

Appendix J

Transportation Planning: OHV Area Designations

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

OHV Area Designations

The BLM is required to designate all public lands as either open, limited, or closed to off-road vehicles under Executive Orders (E.O. 11644 and E.O. 11989: Use of Off-Road Vehicles on the Public Lands), other authorities, such as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), BLM planning regulations in 43 CFR 1600 and the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1600-1. For the purpose of this section, the terms *Off-Road Vehicles* and *Off Highway Vehicles* (OHV), are used interchangeably (OHV is the term most used in BLM and other federal land use planning). This draft RMP would designate all BLM-administered public lands within the Planning Area as open, closed, or limited to motorized vehicle travel as identified in Chapter 2, Tables 2-22 and 2-23 and on Maps 2-39 through 2-54. Criteria and definitions for limited, open, and closed area designations are established in 43 CFR 8340.0-5 (f) (g) and (h), respectively.

OHV Management Area Designations set forth in this draft RMP/EIS may only be changed through an RMP amendment. OHV Management Area Designations are also considered Land Use Plan Decisions (43 CFR 8342.1) and as such may be protested to the Director of the BLM (43 CFR 1610.5-2). Protests for any land use plan decisions may be filed after the release of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS.

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

Limited areas are restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the following types of categories: numbers of vehicles; types and sizes of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; limited to administrative use only; and other restrictions. The distance motorized vehicles could pull off of a designated route varies by alternative (see Table 2-24 below under Routes of Travel). This would be monitored on a continuing basis. If monitoring results show effects that exceed limits of acceptable change, the distance allowed for motorized vehicles to pull off from a designated route may be modified.

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

OHV Areas Designated “Closed”

The following areas are designated as “Closed” to OHV use in the existing plan or through legislative action:

- **Otay Mountain Wilderness** – Congressionally mandated as closed to motorized and mechanized travel under Otay Mountain Wilderness Act of 1999.
- **Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve/ACEC** – This area includes three parcels of BLM lands within the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve (parcels – 218-261, 218-231, 218-331). The closure protects values associated with the Santa Margarita River and corridor.
- **Fern Creek** – The parcel is located in the northwest sector of San Diego County. The closure protects riparian values on parcel 216-361.
- **Valle Vista** – The BLM parcel (180-111) contains populations of slender-horned spineflower.
- **Santa Ana River Wash ACEC** – Includes BLM parcels (107-021, 107-101, and 107-121) for protection of the Santa Ana River woolly-star and the slender-horned spineflower.
- **Oak Mountain** – Includes three BLM parcels (205-321, 205-341, and 220-041) for the protection of sensitive plant and wildlife species values.
- **Agua Tibia Wilderness** – Congressionally mandated as closed to motorized and mechanized travel under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.
- **Beauty Mountain Wilderness** – Congressionally mandated as closed to motorized and mechanized travel under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.
- **Canyon Lake** – Closed (parcel 176-261) to protect reservoir and community water source.

Alternatives for OHV Area designations are discussed and presented in Chapter 2 and shown on Maps 2-39 through 2-54.