

CHAPTER 2.0

Description of Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative (DRMP), to address the various combinations of public land uses and resource management practices within the Eastern San Diego County Planning Area. This chapter is organized by resources and uses rather than by alternatives, so that readers may more easily compare how proposed management under each of the alternatives may affect the resources and uses under the BLM's administration. Following is a brief general description of each of the five alternatives. Detailed management prescriptions are presented under the applicable program headings.

The differences between alternatives are displayed in the tables and figures associated with the program. Any decisions not shown in tables or figures are common to all of the alternatives.

2.1 Introduction

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2.2 General Description of Each Alternative

- **Alternative A (No Action)** describes the continuation of the present management of the Planning Area. Alternative A provides an opportunity to compare the current management with various strategies suggested to be analyzed for future management (Alternatives B, C, D, and E). Alternative A will serve as a baseline for most resources and land use allocations.

- **Alternative B** provides visitors with opportunities to experience natural and cultural resource values of the Planning Area. It proposes a combination of natural processes and active management techniques for resource and use management and it provides access through a transportation network.

- **Alternative C** generally places emphasis on preservation of the Planning Area's natural and cultural resources through limited public use and discontinuation of grazing use. It focuses on natural processes and other unobtrusive methods for natural resource use and management. It proposes fewer motorized and developed recreation opportunities.

- **Alternative D** generally provides more opportunities for development such as renewable energy, transportation and utility rights-of-way (ROWs), and enhanced recreational opportunities (including motorized use).

- **Alternative E (Preferred)** represents BLM's preferred alternative for management of each resource and resource use, and provides for a balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long-term sustainability of sensitive resources. It allows visitation and development within the Planning Area while ensuring that resource protection is not compromised. It is generally managed with decisions that have a greater balance of multiple uses. This alternative draws features from all of the other alternatives.

Throughout this chapter, information is displayed at a broad overview level which then moves to the specific. The planning document is presented first by resource, the presence or abundance of which may vary from location to location within the Planning

2.2 General Description of Each Alternative

Area. Two different types of land use plan decisions are presented for each resource under all alternatives: Goals and Objectives and Management Actions.

- Goals and Objectives are the desired outcomes for resource conditions and resource uses.
- Management Actions are actions, allowable use, and land designations that BLM would implement under a given alternative to achieve the goals and objectives for a particular resource or resource use.
- Additional decisions that provide a better understanding of decisions required in the program guidance include Rangeland Health Standards, Land Tenure Adjustment, and Special Designations. These decisions must also support the goals outlined in the Goals and Objectives.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Elements of alternatives that vary are presented in table and map format. All other elements discussed are common to all of the alternatives, unless otherwise indicated.

2.3.1 Rangeland Health Standards Management

2.3.1.1 Alternative A (No Action)

Continue to utilize existing National Fallback Standards for grazing allotments. Fallback standards were developed to implement 43 CFR 4180 grazing regulations. The fallback standards for rangeland health are:

1. Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform.
2. Riparian-wetland areas are in proper functioning condition.
3. Stream-channel morphology (including but not limited to gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness, and sinuosity) and functions are appropriate for the climate and landform.
4. Healthy, productive, and diverse populations of native species exist and are maintained.

2.3.1.2 Alternatives B–E

Adopt the following regional standards of rangeland health. The proposed standards of rangeland health are:

Soils: Soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, geology, landform, and past uses. Adequate infiltration and permeability of soils allow accumulation of soil moisture necessary for optimal plant growth and vigor, and provide a stable watershed, as indicated by:

- Canopy and ground cover are appropriate for the site;
- There is diversity of plant species with a variety of root depths;

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- Litter and soil organic matter are present at suitable sites;
- Microbiotic soil crusts are maintained and in place;
- Evidence of wind or water erosion does not exceed natural rates for the site; and
- Soil permeability, nutrient cycling, and water infiltration are appropriate for the soil type.

Riparian/Wetland and Stream Function: Wetland systems associated with subsurface, running, and standing water function properly and have the ability to recover from major disturbances. Hydrologic conditions are maintained as indicated by:

- Vegetative cover adequately protects banks and dissipates energy during peak water flows;
- Dominant vegetation is an appropriate mixture of vigorous riparian species;
- Recruitment of preferred species is adequate to sustain the plant community;
- Stable soils store and release water slowly;
- Plant species present indicate that soil moisture characteristics are being maintained;
- There is minimal cover of shallow-rooted invader species, and they are not displacing deep-rooted native species;
- Shading of stream courses and water sources is sufficient to support riparian vertebrates and invertebrates;
- Stream is in balance with water and sediment is being supplied by the watershed, where appropriate;
- Stream channel size and meander is appropriate for soils, geology, and landscape; and
- Adequate organic matter (litter and standing dead plant material) is present to protect the site and to replenish soil nutrients through decomposition.

Native Species: Healthy, productive, and diverse habitats for native species, including special status species, are maintained in places of natural occurrences, as indicated by:

- Photosynthetic and ecological processes continue at levels suitable for the site, season, and precipitation regimes;
- Plant vigor nutrient cycles and energy flows are maintaining desirable plants and ensuring reproduction and recruitment;
- Plant communities are producing litter within acceptable limits;
- Age class distributions of plants and animals are sufficient to overcome mortality fluctuations;
- Distribution and cover of plants species and their habitats allow for reproduction and recovery from localized catastrophic events;
- Alien and noxious plants and wildlife do not exceed acceptable levels, or require action to prevent the spread and introduction of noxious/invasive weeds;
- Appropriate natural disturbances are evident; and
- Populations and their habitats are sufficiently distributed to prevent the need for new listings of special status species.

Water Quality: Water quality would meet state and federal standards including exemptions allowable by law, as indicated by:

- Dissolved oxygen levels, aquatic organisms, and aquatic plants (e.g., macroinvertebrates, fish, and algae) indicate support of beneficial uses;
- Chemical constituents, water temperatures, nutrient loads, fecal coliform, and turbidity are appropriate for the site or source; and
- Best management practices (BMP) would be implemented.

2.3.2 Air Resources Management

The FLPMA and the Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970 and Amendments of 1977 and 1990 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 7401 et seq.) prohibit BLM or any federal land management agency from conducting, supporting, approving, licensing, or permitting

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

any activity on federal land that does not comply with all applicable local, state, and federal air quality laws, statutes, regulations, and implementation plans. In support of these regulations, a program has been developed that provides benefits to air quality and other resources by decreasing air pollutant concentrations, increasing visibility, and decreasing atmospheric deposition. Adherence to air quality regulatory programs through coordination with other federal and state agencies is a key to air quality management success.

Other applicable regulations include:

- Applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Section 109)
- State Implementation Plans (Section 110)
- Control of Pollution from Federal Facilities (Section 118)
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration, including visibility impacts to mandatory Federal Class I Areas (Section 160 et seq.)
- Conformity Analyses and Determinations (Section 176(c))

2.3.2.1 Goals and Objectives

- Maintain or improve air quality as established by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and California Ambient Air Quality Standards through cooperative management of emissions with industry, the State of California, and federal agencies.
- BLM would strive to minimize, within the scope of its authority, any emissions that may cause violations of air quality standards, add to acid rain, or degrade visibility.

2.3.2.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Comply with the State of California for all proposed actions that would contribute to particulate matter emissions in the air as a result of actions taken in this DRMP/EIS.

2.3.3 Soil Resource Management

The Planning Area contains a wide variety of soil types, as might be expected in a zone which spans the transition from low desert to coastal mountains.

This variety of types is the result of diversity in parent material, relief, climate, living organisms, and age of the soils. The majority of Planning Area falls in a moderate erosion class. Approximately 40 percent of the land consists of slope of 50 percent or greater. Despite the high incidence of steep slopes, soil loss due to water erosion is not of major significance because of low annual surface runoff and the high percent of ground cover, which averages 48 percent throughout the Planning Area.

Twenty-four soil series composed of thirty different soil types are found on BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area (USDA 1973). The soil series represented are: acid igneous rock land, Badland, Bancas, Boomer, Calpine, Carrizo, Crouch, Holland, Indio, Kitchen Creek, La Posta, loamy alluvial land, Mecca, metamorphic rock land, Mottsville, Ramona, Reiff, Riverwash, Rositas, rough broken land, Sheephead, sloping gullied land, Tollhouse, and Stony land.

2.3.3.1 Goals and Objectives

- Manage soils to maintain productivity and to minimize erosion.
- Maintain or improve ecological condition to proper functioning conditions in riparian areas to minimize soil erosion.
- Meet Rangeland Health Standard #1, as related to soils per Standards of Rangeland Health (see section 2.3.1 Rangeland Health Standards Management).

2.3.3.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Take steps to control erosion on authorized vehicle routes, burned areas, riparian areas, and grazed areas by allowing plant growth to resume in these areas after catastrophic events such as fires and floods, which are common in the Planning Area. BLM will employ BMPs, revegetation, and strategic placement of rocks to control erosion.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- Minimize surface disturbance from authorized activities. Post-activity, disturbed surfaces would be restored to a pre-disturbance or stable condition.
- Restrict construction activities when soils are susceptible to a heightened risk of erosion. Limit ground-disturbing activities when soils are wet in order to avoid compaction of soils.
- Incorporate erosion control measures into projects on a case-by-case basis.
- Manage biological resources to minimize erosion including the restoration of damaged riparian areas and promoting healthy native plant groundcover.

2.3.4 Water Resources Management

The objective of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act [CWA] PL 92-500, as amended; 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq.) is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters (Section 101a). Under Sections 401 and 404, the CWA regulates point and non-point-source pollution and, along with EO 11990 titled *Protection of Wetlands*, impacts to wetlands.

Other applicable regulations include the California Water Code.

Surface waters in the Planning Area can be divided into watersheds, or portions of the landscape that collect runoff from the surface, concentrate it into channels, and conduct the resulting flow to a definable outlet. The Planning Area occurs within the San Diego (Region 9) and the Colorado River (Region 7) watershed basins. Within these watersheds, smaller hydrologic units are defined.

Groundwater within the Planning Area occurs primarily within alluvial deposits between fault block mountain ranges. BLM has no direct authority over the groundwater. Rather, the groundwater resource is managed by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR). BLM works in cooperation with SWRCB and DWR.

2.3.4.1 Goals and Objectives

2.3.4.1.1 General

- Ensure the physical presence and legal availability of surface water and groundwater on public lands.
- Ensure that those waters meet or exceed federal and California water quality standards for specific uses.
- Ensure that water quality achieves or is making significant progress toward achieving established BLM management objectives such as meeting wildlife and recreational needs.

2.3.4.1.2 Surface Water

- Identify and protect surface waters from the standpoint of human health concerns, aquatic ecosystem health, or other public uses.
- Preserve and enhance stream bank and channel condition.
- Identify area-wide use restrictions or other protective measures to meet federal, tribal, state, and local water quality requirements.

2.3.4.1.3 Groundwater

- Make groundwater, where present, available for beneficial use on public lands.

2.3.4.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Maintain existing proper functioning conditions of watersheds by applying BMPs.
- Prevent or reduce water quality degradation through implementation of applicable BMPs or other specific mitigation measures, if applicable.
- Continue to maintain or improve water quality in accordance with state and federal standards. Consult with the appropriate state agencies on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- Apply BMPs on public land within municipal watersheds to protect water quality and quantity.
- Control erosion on authorized vehicle routes, burned areas, riparian areas, and grazed areas to protect water quality through application of BMPs.

2.3.5 Vegetation Resource Management

Terrestrial ecosystems within the Planning Area include desert fan-palm oases, mixed conifer woodland, creosote scrub, enriched desert scrub, oak woodlands, and chaparral. BLM strives to maintain the health of riparian communities according to BLM's Proper Functioning Condition Protocol as cited in the Process for Assigning Proper Functioning Condition (BLM Technical Reference 1737-9) and A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas (BLM Technical Reference 1737-15).

The basis for managing vegetation, riparian-wetland, and invasive or noxious weeds for BLM lands can be found in the following federal laws, regulations, and policies:

- Taylor Grazing Act of 1934
- Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978
- CWA of 1977
- EO 11990 Protection of Wetlands
- Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974
- EO 13112 Invasive Species Control
- BLM Manual Section 1740 Renewable Resource Improvements and Treatments
- BLM Manual 9011 Chemical Pest Control
- 1737-9 Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition: Riparian Area Management
- 1737-15 A User Guide to Assess Proper Functioning Condition and Support for Lotic Areas (This Technical Reference supplements TR-1737-9, Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition: Riparian Area Management.)

- Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS)(DOI BLM 2005b)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Ecological Site Guides

In addition, the following non-federal agreements and laws apply to the Planning Area:

- Cooperative Fire Protection Operating Plan with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDFFP) (USDA 2001)
- California Native Plant Protection Act of 1977
- California Endangered Species Act
- 1988 Food and Agricultural Code of California (Division 23, California Desert Native Plants Acts).

2.3.5.1 Plant Communities

2.3.5.1.1 Goals and Objectives

Planning Areawide

- Promote biological diversity through conservation of native plant communities and special status species with consideration for multiple use of the land and sustained ecological function.
- Maintain and enhance a mosaic of native plant communities in upland and riparian areas.
- Restore unproductive or non-functioning upland and riparian sites to desired plant communities that are functioning properly, based upon ecological site potential.
- Promote wildlife forage and habitat values and maintain and/or restore intrinsic biological integrity and value for all native plant communities.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- Ensure that riparian areas achieve or maintain properly functioning condition. Riparian areas enhance water quality, improve water storage, increase groundwater recharge, and provide quality wildlife habitat values.
- Protect or restore native species in upland and riparian communities through an integrated weed management approach emphasizing prevention, early detection, and eradication of invasive weeds.
- Ensure that forage on rangelands continues to support wildlife in a manner consistent with other resource management practices or uses.
- Ensure that sensitive plant communities are protected from ground-disturbing activities, including recreation uses.
- Maintain plant communities that secure soil resources and protect against erosion and air quality degradation.

Desired Plant Communities

Mixed Riparian Woodlands

- Promote riparian woodlands that contain a diversity of native trees adapted to periodic flooding.
- Promote bank vegetation composed of native species capable of withstanding flood events to prevent soil loss and bank erosion.
- Promote riparian-associated habitat to enhance wildlife habitat.

Oak Woodlands

- Promote oak woodland communities with oak recruitment that contain trees of various size and age classes, with an understory of native perennial grass and forb species.
- Ensure that oak habitats are stable or expanding with no net loss and minimal habitat fragmentation.

Desert Wash

- Promote multi-layered desert wash communities that are dominated by perennial vegetation, which provide for watershed connectivity, sediment capture and storage, energy dissipation, and bank stability.
- Promote diverse vegetative composition and structure that include such species as blue palo verde (*Cercidium floridum* ssp. *floridum*), desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis* ssp. *arcuata*), ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa* var. *torreyana*), smoke tree (*Psoralea argophylla*), and catclaw acacia (*Acacia greggii*). Size and growth form, such as overhanging branches, mid-story and under-story vegetation, are represented by naturally occurring species of moderate density.
- Ensure sufficient bank vegetation that provides landscape habitat connectivity and physical stability, which in turn support ground-dwelling species.

Semi-Desert Chaparral

- Promote semi-desert chaparral communities for Native American vegetation collection.
- Promote a natural fire regime to allow natural succession and minimize the likelihood of catastrophic wildfires.
- Maintain unfragmented semi-desert chaparral habitats that function as a landscape connectivity matrix (i.e., movement corridors and foraging areas) between adjacent plant communities.

Desert Fan Palm Oasis

- Promote desert fan palm oasis communities for Native American cultural values.
- Maintain desert fan palm oasis communities as an indicator of water resources.

Mixed Conifer Woodland

- Promote conifer woodland communities that contain trees of various size and age classes with an understory of native perennial grass and forb species.

Enriched Desert Scrub

- Maintain cacti communities that have diverse vegetative composition and structure from small shrubs to large trees (such as ironwood, agave, palo verde, and mesquite) interspersed with a variety of cacti (such as fish-hook cactus, prickly pear, cholla, barrel cactus, beavertail, and hedgehog).
- Promote enriched desert scrub communities for Native American cultural values.

2.3.5.1.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Avoid adverse impacts to special status species, priority species, and plants protected by the California Native Plant Protection Act and associated habitats by developing, modifying, redesigning, mitigating, or abandoning specific projects.
- Restore degraded native plant communities through restoration activities that could include but are not limited to exclusion of disturbance activity, invasive plant removal, site preparation, and revegetation.
- Restore surface disturbance from discretionary activities, such as ROW construction, with rehabilitation measures including imprinting, contouring, debris and brush replacement, native plant seeding (where appropriate), and invasive plant treatment.
- Restore surface disturbance from illegal trespass activities with rehabilitation measures including imprinting, contouring, debris and brush replacement, native planting or seeding (where appropriate), and invasive plant treatment.
- Require minimum impact approaches such as trimming trees instead of removal, using existing routes and ROWs instead of creating new ones, and using previously disturbed sites and crushed vegetation instead of blading new routes, where appropriate.
- For surface disturbing activities where avoidance is not possible, encourage transplanting of plant species directly on-site or onto neighboring public lands where feasible, using approved protocol.
- Surface-disturbing activities will be designed to avoid impacts to riparian areas, desert fan palm oases, oak woodlands, and desert wash would be avoided where possible. Where avoidance is not possible, these areas would be restored to their previously undisturbed or native condition. Restoration would follow approved protocol and include watering and maintenance until establishment.

- When practicable, salvage useable native plants and parts of plants where plants would normally be lost due to development, disposal, or disturbance on public lands. Plants and parts of plants may be replanted on public lands or salvaged for public purposes. Plants and parts of plants would only be removed from public lands pursuant to applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing the sale, disposal, and transportation of plants.
- Use native plant materials for landscaping at developed recreation sites within public lands.
- Treat non-native invasive species, where appropriate, to meet management objectives.
- Protect desired plant communities through construction of fire breaks or hazard fuels reduction, where appropriate.

2.3.5.1.3 Management Actions by Alternative

Table 2-1 presents the management actions that vary by alternative.

2.3.5.2 Priority Plant Species

Priority plant species are rare, unusual, or key species that are not BLM sensitive or listed as threatened and endangered. They are worthy of special treatment and indicate ecological health, biological diversity, and unique habitats. Priority plant species have been located on or near the BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area. The priority plant species list (see Table 3-3) would be updated on a regular basis to reflect new information and survey data. These species have ecological importance, rarity, and human interest. Identification of priority plant species would help prevent the avoidable loss of these plants due to development and implementation of other multiple-use objectives.

2.3.5.2.1 Goals and Objectives

- Ensure that plant species populations are stable or increasing, with adequate recruitment given the ecological conditions and dynamics associated with the Planning Area.

**TABLE 2-1
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR VEGETATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BY
ALTERNATIVE**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D	E
Cooperate with the Laguna-Moreno Demonstration in prescribed burning on BLM land.	X				
Allow prescribed burning on a case-by-case basis.		X	X	X	X
Prohibit removal of trees in Buck Canyon, Chariot Canyon, Oriflamme Canyon, and McCain Valley areas	X				
Prohibit removal of native standing trees, alive or dead, with the exception of fire management, health and human safety, or disease control.		X	X	X	X
Remove tamarisk using mechanical and herbicide applications following BLM policy on minimum tools in Wilderness.		X		X	X
Remove tamarisk by mechanical means. Herbicides will not be used on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area for tamarisk removal.			X		
Limit the introduction of non-native plants through an education program partnered with equestrian recreational users, OHV users, and other recreational users.		X	X	X	X
Protect riparian habitat throughout the Planning Area by excluding livestock grazing, redirecting routes, and requiring permits to collect plants from riparian areas.	X				
Riparian areas would be avoidance areas for all commercial and non-commercial surface disturbance activities.		X		X	X
Riparian areas would be exclusion areas for all commercial and non-commercial surface disturbance activities.			X		
Perform revegetation projects that promote riparian area proper functioning condition and recruitment of oaks in uplands adjacent to riparian areas.		X	X	X	X
Develop partnerships with adjacent landowners, local agencies, state agencies, and federal agencies to manage habitat, conduct restoration activities, develop educational material, and provide interpretation of vegetation.		X	X	X	X
Rehabilitation priority would be given to riparian areas, desert fan palm oases, oak woodlands, and desert wash, habitats that support Special Status Species and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).		X	X	X	X

- Promote landscape-scale conservation of the priority plant species to protect or restore botanical resources of concern and to ensure consistent management across jurisdictional boundaries.

2.3.5.2.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Minimize or mitigate loss of habitat or fragmentation of priority plant species populations.
- To mitigate for surface disturbing activities, avoid priority plant species where possible. Where avoidance is not possible, these populations would be restored to their previously undisturbed or native condition after completion of the activity.

Restoration would follow approved protocol and include watering and maintenance until establishment.

- Implement protection and restoration measures such as fencing, invasive weeds treatment, and native plants seed collection for the priority plant species.
- Treat non-native invasive species where appropriate to protect priority plant species.

2.3.5.3 Invasive Non-native Plants

Non-native, invasive, and state and federally-listed noxious weed species collectively constitute one of the gravest threats to the biodiversity of BLM lands. Two critical components of managing these species are 1) identifying those species that threaten biodiversity and other ecological functions and values and 2) prioritizing species for management efforts, which must be based, at least in part, on the ecological impacts imparted by these invaders. Appendix C provides lists of weed species maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), California Department of Food and Agriculture, and California Invasive Plant Council.

Non-native invasive species degrade aesthetic vegetation values, tourism opportunities, and degrade recreational value of public lands. Native species in upland and riparian ecosystems are competitively reduced, and the ecological process altered when non-native plants (both noxious and invasive weeds) become established and flourish.

2.3.5.3.1 Goals and Objectives

- Prevent the introduction or spread of non-native, invasive and state and federally listed noxious weed species and promote the reduction of existing invasive species populations.

2.3.5.3.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Use an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to ensure that the best methods available are implemented to prevent the introduction and control the spread of non-native plants, invasive plants, and noxious weeds.
- Enhance non-native invasive species management through a collaborative approach with fire management.

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- Treat non-native invasive species that constitute significant fuel load and fire threat directly by using IPM or management through fire breaks and other tactics.
- Treat fire breaks as needed to control the introduction and spread of non-native invasive species.
- Treat tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*) and other riparian invasive, non-native species in the Planning Area (see Table 2-1 above for variation by alternatives).
- Require BLM contractors and employees to clean vehicles after traveling in areas of highly noxious or invasive weeds infestation.

2.3.5.4 Vegetative Use Authorization

BLM manages vegetation for habitat, multiple use, and sustained yield. This section describes what authorizations are needed to collect plant material from public land and what activities do not require written authorization.

2.3.5.4.1 Goals and Objectives

- Promote appropriate levels of dead and downed wood on the ground to provide wildlife habitat and reduce soil erosion.
- Allow for the collection of plant material consistent with the maintenance of natural ecosystem processes.

2.3.5.4.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Wood cutting for commercial purposes is not allowed in the Planning Area.
- Wood collection not allowed within ACECs.

2.3.5.4.3 Management Actions by Alternative

The following management actions presented in Table 2-2 vary by alternative.

**TABLE 2-2
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR VEGETATIVE USE AUTHORIZATION BY ALTERNATIVE**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D	E
Prohibit removal of trees in Buck Canyon, Chariot Canyon, Oriflamme Canyon, and McCain Valley Areas.	X				
Prohibit removal of native standing trees alive or dead with the exception of fire management, health and human safety or disease control.		X	X	X	X
In McCain Valley area, allow wood gathering for campfires only where posted.	X				
Allow gathering of dead, downed wood for personal use only.		X		X	X
Prohibit collection of dead, downed wood for personal use.			X		
Free use, without permit, of culturally important plants may be granted for traditional cultural gathering of vegetation by Native Americans. All other vegetation collecting would be on a case-by-case basis by permit. Restrict collection of plant materials to those allowable under the California Native Plant Protection Act. Consideration for collection by educational facilities, botanical gardens, and public institutions would be given priority.		X		X	X
Free use, without permit, of culturally important plants may be granted for traditional cultural gathering of vegetation by Native Americans. No commercial vegetation collection would be permitted. All other collection is on a case-by-case basis.			X		

Allowable Uses Requiring Permits

To manage vegetation resources, the BLM would administer a permit program for specific commercial and non-commercial uses. Vegetative use authorization would be considered on a case-by-case basis and permits would include standard guidelines and stipulations for collection. Permits could also include stipulation developed during a site-specific NEPA analysis. Priority plant species would be protected and collections would be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

- **Plant and Seed Collection.** Scientific collection of vegetative materials including seeds, would be permitted where appropriate through an annual letter of permission by the ECFO. Commercial seed collection would require a permit on BLM lands and would follow approved protocol. Seed collection for BLM administrative use would follow approved protocol.

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- **Salvage Plant Collection.** Plant salvage would be allowed within the Planning Area on a case-by-case basis. Plant salvage would require prior written authorization from BLM as well as a permit from the USDA as required by the California Native Plant Protection Act.

Allowable Uses Not Requiring Permits

The public does not need written authorization or a permit for the following uses:

- Collection of dead, downed, and detached wood for personal campfire use is permissible while camping on BLM-administered land, except in certain areas of McCain Valley under Alternative A.
- Per 43 CFR 8365.1-5(b), reasonable amounts (as defined below) of the following may be collected from the Public Lands for non-commercial purposes:
 - (1) Small quantities (no more than 20 percent of available resource from any individual plant and from total collecting area) of flowers for personal use;
 - (2) Small quantities (no more than 20 percent of available resource from any individual plant and from total collecting area) of dry vegetation, nuts, or berries;
 - (3) Five or fewer pieces (i.e., cuttings) of a live native plant (California Native Plant Protection Act)—no whole plants may be collected;
 - (4) Firewood that is a) dead and down, and b) can be hand carried to a campsite; and
 - (5) Tamarisk in any quantities.
- Free use, without permit, of culturally important plants may be granted for traditional cultural gathering of vegetation by Native Americans.

If monitoring indicates potential resource degradation closure to firewood collection would be implemented using adaptive management. The collection and possession of ironwood at any time would be prohibited.

Prohibited Uses (Collection Not Allowed)

The public is prohibited from collecting:

- (1) Live cactus or agave (e.g. century plant, nolina, yucca) of any kind;
- (2) Whole, live native plants;
- (3) California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*);
- (4) Fuel wood for home heating purposes; and
- (5) All species in the family Fouquieriaceae (ocotillo, candlewood); the genus *Prosopis* (mesquites); the genus *Cercidium* (palo verdes); *Acacia greggii* (catclaw acacia); *Dalea spinosa* (smoketree); and *Olneya testota* (ironwood), including both dead and live specimens.

2.3.6 Wildlife Resource Management

The Sikes Act of 1974 authorized the DOI in cooperation with State agencies responsible for the administration of fish and wildlife laws to plan, develop, maintain and coordinate programs for the conservation and rehabilitation of fish and wildlife (both game and non-game) on public lands within its jurisdiction. In addition to the Sikes Act, the following laws, regulations, and policies direct the management of fish and wildlife on BLM-administered public lands:

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980
- EO 13112 Invasive Species
- EO 13186—Conservation of Migratory Birds
- BLM Manual 6500—Wildlife, Fish, and Plant Resources
- BLM Manual 6740

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

The County of San Diego is in the process of developing the East County MSCP for the unincorporated lands of San Diego County. The BLM is cooperating in the preparation of this plan.

The Bureau of Land Management works cooperatively with California Department of Fish and Game. Under California laws, the California Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the preservation and management of fish and wildlife found within the state of California. The BLM is likewise responsible for the management of fish and wildlife habitat on BLM administered lands. BLM assists CDFG by providing the appropriate agreements or permits for conducting wildlife management activities on BLM lands, as well as assist with the collection of and sharing of data. Under the Sikes Act, the Bureau contributed to development of the McCain Valley Wildlife Management Area and Management Plan. BLM law enforcement patrols and enforces game violations on BLM lands.

In addition to the goals and objectives, and management actions presented in this section, the Lands and Realty, Livestock Grazing, and Vegetation Resources Management sections also contain goals and objectives and management actions that provide additional wildlife habitat conservation measures.

2.3.6.1 Planning Areawide

2.3.6.1.1 Goals and Objectives

- Promote and maintain healthy key habitats (i.e., riparian areas, desert washes, oak woodlands, abandoned mines) and associated wildlife assemblages.
- Promote wildlife resources that would meet conservation, socio-economic (e.g., hunting, watchable wildlife), and tribal needs.
- Provide well-distributed habitat and connectivity corridors capable of supporting self-sustaining populations of interacting groups of priority species for biodiversity and genetic viability.
- Provide suitable habitat capable of maintaining stable or increasing trends in abundance to help keep species from becoming federally listed.
- Ensure that livestock waters provide safe, usable water for wildlife.
- Maintain natural and man-made wildlife waters for ecological integrity and to promote biological diversity.

- Reduce human-caused disturbance to habitats that result in animal mortalities or undesirable effects to populations of priority species during critical times, such as breeding or drought.
- Maintain or restore appropriate amount, distribution, and characteristics of life-stage habitats for general wildlife species. Populations of non-native plants should be reduced or eradicated in areas where their presence threatens the integrity of general wildlife populations.

2.3.6.1.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Restore native species habitat distribution and occurrence (especially for priority species), conserve biological diversity, maintain genetic integrity and exchange, and improve availability of suitable habitats and habitat linkages. Initiate restoration activities in priority habitats, such as invasive weed removal or native seeding, to move toward desired habitat conditions and provide functional landscapes to sustain the fish and wildlife species-populations. Wildlife habitat improvement projects for the Planning Area would be implemented in coordination with CDFG and/or USFWS, as necessary.
- Authorize reintroductions, transplants, and supplemental stockings (augmentations) of native wildlife populations (as defined in BLM Manual 1745) in current or historic ranges in cooperation with CDFG and/or the USFWS to: 1) maintain populations, distributions, and genetic diversity, 2) conserve or recover threatened or endangered species, 3) restore or enhance native wildlife diversity and distribution; and 4) maintain isolated populations.
- Manage invasive and pest species or species identified as pests in accordance with applicable BLM or CDFG management policies depending on administrative area.
- Prohibit livestock grazing when native wildlife forage (defined as food sources for animals, especially when taken by browsing or grazing) or water sources would be adversely affected.
- Design and implement vegetation, fire and fuels, and watershed resource management-related projects that would promote enhancement of existing habitat conditions or restoration of degraded habitat conditions for native wildlife species. Vegetation and fuels management for wildlife habitat improvement should consider the following habitat conditions or features: (1) amount, quality, and distribution of suitable habitats; (2) juxtaposition and connectivity to other habitat areas; (3) influence of roads-related degradation; and (4) ecosystem disturbance processes that develop and modify habitats.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- Pursue land acquisition options (i.e., purchase, exchange, donation, and easement) to consolidate important wildlife habitats.

2.3.6.1.3 Management Actions by Alternative

The following management actions presented in Table 2-3 vary by alternative.

**TABLE 2-3
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BY ALTERNATIVE**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D	E
Continue management under Management Framework Plan (MFP) and Interim Measures such as prohibiting removal of trees and snags used as raptor perches, prohibiting new intensive development in oak groves, and protecting riparian habitat.	X				
Protect the habitat of sensitive wildlife species throughout the Planning Area (BLM sensitive).	X				
Maintain current wildlife waters through cooperation with CDFG and volunteer contributions.	X				
Maintain current wildlife waters through CDFG and volunteer contributions. Consider construction of new wildlife waters on a case-by-case basis, in coordination with CDFG.		X		X	X
Maintain current wildlife waters through CDFG and volunteer contributions. No construction of new wildlife waters.			X		
Provide 15 animal unit months (AUMs) for mule deer at their present population of about 100 deer over 38 square miles in the McCain Valley area.	X				
Conduct prescribed burns to benefit wildlife habitat		X	X	X	X

Note: See Lands and Realty, Vegetation Resources, and Livestock Grazing sections for additional habitat conservation actions that would affect wildlife resources.

2.3.6.2 Priority Wildlife Species

Proposed priority species for the Planning Area include raptors, non-game migratory birds, bats, and game animals.

2.3.6.2.1 Raptors

Goals and Objectives

- Maintain, restore, or enhance nesting and foraging habitat for raptors.
- Provide for safe passage for migrating raptors.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Provide natural or man-made nesting or perching structures in suitable areas to enhance foraging and breeding habitat for raptors as the need arises.
- Require all new structures to be raptor-safe in accordance with the Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006 (the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006) or the current version of this document.
- Apply the Wind Energy EIS (DOI BLM 2005) best management practices.

2.3.6.2.2 Non-game Migratory Birds

Goals and Objectives

- Maintain, restore, or enhance nesting, foraging, and migratory stopover habitat consistent with non-game migratory birds' habitat management objectives, emphasizing the natural biological diversity.
- Provide for safe passage for non-game migratory birds.
- Minimize habitat fragmentation and provide for migratory corridors.
- Promote socio-economic and recreational values of birds, such as eco-tourism.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Prevent or abate the pollution or detrimental alteration of the environment for the benefit of migratory birds, as practicable, through the application of mitigation measures on authorized activities.
- Management actions would be guided by recommendations of comprehensive migratory bird planning efforts such as Partners-in-Flight (oak woodlands bird conservation plan, riparian bird conservation plan, and coastal scrub and chaparral plan) and other plans as available.
- Require all new structures to be bird-safe in accordance with the Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2006 (Avian Power Line Interaction Committee 2006) or the current version of this document.
- Apply the Wind Energy EIS (DOI BLM 2005) best management practices.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- Provide recreational opportunities for bird watching and photography.
- Monitor new energy development including power lines and wind turbines or other structures to better understand risks to non-game migratory birds.
- Require a non-game migratory bird inventory for new utility or energy projects.
- Conduct control measures for brown-headed cowbird and European starling in riparian habitats and oak woodlands, as necessary and feasible.

2.3.6.2.3 Bats

Goals and Objectives

- Maintain, enhance and protect bat roost sites and foraging habitat while providing for public safety.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Install bat gates or cable nets at abandoned mine sites that could support bat roosts.
- Reclaim mines to promote bat habitat, as practicable.
- Apply the Wind Energy EIS (DOI BLM 2005) BMPs.
- Require bat inventory for new wind energy projects.

2.3.6.2.4 Game Animals (Birds and Mammals)

Resident small game animals are those defined in the California Code and Regulations Section 257, Title 14: resident game birds-Chinese spotted doves, ringed turtledoves of the family Columbidae, California quail and varieties thereof, gambel or desert quail, mountain quail and varieties thereof, blue grouse and varieties thereof, ruffed grouse, sage grouse (sage hens), white-tailed ptarmigan, Hungarian partridges, red-legged partridges, including the chukar and other varieties, ring-necked pheasants and varieties, and wild turkeys of the order Galliformes; and the following game mammals: jackrabbits and varying hares (genus *Lepus*), cottontail rabbits, brush rabbits, pygmy rabbits (genus *Sylvilagus*), and tree squirrels (genus *Sciurus* and *Tamiasciurus*).

Resident big game animals are those defined in the California Code and Regulations Section 350, Title 14: deer (genus *Odocoileus*), elk (genus *Cervus*), pronghorn antelope (genus *Antilocarpa*), wild pig (feral pigs, European wild pigs and their hybrids [genus *Sus*]), black bear (genus *Ursus*) and Nelson bighorn sheep (subspecies *Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) in the areas described in the Fish and Game Code subsection 4902(b).

Goals and Objectives

- Maintain, enhance and protect habitat for native game animal populations.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Prohibit livestock grazing when native wildlife forage (defined as food sources for animals, especially when taken by browsing or grazing) or water sources would be adversely affected.
- Maintain, restore, or enhance wildlife waters for native game animal populations. Water developments would include design features to ensure safety and accessibility to water by desirable wildlife. Where practical, water troughs and tanks would be kept full year-round to provide a continuous water supply for native game animals. Provide reasonable administrative use-related vehicular access by CDFG personnel to game animal water facilities for operation and maintenance activities, which could include cross-country travel along a pre-approved route. Enhancement projects would not be undertaken for non-native birds and mammals.

Management Actions by Alternative

- Construction of new wildlife waters would be authorized on a case-by-case basis under Alternatives B, D, and E (see Table 2-3). In Alternative C, there would be no construction of new wildlife waters.

2.3.7 Special Status Species Management

Special status species (SSS) are fish, wildlife, and plants that require specific conservation measures or management directions due to population or habitat concerns. Special management measures within BLM-administered lands are necessary to reduce or eliminate potential adverse impacts to species or habitats, particularly measures to

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

reduce the likelihood of take of a listed species under the ESA. Special status species fall under the following broad categories: (1) Federally Listed Species: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate Species (and Designated or Proposed Critical Habitat); (2) State Listed Species; and (3) BLM Sensitive Species. No Federal Candidate Species or Federal Proposed Species have been identified in the planning area.

The BLM shall carry out management for the conservation of state listed plants and animals. State laws protecting these species apply to all BLM programs and actions to the extent that they are consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and other federal laws.

The protection provided by the BLM's policy for candidate species (Manual 6840) is the minimum level of protection for BLM sensitive species.

Land use plan decisions would be consistent with BLM's mandate to protect and recover species listed under the ESA and would be consistent with objectives and recommended actions in approved recovery plans.

In addition to the ESA, the following laws, regulations, and policies direct the management of special status species on BLM-administered public lands:

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended
- Bald Eagle Protection of 1940, as amended 1962
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958
- California Native Plant Protection Act of 1977
- California ESA of 1984
- EO 13186—Conservation of Migratory Birds
- DOI Manual 520—Riparian Habitat
- BLM Manual 6500—Wildlife, Fish, and Plant Resources
- BLM Manual 6840—SSS

- BLM Manual 1737—Riparian
- Approved Recovery Plans for federally listed species

2.3.7.1 Planning Areawide

2.3.7.1.1 Goals and Objectives

- Maintain, enhance, and restore terrestrial and riparian habitats for the survival and recovery of species listed under the ESA and to prevent proposed or candidate species from becoming listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA. Perform management actions that contribute to recovery and delisting of species listed under the ESA.
- Avoid or minimize activities that would result in the following situations for special status species and associated habitat on BLM-administered public lands: (1) species becoming endangered or extirpated from public lands in the Planning Area; (2) species undergoing significant current or predicted downward trend in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution; and (3) species undergoing significant current or predicted downward trend in population or density.
- Provide habitat capable of maintaining stable or increasing population trends of special status species to ensure persistence. Provide suitable ecological conditions that constitute well-distributed habitats and connective corridors to support reproductive needs and free-flow movements of special status species for population persistence.
- Minimize or avoid human-caused habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation to protect special status species. Habitat modifications from land and resource uses would be at levels that do not threaten the persistence of threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species populations.
- Achieve stable or increasing populations of special status plant species over time with adequate pollination, nurse plants, recruitment, and survivorship. Maintain desired habitat conditions or restore degraded habitats to promote pollinator success and survival.

2.3.7.1.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Implement species- or habitat-specific goals, objectives, and actions, as applicable, addressed in the approved recovery plans.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- No activities or projects would be permitted on BLM-administered lands that would jeopardize the continued existence of federally-listed plant and wildlife species, or species proposed for listing.
- Authorize reintroductions, transplants, and supplemental stockings (augmentations) of special status species populations (as defined in BLM Manual 1745) in current or historic ranges in cooperation with CDFG and/or the USFWS.
- Maintain or restore appropriate amount, distribution, and characteristics of life-stage habitats for special status plant species. Populations of non-native plants should be reduced or eradicated in occupied and potential special status plant habitat.

2.3.7.1.3 Management Actions by Alternative

Table 2-4 presents the management actions that vary by alternative.

2.3.7.2 Federally Listed Species and Designated Critical Habitat

The ESA of 1973 calls for preparation of recovery plans for threatened and endangered species likely to benefit from the effort, and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to appoint recovery teams to prepare the plans. The USFWS is the responsible agency for writing and overseeing the recovery plan. A recovery plan establishes recovery goals and objectives, describe site-specific management actions recommended to achieve those goals, and estimate the time and cost required for recovery. A recovery plan is not self-implementing, but presents a set of recommendations for managers and the general public, which are endorsed by an approving official of the Department of Interior. Recovery plans also serve as a source of information on the overall biology, status, and threats of a species. The BLM is using these recovery plans for listed species to address threats and propose conservation measures within the DRMP.

USFWS has provided a list of ten federally listed species known to occur or with the potential to occur within the Planning Area: Peninsular bighorn sheep, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, arroyo toad, quino checkerspot butterfly, Laguna Mountains skipper, unarmored threespine stickleback, Mexican flannelbush, Nevin's barberry, and San Bernardino blue grass (see Table 3-4). Only the six species that are

**TABLE 2-4
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES BY ALTERNATIVE**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D	E
Protect sensitive plant species in the Julian and Oriflamme areas by prohibiting the use of herbicides when modifying fuel breaks to reduce visual impact. Determine if the opportunity exists to enhance the habitat of sensitive plants in conjunction with fire management.	X				
Protect the habitat of sensitive plants throughout the planning area.	X				
Require surface disturbance activities to avoid or minimize impacts and mitigate for residual impacts to all special status species habitat. Mitigation would be in the form of habitat restoration or acquisition.		X			X
Require surface disturbance activities to avoid adverse impacts to special status species habitat.			X		
Require surface disturbance activities to avoid or minimize impacts and mitigate residual impacts to federally listed species only. Mitigation would be in the form of habitat restoration or acquisition.				X	
Do not allow commercial or personal collection of special status species. Allow research collection by permit only.		X	X	X	X
Follow prescriptions in recovery plans for federally-listed species.		X	X	X	X
Limit motorized use through incorporation of seasonal closure of designated access routes, as appropriate, in sensitive areas, such as critical habitat or recovery areas.		X			X
Critical habitat and recovery areas would be closed to motorized use.			X		
Allow motorized use of access routes within sensitive areas, such as critical habitat and recovery areas.				X	

known or expected to occur on the BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area are discussed below. Unarmored threespine stickleback, Mexican flannelbush, Nevin's barberry, and San Bernardino blue grass are not currently known to occur on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area and there is little to no habitat present to support these species.

2.3.7.2.1 Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (Endangered and State Threatened)

The overall recovery objective for the Peninsular bighorn sheep identified in the Recovery Plan for the Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California (USFWS 2000) is to secure and manage habitat in order to alleviate threats so that population levels will increase to the point that this species may be reclassified to threatened status, and ultimately delisted. BLM would implement applicable recovery objectives consistent with the recovery plan and any future revisions.

Goals and Objectives

- Promote population increase and protect habitat.
- Provide for habitat connectivity between BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area and adjacent federal and state-administered lands.
- Ensure no adverse modification of critical habitat.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Minimize effects resulting from human-caused disturbances.
- Maintain existing water sources.
- Remove tamarisk from the springs and seeps within the Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat, to the extent practicable, using a variety of methods.
- Prohibit domestic sheep and goat grazing within nine miles of Peninsular bighorn sheep-occupied habitat to avoid disease transmission.
- Require the use of local native plants for all restoration and landscaping projects to prevent sickness or death of bighorn sheep from toxic landscape plants.

Management Actions by Alternative

- Under Alternatives B, C, and E, designated critical habitat of Peninsular bighorn sheep would be closed to livestock grazing.
- See Table 2-4 above for discussion about surface-disturbing activities.
- See Table 2-21 for additional protections for this species.

2.3.7.2.2 Least Bell's Vireo (Endangered, State Endangered)

The least Bell's vireo is known to occur within the Carrizo Gorge Wilderness Area and this species does breed within and migrate through the BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area (Wells and Kus 2001).

Goals and Objectives

- Protect and maintain existing populations.
- Ensure that riparian areas are maintained as suitable for least Bell's vireo.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Remove tamarisk from riparian areas outside of the breeding season (April 10–August 31). Refer to the vegetation management section above for discussion of removal method alternatives.
- Authorize cowbird trapping by adjacent land managers or other agencies on a case-by-case basis.

Management Actions by Alternative

See Table 2-4 above for discussion about surface-disturbing activities.

2.3.7.2.3 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Endangered and State Endangered)

The overall recovery objective for the southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) identified in the *Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Final Recovery Plan* (USFWS 2002a) is to attain a population level and an amount and distribution of habitat sufficient to provide for the long-term persistence of several populations throughout the species' range that are able to continue to reproduce and disperse, even in the face of local losses (e.g., extirpation). BLM would implement applicable recovery objectives consistent with the recovery plan and any future revisions.

The Planning Area is within the Coastal California and Basin & Mojave Recovery Units and the San Diego and Salton Management Units (MU), as identified in the recovery plan. Specific river reaches within the Management Unit where recovery efforts should be focused are identified in the recovery plan. Substantial recovery value exists in areas of currently or potentially suitable habitat. Currently, the only known site within the Planning Area that supports a nesting population of this species is the San Felipe Creek area which is also designated critical habitat; however, this portion of San Felipe Creek is not located on any BLM-administered public lands.

Goals and Objectives

- Manage riparian areas for a suite of habitat features that could support the transitory use by this species.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Protect known occupied sites or potential SWFL habitat through acquisition, easements, partnerships, and other means.
- Manage areas adjacent to critical habitat in a way that is compatible with the conservation goals identified in both the recovery plan and the critical habitat designation.
- Avoid, minimize and/or mitigate to the extent possible disturbance in potential habitat during the spring (May 1–June 21) and fall (August 15–October 7) migration seasons.

Management Actions by Alternative

See Table 2-4 above for discussion about surface-disturbing activities.

2.3.7.2.4 Arroyo Toad (Endangered)

The overall recovery objective for the arroyo toad identified in the *Arroyo Southwestern Toad (Bufo microscaphus californicus) Recovery Plan* (USFWS 1999) is to “downlist to threatened status, then delist.”

Critical habitat has been designated and does not occur on any BLM-administered public lands within the Planning Area (USFWS 2005). The nearest known location is in Pine Valley, which is eight miles from BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area. The species has not been identified in surveys conducted within the Planning Area to date, and there is little to no habitat present.

Goals and Objectives

- Manage riparian areas for a suite of habitat features that could support use by this species if it were to occur within the Planning Area.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Protect potential arroyo toad habitat through acquisition, easements, partnerships, and other means.

Management Actions by Alternative

See Table 2-4 above for discussion about surface-disturbing activities.

2.3.7.2.5 Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (Endangered)

The overall recovery objective for the quino checkerspot butterfly identified in the *Recovery Plan for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly* (USFWS 2003) is to reclassify the species from *endangered* to *threatened* and to ensure the species long term conservation. A portion of the critical habitat identified occurs within the southern portion of the Planning Area; however, this area overlaps only one small parcel of BLM-administered public land on Round Mountain. An historic 1944 sighting of this species occurs in the Table Mountain area and several sightings have been made in 2006 within the critical habitat area in the Planning Area (State of California 2006). A habitat inventory was done in support of preparation for this plan (Osbourne 2006; DOI BLM 2005d). Data are currently being analyzed and management decisions made according to the results.

Goals and Objectives

- Protect and maintain habitat suitable to support quino checkerspot butterfly within the critical habitat and quino checkerspot butterfly recovery area.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Prevent non-native invasive species infestations following fire events. See the wildfire section for more details.
- Designate BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area as limited or closed to OHV use. Provide appropriate signage to keep OHV and other public access on assigned routes. See the transportation/recreation sections for more details.

Management Actions by Alternative

See Table 2-4 above for discussion about surface-disturbing activities.

2.3.7.2.6 Laguna Mountains Skipper (Endangered)

The Laguna Mountains skipper was historically observed within the Cleveland National Forest in the vicinity of the BLM-administered public lands in the Planning Area. USFWS has proposed critical habitat that includes areas within USFS land in the vicinity of Sunrise Highway. A recovery plan for this species has not yet been prepared. This species is not known from BLM lands, and the BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area are not known to support the larval host plants (*Horkelia clevelandii*) and do not provide the preferred montane meadow habitat.

Goals and Objectives

- Manage areas of suitable habitat for a suite of habitat features that could support future use by this species.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Protect potential habitat through acquisition, easements, partnerships, and other means.
- Maintain management of areas adjacent to critical habitat (once finalized) compatible with the conservation goals of those areas.

Management Actions by Alternative

See Table 2-4 above for discussion about surface-disturbing activities.

2.3.7.3 State-Listed Species

The BLM shall carry out management for the conservation of plants and animals listed by California. State laws protecting these species apply to all BLM programs and actions to the extent that they are consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and other federal laws. BLM has policies that would assist California in achieving their management objectives for state-listed species. It is BLM policy to manage for the conservation of state-listed species and their associated habitats and to ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out do not contribute to the need to list these species as threatened or endangered.

There are six state listed species found within the Planning Area: barefoot gecko, Swainson's hawk, Laguna Mountains aster, SWFL, least Bell's vireo, Peninsular bighorn sheep (see Table 3-4). The latter three are also federally listed species and discussed above.

2.3.7.3.1 Barefoot Gecko (Threatened)

Barefoot gecko was listed as threatened in 1980 (CDFG 2005). Barefoot geckos are rare nocturnal animals that spend the majority of their lives wedged under the cracks of boulders and rocks; thus little is known about the status, range, or abundance of this species. The BLM would adopt and implement, as practicable, any conservation strategies outlined by the CDFG for this species. Overall, the conservation objective is to provide habitat capable of maintaining stable or increasing trends in abundance of barefoot gecko.

Goals and Objectives

- Maintain suitable habitat of sufficient quality and quantity with adequate patch sizes that could support geckos.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Analyze impacts to the barefoot gecko for all projects occurring within occupied barefoot gecko habitat and require that projects mitigate the impacts accordingly.

Management Actions by Alternative

See Table 2-4 above for discussion about surface-disturbing activities.

2.3.7.3.2 Swainson's Hawk (Threatened)

Swainson's hawk was listed as threatened in 1983 (CDFG 2005). This species generally breeds in the Central Valley of California and winters in Mexico. This species primarily occurs within the Planning Area as migrants during the fall and spring.

Goals and Objectives

- Maintain migratory corridors and stopover habitat of sufficient quality and quantity to facilitate use by Swainson's hawks.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Analyze project impacts to this species and require that projects mitigate the impacts accordingly.

Management Actions by Alternative

See Table 2-4 above for discussion about surface-disturbing activities.

2.3.7.3.3 Laguna Mountains Aster (State Rare; *Machaeranthera asteroides* var. *lagunensis*)

The Laguna Mountains aster was listed as state rare in 1979. The overall recovery objective for the Laguna Mountains aster is to protect sufficient habitat in the planning area in order to preserve lands capable of supporting populations of this plant. BLM

would implement applicable recovery objectives consistent with an applicable California State recovery plan or strategy and any future revisions of that plan or strategy.

Goals and Objectives

- Protect known populations of the species.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Prohibit personal or commercial collection of the species (except for Native American collection).
- Require permits for research collection.

Management Actions by Alternative

See Table 2-4 above for discussion about surface-disturbing activities.

2.3.7.4 BLM Sensitive Species

BLM sensitive plant species identified in the Planning Area are: Jacumba milk-vetch (*Astragalus douglasii* var. *perstrictus*), delicate clarkia (*Clarkia delicata*), Tecate tarplant (*Deinandra floribunda*), Laguna Mountains alumroot (*Heuchera brevistaminea*), San Diego sunflower (*Hulsea californica*), mountain springs bush lupine (*Lupinus excubitus*), southern jewelflower (*Streptanthus campestris*), and Parry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*). BLM sensitive wildlife species identified within the Planning Area area are gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*), small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*), and Townsends's western big-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii*) (see Table 3-4). In addition, per policy detailed in CA BLM Manual Supplement 6840.06, all California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B plant species that occur on BLM lands are considered to be BLM sensitive species and are included in Table 3-3.

2.3.7.4.1 Goals and Objectives

- Protect habitats of sensitive plant and wildlife species on BLM-administered lands in order to keep the species from becoming listed under the ESA.

2.3.7.4.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Allow collection of seeds of native plants to be used in rehabilitation and restoration activities. Seeds must be collected in accordance with seed zones or breeding zones for native plants.

2.3.8 Wildland Fire Management

BLM coordinates with other agencies to manage fire in accordance with the nationwide BLM fire policy and the National Fire Plan. This integrates fire and fuels management with other land and resource management activities to benefit natural resources and implement multiple-use on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area.

There is a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between CDF and BLM which provides the framework for Direct Response Operating Plan. The Operating Plan ensures that fires in a particular habitat and the response to fires in that habitat are consistent across BLM, USFS, and CDF-protected lands. The Palm Springs–South Coast–El Centro Fire Management Zone has a signed Operating Plan with CDF San Diego Unit, Cleveland National Forest, and BLM. The Plan covers the South Coast and El Centro areas that receive Fire Suppression and Fire Investigation services from CDF. The CDF has a statutory responsibility to suppress all fires on lands they protect and have a financial interest in keeping the fires as small and inexpensive as possible. BLM has the responsibility to provide a Fire Agency Representative, Fire Prevention, Law Enforcement, and Resource Management on these lands. BLM works to minimize impacts to resources from suppression activities and reduce rehabilitation costs from fire damage. Wilderness Areas (WAs), Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are identified by BLM as special management units requiring additional consideration to protect the resources on these lands. Eastern San Diego County is dominated by semi-desert chaparral. This vegetation community is considered to be fire adapted and must be managed accordingly. The invasion of non-native species and unnatural fire regimes has increased the risk of high intensity catastrophic fires with rapid rates of spread.

2.3.8.1 Goals and Objectives

- Protect human life (both firefighters and public) and communities, property, and the natural resources on which they depend. Firefighter and public safety are the highest priority in all fire management activities.

- Reduce hazardous fuels around communities at risk within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) using mechanical, manual, biological, and prescribed fire treatments, where applicable.
- Appropriate management response (AMR) for resource benefits would range from full suppression to the appropriate strategy to safely contain and control wildland fires in the Planning Area.
- Maintain natural biological processes through the use of fire as a natural disturbance.

2.3.8.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Implement fuels reduction programs where needed, with wildland fuels decreased and maintained at a manageable level, creating conditions conducive to safe, efficient, and effective firefighting. Fire and fuels management treatments may include fire suppression, prescribed fire, and non-fire treatments (manual, chemical, mechanical, or biological treatments).
- Identify, prioritize, and plan fuels reduction projects using a uniform system for determining wildland fire risk in WUI (e.g., Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy).
- Use prescribed fire to protect values-at-risk (life and property) and to maintain or enhance the ecosystem health.
- Identify AMR-related goals, objectives, and constraints for each fire management unit.
- Identify areas where prescribed fire use is appropriate to maintain or restore desirable plant communities. Prescribed fire activities would comply with federal and state standards for smoke and air quality management.
- Identify, prioritize, and implement an estimated annual average of 1,000 acres per year of fuel management over the life of the plan. Fuel treatments to reduce wildland fire risk would focus on areas in which altered fire regimes and fire return intervals have resulted in increased risk to natural resources and those WUI areas and shrublands characterized as Fire Regime Condition Class II and III.
- Identify and implement post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation actions in burned areas to restore a functional landscape to meet the natural resource management objectives.
- Include wildfire hazard mitigation strategies in the Fire Management Plan for the Planning Area by identifying appropriate areas for fire use (prescribed and/or

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- wildland) and mechanical, biological, or chemical treatments to reduce hazardous fuels to minimize the adverse effects of uncharacteristic wildland fires and meet resource objectives. The plan would also identify areas for exclusion from fire (through fire suppression), chemical, mechanical, and/or biological treatments.
- In Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas, when wildland fire suppression is required, minimum impact suppression tactics identified in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations would be applied.
 - Conduct fire management activities along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (NST) in a manner that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts to existing resources and values identified in the legislative designation of the trails. For ACECs, the desired conditions and management prescriptions would be considered in implementing fire management activities (see ACEC section of this chapter).
 - Wildland fire suppression activities would utilize methods with lesser ground disturbance to minimize potential adverse impacts on special status species, critical habitat, desired plant communities, and cultural resources.
 - When feasible, use of fire suppression techniques that minimize ground-disturbing impacts is desirable, however, reduction of total acreage lost to fire, especially in critical habitat, through the use of mobile attack with engines, fireline construction with bulldozers, aerial fire retardant, or other necessary techniques is appropriate and requested.
 - Currently under the Operating Plan, use of mechanized equipment is allowable in Special Designations (e.g., WAs, WSAs, ACECs) subject to the following: 1) dozer use in WAs and WSAs require the approval of the BLM State Director, and 2) dozer use in ACECs is subject to approval by the BLM Field Manager.
 - Use of fire retardants or chemicals adjacent to waterways would be in accordance with the *Environmental Guidelines for Delivery of Retardant or Foam near Waterways* (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations).
 - Fuels treatment would be conducted around campgrounds, administrative sites, and other areas of public interest, providing for public safety and reducing the risk of improvement loss.
 - The entire Planning Area would be identified as non-wildland fire use land. This is based on the desired future condition of vegetation communities, ecological conditions, and ecological risks. The identification of lands where wildland fire use is not appropriate is determined by contrasting current and historical conditions and ecological risks associated with any changes. The condition class concept helps describe alterations in key ecosystem components such as species composition,

structural stage, stand age, canopy closure, and fuel loadings. Non-wildland fire use land areas are those where mitigation and suppression are required to prevent direct threats to life or property. It includes areas where fire historically never played a large role historically in the development and maintenance of the ecosystem and some areas where fire return intervals were very long. It also includes areas (including some WUI areas) where an unplanned ignition could have negative effects to life and property, unless some form of mitigation takes place. Mitigation may include mechanical, biological, chemical, or prescribed fire means to maintain non-hazardous levels of fuels, reduce the hazardous effects of unplanned wildland fires, and meet resource objectives.

2.3.9 Cultural Resource Management

The management of cultural resources on BLM land must be in compliance with several federal laws, including the Antiquities Act of 1906; the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; the NEPA of 1969; EO 11593 "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978; the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979; the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990; EO 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites"; and EO 13287, "Preserve America." In addition, the BLM manages its cultural resources according to BLM Manual 8100 through 8170, and in accordance with the statewide protocol with the California SHPO and other guidelines from the SHPO. Locations of cultural resource sites are to be kept confidential with the exception of public use sites.

2.3.9.1 Cultural Use Allocation

BLM evaluates cultural resources according to their current and potential uses (the BLM Manual Section 8110 for Cultural Resources). Cultural resources are allocated to one or more of the following use categories: Scientific Use, Public Use, Traditional Use, Conservation for Future Use, Experimental Use, and Discharged from Management. A site may be allocated to more than one use category.

Table 2-5 depicts typical use allocations for the various types of cultural resources found within the Planning Area. Scientific use is defined as resources preserved until research potential is realized; conservation for future use is defined as resources preserved until conditions for use are met; traditional use is defined as resources designated for long-term preservation; public use is defined as resources designated for long-term preservation and on-site interpretation; experimental use is defined as resources that will

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

be protected until used; and discharged from management is defined as resources with no use after recordation and not to be preserved. No properties are allocated to the discharge from management category at this time. Uses of particular sites will vary based on site access, physical setting, site complexity, and so on.

**TABLE 2-5
USE ALLOCATIONS FOR CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

Cultural Site Attributes	Scientific Use	Public Use	Traditional Use	Conservation for Future Use	Experimental Use
Rock art		X	X		
Human Remains			X		
Bedrock milling with or without artifacts	X	X			
Hearth with or without artifacts	X				
House pit/Rock Shelter	X				
Cleared Circle/Rock Ring	X				
Cairn / Rock Alignment	X				
Historic	X	X			
All other cultural properties, both known and projected, to occur throughout the plan area (See Section 3.9 and Appendix G for complete list and breakdown of site attributes)	X				

2.3.9.2 Goals and Objectives

- Ensure that significant cultural resource sites, districts, and landscapes are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.
- Enhance public understanding of and appreciation for cultural resources through educational outreach and heritage tourism opportunities.
- Reduce or eliminate indirect impacts from land uses on cultural resources.
- Maintain viewsheds of important cultural resources whose settings contribute significantly to their scientific, public, traditional, or conservation values.
- Provide and encourage research opportunities on cultural resources that would contribute to the understanding of the ways humans have used and influenced natural systems and processes.

- Manage the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail for educational, recreational and scientific values.
- Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.
- Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses.
- Identify priority geographic areas for new field inventory, based upon a probability for unrecorded significant resources (per IB 2002-101).

2.3.9.3 Management Actions and Land Use Plan Decisions

Alternative A—No Action

At the time the existing MFP was approved, cultural resources were not allocated to the use categories that are currently in use and pursuant to statewide protocol; thus, under the No-action Alternative, BLM would continue to manage cultural resources in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. A total of 421 cultural resource sites were identified within the Planning Area in 1981, including a large variety of prehistoric and historic resources. At that time, approximately 4 percent of the known prehistoric sites were in excellent condition, 81 percent were in good condition, 14 percent were in poor condition, and 1 percent was destroyed.

Alternatives B-E

The management actions on Table 2-6 apply to cultural resources in the Planning Area under Alternatives B, C, D, and E.

Any proposed activities must comply with Section 106 of NHPA in accordance with the statewide protocol of the SHPO.

**TABLE 2-6
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES ON BLM-ADMINISTERED LANDS**

Management Actions	Scientific Use	Public Use	Traditional Use	Conservation for Future Use	Experimental Use	Discharge from Management
Implement protection measures to stop, limit, or repair damage to sites. A variety of protection measures, described in BLM Manual 8140, may be used to protect the integrity of sites at risk such as signing, fencing or barriers, trash removal, target shooting closures, erosion control, backfilling, repairing, shoring up, or stabilizing structures, restricting uses and access, and closures. Structural and material stabilization techniques may use chemical, mechanical, or structural elements to retard deterioration to cultural resources.	X	X	X	X	X	
Design and maintain facilities to preserve the visual integrity of cultural resources, settings, and cultural landscapes consistent with VRM objectives established in the DRMP.		X			X	
Where feasible, acquire properties adjacent to public lands that contain significant cultural resources including, but not limited to, those properties eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.	X	X	X	X	X	
Permit and encourage scientific and historical studies by qualified researchers at selected sites allocated to scientific use. Such studies would use currently available research methods, including methods that would result in the properties' alteration or destruction. Assign the highest priority for study to sites that are threatened with damage from human activities or natural processes, areas of scientific interest, sites eligible for the NRHP, and areas where research may inform management actions. Historic contexts and research designs would provide guidance for scientific studies.	X				X	
Promote the use of appropriate cultural resource sites for heritage tourism and economic benefit and cooperate with tribes, other agencies, and organizations on heritage tourism projects that benefit local economies.		X				
Manage spiritually significant and traditional cultural properties in consultation with Indian tribes, accommodate tribal access to spiritually significant and traditional cultural properties, and prevent physical damage or intrusions that might impede their use by religious practitioners. The locations of spiritually significant and traditional cultural properties and other places of traditional or religious importance to Indian tribes would be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law.			X	X		
Coordinate with Native Americans to manage harvesting areas for the collection of medicinal herbs, ceremonial herbs, other vegetation, and/or minerals for traditional or ceremonial use. See the Vegetation Use Authorization Section for more information.			X	X		
Continue to inventory the planning area for cultural resources as mandated by Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.	X	X	X	X	X	X

2.3.10 Paleontological Resource Management

Paleontological resources found on public lands are recognized by BLM as constituting a fragile and nonrenewable scientific record of the history of life on earth. They therefore represent an important component of America's natural heritage.

BLM manages paleontological resources principally under the following authorities: BLM Manual 8270, *Paleontological Resources Management*; BLM Handbook 8270-1, *General Procedural Guidance for Paleontological Resources Management*; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Secretarial Order 3104, the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988, and other various laws and regulations.

All lands within the Planning Area are classified as follows, based on their potential to contain vertebrate fossils or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils. These classifications are based on existing maps (see Paleontological Resources Discussion in Chapter 3).

Class 1 (low sensitivity). Igneous and metamorphic geologic units and sedimentary geologic units where vertebrate fossils or uncommon non-vertebrate fossils are unlikely to occur.

Class 2 (moderate sensitivity). Sedimentary geologic units that are known to contain or have unknown potential to contain fossils that vary in significance, abundance, and predictable occurrence.

Class 3 (moderate sensitivity). Areas where geologic units are known to contain fossils, but have little or no risk of human-caused adverse impacts and/or low risk of natural degradation, or because of their geographic location or topographic position.

Class 4 (high sensitivity). Areas where geologic units regularly and predictably contain vertebrate fossils and/or uncommon non-vertebrate fossils, and are at risk of natural degradation and/or human-caused adverse impacts.

As shown in Figure 3-10, Classes 1 through 3 occur in the Planning Area, with most of the Class 2 and 3 areas located on state-owned lands.

2.3.10.1 Goals and Objectives

- Protect and conserve significant paleontological resources as they are discovered on public lands.
- Manage paleontological resources in ways that prioritize research needs, facilitate educational and recreational needs, and protect important sites.
- Develop specific objectives and management actions for fossil localities, when paleontological resources are discovered in the Planning Area.

2.3.10.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Evaluate paleontological resources as they are discovered, considering their scientific, educational, and recreational values. Identify appropriate objectives, management actions, and allowable uses for fossil localities as they are found.
- Restrict the collection of all vertebrate fossils and noteworthy invertebrate and plant fossils to legitimate scientific or educational uses in accordance with permitting procedures.
- Allow recreational collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils.
- Should paleontological resources be encountered during project ground-disturbing activities, work would cease in the area of the discovery, and the BLM will be notified immediately. Work may not resume until written authorization to proceed is issued by BLM.

In Class 3 areas, a field survey by a qualified paleontologist may be required. Management prescriptions for resource preservation and conservation through controlled access or special management designation would be considered. Surface-disturbing activities may require assessment in Class 2 areas to determine further courses of action. Assessment or mitigation in Class 1 areas would not be required except in very rare circumstances.

2.3.11 Visual Resource Management

BLM prepares and maintains on a continuing basis, an inventory of visual values on all public lands in accordance with the Visual Resource Management (VRM) system (DOI BLM 1984.) The VRM system provides a way to identify, evaluate, and determine the

appropriate levels of management of scenic values. The inventory of visual values has been documented for the BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area and is described in Chapter 3 and illustrated on Figure 3-11. The inventory serves as the basis for the designation of VRM management Classes I-IV, which take into account other resource uses on public lands within the Planning Area. The VRM classes are best defined by their goals and objectives, which are described below. The overall goal of VRM analysis is to minimize visual impacts through development of mitigating measures.

The following criteria were used to determine the proposed VRM Class designations for the various DRMP alternatives:

- The overall management emphasis intended for each alternative;
- Recognition of all applicable special designations and all land use decisions;
- Assertion that other management activities and land uses proposed may be achieved within the applicable VRM Class; and
- Use of the least restrictive class that still achieves stated goals and objectives.

2.3.11.1 Goals and Objectives

The DRMP alternatives would set landscape classes ranging from Class I to IV, and all future projects and actions would adhere to the following VRM class objectives as appropriate:

- **Class I.** To preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- **Class II.** To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.
- **Class III.** To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.
- **Class IV.** To provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.

2.3.11.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Incorporate design considerations to minimize potential impacts to public lands' visual values into all surface disturbing activities, regardless of size. Emphasis would be on BLM providing input during the initial planning and design phase to minimize costly redesign and mitigation at a later time.
- Evaluate proposed surface-disturbing projects from Key Observation Points (KOPs) for the following factors: distance (between project and KOPs), angle of observation, length of time the proposed project would be in view, relative size or scale, season of use, light conditions, recovery time, spatial relationships, atmospheric conditions, and motion.
- Use visual resource design techniques and best management practices (Summarized in Appendix D which describes the Typical Management Actions and BMPs) to mitigate the potential for short- and long-term visual impacts from other uses and activities.
- Where practicable, in Class I and Class II areas that have existing disturbance areas that are frequently viewed from KOPs, feather the edge lines between disturbed and undisturbed areas to minimize the visual contrast and create a more natural appearance.

VRM class designations vary by alternative, as shown in Table 2-7. A more detailed discussion of the variation in VRM classes by alternative and by specific land areas is included in Chapter 4.

**TABLE 2-7
VRM LAND USE DESIGNATIONS BY ALTERNATIVE**

VRM Class	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
I (acres)	62,296	62,296	62,296	62,296	62,296
II (acres)	40,758	41,237	41,961	13,720	32,875
III (acres)	0	724	0	0	724
IV (acres)	0	0	0	27,038	8,362

2.3.12 Multiple-use Classes (Applies to Alternative A)

The California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (DOI BLM 1980b, as amended) developed a classification system that placed all BLM-administered public lands in the CDCA into one of four multiple-use classes, based on the sensitivity of the resources and types of uses for each geographic area. These multiple-use classes were then adopted by ECFO, as described below. Multiple-use classes apply to Alternative A (No Action). Under Alternatives B-E, Multiple-use Classes would no longer apply.

The classification system used in the CDCA Plan identified four multiple-use classes. At the time this system was adopted by ECFO, it was determined that none of the lands within the planning unit were appropriate for management at an “intensive” level of use; consequently, none of the lands were assigned to Multiple-use Class I (Intensive). The remaining lands of the Planning Area were assigned to the other three classes in the proportions shown in Table 2-8.

**TABLE 2-8
MULTIPLE-USE CLASS DESIGNATIONS**

Class	Acreage	% of Total Planning Area Public Lands
C	41,776	42
L	42,510	43
M	14,616	15
Total	98,902*	100

*Acreage represents total area of Planning Area in 1981.

The Multiple-use Class Guidelines, as delineated in Table 1, pages 15-20 of the CDCA Plan (DOI BLM 1980b), were adopted for use in the Planning Area. Descriptions of the multiple-use classes as applied by ECFO are:

Class C: Multiple-use Class C (Controlled) has two purposes. First, it shows those areas which are being “preliminarily recommended” as suitable for wilderness designation by Congress. This process is fully explained in the Wilderness Element of the CDCA Plan (DOI BLM 1980b). Second, it will be used in the future to show those areas formally designated as wilderness by Congress.

The Class C Guidelines are different from the guidelines for other classes. They summarize the kinds of management likely to be used in these areas when and if they are formally designated wilderness by Congress. These guidelines will be

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

considered in the public process of preparing the final Wilderness Study Reports. However, the final management decisions depend on Congressional direction in the legislation which makes the formal designation.

Class L: Multiple-use Class L (Limited Use) protects sensitive natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resource values. Public lands designated as Class L are managed to provide for generally lower-intensity, carefully controlled multiple use of resources, while ensuring that sensitive values are not significantly diminished.

Class M: Multiple-use Class M (Moderate Use) is based upon a controlled balance between higher intensity use and protection of public lands. This class provides for a wide variety of present and future uses such as mining, livestock grazing, recreation, energy, and utility development. Class M management is also designed to conserve desert resources and to mitigate damage to those resources which permitted uses may cause.

Plan Elements: The CDCA Plan Elements provide more specific application of the multiple-use class guidelines for specific resources or activities about which the public has expressed significant concern. As with the Multiple-use Class Guidelines, the CDCA Plan Elements were adopted by ECFO. Most of the decisions reported in this plan have been arranged into categories or subcategories having names identical to those of the CDCA Plan Elements which provides guidance in the issue(s) central to the decision.

2.3.13 Special Designations

Special Designations in BLM include WAs, WSAs, NSTs, and ACECs (Figures 2-1 through 2-4). Through the planning process, BLM designates ACECs following the criteria outlined in law (FLPMA), regulations (43 CFR 1610.7-2), and policy (Manual 1613).

2.3.13.1 Wilderness Areas

There are 48,333 acres of designated wilderness in the Planning Area (Figures 2-1 through 2-4). WAs are designated by Congress and are managed according to the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136, 78 Stat. 890), the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, regulations for wilderness management at 43 CFR 6300, BLM Manuals 8560 and 8561 and BLM Handbook H-8560-1. This land use plan will not address changing or eliminating existing wilderness area boundaries or allowing motorized vehicles or other use of mechanical transportation in any wilderness area not already authorized. Only Congress can change the boundaries of designated wilderness areas.

2.3.13.1.1 Goals and Objectives

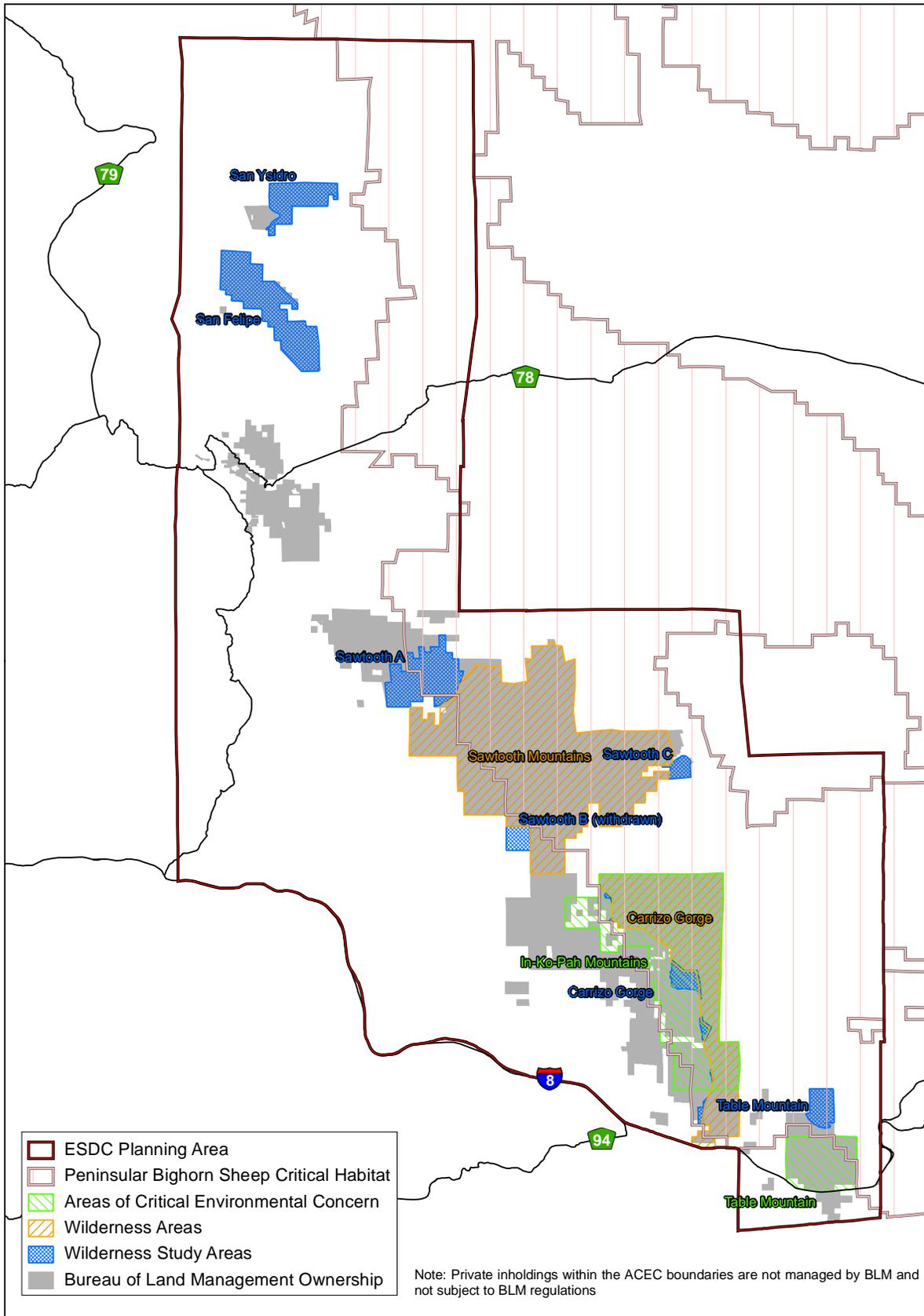
- Provide for the long-term protection and preservation of the area's wilderness character under the principle of non-degradation. The area's naturalness and untrammled condition, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and any ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value would be managed so that they remain unimpaired.
- Meet minimum requirements necessary for the administration of the area for the purpose of the Wilderness Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area).

2.3.13.1.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

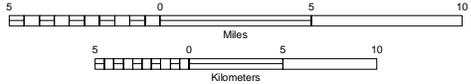
- Continue to provide monitoring, signing, and restoration as necessary.
- Continue to manage WSA under BLM's interim management policy until Congress designates as wilderness or releases from WSA status.

Some relevant management provisions provided for by law or policy for these areas are:

- Withdrawal from mineral entry, mineral leasing, and mineral sales.
- No use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or other form of mechanical transport.
- No structure or installation within these areas.
- Administrative use of vehicles and structures will be the minimum necessary for the administration of these areas.



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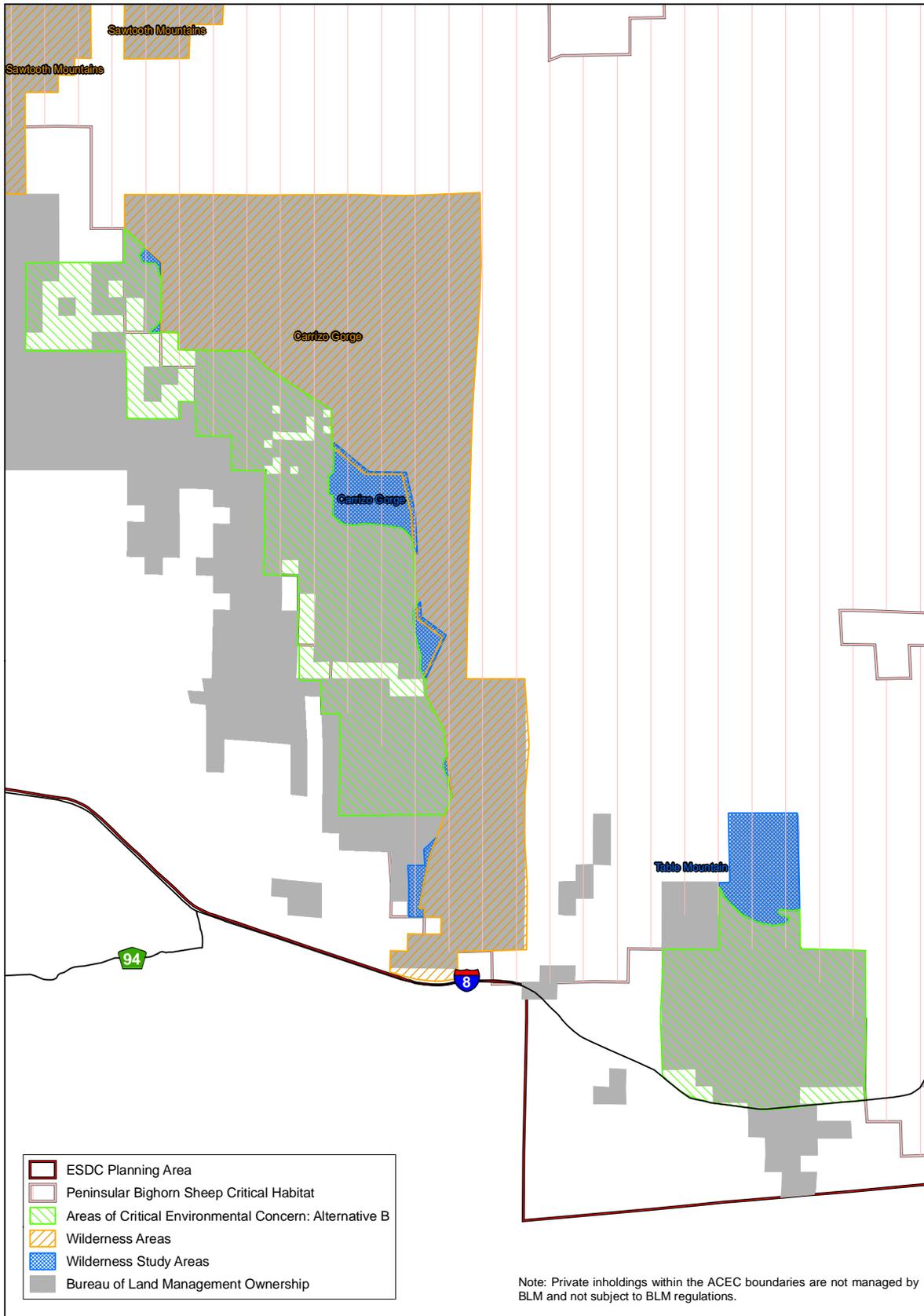


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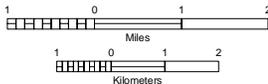


FIGURE 2-1: Special Designations
Alternative A

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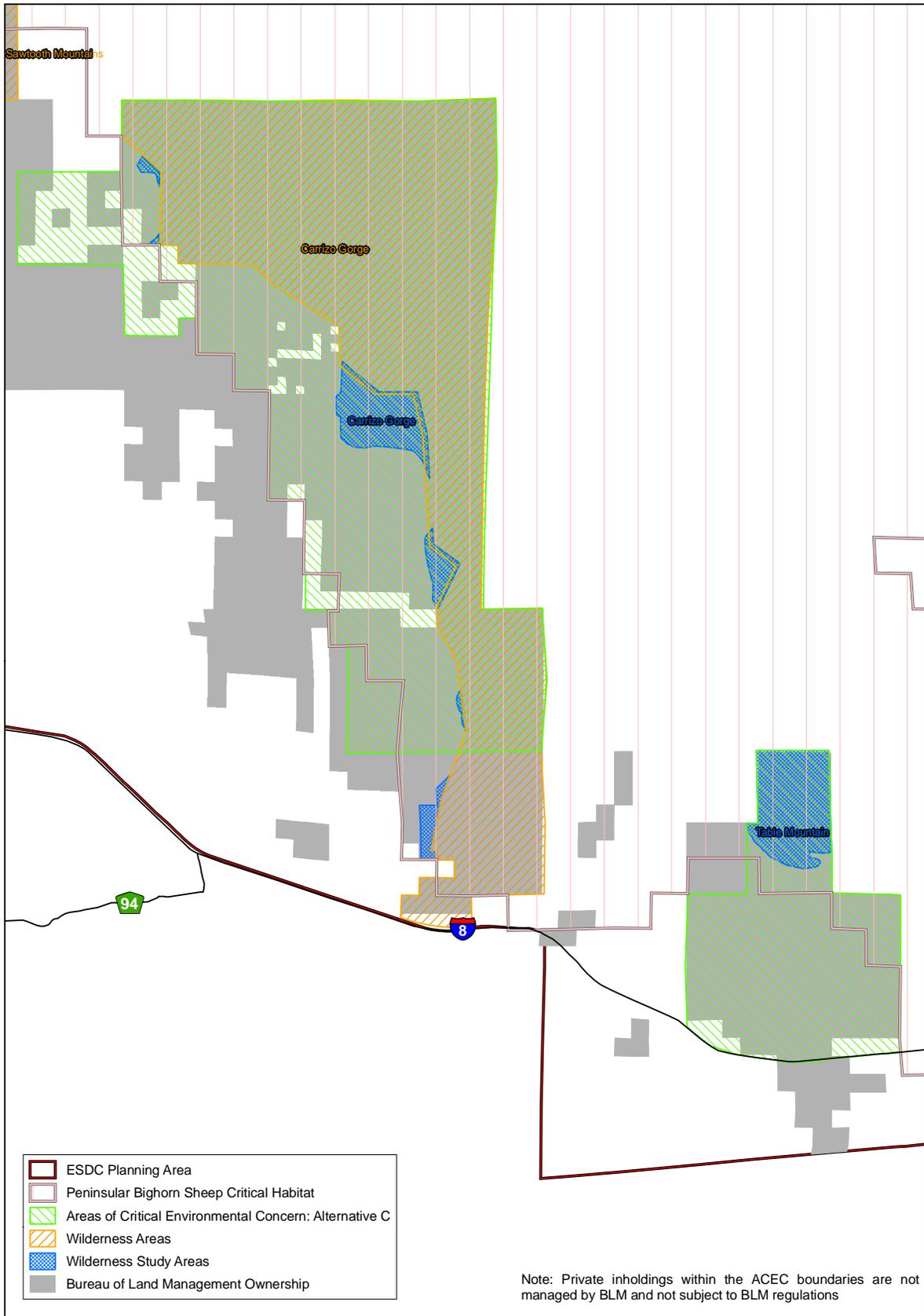


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FIGURE 2-2: Special Designations
Alternative B

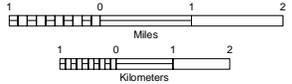
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- ESDC Planning Area
- Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Critical Habitat
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: Alternative C
- Wilderness Areas
- Wilderness Study Areas
- Bureau of Land Management Ownership

Note: Private inholdings within the ACEC boundaries are not managed by BLM and not subject to BLM regulations

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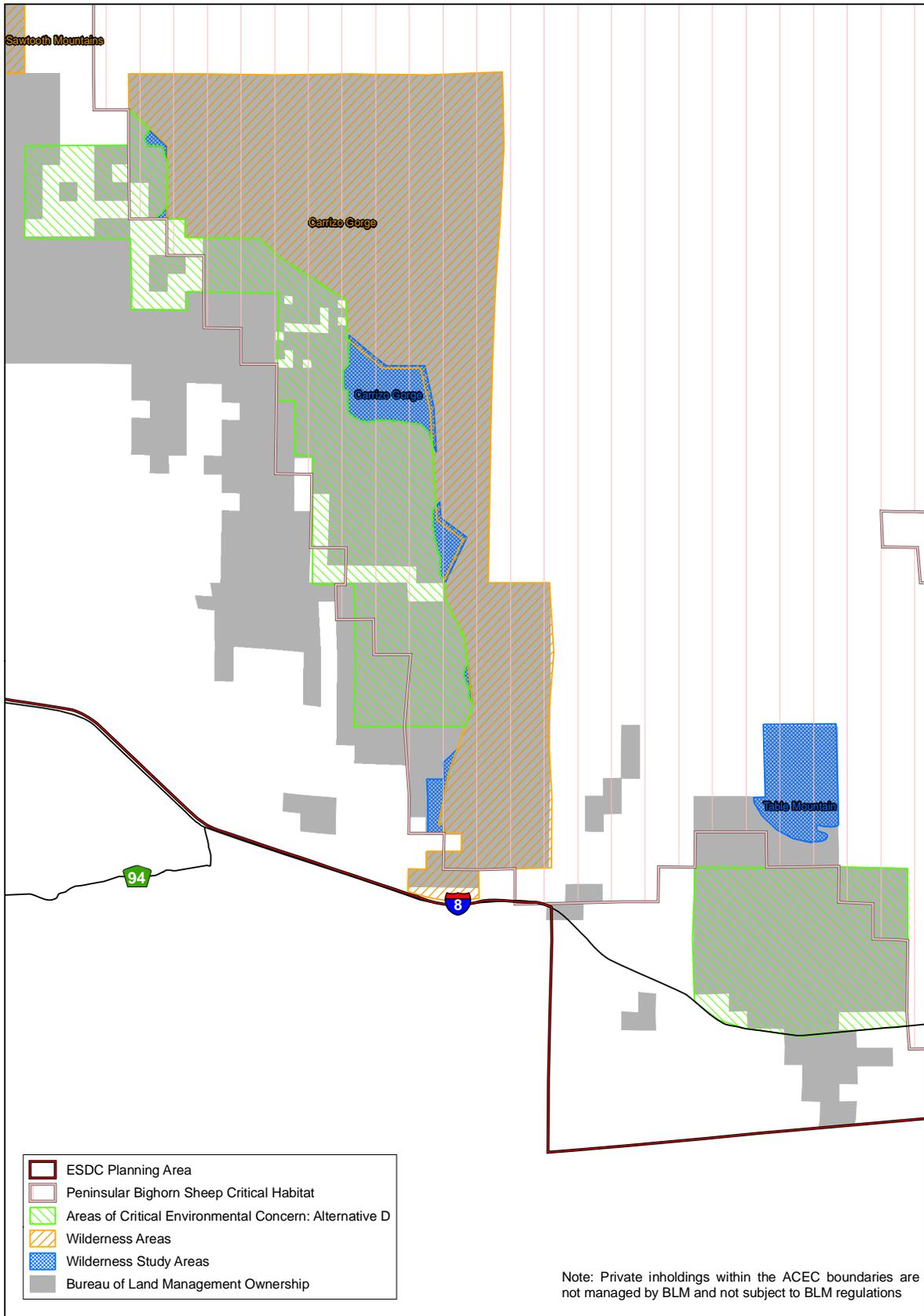


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FIGURE 2-3: Special Designations
Alternative C

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FIGURE 2-4: Special Designations
Alternative D

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Prescribed fire may be used 1) to reintroduce or maintain the natural condition of a fire-dependent ecosystem, 2) to restore fire where past strict fire control measures had interfered with natural ecological processes, 3) where a primary value of a given wilderness will be perpetuated as a result of burning, or 4) where it will perpetuate threatened and endangered species (MS-8560.35).

Table 2-9 provides the management actions by alternatives for special designations.

**TABLE 2-9
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS MANAGEMENT BY
ALTERNATIVE**

Management Actions	A	B	C	D	E
WILDERNESS AREAS AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS					
Install informational kiosks at trailheads but do not improve access.		X	X		
Expand access by improving staging areas and providing informational kiosks at wilderness trailheads				X	X
Acquire in-holdings from willing owners.		X	X		X
Perform restoration treatments where damage has occurred or where it will reduce vehicle incursions.		X	X	X	X
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN					
Manage the Table Mountain and In-Ko-Pah Mountain ACECs for biological and cultural values		X	X	X	X
Acquire in-holdings from willing owners.		X	X	X	X
Perform restoration treatments where damage has occurred or where it will reduce vehicle incursions.		X	X	X	X

2.3.13.2 Wilderness Study Areas

There are seven WSAs, consisting of 13,963 acres, in the Planning Area (see Figures 2-1 through 2-4). WSAs were identified administratively in the wilderness review process mandated in Section 601 of FLPMA. Some relevant laws, regulations, and policies include 43 CFR 3802 (Exploration and Mining), BLM Manual Section 8550, BLM Handbook H-8550-1, 1987/88 Amendments to the Oil and Gas Leasing Act of 1920 and the 1970 Geothermal Steam Act of 1970. This land use plan does not address changing or eliminating existing wilderness study area boundaries.

2.3.13.2.1 Goals and Objectives

- To continue resource uses on lands designated as WSAs in a manner that does not impair the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness.

2.3.13.2.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

Management provisions mandated by law or policy for these areas are:

- Will not be leased for oil and gas or geothermal extraction.
- Use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or other form of mechanical transport will not be allowed off boundary roads or newly constructed trails since 1976 within the WSA.
- Monitor conditions and uses in and around WSAs to identify actions or uses that impair the wilderness values of the Planning Area.
- Continue to provide monitoring, signing, and restoration as necessary.
- Continue to manage WSA under BLM's interim management policy until Congress designates as wilderness or releases from WSA status.

2.3.13.2.3 Management Actions by Alternatives

See Table 2-9 above for management actions that vary by alternative.

2.3.13.3 National Scenic Trail (Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail)

The Pacific Crest NST is a congressionally designated trail for hiking and equestrian use. The trail was designated through the National Trails Systems Act (Public Law 90-43; October 2, 1968) and is managed in accordance with a comprehensive plan developed by the USFS (USDA 1982) and a subsequent MOU with the BLM. Approximately 68 miles of the Pacific Crest NST occur in the Planning Area, 15 miles of which occur on BLM-administered lands within Chariot and Rodriguez Canyons and the San Felipe Hills WSA. Motorized vehicles and mountain bikes are not allowed on the Pacific Crest NST. Figure 3-12 provides the location of the Pacific Crest NST.

2.3.13.3.1 Goals and Objectives

- Continue to provide for the outdoor recreation needs of the public and promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment of the open-air, outdoor, and scenic areas.

2.3.13.3.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Continue to manage the Pacific Crest NST in accordance with the existing management plan and the existing MOU.

2.3.13.4 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

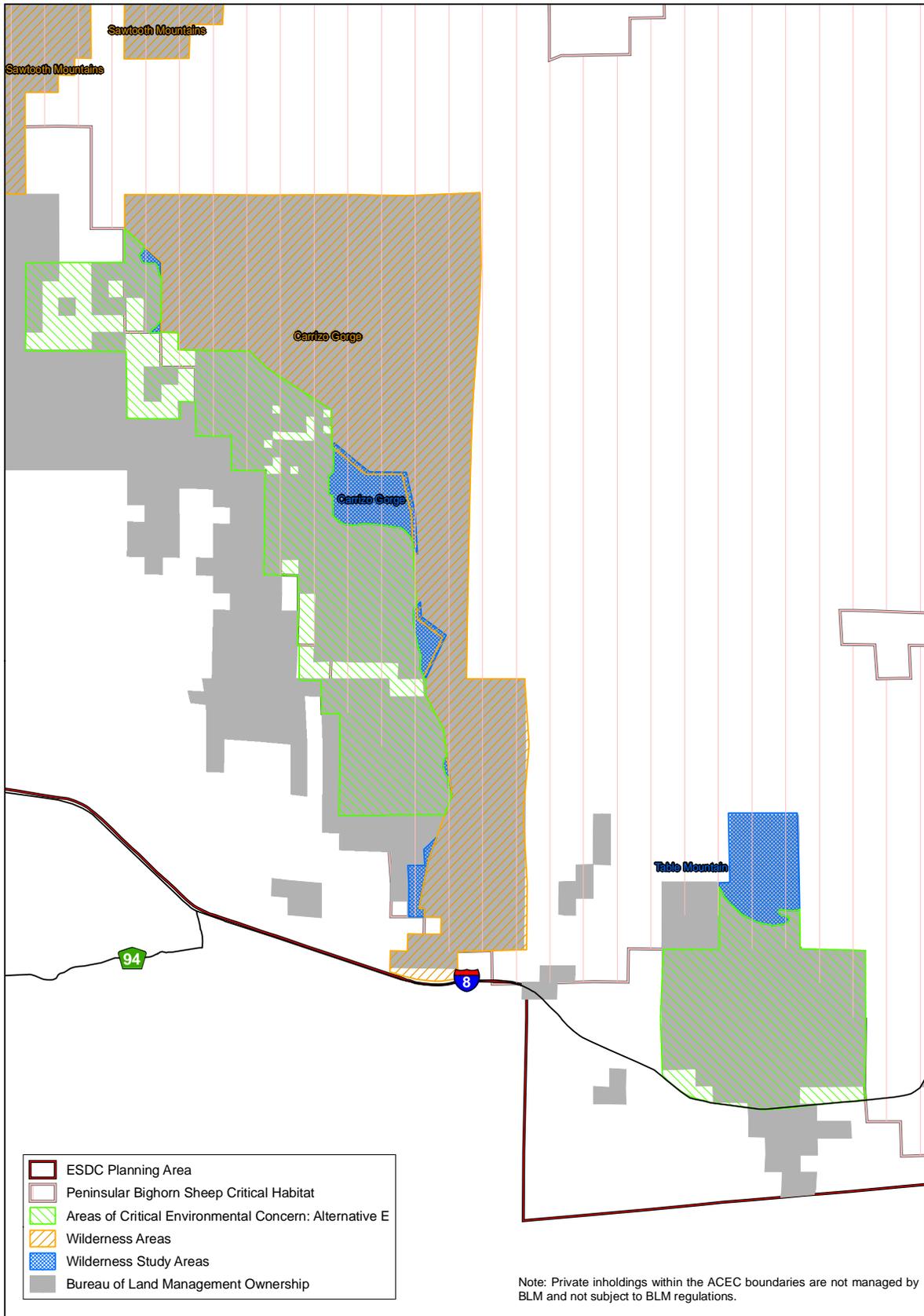
BLM is evaluating two ACECs under various alternatives in the DRMP (see Figures 2-1 through 2-4 above, and Figure 2-5). The guidance for ACEC designation is included in FLPMA and the BLM planning regulations. ACECs must meet the relevance and importance criteria in 43 CFR 1610.7-2(b) and must require special management (43 CFR 1601.0-5(a)) to:

- Protect the area and prevent irreparable damage to resources or natural systems, or;
- Protect life and promote safety in areas where natural hazards exist.

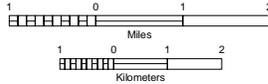
Areas qualifying for consideration as ACECs must have substantial significance and value including qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern. The values for which ACECs are designated are considered the highest and best use for those lands and protection of those values would take precedence over multiple uses.

2.3.13.4.1 Goals and Objectives

- ACECs would provide protection for relevant and important special status species, wildlife, scenic, and significant cultural resources values.



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FIGURE 2-5: Special Designations
Alternative E

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2.3.13.4.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Land use authorizations approved in ACECs would be consistent with the actions presented in Table 2-21 (see Section 2.3.18 Lands and Realty).
- Mineral management actions authorized in ACECs would be consistent with the actions presented in Table 2-21 (see Section 2.3.18 Lands and Realty).
- Protection of relevant and important values would take precedence over authorized land uses.
- The BLM would retain the ACEC in public ownership and seek to acquire non-federal lands and interests in lands within the ACECs from willing sellers by purchase, exchange, or donation. Future acquisitions of in-holdings and edgeholdings would be managed in accordance with the designated ACEC. See Land Tenure Section for additional information.
- Treatment for hazardous fuels and non-native invasive or pest species would be allowed.
- All ACECs would be closed to wood collection.
- Allow traditional use by Native Americans consistent with Vegetation Use Authorization see Section 2.3.5.4.
- Monitor resources within the ACECs to detect change and prevent future deterioration.

2.3.13.4.3 Designations of ACECs by Alternative

Potential ACEC designations by alternative are shown below in Table 2-10. The range of alternatives is based on the following:

Alternative A. The In-Ko-Pah ACEC remains as it was originally designated, which includes overlap with the Carrizo Gorge Wilderness. The Table Mountain ACEC remains as it was originally designated.

Alternative B. The In-Ko-Pah ACEC is adjusted to exclude the area that overlaps the Carrizo Gorge Wilderness and Carrizo Gorge WSA, and expanded to include the adjacent Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat along the western boundary. The Table

Mountain ACEC is expanded to include the land to the north between the northern boundary of the ACEC and the southern boundary of the Table Mountain WSA.

Alternative C. The In-Ko-Pah ACEC is adjusted to include the adjacent Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat along the western boundary. The Table Mountain ACEC is expanded to include the entire Table Mountain WSA.

Alternative D. The original In-Ko-Pah ACEC is adjusted to exclude the Carrizo Gorge Wilderness and Carrizo Gorge WSA. The Table Mountain ACEC remains the same as Alternative A.

Alternative E (Preferred). The In-Ko-Pah ACEC is the same as Alternative B and the Table Mountain ACEC is the same as Alternative B.

**TABLE 2-10
ACECS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Allocations	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
ACECs (ACRES)					
In-Ko-Pah	22,186	9,318	23,020	8,508	9,318
Table Mountain	4,293	4,686	5,704	4,293	4,686
Total	26,479	14,004	28,724	12,801	14,004

2.3.14 Livestock Grazing Management

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 (TGA) provides for two types of authorized use: (1) a grazing permit, which is a document authorizing the use of the public lands within an established grazing district; and (2) a grazing lease, which is a document authorizing the use of the public lands outside an established grazing district. A grazing district is the specific area within which the public lands are administered in accordance with Section 3 of the TGA. Public lands outside grazing district boundaries are administered in accordance with Section 15 of the TGA.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

BLM allotments in California are classified as perennial, ephemeral, or perennial-ephemeral. These classifications correspond to the following types of designated rangelands:

- Perennial. Rangeland which consistently produces perennial forage to support a year-round livestock operation.
- Ephemeral. Rangelands that do not consistently produce enough forage to sustain a year-round livestock operation, but may briefly produce unusual volumes of forage to accommodate livestock grazing. There is a Special Rule for ephemeral ranges (see Section 3.14 in Chapter 3).
- Perennial-Ephemeral. Rangelands which produce perennial forage each year and also periodically provide additional ephemeral vegetation. In a year of abundant moisture and favorable climatic conditions, annual forbs and grasses add materially to the total grazing capacity.

The land use planning decisions to be made are whether lands are available or unavailable for grazing. Criteria used to develop livestock grazing management in the various alternatives are summarized below and presented in Appendix E.

2.3.14.1 Grazing Criteria

1. Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Critical Habitat

- Is any part of the allotment located within Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Critical Habitat?
- Is the allotment more than ~30 percent located within Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Critical Habitat?
- Are the areas of the allotment still open after excluding Peninsular bighorn sheep?

2. What vegetation type/community is dominant on the allotment?

- Is the majority of the allotment composed of a chaparral vegetation community?
- Is critical habitat usable by cattle (is the area level, not steep?)?

3. Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Area

- Is any part of the allotment located within the Quino Checkerspot Recovery Area?
- Is the allotment more than ~30 percent located within the Quino Checkerspot Recovery Area?
- Are the areas of the allotment still open after excluding the Quino Checkerspot Recovery Area usable by cattle (is the area level, not steep?)?

4. Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Habitat

- Is there potential or known habitat for the federally endangered SWFL within and/or near the allotment?
- Have SWFLs been located within or near the allotment?

5. Arroyo Toad Habitat

- Is there potential or known habitat for the federally endangered arroyo toad within and/or near the allotment?
- Have arroyo toads been located within or near the allotment?

6. Are there sufficient range improvements on the allotment to support grazing?

- Is the size of the allotment practical to allow grazing?
- Will the allotment support any number of cattle, while allowing 15 AUMs for deer?
- Are there sufficient livestock improvements on the allotment to support any number of cattle?
- If new range improvements or maintenance is needed on existing range improvements, would the cost/benefit ratio be appropriate?

7. Water Sources / Topography

- Are there sufficient water sources on the allotment to begin with?
- How many water sources are left on the allotment once Critical Habitat is excluded?
- Are the water sources left after exclusion of critical habitat reliable water sources?
- Are the water sources left after exclusion of critical habitat accessible to cattle?
- Are the available areas within the allotment too steep for cattle to utilize (greater than a 50-percent slope)?

8. Rangeland Health Standards

- Can all four of the Fallback Rangeland Health Standards (Soils, Riparian/Wetland, Stream Function, and Native Species) be met on the allotment?
- After Rangeland Health Assessments are conducted, are any of the allotments Category 1 (Areas where one or more standards are not being met, and significant progress is not being made toward meeting the standard(s), and livestock grazing is a significant contributor to the problem)?

9. Are there parties interested in the allotment?

- How many years has the allotment been vacant with no interested parties coming forward?

2.3.14.2 Grazing by Alternative

Lands available for livestock grazing by alternative based on the above criteria are summarized below, as well as presented in Table 2-11 and illustrated on Figure 2-6 (Alternatives A and D), Figure 2-7 (Alternative B), and Figure 2-8 (Alternatives C and E).

- Alternative A is the No-action Alternative and does not apply any of the criteria that have been developed.
- Alternative B is the Mixed Alternative and applies criterion 1, 6 and 7.

- Alternative C is the Conservation Alternative and applies all of the criteria that have been developed. As Alternative C applies all criteria developed in this analysis, this alternative was chosen as Alternative E (preferred Alternative).
- Alternative D is the Development Alternative and does not apply any of the criteria that have been developed.

**TABLE 2-11
LIVESTOCK GRAZING BY ALTERNATIVE (ACRES)**

	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
Available	63,498	24,211	0	63,498	0
Unavailable	39,805	79,902	103,303	39,805	103,303
Total Acres	103,303	103,303	103,303	103,303	103,303

2.3.14.3 Goals and Objectives

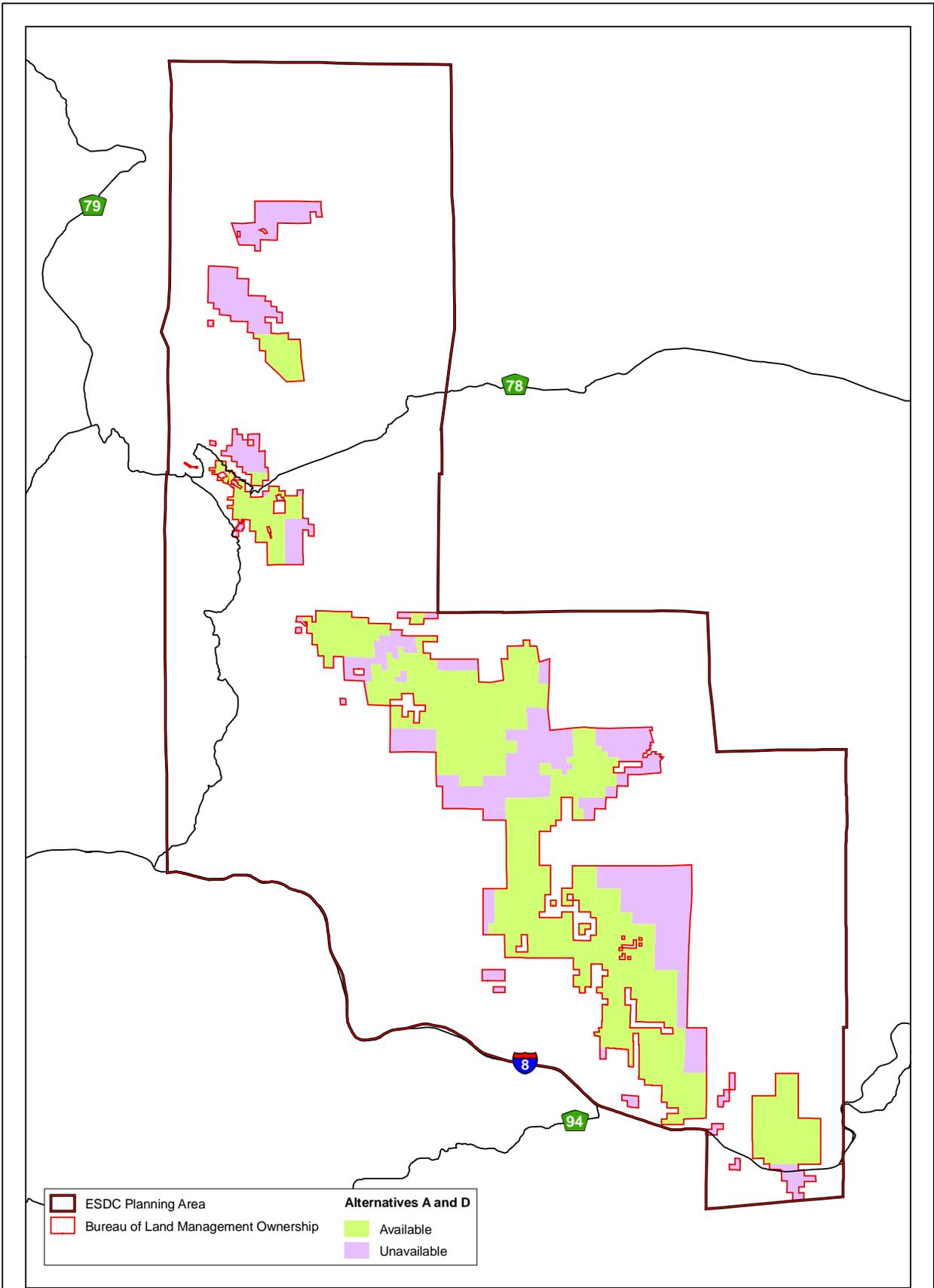
- Maintain or improve healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems to meet approved Rangeland Health Standards (see Section 2.3.1) and produce a wide range of public values such as wildlife habitat, livestock forage, recreation opportunities, clean water, and functional watersheds.

2.3.14.4 Management Actions by Alternative

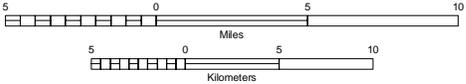
Table 2-12 provides management actions that vary by alternative.

2.3.14.5 Rangeland Guidelines for Grazing Uses in the Planning Area

Guidelines for grazing administration apply to all livestock grazing activities on BLM-administered lands. Under Alternative A, the BLM would utilize existing national fallback guidelines for grazing management. Fallback guidelines were developed in conjunction with standards for rangeland health to implement 43 CFR Subpart 4180. Guidelines identify 15 grazing management practices to achieve the fallback standards. Under Alternatives B and D, the BLM would adopt the grazing guidelines developed for the



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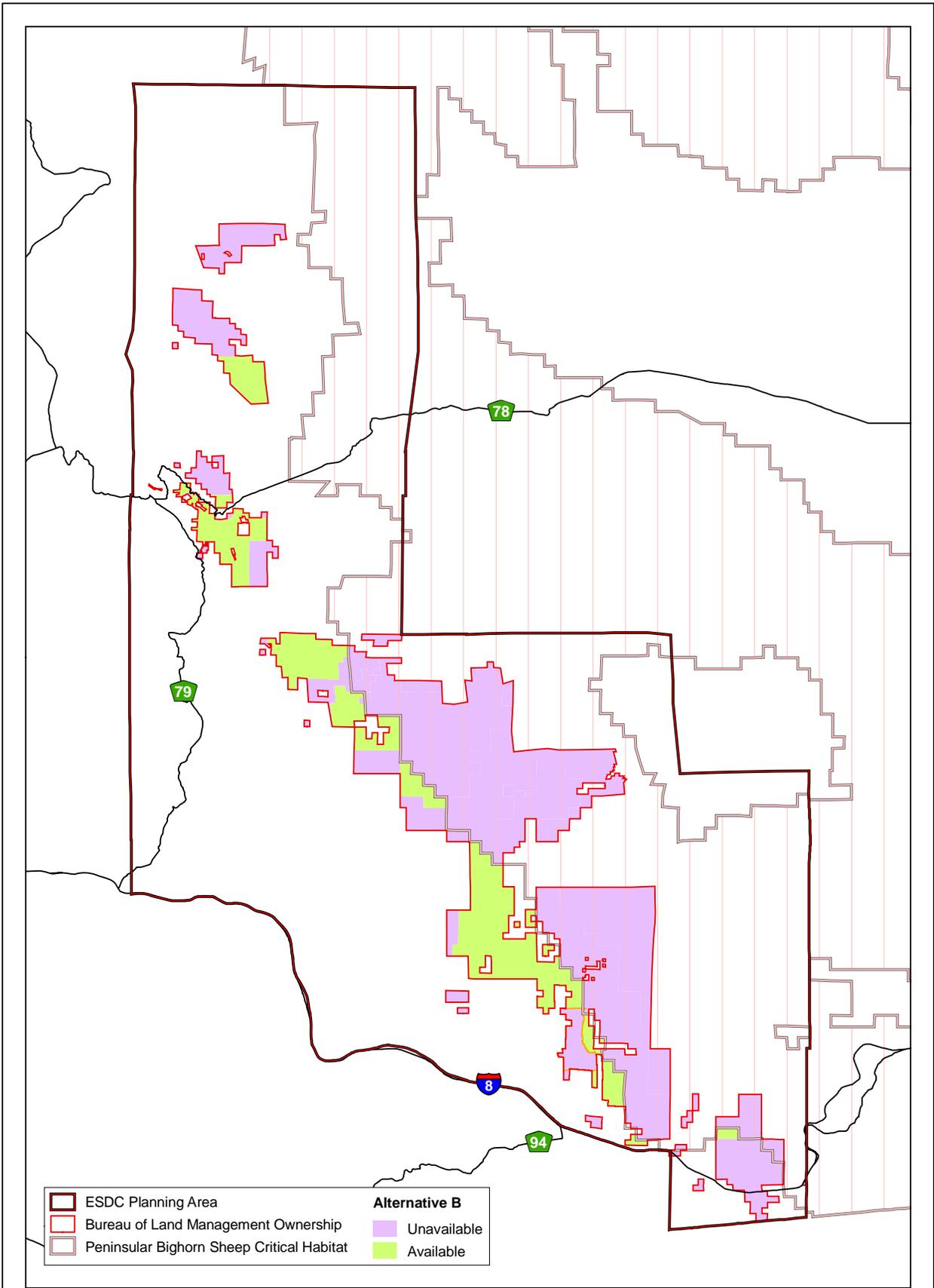


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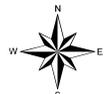
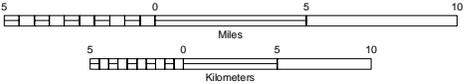


FIGURE 2-6: Grazing Management Areas
Alternatives A and D

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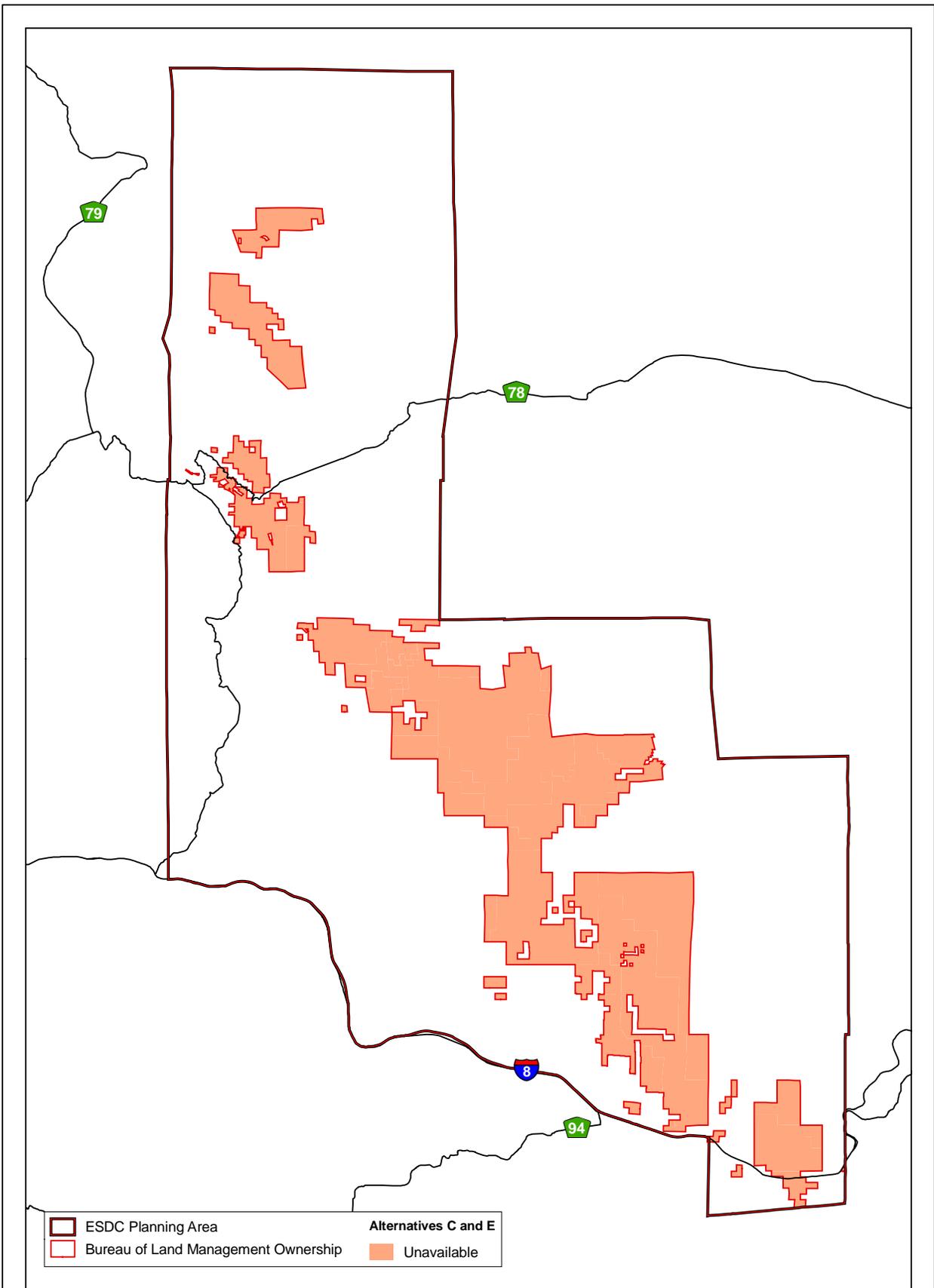


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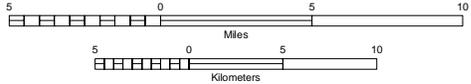


FIGURE 2-7: Grazing Management Areas
Alternative B

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FIGURE 2-8: Grazing Management Areas
Alternatives C and E

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BLM in the NEMO planning area which were determined to be applicable for the BLM-administered public lands in the Planning Area (DOI BLM 2002). Under Alternatives C and E, the BLM-administered public lands in the Planning Area would be unavailable to livestock grazing.

Alternative A (No Action)–National Fallback Guidelines for Grazing Management

1. Management practices maintain or promote adequate amounts of ground cover to support infiltration, maintain soil moisture, and stabilize soils.
2. Management practices maintain or promote soil conditions that support permeability rates that are appropriate to climate and soils.
3. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient residual vegetation to maintain, improve, or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge and stream bank stability.
4. Management practices maintain or promote stream channel morphology (e.g., gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions that are appropriate to climate and landform.
5. Management practices maintain or promote the appropriate kinds and amounts of soil organisms, plants and animals to support the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow.
6. Management practices maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary to sustain native populations and communities.
7. Desired species are being allowed to complete seed dissemination in one out of every three years (management actions would promote the opportunity for seedling establishment when climatic conditions and space allow).
8. Conservation of federally threatened or endangered and other special status species are promoted by restoration and maintenance of their habitats.
9. Native species are emphasized in the support of ecological function.
10. Non-native plant species are used only in those situations in which native species are not readily available in sufficient quantities or are incapable of maintaining or achieving properly functioning conditions and biological health.

**TABLE 2-12
LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
Conduct livestock use and associated management practices in a manner consistent with other multiple-use needs and objectives to ensure that the health of rangeland resources is preserved or improved so that they are productive for all rangeland values. Where needed, improve public rangeland ecosystems to meet objectives.	X	X		X	
Authorize and maintain range improvement projects in accordance with grazing regulations and policies.	X	X		X	
Reseed eroding sites in the Oriflamme land treatment area with native species, or allow natural revegetation. Install erosion control structures where desirable.	X				
Do not authorize a new allotment in the San Ysidro Mountain area, and do not authorize ephemeral grazing use. Monitor for livestock trespass, and take appropriate action to terminate trespass if it occurs.	X				
Establish the season of use for the expanded San Felipe Allotment as November 1 through June 30. Do not renew if the present lessee relinquishes the lease. (This action is complete.)	X	X ¹		X ¹	
Establish a season of use for the Banner Queen Allotment based on further studies of the vegetative development of key species.	X	X ¹		X ¹	
Establish a season of use on the Vallecito Allotment and Canebrake Allotment as November 1 through June 30.	X	X ¹		X ¹	
Establish a season of use from about March 1 through October 31 for the portion of the Tierra Blanca Allotment located in the McCain Valley.	X	X ¹		X ¹	
No Grazing—eliminate all allotments with the exception of vegetation management prescriptions.			X		X
Establish a season of use from November 1 through June 30 on the In-Ko-Pah Allotment.	X	X ¹		X ¹	
Terminate the McCain Valley Allotment.	X				
Eliminate all grazing from Peninsular bighorn sheep critical habitat by adjusting allotment boundaries to exclude critical habitat.		X		X	
Prohibit domestic sheep grazing within nine miles of Peninsular bighorn sheep critical habitat to avoid disease transmission.		X	X	X	X
Adjust allotments to exclude grazing from the OHV use area in Lark Canyon and Table Mountain ACEC.		X			
Adjust the boundaries of the Lark Canyon OHV area to minimize conflicts between OHV users and grazing permittees. The boundary of the McCain Valley allotment (In-Ko-Pah) and the boundary of the Lark Canyon OHV area are currently in close proximity, and as a result, OHV users routinely enter the grazing allotment.				X	

¹ The allotment would continue to be managed on a case-by-case basis and permitted on a case-by-case basis pending rangeland health assessments.

11. Periods of rest from disturbance or livestock use during times of critical plant growth or regrowth are provided when needed to achieve healthy, properly functioning conditions (timing and duration of use periods would be determined by the authorized officer).
12. Continuous, season-long livestock use is allowed to occur only when it has been demonstrated to be consistent with achieving healthy, properly functioning ecosystems.
13. Facilities are located away from riparian-wetland areas wherever they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland function.
14. Development of springs and seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources would be designed to protect the ecological functions and processes of those sites.
15. Grazing on designated ephemeral (annual and perennial) rangeland is allowed to occur only if reliable estimates of production have been made, the BLM has established an identified level of annual growth or residue to remain on site at the end of the grazing season, and adverse effects on perennial species are avoided.

Alternatives B and D Rangeland Guidelines for Grazing Uses

1. Facilities would be located away from riparian-wetland areas wherever they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland functions.
2. The development of springs and seeps or other projects affecting water and associated resources would be designed to protect the ecological functions and processes of those sites.
3. Grazing activities at an existing range improvement that conflict with achieving proper functioning conditions (PFC) and resource objectives for wetland systems (lentic, lotic, springs, adits, and seeps) would be modified so PFC and resource objectives are met. Incompatible projects would be modified to bring them into compliance. The BLM would consult, cooperate, and coordinate with affected interests and livestock producer(s) prior to authorization modifications of existing projects and initiation of new projects. New range improvement facilities would be located away from wetland systems if they conflict with achieving or maintaining PFC and resource objectives.
4. Supplements (e.g. salt licks) would be located a sufficient distance away from wetland systems so they do not conflict with maintaining riparian-wetland functions.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

5. Management practices would maintain or promote perennial stream channel morphology and functions (e.g. gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness, and sinuosity) appropriate to climate and landform.
6. Grazing management practices would meet state and federal water quality standards. Developed springs having a sustained discharge yield of less than 2 gallons per day to surface or groundwater are excepted from meeting drinking water standards per SWRCB Resolution Number 88-63.
7. In the Planning Area, all wildfires in grazing allotments would be suppressed. However, to restore degraded habitats infested with invasive weeds (e.g. tamarisk), prescribed burning may be utilized as a tool for restoration. Prescribed burns may be used as a management tool where fire is a natural part of the regime.
8. In years when weather results in extraordinary conditions, seed germination, seedling establishment and native plant species growth would be allowed by modifying grazing use.
9. Grazing on designated ephemeral rangeland would be allowed only if reliable estimates of production have been made, an identified level so annual growth or residue to remain on site at the end of the grazing season has been established, and adverse effects on perennial species are avoided.
10. During prolonged drought, range stocking would be reduced to achieve resource objectives and/or prescribed forage utilization. On yearlong allotments, livestock utilization of key perennial species would be checked prior to spring growing season (about March 1) when the Palmer Severity Drought Index/Standardized Precipitation Index indicates dry conditions are expected to continue.
11. Through the assessment process or monitoring efforts, the extent of invasive and/or exotic plants and animals would be recorded and evaluated for future control measures. Methods and prescriptions would be implemented, and an evaluation would be completed to ascertain future control measures for undesirable species.
12. Restore, maintain, or enhance habitats to assist in the recovery of federal listed threatened and endangered species. Restore, maintain, or enhance habitats of special status species, including federally proposed or candidate, BLM sensitive, or California State threatened and endangered (T&E), to promote their conservation.
13. Grazing activities would support biological diversity across the landscape, and native species and microbiotic crusts are to be maintained.
14. Experimental and research efforts would be encouraged to provide answers to grazing management and related resource concerns through cooperative and collaborative efforts within outside agencies, groups, and entities.

15. Livestock utilization limits of key perennial species would be as shown in Table 2-13 for the various ranges types.

**TABLE 2-13
LIVESTOCK UTILIZATION LIMITS OF KEY PERENNIAL SPECIES BY RANGE TYPE**

Range type	Percent Use of Key Perennial Species	
	Poor-Fair Range Condition or Growing Season*	Good-Excellent Range Condition or Dormant Season*
Mixed Riparian Woodland	25	35
Oak Woodland	25	40
Desert Wash	25	35
Semi Desert Chaparral	30	40
Desert Fan Palm oasis	25	35
Mixed Conifer Woodland	25	40
Enriched Desert Scrub	25	40

* Rangeland in good condition or grazed during the dormant season can withstand the higher utilization level. Rangelands in poor condition or grazed during the active growth season would receive lower use levels.

2. Criteria for Classifying Allotments as Ephemeral

Allotments may be classified as Ephemeral in accordance with the Special Ephemeral Rule published December 7, 1968 through Rangeland Health Assessments. BLM has established criteria based upon the Special Rule through which allotments can be classified as ephemeral. These criteria include:

1. Rangelands are within the hot desert biome.
2. Average annual precipitation is less than 8 inches.
3. Rangelands produce less than 25 pounds per acre of desirable forage grasses.
4. The vegetative community is composed of less than 5 percent desirable forage species.
5. The rangelands are generally below 3,500 feet in elevation.
6. Annual production is highly unpredictable and forage availability is of a short duration.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

7. Usable forage production depends on abundant moisture and other favorable climatic conditions.
8. Rangelands lack potential to improve existing ecological status and produce a dependable supply of forage through intensive rangeland management practices.

2.3.15 Mineral Resources

ECFO manages mineral resources in accordance with BLM's National Mineral Policy, the Energy Policy Act, and the National Energy Policy.

2.3.15.1 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- WAs are withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws.

2.3.15.2 Management Actions by Alternative

Table 2-14 lists the management prescriptions that vary by alternative as they affect access to and development of mineral resources within the Planning Area.

2.3.15.3 Mineral Resource Disposal from Public Lands

Development of mineral resources from public lands managed by the BLM is directed by Congress through various enabling laws under three general categories. These include:

A. Locatable Mineral Deposits. Minerals subject to location under the General Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 22, et seq.; as amended) include metallic minerals such as gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and uranium; non-metallic minerals such as asbestos, barite, gypsum, and mica; and uncommon varieties of stone (43 CFR 3800). The General Mining Law of 1872 allows citizens and those seeking to become citizens of the United States the right to enter upon public lands and reserved interests for the purposes of exploration and development of minerals subject to this mining law. Appropriation of a mineral deposit is made by location of a mining claim. No rights under the mining laws can be exercised by a claimant until a discovery of a valuable mineral deposit has been made within the boundaries of the mining claim.

**TABLE 2-14
POTENTIAL MINERAL RESOURCE DECISIONS BY ALTERNATIVE**

	A	B	C	D	E
Locatable					
In areas of sensitive resource values, mining claims should be promptly examined and validity determination made.	X				
Propose withdrawal of the In-Ko-Pah Mountains ACEC from mineral entry.	X		X		X
Propose withdrawal of the Table Mountain ACEC from mineral entry.	X		X		X
Propose withdrawal of critical habitat from mineral entry.			X		
All critical habitat and ACECs would be available for mineral entry under the Mining Law, subject to Section 7 and Section 106 consultations.		X		X	
WSAs subject to IMP.	X	X		X	X
WSAs proposed for withdrawal from mineral entry.			X		
Leasable					
On the public lands within the Agua Caliente and Jacumba potential geothermal resources areas, permit geothermal exploration under a Notice of Intent.	X				
Critical habitat located within ACECs would be closed. The remainder of the critical habitat outside of the ACECs would be subject to no surface occupancy.		X			
Critical habitat and ACECs would be closed.			X		X
Open all critical habitat and ACECs, subject to Section 7 and Section 106 consultations.				X	
WSAs closed.		X	X		X
WSAs subject to Interim Management Policy (IMP).	X			X	
Salable					
Do not issue mineral sales or free use permits for the Canebrake Canyon/Sawtooth Mountains/Vallecito Valley areas. The material sale pit on the north side of Table Mountain should be investigated, and a determination made as to the desirability of future use.	X				
The material sale pit on the north side of Table Mountain should be investigated, and a determination made as to the desirability of future use.	X				
WSAs closed.		X	X		X
WSAs subject to the IMP.	X			X	
Critical habitat located within ACECs would be closed.		X			
Critical habitat and ACECs would be closed.			X		X
Open all critical habitat and ACECs, subject to Section 7 and Section 106 consultations.				X	

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Exploration and development must be conducted in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and in conformance with the approved land use plan. Restrictions and stipulations may be applied to a proposed activity based on review and analysis by the authorized officer.

All activity is managed under the authority of the regulations at 43CFR 3809 (public lands and wilderness areas) and 43 CFR 3802 (wilderness study areas). Authorization is based on the level of disturbance and whether the activity is conducted in a special designation area. Casual use activities such as panning for gold, prospecting, and monumentation of mining claims are authorized by the regulations where disturbance will be nominal. No approval is required from the authorized officer of the BLM. Where exploration activities would cause more than nominal disturbance, and surface disturbance is five acres or less, a notice is required to be review by the authorized officer of the BLM to assure that unnecessary or undue degradation would not occur to public lands or resources. A plan of operations is required for surface disturbance greater than five acres, in a special area, or for mining activity greater than casual use. A plan of operations must be approved by the authorized officer of the BLM and may be subject to stipulations to assure conformance with the land use plan.

BLM manages to protect sensitive resources by defining protective prescriptions in land use planning that are to be applied in any approval of activities. Where mineral development activity would adversely affect sensitive resource values, the BLM may petition for withdrawal an area from the operation of the mining laws.

B. Leasable Minerals. Leasable minerals which include fluid energy mineral deposits such as oil, gas, coal bed methane, carbon dioxide (CO₂), and geothermal resources. Solid energy and or industrial minerals such as coal, sodium, and potash, are also disposed of from public lands by the BLM through lease. Although not a leasable mineral, helium is included in this category, because it is typically associated with CO₂ exploration and development (43 CFR 3100 and 43 CFR 3200).

Laws and regulations applicable to federal leasing in the Planning Area include:

- Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended and supplemented
- Acquired Lands Mineral Leasing Act of 1947
- Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970

- Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987
- 43 CFR 3100 (Oil and Gas Leasing)
- 43 CFR 3200 (Geothermal Resource Leasing)
- BLM Manual Series 3100—Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing (and handbooks)

BLM defines geothermal resources as nonrenewable energy fluid minerals that can be developed after obtaining a lease from BLM. Regulations applicable to geothermal leasing of federal minerals in the Planning Area include but are not limited to:

- Geothermal Steam Act of 1970
- 43 CFR 3200

BLM also disposes of minerals on lands acquired by the USFS and are subject to surface restriction and management in accordance with approved USFS management plans. The authority for disposal on acquired lands is pursuant to the Weeks Act of March 4, 1917 (Weeks Act; 16 USC 520, 491, 499; see also Act of September 2, 1958). The Secretary is authorized to lease coal, oil, gas, sodium, potassium, and sulfur on lands acquired by a federal agency under the Act of August 7, 1947 (Acquired Lands Leasing Act; 30 USC 351-359; except National Parks and cities). BLM must have concurrence from the appropriate forest or other federal department unit manager before approving prospecting permits and leases.

The lease is a right to access and develop mineral resources contained within the boundaries of the leased area in compliance with the lease terms and in conformance with appropriate local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Where information necessary to classify as valuable public lands for minerals subject to the leasing laws, prospecting permits may be authorized before leases would be approved. Where mineral deposits subject to leasing are known to be valuable, BLM may offer to lease through competition. Competitive leasing is required for all oil and gas. Leases are typically termed for 20 years, and are extended as long as in producing status. A payment of an annual rental and or a royalty for minerals produced is made to the United States by the lessee.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

In some situations where sensitive resource values occur, a lease may be issued with a no surface occupation (NSO) requirement. This requirement must assure that the mineral deposit on the lease could be developed by means of off-site development.

A determination that lands are available for leasing represents a commitment to allow surface use under standard terms and conditions unless stipulations constraining development are attached to leases. When applying leasing restrictions, the least restrictive constraint to meet the resource protection objective would be used.

For reserved mineral interests in private land leasing of federal mineral estate on lands where the surface is not held by the federal government would be done in accordance with federal law, regulations and policy guidance. The surface owner would be notified prior to lease and given the opportunity to comment.

C. Salable Minerals. These minerals include construction materials such as sand, gravel, cinders, decorative rock, and building stone as described in (43 CFR 3600). Laws and regulations applicable to salable minerals on public lands in the Planning Area include:

- Acquired Lands Mineral Leasing Act of 1947
- Mineral Materials Act of 1947 as amended
- FLPMA; and 43 CFR Part 3600
- Surface Resources Act of 1955
- BLM Handbook H3042-1—Solid Minerals Reclamation Handbook
- BLM Manual and Handbook 3600

Disposal of mineral materials from BLM-administered lands requires either a sales contract or a free use permit from the appropriate BLM office. Disposal of mineral materials is authorized in accordance with appropriate laws, regulations, and policies in conformance with the approved land use plan and if disposal is determined to be in the public interest. Use of public lands and resources for salable mineral development cannot be allowed if not in the public interest, and if such action would result in unnecessary or undue degradation to public lands or resources.

2.3.15.2 Locatable Mineral Management

It is BLM's goal in this plan to make public land and resources available for prospecting and location of valuable (locatable) mineral deposits to meet local, regional and national needs for metals and industrial minerals, and protect sensitive resource values.

2.3.15.2.1 Goals and Objectives

- Provide opportunities for exploration, location, and development of mining claims and sites while preventing unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands and resources.

2.3.15.2.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Through land tenure adjustments, surface and subsurface (minerals) estates would be consolidated under single ownerships when possible, thereby improving manageability of the federal lands involved. Consolidate split-estate pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA.
- Require notices, when mechanical equipment is used for exploration or processing and cumulative disturbance is less than five acres.
- Require mining plans for operations where disturbance is greater than five acres and/or where bulk sampling would remove 1,000 tons or more.
- In withdrawn areas, an investigation and a report to determine the validity of the mining claim would be required prior to approval of a mining plan of operations.
- Require a mining plan of operations in any Special Designation in accordance with existing 3809 regulations.
- Require mining plans of operation in areas designated as closed to OHV use and in lands or waters known to contain federally listed threatened or endangered species or proposed or designated critical habitat.
- Any surface disturbance associated with casual use activity in designated critical habitat causing more than negligible disturbance would require a notice for review or a plan of operations for approval.
- All post plan created mining disturbances would be reclaimed to meet the surrounding natural environment. Mining activities would be in compliance with all

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

State of California reclamation requirements, particularly the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

2.3.15.3 Leasable Mineral Management

2.3.15.3.1 Goals and Objectives

- Provide opportunities for mineral leasing while preventing unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

2.3.15.3.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Consolidate split-estate pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA.

2.3.15.3.3 Management Actions by Alternative

Leasable minerals would be available as described in Table 2-14 above, which provides management actions that vary by alternative.

2.3.15.4 Salable Mineral Materials Management

2.3.15.4.1 Goals and Objectives

- Prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.
- Respond appropriately to increasing demand for mineral materials in the Planning Area.
- Provide mineral materials on a case-by-case basis for infrastructure development.

2.3.15.4.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Consolidate split-estate pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA.

2.3.15.4.3 Management Actions by Alternative

Salable minerals materials would be available as described in Table 2-14, which provides management actions that vary by alternative.

2.3.16 Recreation Resource Management

There are several regulations, laws, policies, and guidelines that authorize and direct BLM recreation management activities. FLPMA originally mandated that the BLM was to manage outdoor recreation resources on public lands.

BLM recognizes that natural resource-based recreation tourism is a significant economic contributor in most communities adjacent to public lands. *Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services* (DOI BLM 2003) states, "Our multiple-use mission is to serve the diverse outdoor recreation demands of visitors while helping maintain the sustainable conditions needed to conserve their lands and their recreation choices." This visitor services document also sets three primary goals for the BLM recreation program:

1. Improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities on DOI-managed or -partnered lands and waters.
2. Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources on DOI-managed or -partnered lands and waters.
3. Provide for and receive fair value in recreation.

The public lands are managed to maintain a variety of recreational opportunities. As such, a majority of public lands have recreation opportunities that can be appropriately provided for in conjunction with the other resource demands sanctioned by the BLM's multiple-use mission.

2.3.16.1 Recreation Management Areas

BLM identifies Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) where the resources of the public lands attract visitors from one of the three following recreation markets:

- Public lands with a demonstrated *community* recreation market would be managed as a Community SRMA. A Community SRMA is managed in collaboration with the local community to primarily benefit the local residents.

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- Public lands with a demonstrated *destination* recreation market would be managed as a Destination SRMA. A Destination SRMA is managed as a regional or national destination through collaborative partnerships.
- Public lands with a demonstrated *undeveloped* recreation market would be managed as an Undeveloped SRMA. An Undeveloped SRMA is managed to intentionally maintain dispersed and undeveloped recreation opportunities.

BLM lands outside of SRMAs must be managed as Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA). Recreation management within ERMAs would be limited to custodial actions only. Custodial actions are those necessary to manage dispersed activities, visitor health and safety, and user and resource conflicts.

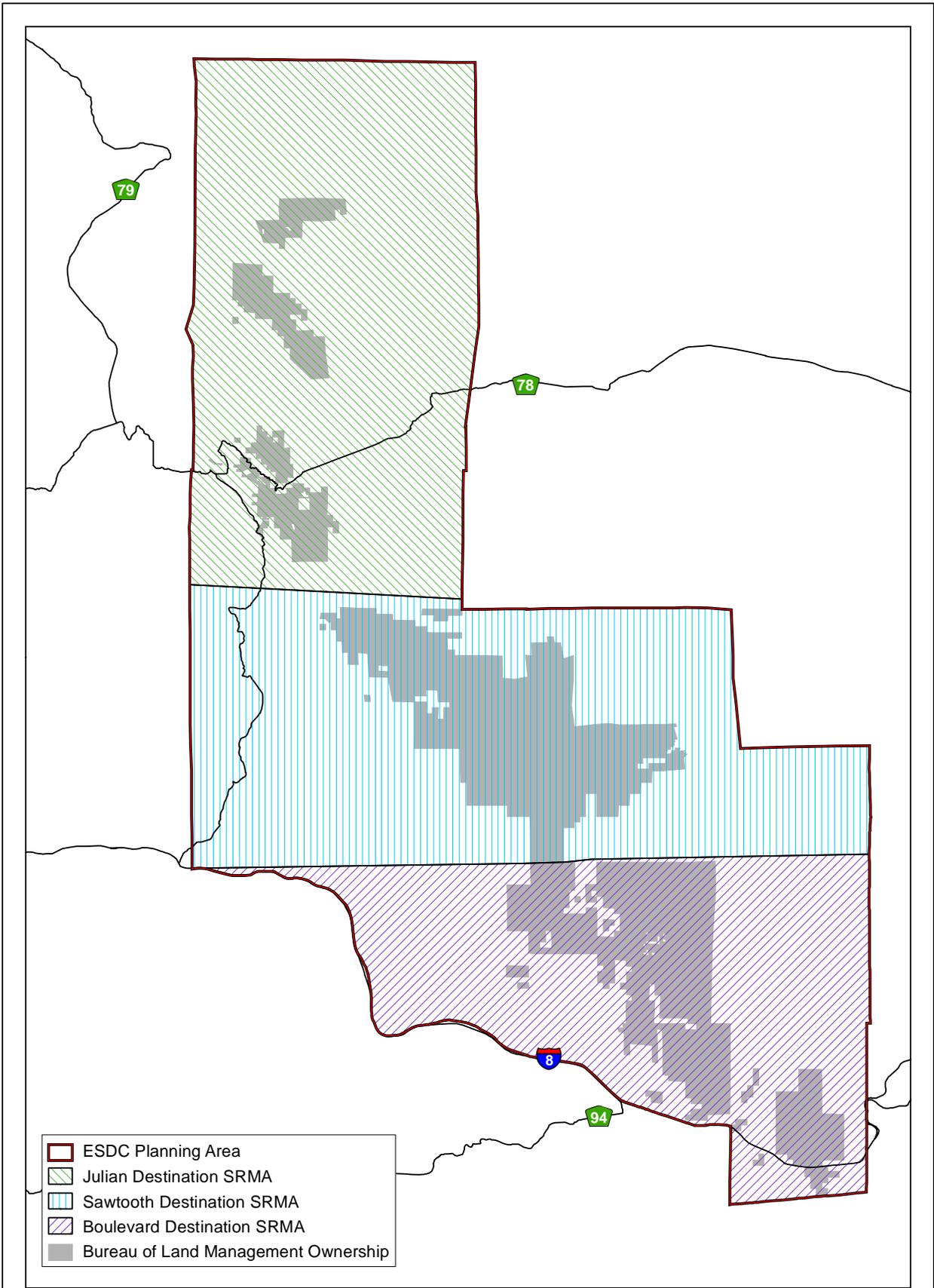
The proposed SRMA boundaries are not intended to confer authority, responsibility, or jurisdiction over lands and waters that are not administered by the BLM. Proposed planning boundaries reflect the fact that these adjacent lands are vital in the appropriate management of the entire area.

For decisions concerning off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation within the Planning Area, please see the Transportation and Public Access section.

Recreation Management Areas by alternative are presented in Table 2-15 below. Figures 2-9 and 2-10 identify the locations of the SRMAs by alternative. There are currently no SRMAs designated within the Planning Area; however, 38,690 acres were previously identified in the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area in accordance with the McCain Valley Recreational Area Management Plan (RAMP; DOI BLM 1979).

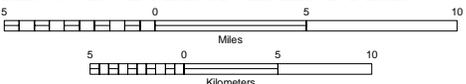
**TABLE 2-15
RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS BY ALTERNATIVE (ACRES)**

SRMA (acres)	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
Boulevard Destination SRMA	n/a	43,019	43,019	43,019	43,019
Julian Destination SRMA	n/a	15,180	15,180	15,180	15,180
Sawtooth Destination SRMA	n/a	45,104	n/a	45,104	45,104
Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA	n/a	n/a	45,104	n/a	n/a
ERMA	n/a	0	0	0	0
Total BLM acres	103,303	103,303	103,303	103,303	103,303



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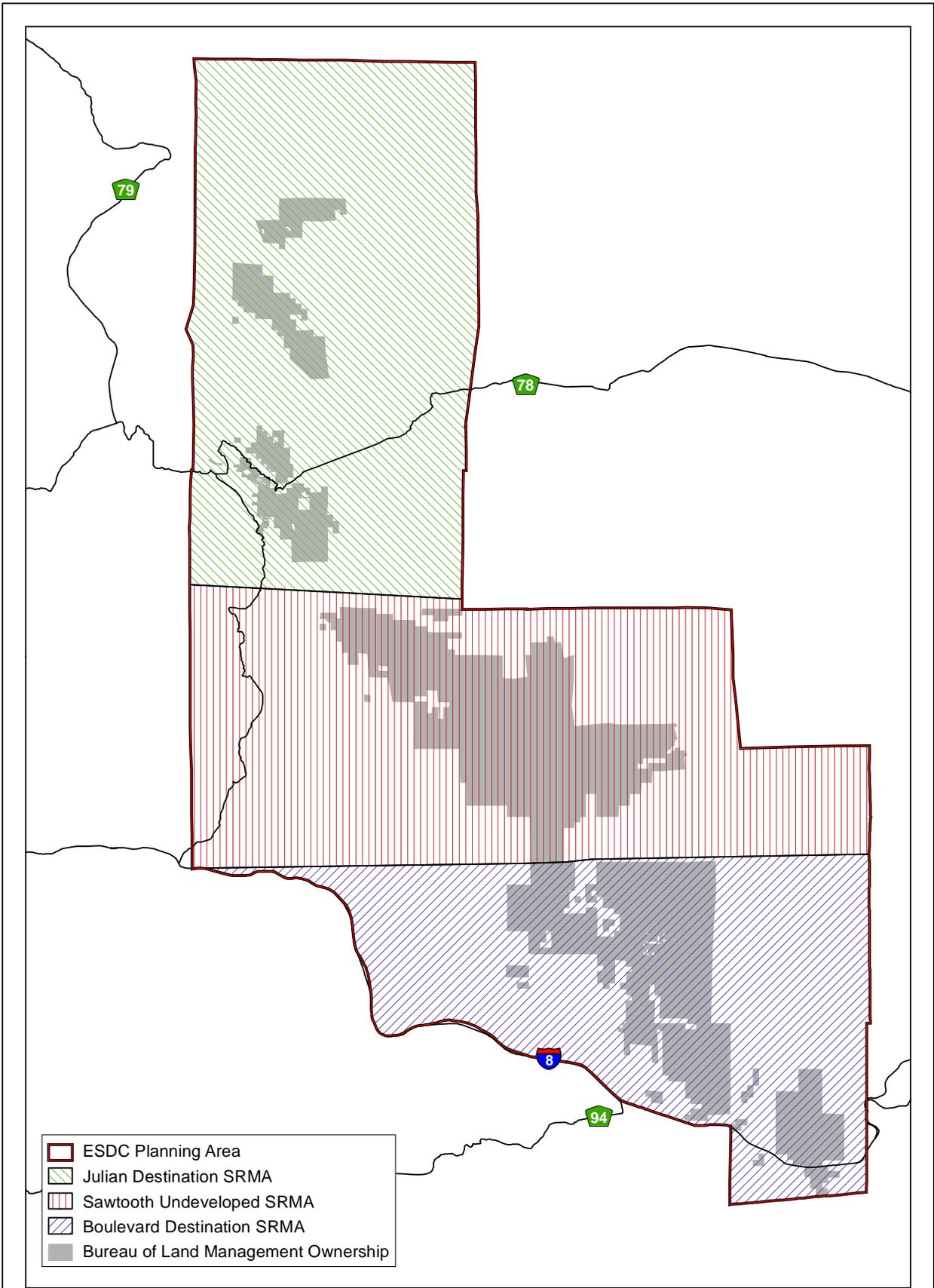


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**FIGURE 2-9: Special Recreation Management Areas
Alternatives B, D, and E**

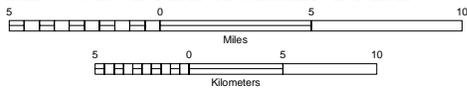
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- ESDC Planning Area
- Julian Destination SRMA
- Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA
- Boulevard Destination SRMA
- Bureau of Land Management Ownership

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**FIGURE 2-10: Special Recreation Management Areas
Alternative C**

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2.3.16.1.1 Boulevard Destination SRMA

Goals and Objectives

The Boulevard Destination SRMA includes the most extensively used areas in the Planning Area and includes the established campgrounds, horse corrals, and designated OHV use area and route network. The SRMA also includes lands that are designated as wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, and ACECs. The primary activities in these areas are camping, OHV use, equestrian use, target shooting, hunting, mountain biking, hiking and backpacking, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and pleasure touring. This SRMA would be managed as a regional or national destination through collaborative partnerships in order to promote the continued use of the lands for these activities.

Primary Market Strategy

The primary market strategy for the proposed Boulevard SRMA would be to target demonstrated destination recreation market demand for specific activity, experience, and benefit opportunities.

Partnerships and Coordination

BLM would coordinate with local communities, Native American tribes and groups, Cleveland National Forest, California SHPO, San Diego Archaeological Society, San Diego County, CDFG, USFWS, U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), California State Parks, California Department of Forestry, California State Lands Commission, and local public health and safety organizations, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Environmental Education Needs

BLM supports the *Tread Lightly!* and *Leave No Trace* national programs and promotes proper OHV use, hunting ethics, and archaeological/cultural resource ethics. BLM would provide information about geology, wildlife, and other points of interest. BLM would implement wildland fire prevention and mitigation, invasive species prevention, wilderness survival skills programs.

2.3.16.1.2 Julian Destination SRMA

Goals and Objectives

The Julian Destination SRMA includes a mixture of lands that are either limited use areas or are designated WSAs. Primary uses include 4X4 touring, equestrian use, mountain biking, target shooting, hunting, hiking and backpacking, wildflower and wildlife viewing, and rock hounding. This SRMA would be managed as a regional or national destination through collaborative partnerships in order to promote the continued use of the lands for these activities.

Primary Market Strategy

The primary market strategy for the proposed Julian SRMA would be to target demonstrated destination recreation market demand for specific activity, experience, and benefit opportunities.

Partnerships and Coordination

BLM would coordinate with local communities, Native American tribes and groups, California SHPO, San Diego Archaeological Society, Julian Historical Society, San Diego County, CDFG, USFWS, California State Parks, California Department of Forestry, California State Lands Commission, and local public health and safety organizations, and various NGOs.

Environmental Education Needs

BLM supports the *Tread Lightly!* and *Leave No Trace* national programs and promotes proper OHV use, hunting ethics, and archaeological/cultural resource ethics. BLM would provide information about geology, wildlife, and other points of interest. BLM would implement wildland fire prevention and mitigation, invasive species prevention, wilderness survival skills programs.

2.3.16.1.3 Sawtooth Destination SRMA

Goals and Objectives

The Sawtooth Destination SRMA is composed primarily of designated wilderness and WSAs. The primary activities in these areas are wilderness activities, including hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian

use. Limited OHV use, camping, and day use would be accommodated, outside of designated wilderness and WSAs. This SRMA would be managed as a regional or national destination through collaborative partnerships in order to promote the continued use of the lands for these activities. The Sawtooth Destination SRMA would be established under Alternatives B, D, and E.

Primary Market Strategy

The primary strategy for the proposed Sawtooth Destination SRMA would be to target demonstrated destination recreation market demand for specific activity, experience, and benefit opportunities.

Partnerships and Coordination

BLM would coordinate with local communities, Native American tribes and groups, California SHPO, San Diego Archaeological Society, San Diego County, CDFG, USFWS, USBP, California State Parks, California Department of Forestry, California State Lands Commission, and local public health and safety organizations, and various NGOs.

Environmental Education Needs

BLM supports the *Tread Lightly!* and *Leave No Trace* national programs and promotes proper OHV use, hunting ethics, and archaeological/cultural resource ethics. BLM would provide information about geology, wildlife, and other points of interest. BLM would implement wildland fire prevention and mitigation, invasive species prevention, wilderness survival skills programs.

2.3.16.1.4 Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA

Goals and Objectives

The Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA is composed primarily of designated wilderness and WSAs. The primary activities in these areas are wilderness activities, including hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use. This SRMA would be managed to intentionally maintain dispersed and undeveloped

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

recreation opportunities. The Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA would be established under Alternative C.

Primary Market Strategy

The primary strategy for the proposed Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA would be to target demonstrated undeveloped recreation market demand for specific activity, experience, and benefit opportunities.

Partnerships and Coordination

BLM would coordinate with local communities, Native American tribes and groups, California SHPO, San Diego Archaeological Society, San Diego County, CDFG, USFWS, USBP, California State Parks, California Department of Forestry, California State Lands Commission, and local public health and safety organizations, and various NGOs.

Environmental Education Needs

BLM supports the *Tread Lightly!* and *Leave No Trace* national programs and promotes proper OHV use, hunting ethics, and archaeological/cultural resource ethics. BLM would provide information about geology, wildlife, and other points of interest. BLM would implement wildland fire prevention and mitigation, invasive species prevention, wilderness survival skills programs.

2.3.16.2 Recreation Management Zones

Within each SRMA, BLM also allocates Recreation Management Zones (RMZ). An RMZ represents public lands with a distinctive recreation niche (activities, experiences, and benefits) within each SRMA. The BLM would focus management, funding, and planning within SRMAs and their RMZs to work towards stated Recreation Management Objectives and Goals and Objectives.

The allocation of SRMAs and RMZs provides the Planning Area with an activity-level planning framework for future recreation management. Activity-level recreation management plans based on this framework would provide additional opportunities for

public involvement and agency collaboration to further ensure that future proposed actions are compatible with the BLM's multiple-use mission.

Recreation Management Zones by SRMA are presented in Table 2-16 below. Figures 2-11 and 2-12 illustrate the locations of the RMZs.

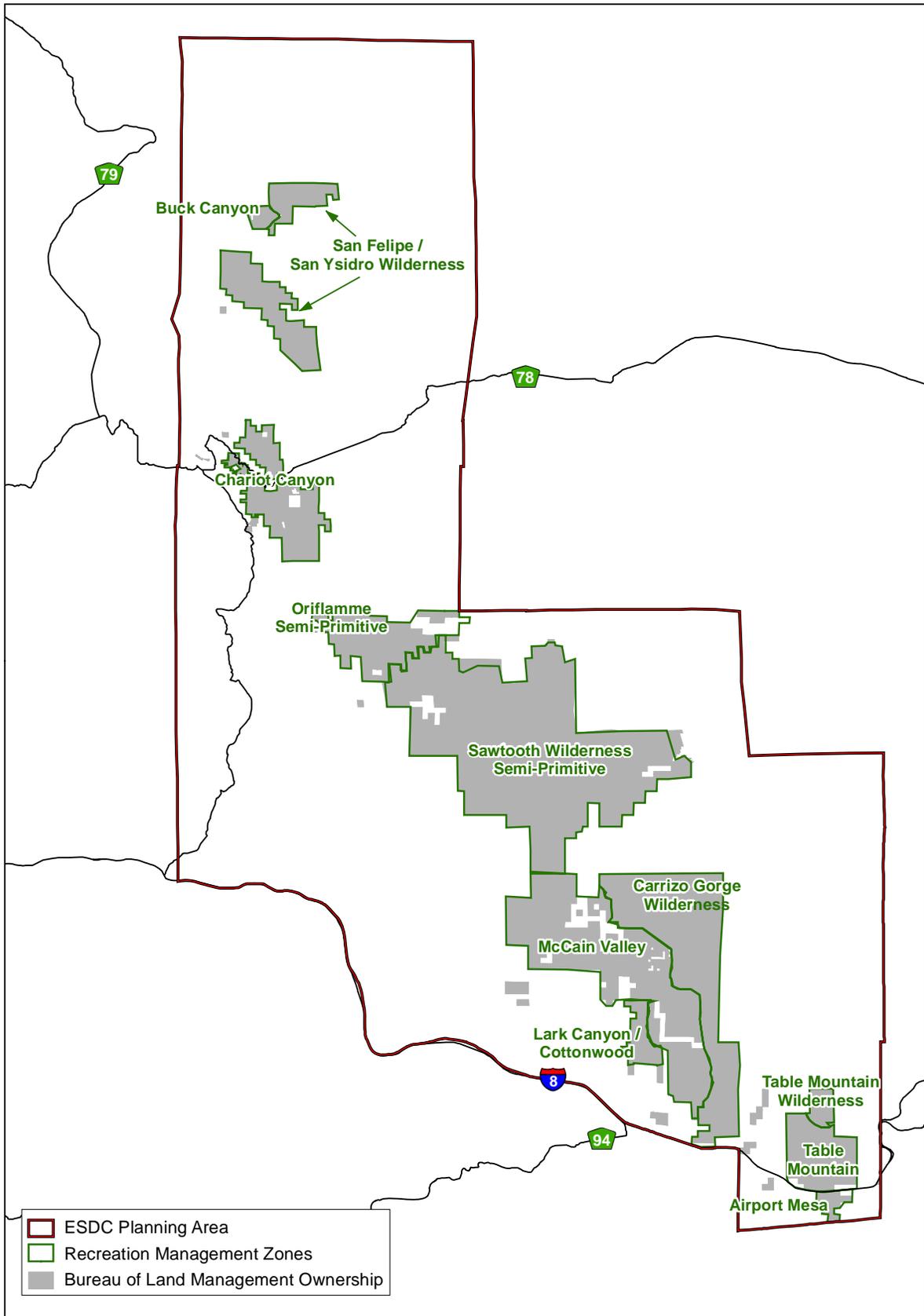
2.3.16.2.1 Boulevard SRMA

Airport Mesa RMZ

Goals and Objectives: Airport Mesa RMZ would be managed for its rural recreational qualities.

**TABLE 2-16
RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONES BY SRMA**

Recreation Management Zone (RMZ)	Boulevard Destination SRMA	Julian Destination SRMA	Sawtooth Destination SRMA	Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA
Airport Mesa RMZ	X			
Buck Canyon RMZ		X		
Chariot Canyon RMZ		X		
Carrizo Gorge Wilderness RMZ	X			
McCain Valley RMZ	X			
Oriflamme Semi-primitive RMZ			X	
Oriflamme Primitive RMZ				X
San Felipe/San Ysidro Wilderness RMZ		X		
Sawtooth Wilderness Semi-Primitive RMZ			X	
Sawtooth Wilderness Primitive RMZ				X
Table Mountain RMZ	X			
Table Mountain Wilderness RMZ	X			



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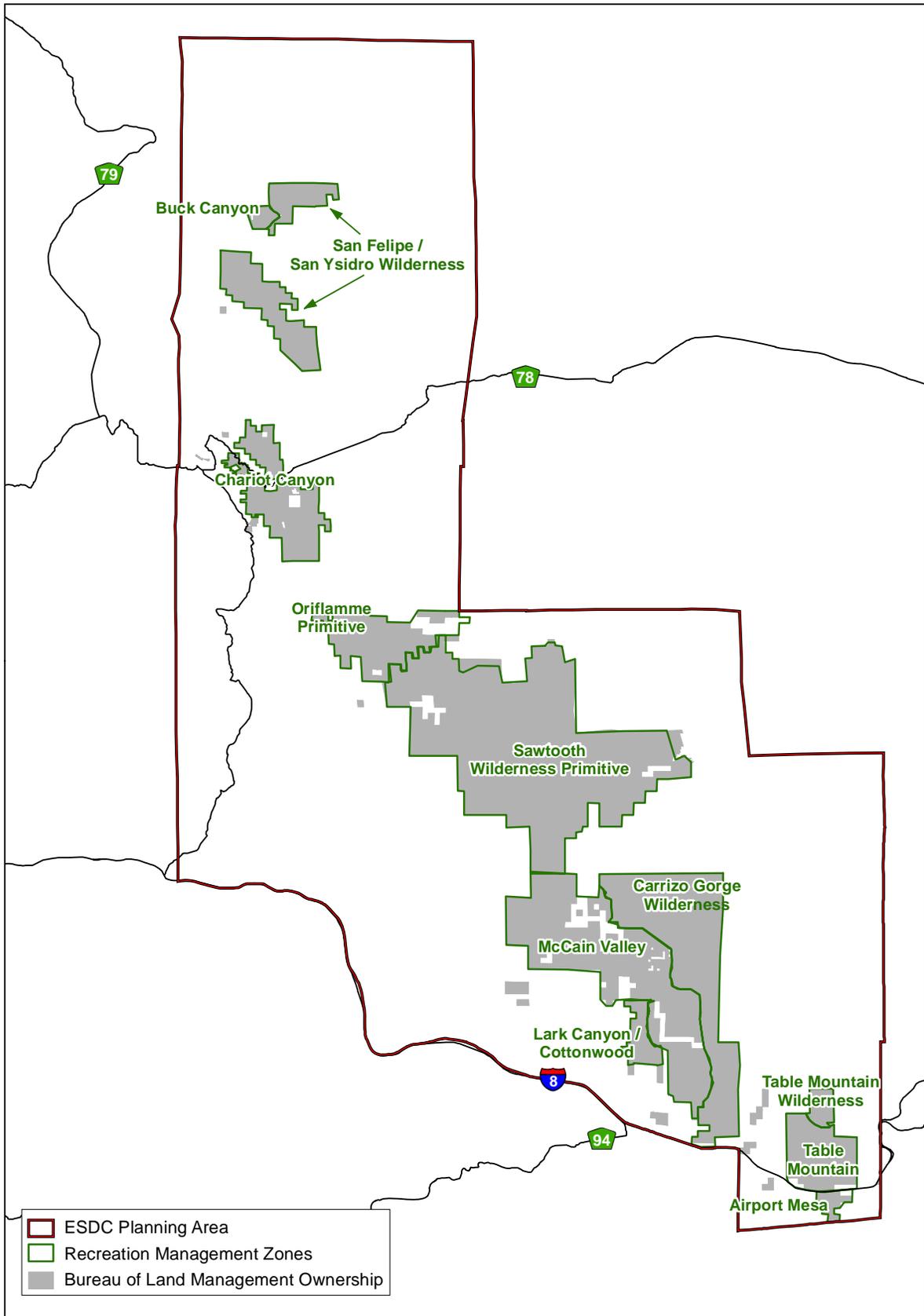


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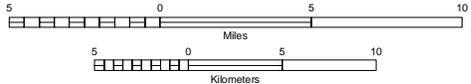


FIGURE 2-11: Recreation Management Zones
 Alternatives B, D, and E

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FIGURE 2-12: Recreation Management Zones
 Alternative C

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2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Recreation Niche: The Airport Mesa RMZ is a destination point for many of San Diego and Imperial County residents that enjoy target shooting, hiking, and hunting.

- **Primary Activities:** Target shooting, hiking, and hunting.
- **Experiences:** Learning about open spaces, proper shooting etiquette and purchasing recreation supplies from local communities.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Increased appreciation of open spaces that allow various recreational opportunities.
 - Household & Community: Increased community stewardship of public lands and increased family bonding.
 - Economic: Increased local tourism revenues.

Carrizo Gorge Wilderness RMZ

Goals and Objectives: The Carrizo Gorge Wilderness RMZ consists of the Carrizo Gorge WSA. This RMZ would be managed for its wilderness qualities while supporting the needs of the California State Parks in the vicinity.

Recreation Niche: The RMZ offers a unique opportunity to enjoy an area that supports solitude and remoteness, a diverse flora and fauna, and general wilderness quality.

- **Primary Activities:** Hiking, horseback riding, backcountry hiking, and wildlife viewing.
- **Experiences:** Regular exercise in natural environments, seeing restored riparian ecosystems, and learning about the area's natural and cultural history.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Increased appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage.
 - Community: Improved community fitness and increased community stewardship of public lands.
 - Economic: Increased local heritage tourism revenues, and increased local property values.

- Environmental: Improved protection of natural and cultural resources and decreased presence of non-native invasive species.

McCain Valley RMZ

Goals and Objectives: The McCain Valley RMZ includes the Lark Canyon and Cottonwood Campgrounds and developed recreational facilities. This RMZ would be managed for its historical, cultural and natural qualities while continuing to be managed as a diverse recreational area supporting a developed recreational trail system for OHV day-use area, developed recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds and other sites), and natural resource qualities. The RMZ would continue to support the management plan and agreements with Native American communities and California State Parks.

Recreation Niche: The RMZ supports multi-recreational activities to people in San Diego and Imperial Counties, including numerous hiking, OHV, and equestrian trail opportunities.

- **Primary Activities:** Camping, mountain bike riding, hiking, OHV riding, horseback riding, wildlife and landscape viewing, photography and picnicking.
- **Experiences:** Regular exercise in natural environments; family recreation; purchasing recreation supplies at local communities; and living near safe and convenient access to recreational opportunities on public lands.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Increased family bonding; increased community stewardship of public lands; a better understanding for the need to maintain rural and undeveloped ecosystems; and improved physical fitness.
 - Household & Community: Stronger family ties and increased community stewardship of public lands.
 - Economic: Increased local eco-tourism revenues and increased local property values.
 - Environmental: Reduced presence of non-native invasive species and improved protection of natural and cultural resources.

Table Mountain RMZ

Goals and Objectives: The Table Mountain RMZ would be managed for its historical, cultural and natural qualities while supporting the needs of the local Native American tribal communities and the California State Parks within the vicinity.

Recreation Niche: This RMZ has a wide variety of primitive, natural, and unconfined recreation opportunities. Challenging outdoor adventures to hike, camp, and hunting exist throughout the mountain range's rugged and undeveloped terrain.

- **Primary Activities:** Landscape viewing, OHV use, wildlife and wildflower viewing, hunting, and camping.
- **Experiences:** Recreating as a family; enjoying safe access to public lands; enjoying the undeveloped nature of rugged western lands; and purchasing recreation supplies from local communities.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: More family bonding; increased community stewardship of public lands; and a better understanding for the need to maintain undeveloped desert ecosystems.
 - Household & Community: Increased community stewardship of public lands.
 - Economic: Increased local eco-tourism revenues.
 - Environmental: Improved protection of natural and cultural resources and a decreased presence of non-native invasive species.

Table Mountain Wilderness RMZ

Goals and Objectives: Table Mountain Wilderness RMZ consists of the Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area. This RMZ would be managed for its wilderness qualities while supporting the needs of the local Native American tribal communities and the California State Parks within the vicinity.

Recreation Niche: The RMZ offers a unique opportunity to enjoy an area that supports solitude and remoteness, a diverse flora and fauna, and general wilderness quality.

- **Primary Activities:** Hiking, horseback riding, backcountry travel and wildlife viewing.
- **Experiences:** Regular exercise in natural environments, learning about the area's natural and cultural history, purchasing recreation supplies at local communities, and living near safe and convenient access to recreational opportunities on public lands.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Increased appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage.
 - Community: Improved community fitness and increased community stewardship of public lands.
 - Economic: Increased local heritage tourism revenues, and increased local property values.
 - Environmental: Improved protection of natural and cultural resources and decreased presence of non-native invasive species.

2.3.16.2.2 Julian SRMA

San Felipe Hills/San Ysidro Wilderness RMZ

Goals and Objectives: San Felipe/San Ysidro Hills Wilderness RMZ consists of the San Felipe Hills and San Ysidro WSAs. This RMZ would be managed for its wilderness qualities while working in conjunction with Native American tribes, California State Parks, and USFS. The BLM would continue to support the management plan and agreements for the Pacific Crest NST.

Recreation Niche: The RMZ provides challenging, primitive recreation opportunities such as hunting, hiking, and equestrian use. This RMZ is a main thoroughfare for the Pacific Crest Trail. The RMZ also offers a unique opportunity to explore historical mining areas.

- **Primary Activities:** Hiking, backcountry camping, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, photography, picnicking, and wildlife and wildflower viewing.
- **Experiences:** Challenging, non-motorized, exploratory adventures; enjoying a sense of community from recreating with other outdoor enthusiasts; appreciating the primitive, natural, and unconfined recreation opportunities

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- **Benefits:**

- Personal: Improved self-confidence and physical fitness and a better understanding for the need to maintain undeveloped ecosystems.
- Community & Household: Improved community stewardship of public lands.
- Economic: Increased regional eco-tourism revenues by purchasing recreation supplies at local communities and increased local property values.
- Environmental: Improved protection of natural and cultural resources, and decreased presence of non-native invasive species.

Buck Canyon RMZ

Goals and Objectives: Buck Canyon RMZ would be managed as a Limited Use Area emphasizing its historical, cultural and natural qualities while supporting recreational activities. An equestrian parking/turnaround area has been proposed for future development in Buck Canyon.

Recreation Niche: Buck Canyon RMZ provides a range of trail-based recreation opportunities and is a portal for backcountry travel into the Anza Borrego State Park. Recreational activities for OHV-use and non-motorized activities such as hiking, hunting, horseback riding, bird watching, and photography are available.

- **Primary Activities:** OHV riding, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing.
- **Experiences:** Recreating as a family, enjoying safe access to our public lands, enjoying the undeveloped nature of the San Ysidro Mountains.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Better understanding for the need to maintain open spaces.
 - Household & Community. Increased appreciation of nature and opportunities of the public lands, closer family ties, and increased community stewardship of public lands
 - Economic: Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability and increased local property values.

- Environmental: Improved protection of natural and cultural resources, and decreased presence of non-native invasive species.

Chariot Canyon RMZ

Goals and Objectives: Chariot Canyon RMZ would be managed as a Limited Use Area emphasizing its historical, cultural and natural qualities as well as remote recreational uses. The RMZ would continue to support the management plan and agreements for the Pacific Crest NST, USFS, and California State Parks. The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area has been proposed for this RMZ.

Recreation Niche: This area provides multi-use recreation for motorized and non-motorized activities in a remote setting.

- **Primary Activities:** Horseback riding, hiking, 4x4 touring, camping, hunting, and wildlife viewing.
- **Experiences:** Appreciating the primitive, natural, and unconfined recreation opportunities.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Better understanding for the need to maintain undeveloped desert ecosystems, improved self-confidence, and physical fitness.
 - Household & Community: Improved community stewardship and increased family bonding through recreation.
 - Economic: Increased local eco-tourism revenues through the purchase of recreation supplies.
 - Environmental: Improved wildlife habit, increased awareness of nature and giving the public a sense of stewardship of the land.

2.3.16.2.3 Sawtooth Destination SRMA

The establishment of the Sawtooth Destination SRMA is proposed under Alternatives B and D, as well as the Preferred Alternative (E). The two RMZs in this SRMA would be managed as Semi-Primitive under these three alternatives, as described below.

Oriflamme Semi-primitive RMZ

Goals and Objectives: Oriflamme Semi-Primitive RMZ is a remote Limited Use Area that would be managed for its historical, cultural and natural qualities. The RMZ would continue to support the management plan and agreements for Pacific Crest NST, USFS, and California State Parks. Road improvements and the development of a picnic area have been proposed for this RMZ.

Recreation Niche: The RMZ provides a range of trail-based recreation opportunities for OHV use and non-motorized activities in a secluded area of the Planning Area.

- **Primary Activities:** OHV riding, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, photography, and wildlife viewing.
- **Experiences:** Recreating as a family, enjoying safe access to our public lands, enjoying the undeveloped natural environment.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Better understanding for the need to maintain open spaces.
 - Household & Community: Increased appreciation of nature and opportunities of the public lands, closer family ties, increased community stewardship of public lands, and a better understanding for the need to maintain open spaces.
 - Economic: Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability through increased eco-tourism.
 - Environmental: Reduced presence of hazardous fuels, improved protection of cultural and historic resources, and improved health of the land.

Sawtooth Wilderness Semi-primitive RMZ

Goals and Objectives: The Sawtooth Wilderness Semi-primitive RMZ consists of the Sawtooth Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. There are also a few small scattered BLM-administered lands adjacent to the designated wilderness and WSAs within the RMZ. This RMZ is a rugged area that would be managed for its wilderness qualities while working in conjunction with Native American tribes and California State Parks. Road improvements and the development of a trailhead have been proposed on the BLM-lands adjacent to the designated wilderness and WSA boundaries to facilitate access to these areas.

Recreation Niche: This RMZ offers a unique opportunity to explore lands that have a wilderness quality. The Sawtooth area offers a diverse flora and fauna community and remote hiking and backcountry experiences for visitors to enjoy.

- **Primary Activities:** Hiking, backcountry camping, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and photography.
- **Experiences:** Regular exercise in natural environments, seeing riparian ecosystems, learning about the area's natural and cultural history, and living near safe and convenient access to recreational opportunities on public lands.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Increased appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage.
 - Community: Improved community fitness and increased community stewardship of public lands.
 - Economic: Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability and increased local property values.
 - Environmental: Improved protection of natural and cultural resources and decreased presence of non-native invasive species.

2.3.16.2.4 Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA

The establishment of the Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA is proposed under Alternative C. The two RMZs in this SRMA would be managed as primitive under this alternative, as described below.

Oriflamme Primitive RMZ

Goals and Objectives: Oriflamme Primitive RMZ is a remote Limited Use Area that would be managed for its historical, cultural, and natural qualities. The RMZ would continue to support the management plan and agreements for the Pacific Crest NST and California State Parks.

Recreation Niche: The RMZ provides a range of trail-based recreation opportunities for limited OHV use and undeveloped, dispersed and non-motorized activities.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- **Primary Activities:** Camping, picnicking, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing.
- **Experiences:** Recreating as a family, enjoying safe access to our public lands, enjoying the undeveloped natural environment.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Better understanding for the need to maintain open spaces.
 - Household & Community: Increased appreciation of nature and opportunities of the public lands, closer family ties, increased community stewardship of public lands, and a better understanding for the need to maintain open spaces.
 - Economic: Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability through increased eco-tourism.
 - Environmental: Reduced presence of hazardous fuels, improved protection of cultural and historic resources, and improved health of the land.

Sawtooth Wilderness Primitive RMZ

Goals and Objectives: The Sawtooth Wilderness Primitive RMZ consists of the Sawtooth designated wilderness and WSAs. There are also a few small scattered BLM-administered lands adjacent to the designated wilderness and WSAs within the RMZ. This RMZ is a rugged area that would be managed for its wilderness qualities while working in conjunction with Native America tribes and California State Parks.

Recreation Niche: This RMZ offers a unique opportunity to explore lands that have a wilderness quality, a diverse flora and fauna, and remote hiking and backcountry experiences for visitors to enjoy.

- **Primary Activities:** Hiking, backcountry camping, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and photography.
- **Experiences:** Regular exercise in natural environments, seeing riparian ecosystems, learning about the area's natural and cultural history, and living adjacent to safe and convenient access to public lands with recreational opportunities.
- **Benefits:**
 - Personal: Increased appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage.

- Community: Improved community fitness and increased community stewardship of public lands.
- Economic: Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability and increased local property values.
- Environmental: Improved protection of natural and cultural resources and decreased presence of non-native invasive species.

2.3.16.3 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Collect Recreation Use Permit (RUP) fees at Cottonwood and Lark Canyon Campgrounds under the authority of Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA).
- Collect Special Recreation Permits (SRP) fees for commercial activities and organized group events on a case-by-case basis to provide for a wide range of recreation opportunities within the Planning Area.
- Maintain, install, and improve informational and interpretive kiosks and signs at the main points of access and interest throughout the field office. Signage should focus on informing visitors of applicable regulations and sustainable outdoor recreation ethics.
- Protect at-risk cultural resources from recreational damage as needed throughout the field office. Protection measures could include, but are not limited to fencing, signage, and trail realignments, restorations, and use limitations.
- Limit the length of stay for overnight camping on BLM-administered lands to 14 days within any 28-day period. After 14 days, visitors must move to another campsite at least 25 miles away.

2.3.16.4 Management Actions by Alternative

Table 2-17 provides a list of management actions that vary by alternative.

**TABLE 2-17
PROPOSED RECREATION MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Management Action	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
Limit group size for Table Mountain to 12 visitors.		X	X		X
Reseed and fence off eroding sites in the McCain Valley campgrounds and restrict off-road vehicle use in campgrounds as decided in the 1979 McCain RAMP; allow other sites to revegetate naturally. Install erosion control devices in campground areas where necessary, but protect archaeological resources from construction activities in Cottonwood Campground. Reseed only with native species.	X				
Take steps to control erosion on vehicle routes now closed to use east of the McCain Valley Road. Reseed "Competition Hill"; allow natural revegetation in other areas. Install erosion control structure on "Competition Hill" as needed. Utilize native species for reseeding.	X				
Where warranted by increased recreation demands, expand the RUP fee program to additional BLM-administered lands. The development of new and expanded RUP sites must support stated Recreation Management Objectives and Goals and Objectives, and would be contingent upon the completion of publicly reviewed recreation activity-plans that document the expected long-term compatibility with the BLM's multiple-use mission.	X	X		X	X
Currently there are 38,690 acres allocated in the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area in accordance with the McCain Valley Recreational Area Management Plan (RAMP; 1979). This RAMP would be reviewed for consistency with approved DRMP and revised accordingly.		X	X	X	X

2.3.17 Transportation and Public Access

Public lands managed by the BLM in the Planning Area are intermingled with lands administered by other federal agencies, county, state, and private lands. Managing access to and across public lands is a vital task for BLM. The authorities for the BLM to manage transportation and public access to and on the public lands include but are not limited to:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)
- Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 1990
- EO 11644
- EO 11989

- Title 5 ROWs
- Revised Statute (RS 2477 roads)
- *National Management Strategy Motorized Off-Highway vehicle Use on Public Lands* (2001)
- *National Mountain Bicycle Strategic Action Plan* (2002)

Upon signing the Record of Decision for this DRMP/EIS, BLM would make the following decisions concerning transportation and public access for the public lands within the Planning Area:

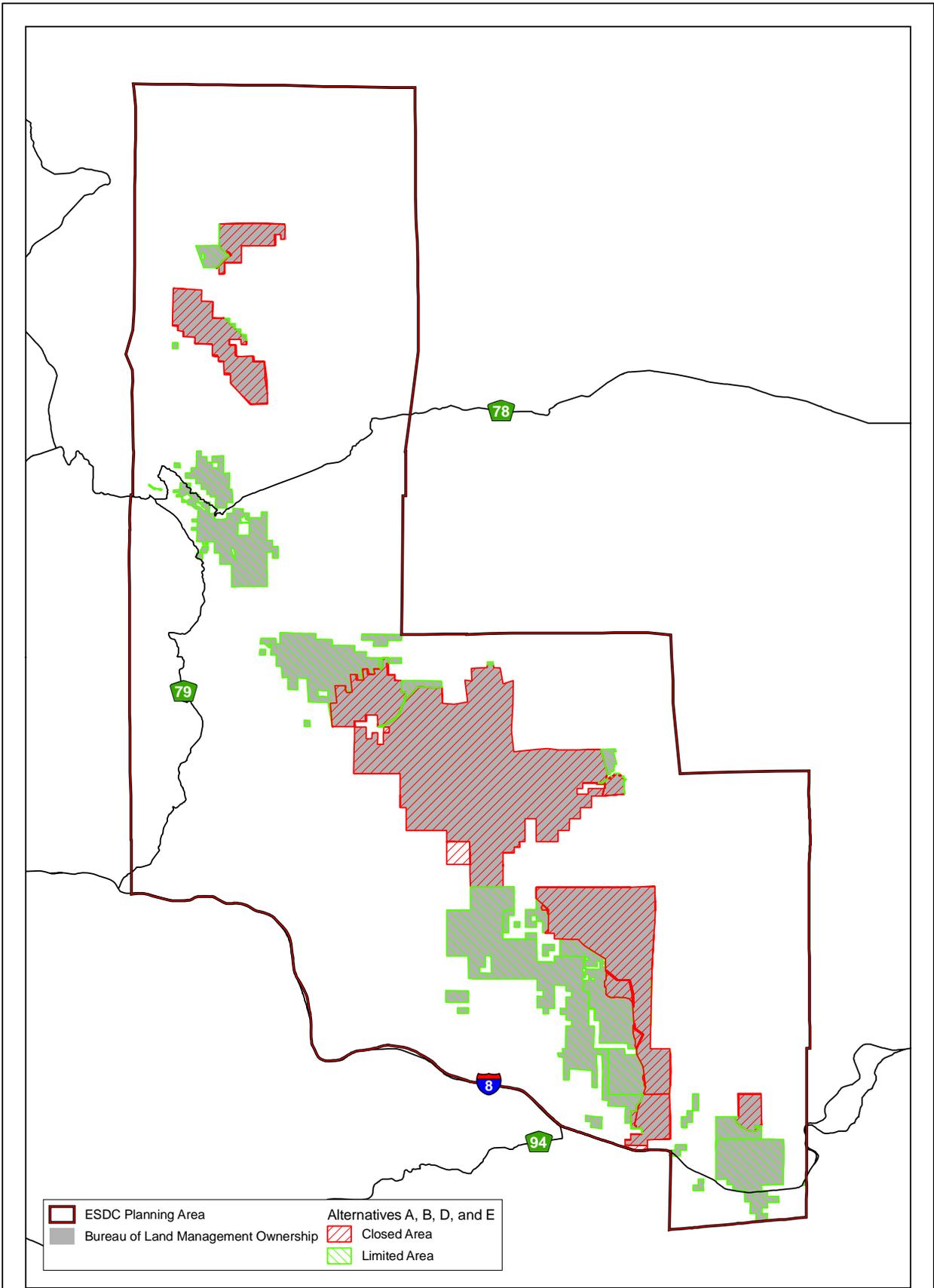
- Designation of all BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area as open, closed, or limited to OHV use (Land Use Plan-level decision).
- Designate routes of travel within the Planning Area as Implementation-Level Decisions.

2.3.17.1 OHV Area Designations

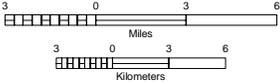
This DRMP would designate all BLM-administered public lands within the Planning Area as open, closed, or limited to motorized travel as identified in Figures 2-13 and 2-14 and on Table 2-18. Criteria and definitions for limited, open, and closed area designations are established in 43 CFR 8340.0-5 (f) (g) and (h), respectively. OHV area designations set forth in this DRMP/EIS may only be changed through a DRMP amendment.

Open areas are areas where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area.

Limited areas are restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the following type of categories: numbers of vehicles; types and sizes of vehicles time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; limited to administrative use only; and other restrictions. The distance motorized vehicles could pull off of a designated route varies by alternative (detailed in Table 2-18 below). This would be monitored on a continuing basis. If monitoring results show effects that exceed limits of acceptable change, the



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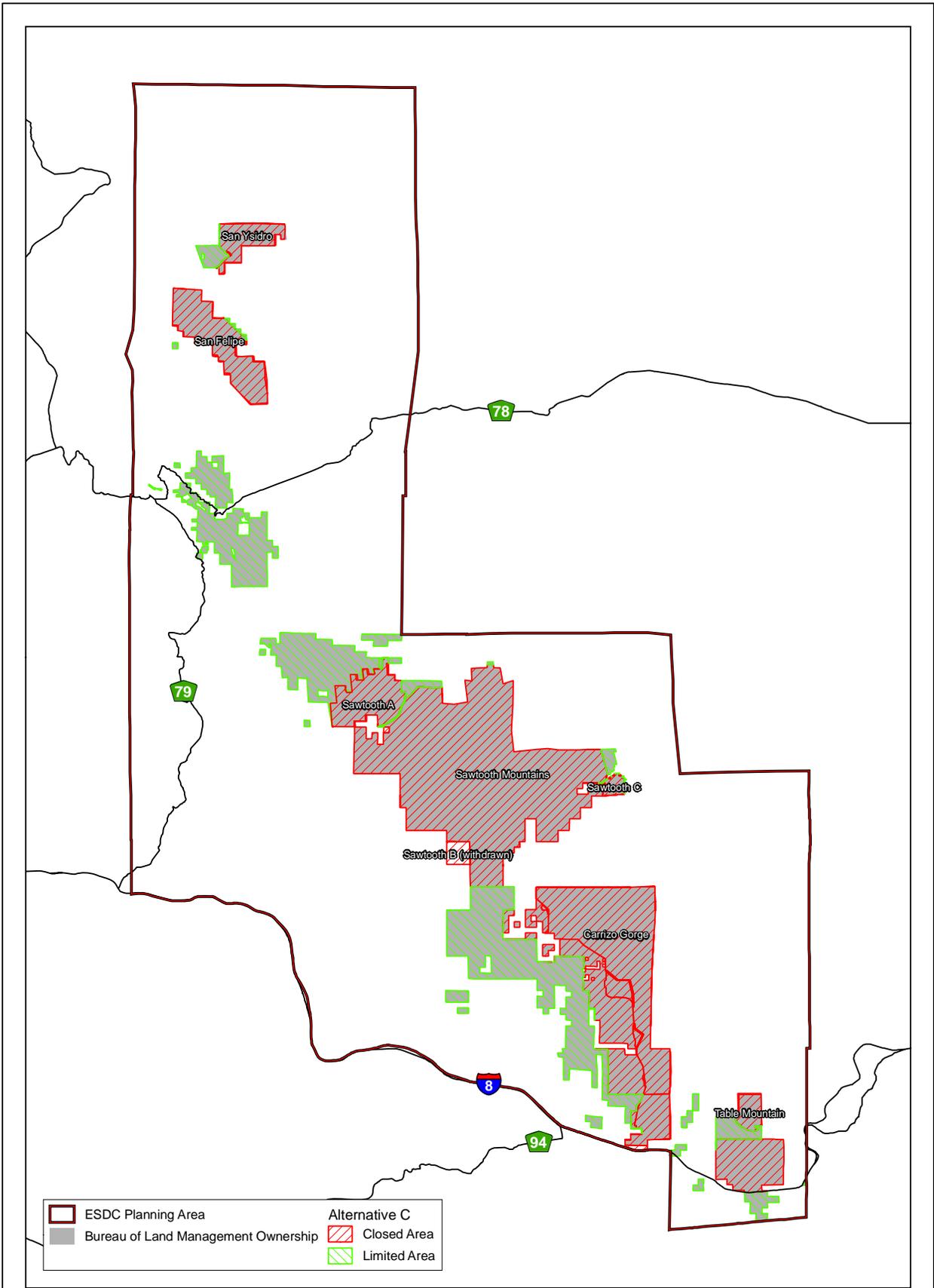


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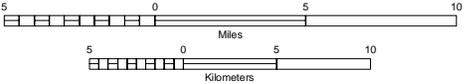


FIGURES 2-13: OHV Area Designations
 Alternatives A, B, D, and E

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FIGURE 2-14: OHV Area Designations
Alternative C

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**TABLE 2-18
OHV MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS (ACRES) BY ALTERNATIVE**

Designation	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
Open	0	0	0	0	0
Closed	62,296	62,296	88,775	62,296	62,296
Limited	41,007	41,007	14,528	41,007	41,007
Total Acres	103,303	103,303	103,303	103,303	103,303

distance allowed for motorized vehicles to pull off from a designated route may be modified.

Closed areas are areas where motorized vehicle use is prohibited. Use of OHVs in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons; however, such use would be made only with the approval of the authorized officer. Congressionally designated WAs are statutorily closed to motorized and mechanized use, except for purposes specifically provided for by law.

2.3.17.1.1 Goals and Objectives

- Ensure that the BLM continues to provide essential motorized access to non-federal lands, prior existing rights on BLM lands, and private in-holdings surrounded by BLM lands.
- Ensure that the BLM continues to provide adequate motorized access for the maintenance of wildlife water catchments and for dispersed recreation activities such as hunting.
- Ensure that the BLM provides for a wide variety of trail-based recreational opportunities (i.e. hiking, mountain biking, OHV riding, horseback riding, etc.).
- Reduce or halt the unauthorized proliferation of motorized and non-motorized recreation trails.
- Ensure that the BLM would minimize impacts to identified sensitive cultural, natural, biological, and visual resources.

2.3.17.1.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- General vehicle travel would only be allowed on routes designated for motorized vehicles. Emergency vehicles may utilize a drivable wash in order to access a site. Where no roads exist, vehicles could be authorized on a case-by-case basis to travel cross-country to avoid the need for road building. Where new roads must be built, roadbeds would be no wider than needed for reliable access; BLM specifications would also be used to reduce erosion.
- As a general practice, new roads would not be bladed for use in fence construction. Vehicles would travel cross-country, or fences would be built without motorized access, as specifically identified by the Authorized Officer.
- BLM's strategy for restoring non-motorized routes or trespasses would be accomplished as rapidly as funding permits. Sensitive resources in immediate danger, or those that have been damaged by vehicle trespass, would be a high priority for restoration. Typically, the restoration would be limited to that portion of the route of trespass that is in line of sight from an open route. Each route would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the most appropriate method of restoration would be used based on geography, topography, soils, hydrology, and vegetation. Areas proposed for restoration would first undergo NEPA compliance and compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966, as amended, to ensure compatibility with other resource values.
- The methods of restoration would include:
 - Not repairing washed-out routes
 - Using natural barriers, such as large boulders
 - Using rocks and dead and downed wood to obscure the route entryway
 - Employing mulching, chipping, and raking to disguise evidence of routes
 - Ripping up the route bed and reseeding with vegetation native to that area.
 - Utilizing fences or barriers
 - Providing signage, including information to OHV users, on the need and value of resource protection
 - Converting motorized two-track routes into non-motorized single track routes
 - Ensure that designated routes within the Planning Area are adequately signed and mapped for public use.

2.3.17.2 Implementation Level Decisions: Routes of Travel

The BLM may use a single land use planning/NEPA (i.e., RMP/EIS) process to make both land use plan and implementation level decisions. The routes of travel displayed in this section and on Table 2-19 are implementation level decisions, not land use plan (RMP) level decisions.

Making implementation level decisions as part of the land use planning process and analyzing them concurrently with land use plan decisions does not change the administrative remedies for implementation level decisions or the timing of those remedies. Land use plan level decisions may be protested to the Director of the BLM when the Proposed RMP/Final EIS are filed with the Environmental Protection Agency before the RMP is approved. The implementation level decisions in this section may not be protested at this time since they are not RMP level decisions.

The BLM will make its decision on the implementation level decision in this section in the ROD for the approved RMP. Once these decisions are made in the ROD, only these implementation level decisions may be appealed in accordance with the appeal procedures that are applicable to designating routes of travel (43 CFR Part 4).

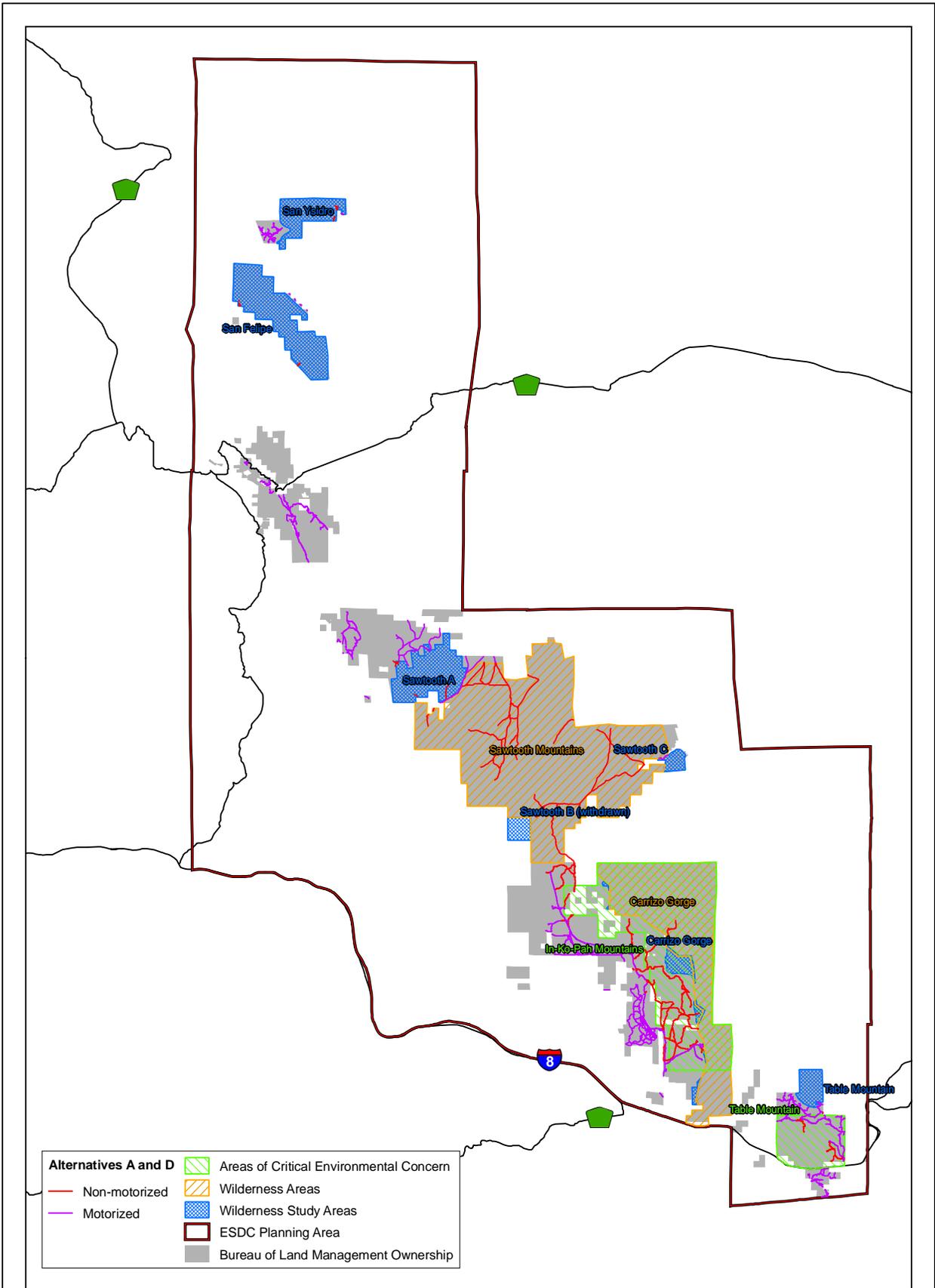
All routes have been classified as motorized or non-motorized. Motorized routes are open to all vehicles, including OHVs. Some motorized routes may have additional limitations on use, including vehicle size, vehicle type, and season of use. Non-motorized routes would be closed to motorized vehicles, including OHV, but open to biking, hiking, and equestrian use. Table 2-20 provides the total mileage of each of these classifications by alternative, and Figures 2-15 through 2-17 illustrate the locations of the various routes of travel classifications by alternative.

**TABLE 2-19
ROUTES OF TRAVEL BY ALTERNATIVE**

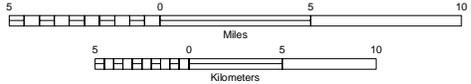
Route Designations	A	B	C	D	E
Designate all areas within Class M (as defined in Section 2.3.12) for vehicle use as "limited to existing routes of travel." All existing routes are open unless posted closed by BLM. Designate all areas within Class L (as defined in Section 2.3.12) for vehicle use as "limited to approved routes of travel," with the exception of Class L portion of the In-Ko-Pah Mountain ACEC north of the Sacatone Springs Road.	X				
WAs and WSAs would be designated as closed areas for mechanized and motorized vehicle use. Travel within the rest of the Planning Area would be limited to designated routes.		X	X	X	X
Non-motorized routes would be restored.		X	X	X	X
Designate the Class L portion of the In-Ko-Pah Mountains ACEC north of Lost Valley as "closed to vehicle use.	X				
Lark Canyon Recreation Zone, routes limited to ATVs 40" or less would be 10 feet wide, or 5 feet on each side of center.		X	X	X	X
Designate the Sawtooth Mountains WSA as limited to approved routes of travel for grazing and administrative purposes.	X				
Designate the Carrizo Gorge WSA as "closed" to vehicle use.	X				
Motorized vehicles may be allowed to pull off 300 feet from the edge of a designated route.	X			X	
Motorized vehicles may be allowed to pull off 100 feet from the edge of a designated route.		X			
Motorized vehicles may be allowed to pull off 25 feet from the edge of a designated route.			X		X
Route decisions based on importance for recreation, cultural, and biological.		X			X
Route decisions based on cultural and biological resources.			X		
Route decisions based on importance of the route.				X	
BLM roads would be inspected and maintained on a periodic basis.		X	X	X	X

**TABLE 2-20
ROUTES OF TRAVEL CLASSIFICATION (MILES) BY ALTERNATIVE**

Classification	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
Motorized	108.65	92.75	77.90	108.65	92.75
Non-motorized	82.55	98.45	113.30	82.55	98.45
Total Mileage	191.20	191.20	191.20	191.20	191.20



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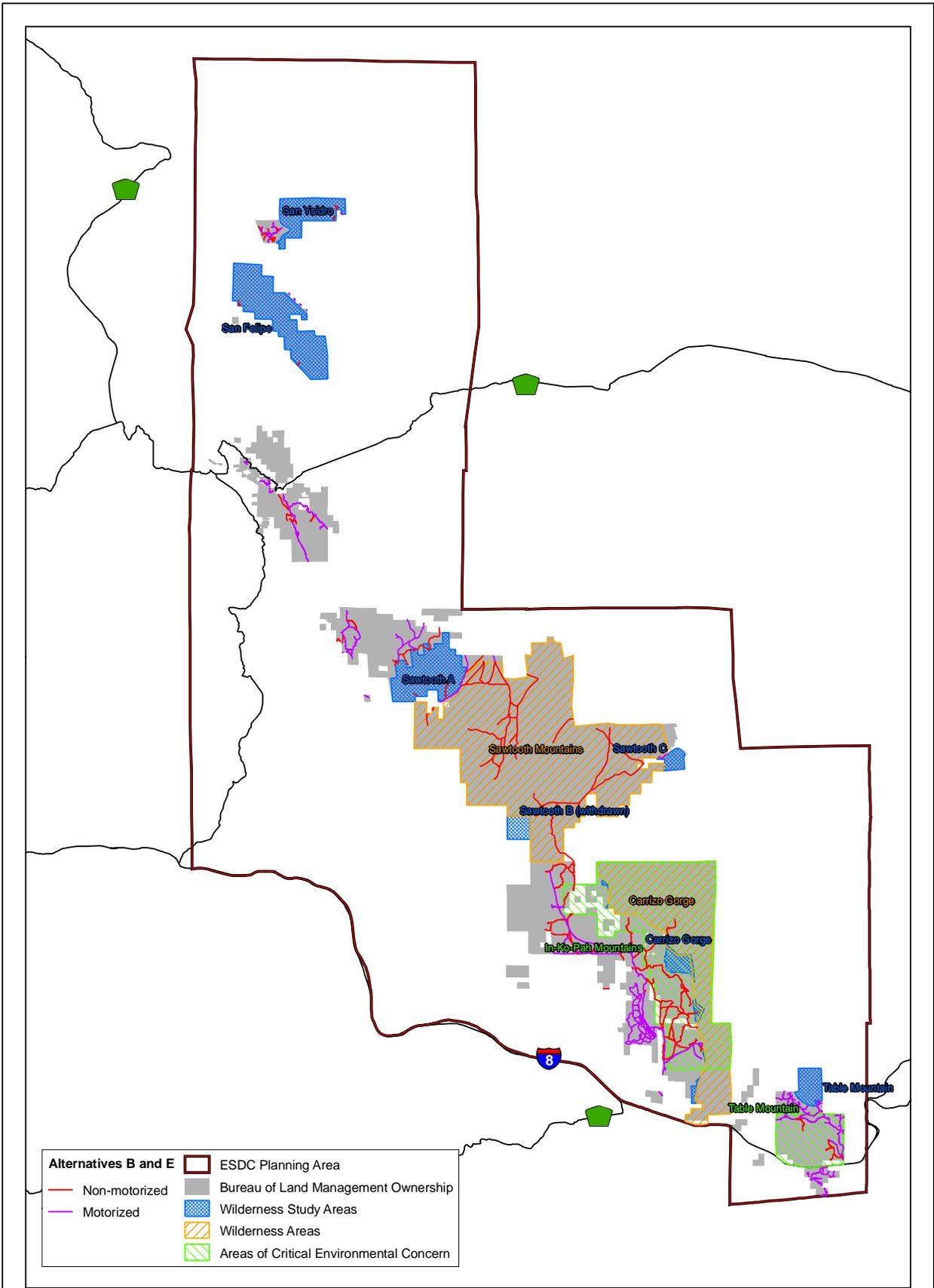


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FIGURE 2-15: Routes of Travel
Alternatives A and D

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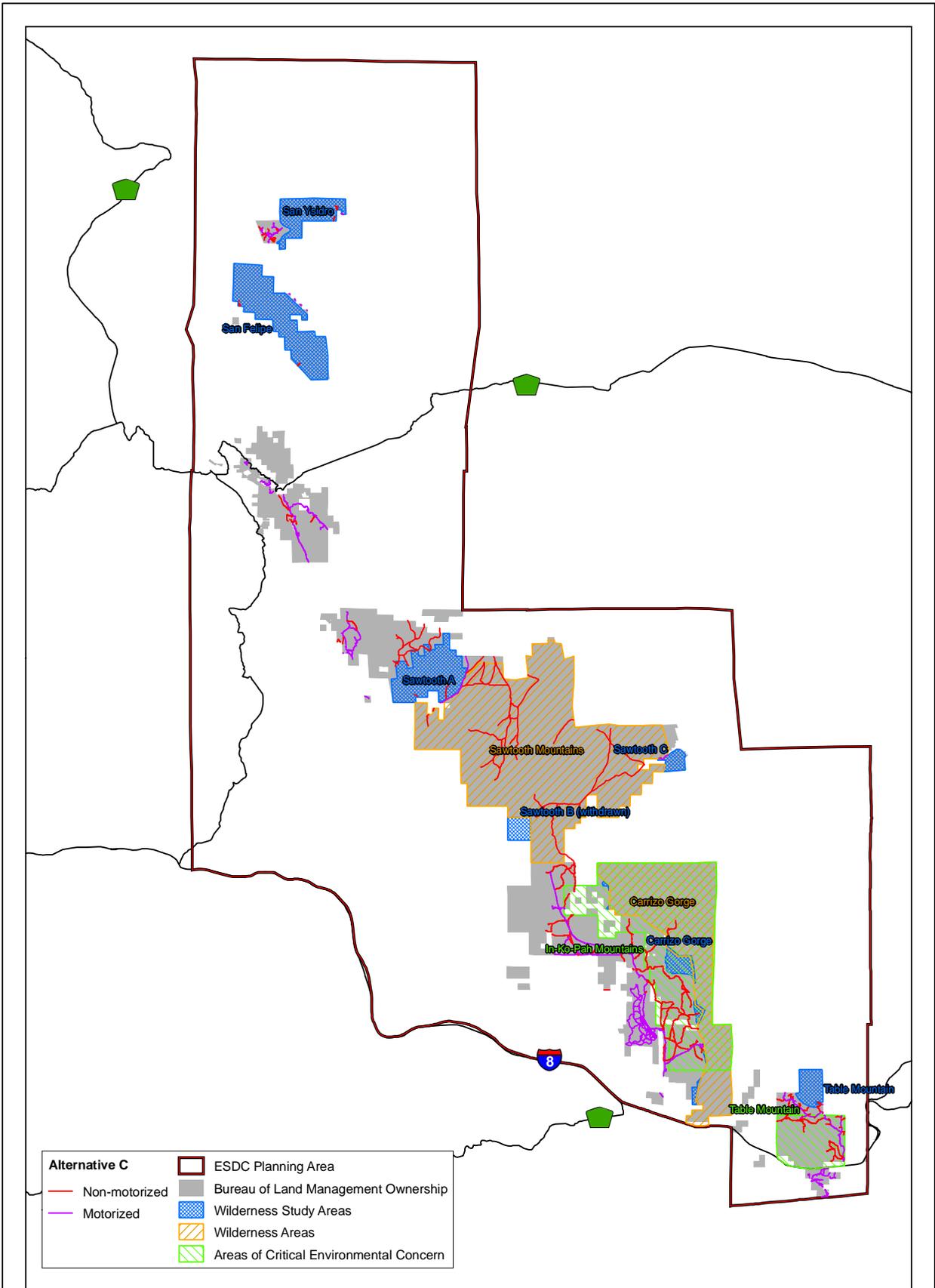
FIGURE 2-16: Routes of Travel
Alternatives B and E



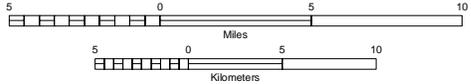
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FIGURE 2-17: Routes of Travel
Alternative C

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2.3.18 Lands and Realty Management

The Lands and Realty Management Program consists of four distinct parts: land tenure, land use authorization (including renewable energy), withdrawals, and utility corridors. Land tenure focuses on disposing of and acquiring lands or interests in lands. Public lands would be retained in federal ownership, unless as a result of land use planning it is determined that disposal of a particular parcel would serve the national interest.

Land use authorization focuses on public demand requests for ROWs, permits, leases, and easements.

As used in the lands and realty program, a withdrawal removes an area of Federal land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws (including the Mining Law of 1872), for the purpose of limiting activities under those laws to maintain other public values in the area or reserving the area for a particular public purpose or program. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction over an area of Federal land from one department, bureau, or agency to another.

An energy corridor is a linear strip that has been identified through the land use planning process as being a preferred location for existing and future utility ROWs, and that is suitable to accommodate one or more ROWs which are similar, identical or compatible

The Lands and Realty Management Program administers public lands within a framework of numerous laws and regulations. The most comprehensive of these is FLPMA which, along with implementing regulations, enables BLM to accomplish a variety of land actions, including but not limited to sales, withdrawals, acquisitions, exchanges, leases, permits, easements, and rights-of-way. In 1988, FLPMA was amended by the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act (FLEFA, 102 Stat. 1087). FLEFA established uniform rules and regulations for appraisals, procedures, and guidelines for the resolution of appraisal disputes in the exchange process.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Other applicable laws and policies include:

- Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185) as amended: BLM issues ROWs for oil and natural gas pipelines and related facilities pursuant to Section 28 of the MLA.
- Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act as amended: The act of June 14, 1926, as amended, (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.) is used primarily for providing land to fulfill the need for public services (parks, monuments, schools, community buildings, hospitals, sanitary landfills) due to urban expansion.
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 (49 U.S.C. 2215): The act provides for the conveyance of BLM administered lands to public agencies for use as airports and airways.
- Federal Highway Acts: Various Federal Highway Acts codified in 23 U.S.C., Sections 17 and 317 and the current Interagency Agreement also apply to lands and realty management.
- Federal Land Transaction and Facilitation Act (FLTFA [114 Stat. 613; 43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.]) of July 25, 2000: The FLTFA amended FLPMA to allow retention by the BLM of receipts received from the sale of land or interests in land under Section 203 of FLPMA or conveyance of mineral interest under Section 209(b) of FLPMA, as long as the applicable land use plan was completed prior to July 25, 2000.
- The National Energy Policy and Executive Order 13212, dated May 18, 2001 provides direction to federal agencies to take appropriate actions to expedite the review of energy related ROW projects, support renewable energy development on federal lands (including wind energy), and improve efficiencies in the processing of ROW applications.

A summary of potential lands and realty management actions by alternative is presented in Table 2-21 below.

**TABLE 2-21
PROPOSED LANDS AND REALTY ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE**

Lands Actions	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
Land Tenure					
Disposal (acres)	1,715	1,080	0	1,080	490
Acquisitions	Lands and interests in lands (including easements) would be acquired from willing sellers on a case-by-case basis. Emphasis would be on protecting sensitive wildlife and archaeological resources; facilitating public recreation programs; and consolidating WAs and WSAs. Purchase and donations are key mechanisms for land acquisition.				
Land Use Authorizations					
Leases, Permits, and Easements	Considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas identified by alternative.				
ROWs	Considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas identified by alternative.				
Communication Sites (number)	2	Considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas identified by alternative.			
Renewable Energy	Considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas identified by alternative.				
WAs and WSAs are exclusion areas	X			X	X
ACECs and VRM Class II are avoidance areas.		X	X		X
Critical habitat is avoidance area.		X			X
Critical habitat is an exclusion area. Quino recovery area is avoidance.			X		
No exclusion or avoidance areas except WAs and WSAs. No adverse modification for critical habitats.				X	
Wind energy development would be subject to best management practices, as outlined in the national wind energy policy or as updated.		X	X	X	X
Withdrawals (acres)					
Existing Withdrawal–WAs	48,333	48,333	48,333	48,333	48,333
Existing Withdrawal–PLOs ¹	26,696	26,696	26,696	26,696	26,696
Proposed Withdrawal–BLM only ²	26,479	0	26,102	0	9,471
Utility Corridor (number/miles)	1/1,920	1/980	1/980	1/980	1/980

¹ These lands are withdrawn from application under certain non-mineral public land laws and from disposition under the homestead, desert land, and scrip selection laws, and excludes overlap with WAs.

² Proposed withdrawals are based on the mineral entry withdrawals identified in Table 2-14 and exclude overlap with WAs. These areas do overlap the PLO boundaries, as the PLOs do not withdraw lands from mineral entry.

2.3.18.1 Land Tenure

2.3.18.1.1 Disposal

All land disposal actions are discretionary with emphasis on the evaluation of whether such lands are 1) manageable, 2) needed for any particular federal purpose, or 3) better suited to serving the public. Exchanges are used for disposal in order to assure an optimum final land ownership pattern and provide better overall land management. Sales would be considered where more efficient. Sales are primarily competitive or modified competitive. Disposal of these lands would be made on a case-by-case basis and would be accomplished by the most appropriate disposal authority.

Public lands have potential for disposal when they are isolated and/or difficult to manage and do not contain legally protected species of plants or animals or cultural artifacts or affect Native American cultural values. Exceptions to these criteria could occur, such as disposal to a non-Federal governmental agency or private organization better qualified to ensure the protection of the sensitive species, habitat, or resources. Disposal actions are usually in response to a public request or application. BLM could dispose of withdrawn lands with the concurrence of the withdrawing agency.

There are two distinct disposal methods outlined in FLPMA, sale and exchange.

- Land disposal by public sale is addressed in Section 203 of FLPMA. This section contains three criteria to apply in identifying public lands suitable for disposal by public sale. The criteria are that a) the tract of public land is difficult and uneconomical to manage as part of the public lands and is not suitable for management by another federal department or agency, b) the land is no longer required for a specific purpose, or c) disposal would serve important public objectives.
- The criteria for determining which public lands or interests therein are available for disposal by exchange are covered in Section 206 of FLPMA. These criteria require BLM to consider the public interest by giving full consideration to better federal land management and the needs of state and local people. These include the need of lands for the economy, community expansion, recreation areas, food fiber, minerals, and fish and wildlife. The criteria also require that the public objectives to be served must be greater on the lands to be acquired than on the lands to be conveyed.

The BLM may also dispose of lands under the following four authorities:

- **Desert Land Entry Act of 1877.** No lands have been identified as meeting the criteria for entry under this authority; therefore, none are available for disposal under this authority.
- **Indian Allotment Act of 1887.** No lands have been identified as meeting the criteria for entry under this authority; therefore, none are available for disposal under this authority.
- **The 1954 Revision of the Act of June 14, 1926 (R&PP) Act.** This authorizes the lease and/or conveyance of BLM-administered lands for recreational or public purposes to state and local governments and to qualified nonprofit organizations under specified conditions at less than the fair market value.
- **The Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982.** This act provides for the conveyance of BLM-administered lands to public agencies for use as airport and airways.

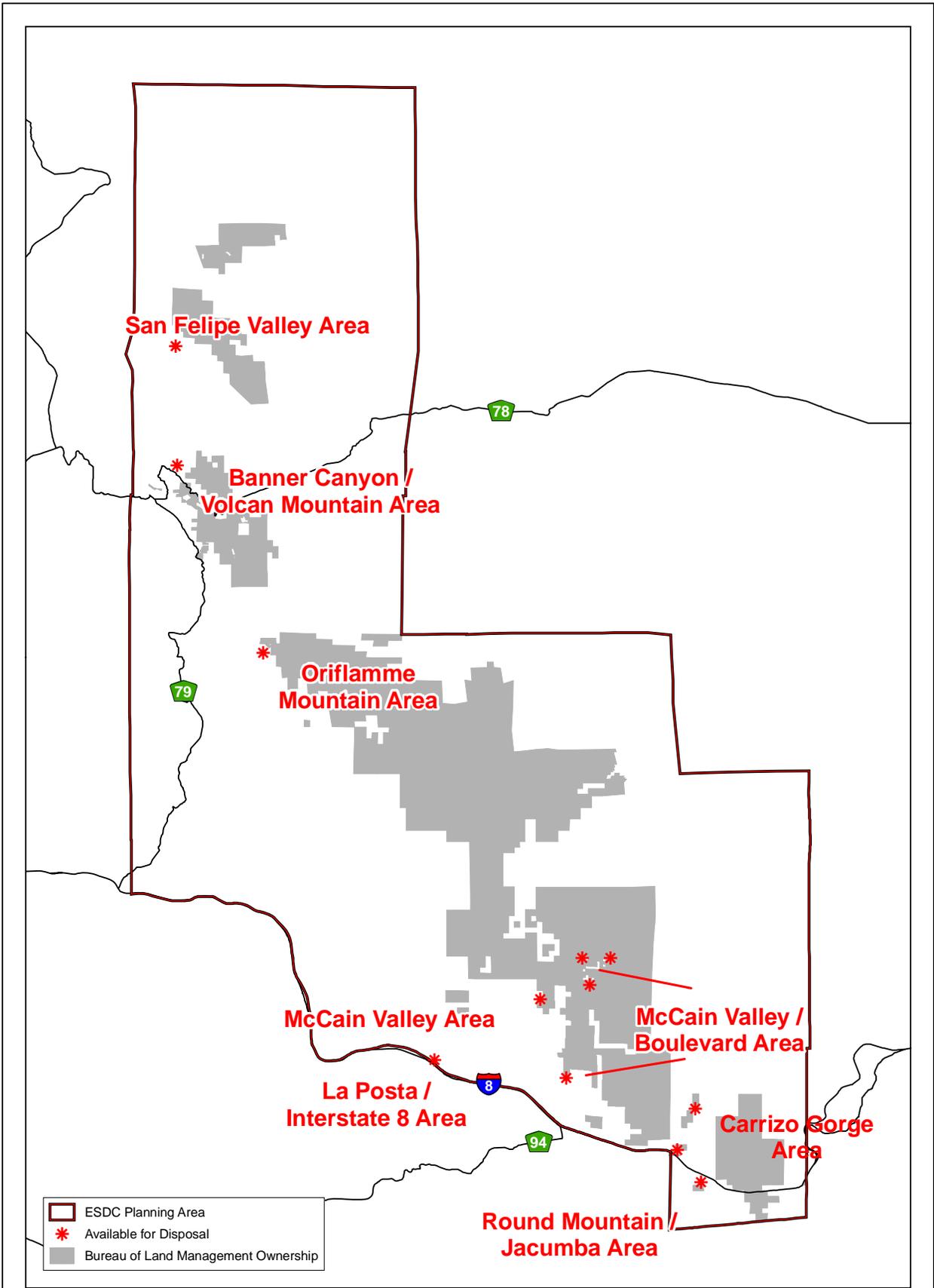
In general, under all land ownership adjustments, BLM would protect valid existing rights and pre-existing authorizations, including but not limited to authorized permits, leases, and ROWs.

Land Available for Disposal by Alternative

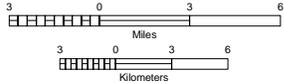
Specific lands available for disposal are shown on Figures 2-18 (Alternative A), 2-19 (Alternatives B and D), and 2-20 (Alternative E) and are listed by alternative in Appendix F.

Goals and Objectives

- No net loss of lands that are: a) designated or proposed to be designated as critical habitat for a listed or proposed threatened or endangered species; b) identified as supporting listed or proposed threatened or endangered species; or c) identified as supporting federal candidate species.
- Retention of lands to benefit resource values and management.
- Land ownership patterns would be consolidated to achieve more efficient and effective resource management.



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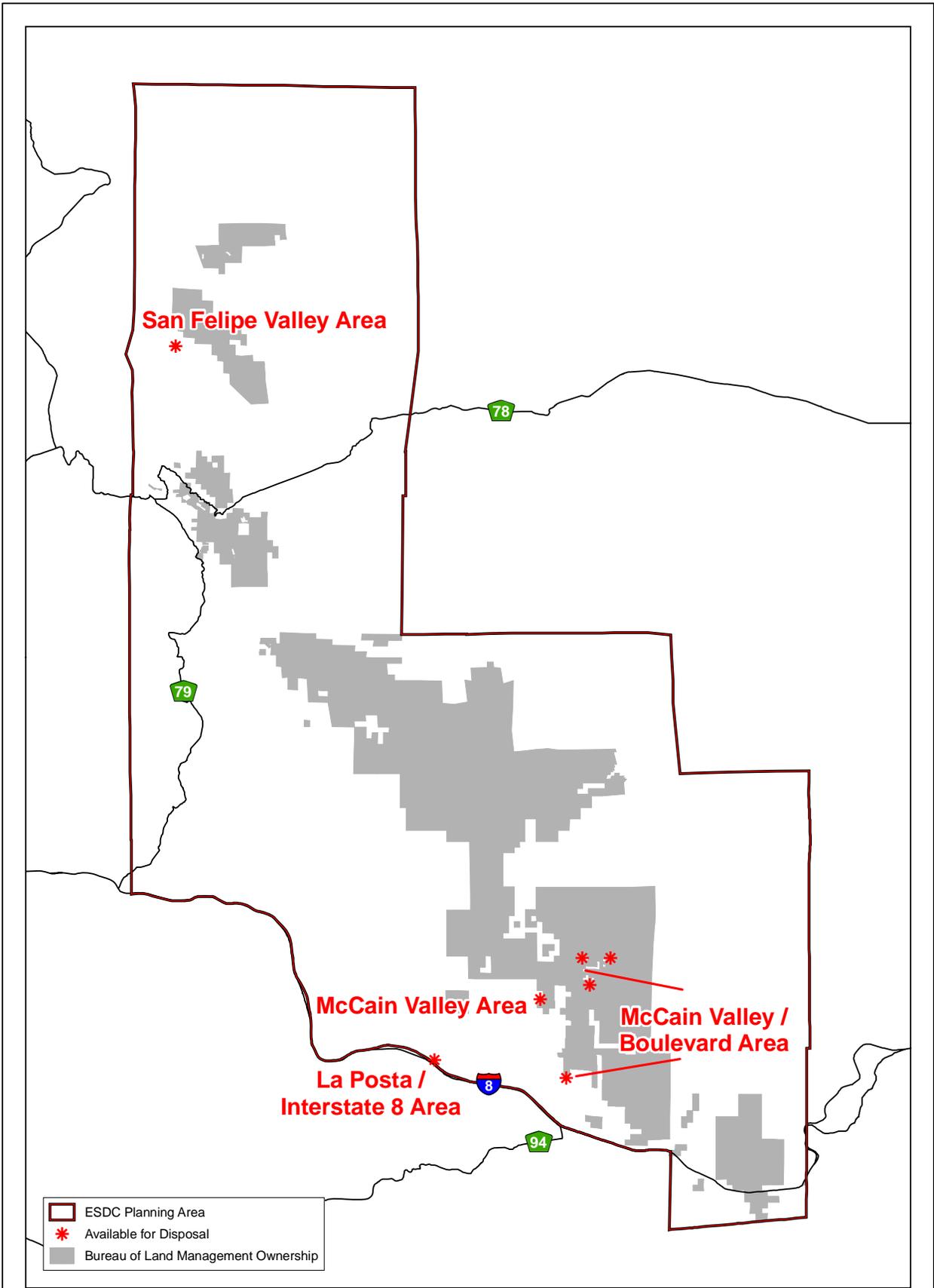


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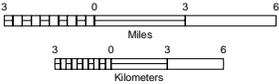


FIGURE 2-18: Lands Available for Disposal
 Alternative A

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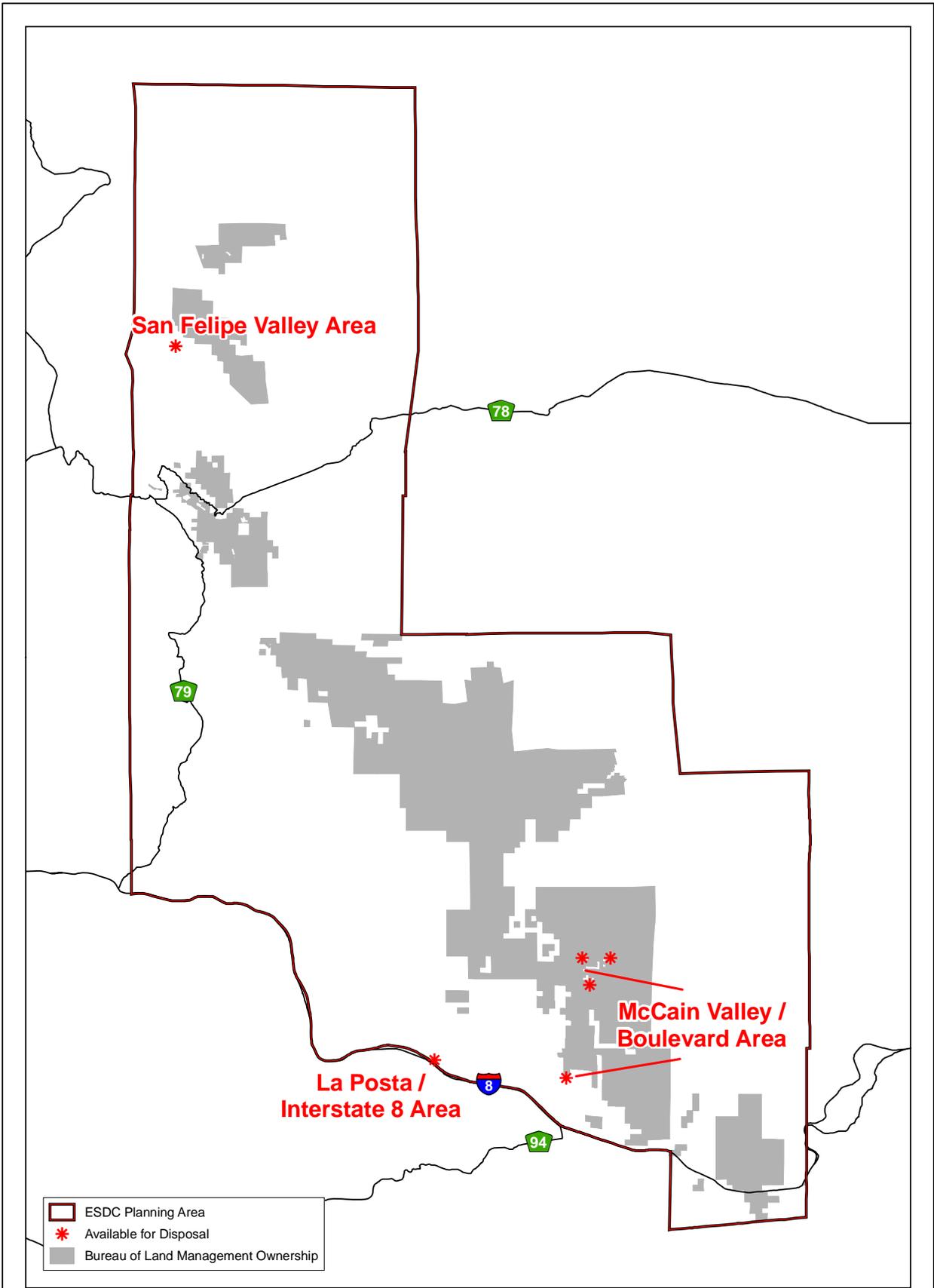


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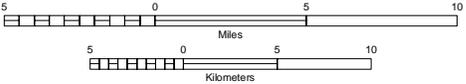


FIGURE 2-19: Lands Available for Disposal
 Alternatives B and D

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FIGURE 2-20: Lands Available for Disposal
 Alternative E

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Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Disposal of mineral estate would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- When disposing by sale, the preferred method would be competitive or modified-competitive.
- Land tenure adjustment actions would be determined by resource management priorities.

2.3.18.1.2 Acquisition

Lands or interest in lands (including easements) may be acquired by BLM through purchase, exchange, donation, or eminent domain. Section 205 of FLPMA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (delegated to BLM) to acquire non-federal lands or interests in lands pursuant to FLPMA by purchase, exchange, donation, or eminent domain. The acquisition of lands by exercising the power of eminent domain is restricted to securing access to public lands, “and then only if the lands so acquired are confined to as narrow a corridor as is necessary” (43 U.S.C. 1715).

Goals and Objectives

Lands or interest in lands (including easements) to be acquired must either:

- Facilitate access to public lands and resources,
- Maintain or enhance public uses and values,
- Facilitate implementation of this DRMP/EIS,
- Provide for a more manageable land ownership pattern, or
- Include significant natural or cultural resource values.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Manage all acquired lands in accordance with the approved land use plan decisions for surrounding or adjacent BLM-administered lands.
- Consolidate split-estate pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- Any lands acquired by the BLM would include both the surface and subsurface (minerals) estate when possible and would be managed in accordance with the approved land use decisions for the surrounding area.

2.3.18.2 Land Use Authorizations

2.3.18.2.1 Leases/Permits/Easements

Section 302 of FLPMA states ...”regulate through easements, permits, leases, licenses, published rules, or other instruments as the Secretary deems appropriate, the use, occupancy, and development of the public lands”...

Leases, permits, or easements would be considered and issued under applicable laws and regulations pursuant to regulations found at 43 CFR 2900. Issuance of leases, permits, or easements is a discretionary action. These authorizations may include but are not limited to the following:

- Airport leases
- R&PP Act leases
- 2920 Leases, permits, or easements (film permits, apiary permits, etc.)

Public land is subject to application for community expansion needs under a wide variety of public land laws. Community expansion needs would continue to be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the appropriate authority. BLM would utilize federal lands for community expansion needs such as airports, parks, hospitals, and community centers pursuant to applicable laws and regulations.

An easement is defined as the right to use another person’s real estate for a specific purpose. The most common type of easement is the right to travel over another person’s land, known as a ROW. In addition, property owners commonly grant easements for the placement of utility poles, utility trenches, water lines, or sewer lines. The owner of property that is subject to an easement is said to be "burdened" with the easement, because he or she is not allowed to interfere with its use.

Goals and Objectives

- Be responsive to public demand for leases, permits, and easements on case-by-case basis, consistent with management proscriptions in Table 2-21.
- Land would not be available for leasing for residential purposes.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Use R&PP leases to meet community needs.

2.3.18.2.2 Rights-of-Way

Under the authorities of FLPMA (1976) and the MLA of 1920, BLM grants ROWs to qualified individuals, businesses, and government entities for use of public lands.

Title V of FLPMA, as amended, states that BLM is authorized to grant, issue, or renew ROWs over, upon, under or through lands for various uses. The type of uses that would be authorized by ROW grants issued pursuant to FLPMA would include access roads, power lines, telephone lines, fiber-optic systems, communications facilities, water and sewer pipelines, etc.

BLM may also allow the use of the public lands or interests in lands through issuance of ROWs pursuant to MLA. Examples of uses that would be authorized by ROW grants issued pursuant to the MLA would include crude oil pipelines and oil and gas pipelines.

Goals and Objectives

- Be responsive to public demand for ROWs on a case-by-case basis, consistent with management proscriptions in Table 2-21.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Locate new major ROWs in designated corridors, unless an evaluation of the project shows that location outside of a designated corridor is the only practicable alternative.

2.3.18.2.3 Communication Sites

Communication sites are generally limited by the BLM to designated mountain peaks with existing facilities. Emphasis would be placed on consolidating single facility sites into more efficient communication facilities through site development plans.

Public lands may also be designated for use as a communications site. BLM communications sites accommodate the wireless systems referred to in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as well as many other uses, including AM/FM broadcast facilities, commercial mobile radios, private mobile radios, and microwaves on designated communications sites located on mountaintops.

There are two existing communication sites in the Planning Area:

- Table Mountain, with two authorized site users; one government agency and one commercial user.
- Banner Grade, with one authorized user; a local government agency.

See Figure 3-15 for the locations of the existing communication sites.

Goals and Objectives

- When practicable, consolidate future proposed facilities within existing communication sites, consistent with management proscriptions in Table 2-21.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Any application for proposed facilities at existing communication sites must be compatible with other uses at the site existing at the time of application.

- Applications for new communication sites outside the two existing sites would be considered on a case-by-case basis emphasizing co-location and subleasing of facilities, consistent with management proscriptions in Table 2-21.

2.3.18.2.4 Renewable Energy

This section addresses renewable energy development not discussed in the Minerals Section. The potential for renewable energy in the Planning Area is based on environmental, physical, and economic criteria, in conjunction with policy directives. BLM's general policy is to facilitate environmentally responsible commercial development of solar energy projects on public lands and use solar energy systems on BLM facilities where feasible.

Regulations applicable to wind energy development on public lands in the Planning Area include FLPMA, 43 CFR 2800, and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies. As stated in EO 13212, the Energy Project Streamlining process requires expediting production, transportation, and conservation of energy.

BLM would strive to increase and diversify our nation's sources of both traditional and alternative energy resources, improve our energy transportation network, and ensure sound environmental management in accordance with the President's National Energy Policy (National Energy Policy Development Group 2001).

Regulations applicable to solar arrays on public lands in the Planning Area include FLPMA, 43 CFR 2800, IM WO-2005-006 Solar Energy Development Policy, or subsequent BLM policy for solar energy.

Goals and Objectives

- Provide for the production and distribution of renewable energy, consistent with management proscriptions in Table 2-21.
- Encourage the use of public lands for production of renewable energy compatible with management of sensitive resources (e.g., ACECs).

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Process applications for commercial renewable energy facilities as ROWs on a case-by-case basis.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- Do not allow surface occupancy of renewable energy facilities in Special Designation areas.
- Do not locate solar or wind generating facilities in VRM Classes I and II.
- Make land available for growth, production, or conversion of biomass materials to energy products consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and policy and in accordance with the approved land use plan.

2.3.18.3 Withdrawals

A withdrawal removes an area of federal land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws, for the purpose of limiting activities under those laws to maintain other public values in the area or reserving the area for a particular public purpose or program. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction over an area of federal land from one department, bureau, or agency to another.

2.3.18.3.1 Land Withdrawn Current and Proposed

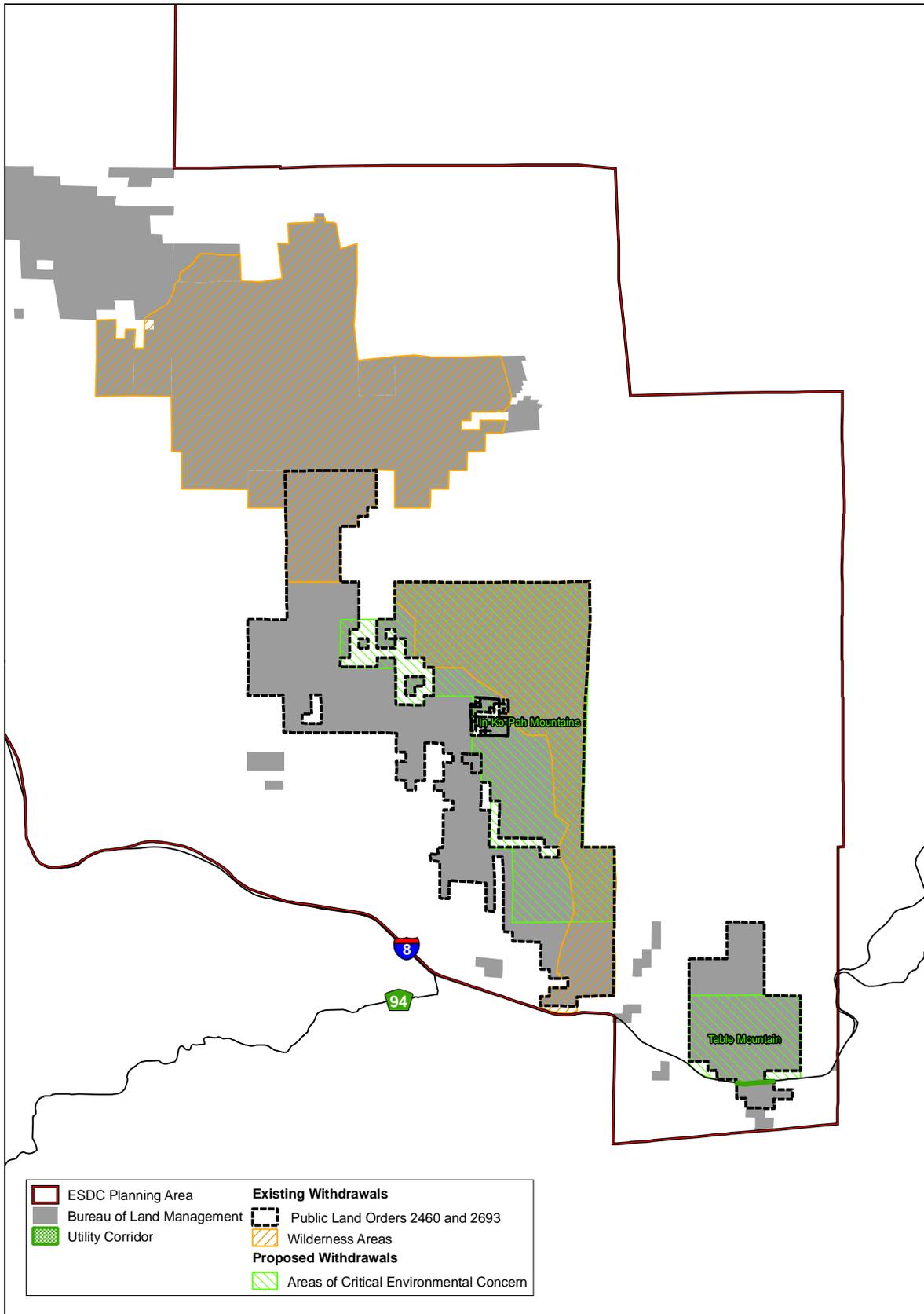
BLM-administered lands currently withdrawn and additional lands BLM would propose to withdraw are shown on Figures 2-21, 2-22, and 2-23 for Alternatives A, C, and E. Alternatives B and D do not propose any additional withdrawals.

2.3.18.3.2 Goals and Objectives

- Protect sensitive or significant natural or cultural resource values from disturbances relating to locatable mineral entry.

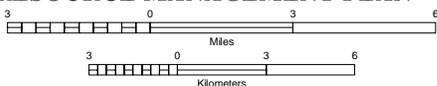
2.3.18.3.3 Management Actions

- Minimize the amount of land withdrawn and, where applicable, revoke existing withdrawals, if the land is no longer needed for the original purpose of the withdrawal.
- Propose withdrawal for the Table Mountain ACEC and that portion of the In-Ko-Pah ACEC that is outside of designated Wilderness Areas (see Table 2-21 for alternatives including proposed withdrawals).



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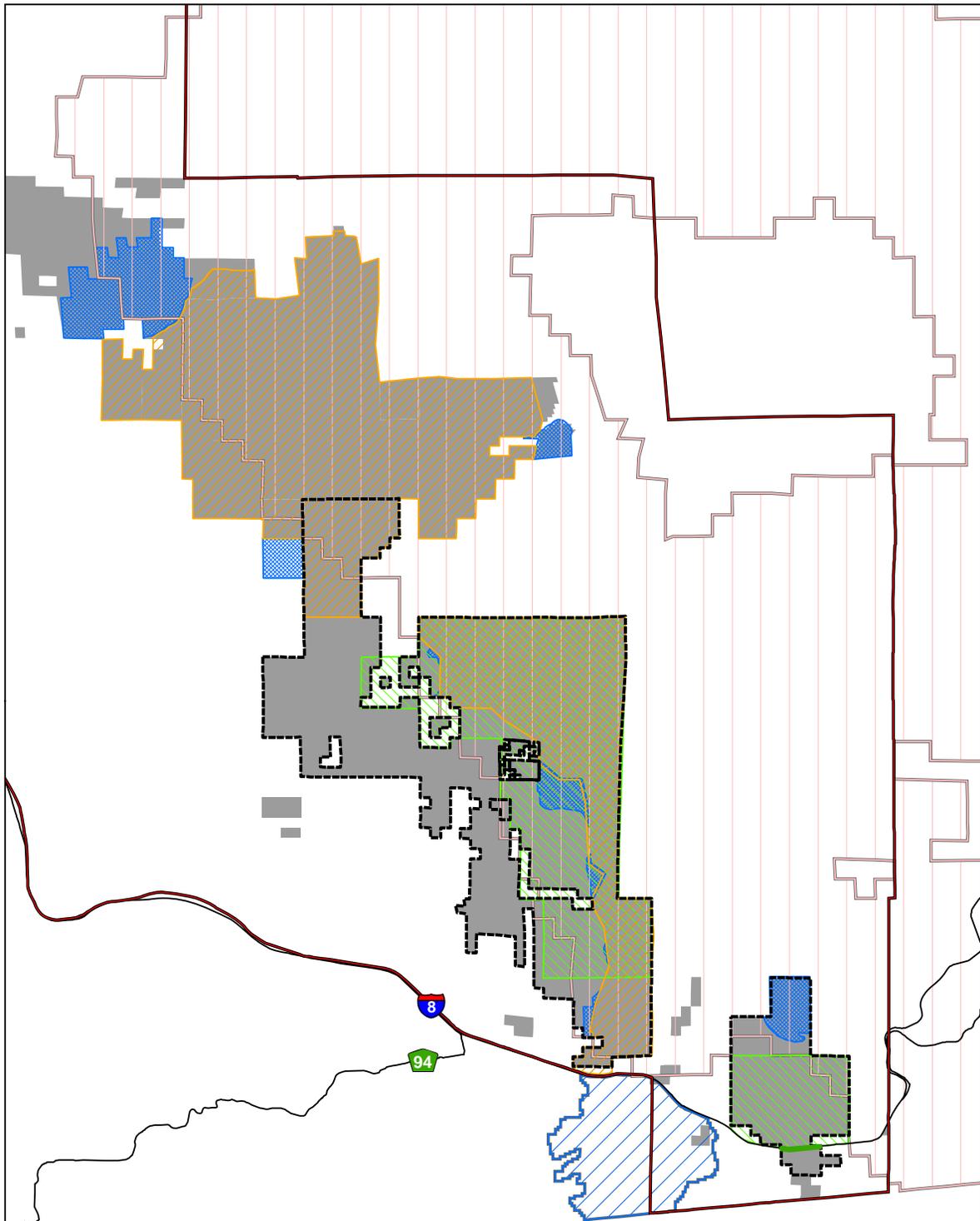


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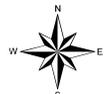
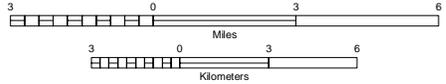
**FIGURE 2-21: Existing and Proposed Withdrawals
Alternative A**

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ESDC Planning Area	Proposed Withdrawals
Bureau of Land Management	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Utility Corridor	Quino Checkerspot Critical Habitat
Existing Withdrawals	Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Critical Habitat
Public Land Orders 2460 and 2693	Wilderness Study Areas
Wilderness Areas	

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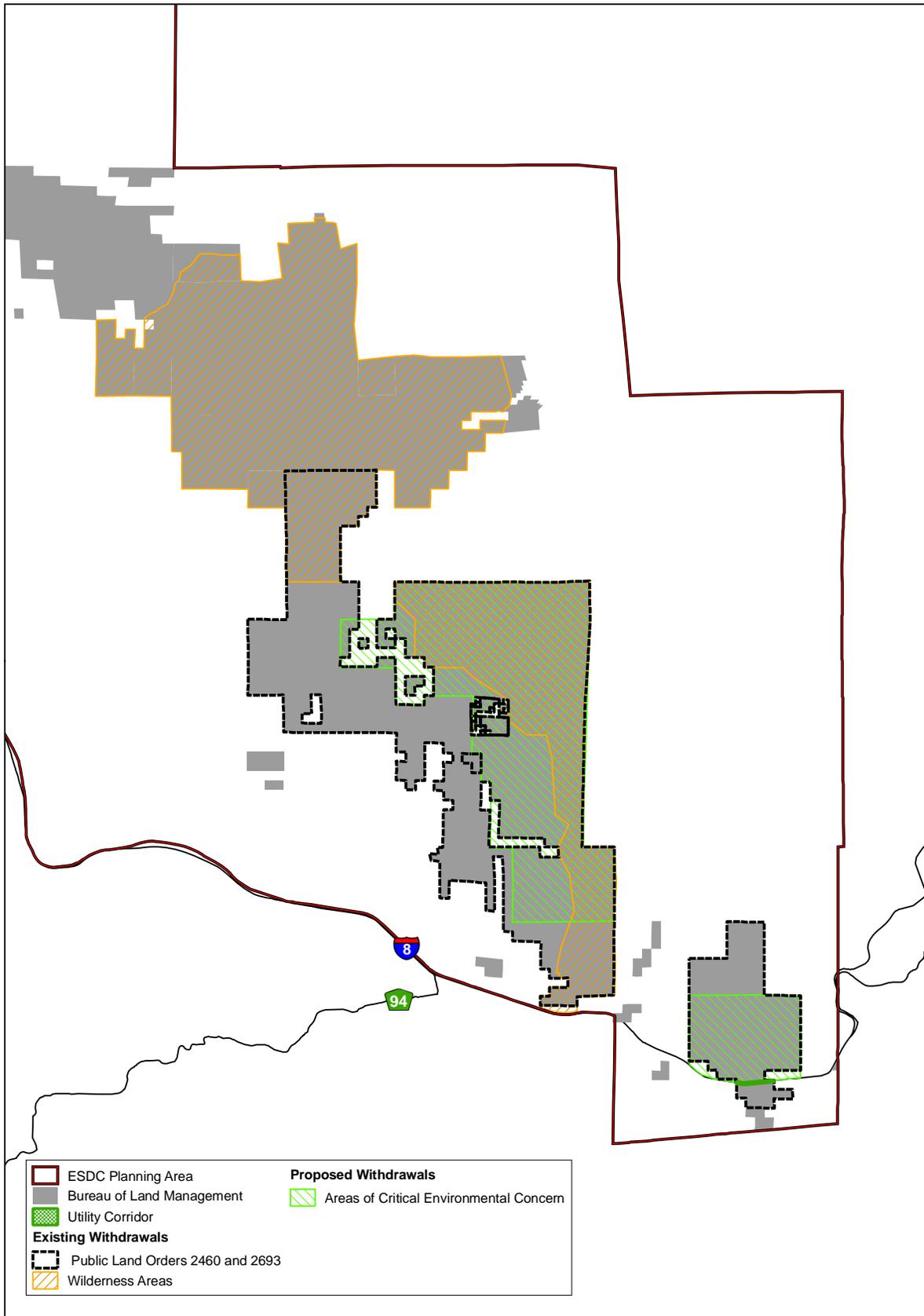


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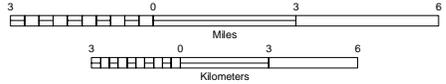


FIGURE 2-22: Existing and Proposed Withdrawals
 Alternative C

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FIGURE 2-23: Existing and Proposed Withdrawals
Alternative E

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2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

- Continue to review existing withdrawals, including other agency withdrawals, periodically to ensure that the reasons for the withdrawal are still valid, and that only the acreage needed is retained in withdrawn status.

2.3.18.4 Utility Corridors

In order to minimize adverse environmental impacts and the proliferation of separate ROWs, the utilization of ROW corridors would be required to the extent practical, and each ROW would reserve to BLM the right to grant additional ROWs or permits for compatible uses on or adjacent to ROWs granted pursuant to FLPMA. In designating ROW corridors and in determining whether to require that ROWs be confined to them, BLM would take into consideration national and state land use policies, environmental quality, economic efficiency, national security, safety, and good engineering and technological practices.

2.3.18.4.2 Goals and Objectives

- Consolidation of major ROWs within the approved corridor to minimize resource impacts.
- The designated corridor would be the preferred location for major utility ROWs passing through the planning area.

2.3.18.4.3 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- BLM is planning to continue one utility corridor common to all alternatives, consistent with the Western Regional Corridor Study (Western Utility Group 1993).
- All new utility ROWs, consisting of the following types, would be located only within the designated corridor: 1) new electrical transmission towers and cables of 161 kV or above; 2) all pipelines with diameters greater than 12 inches; 3) coaxial cables for interstate communications; and 4) major aqueducts or canals for interbasin transfers of water.
- Avoid Special Designation areas and environmentally sensitive areas.

2.3.18.4.4 Management Actions by Alternative

- Under Alternative A (No Action) there is one existing utility corridor south of Table

Mountain near Interstate 8 that is 1.5 miles long and approximately 2 miles wide, encompassing 1,920 miles within the Planning Area.

- Under Alternatives B, C, D, and E, a utility corridor would be designated that is 1.5 miles long with a width of 1 mile (960 acres) whose northern boundary would be the southern boundary of the Interstate 8 ROW.

2.3.19 Public Health and Safety

According to applicable federal and state laws and regulations, BLM would identify areas or hazards which have potential impact to public health and safety.

The following are public health and safety concerns in the Planning Area:

- Abandoned mines
- Unexploded ordnance
- International border issues
- Hazardous materials

2.3.19.1 Abandoned Mines

A primary public safety concern with regard to abandoned mines is the danger of a person being injured or killed by falling into or collapse of an open shaft, adit, or pit.

2.3.19.1.1 Goals and Objectives

- Reduce or eliminate the risk to members of the public associated with abandoned mines.

2.3.19.1.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Implement fencing, gating, signage, and/or closure of abandoned mine openings.
- Consider using abandoned mines for wildlife habitat.

2.3.19.2 Unexploded Ordnance

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) consists of military materials used in tests and on training ranges. UXO may include but is not limited to bombs, mortars, artillery shells, rockets, submunitions and landmines.

Two sources of risk exist at UXO sites: (1) risks from explosions and (2) risks from munition constituents (materials originating from UXO or other munitions, including the chemical constituents that result from their breakdown) that have leached into soil and water. Although there are no known occurrences within the Planning Area, there is a low potential for UXOs on public lands to be present as a result of military maneuvers.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for investigating and mitigating environmental impacts related to past military use at these types of facilities.

Given the amount of aircraft used on the various military facilities in the vicinity of the Planning Area, it is possible that a military aircraft could crash and be a source of UXO.

2.3.19.2.1 Goals and Objectives

- Promote public and/or environmental safety from UXO.

2.3.19.2.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- In cooperation with the USACE, identify the locations on BLM-administered lands that are potential areas of UXO concern.

2.3.19.3 International Border Issues

BLM manages approximately 0.5 miles of public land along the international border within the Planning Area. Along the international border there are incidences of undocumented immigrant traffic and other occasional criminal activity.

2.3.19.3.1 Goals and Objectives

- Ensure that borderlands are safe for public and agency use.

2.3.19.4 Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials consist of chemicals and materials that have the potential to adversely impact human health and the environment. In the Planning Area, hazardous materials could include but are not limited to petroleum products, industrial chemicals, acids, heavy metals, lead-based paint, and asbestos-containing materials. Potential sources of hazardous materials include abandoned mines, mining mill sites, landfills, illegal dumping, leaking fuel tanks, illegal drug manufacturing sites, abandoned buildings, and other sites.

Illegal dumping has a potential to cause environmental impacts to BLM-administered land within the Planning Area. Chemical leachate from these sites has the potential to contaminate soil and reach surface and/or ground water.

Laws governing the management of these materials include Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), other federal laws and regulations, and state and local regulations. Mining and milling wastes are managed under CERCLA as potentially hazardous materials or hazardous waste.

2.3.19.4.1 Goals and Objectives

- Minimize the presence and potential impact to human health and the environment from hazardous materials.

2.3.19.4.2 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Perform public notification of potential health risks by means of notices, signage, and other forms of communication.
- Remediate areas contaminated with hazardous materials in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

2.3 Comparison of Alternatives

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2.4 Comparison of Impacts by Alternative

**TABLE 2-22
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY ALTERNATIVES**

Topic	Alternative A (No-Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
Air Quality	No air quality impacts.	No air quality impacts.	No air quality impacts.	No air quality impacts.	No air quality impacts.
Soil Resources	<p>Potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing campgrounds.</p> <p>Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover.</p>	<p>Potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing (and new) campgrounds.</p> <p>Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover.</p> <p>Under Alternative B, construction of new wildlife waters would be authorized on a case-by-case basis; the lands available for livestock grazing would be reduced; and the restoration of closed routes of travel would occur.</p>	<p>Potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing (and new) campgrounds.</p> <p>Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover.</p> <p>Under Alternative C, there would be no construction of new wildlife waters; all BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing; and the restoration of non-motorized routes of travel would occur.</p>	<p>Potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing (and new) campgrounds.</p> <p>Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover.</p> <p>Under Alternative D, construction of new wildlife waters would be authorized on a case-by-case basis; and the restoration of non-motorized routes of travel would occur.</p>	<p>Potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing (and new) campgrounds.</p> <p>Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover.</p> <p>Under Alternative E, all BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing; construction of new wildlife waters would be authorized on a case-by-case basis; and the restoration of non-motorized routes of travel would occur.</p>
Water Resources	Potential effects include reducing disturbance to riparian waters; increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and ground water, and conversely increasing the use of surface and ground water.	Potential effects include reducing disturbance to riparian waters; increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and ground water, and conversely increasing the use of surface and ground water.	Potential effects include reducing disturbance to riparian waters; increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and ground water, and conversely increasing the use of surface and ground water.	Potential effects include reducing disturbance to riparian waters; increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and ground water, and conversely increasing the use of surface and ground water.	Potential effects include reducing disturbance to riparian waters; increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and ground water, and conversely increasing the use of surface and ground water.

**TABLE 2-22
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY ALTERNATIVES
(CONT.)**

Topic	Alternative A (No-Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
Water Resources (cont.)	Quality of groundwater could be affected by historic mineral and associated processing activities and illegal dumping or accidental spills. Restoration could result in the reduction of any input of biological contaminants into the groundwater.	Quality of groundwater could be affected by historic mineral and associated processing activities and illegal dumping or accidental spills. Restoration could result in the reduction of any input of biological contaminants into the groundwater. Under Alternative B, construction of new wildlife waters would increase the quantity of available surface water, but has the potential to decrease groundwater stores; the lands available for livestock grazing would be reduced, resulting in a reduction in the amount of water used.	Quality of groundwater could be affected by historic mineral and associated processing activities and illegal dumping or accidental spills. Restoration could result in the reduction of any input of biological contaminants into the groundwater. Under Alternative C, all BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing, which would reduce the amount of water used.	Quality of groundwater could be affected by historic mineral and associated processing activities and illegal dumping or accidental spills. Restoration could result in the reduction of any input of biological contaminants into the groundwater. Under Alternative D, construction of new wildlife waters would increase the quantity of available surface water, but has the potential to decrease groundwater stores.	Quality of groundwater could be affected by historic mineral and associated processing activities and illegal dumping or accidental spills. Restoration could result in the reduction of any input of biological contaminants into the groundwater. Under Alternative E, construction of new wildlife waters would increase the quantity of available surface water, but has the potential to decrease groundwater stores; all BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing, which would reduce the amount of water used.
Vegetative Resources	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to vegetation.	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to vegetation.	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to vegetation.	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to vegetation.	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to vegetation.
Wildlife Resources	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat.	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat.	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat.	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat.	Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement, while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat.

**TABLE 2-22
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY ALTERNATIVES
(CONT.)**

Topic	Alternative A (No-Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
Special Status Species	Allow current grazing practices to continue and mineral entry within critical habitat found on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area. This could result in effects to special status species.	Eliminate grazing from all critical habitat which would result in no effect to special status species. Mineral entry would be allowed within critical habitat which could result in effects to some special status species. The parcel supporting quino checkerspot butterfly critical habitat is land-locked by state parks and private lands and has limited access and thus mineral entry is unlikely to affect this species.	Eliminate grazing and mineral entry from critical habitat within the BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area. This would result in no effect to special status species	Eliminate grazing from all critical habitat which would result in no effect to special status species. Mineral entry would be allowed within critical habitat which could result in effects to some special status species. The parcel supporting quino checkerspot butterfly critical habitat is land-locked by state parks and private lands and has limited access and thus mineral entry is unlikely to affect this species.	Eliminate grazing from all critical habitat which would result in no effect to special status species. Mineral entry would be allowed within critical habitat which could result in effects to some special status species. The parcel supporting Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Critical Habitat is land-locked by state parks and private lands and has limited access and thus mineral entry is unlikely to affect this species.
Wildland Fire Ecology	<p>Removal of forage by livestock can result in fewer fires of lower intensity or lower rates of spread; less frequent wildfires, but an increased likelihood of a catastrophic fire.</p> <p>Lands and realty-related facilities would result in ground disturbance and increased opportunities for accidental human-caused ignition; more structures to protect; more hazards and restrictions to prescribed burning.</p> <p>Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition.</p> <p>Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs.</p> <p>Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.</p>	<p>Removal of forage by livestock can result in fewer fires of lower intensity or lower rates of spread; less frequent wildfires, but an increased likelihood of a catastrophic fire.</p> <p>Lands and realty-related facilities would result in ground disturbance and increased opportunities for accidental human-caused ignition; more structures to protect; more hazards and restrictions to prescribed burning.</p> <p>Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition.</p> <p>Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs.</p> <p>Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.</p>	<p>Lands and realty-related facilities would result in ground disturbance and increased opportunities for accidental human-caused ignition; more structures to protect; more hazards and restrictions to prescribed burning.</p> <p>Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition.</p> <p>Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs.</p> <p>Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.</p>	<p>Removal of forage by livestock can result in fewer fires of lower intensity or lower rates of spread; less frequent wildfires, but an increased likelihood of a catastrophic fire.</p> <p>Lands and realty-related facilities would result in ground disturbance and increased opportunities for accidental human-caused ignition; more structures to protect; more hazards and restrictions to prescribed burning.</p> <p>Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition.</p> <p>Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs.</p> <p>Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.</p>	<p>Lands and realty-related facilities would result in ground disturbance and increased opportunities for accidental human-caused ignition; more structures to protect; more hazards and restrictions to prescribed burning.</p> <p>Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition.</p> <p>Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs.</p> <p>Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.</p>

**TABLE 2-22
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY ALTERNATIVES
(CONT.)**

Topic	Alternative A (No-Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
Cultural Resources	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which involve ground-disturbing actions could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of cultural resources, particularly if the resource was subsurface and previously undetected. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetectable resource.</p> <p>Livestock grazing could result in the degradation of cultural resources through trampling of surface artifacts and features. Range and wildlife improvement projects could concentrate livestock and wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling.</p> <p>Land disposal could have an adverse impact to cultural resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any cultural resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which involve ground-disturbing actions could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of cultural resources, particularly if the resource was subsurface and previously undetected. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetectable resource.</p> <p>Livestock grazing could result in the degradation of cultural resources through trampling of surface artifacts and features. Range and wildlife improvement projects could concentrate livestock and wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling.</p> <p>Land disposal could have an adverse impact to cultural resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any cultural resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which involve ground-disturbing actions could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of cultural resources, particularly if the resource was subsurface and previously undetected. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetectable resource.</p> <p>Wildlife improvement projects could concentrate wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling of surface artifacts and features.</p> <p>Land disposal could have an adverse impact to cultural resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any cultural resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which involve ground-disturbing actions could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of cultural resources, particularly if the resource was subsurface and previously undetected. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetectable resource.</p> <p>Livestock grazing could result in the degradation of cultural resources through trampling of surface artifacts and features. Range and wildlife improvement projects could concentrate livestock and wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling.</p> <p>Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any cultural resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which involve ground-disturbing actions could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of cultural resources, particularly if the resource was subsurface and previously undetected. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetectable resource.</p> <p>Wildlife improvement projects could concentrate wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling of surface artifacts and features.</p> <p>Land disposal could have an adverse impact to cultural resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any cultural resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>

**TABLE 2-22
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY ALTERNATIVES
(CONT.)**

Topic	Alternative A (No-Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
Paleontological Resources	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which would involve excavation or ground disturbance could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetected resource.</p> <p>Livestock grazing could result in the degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate through trampling of exposed deposits.</p> <p>Land disposal could have an adverse impact to vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which would involve excavation or ground disturbance could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetected resource.</p> <p>Livestock grazing could result in the degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate through trampling of exposed deposits.</p> <p>Land disposal could have an adverse impact to vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which would involve excavation or ground disturbance could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetected resource.</p> <p>Wildlife improvement projects could concentrate wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling of exposed deposits.</p> <p>Land disposal could have an adverse impact to vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which would involve excavation or ground disturbance could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetected resource.</p> <p>Livestock grazing could result in the degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate through trampling of exposed deposits.</p> <p>Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>	<p>Discretionary and construction actions which would involve excavation or ground disturbance could cause the inadvertent loss and/or degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources. However, these activities could also result in the discovery of an otherwise undetected resource.</p> <p>Wildlife improvement projects could concentrate wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling of exposed deposits.</p> <p>Land disposal could have an adverse impact to vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions would have a beneficial effect on any vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources that exist within the acquired property.</p>
Visual Resources	<p>Alternatives A and C are identical in their designation of lands to Class II and would not designate any acres to Class III or IV. Alternative B designates similar lands to Class II with the exception that the Cottonwood and Lark Canyon Campgrounds and Airport Mesa are designated as Class III lands. Alternative B does not designate any lands to Class IV. As the ACECs in Alternatives B and C are larger in acreage than Alternative A, Alternatives B and C provide the highest protection for scenic quality values, followed closely by Alternative A.</p>	<p>Alternatives A and C are identical in their designation of lands to Class II and would not designate any acres to Class III or IV. Alternative B designates similar lands to Class II with the exception that the Cottonwood and Lark Canyon Campgrounds and Airport Mesa are designated as Class III lands. Alternative B does not designate any lands to Class IV. As the ACECs in Alternatives B and C are larger in acreage than Alternative A, Alternatives B and C provide the highest protection for scenic quality values, followed closely by Alternative A.</p>	<p>Alternatives A and C are identical in their designation of lands to Class II and would not designate any acres to Class III or IV. Alternative B designates similar lands to Class II with the exception that the Cottonwood and Lark Canyon Campgrounds and Airport Mesa are designated as Class III lands. Alternative B does not designate any lands to Class IV. As the ACECs in Alternatives B and C are larger in acreage than Alternative A, Alternatives B and C provide the highest protection for scenic quality values, followed closely by Alternative A.</p>	<p>Alternative D identifies many specific land areas as Class III lands and two as Class IV lands. Therefore this alternative would provide the greatest allowance for visual contrast in any future proposals for cultural modifications.</p>	<p>Alternative E would have approximately 10,000 fewer acres of Class II lands than Alternatives A, B, and C (this difference varies by alternative), because it designates the Lark Canyon and Cottonwood Campgrounds and the Airport Mesa area as Class III rather than Class II due to considerations for allowable visual contrast of cultural modifications. In addition, Alternative E identifies McCain Valley West as Class IV to accommodate renewable energy development.</p>

**TABLE 2-22
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY ALTERNATIVES
(CONT.)**

Topic	Alternative A (No-Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
Special Designations	<p>Potential impacts to WAs: from use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment; values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities; short-term on naturalness and solitude related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area; construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities could degrade WA values; livestock and associated structures and ranchers would have an impact on naturalness. Approximately 26,497 acres of WA are being grazed under Alternative A.</p> <p>Potential impacts to WSAs: from construction and maintenance of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects; values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings.</p>	<p>Potential impacts to WAs: from use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment; values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities; short-term on naturalness and solitude related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area; construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities could degrade WA values; livestock and associated structures and ranchers would have an impact on naturalness. Under Alternative B, grazing would be eliminated from critical habitat which would reduce the extent of grazing and enhance the wilderness characteristics of the Sawtooth WA. However, any new structures, such as fences, necessary to implement this would reduce the wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Potential impacts to WSAs: from construction and maintenance of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects; values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings.</p>	<p>Potential impacts to WAs: from use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment; values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities; short-term on naturalness and solitude related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area; construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities could degrade WA values. Under Alternative C, grazing would be eliminated from wilderness areas, thereby reducing impacts to the wilderness.</p> <p>Potential impacts to WSAs: from construction and maintenance of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects; values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings.</p>	<p>Potential impacts to WAs: from use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment; values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities; short-term on naturalness and solitude related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area; construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities could degrade WA values; livestock and associated structures and ranchers would have an impact on naturalness. Under Alternative D, grazing would be eliminated from critical habitat which would reduce the extent of grazing and enhance the wilderness characteristics of the Sawtooth WA. However, any new structures, such as fences, necessary to implement this would reduce the wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Potential impacts to WSAs: from construction and maintenance of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects; values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings.</p>	<p>Potential impacts to WAs: from use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment; values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities; short-term on naturalness and solitude related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area; construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities could degrade WA values. Under Alternative E, grazing would be eliminated from wilderness areas, thereby reducing impacts to the wilderness.</p> <p>Potential impacts to WSAs: from construction and maintenance of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects; values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses; short-term from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings.</p>

**TABLE 2-22
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY ALTERNATIVES
(CONT.)**

Topic	Alternative A (No-Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
Special Designations (continued)	Potential impacts to ACECs would result from the following management actions and LUP decisions: vegetation treatments, range and wildlife habitat improvement projects, land use allocations, land tenure, construction-related activities, mineral development and leasing, recreation, OHV allocation of open areas, routes of travel, and military training. Beneficial impacts would occur from the protection of cultural resources and the protection and restoration of wildlife habitats.	Potential impacts to ACECs would result from the following management actions and LUP decisions: vegetation treatments, range and wildlife habitat improvement projects, land use allocations, land tenure, construction-related activities, mineral development and leasing, recreation, OHV allocation of open areas, routes of travel, and military training. Beneficial impacts would occur from the protection of cultural resources and the protection and restoration of wildlife habitats.	Potential impacts to ACECs would result from the following management actions and LUP decisions: vegetation treatments, range and wildlife habitat improvement projects, land use allocations, land tenure, construction-related activities, mineral development and leasing, recreation, OHV allocation of open areas, routes of travel, and military training. Beneficial impacts would occur from the protection of cultural resources and the protection and restoration of wildlife habitats.	Potential impacts to ACECs would result from the following management actions and LUP decisions: vegetation treatments, range and wildlife habitat improvement projects, land use allocations, land tenure, construction-related activities, mineral development and leasing, recreation, OHV allocation of open areas, routes of travel, and military training. Beneficial impacts would occur from the protection of cultural resources and the protection and restoration of wildlife habitats.	Potential impacts to ACECs would result from the following management actions and LUP decisions: vegetation treatments, range and wildlife habitat improvement projects, land use allocations, land tenure, construction-related activities, mineral development and leasing, recreation, OHV allocation of open areas, routes of travel, and military training. Beneficial impacts would occur from the protection of cultural resources and the protection and restoration of wildlife habitats.
Public Health and Safety	Potential public health and safety issues in the planning area include abandoned mines, unexploded ordnance, international border issues, and hazardous materials. Inadvertent exposure to or encounters with any of these public health and safety hazards could result in serious injury or death.	Potential public health and safety issues in the planning area include abandoned mines, unexploded ordnance, international border issues, and hazardous materials. Inadvertent exposure to or encounters with any of these public health and safety hazards could result in serious injury or death.	Potential public health and safety issues in the planning area include abandoned mines, unexploded ordnance, international border issues, and hazardous materials. Inadvertent exposure to or encounters with any of these public health and safety hazards could result in serious injury or death.	Potential public health and safety issues in the planning area include abandoned mines, unexploded ordnance, international border issues, and hazardous materials. Inadvertent exposure to or encounters with any of these public health and safety hazards could result in serious injury or death.	Potential public health and safety issues in the planning area include abandoned mines, unexploded ordnance, international border issues, and hazardous materials. Inadvertent exposure to or encounters with any of these public health and safety hazards could result in serious injury or death.
Livestock Grazing Program	Currently allowed livestock grazing would continue. This alternative would allow for the authorization and maintenance of range improvement projects.	The lands available for livestock grazing would be reduced. Allotments would be adjusted to exclude grazing from the OHV use area in Lark Canyon and Table Mountain ACEC. This alternative would allow for the authorization and maintenance of range improvement projects.	All BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing.	Currently allowed livestock grazing would continue. This alternative would allow for the authorization and maintenance of range improvement projects.	All BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing.
Lands and Realty Program (Including Renewable Energy)	This alternative has the most lands identified as available for disposal.	ROWs, Renewable Energy ROWs, Communication Sites, and Site Permits would be considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with the exclusion and avoidance areas.	ROWs, Renewable Energy ROWs, Communication Sites, and Site Permits would be considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with the exclusion and avoidance areas. Under this alternative no lands are available for disposal.	ROWs, Renewable Energy ROWs, Communication Sites, and Site Permits would be considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with the exclusion and avoidance areas.	ROWs, Renewable Energy ROWs, Communication Sites, and Site Permits would be considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with the exclusion and avoidance areas.

**TABLE 2-22
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY ALTERNATIVES
(CONT.)**

Topic	Alternative A (No-Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
Minerals Program	<p>WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws.</p> <p>Issuance of mineral materials contracts in special designations is restricted.</p>	<p>WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws.</p> <p>Does not allow authorization of mineral material contracts or permits, or geothermal leasing.</p> <p>Issuance of mineral materials contracts in special designations is restricted.</p> <p>Mineral material disposals from public land would not be authorized in critical habitat in ACECs.</p>	<p>WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws.</p> <p>Does not allow authorization of mineral material contracts or permits, or geothermal leasing.</p> <p>Issuance of mineral materials contracts in special designations is restricted.</p> <p>Mineral material disposals from public land would not be authorized in critical habitat outside ACECs.</p> <p>WSAs, ACECs, and critical habitat would be withdrawn from mineral entry.</p>	<p>WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws.</p>	<p>WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws.</p> <p>Does not allow authorization of mineral material contracts or permits, or geothermal leasing.</p> <p>Issuance of mineral materials contracts in special designations is restricted.</p> <p>Mineral material disposals from public land would not be authorized in critical habitat outside ACECs.</p> <p>ACECs would be withdrawn from mineral entry.</p>
Recreation Program	<p>Although Alternative A does not provide for any SRMAs, it creates 38,690 acres in accordance with the McCain Valley RAMP.</p>	<p>103,303 acres of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) would be created, which allows for more recreation management in these areas.</p> <p>The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area is proposed for the Chariot Canyon Recreation Management Zone (RMZ).</p>	<p>103,303 acres of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) would be created, which allows for more recreation management in these areas.</p> <p>The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area is proposed for the Chariot Canyon Recreation Management Zone (RMZ).</p> <p>This alternative provides the greatest amount of OHV area designated as closed.</p>	<p>103,303 acres of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) would be created, which allows for more recreation management in these areas.</p> <p>Would improve staging areas outside WAs to wilderness trailheads.</p> <p>The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area is proposed for the Chariot Canyon Recreation Management Zone (RMZ).</p>	<p>103,303 acres of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) would be created, which allows for more recreation management in these areas.</p> <p>Would improve staging areas outside WAs to wilderness trailheads.</p> <p>The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area is proposed for the Chariot Canyon Recreation Management Zone (RMZ).</p>

**TABLE 2-22
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS BY ALTERNATIVES
(CONT.)**

Topic	Alternative A (No-Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (Preferred)
Social and Economic	If and when a wind energy development project is proposed, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific Plans of Development (PODs), which would address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts).	If and when a wind energy development project is proposed, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific Plans of Development (PODs), which would address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts).	If and when a wind energy development project is proposed, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific Plans of Development (PODs), which would address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts).	If and when a wind energy development project is proposed, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific Plans of Development (PODs), which would address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts).	If and when a wind energy development project is proposed, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific Plans of Development (PODs), which would address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts).
Environmental Justice	The socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts.	The socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts.	The socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts.	The socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts.	The socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts.

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2.5 Implementation and Monitoring

2.5.1 Implementation

Many land use plan decisions are implemented or become effective upon approval of the RMP. Examples of decisions that become effective upon approval of the RMP include decisions on land health standards, desired outcomes (goals and objectives), allowable uses to achieve outcomes, and all special designations such as an ACEC. Management actions that require additional site-specific project planning as funding becomes available will require further environmental analysis. Decisions to implement site-specific projects are subject to administrative review at the time when such decisions are made.

BLM will continue to involve and collaborate with the public during implementation of this plan. Opportunities to become involved in the plan implementation and monitoring will include development of partnerships and community-based citizen working groups. BLM invites citizens and user groups within the Planning Area to become actively involved in implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of RMP decisions. BLM and citizens may collaboratively develop site-specific goals and objectives that mutually benefit public land resources, local communities, and the people who live, work, or play on the public lands.

2.5.2 Requirements for Further Environmental Analysis

The RMP/EIS is a programmatic statement describing the impacts of implementing the proposed land use plan decisions and associated management actions described for the Planning Area.

Land use plan decisions that are implemented upon approval of the RMP do not require any further environmental analysis or documentation until modified through a RMP amendment or revision. Whenever implementation level plans (e.g., ACEC Management Plans, etc.) are prepared, additional environmental analysis and documentation would be required. Individual management actions or projects requiring additional site-specific project planning, as funding becomes available, would require further environmental analysis.

2.5 Implementation and Monitoring

Site-specific environmental analyses and documentation (including the use of categorical exclusions and determinations of NEPA adequacy where appropriate) may be prepared for one or more individual projects in accordance with management objectives and decisions established in the approved land use plan. In addition, BLM will ensure that the environmental review process includes evaluation of all critical elements, including cultural resources and threatened and endangered species, and completes required USFWS Section 7 consultations and coordination with the SHPO in accordance with the BLM Cultural Resources National Programmatic Agreement and California BLM-SHPO protocols.

Interdisciplinary impact analysis will be based on this RMP/EIS and other applicable EISs. If the analysis prepared for site-specific projects finds potential for significant impacts not already described in an existing EIS, another EIS or a supplement to an existing EIS may be warranted.

Upon providing public notice of a decision, supporting environmental documentation will be sent to all affected interests and made available to other publics on request. Decisions to approve implementation-level plans or to implement site-specific projects are subject to administrative review at the time such decisions are made.

2.5.3 Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is a formal, systematic, and rigorous approach to learning from the outcomes of management actions, accommodating change, and improving management. It involves synthesizing existing knowledge, exploring alternative actions, and making explicit forecasts about their outcomes. Management actions and monitoring programs are carefully designed to generate reliable feedback and clarify the reasons underlying outcomes. Actions and objectives are then adjusted based on this feedback and improved understanding. In addition, decisions, actions, and outcomes are carefully documented and communicated to others, so that knowledge gained through experience is passed on rather than being lost when individuals move or leave the organization.

This RMP implements an adaptive management strategy. This adaptive management process is a flexible process that generally involves four phases: planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. As BLM obtains new information, it would evaluate monitoring data and other resource information to periodically refine and

update desired conditions and management strategies. This approach ensures the continual refinement and improvement of management prescriptions and practices.

2.5.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Land use plan monitoring is conducted in three stages. The first of which is to ensure that decisions are implemented in accordance with the approved RMP/ROD. This type of monitoring is conducted as RMP decisions become effective or when decisions to approve implementation level plans or to implement site-specific projects are approved or implemented.

The next stage of monitoring is to determine whether land use plan decisions are achieving the desired effects. Effectiveness monitoring provides an empirical data base on impacts of decisions and effectiveness of mitigation. Effectiveness monitoring is also useful for improving analytical procedures for future impact analyses and for designing or improving mitigation and enhancement measures.

The last stage of monitoring is to determine whether a land use plan decision continues to be the correct or proper decision over time. Evaluation monitoring goes beyond effectiveness monitoring and focuses on examining the validity of decisions.

2.5 Implementation and Monitoring

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