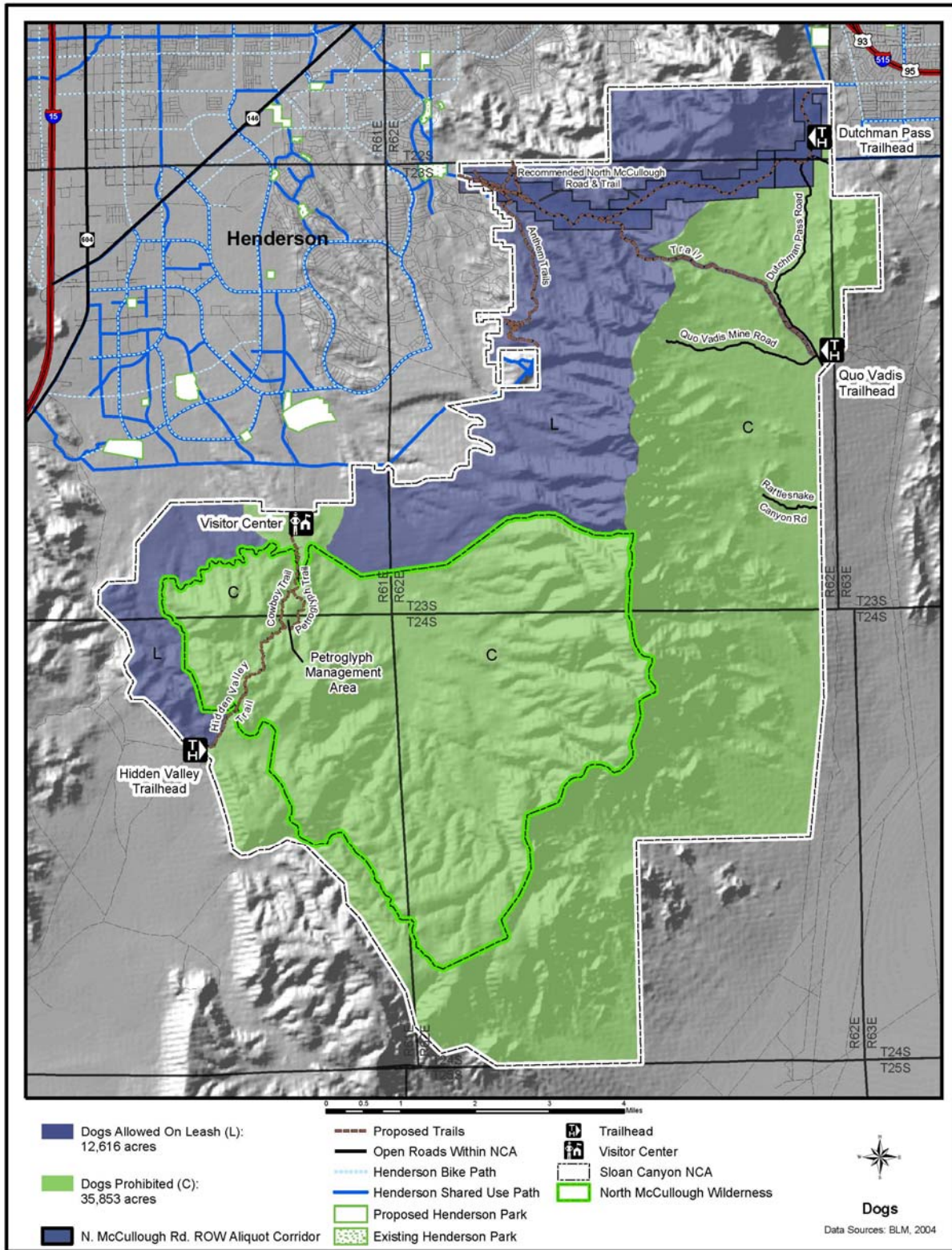
Throughout this plan, the term "OHV" refers to any motorized vehicle capable of operating on roads, trails, or other areas that are not maintained. These vehicles are not required to be street-registered and include motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), dune buggies, and four-wheel drive vehicles.

REC 13: The entire NCA is closed to OHV use.

Dogs

REC 14: Leashed dogs are allowed within designated areas of the NCA and, within those areas, must remain on trails once they are designed and constructed. Dogs are prohibited in the remainder of the NCA (Figure 2.5).

Figure 2.5. Dogs



REC 15: Dog feces must immediately be picked up and packed out. Low-profile, natural-colored dispensers for dog waste bags will be placed and maintained at trailheads.

Nighttime Use

No camping sites, water, or other amenities are provided, and campers will have to be self-sufficient.

REC 16: Primitive, dispersed camping is allowed in the areas shown on the Camping Map (Figure 2.6). Camping is prohibited within a 1/4-mile radius of water sources.

REC 17: Campfires are allowed at camping sites in fire pans or with fire blankets; no campfire rings allowed. All fuels must be packed in and packed out. No natural fuels in the NCA may be used for campfires. Fire waste products must be packed out of the NCA. BLM encourages the use of portable gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel stoves for preparing meals.

REC 18: The Petroglyph Management Area is designated for Day Use Only, with fires, camping, and nighttime use prohibited. Exceptions may be allowed only under special circumstances and with the approval of the Sloan Canyon NCA manager.

REC 19: Permits for overnight parking to support activities, such as camping and night hiking, are required and will be issued in accordance with NCA policy, which will be developed in the future.

Other Recreation Use

REC 20: Bouldering and traditional rock climbing (no permanent anchors) are allowed throughout the NCA, including the Wilderness, except in the Petroglyph Management Area and its northern access and in identified sensitive resource areas.

REC 21: Rockhounding is prohibited within the NCA.

REC 22: Geocaching is prohibited within the NCA.

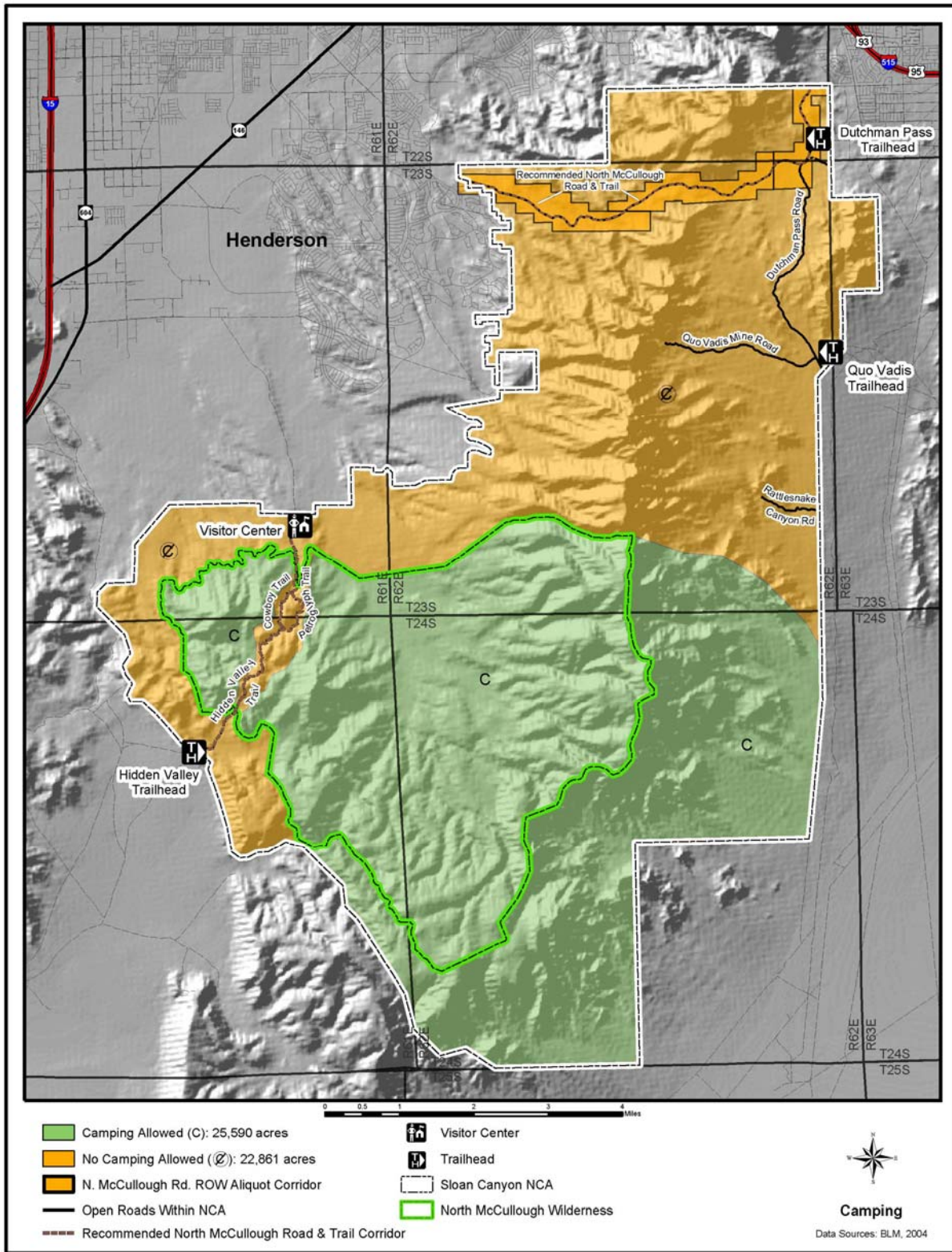
REC 23: All forms of recreational target shooting, including but not limited to firearms, bows, crossbows, and paintball guns, are prohibited throughout the NCA.

REC 24: Hunting is prohibited in the Petroglyph Management Area, but hunting activities, including the use of hunting dogs, are allowed within the remainder of the NCA in conformance with State of Nevada laws and regulations.

Special Recreational Permits

Various recreational uses that could occur within the NCA require a special recreational permit (SRP). SRPs will be issued consistent with the purposes of the NCA and the Wilderness to disperse visitor use, protect natural resources, provide for the health and safety of visitors, and provide a fair return to the Federal Government for the opportunity to make a profit for the commercial recreational use of public lands. Activities requiring an SRP include commercial use, competitive use, vending, and organized group activity and event use.

Figure 2.6. Camping



SRPs will be issued at the discretion of the BLM Las Vegas Field Office Authorizing Officer, who may at any time and without prior notice choose not to issue permits for certain activities or use areas. Such decisions may be based on a variety of factors, such as planning decisions, potential resource impacts, existing outfitters in the same area, overcrowding, past poor performance, and other concerns. Ongoing evaluations of the number, appropriateness, and impacts of SRPs will be conducted, and issuance limits will be considered based on these evaluations.

Commercial use involves an individual or organizations which provide recreational opportunities that are business-related or involve financial gain.

REC 25: Hunting outfitters and guides are required to obtain an SRP through the BLM Las Vegas Field Office Authorizing Officer to operate within the NCA.

Competitive use refers to events and activities that include an element of competition, such as a running race.

REC 26: Competitive SRPs can be issued in the NCA outside the Wilderness.

Vending permits are temporary authorizations to sell goods or services on public lands and are usually in conjunction with a recreational activity.

REC 27: Vending SRPs can be issued in the NCA outside the Wilderness.

Organized Group Activity and Event Use may require an SRP even if not commercial or competitive in nature. The BLM Las Vegas Field Office Authorizing Officer determines when an SRP will be needed based on resource concerns, user conflicts, public health and safety, and other factors.

REC 28: All organized groups are required to obtain an SRP on a case-by-case basis for group activities outside the Petroglyph Management Area.

2.2.3 NORTH McCULLOUGH WILDERNESS

Management of the North McCullough Wilderness is consistent with the Clark County Conservation of Public Lands and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (the Clark County Act), the Wilderness Act of 1964, Grazing Guidelines (House Report No. 101-405), and Wildlife Management Guidelines (House Report No. 101-405). It is also consistent with 43 CFR 6300, BLM Manuals 8560 (*Management of Designated Wilderness Areas*) and 8561 (*Wilderness Management Plans*), BLM Handbook H-8560-1 (*Management of Designated Wilderness Areas*), *Las Vegas Resource Management Plan* (BLM 1998a), Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BLM and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) (BLM MOU 6300-NV930-0402, Supplement 9), and the *Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan* (MSHCP) (Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning [CCDCP], 2000).

Goals

- To provide for the long-term protection and preservation of the area's wilderness character under a principle of nondegradation. The area's natural condition, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation and any ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value present will be managed so that they will remain unimpaired.

- To manage the wilderness area for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that will leave the area unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The wilderness resource will be dominant in all management decisions where a choice must be made between preservation of wilderness character and visitor use.
- To manage the area using the minimum tool, equipment, or structure necessary to successfully, safely, and economically accomplish the objective. The chosen tool, equipment, or structure should be the one that least degrades wilderness values temporarily or permanently. Management will seek to preserve spontaneity of use and as much freedom from regulations as possible.
- To manage nonconforming but accepted uses permitted by the Wilderness Act and subsequent laws in a manner that will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the area's wilderness character. Nonconforming uses are the exception rather than the rule, therefore emphasis is placed on maintaining wilderness character.

Objectives

- Maintain or improve solitude within the Wilderness.
- Maintain or improve naturalness in the Wilderness to achieve a standard of No Known Surface Disturbances and stable or decreasing non-native plant populations.
- Provide a diversity of opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Management Direction

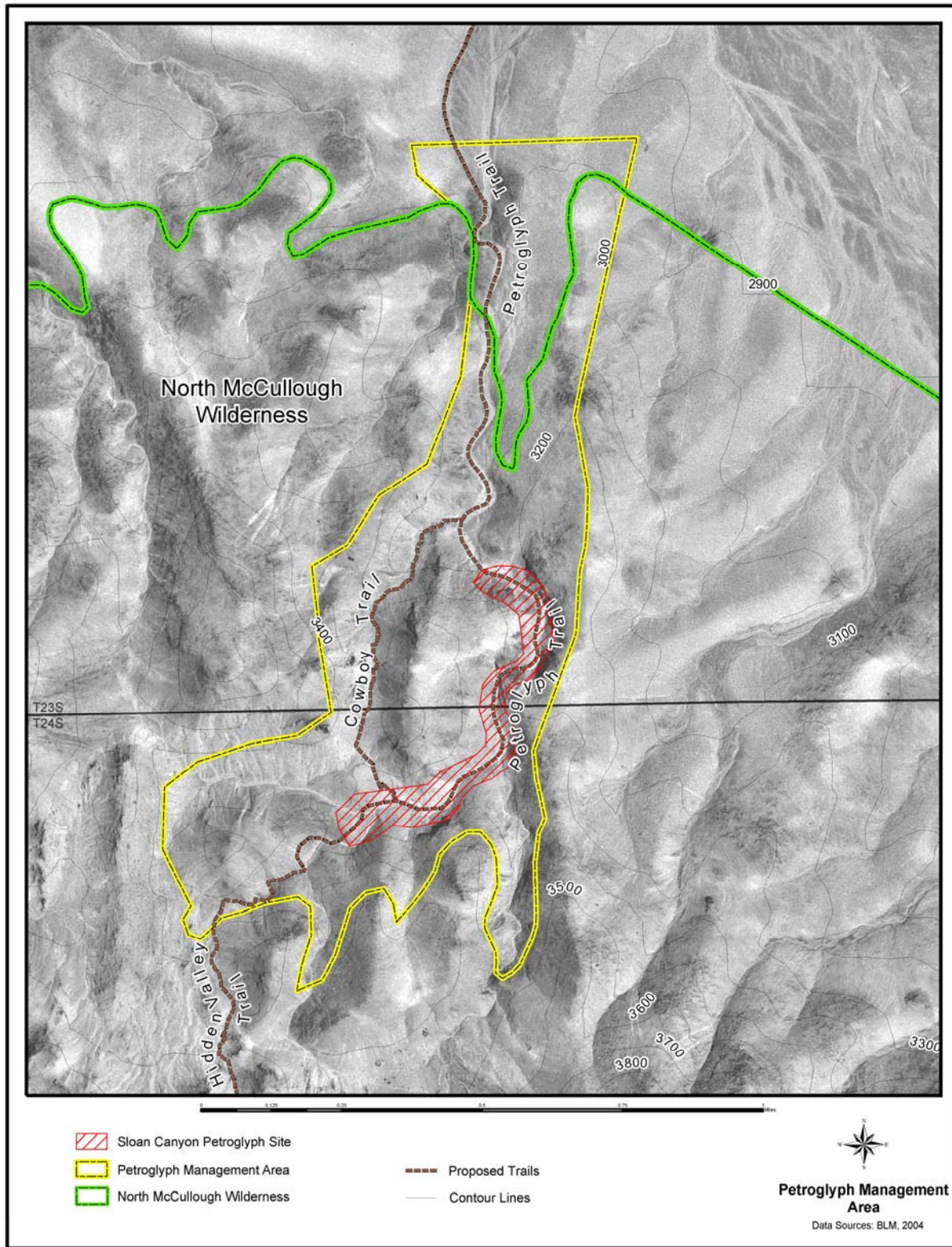
Wilderness management actions provide opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities, such as hiking and equestrian use, while providing a level of management necessary to protect sensitive resources and wilderness characteristics. Because the North McCullough Wilderness is close to the Las Vegas Valley, its management, including that of the Petroglyph Management Area (Figure 2.7), is intended to be flexible and responsive as use amounts and patterns are established. Monitoring will be used to assess and establish the Wilderness' baseline conditions and document any changes to them. Once the resource baselines are determined, a system such as LAC will be used to establish thresholds for future actions. Visitation will be monitored using techniques, such as contacts with visitors, social surveys conducted at the Wilderness access points, and trailhead register data.

The accompanying approved Wilderness Management Plan contains additional guidance to implement the actions.

Visitation

The Wilderness Management Plan, attached, establishes visitor numbers, group size, and seasonal and area limits so that wilderness characteristics, including solitude, are not affected beyond an acceptable limit. Some or all of the following management techniques may be used to maintain wilderness characteristics and protect resources: number of people at one time, size of party, timing of visits, daily visitation limits, permits, reservations, guides, and self-guided tours.

Figure 2.7. Petroglyph Management Area



WLD 1: Wilderness characteristics will be maintained at or below established thresholds and limits.

WLD 2: To minimize impacts on wilderness characteristics and natural resources of the area, visitation within the Petroglyph Management Area is limited, although different visitation thresholds are established for the remainder of the Wilderness.

WLD 3: If it is found necessary through monitoring, the visitation thresholds limits will be adjusted.

Petroglyph Management Area Visitation

Once residential development on the western side of the NCA is complete, the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site will be just a short distance from a large urban population. To manage the potential high number of visitors, to protect the sensitive cultural and natural resources, and to protect wilderness characteristics, detailed management actions were developed. These actions will be implemented once adequate NCA infrastructure is in place.

WLD 4: Visitors to the Petroglyph Management Area during periods of high use, such as weekends and holidays, must join a BLM-sponsored tour. No more than one guided group of no more than 20 people are allowed in the Petroglyph Management Area at one time. With prior reservations, organized groups of 10 to 35 people will be allowed to visit the Petroglyph Management Area, accompanied by BLM-sponsored guides.

WLD 5: During periods of lower use (such as weekdays), visitors may go to the Petroglyph Management Area unaccompanied by a BLM-sponsored guide if they obtain a permit. Self-guided tour permits may be issued from the visitor center at the north entrance to Sloan Canyon or from a roving ranger or at the Hidden Valley Trailhead. A total of no more than 25 permits per hour will be issued for self-guided tours.

When obtaining a permit, all nonguided canyon visitors will experience an interpretive presentation on appropriate visitor use and site etiquette at cultural resources sites and within wilderness. At the visitor center, this may include an interpretive presentation by a ranger, or a video or a static display; but at the Hidden Valley Trailhead or in backcountry locations, it will likely be an informal presentation at the time of permitting, or brochures and kiosk information.

WLD 6: Access to and use of the Petroglyph Management Area is confined to the canyon bottom and a limited number of side trails.

WLD 7: The main access to the Petroglyph Management Area will be controlled through a visitor center located near the NCA boundary at the northern end of the Sloan Canyon wash. Rangers and other BLM staff or designated personnel will patrol the Petroglyph Management Area for visitors entering from points other than the visitor center and will either deny access based on visitation levels or issue a visitation permit.

WLD 8: Use of the Petroglyph Management Area is limited to the visitor center's operational hours, which will be determined by BLM before the center is opened. Exceptions may be allowed only under special circumstances and with the approval of the Sloan Canyon NCA manager.

Hiking and Equestrian Use

WLD 9: Cross-country hiking is allowed throughout the Wilderness, except for the Petroglyph Management area and its north access where hikers must stay on designated trails.

WLD 10: The entire Wilderness is available for cross-county equestrian use, except for the Petroglyph Management area and its north access.

WLD 11: Horse feed and hay must be certified weed-free to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.

WLD 12: Watering of equestrian and/or pack animals at wildlife water developments is prohibited.

Trails

To minimize resource impacts, trails from both the north and south entrances are designated and will be constructed (Figure 2.8). No developments will be made or offered on the Petroglyph Trail at the rockfall site.

WLD 13: In the Wilderness, there are three trail options—the traditional hike in Sloan Canyon wash (Petroglyph Trail), a newly constructed trail that forks off the traditional wash hike and avoids the rockfall portion of the wash (Cowboy Trail), and access to the Petroglyph Management Area from the south through a designated 1.5-mile trail from the Hidden Valley Trailhead.

WLD 14: Wilderness trails will be added to the system as necessary for the protection of resources and wilderness character.

WLD 15: Site-specific resource conditions will be considered when selecting trail locations and designing trail features.

WLD 16: The development of developments (such as trails) near wildlife water (guzzlers) is prohibited within a 1/4-mile radius of the guzzler.

WLD 17: Minimal permanent developments will be allowed only for the purposes of resource protection measures, enhancement of wilderness values, and erosion control and only after conducting a minimum requirement/minimum tool analysis.

WLD 18: New social trails resulting in resource damage within the Wilderness (not desired for future designation, modification, or use) will be restored after completing a minimum requirement/minimum tool analysis. Low-profile, wilderness-appropriate “Closed” signs will be installed on social trails. Associated recreation use will be dispersed to other locations using area closures, barriers, and visitor information. The visible portions of these social trails will be restored using nonmechanized means and native vegetation. The nonvisible portions of the social trails will be left to restore naturally.

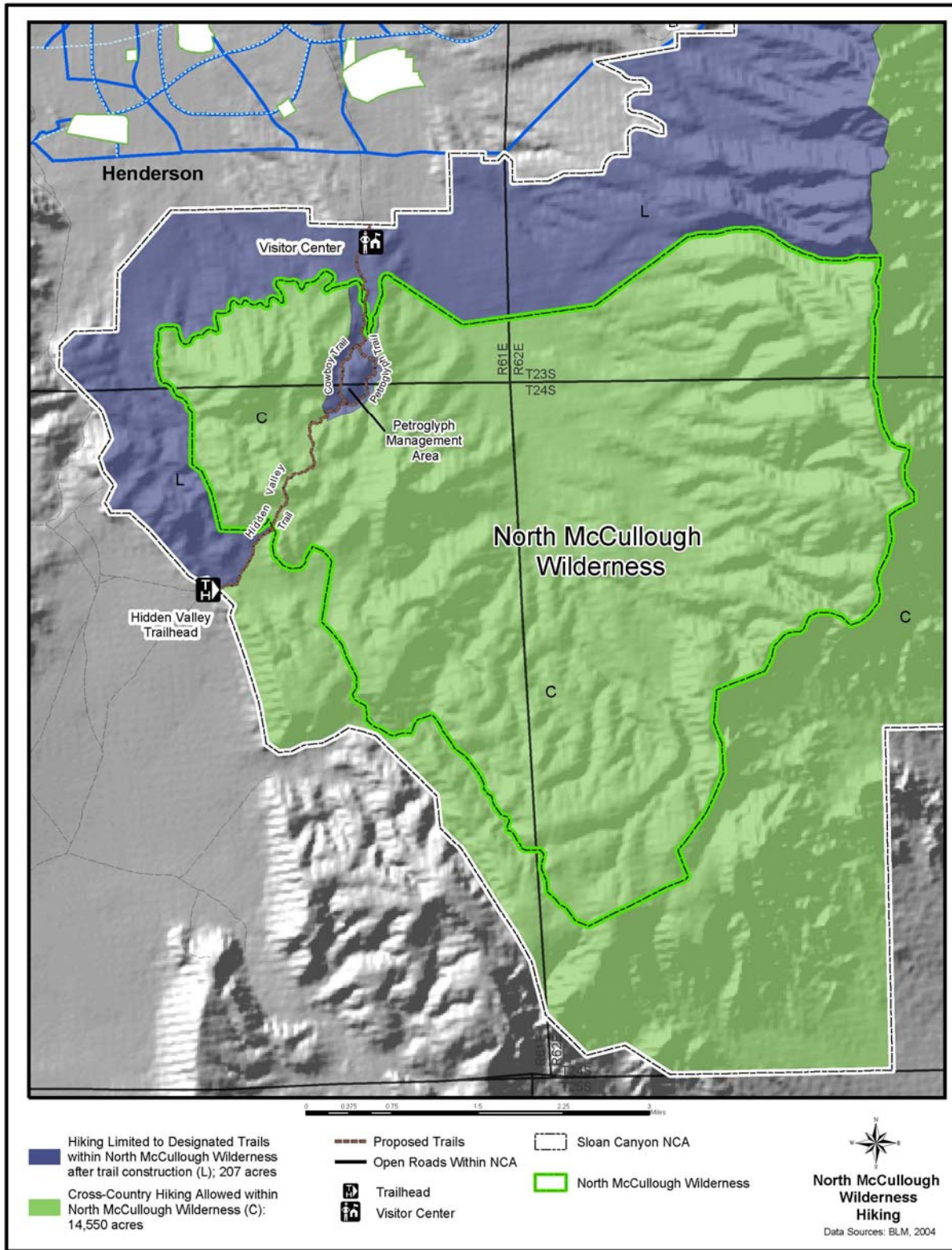
Dogs

WLD 19: No dogs are allowed in the Wilderness.

Nighttime Use

WLD 20: Primitive, dispersed camping is allowed within the Wilderness, except in the Petroglyph Management Area. No camping sites, water, or other amenities are provided, and

Figure 2.8. North McCullough Wilderness Hiking



campers will have to be self-sufficient. In addition, camping is prohibited within a 1/4-mile radius of wildlife water sources.

WLD 21: Campfires are allowed at camping sites in fire pans or with fire blankets; no campfire rings allowed. All fuels must be packed in and packed out. No natural fuels in the NCA may be used for campfires. Campfire waste products must be packed out of the NCA. BLM encourages the use of portable stoves for preparing meals.

WLD 22: The Petroglyph Management Area is designated for Day Use Only, with fires, camping, and nighttime use prohibited. Exceptions may be allowed only under special circumstances and with the approval of the Sloan Canyon NCA manager.

Other Recreation Use

WLD 23: Bouldering and traditional rock climbing (no permanent anchors) are allowed in the Wilderness outside of identified sensitive resource areas, the Petroglyph Management Area, and its northern access.

WLD 24: Rockhounding is prohibited in the Wilderness.

WLD 25: Geocaching is prohibited in the Wilderness.

WLD 26: Commercial SRPs will be issued in the Wilderness on a case-by-case basis; however, no competitive or vending SRPs will be issued.

WLD 27: Hunting is prohibited within the Petroglyph Management Area and its northern access.

Signage and Developments

Inside the Petroglyph Management Area, limited amounts of small signage and interpretive media may be located for the purposes of resource and wilderness protection.

WLD 28: Access signage in the Wilderness indicating that access to the Petroglyph Management Area is restricted to permitted access or guided tours only beyond a certain point will be placed at various places, including the south end of the Petroglyph Management Area.

WLD 29: Interpretive and administrative signs (e.g., trailhead signage and visitor registers) will, in general, be located on high-use access routes outside the Wilderness boundary.

WLD 30: Trailhead signage located outside the Wilderness will consist of low-profile, natural-colored signs and will include pertinent information, such as route details, maps, and visitor information.

WLD 31: Wilderness boundary signage will be installed at all known and potential access routes, visitor use areas, and at line-of-sight distances along the entire Wilderness boundary.

WLD 32: Minimum permanent developments will be allowed in the Wilderness only for the purpose of resource protection and enhancement of wilderness values.

Wilderness Disturbance Restoration

WLD 33: Human-caused disturbances or developments, such as two-track vehicle routes, rock and mortar dam, and the dug well within the Wilderness, will be rehabilitated within four years of the ROD using appropriate resources determined through a minimum requirement/minimum tool analysis for each

rehabilitation project. Any new vandalism and illegal dumping within the Wilderness will be removed or repaired using the same process.

WLD 34: Noxious and invasive weeds will be managed in accordance with the *Partners Against Weeds—An Action Plan for BLM* (BLM 1996 in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List) initiative for weeds.

Aircraft Overflights

BLM does not have administrative jurisdiction of the airspace above the Sloan Canyon NCA and the Wilderness. The use of aircraft is only regulated by BLM if an aircraft lands or if anything/anyone is picked up or dropped off by means of an aircraft. The Sloan Canyon NCA Act specifically allows military overflights of the Wilderness. Flight testing and evaluation, designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or establishment of training routes are not precluded. The highest percentage of low-level overflights of the Wilderness is from scenic tours originating from local area airports, although private flights from Henderson Executive Airport, located several miles from the northern Wilderness boundary, also contribute. In addition, commercial flights from McCarran International Airport pass directly over the Wilderness, although they tend to be localized to the western edge and at an altitude of more than 4,000 feet.

Overflights conducted by BLM within the NCA or the Wilderness will be designed to minimize impacts on the NCA and its wilderness characteristics. These overflights will be primarily for the NCA or wilderness monitoring purposes, (e.g., checking for new disturbances and unauthorized vehicle use); however, helicopters may be used to deliver personnel or materials for the purposes of the NCA in conformance with the Sloan Canyon NCA Act, Wilderness Act, and the North McCullough Wilderness Management Plan, attached.

WLD 35: All BLM-administered Wilderness overflights will be conducted to minimize impacts on wilderness characteristics.

WLD 36: Access to the North McCullough Slickrock Catchment 1 (Maintenance Project 4916) will be managed in accordance with the MOU with NDOW and the environmental assessment written for its installation. Significant repairs to the catchment will include notifying BLM, and the analysis of the proposed action through a minimum tool analysis.

2.2.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Goals

- Identify and protect cultural resources and ensure that representative resources are available for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses.
- Actively pursue opportunities for scientific research to understand and interpret human use of the NCA and surrounding region.
- Provide for traditional tribal use of the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and consider other locations of traditional cultural importance that may be identified in the future.

Objectives

- Develop educational and interpretive outreach programs to help prevent cultural resources from being disturbed or damaged.
- Interpret the history and prehistory of the NCA to help instill an appreciation for past and current cultures and the values that living cultures associate with the resources of the NCA.
- Develop cooperative efforts with educational institutions, students, tribes, and others for scientific studies, educational opportunities, and enhanced management of the NCA's cultural resources.
- Continue good working relationships with interested Native American tribes.

Management Direction

All proposed actions within the NCA will be subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in accordance with the Nevada BLM/ SHPO Protocol, Archaeological Resource Protection Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and other appropriate mandates. In accordance with AIRFA, BLM will ensure that policies enacted under this plan will not inadvertently impair the ability of Native Americans to access the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site for traditional cultural purposes. Management actions related to the cultural resource sites within the Wilderness will be within the limits prescribed by the Wilderness Management Plan (attached), and the Clark County Act, Title II ("Wilderness Areas").

The Cultural Resources Management Plan, Appendix C, contains key elements for management of cultural resources during the first stage of implementation of the approved plan. The key elements are—

- A cultural context and relevant research questions for archaeological and ethnographic work that may be conducted in early stages of developing the NCA.
- A treatment protocol to be implemented in the event that Native American human remains are discovered.
- A monitoring plan to establish baseline data and track effects on cultural resources as public use of the NCA grows.

Cultural resources within the NCA will be managed based on use categories as defined in Section 2.4.4 of the Proposed RMP.

CR 1: All physical contact with petroglyphs, such as touching, chalking, and making impressions through rubbings or casting is prohibited except for traditional cultural purposes with a special use permit.

CR 2: Scientific research may be allowed under permit.

CR 3: Approximately half the rockshelters in the NCA will be assigned to the conservation for future use and traditional use management categories. The remainder of rockshelters will be assigned to the scientific, public, and traditional use categories. Rock art locales (other than the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site) will follow a similar pattern, with half assigned to the conservation for future use and traditional use management categories and the remainder assigned to the conservation for future use, scientific use, and traditional use categories.

CR 4: Approximately half of other prehistoric and historic sites will be assigned to conservation for future use and traditional use, and the remaining sites will be assigned to scientific, public, and traditional use management categories. Ineligible sites and isolates will be assigned to the scientific use management categories.

CR 5: The Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site is assigned to the traditional, conservation, public, and scientific use categories.

CR 6: In areas identified as having a medium to high potential for cultural resource sites (Duke et al. 2004), a Class III cultural resources inventory (100 percent) is required prior to any land disturbing undertaking.

CR 7: For areas with a low potential density for cultural resource sites, a reconnaissance-level inventory is required prior to land disturbing activities. Areas with a low potential will be considered for elimination of inventory requirements when sufficient information is available.

CR 8: Maximum fire suppression will be used in the Petroglyph Management Area and the Wilderness areas with a high or medium potential for cultural resources will use flexible fire suppression, with a cultural resource advisor assigned to the fire.

CR 9: In areas with low potential for cultural resources, fire control will be discretionary, and actions will comply with the *Fire Management Plan* (BLM 2004b in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List) and Wilderness limitations. A resource advisor is required for all fires within the NCA.

2.2.5 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS—AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Goal

Protect areas with relevant and important cultural, natural, or geological values.

Objective

Develop management prescriptions to protect the important values of the NCA.

Management Direction

The Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site is managed to ensure regulatory compliance with the management prescriptions established through the Approved RMP. These prescriptions supersede the prior area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) designations, providing a greater degree of protection and management.

ACEC 1: The Sloan Rock Art District ACEC designation is eliminated.

2.2.6 VISUAL RESOURCES

Goal

Manage all activities in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the NCA's scenic resources.

Objective

Manage activities within the NCA to adhere to the Visual Resource Management (VRM) class objectives.

Management Direction

VR 1: Signage, structures, and facilities will be designed in accordance with applicable VRM objectives.

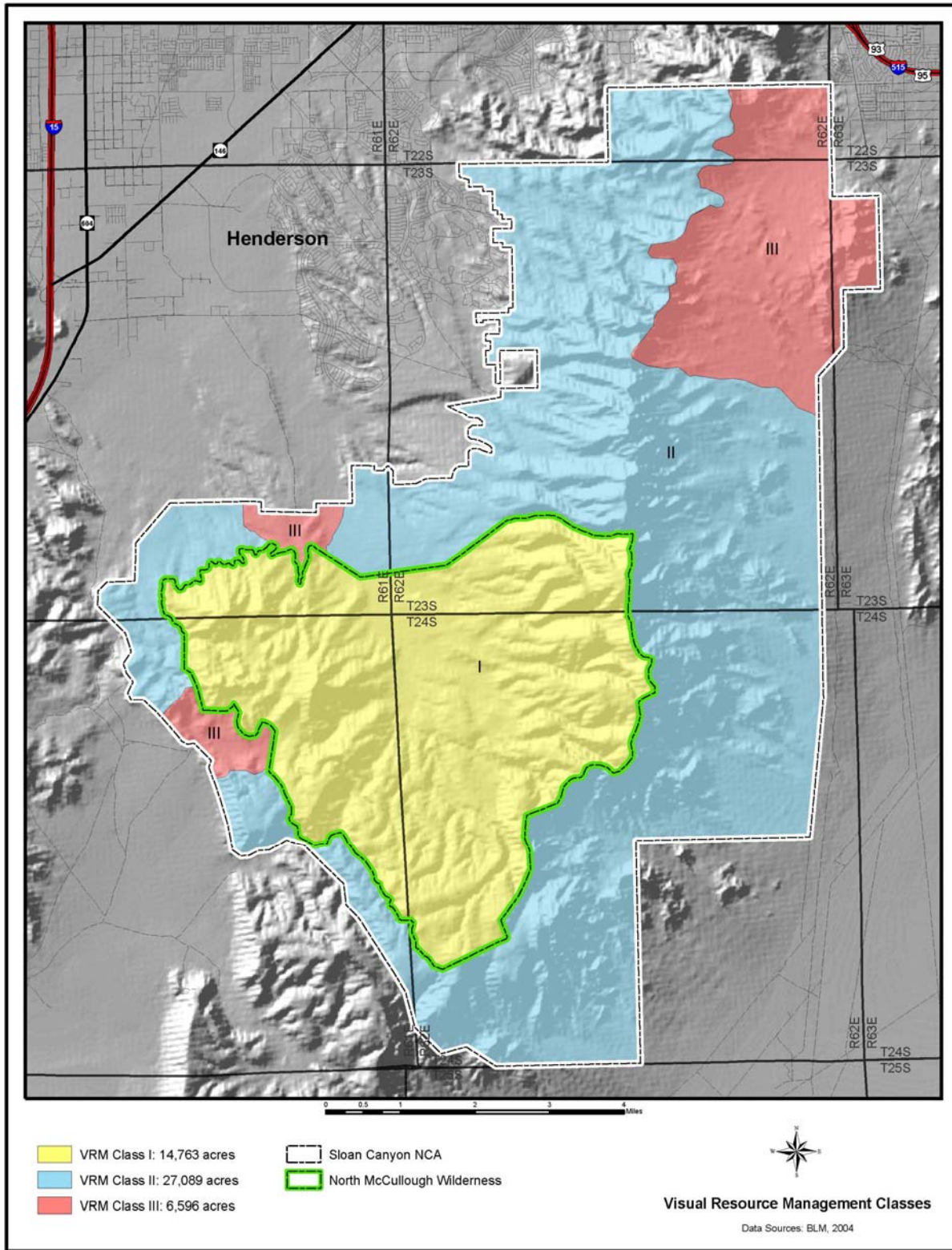
VR 2: VRM classes are based on the Visual Resource Inventory, as described in Appendix D, including designating the North McCullough Wilderness as VRM Class I.

VR 3: VRM classes are designated as shown on the VRM Classes Map (Figure 2.9).

VR 4: The following VRM class definitions are used:

- VRM I—Preserve the existing character of the landscape. Authorized actions may not modify the existing landscape or attract the attention of casual viewers.
- VRM II—Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low and may not attract the attention of casual viewers.
- VRM III—Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate and may minimally attract the attention of the casual viewer.

Figure 2.9. Visual Resource Management Classes



2.2.7 INTERPRETATION

Goal

Provide opportunities for users, both onsite and offsite, to develop an appreciation of the NCA's resources through informational and inspiring interpretive experiences.

Objectives

- Provide a variety of opportunities for education, accurate information, and interpretation that meets the user's needs (e.g., tours, kiosks, brochures, virtual tours, website, libraries, community outreach, etc.).
- Provide visitors with information on traditional uses that will be developed with interested tribes.
- Provide interpretation that promotes stewardship behavior in users so they will act in a way that minimizes impacts on the NCA's resources.
- Provide information, guidance, and regulations for visits and orientation to facilities.
- Increase public awareness of management goals for the NCA.

Management Direction

Based, in part, on the Interpretation and Environmental Education Strategy developed as part of this planning process (Appendix E), a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan will be developed for the NCA. As encouraged in the Interpretation Strategy, partnerships will continue with tribes, cooperating agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and volunteer organizations when conducting interpretation, outreach, education, and facility planning.

As required by the Sloan Canyon NCA Act, the Approved RMP contains a Litter Cleanup Plan and Public Lands Awareness Campaign (Appendix F). The plan describes a program that includes concepts such as developing partnerships with federal, State, and local agencies, increasing volunteer involvement, preparing educational material, and increasing enforcement.

INT 1: A program will be implemented to remove litter from the NCA and to prevent future dumping through education and enforcement.

INT 2: A full range of interpretive media will be provided, with media visibility decreasing as the distance from developed areas increases.

INT 3: Stationary interpretive media will be limited to specific areas identified for interpretation and designed to reduce visual impacts.

INT 4: Outside the Wilderness, the use of low-profile, visually unobtrusive interpretive media will be allowed in areas of high use. There will be a focus on highly visible media at staging areas (trailheads, visitor contact station, visitor center).

INT 5: Inside the Wilderness, limited amounts of small signage and interpretive media may be located within the Petroglyph Management Area for the purposes of resource and wilderness protection.

INT 6: Access signage in the Wilderness indicating that access to the Petroglyph Management Area is restricted to permitted access or guided tours only beyond a certain point, will be placed at various points, including the south end of the Petroglyph Management Area.

INT 7: Media, such as virtual tours, will be developed to provide opportunities for education and interpretation at the visitor center and on the Web for those unable to access the NCA, or the Petroglyph Management Area and other remote areas of the NCA, and for use at times when weather, such as extreme summer heat or other conditions, limit normal access. Such media will serve the dual purpose of reducing impacts on resources and enhancing wilderness experience. In general, there will be a focus on the use of interactive virtual interpretation media, such as websites.

2.2.8 FACILITIES

Goal

Enhance visitor use and experience by providing appropriate facilities compatible with the character and characteristics of the NCA's resources.

Objectives

- Provide appropriate access points with relevant interpretive opportunities, signage, mapping, and information specific to that area.
- Provide appropriate facilities and/or infrastructure to support management of the NCA.

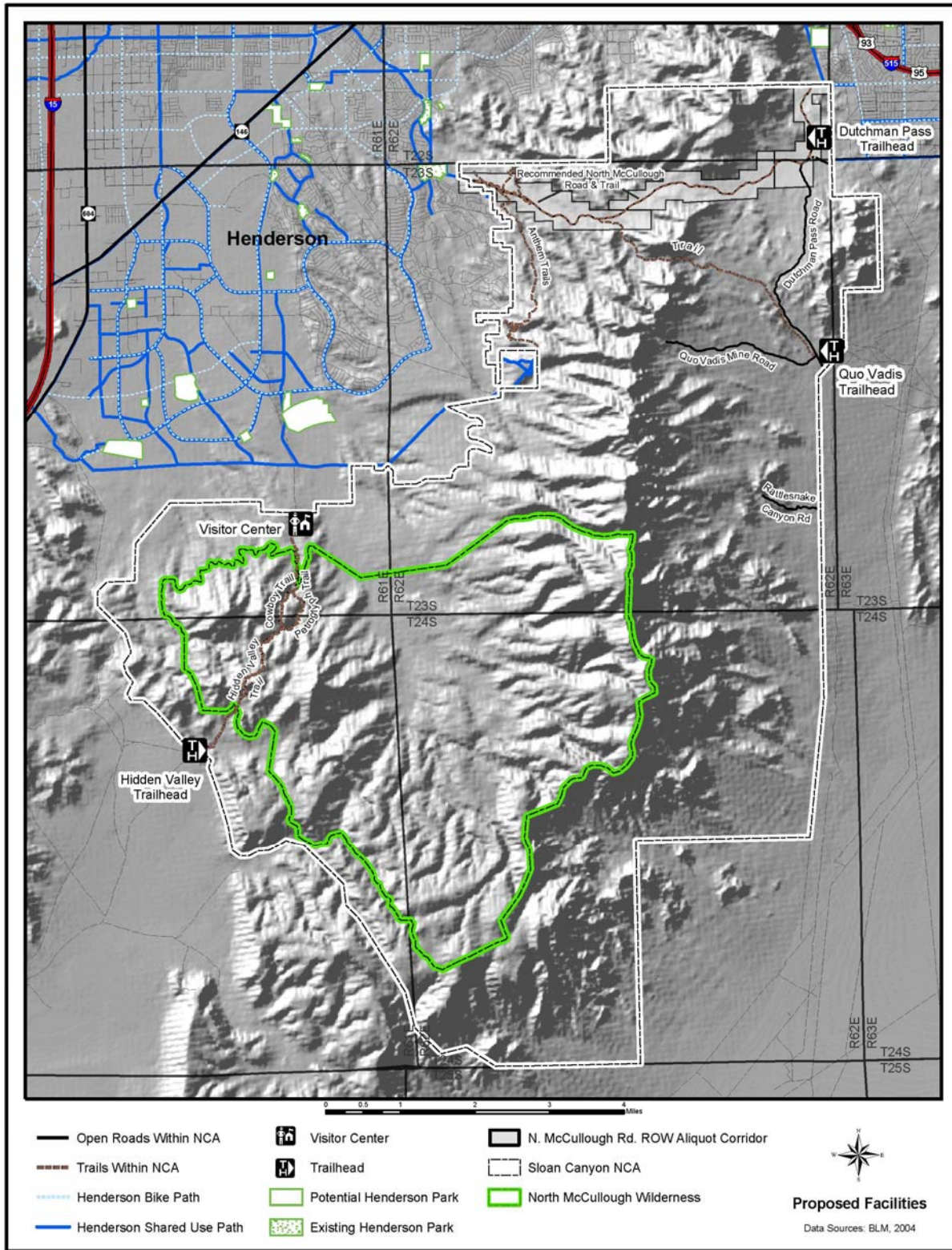
Management Direction

Developed access points into the NCA includes the northern entrance of Sloan Canyon, Hidden Valley Trailhead, Dutchman Pass Trailhead, and the Quo Vadis Trailhead. Figure 2.10, Proposed Facilities Map, depicts the locations of these facilities. Information on the NCA may be provided at facilities located outside the NCA, such as schools and libraries located throughout the City of Henderson. Additional trails and facilities may be added throughout the NCA, as needed, in accordance with the applicable MEA objectives. The facilities will be planned, designed, and constructed through a systematic process that will evaluate needs, potential uses, and public interest as well as the preparation of an environmental assessment.

Northern Entrance of Sloan Canyon

A visitor center will provide NCA management with office space, serve as one of the access and control points for the Petroglyph Management Area, and be the base of operations for patrols and rangers. The central theme of the visitor center is the NCA's association with Native Americans including the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site and the tribes who have been involved in the planning process. The tribes have been invited to continue association with the NCA as interpretative media is developed and to participate in the design of the visitor center, which could include design elements to facilitate ongoing Native American use and/or events.

Figure 2.10. Proposed Facilities



The visitor center could include offsite space for BLM staff, law enforcement, volunteers, and visiting scholars and researchers, and a visitor permit window or desk. The center could have facilities for maintenance and storage, areas for interpretive use, an outdoor amphitheater, classrooms, research facilities, archival storage, a book store/gift shop, meeting rooms, and concessions.

FAC 1: A visitor center will be constructed near the NCA boundary at the north entrance to Sloan Canyon.

FAC 2: A business plan will be developed for the NCA that will explore income-generating facilities, including space in the visitor center to be leased for food/restaurant facilities and the viability of day rentals of space for meetings or small corporate retreats.

Hidden Valley Trailhead

FAC 3: A trailhead will be constructed near the NCA boundary at Hidden Valley that could include a parking lot, an equestrian staging area, an interpretive kiosk, and a vault toilet.

Dutchman Pass Trailhead

FAC 4: A trailhead will be constructed at Dutchman Pass Trailhead that could include a parking lot, an equestrian staging area, an interpretive kiosk, and a vault toilet

Quo Vadis Trailhead

FAC 5: A trailhead will be constructed at Quo Vadis that could include a parking lot, an equestrian staging area, an interpretive kiosk, and a vault toilet

2.2.9 LANDS AND REALTY

Goal

Manage land and realty actions within the NCA in accordance with the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and the Clark County Act, Title II (“Wilderness Areas”).

Objective

Allow only development and establishment of new interests within the NCA that are consistent with the intent of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act.

Management Direction

In accordance with the Sloan Canyon NCA Act, all existing rights at the time of passage of the Clark County Act (November 6, 2002) are recognized. The North McCullough Wilderness, which includes the Petroglyph Management Area, is an exclusion area for all types of ROWs.

LAND 1: Existing communication ROWs may be renewed at the end of their term in accordance with the *Black Mountain Communication Site Plan* (BLM 1999 in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List) and current regulations, and may be updated or modified to meet the intent of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act. No new communication sites will be authorized under the Sloan Canyon NCA Act.

LAND 2: Other valid existing ROW grants may also be renewed at the end of the term and modified to meet the intent of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and current regulations. If a subleasing right, such as one for fiber optics, existed as of November 6, 2002, that right continues. New ROWs or amendments to

existing ROWs will be considered on a case-by-case basis and authorized only if they serve the purposes of the NCA.

LAND 3: Outside the Wilderness, applications for new linear or site-type ROWs, or any amendments to existing ROWs, will be considered on a case-by-case basis within the NCA if the action furthers the purpose of the NCA in Section 602 of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act (Figure 2.11).

Evaluation criteria will include, in part—

- Direct benefit to the NCA, such as utilities to serve NCA facilities.
- Maintaining or decreasing visual contrast.
- Reduction of disturbed areas.
- Improvement in road/ROW alignments to minimize resource impacts.

LAND 4: Commercial filming permits are allowed in the NCA, outside of the Wilderness, with location, timing, vehicle, and crew size restrictions. Film permits are limited to designated trails and trailheads and are not allowed in the Petroglyph Management Area. Filming is prohibited on weekends and federal holidays. In addition, vehicles associated with the film permit may not occupy more than half of the parking area capacity and are not allowed to create new ground disturbances. The crew size is limited to a maximum of 15 people per permit for still photography, and a maximum of 15 people per permit for motion photography.

LAND 5 : Special use permits (2920 Permits) would be allowed if they meet the intent of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act. Special use permits are issued for purposes such as temporary or permanent facilities for commercial purposes and construction equipment storage sites (43 CFR 2920).

2.2.10 TRANSPORTATION (REGISTERED MOTORIZED VEHICLES)

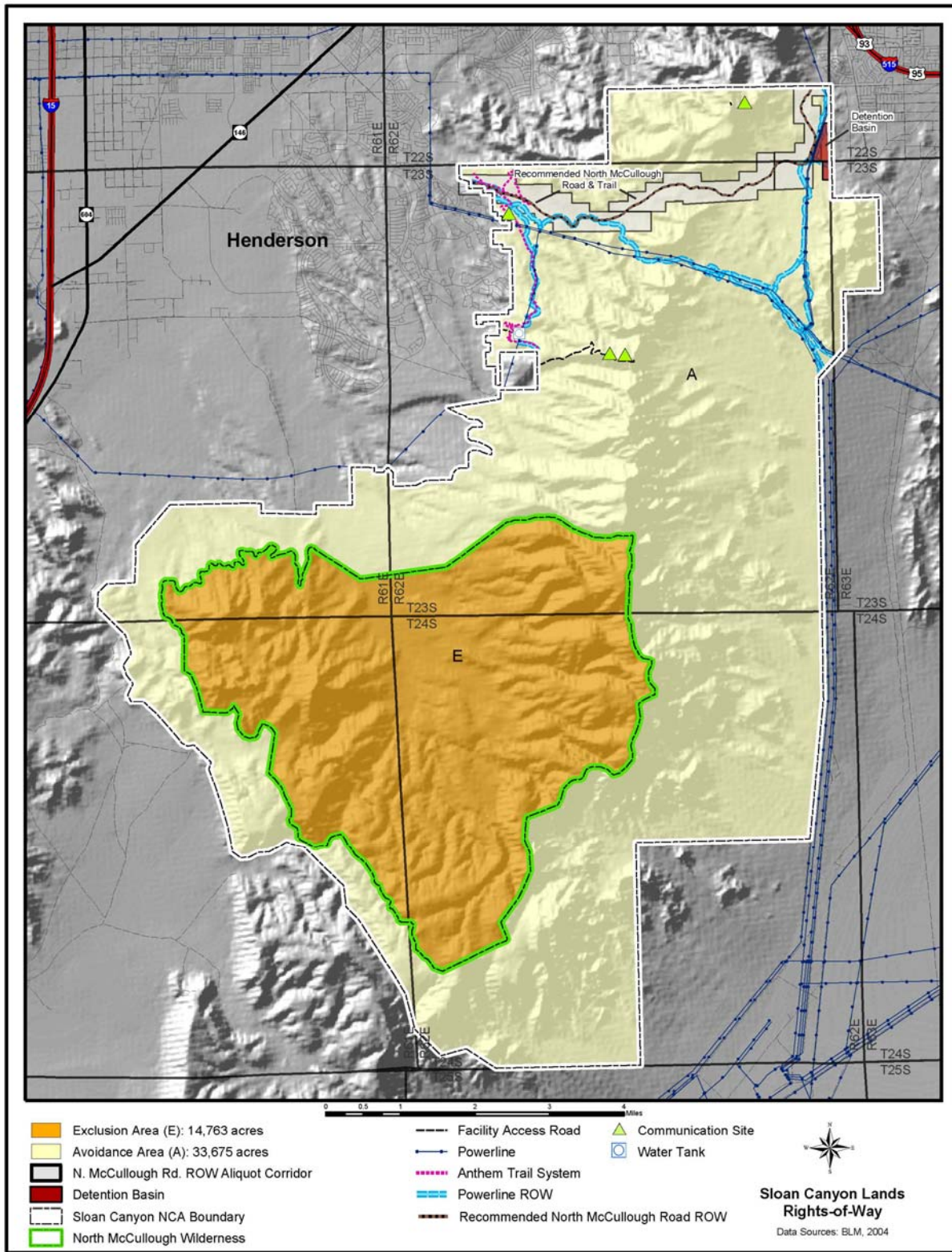
Goal

Provide public and administrative access to the NCA.

Objective

Provide and maintain a system of roads and routes for registered motorized vehicles within the NCA but outside the North McCullough Wilderness.

Figure 2.11. Sloan Canyon Lands Rights-of-Way



Management Direction

All roads and routes not designated for public use may be physically barricaded, signed, or restored to natural conditions. BLM or its designee may use any existing road, route, or trail outside the Wilderness for administrative or emergency purposes. Motorized vehicles may be authorized for installing, maintaining, and reconstructing water development projects outside the Wilderness, including guzzlers, that will enhance the NCA by promoting healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations, subject to existing laws, regulations, policies, plans, or agreements.

The North McCullough Road, Dutchman Pass Road, Quo Vadis Mine Road, and Rattlesnake Canyon Road are open to the public for registered vehicles as shown in Figure 2.12, Sloan Canyon Roads—Registered Motorized Vehicles Map. All other roads and routes are closed to the public for registered vehicle use.

2.2.11 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES)

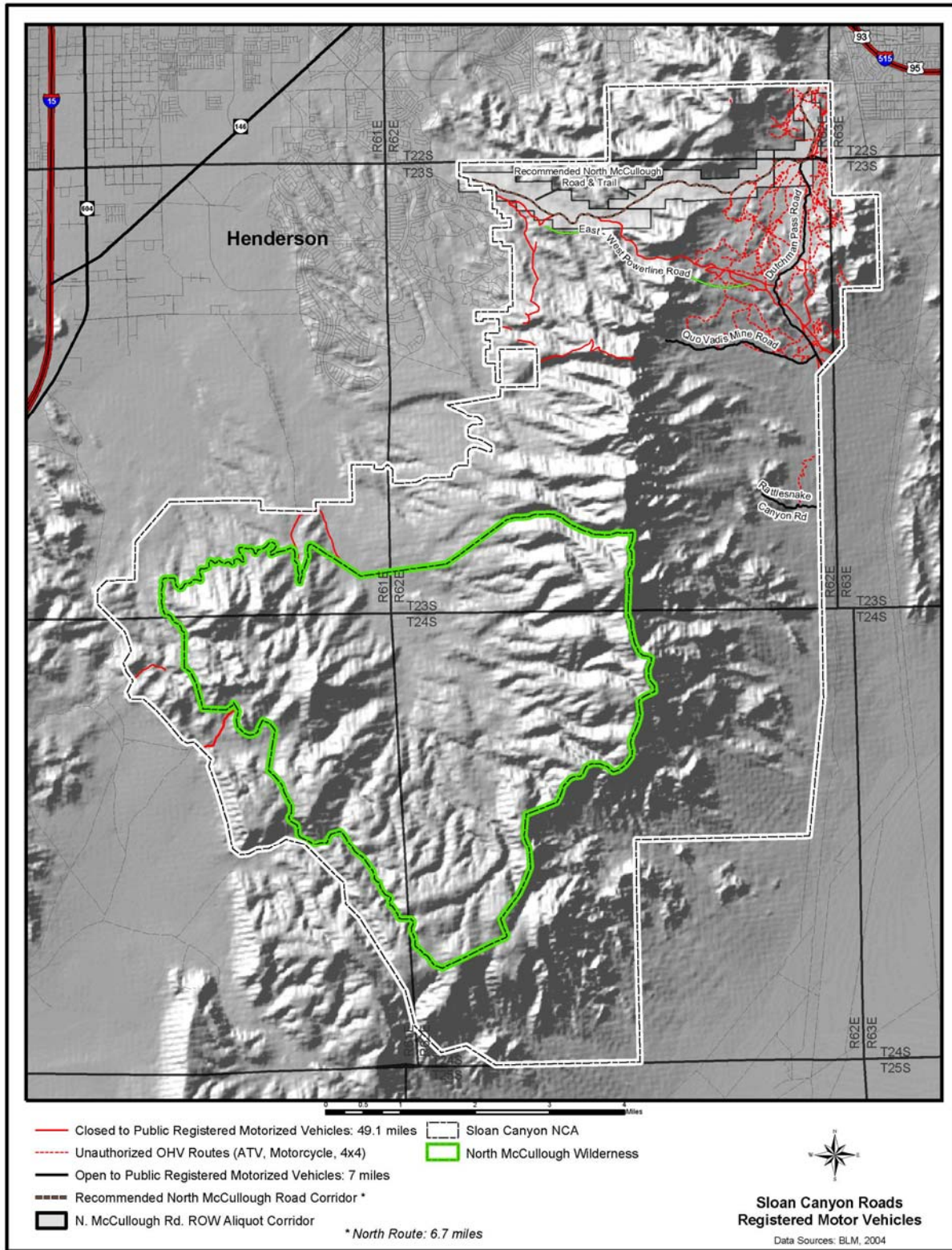
Goals

- Manage the NCA to maintain or improve the condition of native vegetation to achieve a potential natural community when consistent with other goals and objectives for the NCA.
- Establish an integrated weed management program by cooperating with State and county weed programs and building cooperative weed management areas to implement the goals of the *Partners Against Weeds—An Action Plan for the BLM* (BLM 1996 in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List) initiative.

Objectives

- Manage to protect priority plant species and habitats, including federally listed, State-sensitive, and MSHCP (CCDCP 2000 in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List) species within the NCA.
- Place a priority on the use of native plant species for vegetation restoration and landscaping developed areas.
- Protect the natural condition and biodiversity of the NCA by preventing or limiting the spread of noxious and invasive weeds that displace native vegetation, through integrated weed management principals to detect and eradicate all existing infestations, eliminate new infestations before they begin to spread, and prevent or limit the spread of established weeds into areas containing little or no infestations.
- Prevent the increase of total acres dominated by invasive annual species within the NCA.

Figure 2.12. Sloan Canyon Roads Registered Motorized Vehicles



Management Direction

Vegetation will be managed by restoration zones based on MEAs to promote native plant communities and restore the plant productivity of disturbed areas through restoration. The threshold of disturbance before restoring the natural vegetation community or improving the condition of native plant communities for each zone will be as follows and is shown in Figure 2.13, Vegetation Disturbance Management Map:

- Zone 1 (Primitive MEA)—Conduct restoration if the surface disturbing activity may alter the natural vegetation community processes or if it reduces the viability of local species populations.
- Zone 2 (Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized MEA)—Conduct restoration if the surface disturbing activity may have a short-term impact on natural vegetation community processes or if it reduces the viability of local species populations.
- Zone 3 (Roaded Natural and Developed MEAs)—Conduct restoration if the surface disturbing activity may have a long-term impact on natural vegetation community processes or if it could have a long-term impact on local species populations.

VEG 1: Manage vegetation restoration by zone, as shown in Figure 2.13.

VEG 2: Restoration projects take priority in Zones 1 and 2 to restore or improve conditions in native plant communities (Appendix G, Vegetation Restoration Strategy).

VEG 3: Disturbed areas in the North McCullough Wilderness will be restored after completion of a minimum requirement/minimum tool analysis.

VEG 4: Commercial and casual collection of vegetation is prohibited throughout the NCA.

VEG 5: Sensitive and Special Status Species habitats will be protected to ensure suitable habitat conditions and population viability.

VEG 6: Scientific research and monitoring of Special Status Species will be encouraged. BLM will develop partnerships with organizations, such as universities and other educational groups, to facilitate research on and monitoring of Special Status Species.

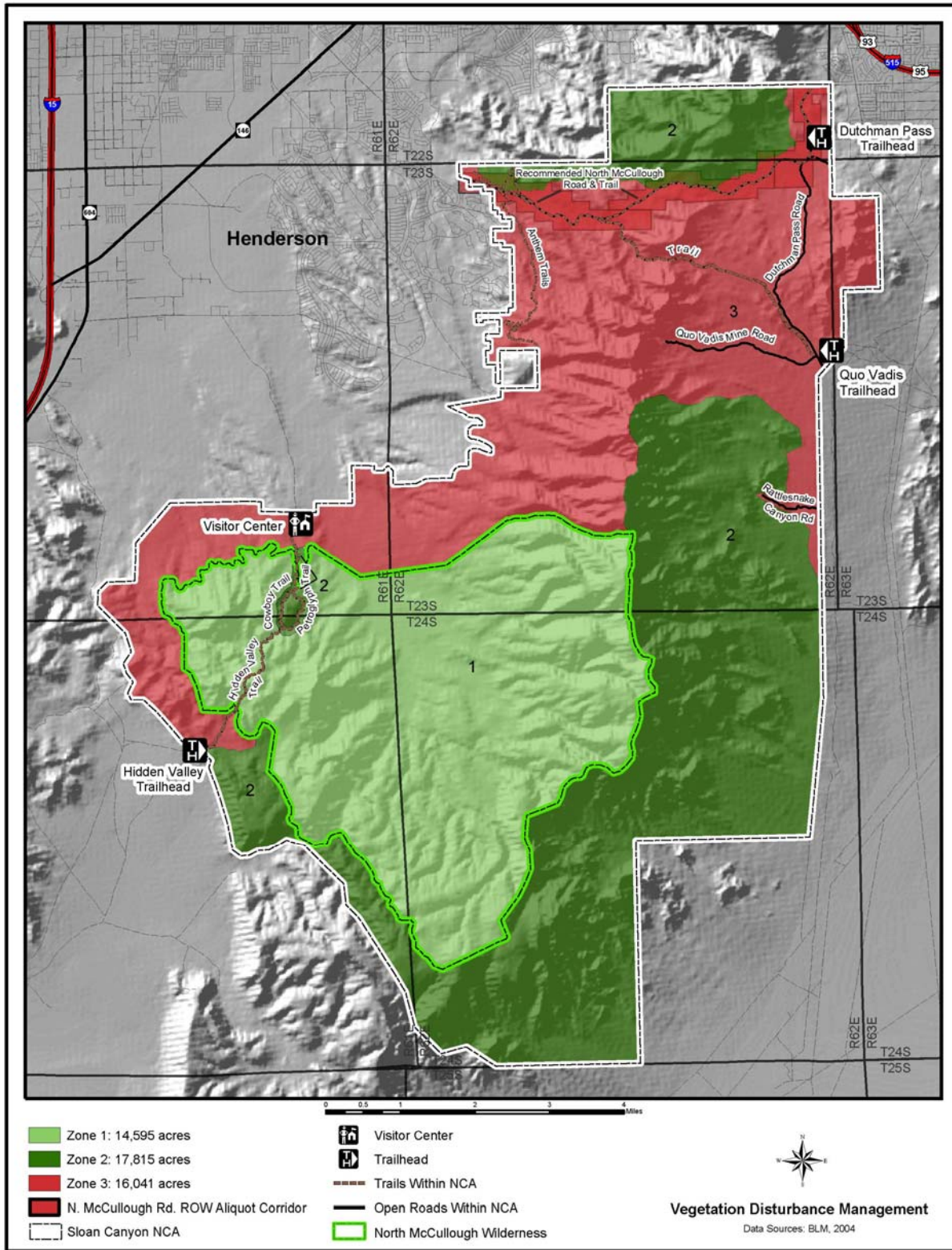
VEG 7: Any developed landscaping will use only plant species native to the NCA.

VEG 8: Sites proposed for disturbance will be evaluated for the presence of Special Status Plant Species. In addition, surface disturbing activities within known locations of federally listed plant species will be avoided, if feasible.

VEG 9: BLM will continue ongoing efforts to survey, monitor, and manage invasive and noxious weeds using integrated weed management principals. This effort includes working with local organizations, agencies, and landowners to promote education and to assist in managing weeds.

VEG 10: The collection of vegetation for scientific purposes will be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

Figure 2.13. Vegetation Disturbance Management



2.2.12 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES)

Goal

Maintain and enhance native wildlife resources and provide for biological diversity of wildlife resources while ensuring healthy ecosystems.

Objectives

- Manage to protect Special Status Wildlife Species and habitats in the NCA, including federally listed, State-sensitive, and MSHCP species, according to existing law, regulation, policy, and/or agreement.
- Maintain or enhance habitat quality and quantity to adequately support the life history requirements of a diversity of wildlife species.
- Promote healthy and viable wildlife populations through appropriate habitat and species management actions that will lead to providing for ecological integrity within the NCA.
- Protect important migratory bird habitat according to existing law, regulation, policy, and/or agreement.
- Maintain lambing areas and movement corridors for bighorn sheep.

Management Direction

BLM will work cooperatively with NDOW and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services in the management of wildlife (including Special Status and Sensitive Species, hunting, and trapping), recognizing their respective management jurisdictions. Specifically, BLM will coordinate with NDOW in providing habitat for maintenance of population objectives and management activities designed to moderate populations (e.g., hunting, trapping, and transfer). For example, BLM will manage bighorn sheep habitat to promote healthy and viable populations consistent with the *Rangewide Plan for Managing Bighorn Sheep Habitat on Public Lands* (BLM 1998c in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List). BLM will also follow the objectives of the *MSHCP* (CCDCP 2000 in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List) to maintain or improve current and potential wildlife habitat toward full ecological potential. In addition, BLM has developed a Biological Management Strategy (Appendix H) to guide the research and monitoring of wildlife species found within the NCA.

Within the North McCullough Wilderness, BLM will follow its MOU with NDOW for wildlife management in the Wilderness (BLM 2003c in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List) or other applicable agreement policy.

WLIFE 1: BLM will enhance wilderness values by maintaining existing water developments to promote healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations; constructing additional water developments, if appropriate; and protecting or improving springs and seeps consistent with the MOU and applicable laws and regulations.

WLIFE 2: The construction and maintenance of wildlife water developments will be consistent with the intent of the Clark County Act, Title II (“Wilderness Areas”) and the Wilderness Act of 1964. A 1/4-mile radius avoidance area for recreation developments, including trails, will be established to protect artificial

and natural waters that provide benefit to wildlife. BLM will also prohibit livestock watering at wildlife water developments.

WLIFE 3: BLM will allow animal damage control activities, if necessary, on a temporary basis for the successful reestablishment of native species, for the recovery of decimated populations, and to manage urban interface wildlife conflicts.

WLIFE 4: To better understand the NCA's wildlife, BLM will implement monitoring surveys for appropriate species, and wildlife observation studies will be allowed in the NCA as long as the study does not harass species.

WLIFE 5: Interpretive information designed to mitigate the potential effects of recreation use on wildlife will be developed and distributed within the NCA.

WLIFE 6: Designation and construction of trails, facilities, and ROWs will be limited within known lambing areas of bighorn sheep. Surface disturbing activities will be limited within known lambing areas from January through May. Trail construction will be avoided in areas of known bighorn sheep movement between the North and South McCullough Mountains.

WLIFE 7: Permits for wildlife specimen collection will be issued for scientific purposes on a case-by-case basis. All applicants who intend to collect specimens of listed species will be required to obtain additional permits from NDOW and USFWS.

WLIFE 8: Casual and commercial collection of reptiles is prohibited throughout the NCA.

Distance and seasonal restrictions for sensitive raptor nesting areas and lambing areas will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the species involved, natural topographic barriers, and line-of-sight distances.

WLIFE 9: Visitors will be educated to be sensitive to raptor nesting areas during breeding season and bighorn lambing areas from January to May.

WLIFE 10: Construction of trails, facilities, or ROWs will be seasonally restricted within an appropriate distance of occupied raptor nesting sites. Trails will be closed using seasonal or small area closures on a case-by-case basis to protect wildlife species during critical life periods.

WLIFE 11: Feral animals, including wild horses and burros, will be removed from the NCA by coordinating with appropriate local, State, and federal agencies on the trapping and transfer of populations of animals posing a threat to wildlife health or human health and safety.

WLIFE 12: Bird feeders are prohibited within the NCA.

WLIFE 13: Special Status Species habitat will be maintained and protected to ensure suitable habitat conditions and viable populations. Disturbance or development will be avoided in areas of Special Status Species potential habitat. Disturbance or development will be mitigated in areas of Special Status Species habitat discovered during preactivity site-specific surveys.

WLIFE 14: BLM will encourage scientific research and monitoring of Special Status Species and encourage research partnerships with organizations such as universities and other educational groups.

2.2.13 WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Goals

- Manage fire to protect human health and property.
- Manage fire to keep wildland fire size to an absolute minimum to prevent conversion to red brome and other non-native grasses.

Objective

Protect human health and property.

Management Direction

Using the appropriate management response, BLM will provide wildland fire suppression efforts commensurate with resources and risk to adjacent property values. Education, law enforcement, and public outreach will be used to prevent or minimize risk of human-caused fires. Maximum fire protection will be provided through a comprehensive fire detection system using a multiagency approach.

FIRE 1: An NCA staff resource advisor will be consulted on all fires in the NCA. For specific fire suppression guidance, BLM will follow the *Fire Management Plan* (BLM 2004b in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List).

2.2.14 WATER RESOURCES AND QUALITY

Goal

Ensure NCA activities protect water resources and quality.

Objectives

- Manage and protect springs and water sources within the NCA.
- Maintain or improve the water quality within the NCA.

2.2.15 AIR QUALITY

Goal/Objective

Ensure that emissions associated with NCA activities meet federal, State, and local air quality regulations and standards.

2.2.16 LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Goal

Manage authorized livestock grazing consistent with the purposes of the Sloan Canyon NCA Act and the Clark County Act, Title II (“Wilderness Areas”).

Objective

Manage livestock grazing in the Sloan Canyon NCA to attain the Standards—desired rangeland conditions, and expressions of physical and biological conditions required for sustaining rangelands for multiple uses, as approved in Nevada’s *Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC)*,

Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (BLM 1997 in the *Sloan Canyon Proposed RMP/FEIS* Reference List).

Management Direction

GRAZ 1: If on-the-ground evaluations determine that forage is available, BLM will allow livestock grazing in the Hidden Valley Allotment, consistent with allotment-specific objectives.

GRAZ 2: Grazing in the allotment will continue unless the permittee voluntarily relinquishes the privilege, permits, or leases, in which case, the allotment will be closed to further livestock grazing.

GRAZ 3: Cattle are the only class of livestock authorized to graze on the Hidden Valley Allotment. Horses may be kept in corrals and used to perform ranch-related work.

GRAZ 4: BLM will manage the range resource consistent with the phenological and physiological requirements of key perennial species. Livestock grazing management will provide for increased plant vigor and reproductive capability of perennial forage to either maintain a static trend or achieve an upward trend of key perennial forage.

GRAZ 5: Placement of salt and mineral supplements and new range improvements is prohibited within the NCA.

2.2.17 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Goals

- Conserve and protect geological and soil resources within the NCA.
- Provide opportunities for scientific research within the NCA to understand and interpret the NCA's geologic history.

Objective

Manage activities within the NCA to maintain natural rates of soil loss and sedimentation.

Management Direction

GEO 1: Intrusive geologic research is allowed in the NCA by permit to ensure regulatory compliance.

GEO 2: Intrusive geologic research is prohibited in the Petroglyph Management Area and its northern access, and appropriate restrictions apply in the remainder of the Wilderness.

2.2.18 MINERALS

Goal/Objective

Recognize valid existing mineral rights in accordance with existing law, regulation, and policy.

2.2.19 ABANDONED MINES

Goal/Objective

Reduce potential safety hazards associated with abandoned mines.

Management Direction

BLM will ensure that abandoned mine hazards are considered during planning, design, and construction of NCA facilities. When consistent with other resource objectives, abandoned mines will be closed.

2.2.20 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Goal

Reduce potential for hazardous materials contamination within the NCA.

Objectives

- Prevent illegal disposal of hazardous materials.
- Ensure that NCA management actions are designed to minimize hazardous waste generation and prevent pollution.
- Assess the impacts of released hazardous materials and determine the appropriate response, removal, and remedial actions.

