

# Executive Summary

## ES.1 Background and Introduction

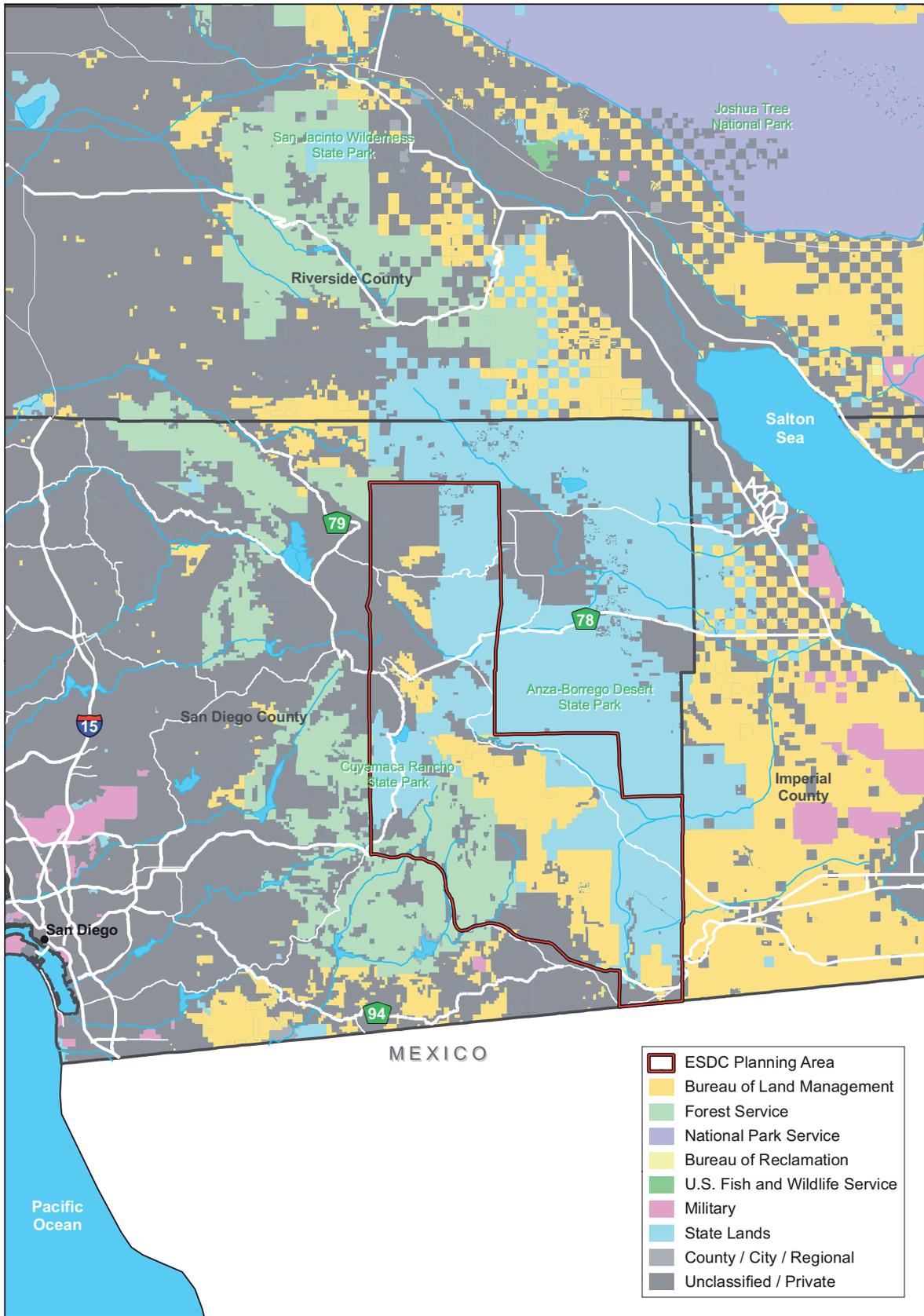
A new Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Eastern San Diego County (ESDC) Planning Area are being prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The purpose of the study is to update planning decisions based on changes in circumstances and policies since the current land use plan decisions were adopted.

The Planning Area contains 102,869 acres of public land (Map ES-1). It spans diverse lands, with a range of environments from pine forests to palm oases overlooking desert basins.

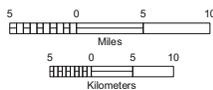
The main goal and purpose of this study is to provide guidance in the management of the lands and resources administered by the El Centro Field Office in eastern San Diego County that will achieve the following:

- address conflicts between motorized, mechanized, and non-motorized/non-mechanized recreationists;
- protect sensitive natural and cultural resources from impacts due to recreational use, livestock grazing, and other land uses;
- provide guidance for renewable energy development; and
- address other planning issues raised during the scoping process.

Other objectives include contributing to groundwater recharge and providing additional recreational opportunities within the Planning Area.



**EASTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
**EI Centro Field Office**  
November 2007



**MAP ES-1: Planning Area**

The Bureau of Land Management makes no warranties, implied or expressed, with respect to information shown on this map.

## **ES.2 Alternatives Evaluated**

The following is a summary of components included in the five analyzed alternatives. Table ES-1 summarizes the management actions that vary by alternative. See Chapter 2 of this PRMP for more detail.

### **ES.2.1 Alternative A (No Action)**

Alternative A assumes the continuation of the present management of the Planning Area. Alternative A will serve as a baseline for most resources and land use allocations.

### **ES.2.2 Alternative B**

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 transportation network.

### **ES.2.3 Alternative C**

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.

### **ES.2.4 Alternative D**

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).

## ES.2.5 Alternative E (Preferred)

Alternative E 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. The decisions under this alternative could be identical to those under one of the other alternatives presented or could be a combination of features from all of the other alternatives.

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>AIR RESOURCES MANAGEMENT</b>					
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 PRMP/FEIS.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>SOIL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Minimize surface disturbance from authorized activities. Post-activity, disturbed surfaces would be restored to a pre-disturbance or stable condition.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Incorporate erosion control measures into projects on a case-by-case basis.	X	X	X	X	X
Manage biological resources to minimize erosion including the restoration of damaged riparian areas and promotion of healthy native plant groundcover.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>SOIL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT</b>					
Maintain existing proper functioning conditions of watersheds by applying BMPs.	X	X	X	X	X
Prevent or reduce water quality degradation through implementation of applicable BMPs or other specific mitigation measures, if applicable.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Apply BMPs on public land within municipal watersheds to protect water quality and quantity.	X	X	X	X	X
Control erosion on authorized vehicle routes, burned areas, riparian areas, and grazed areas to protect water quality through application of BMPs.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g. surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>VEGETATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>VEGETATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Surface-disturbing activities will be designed to avoid impacts to riparian areas, desert fan palm oases, oak woodlands, and desert wash to the greatest extent 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.	X	X	X	X	X
Remove tamarisk and other non-native invasive plant species using mechanical and herbicide applications in accordance with BLM policy on minimum tools in Wilderness and the California Vegetation Management FEIS (DOI BLM 1988a) and Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States FPEIS (DOI BLM 2007).	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Use native plant materials for landscaping at developed recreation sites within public lands.	X	X	X	X	X
Treat non-native invasive species, where appropriate, to meet management objectives.	X	X	X	X	X
Protect desired plant communities through construction of fire breaks or hazard fuels reduction, where appropriate.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>VEGETATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
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
Limit the introduction of non-native plants through an education program partnered with equestrian recreational users, off-highway-vehicle (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 <sup>1</sup> for all commercial and non-commercial surface disturbance activities.		X		X	X
Riparian areas would be exclusion areas <sup>1</sup> 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

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>PRIORITY PLANT SPECIES</b>					
Minimize or mitigate loss of habitat or fragmentation of priority plant species populations.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Implement protection and restoration measures such as fencing, invasive weeds treatment, and native plants seed collection for the priority plant species.	X	X	X	X	X
Treat non-native invasive species where appropriate to protect priority plant species.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g. surface disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Enhance non-native invasive species management through a collaborative approach with fire management.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Treat fire breaks as needed to control the introduction and spread of non-native invasive species.	X	X	X	X	X
Treat tamarisk ( <i>Tamarix spp.</i> ) and other riparian invasive, non-native species in the Planning Area.	X	X	X	X	X
Require BLM contractors and employees to clean vehicles after traveling in areas of highly noxious or invasive weeds infestation.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>PRIORITY PLANT SPECIES (CONT.)</b>					
Proposed activities (e.g. surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>VEGETATIVE USE AUTHORIZATIONS</b>					
Wood cutting for commercial purposes is not allowed in the Planning Area.	X	X	X	X	X
Wood collection not allowed within ACECs.	X	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
In McCain Valley area, allow wood gathering for campfires only where posted.	X				
Allow gathering of dead, downed wood for personal campfire use in the campgrounds only. This wood must be hand carried to the campsite, in accordance with 43 CFR 836531-5(b).		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, in accordance with Interagency Traditional Gathering Policy. All other vegetation collecting will 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, in accordance with Interagency Traditional Gathering Policy. No commercial vegetation collection will be permitted. All other collection is on a case-by-case basis.			X		

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>					
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, pursuant to Section 103(f) of the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, and/or USFWS, as necessary.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Manage invasive and pest species or species identified as pests in accordance with applicable BLM or CDFG management policies depending on administrative area.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Pursue land acquisition options (i.e., purchase, exchange, donation, and easement) to consolidate important wildlife habitats.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Proposed activities (e.g. surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
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 California Department of Fish and Game (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
<b>PRIORITY WILDLIFE SPECIES - RAPTORS</b>					
Provide natural or man-made nesting or perching structures in suitable areas to enhance foraging and breeding habitat for raptors as the need arises.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Apply the Wind Energy FPEIS (DOI BLM 2005a) best management practices.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>PRIORITY WILDLIFE SPECIES - RAPTORS (CONT.)</b>					
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>PRIORITY WILDLIFE SPECIES – NON-GAME MIGRATORY BIRDS</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Apply the Wind Energy FPEIS (DOI BLM 2005a) policies and BMPs.	X	X	X	X	X
Provide recreational opportunities for bird watching and photography.	X	X	X	X	X
Monitor new energy development including power lines and wind turbines or other structures to better understand risks to non-game migratory birds.	X	X	X	X	X
Require a non-game migratory bird inventory for new utility or energy projects.	X	X	X	X	X
Conduct control measures for brown-headed cowbird and European starling in riparian habitats and oak woodlands, as necessary and feasible.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>PRIORITY WILDLIFE SPECIES - BATS</b>					
Install bat gates or cable nets at abandoned mine sites that could support bat roosts.	X	X	X	X	X
Reclaim mines to promote bat habitat, as practicable.	X	X	X	X	X
Apply the Wind Energy FPEIS (DOI BLM 2005a) BMPs.	X	X	X	X	X
Require bat inventory for new wind energy projects.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>PRIORITY WILDLIFE SPECIES – GAME ANIMALS (BIRDS AND MAMMALS)</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Apply the BLM wind energy development program policies and BMPs from Appendix A in the Wind Energy Development Program ROD (DOI BLM 2005f).	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>					
Implement species- or habitat-specific goals, objectives, and actions, as applicable, addressed in the approved recovery plans.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Apply the Wind Energy FPEIS (DOI BLM 2005a) best management practices.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
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 that any surface disturbance activities 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 that any surface disturbance activities avoid adverse impacts to special status species habitat.			X		
Require that any surface disturbance activities 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	

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
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	
Critical habitat would be an exclusion <sup>1</sup> area for Renewable Energy.			X		X
Critical habitat would be an exclusion <sup>1</sup> area for all other types of Land Use Authorizations.			X		
Critical habitat would be an avoidance <sup>1</sup> area for Renewable Energy.		X			X
Critical habitat would be an avoidance <sup>1</sup> area for all other types of Land Use Authorizations.		X			
Quino recovery area would be an avoidance <sup>1</sup> area for all types of Land Use Authorizations.			X		
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – PENINSULAR BIGHORN SHEEP</b>					
Minimize effects resulting from human-caused disturbances.	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain existing water sources.	X	X	X	X	X
Remove tamarisk from the springs and seeps within the Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat, to the extent practicable, using a variety of methods.	X	X	X	X	X
Prohibit domestic sheep and goat grazing within nine miles of Peninsular bighorn sheep-occupied habitat to avoid disease transmission.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – PENINSULAR BIGHORN SHEEP (CONT.)</b>					
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – LEAST BELL’S VIREO</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Authorize cowbird trapping by adjacent land managers or other agencies on a case-by-case basis.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER</b>					
Protect known occupied sites or potential SWFL habitat through acquisition, easements, partnerships, and other means.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – ARROYO TOAD</b>					
Protect potential arroyo toad habitat through acquisition, easements, partnerships, and other means.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – QUINO CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLY</b>					
Prevent non-native invasive species infestations following fire events. See the wildfire section in Chapter 2 for more details.	X	X	X	X	X
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 in Chapter 2 for more details.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – LAGUNA MOUNTAINS SKIPPER</b>					
Protect potential habitat through acquisition, easements, partnerships, and other means.	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain management of areas adjacent to critical habitat (once finalized) compatible with the conservation goals of those areas.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – STATE LISTED SPECIES</b>					
Analyze impacts to the barefoot gecko for all projects occurring within occupied barefoot gecko habitat and require that projects mitigate the impacts accordingly.	X	X	X	X	X
Analyze project impacts to Swainson's hawk and require that projects mitigate the impacts accordingly.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT – STATE LISTED SPECIES (CONT.)</b>					
Prohibit personal or commercial collection of the Laguna Mountains aster (except for Native American collection).	X	X	X	X	X
Require permits for research collection of Laguna Mountains aster.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT - BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT</b>					
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).	X	X	X	X	X
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).	X	X	X	X	X
Use prescribed fire to protect values-at-risk (life and property) and to maintain or enhance the ecosystem health.	X	X	X	X	X
Identify AMR-related goals, objectives, and constraints for each fire management unit.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Identify and implement post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation actions in burned areas to restore a functional landscape to meet the natural resource management objectives.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Include wildfire hazard mitigation strategies in the Fire Management Plan for the Planning Area by identifying appropriate areas for fire use (prescribed and/or 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.	X	X	X	X	X
In WAs and WSAs, when wildland fire suppression is required, minimum impact suppression tactics identified in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations would be applied.	X	X	X	X	X
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 in Chapter 2).	X	X	X	X	X
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. Provide an on-site resource advisor to consult with the wildland fire responders on the location of sensitive resources and provide input to minimize impacts to those 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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Use of fire retardants or chemicals adjacent to waterways would be in accordance with the <i>Environmental Guidelines for Delivery of Retardant or Foam near Waterways</i> (Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations).	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>					
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
Protect areas of high archaeological values in the Canebroke Canyon, Inner Pasture, and Vallecito Valley areas by limiting vehicular access and the acquisition of one section of private property.	X				
Protect archaeological resources in the McCain Valley Recreational Facility Development Zone (which corresponds to the Multiple-Use Class M area) by conducting archaeological inventories and implementing mitigation measures in areas of new facility development and facility maintenance.	X				
Manage the two northernmost tiers of sections in the In-Ko-Pah ACEC for protection of archaeological resources. Develop interpretive materials concerning archeological resources in the area, implement mitigation before prescribed burning, acquire private in-holdings, restrict vehicular access, and develop an ACEC management plan for cultural resources.	X				
Designate the southern half of Table Mountain as an ACEC for archaeological resources. Develop an ACEC management plan. Restrict vehicular access to the Table Mountain Road. Increase ranger patrols in the area. Acquire small parcels on the south side of Table Mountain.	X				
Manage cultural resources in accordance with existing laws, regulations, EOs, and SHPO protocol agreements (as amended). Management actions on public lands—and private land projects that are federally funded, permitted, or assisted—must comply with Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA, which includes consultation with Native American representatives and the SHPO, when appropriate.		X	X	X	X
Conform to the NHPA, Federal Regulations, and the California State Protocol Amendment for identifying and treating properties affected by grazing.		X	X	X	X
Reduce hazardous fuels or provide effective mitigation around archaeological and cultural sites that are vulnerable to wild or prescribed fire. Conform to the California State Protocol Amendment for identification and protection of cultural resources from prescribed fire effects.		X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Maintain current cultural resource data in a geographic information system (GIS) format. The inventory would include a prioritized list (high/medium/low sensitivity) of areas for future inventory—based on sensitivity and the likelihood of significant, unrecorded sites. Inventory strategies for un-surveyed areas would be continually refined.		X	X	X	X
Work cooperatively with the California SHPO on data sharing and information management, and the promotion and enhancement of public education, including Archaeological Awareness Week/Historic Preservation Month, outreach, and stewardship programs.		X	X	X	X
Provide interpretive (and/or other educational opportunities) at selected cultural sites. Work with communities, groups, interested individuals, and other agencies to enhance public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of cultural resources. Maintain, stabilize, or reconstruct selected sites where necessary to preserve site integrity.		X	X	X	X
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
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 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).		X	X	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	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Manage spiritually significant and traditional cultural properties in consultation with Native American 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 Native American tribes would be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law.		X	X	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	X	X
Evaluate and allocate cultural properties (including cultural landscapes) to one of six uses as outlined in BLM-IB No. 2002-101 "Cultural Resource Considerations in Resource Management Plans".		X	X	X	X
Provide support to the on-site resource advisor on a wildland fire to identify cultural resources and provide recommendations to avoid or minimize impact to the resource.		X	X	X	X
<b>PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Restrict the collection of all vertebrate fossils and noteworthy invertebrate and plant fossils to legitimate scientific or educational uses in accordance with permitting procedures.	X	X	X	X	X
Allow recreational collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils, in accordance with 43 CFR 8365.1-5.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALLOCATIONS</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
Visual Resource Mgmt (VRM) Class I (acres) <sup>2</sup>	62,296	62,296	62,296	62,296	62,296
VRM Class II (acres) <sup>3</sup>	40,954	40,210	40,954	12,824	31,650
VRM Class III (acres)	0	744	0	0	9,253
VRM Class IV (acres)	0	0	0	28,130	51

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS</b>					
<b>WILDERNESS AREA MANAGEMENT</b>					
Continued monitoring and signing and restoration	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing restoration activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
Withdrawal from mineral entry, mineral leasing, and mineral sales.	X	X	X	X	X
No use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or other form of mechanical transport.	X	X	X	X	X
No structure or installation within these areas.	X	X	X	X	X
Administrative structures (e.g., trail markers or informational kiosks) and use of vehicles and structures will be the minimum necessary for the administration of these areas.	X	X	X	X	X
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).	X	X	X	X	X
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
<b>WILDERNESS STUDY AREA MANAGEMENT</b>					
Will not be leased for oil and gas or geothermal extraction.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Monitor conditions and uses in and around WSAs to identify actions or uses that impair the wilderness values of the Planning Area.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>WILDERNESS STUDY AREA MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Continue to provide monitoring, signing, and restoration as necessary.	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to manage WSA under BLM's interim management policy until Congress designates as wilderness or releases from WSA status. If a WSA is released from WSA status by Congress, the lands would be managed in accordance with the release language.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
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
<b>PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL MANAGEMENT</b>					
Continue to manage the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in accordance with the existing management plan and the existing MOU.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN MANAGEMENT</b>					
Protection of relevant and important values would take precedence over authorized land uses.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Treatment for hazardous fuels and non-native invasive or pest species would be allowed.	X	X	X	X	X
All ACECs would be closed to wood collection.	X	X	X	X	X
Allow traditional use by Native Americans consistent with Vegetation Use Authorization (see Section 2.3.5.4).	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Monitor resources within the ACECs to detect change and prevent future deterioration.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
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
ACECs and VRM Class II would be exclusion <sup>1</sup> areas for Renewable Energy development.		X	X	X	X
ACECs and VRM Class II would be avoidance <sup>1</sup> areas for all Land Use Authorizations other than for Renewable Energy.		X	X		X
<b>AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN DESIGNATIONS (ACRES)</b>					
In-Ko-Pah ACEC <sup>4</sup>	22,186	9,743	23,430	5,499	9,743
Table Mountain ACEC <sup>4</sup>	4,293	5,213	6,230	4,293	5,213
Total ACEC <sup>4</sup>	26,479	14,956	29,660	12,792	14,956
<b>LIVESTOCK GRAZING</b>					
<b>LIVESTOCK GRAZING ALLOCATIONS (ACRES)</b>					
Available	65,438	31,135	0	65,438	0
Unavailable	37,431	71,734	102,869	37,431	102,869
Total Acres	102,869	102,869	102,869	102,869	102,869
<b>LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT</b>					
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	

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
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 least. (This action is complete.)	X	X <sup>5</sup>		X <sup>5</sup>	
Establish a season of use for the Banner Queen Allotment based on further studies of the vegetative development of key species.	X	X <sup>5</sup>		X <sup>5</sup>	
Establish a season of use on the Vallecito Allotment and Canebrake Allotment as November 1 through June 30.	X	X <sup>5</sup>		X <sup>5</sup>	
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 <sup>5</sup>		X <sup>5</sup>	
No Grazing—eliminate grazing within 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 <sup>5</sup>		X <sup>5</sup>	
Terminate the McCain Valley Allotment.	X				
Eliminate all grazing from Peninsular bighorn sheep critical habitat by adjusting allotment boundaries to exclude critical habitat.		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	

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>MINERAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>					
<b>LOCATABLE MINERALS</b>					
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
Wilderness Areas (WAs) are withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Require notices, when mechanical equipment is used for exploration or processing and cumulative disturbance is less than five acres.	X	X	X	X	X
Require mining plans for operations where disturbance is greater than five acres and/or where bulk sampling would remove 1,000 tons or more.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Require a mining plan of operations in any Special Designation in accordance with existing 3809 regulations.	X	X	X	X	X
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 activity located within critical habitat will require a Section 7 consultation with USFWS.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
All post plan created mining disturbances would be reclaimed to meet the surrounding natural environment. Mining activities would be in compliance with all State of California reclamation requirements, particularly the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>LOCATABLE MINERALS (CONT.)</b>					
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	
Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) subject to IMP.	X	X		X	X
WSAs proposed for withdrawal from mineral entry.			X		
<b>LEASABLE MINERALS</b>					
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
WAs are withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws.	X	X	X	X	X
Consolidate split-estate pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA.	X	X	X	X	X
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	
VRM Class II would be closed.		X	X		X
Lark Canyon OHV Area, Lark Canyon Campground/Staging Area, and Cottonwood Campground would be closed.		X	X		X
WSAs closed.		X	X		X
WSAs subject to IMP.	X			X	

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS(CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>SALABLE MINERALS</b>					
WAs are withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
Consolidate split-estate pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA.	X	X	X	X	X
Do not issue mineral sales or free use permits for the canebrake Canyon/Sawtooth Mountains/Vallecito Valley areas.	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	
<b>MINERAL RESOURCES-LEASABLES (ACRES)</b>					
Land available for geothermal leasing	33,132	675	0	31,823	7,607
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA ALLOCATIONS</b>					
Boulevard/Jacumba Destination SRMA (acres)	n/a	42,673	42,673	42,673	42,673
Julian Destination SRMA (acres)	n/a	15,170	15,170	15,170	15,170
Sawtooth Destination SRMA (acres)	n/a	45,026	n/a	45,026	45,026
Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA (acres)	n/a	n/a	45,026	n/a	n/a
ERMA (acres)	n/a	0	0	0	0
Total BLM RMA (acres)	102,869	102,869	102,869	102,869	102,869
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT</b>					
The public lands are managed to maintain a variety of recreational opportunities. These include, but are not limited to, camping, OHV use, equestrian use, target shooting, hunting, mountain biking, hiking and backpacking, wildflower and wildlife viewing, birdwatching, rock hounding, and pleasure touring.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS  
(CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
Target shooting is permitted on BLM-administered lands throughout the Planning Area except in the McCain Valley RMZ and the Table Mountain RMZ. However, the legal pursuit of game is allowed on BLM-administered lands throughout the Planning Area, subject to the CDFG regulations.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g. surface disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
Collect Recreation Use Permit (RUP) fees at Cottonwood and Lark Canyon campgrounds under the authority of Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA).	X	X	X	X	X
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 Recreation Area Management Plan (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 Desired Outcomes, 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

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>RECREATION MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	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 will be reviewed for consistency with approved RMP and revised accordingly.		X	X	X	X
<b>OHV MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS (ACRES)</b>					
Open	0	0	0	0	0
Closed	61,712	61,712	74,314	61,712	61,712
Limited	41,157	41,157	28,554	41,157	41,157
Total Acres	102,869	102,869	102,869	102,869	102,869
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>OHV MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS (ACRES) (CONT.)</b>					
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
BLM's strategy to reduce vehicle incursions by restoring conditions of disturbed or degraded 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.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>ROUTES OF TRAVEL</b>					
Designate all areas within Class M 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 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 will be limited to designated routes.		X	X	X	X
Non-motorized routes of travel would be restored, as funding is available.		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				

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>ROUTES OF TRAVEL</b>					
Lark Canyon OHV Area, routes limited to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) 40" or less in size have an average width of 5 feet. Vehicles may pull off of the route a maximum of 40 inches to allow for safe passing.		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 routes will be inspected and some may be maintained on a periodic basis		X	X	X	X
<b>IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL DECISIONS—ROUTES OF TRAVEL (MILES)</b>					
Motorized	106.4	90.8	76.1	106.4	90.8
Non-motorized	78.8	94.4	109.1	78.8	94.4
Total Mileage	185.2	185.2	185.2	185.2	185.2
<b>LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT</b>					
<b>LAND TENURE</b>					
<b>Potential disposal (acres)</b>	1,715	1,080	0	1,080	490
Disposal of mineral estate would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.	X	X	X	X	X
When disposing by sale, the preferred method would be competitive or modified-competitive.	X	X	X	X	X
Land tenure adjustment actions would be determined by resource management priorities.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT (CONT.)</b>					
LAND TENURE (CONT.)					
<b>Acquisitions</b>	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.				
Manage all acquired lands in accordance with the approved land use plan decisions for surrounding or adjacent BLM-administered lands.	X	X	X	X	X
Consolidate split-estate pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of FLPMA.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS</b>					
<b>Leases, Permits, and Easements</b>	Considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas <sup>1</sup> identified by alternative.				
Use R&PP leases to meet community needs.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Rights of Way (ROW)</b>	Considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas <sup>1</sup> identified by alternative.				
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS (CONT.)</b>					
<b>Communication Sites (number)</b>	2	Considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas <sup>1</sup> identified by alternative.			
Any application for proposed facilities at existing communication sites must be compatible with other uses at the site existing at the time of application.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Renewable Energy<sup>6</sup></b>	Considered and authorized on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand consistent with exclusion and avoidance areas <sup>1</sup> identified by alternative.				
Land available for wind energy development (acres)	33,130	0	0	20,442	6,931
Process applications for commercial renewable energy facilities as ROWs on a case-by-case basis.	X	X	X	X	X
Do not allow surface occupancy of renewable energy facilities in Special Designation areas.	X	X	X	X	X
Do not locate solar or wind generating facilities in VRM Classes I and II.	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
BLM Wind Energy Development Program Policies and BMPs established in Attachment A of the ROD (DOI BLM 2005f) are adopted and will be used for all site-specific wind development projects. This policy would also be used as guidance for other renewable (e.g., solar) development projects, until such time as specific program guidance is developed.	X	X	X	X	X

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS (CONT.)					
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
WAs are withdrawn from all forms of land entry.	X	X	X	X	X
WSAs would be exclusion areas <sup>1</sup> for all types of Land Use Authorizations.		X	X	X	X
ACECs and VRM Class II would be exclusion areas <sup>1</sup> for Renewable Energy development.		X	X	X	X
ACECs and VRM Class II would be avoidance areas <sup>1</sup> for all Land Use Authorizations other than for Renewable Energy.		X	X		X
Critical habitat would be an exclusion area <sup>1</sup> for Renewable Energy.			X		X
Critical habitat would be an exclusion area <sup>1</sup> for all other types of Land Use Authorizations.			X		X
Critical habitat would be an avoidance area <sup>1</sup> for Renewable Energy.		X			
Critical habitat would be an avoidance area <sup>1</sup> for all other types of Land Use Authorizations.		X			
Quino recovery area would be an avoidance area <sup>1</sup> for all types of Land Use Authorizations.			X		
Lark Canyon OHV Area and Lark Canyon and Cottonwood Campgrounds would be exclusion areas <sup>1</sup> for Renewable Energy.		X	X		X
Airport Mesa would be an exclusion area <sup>1</sup> for Renewable Energy.		X	X		X
No exclusion areas except for WSAs, and except for ACECs, Lark Canyon OHV Area, Lark Canyon Campground/Staging Area, Cottonwood Campground, and VRM Class II for Renewable Energy development. No avoidance areas <sup>1</sup> for ACECs and VRM Class II for all Land Use Authorizations other than for Renewable Energy. Also, no adverse modification to critical habitats would be allowed.				X	

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
<b>WITHDRAWALS</b>					
Existing Withdrawal–WAs	48,333	48,333	48,333	48,333	48,333
Existing Withdrawal–PLOs <sup>7</sup>	18,319	18,319	18,319	18,319	18,319
Proposed Withdrawal–BLM only <sup>8</sup>	11,300	0	29,221	0	12,592
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.	X	X	X	X	X
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)	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>UTILITY CORRIDOR</b>					
Number of corridors	1	1	1	1	1
BLM is planning to continue one utility corridor common to all alternatives consistent with the Western Regional Corridor Study (Western Utility Group 1993).	X	X	X	X	X
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.	X	X	X	X	X
Avoid Special Designation areas and environmentally sensitive areas.	X	X	X	X	X
Proposed activities (e.g., surface-disturbing activities) would not be approved until compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed and documented, including where applicable, consultation with the SHPO and federally recognized tribes.	X	X	X	X	X
Under Alternative A (No Action) there is one existing utility corridor south of Table Mountain near Interstate 8 whose maximum length is 1.5 miles and approximate maximum width 2 miles on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area.	X				

**TABLE ES-1  
SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL DECISIONS (CONT.)**

Potential Decision	A	B	C	D	E
UTILITY CORRIDOR (CONT.)					
Under Alternatives B, C, D, and E, a utility corridor would be designated on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area that is a maximum length is 1.5 miles with a maximum width of 1 mile whose northern boundary would be the southern boundary of the Interstate 8 ROW.		X	X	X	X

- <sup>1</sup> Avoidance area is defined as an area only available for discretionary land use authorizations if there are no other reasonable alternatives for the authorization. Exclusion area is defined as an area that is not available for discretionary land use authorizations.
- <sup>2</sup> The acreages identified for VRM Class I represent the published acreages of the WAs and WSAs as designated by Congress. These acreages do not coincide completely with the digital boundaries used for this analysis; thus the total acreages represented in this table exceed the total acreage of the BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area.
- <sup>3</sup> VRM Class II excludes any private in-holdings located within the ACECs, as BLM's land use decisions apply only to BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area.
- <sup>4</sup> Total acreages of ACECs include private in-holdings located within the boundaries of the ACECs. BLM's land use decisions and management actions only apply to BLM-administered lands within the ACEC.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.
- <sup>6</sup> Geothermal development is regulated by the land use decisions presented under leasables in the Mineral Resources Section.
- <sup>7</sup> PLO = Public Land Order. 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.
- <sup>8</sup> Proposed withdrawals are based on the mineral entry withdrawals identified in Table 2-13 and exclude overlap with WAs. These areas do overlap the PLO boundaries, as the PLOs do not withdraw lands from mineral entry.

## ES.3 Affected Environment

### Climate and Weather

The Coast/Peninsular Ranges extend from north to southeast through the Planning Area. Along the western side of the Peninsular Ranges the climate is dominated by the Pacific Ocean. Warm winters, cool summers, small daily and seasonal temperature ranges, and a high relative humidity are characteristic of this area. With increasing distance from the ocean the maritime influence decreases. The mountainous areas, which are well protected from the ocean experience warmer summers and winters cold enough to allow snowfall. In the areas east of the mountains, a continental desert regime prevails.

Temperatures data from Julian show average monthly temperatures ranging between maximums of 52° to 86° and minimums of 35° to 60° Fahrenheit. Temperatures data from the Borrego Desert Park show average monthly temperatures ranging between

maximums of 69° to 107° and minimums of 44° to 75° Fahrenheit. Temperatures data from Cuyamaca show average monthly temperatures ranging between maximums of 51° to 85° and minimums of 29° to 55° Fahrenheit. The average annual precipitation is 24, 6, and 33 inches at Julian, Borrego Desert Park, and Cuyamaca, respectively. The majority of rain falls in November–March.

Current trends of global climate change include temperature increases and may also include changes in rainfall patterns. Statewide average temperatures are anticipated to increase by between 3 and 10.5 °F by 2100. Total annual precipitation and statewide rainfall patterns are anticipated to change little over the next century; however, it is also possible that the intensity and frequency of extreme storm events could increase.

### **Soil Resources**

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 lands consist of a 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. Most erosion problems are the result of human disturbances associated with use of the land for grazing and recreation.

Twenty-four soil series composed of thirty different soil types are found on BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area.

### **Water Resources**

There are no major lakes or reservoirs on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area. However, there are several small retention dams, built for the purpose of supplying water to livestock and wildlife. There are several springs in the Planning Area, which produce intermittent flow during years of average or greater rainfall.

## *Executive Summary*

The Planning Area falls within portions of the South Coast and the Colorado River Hydrologic Regions. There are several groundwater basins within the Planning Area, however they are considered to be “low use basins”.

Water use on BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area consists of wildlife, livestock, and campground use. The natural springs and some developed springs are important sources of water for wildlife, including both game and non-game animals. Grazing on the McCain Valley allotment (In-Ko-Pah suballotment) is not occurring at this time since the springs within the suballotment are currently dry. The BLM-administered campgrounds have several water spigots which are supplied by groundwater pumped by windmill.

### **Vegetative Communities**

The Eastern San Diego County Planning Area is bordered by the Colorado Desert on the East and by the coniferous forest of the Laguna Mountains on the west. Elevation escalates dramatically from east to west in the Planning Area. These sharp elevation changes make the Planning Area a highly diverse area for plant life.

BLM lands within the Eastern San Diego Planning Area harbor many different types of vegetation communities: mixed riparian woodland, oak woodland, desert wash, semi-desert chaparral, desert fan palm oasis, mixed conifer woodland, and enriched desert scrub.

### **Wildlife**

There are a complex variety of wildlife habitats throughout the Planning Area. An abundance of wildlife exists within the Planning Area including several sensitive and federally threatened species. The area serves as a migratory corridor for numerous species of neotropical migrant birds.

The priority wildlife identified by the BLM for management includes raptors, non-game migratory birds, bats, and game animals.

## Special Status Species

USFWS has identified ten federally listed species as occurring within the Planning Area: Peninsular bighorn sheep, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL), arroyo toad, quino checkerspot butterfly, Laguna Mountains skipper, unarmored threespine stickleback, Mexican flannelbush, Nevin's barberry, and San Bernardino blue grass. 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.

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.

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* var. *medius*), southern jewelflower (*Streptanthus campestris*), and Parry's tetracoccus (*Tetracoccus dioicus*). BLM sensitive wildlife species identified within the Planning Area are Barefoot gecko (*Coleonyx switaki*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*), gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*), small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*), and Townsend's western big-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii*).

## Wildland Fire Ecology and Management

The Planning Unit is situated in a transition zone between two highly flammable fuel types (chamise/semi-desert chaparral and desert scrub communities). Combined with a scattered heavy grass component and dry climatic conditions, this fuel type is characterized by extreme fire behavior potential throughout most of the year. The potential for large fire occurrence is a constant threat for private communities in the area. Past fire history has shown that vegetation fires that become well established in the heavier chaparral fuel types under strong west wind conditions can usually make significant runs down into the desert canyons. An example was the Pines Fire in 2002. It was the largest west-wind driven fire in San Diego County history, at the time, and consumed over 61,000 acres, burning numerous homes in Julian and Ranchita, and 15,000 acres of BLM land. A trend in fire starts due to increased urbanization along the

Interstate 8 corridor, in McCain Valley and the Julian/Banner Grade area is a major concern to fire agencies. The mountain ranges in eastern San Diego County are continually hit with lightning during the summer months when monsoonal flows move up from Mexico.

## **Cultural Resources**

Approximately 26,080 acres have been subject to archaeological field survey according to the California Historic Resources Information System, South Coastal Information Center. Although various surveys have been done in the Planning Area, only one regional survey and overview has been done in the Planning Area, which surveyed some 7,200 acres and recorded 254 sites which formed the foundation for archeological understandings of eastern San Diego and western Imperial County during the 1980s and 90s. Other large surveys have been done here; including extensive surveys in the Table Mountain area in the southern part of the Planning Area in the 1970s, which eventually resulted in the Table Mountain Archaeological District being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. In addition, 609 acres of BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area were surveyed as part of a larger sample survey of the U.S. Navy Remote Training Site north of Warner Springs with 125 heritage resources recorded, including the “lost” Luiseño village sites of *Changa* and *Guariba*. In 2005 and 2006, BLM contracted a survey of approximately 270 miles of existing roads and trails on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area, including roads in the vicinity of Ranchita, Julian, Cuyamaca Peak, Monument Peak, Agua Caliente Springs, Sombrero Peak, Sweeney Pass, Live Oak Springs, and Jacumba. The Upper and Lower Lark Canyon Campground and Cottonwood Campground areas, and numerous roads in the McCain Valley area were also surveyed resulting in the recordation of 105 new sites and record updates of 87 previously documented sites. The vast majority of sites in BLM-managed land within the Planning Area have not been evaluated for significance.

The prehistory of eastern San Diego County, California may be divided into four major temporal periods: Early Man, Paleoamerican, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric. These time periods have regional expression through various regional archaeological complexes or archaeological cultures. A very early time of human occupation is posited for the Greater Southwest. The archaeological complex associated with this time frame is called the Malpais Complex. The earliest part of the Paleoamerican Period in the region is occupied by the Fluted Point Tradition. The Fluted Point Tradition in the far West contains many of the artifact types found in the assemblage of the San Dieguito/Lake Mojave Complex: flaked stone crescents, graters, perforators, scrapers, and choppers. The Archaic period is characterized by two archaeological complexes. The earliest is the Pinto complex (7000 to 4000 B.P.); the other is known as the Amargosa or Gypsum

complex (4000 to 1500 B.P.). Beginning with the Pinto complex, there is an apparent shift to a more generalized economy and a gradually increased emphasis on the exploitation of plant resources. The Late Prehistoric period in the Colorado Desert begins at approximately 1500 B.P. (A.D. 500) and is referred to as the Patayan Pattern. Along the southern California coast, the period is characterized by the Cuyamaca Complex. Ethnographic groups and tribes historically located in the planning area include the Cahuilla, the Kumeyaay, and the Luiseño. Extensive Spanish exploration of southern California occurred began in 1540, with the first European settlement in 1769. Cattle ranching dominated the economy during the Mexican Period. Mining has been practiced sporadically or on a small scale since the major Julian gold rush of the 1870s. There are a number of historic trails within the Planning Area.

### **Paleontological Resources**

Within the Planning Area are several rock units having high probability of paleontological resource occurrence, several rock units having moderate probability of paleontological occurrence, and several rock units having low probability of paleontological resource occurrence. The majority of the units having high probability of paleontological resource occurrence occur on State Parks land and BLM designated wilderness.

### **Visual Resources**

Under the existing management situation all wilderness areas (WAs) and Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) are managed as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I. Most other BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area are managed as Class II.

### **Special Designations**

Within the Planning Area, Special Designations consist of two designated WAs, six WSAs, one National Scenic Trail, and two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

### **Public Health and Safety**

Public health and safety concerns consist of abandoned mines, hazardous (including landfills, mining and milling waste), and border issues.

## **Livestock Grazing**

Nine grazing allotments are within the Planning Area, all classified as perennial-ephemeral. Only two of these allotments are in active use: McCain Valley – In-Ko-Pah and McCain Valley – Tierra Blanca for a total of 20,497 acres and 1,112 AUMs. These permits expire in 2010.

## **Lands and Realty**

BLM manages a diverse combination of land and realty resources in the Planning Area, dealing with area allocation for utility corridors and communications, land tenure issues, land use authorizations, withdrawals, and renewable energy. Currently there is only one major utility ROW corridor traversing the Planning Area. There are three communication facilities occurring on two sites.

## **Mineral Resources**

Locatables:

Within the Planning Area are three areas of known, historic, mineral development. These include the Julian District, the Metal Mountain District (located northwest of McCain Valley), and the Sacatone District located in the Sacatone Spring/Tule Mountain area southeast of McCain Valley). All three mining districts include public land managed by the BLM. There are 77 mining claims recorded with the BLM in the Planning Area, 58 of which are on BLM-administered lands. No mining claims are located in BLM-managed WAs or WSAs.

BLM has classified 201,720 acres with moderate potential for the occurrence of metallic mineral resources, and 36,050 acres with high potential for metallic locatable minerals within the Planning Area. Of these lands, 53,210 acres of moderate potential and 28,550 acres of high potential are on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area. Most areas classified as having a high potential for occurrence of metallic mineral resources are on patented mining claims located principally in the Julian area.

BLM has classified 121,180 acres with moderate potential for the occurrence of nonmetallic/industrial mineral resources, and 7,400 acres with high potential for nonmetallic/industrial locatable minerals within the Planning Area. Of these lands,

44,250 acres of moderate potential and 4,530 acres of high potential are on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area.

**Leasables:**

There is no potential for oil, gas, coal, sodium, potash, or other leasing act mineral resources in the Planning Area. Three areas in the northern, central, and southern portions of the Planning Area have been classified by the BLM as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources because hot springs are present. Two of these areas, centering on Agua Caliente and Jacumba, are located on public lands. BLM has classified 80,240 acres as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources within the Planning Area. Of these lands, 22,040 acres classified as prospectively valuable for geothermal are present on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area.

**Salables:**

There are few inactive sand and gravel sites located within the Planning Area; however, there is no current commercial activity. This lack of activity may be due to the poor access and lack of a ready, steady market in the the Planning Area. High potential for construction materials (sand and gravel) exists in area of public land in McCain Valley. Crushed rock is needed in the eastern San Diego region, but access is restricted.

**Recreation Management**

Opportunities exist within the planning unit for a wide variety of recreational uses at a low to moderate levels of intensity. Activities known to occur in the area include hunting, rock hounding, hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, target shooting, camping, equestrian, four-wheel drive touring, mountain biking, and off-road vehicle use.

Visitors that use BLM-administered public lands in the Planning Area for recreational pursuits are primarily from the surrounding communities within San Diego County and from the City of San Diego itself. Visitors who come to utilize the recreational opportunities within the Planning Area are represented by all age groups.

McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area, in the southern portion of the Planning Area, receives the most visitation and consists of two developed campgrounds (vault toilets, water, picnic tables and fire rings), one OHV area for OHVs that are 40" wide or less, and two scenic overlooks.

### **Transportation and Public Access**

The transportation network within the Planning Area was designed twenty-five years ago to follow the Multiple-Use Class guidelines and further guidance found in the Motorized Vehicle Access Element of the CDCA Plan. The network was intended to improve opportunities for recreational use in the Planning Area while protecting sensitive resource values.

### **Social and Economic**

The County of San Diego is relatively large encompassing 2,727,000 acres. The Planning Area is generally very rural; it is sparsely populated with a few small towns or communities, and covers about 533,000 acres located in the eastern quarter of San Diego County (see Map ES-1).

Within the 533,000-acre Planning Area the BLM has about 102,869 acres under its management. Therefore, the Planning Area represents about one-fifth of San Diego County and the acreage under BLM's control represents about one-fifth (about 19%) of the Planning Area or about 4 percent of the acreage within San Diego County.

The current population estimate of 13,742 residents for 2005 represented a small decrease (-0.4%) from the 13,794 residents reported by the 2000 U.S. Census. The number of households in the Planning Area as of January 2005 was 5,543, about 0.5 percent of the 1,061,027 households in San Diego County.

A substantial proportion of the Planning Area population was reported as White (86%). In addition, 10 percent were reported as multiple race, 3 percent American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 1 percent Black or African-American.

Substantial population growth is forecast for the Planning Area. Over the 30 year period of 2000 to 2030 the population of is expected to increase about 150 percent compared with a 37 percent increase in the population of the County. Employment growth for residents of the Planning Area is also expected to be very strong over the period rising 106 percent compared with a more modest 32 percent increase in employment within the County.

The Planning Area economy generates about \$215 million in gross regional product as measured by value added. The total output (sales) of the ESDC is approximately \$379 million and the total employee income is \$135 million. The \$379 million in output within the Planning Area supports approximately 4,400 jobs. The total value added per employee is approximately \$48,900.

The largest sector of the ESDC economy in terms of employment is Animal Production with a reported 564 jobs. Approximately, 12 percent of the employment for the ESDC Planning Area is in Animal Production. Transportation & Warehousing was the second largest employment sector with a reported 349 jobs.

The BLM and the Sonoran Institute have developed a very sophisticated economic profiling system (EPS) that enables very detailed analyses of economic and demographic trends, primarily at the county level and for larger areas. However, it has been clearly demonstrated in the preceding demographic discussion that the Planning Area represents a fairly small portion of the county in terms of land area, population, and employment. The same is true for the economic value of the goods and services that are produced with the Planning Area.

As a very general overview, the Planning Area may be defined as containing about 0.5 percent of the countywide population. It also generates about 0.25 percent of the jobs within the county, and about 0.2 percent of the county's regional product. The Planning Area is very rural, and the economy is relatively stagnant compared with the densely populated and dynamic economy of San Diego County. Therefore, it was determined by CIC Research, Inc. that the EPS database would be somewhat misleading and inappropriate for general application in the analysis for the ESDC Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP).

To produce the estimates of employment and the value of regional product, CIC developed a regional input-output (I-O) model for the Planning Area and for San Diego County. The regional I-O model was based on software and data provided by Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN)/Pro. The value of the IMPLAN/Pro system coupled with CIC's experience and knowledge of the Planning Area was to provide a basis for measuring the size of key economic sectors of the Planning Area in terms of output, income, and employment. The I-O system also provided the ability to model the expected impact of exogenous changes in the Planning Area economy based on planning alternatives for the proposed regional master plan. The economic impacts were determined for each of the BLM-proposed planning alternatives for the Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS), focusing on the four programs with economic value in the Planning Area: livestock grazing, lands and realty, mineral resources, and recreation management.

### **Environmental Justice**

The populations of Blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians are not meaningfully greater in the Planning Area than the general population of San Diego County. However, there are Indian Reservations in Eastern San Diego County, in which the Indian population is meaningfully greater, than in the general population, as would be expected. There are six Indian Reservations within the Planning Area. Of these, five have resident populations: Campo, La Posta, Los Coyotes, Manzanita, and Santa Ysabel. These Indian communities can be characterized as low income and minority. The BLM is aware assumes that there are small pockets of poverty and/or minority populations scattered throughout the Planning Area. However, the BLM has not identified any communities within the Planning Area with low income or minority populations that would be disproportionately impacted by the proposed Planning Area alternatives.

## **ES.4 Impact Analysis Summary**

Chapter 4 describes the potential effects from planning decisions. A quantitative analysis is included where possible; otherwise a qualitative discussion is included to describe potential impacts. These effects are summarized below.

**Under implementation of Alternative A (No Action), the following effects are anticipated:**

- **Air Quality.** Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no air quality impacts.
- **Soil Resources.** There is potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing campgrounds. However, the concentration of visitor use and their associated impacts to soils is normally preferred over allowing high levels of dispersed visitor use to continue impacting a wider area. Law enforcement or emergency search and rescue activities, including U.S. Border Patrol activities, and human entry of the area by undocumented immigrants could potentially result in soil compaction and erosion which would be an unavoidable adverse impact.

Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis, and erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover. Alternative A calls for reseeding eroding sites or allowing for natural revegetation in the Oriflamme land treatment site, the McCain Valley campgrounds, and "Competition Hill" and the installation of erosion control structures where desirable.

- **Water Resources.** Approved activities have the potential to result in a variety of effects to water resources including reducing disturbance to riparian waters; increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and groundwater, and conversely increasing the use of surface and 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. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater.
- **Vegetative Resources.** Some BLM Land Use Plan (LUP) decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement (e.g. habitat restoration and riparian area rehabilitation), while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to vegetation. Under Alternative A, lands would be available

for livestock grazing. Alternative A (and Alternative D) designates more miles of motorized routes than the other Alternatives.

Human entry and use of the area by undocumented immigrants could result in unavoidable adverse impacts to vegetation resources through litter deposition and trampling of vegetation. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater; thereby affecting the health of the vegetation communities within the Planning Area.

- **Wildlife Resources.** Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement (e.g. vegetative management), while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat. Impacts to habitat quality from grazing activities could vary depending on timing, intensity, and duration of grazing. Grazing activities could also result in increased competition between livestock and wildlife for resources. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface water for use by wildlife within the Planning Area.
- **Special Status Species.** Alternative A would allow current grazing practices and mineral entry within critical habitat found on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area. This could result in effects to special status species. As bighorn sheep have been documented using the water source developed within the Canebrake allotment, grazing in this area could result in a significant impact to bighorn sheep from contact with livestock. The action alternatives provide more protection measures for special status species, resulting in fewer impacts.
- **Wildland Fire Ecology.** Alternative A would allow current grazing practices. Removal of forage by livestock can result in lower fire frequencies but higher fire intensities. Wildfires might not burn as often, but the likelihood of a catastrophic fire increases. The presence of sensitive cultural and natural resources limit the ability to suppress wildland fire. The impacts of these resources on the fire program are unavoidable and sometimes adverse.

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. ROWs, utility corridors, and other such authorizations inadvertently create fuel breaks and provide access routes for wildfire suppression.

Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition. Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs. Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.

Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could increase the potential for wildland fires in frequency and intensity.

- **Cultural Resources.** 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. 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.

Land disposal is a permanent loss in terms of BLM management and oversight and could therefore have an adverse impact to cultural resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of cultural resources in the planning process and provide for additional protections and would therefore have a beneficial effect on any that exist within the acquired property.

- **Paleontological Resources.** 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. Livestock grazing could result in the degradation

of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate through trampling of exposed deposits.

Land disposal is a permanent loss in terms of BLM management and oversight and could therefore have an adverse impact to vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources in the planning process and would have a beneficial effect on any that exist within the acquired property.

- **Visual Resources.** WAs and WSAs are classified as VRM Class I, which is the most restrictive class. 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.
- **Special Designations.** The primary potential impacts to the two designated WAs within the Planning Area may occur due to the use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment for fire suppression and construction and maintenance of structures as well as the structures themselves. WA values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts from construction and maintenance activities would result from dust emissions and noise. Potential short-term impacts on naturalness and solitude could result from dust emissions and noise related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area. Construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities (e.g., wildlife waters) could degrade values for which these WAs were designated. Livestock grazing, where established at the time of designation of the two WAs, shall be allowed to continue irrespective of impacts on the wilderness characteristic. The presence of livestock and associated presence of structures and ranchers would have an impact on the wilderness characteristic of naturalness. Approximately 21,204 acres of the Sawtooth Mountains WA and approximately 5,293 acres of Carrizo Gorge WA are being grazed under Alternative A.

The primary potential impacts to the six WSAs within the Planning Area could occur from construction and maintenance of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects. WSA values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts could result from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings. No impacts are expected from mining, mineral leasing, or mineral sales activities.

Potential direct and indirect 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.
- **Livestock Grazing.** Broad-scale vegetation management activities, such as prescribed fire, could temporarily reduce the forage base within grazing areas with the rate of recovery depending on the vegetation community burned, the hydrology, soil type, and intensity of the fire. Post-fire, forage quality, and palatability could increase due to the stimulation of vegetation. Range improvement projects (e.g., livestock and wildlife waters) would increase the amount of available water. Invasive species removal (e.g., tamarisk) could also increase the availability of surface water. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could decrease the availability of forage which could affect the ability to effectively graze livestock.

- **Lands and Realty**

- Land Tenure (Disposals, Acquisitions, and Recreation and Public Purposes [R&PPs])

Disposals would result in fewer acres available within the BLM transportation and access network.

Acquisition of lands through exchange, purchase, and donation improves management of natural resources through consolidation of federal landownership patterns; increase recreational opportunities and preserve open space; secure key property necessary to protect endangered species and promote biological diversity; preserve archaeological and historical resources; and implement specific acquisitions authorized by acts of Congress. Acquiring access to landlocked parcels would result in increased use of these lands by the public.

Acquiring easements allows the landowner to maintain existing land uses, but provides access to "landlocked" public lands while allowing the BLM to construct road improvements for better management and increased public access.

- Utility Corridors and Communications

Under Alternative A (No Action) there is one existing utility corridor within the Planning Area south of Table Mountain that is a maximum of 1.5 miles long and approximately 2 miles wide, bounded by the Interstate 8 ROW to the. Alternative A has two communication sites with three facilities.

- Renewable Energy

The PRMP allows for the development of renewable energy, although land use allocations for renewable energy vary by alternative. Under all alternatives, land use authorizations for renewable energy would be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand.

Based on the wind energy potential model developed by PPM Energy (2006), there is a total of 33,130 acres of BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area that have the potential to support future wind energy projects under Alternative A, excluding wilderness and WSAs. The development of renewable sources of energy could reduce the irreversible/irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable energy resources.

- **Mineral Resources**

WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws. There are no valid rights attendant to mineral resources on public lands that have not been appropriated prior to designation of WAs. Impacts to mineral resources are expected from land use decisions identified in Table 2-13 where access to or availability of mineral resources is restricted, including increased costs associated with restoration of surface disturbance. Under Alternative A, these actions include the proposed withdrawal of both the Table Mountain and In-Ko-Pah ACECs from mineral entry.

The proposed withdrawals from mineral entry would prohibit access to and development of metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals for new mineral locations on public lands, and increase costs associated with mitigation and design of access to private mineral interests in these areas. Where mining claims with verified valid existing rights are located in areas withdrawn from mineral entry, and these rights would need to be acquired to protect non-mineral resources, local, regional, or national economies would be negatively affected by locking these metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals deposits from foreseeable future use.

Under Alternative A, there are 33,132 acres available for geothermal minerals leasing.

- **Recreation Program**

- Recreation Management

Under all alternatives except Alternative A, 102,869 acres of Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) would be created. BLM-administered lands outside of SRMAs are Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA). Recreation management within ERMAs

would be limited to custodial actions only. Therefore, the creation of SRMAs allows for more recreation management in these areas. Although Alternative A does not provide for any SRMAs, it covers 38,690 acres which were previously identified in the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area in accordance with the McCain Valley Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP; DOI BLM 1979a).

Overall, the PRMP provides for a number and variety of recreational opportunities. The allowance and level of maintenance for recreation varies somewhat by alternative. Alternatives D and E call for improving staging areas outside WAs to wilderness trailheads. Alternative C creates the Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA, which would be managed to intentionally maintain dispersed and undeveloped recreation opportunities such as hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use. Alternatives B, D, and E create the Sawtooth Destination SRMA, which would be managed to promote the continued use of the lands for hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use and would also accommodate limited OHV use, camping, and day-use outside of designated wilderness and WSAs. The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area is proposed for the Chariot Canyon Recreation Management Zone (RMZ) under Alternatives B, C, D, and E.

Intensive recreational use would result in a long-term loss of productivity by means of soil compaction and areas of denuded vegetation.

- Transportation and Public Access

Alternative B would eliminate livestock grazing in the Lark Canyon OHV area, while Alternative D would reduce the OHV area to minimize the conflict between OHV use and livestock grazing. See Table 2-18, which summarizes the acres designated as open, closed, or limited for OHV use.

For WAs, the limitation on access is for mechanized transport and motorized access. For WSAs, the use of motor vehicles, motorized

equipment or other forms of mechanical transport would not be allowed off boundary roads and existing ways. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (NST) is closed to motorized vehicles and mountain bikes. Motorized access within ACECs is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized. Outside of these areas, OHV use is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized.

Access requiring authorization (uses requiring permits) could involve seasonal restrictions such as seasonal closures in Peninsular bighorn sheep critical habitat during lambing season.

Authorizations or leases could result in closure to areas for public access (i.e. geothermal, wind, solar) as a result of public health and safety concerns. Access for authorized uses such as minerals on split-estate lands where BLM manages the subsurface would not necessarily give public access across private lands, but grant access only to the authorized user.

- **Social and Economic.** It is not expected that any of the PRMP alternatives would result in any significant economic impacts. A possible exception would be the potential for wind energy development. If and when a project is proposed to the BLM, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific Plans of Development (PODs), which would need to address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts) of a proposed wind energy development.
- **Environmental Justice.** The BLM is aware that there are small pockets of poverty and/or minority populations scattered throughout the Planning Area. However, the BLM has not identified any communities within the Planning Area with low income or minority populations that would be disproportionately impacted by the proposed Planning Area alternatives. The socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts resulting from any of the BLM regional management plan program alternatives for the Planning Area.

**Under implementation of Alternative B, the following effects are anticipated:**

- **Air Quality.** Under the Alternative B, there would be no air quality impacts.
- **Soil Resources.** There is potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing (and new) campgrounds. However, the concentration of visitor use and their associated impacts to soils is normally preferred over allowing high levels of dispersed visitor use to continue impacting a wider area. Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis, and erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover. 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 non-motorized routes of travel would occur. Law enforcement or emergency search and rescue activities, including U.S. Border Patrol activities, and human entry of the area by undocumented immigrants could potentially result in soil compaction and erosion which would be an unavoidable adverse impact.
- **Water Resources.** Approved activities have the potential to result in a variety of effects to water resources including reducing disturbance to riparian waters; increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and groundwater, and conversely increasing the use of surface and 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. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater.
- **Vegetative Resources.** Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement (e.g. habitat restoration and riparian area rehabilitation), while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to

vegetation. Under Alternative B, lands available for livestock grazing would be reduced.

Human entry and use of the area by undocumented immigrants could result in unavoidable adverse impacts to vegetation resources through litter deposition and trampling of vegetation. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater; thereby affecting the health of the vegetation communities within the Planning Area.

- **Wildlife Resources.** Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement (e.g. vegetative management), while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat. Impacts to habitat quality from grazing activities could vary depending on timing, intensity, and duration of grazing. Grazing activities could also result in increased competition between livestock and wildlife for resources. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface water for use by wildlife within the Planning Area.
- **Special Status Species.** Alternative B would eliminate grazing from all critical habitat which would result in beneficial effect to special status species. Mineral entry would be allowed within critical habitat (except for leasable and salable entry of critical habitat that occurs within ACECs) 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 no vehicular access and thus, the potential for these acres to be impacted from mining activities is low.
- **Wildland Fire Ecology.** Alternative B would reduce the currently allowed grazing practices. Removal of forage by livestock can result in lower fire frequencies but higher fire intensities. Wildfires might not burn as often, but the likelihood of a catastrophic fire increases. The presence of sensitive cultural and natural resources limit the ability to suppress wildland fire. The impacts of these resources on the fire program are unavoidable and sometimes adverse.

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. ROWs, utility corridors, and other such authorizations inadvertently create fuel breaks and provide access routes for wildfire suppression.

Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition. Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs. Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.

Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could increase the potential for wildland fires in frequency and intensity.

- **Cultural Resources.** 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. 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.

Land disposal is a permanent loss in terms of BLM management and oversight and could therefore have an adverse impact to cultural resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of cultural resources in the planning process and provide for additional protections and would therefore have a beneficial effect on any cultural resources that exist within the acquired property.

- **Paleontological Resources.** 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. Livestock grazing could result in the degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate through trampling of exposed deposits.

Land disposal is a permanent loss in terms of BLM management and oversight and could therefore have an adverse impact to vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources in the planning process and would have a beneficial effect on any that exist within the acquired property.

- **Visual Resources.** WAs and WSAs are classified as VRM Class I, which is the most restrictive class. 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.
- **Special Designations.** The primary potential impacts to the two designated WAs within the Planning Area may occur due to the use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment for fire suppression and construction and maintenance of structures as well as the structures themselves. WA values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts from construction and maintenance activities would result from dust emissions and noise. Potential short-term impacts on naturalness and solitude could result from dust emissions and noise related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area. Construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities (e.g., wildlife waters) could degrade values for which these WAs were designated. Livestock grazing, where established at the time of designation of the two WAs, shall be allowed to continue irrespective of impacts on the wilderness characteristic. The presence of livestock and associated presence of structures and ranchers would have an impact on the wilderness characteristic of naturalness. Under Alternative B, grazing would be eliminated from critical habitat. This would reduce the extent of grazing and enhance the wilderness

characteristics, primarily naturalness, of the Sawtooth WA. However, any new structures, such as fences, necessary to implement this would reduce the wilderness characteristics.

The primary potential impacts to the six WSAs within the Planning Area could occur from construction and maintenance of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects. WSA values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts could result from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings. No impacts are expected from mining, mineral leasing, or mineral sales activities.

Potential direct and indirect 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.
- **Livestock Grazing.** Under Alternative B lands available for livestock grazing would be reduced and allotments would be adjusted to exclude grazing from the OHV use area in Lark Canyon and Table Mountain ACEC. Broad-scale vegetation management activities, such as prescribed fire, could temporarily reduce the forage base within grazing areas with the rate of recovery depending on the vegetation community burned, the hydrology, soil type, and intensity of the fire. Post fire, forage quality, and palatability could increase due to the stimulation of vegetation. Range improvement projects (e.g., livestock and wildlife waters) would increase the amount of available water. Invasive species removal (e.g.,

tamarisk) could also increase the availability of surface water. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could decrease the availability of forage which could affect the ability to effectively graze livestock.

- **Lands and Realty**

- Land Tenure (Disposals, Acquisitions, and R&PPs)

Disposals would result in fewer acres available within the BLM transportation and access network.

Acquisition of lands through exchange, purchase, and donation is designed to improve management of natural resources through consolidation of federal landownership patterns; increase recreational opportunities and preserve open space; secure key property necessary to protect endangered species and promote biological diversity; preserve archaeological and historical resources; and implement specific acquisitions authorized by acts of Congress. Acquiring access to landlocked parcels would result in increased use of these lands by the public.

Acquiring easements allows the landowner to maintain existing land uses, but provides access to "landlocked" public lands while allowing the BLM to construct road improvements for better management and increased public access.

- Utility Corridors and Communications

Under Alternative B, the utility corridor would be a maximum of 1.5 miles long with a width of 1 mile, the northern boundary of which would be the southern boundary of the Interstate 8 ROW. As discussed in Section 2.3.18.4, 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.

Alternative B would consider and authorize applications for communication sites on a case-by-case basis emphasizing co-location and subleasing of facilities.

- Renewable Energy

The PRMP allows for the development of renewable energy, although land use allocations for renewable energy vary by alternative. Under all alternatives, land use authorizations for renewable energy would be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand. Under Alternative B, solar or wind generating facilities would not be located in VRM Classes I and II. WAs and WSAs are exclusion areas under all alternatives. ACECs are exclusion areas under Alternative B.

Under Alternative B, there are no lands available for wind energy development.

The development of renewable sources of energy could reduce the irreversible/irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable energy resources.

- **Mineral Resources**

WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws. There are no valid rights attendant to mineral resources on public lands that have not been appropriated prior to designation of WAs. Impacts to mineral resources are expected from land use decisions identified in Table 2-13 where access to or availability of mineral resources is restricted, including increased costs associated with restoration of surface disturbance. Under Alternative B, these actions include closing critical habitat located within ACECs to leasable mineral entry; and closing WSAs and critical habitat located within ACECs to salable mineral entry.

The proposed withdrawals from mineral entry would prohibit access to and development of metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals for new mineral locations on public lands, and increase costs associated with mitigation and design of access to private mineral interests in these areas. Where mining claims

with verified valid existing rights are located in areas withdrawn from mineral entry, and these rights would need to be acquired to protect non-mineral resources, local, regional, or national economies would be negatively affected by locking these metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals deposits from foreseeable future use.

Under Alternative B, there are 675 acres available for geothermal minerals leasing in the Airport Mesa area.

- **Recreation Program**

- Recreation Management

Under all alternatives except Alternative A, 102,869 acres of SRMAs would be created. BLM-administered lands outside of SRMAs are ERMAs. Recreation management within ERMAs would be limited to custodial actions only. Therefore, the creation of SRMAs allows for more recreation management in these areas. Although Alternative A does not provide for any SRMAs, it covers 38,690 acres which were previously identified in the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area in accordance with the McCain Valley RAMP (DOI BLM 1979a).

Overall, the PRMP provides for a number and variety of recreational opportunities. The allowance and level of maintenance for recreation varies somewhat by alternative. Alternatives D and E call for improving staging areas outside WAs to wilderness trailheads. Alternative C creates the Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA, which would be managed to intentionally maintain dispersed and undeveloped recreation opportunities such as hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use. Alternatives B, D, and E create the Sawtooth Destination SRMA, which would be managed to promote the continued use of the lands for hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use and would also accommodate limited OHV use, camping, and day-use outside of designated wilderness and WSAs. The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area is proposed for the Chariot Canyon RMZ under Alternatives B, C, D, and E.

Intensive recreational use would result in a long-term loss of productivity by means of soil compaction and areas of denuded vegetation.

- Transportation and Public Access

Alternative B would eliminate livestock grazing in the Lark Canyon OHV area, while Alternative D would reduce the OHV area to minimize the conflict between OHV use and livestock grazing. See Table 2-18, which summarizes the acres designated as open, closed, or limited for OHV use. Alternative B would reduce the mileage of motorized routes of travel by 15 percent. Implementation of Alternative B could result in a cumulative loss of OHV routes in the region and a cumulative increase for some other recreational activities, e.g., birding, hiking.

For WAs, the limitation on access is for mechanized transport and motorized access. For WSAs, the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or other forms of mechanical transport would not be allowed off boundary roads and existing ways. The Pacific Crest NST is closed to motorized vehicles and mountain bikes. Motorized access within ACECs is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized. Outside of these areas, OHV use is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized.

Access requiring authorization (uses requiring permits) could involve seasonal restrictions such as seasonal closures in Peninsular bighorn sheep critical habitat during lambing season.

Authorizations or leases could result in closure to areas for public access (i.e. geothermal, wind, solar) as a result of public health and safety concerns. Access for authorized uses such as minerals on split-estate lands where BLM manages the subsurface would not necessarily give public access across private lands, but grant access only to the authorized user.

- **Social and Economic.** It is not expected that any of the PRMP alternatives would result in any significant economic impacts. A possible exception would be the potential for wind energy development. If and when a project is proposed to the BLM, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific PODs, which would need to address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts) of a proposed wind energy development.
- **Environmental Justice.** The BLM is aware that there are small pockets of poverty and/or minority populations scattered throughout the Planning Area. However, the BLM has not identified any communities within the Planning Area with low income or minority populations that would be disproportionately impacted by the proposed Planning Area alternatives. The socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts resulting from any of the BLM regional management plan program alternatives for the Planning Area.

**Under implementation of Alternative C, the following effects are anticipated:**

- **Air Quality.** Under the Alternative C, there would be no air quality impacts.
- **Soil Resources.** There is potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing (and new) campgrounds. However, the concentration of visitor use and their associated impacts to soils is normally preferred over allowing high levels of dispersed visitor use to continue impacting a wider area. Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis, and erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover. 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. Law enforcement or emergency search and rescue activities, including U.S. Border Patrol activities, and human entry of the area by undocumented immigrants could potentially result in soil compaction and erosion which would be an unavoidable adverse impact.
- **Water Resources.** Approved activities have the potential to result in a variety of effects to water resources including reducing disturbance to riparian waters;

increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and groundwater, and conversely increasing the use of surface and 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 C, all BLM-administered lands would be unavailable for livestock grazing, which would reduce the amount of water used. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater.

- **Vegetative Resources.** Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement (e.g. habitat restoration and riparian area rehabilitation), while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to vegetation. The designation of land as unavailable to livestock grazing in Alternative C would remove any potential impacts to oak woodlands from grazing activity. Alternative C designates fewer miles of motorized routes than the other Alternatives.

Human entry and use of the area by undocumented immigrants could result in unavoidable adverse impacts to vegetation resources through litter deposition and trampling of vegetation. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater; thereby affecting the health of the vegetation communities within the Planning Area.

- **Wildlife Resources.** Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement (e.g. vegetative management), while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat. The designation of land as unavailable to livestock grazing in Alternative C would remove any potential impacts from grazing activities, such as competition between livestock and wildlife for resources. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface water for use by wildlife within the Planning Area.

- **Special Status Species.** Alternative C would eliminate grazing and mineral entry from critical habitat within the BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area. This would result in beneficial effects to special status species.
- **Wildland Fire Ecology.** Livestock grazing would be eliminated under Alternative C, resulting in higher fire frequency and lower risk of catastrophic wildfire. The presence of sensitive cultural and natural resources limit the ability to suppress wildland fire. The impacts of these resources on the fire program are unavoidable and sometimes adverse.

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. ROWs, utility corridors, and other such authorizations inadvertently create fuel breaks and provide access routes for wildfire suppression.

Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition. Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs. Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.

Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could increase the potential for wildland fires in frequency and intensity.

- **Cultural Resources.** 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. Wildlife improvement projects could concentrate wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling of surface artifacts and features.

Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of cultural resources in the planning process and provide for additional protections and would therefore have a beneficial effect on any cultural resources that exist within the acquired property.

- **Paleontological Resources.** 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. Wildlife improvement projects could concentrate wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling of exposed vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate deposits.

Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources in the planning process and would have a beneficial effect on any that exist within the acquired property.

- **Visual Resources.** WAs and WSAs are classified as VRM Class I, which is the most restrictive class. 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.
- **Special Designations.** The primary potential impacts to the two designated WAs within the Planning Area may occur due to the use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment for fire suppression and construction and maintenance of structures as well as the structures themselves. WA values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts from construction and maintenance activities would result from dust emissions and noise. Potential short-term impacts on naturalness and solitude could result from dust emissions and noise related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area. Construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities (e.g. wildlife waters) could degrade values for which these WAs were designated.

Under this alternative, livestock grazing would be eliminated from Was and no new wildlife waters would be authorized, thereby reducing impacts to the wilderness characteristic.

The primary potential impacts to the six WSAs within the Planning Area could occur from construction and maintenance of wildlife habitat improvement projects. WSA values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts could result from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings. No impacts are expected from mining, mineral leasing, or mineral sales activities.

Potential direct and indirect impacts to ACECs would result from the following management actions and LUP decisions: Vegetation treatments, 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.
  
- **Livestock Grazing.** Under Alternative C, all BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area would be unavailable for livestock grazing with the exception of vegetation management prescriptions.
  
- **Lands and Realty**
  - Land Tenure (Disposals, Acquisitions, and R&PPs)

Disposals would result in fewer acres available within the BLM transportation and access network.

Acquisition of lands through exchange, purchase, and donation is designed to improve management of natural resources through consolidation of federal landownership patterns; increase recreational opportunities and preserve open space; secure key property necessary to protect endangered species and promote biological diversity; preserve archaeological and historical resources; and implement specific acquisitions authorized by acts of Congress. Acquiring access to landlocked parcels would result in increased use of these lands by the public.

Acquiring easements allows the landowner to maintain existing land uses, but provides access to "landlocked" public lands while allowing the BLM to construct road improvements for better management and increased public access.

- Utility Corridors and Communications

Under Alternative C, the utility corridor would be a maximum of 1.5 miles long with a width of 1 mile, the northern boundary of which would be the southern boundary of the Interstate 8 ROW. As discussed in Section 2.3.18.4, 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.

Alternative C would consider and authorize applications for communication sites on a case-by-case basis emphasizing co-location and subleasing of facilities.

- Renewable Energy

The PRMP allows for the development of renewable energy, although land use allocations for renewable energy vary by alternative. Under all alternatives, land use authorizations for renewable energy would be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand. Under Alternative C solar or wind generating facilities would not be located in

VRM Classes I and II. WAs and WSAs are exclusion areas under all alternatives. ACECs are exclusion areas under Alternative C.

Under Alternative C, there are no lands available for wind energy development.

The development of renewable sources of energy could reduce the irreversible/irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable energy resources.

- **Mineral Resources**

WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws. There are no valid rights attendant to mineral resources on public lands that have not been appropriated prior to designation of WAs. Impacts to mineral resources are expected from land use decisions identified in Table 2-13 where access to or availability of mineral resources is restricted, including increased costs associated with restoration of surface disturbance. Under Alternative C, these actions include the proposed withdrawal of the Table Mountain and In-Ko-Pah ACECs, critical habitat, and all WSAs from mineral entry.

The proposed withdrawals from mineral entry would prohibit access to and development of metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals for new mineral locations on public lands, and increase costs associated with mitigation and design of access to private mineral interests in these areas. Where mining claims with verified valid existing rights are located in areas withdrawn from mineral entry, and these rights would need to be acquired to protect non-mineral resources, local, regional, or national economies would be negatively affected by locking these metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals deposits from foreseeable future use.

Under Alternative C, there are no lands available for geothermal minerals leasing.

- **Recreation Program**

- Recreation Management

Under all alternatives except Alternative A, 102,869 acres of SRMAs would be created. BLM-administered lands outside of SRMAs are ERMAs. Recreation management within ERMAs would be limited to custodial actions only. Therefore, the creation of SRMAs allows for more recreation management in these areas. Although Alternative A does not provide for any SRMAs, it covers 38,690 acres which were previously identified in the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area in accordance with the McCain Valley RAMP (DOI BLM 1979a).

Overall, the PRMP provides for a number and variety of recreational opportunities. The allowance and level of maintenance for recreation varies somewhat by alternative. Alternatives D and E call for improving staging areas outside WAs to wilderness trailheads. Alternative C creates the Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA, which would be managed to intentionally maintain dispersed and undeveloped recreation opportunities such as hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use. Alternatives B, D, and E create the Sawtooth Destination SRMA, which would be managed to promote the continued use of the lands for hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use and would also accommodate limited OHV use, camping, and day-use outside of designated wilderness and WSAs. The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area is proposed for the Chariot Canyon RMZ under Alternatives B, C, D, and E.

Intensive recreational use would result in a long-term loss of productivity by means of soil compaction and areas of denuded vegetation.

- Transportation and Public Access

Alternative B would eliminate livestock grazing in the Lark Canyon OHV area, while Alternative D would reduce the OHV area to minimize the conflict between OHV use and livestock grazing. See Table 2-18, which summarizes the acres designated as open, closed, or limited for OHV

use. Alternative C would reduce the mileage of motorized routes of travel by 28 percent. Implementation of Alternative C could result in a cumulative loss of OHV routes in the region and a cumulative increase for some other recreational activities, e.g., birding, hiking.

For WAs, the limitation on access is for mechanized transport and motorized access. For WSAs, the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or other forms of mechanical transport would not be allowed off boundary roads and existing ways. The Pacific Crest NST is closed to motorized vehicles and mountain bikes. Motorized access within ACECs is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized. Outside of these areas, OHV use is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized.

Access requiring authorization (uses requiring permits) could involve seasonal restrictions such as seasonal closures in Peninsular bighorn sheep critical habitat during lambing season.

Authorizations or leases could result in closure to areas for public access (i.e. geothermal, wind, solar) as a result of public health and safety concerns. Access for authorized uses such as minerals on split-estate lands where BLM manages the subsurface would not necessarily give public access across private lands, but grant access only to the authorized user.

- **Social and Economic.** It is not expected that any of the PRMP alternatives would result in any significant economic impacts. A possible exception would be the potential for wind energy development. If and when a project is proposed to the BLM, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific PODs, which would need to address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts) of a proposed wind energy development.
- **Environmental Justice.** The BLM is aware that there are small pockets of poverty and/or minority populations scattered throughout the Planning Area. However, the BLM has not identified any communities within the Planning Area with low income or minority populations that would be disproportionately impacted by the proposed Planning Area alternatives. The socioeconomic

characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts resulting from any of the BLM regional management plan program alternatives for the Planning Area.

**Under implementation of Alternative D, the following effects are anticipated:**

- **Air Quality.** Under the Alternative D, there would be no air quality impacts.
  
- **Soil Resources.** There is potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing (and new) campgrounds. However, the concentration of visitor use and their associated impacts to soils is normally preferred over allowing high levels of dispersed visitor use to continue impacting a wider area. Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis, and erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover. 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. Law enforcement or emergency search and rescue activities, including U.S. Border Patrol activities, and human entry of the area by undocumented immigrants could potentially result in soil compaction and erosion which would be an unavoidable adverse impact.
  
- **Water Resources.** Approved activities have the potential to result in a variety of effects to water resources including reducing disturbance to riparian waters; increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and groundwater, and conversely increasing the use of surface and 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 D, construction of new wildlife waters would increase the quantity of available surface water, but has the potential to decrease groundwater stores. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater.
  
- **Vegetative Resources.** Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement (e.g. habitat restoration and riparian area rehabilitation), while others would be negative by

authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to vegetation. Under Alternative D, lands would be available for livestock grazing. Alternative D (and Alternative A) designates more miles of motorized routes than the other Alternatives.

Human entry and use of the area by undocumented immigrants could result in unavoidable adverse impacts to vegetation resources through litter deposition and trampling of vegetation. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater; thereby affecting the health of the vegetation communities within the Planning Area.

- **Wildlife Resources.** Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement (e.g. vegetative management), while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat. Impacts to habitat quality from grazing activities could vary depending on timing, intensity, and duration of grazing. Grazing activities could also result in increased competition between livestock and wildlife for resources. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface water for use by wildlife within the Planning Area.
- **Special Status Species.** Alternative D would allow current grazing practices within critical habitat found on BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area. This could result in effects to special status species. As bighorn sheep have been documented using the water source developed within the Canebrake allotment, grazing in this area could result in a significant impact to bighorn sheep from contact with livestock. 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 no vehicular access and thus, the potential for these acres to be impacted from mining activities is low.
- **Wildland Fire Ecology.** Alternative D would allow current grazing practices. Removal of forage by livestock can result in lower fire frequencies but higher fire intensities. Wildfires might not burn as often, but the likelihood of a catastrophic fire increases. The presence of sensitive cultural and natural resources limit the

ability to suppress wildland fire. The impacts of these resources on the fire program are unavoidable and sometimes adverse.

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. ROWs, utility corridors, and other such authorizations inadvertently create fuel breaks and provide access routes for wildfire suppression.

Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition. Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs. Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.

Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could increase the potential for wildland fires in frequency and intensity.

- **Cultural Resources.** 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. 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.

Land disposal is a permanent loss in terms of BLM management and oversight and could therefore have an adverse impact to cultural resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of cultural resources in the planning process and provide for additional protections and would therefore have a beneficial effect on any cultural resources that exist within the acquired property.

- **Paleontological Resources.** 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. Livestock grazing could result in the degradation of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate through trampling of exposed deposits.

Land disposal is a permanent loss in terms of BLM management and oversight and could therefore have an adverse impact to vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources in the planning process and would have a beneficial effect on any that exist within the acquired property.

- **Visual Resources.** WAs and WSAs are classified as VRM Class I, which is the most restrictive class. Alternative D only identifies two specific land areas as Class II lands, does not identify any land areas as Class III, and identifies many as Class IV lands. Therefore this alternative would provide the greatest allowance for visual contrast in any future proposals for cultural modifications.
- **Special Designations.** The primary potential impacts to the two designated WAs within the Planning Area may occur due to the use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment for fire suppression and construction and maintenance of structures as well as the structures themselves. WA values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts from construction and maintenance activities would result from dust emissions and noise. Potential short-term impacts on naturalness and solitude could result from dust emissions and noise related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area. Construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities (e.g. wildlife waters) could degrade values for which these WAs were designated. Livestock grazing, where established at the time of designation of the two WAs, shall be allowed to continue irrespective of impacts on the wilderness characteristic. The presence of livestock and associated presence of structures and ranchers would have an impact on the wilderness characteristic of naturalness.

The primary potential impacts to the six WSAs within the Planning Area could occur from construction and maintenance of range and wildlife habitat improvement projects. WSA values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts could result from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings. No impacts are expected from mining, mineral leasing, or mineral sales activities.

Potential direct and indirect 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.
  
- **Livestock Grazing.** Under Alternative D, broad-scale vegetation management activities, such as prescribed fire, could temporarily reduce the forage base within grazing areas with the rate of recovery depending on the vegetation community burned, the hydrology, soil type, and intensity of the fire. Post-fire, forage quality, and palatability could increase due to the stimulation of vegetation. Range improvement projects (e.g., livestock and wildlife waters) would increase the amount of available water. Invasive species removal (e.g., tamarisk) could also increase the availability of surface water. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could decrease the availability of forage which could affect the ability to effectively graze livestock.

- **Lands and Realty**

- Land Tenure (Disposals, Acquisitions, and R&PPs)

Disposals would result in fewer acres available within the BLM transportation and access network.

Acquisition of lands through exchange, purchase, and donation is designed to improve management of natural resources through consolidation of federal landownership patterns; increase recreational opportunities and preserve open space; secure key property necessary to protect endangered species and promote biological diversity; preserve archaeological and historical resources; and implement specific acquisitions authorized by acts of Congress. Acquiring access to landlocked parcels would result in increased use of these lands by the public.

Acquiring easements allows the landowner to maintain existing land uses, but provides access to "landlocked" public lands while allowing the BLM to construct road improvements for better management and increased public access.

- Utility Corridors and Communications

Under Alternative D, the utility corridor would be a maximum of 1.5 miles long with a width of 1 mile, the northern boundary of which would be the southern boundary of the Interstate 8 ROW. As discussed in Section 2.3.18.4, 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.

Alternative D would consider and authorize applications for communication sites on a case-by-case basis emphasizing co-location and subleasing of facilities.

- Renewable Energy

The PRMP allows for the development of renewable energy, although land use allocations for renewable energy vary by alternative. Under all alternatives, land use authorizations for renewable energy would be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand.

Under Alternative D solar or wind generating facilities would not be located in VRM Classes I and II. WAs and WSAs are exclusion areas under all alternatives. ACECs, and VRM Class II are exclusion areas under Alternative D for a total of 6,932 acres of potential development for renewable energy.

The development of renewable sources of energy could reduce the irreversible/irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable energy resources.

- **Mineral Resources**

WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws. There are no valid rights attendant to mineral resources on public lands that have not been appropriated prior to designation of WAs. Impacts to mineral resources are expected from land use decisions identified in Table 2-13 where access to or availability of mineral resources is restricted, including increased costs associated with restoration of surface disturbance.

The proposed withdrawals from mineral entry would prohibit access to and development of metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals for new mineral locations on public lands, and increase costs associated with mitigation and design of access to private mineral interests in these areas. Where mining claims with verified valid existing rights are located in areas withdrawn from mineral entry, and these rights would need to be acquired to protect non-mineral resources, local, regional, or national economies would be negatively affected by locking these metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals deposits from foreseeable future use.

Under Alternative D, there are 31,823 acres available for geothermal minerals leasing.

- **Recreation Program**

- Recreation Management

Under all alternatives except Alternative A, 102,869 acres of SRMAs would be created. BLM-administered lands outside of SRMAs are ERMAs. Recreation management within ERMAs would be limited to custodial actions only. Therefore, the creation of SRMAs allows for more recreation management in these areas. Although Alternative A does not provide for any SRMAs, it covers 38,690 acres which were previously identified in the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area in accordance with the McCain Valley RAMP (DOI BLM 1979a).

Overall, the PRMP provides for a number and variety of recreational opportunities. The allowance and level of maintenance for recreation varies somewhat by alternative. Alternatives D and E call for improving staging areas outside WAs to wilderness trailheads. Alternative C creates the Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA, which would be managed to intentionally maintain dispersed and undeveloped recreation opportunities such as hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use. Alternatives B, D, and E create the Sawtooth Destination SRMA, which would be managed to promote the continued use of the lands for hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use and would also accommodate limited OHV use, camping, and day-use outside of designated wilderness and WSAs. The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area is proposed for the Chariot Canyon RMZ under Alternatives B, C, D, and E.

Intensive recreational use would result in a long-term loss of productivity by means of soil compaction and areas of denuded vegetation.

- Transportation and Public Access

Alternative B would eliminate livestock grazing in the Lark Canyon OHV area, while Alternative D would reduce the OHV area to minimize the conflict between OHV use and livestock grazing. See Table 2-18, which

summarizes the acres designated as open, closed, or limited for OHV use.

For WAs, the limitation on access is for mechanized transport and motorized access. For WSAs, the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or other forms of mechanical transport would not be allowed off boundary roads and existing ways. The Pacific Crest NST is closed to motorized vehicles and mountain bikes. Motorized access within ACECs is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized. Outside of these areas, OHV use is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized.

Access requiring authorization (uses requiring permits) could involve seasonal restrictions such as seasonal closures in Peninsular bighorn sheep critical habitat during lambing season.

Authorizations or leases could result in closure to areas for public access (i.e., geothermal, wind, solar) as a result of public health and safety concerns. Access for authorized uses such as minerals on split-estate lands where BLM manages the subsurface would not necessarily give public access across private lands, but grant access only to the authorized user.

- **Social and Economic.** It is not expected that any of the PRMP alternatives would result in any significant economic impacts. A possible exception would be the potential for wind energy development. If and when a project is proposed to the BLM, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific PODs, which would need to address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts) of a proposed wind energy development.
- **Environmental Justice.** The BLM is aware that there are small pockets of poverty and/or minority populations scattered throughout the Planning Area. However, the BLM has not identified any communities within the Planning Area with low income or minority populations that would be disproportionately impacted by the proposed Planning Area alternatives. The socioeconomic

characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts resulting from any of the BLM regional management plan program alternatives for the Planning Area.

**Under implementation of Alternative E (Preferred Alternative), the following effects are anticipated:**

- **Air Quality.** Under the Alternative E, there would be no air quality impacts.
- **Soil Resources.** There is potential for erosion and compaction along routes of travel and continued surface disturbance in the existing (and new) campgrounds. However, the concentration of visitor use and their associated impacts to soils is normally preferred over allowing high levels of dispersed visitor use to continue impacting a wider area. Erosion measures would be incorporated into projects on a case-by-case basis, and erosion would be minimized through the restoration of damaged riparian areas and the promotion of healthy native plant groundcover. 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. Law enforcement or emergency search and rescue activities, including U.S. Border Patrol activities, and human entry of the area by undocumented immigrants could potentially result in soil compaction and erosion which would be an unavoidable adverse impact.
- **Water Resources.** Approved activities have the potential to result in a variety of effects to water resources including reducing disturbance to riparian waters; increasing sedimentation of surface waters; decreasing demands on surface and groundwater, and conversely increasing the use of surface and 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 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. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater.

- **Vegetative Resources.** Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through vegetation protection and enhancement (e.g. habitat restoration and riparian area rehabilitation), while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to vegetation. The designation of land as unavailable to livestock grazing in Alternative E would remove any potential impacts to oak woodlands from grazing activity.

Human entry and use of the area by undocumented immigrants could result in unavoidable adverse impacts to vegetation resources through litter deposition and trampling of vegetation. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface and groundwater; thereby affecting the health of the vegetation communities within the Planning Area.

- **Wildlife Resources.** Some BLM LUP decisions and authorized activities would be beneficial through habitat protection and enhancement (e.g. vegetative management), while others would be negative by authorizing discretionary activities that could result in detrimental effects to habitat. The designation of land as unavailable to livestock grazing in Alternative E would remove any potential impacts from grazing activities, such as competition between livestock and wildlife for resources. Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could potentially decrease the availability of surface water for use by wildlife within the Planning Area.
- **Special Status Species.** Alternative E would eliminate grazing from critical habitat within the BLM-administered lands within the Planning Area. This would result in beneficial effects to special status species. Locatable 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 no vehicular access and thus, the potential for these acres to be impacted from mining activities is low.
- **Wildland Fire Ecology.** Livestock grazing would be eliminated under Alternative E, resulting in higher fire frequency and lower risk of catastrophic wildfire. The presence of sensitive cultural and natural resources limit the ability to suppress

wildland fire. The impacts of these resources on the fire program are unavoidable and sometimes adverse.

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. ROWs, utility corridors, and other such authorizations inadvertently create fuel breaks and provide access routes for wildfire suppression.

Recreation uses and international border issues could also present a risk of accidental human-caused ignition. Limitations to fire suppression tactics and/or less intense suppression methods occur for WAs, WSAs, the Pacific Crest NST, ACECs. Vegetation resource management, vegetation treatments, and prescribed fire would provide beneficial impacts.

Climate changes, including extended drought cycles, could increase the potential for wildland fires in frequency and intensity.

- **Cultural Resources.** 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. Wildlife improvement projects could concentrate wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling of surface artifacts and features.

Land disposal is a permanent loss in terms of BLM management and oversight and could therefore have an adverse impact to cultural resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of cultural resources in the planning process and provide for additional protections and would therefore have a beneficial effect on any cultural resources that exist within the acquired property.

- **Paleontological Resources.** 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. Wildlife improvement projects could concentrate wildlife in areas increasing the potential for trampling of exposed vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate deposits.

Land disposal is a permanent loss in terms of BLM management and oversight and could therefore have an adverse impact to vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources, if any exist on the disposed property. Land acquisitions extend additional consideration of vertebrate fossils and scientifically significant invertebrate resources in the planning process and would have a beneficial effect on any that exist within the acquired property.

- **Visual Resources.** WAs and WSAs are classified as VRM Class I, which is the most restrictive class. Alternative E would have approximately 9,000 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 as Class IV and the Airport Mesa and McCain Valley West areas as Class III rather than Class II due to considerations for allowable visual contrast of cultural modifications.
- **Special Designations.** The primary potential impacts to the two designated WAs within the Planning Area may occur due to the use of motor vehicles and heavy motorized equipment for fire suppression and construction and maintenance of structures as well as the structures themselves. WA values can be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts from construction and maintenance activities would result from dust emissions and noise. Potential short-term impacts on naturalness and solitude could result from dust emissions and noise related to vehicle use and access to private lands in the area. Construction and maintenance of wildlife and range improvement facilities (e.g. wildlife waters) could degrade values for which these WAs were designated. Under this alternative, livestock grazing would be eliminated from WAs, thereby reducing impacts to the wilderness characteristic.

The primary potential impacts to the six WSAs within the Planning Area could occur from construction and maintenance of wildlife habitat improvement projects. WSA values could be impacted by vegetation treatments and wildfire suppression activities and management responses. Potential short-term impacts could result from construction and maintenance activities, hunting activities or discharge of firearms, OHV use in and adjacent to WSAs and access to private in-holdings. No impacts are expected from mining, mineral leasing, or mineral sales activities.

Potential direct and indirect impacts to ACECs would result from the following management actions and LUP decisions: Vegetation treatments, 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.
  
- **Livestock Grazing.** Under Alternative E, all BLM-administered lands in the Planning Area would be unavailable for livestock grazing with the exception of vegetation management prescriptions.
  
- **Lands and Realty**
  - Land Tenure (Disposals, Acquisitions, and R&PPs)

Disposals would result in fewer acres available within the BLM transportation and access network.

Acquisition of lands through exchange, purchase, and donation is designed to improve management of natural resources through consolidation of federal landownership patterns; increase recreational opportunities and preserve open space; secure key property necessary to protect endangered species and promote biological diversity; preserve archaeological and historical resources; and implement specific acquisitions authorized by acts of Congress. Acquiring access to landlocked parcels would result in increased use of these lands by the public.

Acquiring easements allows the landowner to maintain existing land uses, but provides access to "landlocked" public lands while allowing the BLM to construct road improvements for better management and increased public access.

- Utility Corridors and Communications

Under Alternative E, the utility corridor would be a maximum of 1.5 miles long with a width of 1 mile, the northern boundary of which would be the southern boundary of the Interstate 8 ROW. As discussed in Section 2.3.18.4, 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.

Alternative E would consider and authorize applications for communication sites on a case-by-case basis emphasizing co-location and subleasing of facilities.

- Renewable Energy

The PRMP allows for the development of renewable energy, although land use allocations for renewable energy vary by alternative. Under all alternatives, land use authorizations for renewable energy would be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet public demand. Under Alternative E, solar or wind generating facilities would not be located in

VRM Classes I and II or ACECs. WAs and WSAs are exclusion areas under all alternatives. Under Alternative E, the potential buildable land for wind energy is 6,932 acres.

The development of renewable sources of energy could reduce the irreversible/irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable energy resources.

- **Mineral Resources**

WAs are withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws. There are no valid rights attendant to mineral resources on public lands that have not been appropriated prior to designation of WAs. Impacts to mineral resources are expected from land use decisions identified in Table 2-13 where access to or availability of mineral resources is restricted, including increased costs associated with restoration of surface disturbance. Under Alternative E, these actions include the proposed withdrawal of both the Table Mountain and In-Ko-Pah ACECs from mineral entry.

The proposed withdrawals from mineral entry would prohibit access to and development of metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals for new mineral locations on public lands, and increase costs associated with mitigation and design of access to private mineral interests in these areas. Where mining claims with verified valid existing rights are located in areas withdrawn from mineral entry, and these rights would need to be acquired to protect non-mineral resources, local, regional, or national economies would be negatively affected by locking these metallic and non-metallic/industrial minerals deposits from foreseeable future use.

Under Alternative E, there are 7,607 acres available for geothermal minerals leasing.

- **Recreation Program**

- Recreation Management

Under all alternatives except Alternative A, 102,869 acres of SRMAs would be created. BLM-administered lands outside of SRMAs are ERMAs. Recreation management within ERMAs would be limited to custodial actions only. Therefore, the creation of SRMAs allows for more recreation management in these areas. Although Alternative A does not provide for any SRMAs, it covers 38,690 acres which were previously identified in the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area in accordance with the McCain Valley RAMP (DOI BLM 1979a).

Overall, the PRMP provides for a number and variety of recreational opportunities. The allowance and level of maintenance for recreation varies somewhat by alternative. Alternatives D and E call for improving staging areas outside WAs to wilderness trailheads. Alternative C creates the Sawtooth Undeveloped SRMA, which would be managed to intentionally maintain dispersed and undeveloped recreation opportunities such as hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use. Alternatives B, D, and E create the Sawtooth Destination SRMA, which would be managed to promote the continued use of the lands for hiking and backpacking, hunting, wildflower and wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and equestrian use and would also accommodate limited OHV use, camping, and day-use outside of designated wilderness and WSAs. The development of a primitive campground/equestrian area is proposed for the Chariot Canyon RMZ under Alternatives B, C, D, and E.

Intensive recreational use would result in a long-term loss of productivity by means of soil compaction and areas of denuded vegetation.

- Transportation and Public Access

Alternative B would eliminate livestock grazing in the Lark Canyon OHV area, while Alternative D would reduce the OHV area to minimize the conflict between OHV use and livestock grazing. See Table 2-18, which summarizes the acres designated as open, closed, or limited for OHV

use. Alternative E would reduce the mileage of motorized routes of travel by 15 percent. Implementation of Alternative E could result in a cumulative loss of OHV routes in the region and a cumulative increase for some other recreational activities, e.g., birding, hiking.

For WAs, the limitation on access is for mechanized transport and motorized access. For WSAs, the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or other forms of mechanical transport would not be allowed off boundary roads and existing ways. The Pacific Crest NST is closed to motorized vehicles and mountain bikes. Motorized access within ACECs is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized. Outside of these areas, OHV use is limited to existing or designated routes, except as authorized.

Access requiring authorization (uses requiring permits) could involve seasonal restrictions such as seasonal closures in Peninsular bighorn sheep critical habitat during lambing season.

Authorizations or leases could result in closure to areas for public access (i.e., geothermal, wind, solar) as a result of public health and safety concerns. Access for authorized uses such as minerals on split-estate lands where BLM manages the subsurface would not necessarily give public access across private lands, but grant access only to the authorized user.

- **Social and Economic.** It is not expected that any of the PRMP alternatives would result in any significant economic impacts. A possible exception would be the potential for wind energy development. If and when a project is proposed to the BLM, the BLM and operator(s) will need to develop project-specific PODs, which would need to address the potential impacts (including economic and social impacts) of a proposed wind energy development.
- **Environmental Justice.** The BLM is aware that there are small pockets of poverty and/or minority populations scattered throughout the Planning Area. However, the BLM has not identified any communities within the Planning Area

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with low income or minority populations that would be disproportionately impacted by the proposed Planning Area alternatives. The socioeconomic characteristics of the residents of the Planning Area indicate that there is a very low likelihood of environmental justice impacts resulting from any of the BLM regional management plan program alternatives for the Planning Area.