Alabama Hills Management Plan

The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations

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1.0 Introduction

The Alabama Hills Management Plan is a combination of management strategies and actions selected from the No Action and two action alternatives considered and analyzed in Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-CA-C070-2000-00011-EA (BLM 2021). Combined, the elements of the alternatives selected and incorporated into the plan are designed to provide diverse, high-quality recreational opportunities, minimize user conflicts, address human health and safety concerns, reduce recreational impacts, and enhance other resources, values, and uses in the planning area. The plan also includes a strong adaptive management component and employs an implementation strategy that incorporates monitoring results and adjusts accordingly based on desired outcomes.

The BLM intends to fund and implement the plan in the most cost-effective, efficient, and adaptable manner. While fluctuations in congressionally appropriated funding is likely and expected during the life of the plan, the breadth of the actions included in the plan should provide the flexibility needed to sustain implementation under varying agency funding scenarios. If needed, existing fees may be adjusted and new fees may be established to fund management of certain activities and programs where allowed by law, regulation, and policy.

Partnerships, partner contributions, and grant funding will play a pivotal role in the BLM's ability to leverage agency funds and implement on the ground management. The BLM will continue to engage partners and seek external funding opportunities to sustain, and increase where needed, the pace and progression of implementation.

The management strategies and actions outlined in the plan are approved and ready for implementation unless otherwise noted (e.g., Evaluate need for and complete if needed biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation).

All actions will be implemented as time and funding allows. Implementation actions must incorporate and follow the approved Project Design Features and Stipulations included in Appendix D of the EA, and all land use plan guidance provided by the Bishop Resource Management Plan, approved March 25, 1993 (Bishop RMP (USDI BLM 1993a)), as amended by the Secretary of the Interior approved Central California Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management on July 13, 2000 (USDI BLM 2000), the Bishop Fire Management Plan on January 13, 2005 (USDI BLM 2005a), the West-wide Energy Corridor Record of Decision on January 14, 2009 (USDI BLM 2009a), and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Land Use Plan Amendment on September 14, 2016 (DRECP LUPA (USDI BLM 2016a)). This includes all applicable Conservation Management (USDI BLM 2016a). Actions not identified in the plan may be considered and implemented consistent with applicable law, regulation, and land use plan guidance.

Chapter 2 lists all of the management strategies and actions included in the plan. After each action, the Alternative (No Action, Alternative 1 or Alternative 2) from which it was selected is identified.

2.0 Management Strategies and Actions

2.1 Recreational Resources

Goal: Conserve, protect, and enhance recreational resources and values for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of current and future generations. Provide diverse, high-quality recreational opportunities, minimize user conflicts, address human health and safety concerns, and reduce recreational impacts to other resources, values, and uses in the planning area.

Objective 1: Overnight Use

Manage overnight use to improve visitor experience, minimize user conflicts, reduce impacts to other resources and values, and resolve human waste issues.

Action 1 Semi-Primitive Camping: Designate semi-primitive campsites within specified areas (Map 3). Camping can only occur in designated campsites. Alternative 1

- Designate sites in existing disturbed areas where there is reduced potential for conflict with other uses, where there is reduced potential for impacts on other resources and values, and where health and safety concerns can be managed. For example, select sites that minimize: Alternative 1
 - Conflicts with other recreational use destinations such as popular film tour sites or rock climbing parking areas.
 - Impacts to scenic, cultural, geological, biological, historical, cinematographic, educational or scientific features and values.
 - Health and safety concerns such as human waste.
- Consider designating sites in, or moving existing sites to undisturbed areas if location is better than existing disturbed areas for protecting, conserving and enhancing other resources and values, and improves the visitor experience. Alternative 1
- Initially, designate up to 50 campsites. If public health and safety concerns such as human waste cannot be mitigated, reduce the number of sites. If camping cannot be managed in a manner that minimizes impacts to other planning area resources and values, reduce the number of sites. Alternative 1 If reducing the number of available sites does not resolve public health and safety concerns or if camping cannot be managed in a manner that minimizes impacts to other planning area resources and values, prohibit camping outside of developed campgrounds. Alternative 2
- Identify designated sites with a standardized fire ring, small post, or other visually unobtrusive marker. Alternative 1
- Designate sites to provide opportunities for a range of vehicle types and group sizes. Develop camping information and signage to indicate difficulty of vehicular access. Alternative 1
- Groups of 3 or more vehicles may only stay in designated group sites (maximum 5 group sites). Maximum number of cars and visitors for group sites will be determined by monitoring and site size. Alternative 1
- Apply the 43 CFR 8365 developed recreation site regulations. Alternative 1

- Require that campers use facilities for solid human waste and toilet paper or pack it out in an appropriate manner (43 CFR 8365.2-1). Alternative 1
- Campfires are only allowed in designated campsites, subject to yearlong and seasonal fire prevention orders (fire restrictions). No Action No live or down vegetation from the planning area may be burned. California Campfire Permit required. Alternative 1
- No movement or relocation of rocks to alter designated campsites is allowed. Alternative 1
- Noise from audio devices (including motorized equipment) should not make unreasonable noise that disturbs other visitors (43 CFR 8365.2-2). Alternative 1
- Allow SRP or film permit holders to use or reserve designated campsites. Alternative 1
- Encourage campers to practice responsible recreation through permits, signage and education. Alternative 1

Action 2 Semi-Primitive Camping Permits and Stay Limits:

- A free permit would be developed and would be required for designated campsite use. This could be an Individual Special Recreation Permit (ISRP) under the Special Area designation (43 CFR 2932). Alternative 1
- A fee-based permit and a reservation system could be added if needed to help protect resources and values, provide for public health and safety, and facilitate access to public lands. Alternative 1
- Develop materials for camping permits addressing fires, firewood collection, gray water, stay limits, wildlife, human waste, dark sky lighting, noise, and other responsible recreation information. Alternative 1
- Camping would be allowed for up to 7 days in a 28-day period and 14 days in a calendar year unless monitoring indicates this should be adjusted. Alternative 1

Action 3 Developed Campgrounds:

- Tuttle Creek Campground provides 83 campsites in an 80-acre footprint. Sites are first come first serve, except for two equestrian corrals and one group site accommodating up to 30 people, which are available for reservation. Seasonal potable water is available. Wildlife resistant trash service is provided. No Action
- Stay limits in Tuttle Creek Campground would remain 14 days per calendar year. No Action
- Install additional amenities such as shade structures, wildlife resistant food lockers and a designated area for educational programs within the administrative boundary of Tuttle Creek Campground. Improve the quality of equestrian sites by increasing the size of corrals and other minor improvements. Alternative 1
- Change the name of the Tuttle Creek Campground to mirror the name of the Scenic Area; for example, "Alabama Hills Campground." Alternative 1
- Encourage visitors to use developed campgrounds through campground improvements, signage, and expanded information. Alternative 1

• Consider reservation system for all or part of the campground. Alternative 1

Action 4 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

Semi-Primitive Camping:

- Monitor visitor use through traffic counters and patrols documented by digital platform such as tablets and established software. No Action
- Re-inventory and monitor all disturbed areas in the entire planning area. If previously undocumented disturbed areas are found, evaluate and determine if area should be restored or designated as a campsite. This determination would be based on whether public health and safety concerns such as human waste could be managed and whether a designated campsite could be managed in a manner that minimizes impacts to other resources and values in the planning area. If the disturbed area is designated as a campsite, this could increase the number of available sites to over 50. Alternative 1
- Conduct visitor capacity and experience surveys and monitor use to determine if designated campsites are creating conflicts with other users, impacting other resources and values, contributing to human-wildlife conflicts, or causing health and safety concerns. If public health and safety concerns such as human waste cannot be managed, reduce the number of sites. If camping cannot be managed in a manner that minimizes impacts to other resources and values in the planning area, reduce the number of sites. Alternative 1
- If reducing the number of sites available does not resolve the public health and safety concern or camping cannot be managed in a manner minimizes impacts to other resources and values in the planning area, prohibit camping outside of developed campgrounds. Alternative 2
- If education efforts to discourage gray water dumping from RVs does not reduce impacts, consider developing a supplemental rule. Alternative 1
- Conduct monitoring to determine if designated campsite capacity is frequently reached; if so, adjust stay limits. Alternative 1
- Conduct monitoring to determine if fires and fire rings are causing impacts to other resources and values. For example, if visitors are creating new fire rings, adding rocks to existing fire rings or if fire rings cannot be maintained, implement the following: limit number of sites where fires are allowed, add metal fire ring at those sites, require fire pans, or prohibit campfires. Alternative 1

Developed Campgrounds:

- Implement occupancy and capacity monitoring of designated semi-primitive campsites and campgrounds, including an assessment of the range of opportunities (cost, location, amenities). If camping demand is not met through designated primitive camping and current number of sites at Tuttle Creek Campground and nearby campgrounds, consider the following: Alternative 1
 - Add additional campsites in Tuttle Creek Campground, including group and equestrian. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional

environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1

- Develop a new campground outside of the NSA. Complete additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 2
- Consider a minimum amenity campground near the junction of U.S. Highway 395 and Moffat Ranch Road. Complete additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to construction. Alternative 2
- Partner with Inyo County to develop a new campground on City of Los Angeles lands along Whitney Portal Road, near Movie Flat. Alternative 1
- Partner with Inyo County to implement improvements to Portuguese Joe Campground to better accommodate RVs or provide additional amenities. Alternative 1
- Monitor campsites in Tuttle Creek Campground that are close to riparian areas. Reinforce streambanks and close or relocate sites if riparian function is impacted. Alternative 1
- Develop additional monitoring and adaptive management strategies as needed to address public health and safety concerns or mitigate impacts to other planning area resources and values. Alternative 1

Objective 2: Day Use

Manage day use to improve visitor experience, address user conflicts, reduce impacts to other planning area resources and values, and resolve human waste issues.

Action 1 Allowable Uses and Permits: Allowed recreational activities include but are not limited to hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, sightseeing, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and motorized vehicle use. These uses would continue without permits if public health and safety concerns, user conflicts and effects to other planning area resources and values can be minimized using other management strategies and actions. Alternative 2

- In any activity, visitors may not willfully deface, disturb, remove, or destroy resources (43 CFR 8365.1-5). No Action
- With addition of the toilets, day use parking areas and designated semi-primitive campsites, the Movie Flat core area and other portions of the planning area with toilets, day use parking areas or designated campsites would fall under a developed area definition in 43 CFR 8365.2. Alternative 1
- Pets must always be on a leash and under control of a person, or physically restricted. Alternative 1

Action 2 Rock Climbing, Slacklining and Highlining: Rock climbing occurs on over 400 climbing routes (300 bolted, 100 traditional), (Map 5). No Action

- Remove bolts from existing rock climbing routes if impacts on other NSA resources and values cannot be mitigated. For example, a population of BLM special status plants at the base of a route that could not be avoided when climbing. Alternative 1
- Implement seasonal closures of rock climbing routes or areas if BLM special status species are documented, such as nesting birds. None are documented at this time. Alternative 1
- Develop at least one rock climbing area to conform with standards in the Americans with Disability Act. This would include actions to improve access through hardening of paths and removal of obstacles. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 2
- Limit impacts to vegetation and other resources and values by defining and delineating climbing areas, such as the base of popular routes. Alternative 1
- Implement best practices for existing routes including but not limited to: Alternative 1
 - Allow bolt replacement or repositioning for safety as determined by individual user on existing rock climbing routes; bolts must be colored to blend in with the rock and should follow American Safe Climbing Association (ASCA) recommendations.
 - Ropes, slacklines and highlines may not be left unattended.
 - Slacklining or highlining should not block travel routes or impair view.
- Initially, no permit would be required for new route development. No Action Allow new rock climbing route development except where impacts on other planning area resources and values cannot be mitigated. Alternative 1
- Implement best practices for new rock climbing routes to minimize potential damage to other planning area resources and values including but not limited to the following: Alternative 1
 - Where possible, build non-bolted anchors.
 - No chipping or gluing of rock to create holds.
 - Minimize vegetation, lichen or rock removal to the greatest extent possible.
 - No new climbing routes on important features such as, but not limited to, the Shark Fin, arches and historic film sites (e.g., Gene Autry Rock).
 - Ensure that bolts are colored to blend in with the rock.
 - o Follow Access Fund recommendations for bolt size and material.
 - Limit use of power drill; use hand drill instead.
 - Ropes, slacklines and highlines may not be left unattended.
 - o Development of access trails is not allowed without permit.
 - Minimize new route development in areas close to roads where numerous routes already exist to reduce redundancy.
 - o Request that developers report new route information.
 - Encourage route developers to work with local and national climbing groups to ensure that new routes are not redundant and best practices are followed.

Action 3 Shooting: Shooting is allowed in the planning area, subject to state and federal laws. There is no shooting allowed in Tuttle Creek Campground and there are state laws that prohibit shooting from or across roads or near developments. No Action. In addition, prohibit shooting in the Movie Flat core area, consistent with developed area rules of conduct and use at 43 CFR 8365.2-5 (Map 6). Alternative 1.

Action 4 Drones: Drone takeoff or landing is allowed only under permit in the NSA. This could be an ISRP under the Special Area designation (43 CFR 2932). Add fee if needed to help protect resources, provide for public health and safety and facilitate access to public lands. Develop specific materials for drone permits to provide best practices for proper use and respecting other visitors. Alternative 1

Action 5 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

- Patrol, document day use, and educate visitors about responsible recreation. No Action
- Inventory all rock climbing, bouldering, slacklining and highlining routes. If impacts to other planning area resources and values are documented, or if public health and safety concerns cannot be mitigated, Alternative 1 implement seasonal closures or close individual routes or areas. Alternative 2
- Work with local and national climbing groups to monitor new rock climbing route development. If impacts to other planning area resources and values are documented, develop additional best practices such as prohibiting power drills and limiting new route development on rock formations near roads where numerous routes have already been established. Alternative 1
- Require a permit for new rock climbing routes if monitoring indicates that impacts to planning area resources and values cannot mitigated. This could be an ISRP under the Special Area designation (43 CFR 2932). Alternative 1 If impacts continue, consider a fee-based permit or prohibit new route development. Alternative 2
- Conduct visitor use, experience, and capacity surveys to determine number and type of users, experience quality and capacity. Alternative 1
- If monitoring indicates that visitor use levels are impacting visitor experience or planning area resources and values, require a free permit for all day use. This could be an ISRP under the Special Area designation (43 CFR 2932) or managed under different guidelines. Add fee-based permit if needed to help protect resources, provide for public health and safety, and facilitate access to public lands. Alternative 2
- If monitoring indicates that parking capacity is limited and visitor experience is impacted by increasing visitation, consider a contract for a shuttle service. Alternative 2
- Expand the no shooting area to other parts of the NSA if impacts to other visitors or planning area resources and values are documented. Follow guidance in Title IV, Section 4103 of the Dingell Act (PL 116-19, 16 USC ffff-4) and shooting sports MOU to implement. Alternative 2
- If permits for drones are ineffective at mitigating impacts, ban takeoff and landing in the NSA except by filming permit or SRP. Alternative 2

• Develop additional monitoring and adaptive management strategies as needed to address public health and safety concerns and mitigate impacts to planning area resources and values. Alternative 1

Objective 3: Infrastructure, Health and Safety

Ensure public health, safety, protection, and security of visitors by providing well maintained and accessible facilities. Facilities, such as toilets, kiosks and signs would blend in with the natural environment to the maximum extent practicable.

Action 1 Routes: There will be approximately 95 miles of inventoried routes managed by BLM. (Map 7). This is an estimate based on current available data. It does not include the 34 miles of Inyo County maintained roads that are within the planning area. This 95 miles does not include additional routes that may be developed in the future to improve visitor experience and reduce impacts to planning area resources and values. Alternative 1

- For Travel Management, the entire planning area is designated and managed as a Limited Use Area: Vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails. No Action
- Of the 95 miles of inventoried routes, there would be approximately 15 miles of nonmotorized routes and 0.3 mile of pedestrian only routes (Map 8) Alternative 1
- Convert up to 5 miles to one-way roads. Alternative 1
- Convert to non-motorized up to 4 miles of redundant routes or routes that reduce user conflicts and impacts to other planning area resources and values. Alternative 1
- Close and restore up to 5 miles of redundant routes or routes that reduce user conflicts and impacts to other planning area resources and values. Alternative 2
- Add up to 2 miles (climbing access trails, rerouting of Alabama Hills Trail etc.) of new motorized or non-motorized routes to improve visitor experience. Alternative 1
- Add, close, or change the allowed use on additional routes to maintain and enhance planning area resources and values. Alternative 1 For example, work with Inyo County and the City of Los Angeles to develop a multiuse trail/bike lane from the Tuttle Creek, Portuguese Joe, and Lone Pine campgrounds and any new campgrounds to the Movie Flat area using existing roads, routes and trails as much as possible. Alternative 2 Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation.
- Prohibit the development of user created routes. Take management actions such as increased law enforcement, education, installation of natural barriers and rehabilitation of user created routes to discourage creation of routes. Alternative 1
- Inventory and evaluate existing user created routes, define and add to designated route system if they do not impact planning area resources and values. Remove them if impacts are observed. Alternative 1
- Allow foot traffic only on the 0.3-mile Arch Trail except where it overlaps with the Alabama Hills Trail. Alternative 1.
- Allow Class 1, 2 and 3 electric or e-bikes on motorized routes only. Alternative 2.

- Allow mountain bikes on non-motorized and motorized routes, except hiker only routes. Alternative 1
- Reroute the Alabama Hills Trail at western terminus. Alternative 1
- Create an interpretive walk using existing routes that would be converted to nonmotorized at the south entrance kiosk adjacent to Movie Road. Alternative 1
- Inyo County maintains county roads to passenger car standards. No Action Work with Inyo County on a plan to minimize dust and improve safety on county-maintained roads. Alternative 1
- Maintain BLM roads to inventoried level, adding dust controls such as dust palliatives, speed limits or other measures if necessary. Alternative 1
- Evaluate road impacts such as erosion and vegetation damage and if observed, contain, narrow or shorten roads as needed. Manage termini so that users do not extend roads into undisturbed areas. Alternative 1
- Evaluate and update inventory of all routes in the planning area and identify (through signage and maps) how existing routes can be linked to form loop trips. Alternative 2

Action 2 Facilities:

- Maintain available toilets and trash receptacles at Tuttle Creek Campground. No Action
- Require the use of facilities for solid human waste and toilet paper, or that it must be packed out in an appropriate manner consistent with 43 CFR 8365.2-1. Alternative 1
- Consider using temporary toilets with visual screening to determine best locations for permanent toilets and identify unintended consequences. Once the best locations are determined, install permanent toilet facilities. Alternative 1
- Install up to 3 permanent toilets, trash, and recycling locations in the planning area (Map 9). Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1
- Supplement the 3 permanent toilets with temporary portable toilets if the existing facilities are not adequate during periods of increased visitation. Alternative 1
- Improve existing picnic area and information delivery at the Alabama Hills Information Station, including installation of picnic tables, toilets, and trash and recycling receptacles (Map 9). Include location for interpretive talks as part of design. (also see Action 4 Signage) Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1
- Work with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (City of Los Angeles) to install toilet, trash and recycling receptacles, and information kiosks on the corner of Whitney Portal Road and Movie Road or other locations on City of Los Angeles lands if location is preferable to other options, or more capacity is needed. Alternative 1

Action 3 Parking:

- Continue to allow day use parking in existing disturbed areas to ensure sufficient parking, and pullouts to allow for passing on narrow roads (approximately 25 locations initially, more if needed to accommodate visitation). Include parking areas for equestrian use, climbing area access, scenic pullouts and trailheads. Alternative 1
- Create boundaries with natural materials where feasible, including boulders, planting native plants and other barricades to limit expansion of parking areas. Alternative 1

Action 4 Signage: The following signs would be added/improved (Map 9):

- Update and improve information delivery and directional signage at the Alabama Hills Information Station located on Whitney Portal Road (see also Action 1 Facilities). Alternative 1
- Add large NSA illustrated boundary sign at the south and north entrances to the NSA. Alternative 1
- Install developed area sign, rules of conduct and use, and interpretive trail signs at the south Movie Flat entrance information kiosk. Alternative 1
- Install interpretive panel at Arch Trail parking area. Alternative 1
- In proximity to north NSA entrance sign, install camping information kiosk or include supplementary plaque with text "camp in designated sites" and "camping permit required" sign below main NSA sign. Alternative 1
- Develop interpretive panel at the "Yellow Sky" movie site structure (arrastra). Alternative 1
- Develop interpretive panel at Chicken Ranch related to historic mining/ranching. Alternative 1
- Install and maintain signage to identify existing routes (e.g., ATV, motorcycle, nonmotorized), suitable vehicle type, allowed uses and NSA boundaries. Alternative 1
- Continue to use marker posts or natural barriers to delineate trails, campsites or restoration areas as needed. Monitor and remove marker posts as appropriate to minimize the number of markers in the NSA. Alternative 1
- Improve road signage to direct visitors to the NSA, Tuttle Creek Campground and other key facilities such as the Interagency Visitor Center in Lone Pine and other campgrounds in the area. For example, install sign on Horseshoe Meadow Road near Granite View Drive with directions and mileage to Tuttle Creek Campground. In addition, install sign on Whitney Portal Road that includes directions and mileage to all area campgrounds. Alternative 1
- Install signs to indicate no camping or rehabilitation site where needed to encourage compliance and restoration. Alternative 1
- Install sign with rules of conduct and use for developed recreation site where needed. Alternative 1

Action 5 Wildlife Conflicts:

- Ensure wildlife resistant trash and recycling receptacles at Tuttle Creek Campground are regularly inspected to ensure proper working condition. No Action
- Add wildlife resistant food storage lockers in Tuttle Creek Campground. Alternative 1
- Ensure that all new facilities are wildlife resistant. Alternative 1

Action 6 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

- Utilize patrols and traffic counters to provide data for management. No Action
- Conduct monitoring to determine if human waste or trash issues continue and if so, develop management strategies to resolve them including increasing education or closing day use areas that are causing public health and safety issues or adversely affecting other planning area resources and values. Alternative 1
- If monitoring determines human waste or trash are at unacceptable levels, install up to 2 additional toilets, trash, and recycling locations in the planning area (for a total of 5). Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 2
- Evaluate traffic use patterns and impacts such as road widening, vegetation damage or erosion. If monitoring indicates that certain vehicle types or sizes are causing damage, assess need for changing road class or allowed vehicles on BLM routes. In addition, work with Inyo County to assess and change road class and allowed vehicles if impacts are occurring on county-maintained roads. Alternative 2

Objective 4 Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)

Refine the type(s), activities, and locations where Special Recreation permits (SRPs) are allowed. Maintain management strategies, regulations, and stipulations for permits to allow for continued opportunities while protecting planning area resources and values, providing for public health and safety, and minimizing user conflicts.

Action 1 SRP Management: Follow guidance in 43 CFR Subpart 2932 and in H-2930-1 Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook (USDI BLM 2014). No Action In addition:

- Issue permits on a first come first serve basis, unless or until impacts to other planning area resources and values are documented; then move to lottery system with capped number of permits. Alternative 1
- Apply the standard fee schedule for the California BLM. No Action
- Issue only one SRP per site per day to reduce impacts to other users. Alternative 1
- Approve new SRPs on an annual basis and upon satisfactory evaluations, consider a multi-year permit. Alternative 1
- Confine all travel to designated routes only; no cross-country travel. Maximum number of vehicles would be determined on a case-by-case basis. No Action

- Require further environmental analysis for events or activities in the Wilderness Study Area. No Action
- Locate in previously disturbed areas or developed sites and access by approved routes designated by BLM staff. No Action
- When appropriate, allow permits in undisturbed areas, on durable surfaces such as rocks, if they would result in minimal disturbance on the landscape. Alternative 1
- Allow permittees to use designated semi-primitive campsites near events for up to 2 days before and during the event. Alternative 1
- Prohibit permanent markers or improvements. No Action
- Allocate several locations with maximum number of participants per day (Map 11): Alternative 1
 - \circ Lone Ranger Canyon = 400 users
 - Iron Man= 50 users
 - \circ Man of Steel = 100 users
 - o Tall Wall = 20 users
 - Paul's Paradise = 20 users
 - \circ Meatloaf = 20 users
 - \circ Cattle Pocket = 20 users
 - \circ Lone Ranger East = 20 users
 - \circ Gunga Din = 50 users
 - \circ Shark Fin =10 users
 - \circ Land Rover = 40 users
- Evaluate the capacity for additional participants at these locations and non-allocated locations to minimize public health and safety concerns and impacts to other planning area resources and values. Alternative 1.
- Allow groups that exceed the vehicle limit for designated semi-primitive group campsites to apply for an SRP to camp in allocated locations. Approval of permit would require stipulations to ensure that public health and safety concerns and impacts to other resources and values in the planning area are minimized. Priority would be given to other SRP activities. Alternative 1
- Ensure review by natural resource, recreation, cultural resource, and law enforcement specialists to ensure compliance with stipulations and this plan. No Action
- Permittees would follow standard stipulations to minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources. No Action Additional stipulations may be added to minimize impacts to resources and values. No Action

Action 2 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

• Monitor and manage SRPs to ensure permit compliance including but not limited to vehicle inspections for non-native plant material, field compliance checks during authorized events, and pre and post event examinations by BLM staff to assess whether impacts are occurring, or have occurred, as a result of the permitted event and activities. No Action

- Monitor and manage the impact of SRPs on planning area resources and values and other visitors to avoid conflicts through stipulations, location restrictions, activity permitted, and time of day. Alternative 1
- Conduct visitor capacity and experiences surveys and adjust permit stipulations and limit permit numbers if necessary. Alternative 1
- Implement monitoring to evaluate the impacts associated with the number of permits and the associated number of participants. Alternative 1

2.2 Scenic Resources

Goal: Conserve, protect, and enhance the quality of scenic resources including dark skies and soundscapes for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of current and future generations. Retain the predominantly natural setting of the planning area that provides high-quality scenic resources and values, while recognizing and providing for human access and presence.

Objective 1 Scenic Resources

Identify and prioritize management actions that conserve, protect, and enhance scenic resources and values in the planning area.

Scenic

Action 1 Scenic Byway: Movie Road will not be designated as a Scenic Byway. Alternative 1.

Action 2 Visual Resource Management (VRM): Manage the planning area to meet VRM Class II objectives. No Action

- Use the VRM system to conserve, protect, and enhance scenic resource characterized as landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications consistent with the VRM program's scenic quality factors. No Action
- Enforcement emphasis for VRM Classes will be along key observation points. Outside key observation points, apply designated VRM class prescriptions but the field manager may allow development to exceed the VRM Class for reasons such as technological infeasibility or low visitor use (Bishop RMP). No Action
- The field manager may allow temporary projects to exceed VRM standards in Class II areas if the project will terminate within 2 years of initiation (Bishop RMP). Rehabilitation will begin at the end of the two year period (Bishop RMP). During a temporary project the field manager may require phased mitigation to better conform with prescribed VRM standards (Bishop RMP). No Action
- Existing facilities or visual contrasts will be brought into VRM class conformance to the extent practicable when the need or opportunity arises (Bishop RMP). Examples: ROW renewals, mineral material site closures or route designation activity plans (Bishop RMP). No Action
- Update the Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) that applies to the planning area, prioritizing the NSA and establish a schedule to keep the VRI current. Alternative 1

- Use the updated VRI as a benchmark to assess changes in the scenic resources within the planning area. Use VRI monitoring to develop cross-program management actions to improve visual resources. Alternative 1.
- Incorporate visual design considerations into all discretionary surface disturbing activities regardless of size or potential impact (USDI BLM 1984b). No Action
 - Use visual contrast rating (VCR) process to provide a systematic means to evaluate proposed projects and determine whether these projects conform with the approved VRM objectives (USDI BLM 1984b). No Action
 - Conduct VCRs for projects in highly sensitive areas or high impact projects.
 - Use VCR as a design tool for any new facilities, infrastructure or surface disturbing activities where the change is expected to persist beyond five years from the time of disturbance. No Action
 - Use the guidelines in the quality built environment to ensure facilities are attractive, functional and sustainable (USDI BLM 2010). No Action

Action 3: Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- Develop an Observation Point monitoring schedule at the landscape level scale to assess if VRM objectives are being met. Alternative 1
- Acquire high resolution imagery of the planning area. Alternative 1
- Assess dust levels and develop actions to reduce impacts as needed. Alternative 1
- Establish Dark Sky assessment and monitoring and follow dark sky lighting guidelines to prevent light pollution in the planning area. Alternative 1
- Establish soundscape monitoring. Establish sound standards based on monitoring. Alternative 1
- Establish adaptive management actions based on results of monitoring. Alternative 1

2.3 Geological Resources

Goal: Manage recreational (casual use) prospecting activities, rock collecting (personal and scientific uses), mineral withdrawal implementation, Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) remediation and rehabilitation, and mineral materials management to minimize and eliminate threats to geologic features and public safety, while considering other resources, values, and uses in the planning area.

Objective 1 Geological Resources

Manage geology related activities so that geologic resources and values, including geologic recreational opportunities are protected, maintained and enhanced. Improve human safety at AML sites while protecting bat habitat at occupied sites.

Action 1 Recreational (casual use) Mining: In the NSA, casual use mining can occur only on active mining claims at the date of NSA designation. Casual use mining is allowed in the SRMA. All activities should occur in existing disturbed areas. Alternative 1

- Manage and interpret the Alabama Gulch Claim (CAMC 299648) as a recreational prospecting area (e.g., casual use) open to public use. Alternative 1
 - Collaborate with the current claim holder and the Lone Pine Gem and Mineral Society to identify and mark the boundaries of the recreational prospecting area with historically accurate markers, develop best practices for recreational prospectors, and develop interpretative information for visitors.
 - Collaborate with the current claim holder and the Lone Pine Gem and Mineral Society to develop a memorandum of understanding to support implementation and management of the recreational prospecting area.
 - Coordinate with the current claim holder to facilitate relinquishment of the claim.

Action 2 Rock Collection: Surface rock collection is allowed for personal use only (43 CFR 8365.1-5). Rock coring or drilling is allowed for scientific studies with a permit. No Action Develop best practices for researchers to allow small scale scientific studies without a permit. Alternative 1

Action 3 Mineral Withdrawal Implementation:

- Notify claimants of mineral withdrawal in the NSA. Alternative 1
- Contest claims if adverse impacts to NSA resources and values are documented. Alternative 1
- Initiate discretionary mineral examinations and validity determinations as funding allows. Priority would be given to claims with the highest likelihood of adversely affecting NSA resources and values. Alternative 1

Action 4 Abandoned Mine Lands:

- Mitigate hazards at all mine features (shafts, adits, etc.) that represent a potential human health and safety risk. Minimize or eliminate human disturbance effects at features that provide wildlife habitat. Alternative 1
- Assess and prioritize sites for mitigation. AML sites in the NSA with known maternity colonies or hibernacula for BLM sensitive bat species would be prioritized. Alternative 1
- Consider and preserve historic attributes when conducting AML mitigation at historic sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Alternative 1
- Mitigation types may include backfill, polyurethane foam plug (PUF), a combination of a culvert and PUF hard closure, or bat-compatible gates, grates, or cupolas. Alternative 1
- In cases where a short spur route leads to a single feature where a bat colony has been identified and the route does not provide through-access, the spur route may be barricaded with rocks to prevent access in order to reduce potential disturbance to bats and discourage vandalism of installed mitigations. Alternative 1

- Until unsafe shaft, adits and mine hazards are mitigated, use the "Stay Out Stay Alive" campaign for any open portal sites. Follow all appropriate project design features. Alternative 1
- Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1

Action 5 Mineral Materials: If there is a need for material in the planning area, identify a mineral materials pit outside of the NSA to provide similar materials to the planning area for road and campground maintenance and other plan implementation needs. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1

Action 6 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

- Monitor active mining claims, casual use mining activities, AML sites, and named geologic features for restoration, remediation and maintenance needs, closure effectiveness, damage, and use levels. Alternative 1
- Monitor active claims using a combination of aerial and ground-based methods to quantify and assess surface disturbance on a recurring basis, particularly in the Chicken Ranch area. Alternative 1

2.4 Cultural, Historical, and Cinematographic Resources

Goal: Conserve, protect, and enhance the cultural, historical, and cinematographic¹ resources and values of the planning area for the benefit of current and future generations. Identify and implement management actions for the exclusive benefit of these resources and values, while providing opportunities for compatible cultural, educational, historical, recreational, cinematographic, and scientific uses where appropriate.

Objective 1 Cultural Resources

Develop and implement actions to maintain or enhance cultural resources consistent with identified goals and tribal values.

¹ While this term is legally undefined, it is interpreted here as being the culmination of several distinct natural and human-created elements. Remnants of former movie sets, like the "Yellow-Sky" arrastra, the skyline above the "Gunga Din" bridge, the classic Sierra skyline, and the wide-open feel, all contribute to cinematographic resources and values within the planning area. Each of these resource components are also addressed in other sections of the document. Film permitting is addressed in Lands and Realty section.

Action 1 Cultural:

- Continue management as directed in the Bishop RMP, law, regulation, and policy. No Action
- Continue to implement resource protection and mitigation efforts on public land where determined necessary to minimize or eliminate impacts to cultural resources and traditional use areas consistent with land use plan guidance, law, policy and tribal needs. No Action
- Provide technical assistance for the protection of cultural resources located on the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation "Trust Land" addition identified in Title XIV, Section 1404 of the Dingell Act (Public Law 116-9, 16 USC ffff-3) and implement projects in cooperation with the Tribe to minimize, or eliminate, impacts to those resources emanating from nearby public lands. This may include but is not limited to the following actions: resource monitoring and patrolling; placement of physical barriers such as fencing; closure of roads, or the use of administrative actions on the surrounding public land. Alternative 1
- Collaborate with the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe to develop co-management agreements that provide opportunities for shared stewardship and Tribal implementation of management strategies and actions identified in the plan. Alternative 1

Action 2 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

- Implement a planned approach to archaeological survey to achieve a thorough, but targeted, pedestrian survey of the planning area within a reasonable timeframe. Alternative 1
- Develop and implement a site steward program in cooperation with the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe. Alternative 1
- Conduct testing and analyses on select sites to ascertain site eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Alternative 2
- Seek funding to conduct a landscape level ethnohistorical study of the planning area. Alternative 2

Objective 2 Historical Resources

Protect and enhance historical resources and values through the documentation, restoration, stabilization, and interpretation of historical resources within the planning area.

Action 1 Historical Resources: Manage known historical resources as directed in the Bishop RMP, law, regulation, and policy. Periodically monitor known historical resources to identify threats to those resources and address issues based on need, funding, and time. Manage historical resources that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in a manner that prevents the degradation of those qualities that make them significant. No Action Specific actions include:

- Maintain and restore the historic landscape of the planning area through the removal and disposal of modern materials and non-contributing historic age debris determined to be ineligible for NRHP listing. Alternative 1
- Evaluate the NRHP eligibility of historical resources in the Chicken Ranch vicinity. Identify and remove non-contributing modern components and trash to restore the historic integrity of the site and associated historic landscape. Alternative 1
- Identify and document through survey, consultation, and research the historic trail system in the drainage east of the Chicken Ranch. Evaluate the potential recreational and educational uses of this historic resource and develop interpretive materials in consultation with other resource specialists. Alternative 1
- Maintain and restore the historic landscape associated with the historic site located east of Chicken Ranch. Identify and treat non-native plants that have that have established in and around the spring associated with this site that are not contributing to the historic landscape. Document and interpret this historic resource for public education. Alternative 1
- Identify and document through survey, consultation, and research historical resources related to historic use of the sheep trail in the western portion of the planning area. Remove modern trash within and near historic objects and features associated with this trail to restore the integrity of the historic landscape. Alternative 1
- Develop historical contexts for specific areas of interest within the planning area for use in public education and interpretation. Alternative 1
- Identify and document through survey, consultation, and research the locations, structures, objects, and features related to the historical use of the Alabama Hills for cinematography. Evaluate these resources for their contribution to an archeological district based on filming history and nominate contributors for listing on the NRHP. Alternative 2
- Identify and document through survey, consultation, and research historically important photo sites used by Ansel Adams and other well known photographers. Alternative 1

Action 2 Historic Structures: Areas are surveyed, either proactively, or as required for regulatory compliance. Identified historic structures are documented. The potential impacts of proposed actions on historic structures are addressed to avoid or minimize effects below an adverse threshold, consistent with the Bishop RMP, and other relevant authorities. Historic structures that are eligible for listing on the NRHP are managed in a manner that prevents the degradation of those qualities that make them significant. No Action. The following specific actions are proposed:

- Stabilize the "Yellow Sky" arrastra using in-kind materials. Protect this structure from damage caused by vehicle incursion and vandalism. Alternative 1
- Document the Los Angeles Aqueduct storage bunkers, now managed by BLM due to the land transfer in Title XIV, Section 1405 of the Dingell Act (Public Law 116-9, 16 USC ffff-4), and research their role in the history of water development and

exportation. Protect these structures from damage due to vehicle incursion and vandalism. Interpret the resource for public education. Alternative 1

- Interpret remnant "Gunga Din" bridge site with historical film information and images on a kiosk display. Alternative 1
- Identify and document through survey, consultation, and research the historical structures within the planning area. Evaluate the eligibility of these resources for listing on the NRHP. Formally nominate those structures with attributes meeting the requisite listing standards. Alternative 2

Action 3 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

- Conduct periodic monitoring of known historical resources. Identify threats and address issues based on need and as funding and time allow. No Action
- Revisit and update site records for historical resources that have not been relocated since the original documentation. Alternative 1
- Develop an inventory of historic filming sites. Alternative 1

2.5 Biological Resources

Goal: Conserve, protect, and enhance native plant communities, wildlife habitats, riparian areas, and BLM special status species habitats through protective measures and proactive actions that reduce disturbance, reduce the cover of non-native species, and provide for diverse natural communities.

Objective 1 Non-Native Plants

Treat non-native plant species with available tools to restore, maintain and enhance native plant communities and wildlife habitat. Locate and control or eradicate infestations while they are small in extent to prevent further spread or impacts to surrounding lands, resources and values.

Action 1 Non-native Plants:

- Treat occurrences of non-native plants using a combination of manual, chemical and combined manual and chemical treatments as described in the 2015 programmatic invasive plant treatment EA (USDI BLM 2015). No Action
- Treatment would occur after an evaluation of site specific conditions and incorporating all project design features. Treatment would also follow all standard operation procedures and mitigation measures for herbicide use in the 2007 PEIS and stipulations in the 2015 EA, in addition to herbicide label specifications. Alternative 1
- Treatments generally target infestations that are small in extent. No Action
- The 2015 programmatic EA tiers to the 2007 Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (PEIS ROD) which approved a specific set of herbicide active ingredients for use on public lands (USDI BLM 2007c). No Action

- Treatment method selection will be based on plant species, phenology, size and extent of the infestation, site characteristics, treatment objective and potential for treatment success. Method selection will also be based on reducing the potential for impacts to other resources. Herbicides would not be used in areas where the BLM determines that herbicide use would pose unnecessary risks or cause inadvertent impacts to non-target resources. No Action
 - Manual treatment includes the use of hand tools and hand-operated power tools to cut the target plant near the ground surface or remove the flowering portion of the plant. Manual treatment may also include hand pulling or digging out smaller plants. No Action
 - Chemical treatment involves the application of the most suitable herbicide for the target plant based on the approved active ingredient. Herbicide application would be done via a hand/backpack sprayer or applied directly to a cut stump using a brush. Thirteen (13) herbicide active ingredients are approved in the 2007 PEIS ROD (Table 1, pp. 2-3) and registered for use in the state of California. No Action
 - Combined Manual and Chemical treatment would be used when this would be the most effective method. Removing part of a plant (e.g., cut stump) and applying herbicide to the remaining portion (e.g., cut stump surface) to prevent re-sprouting. No Action
- Utilize early detection rapid response to treat tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) at locations that were not identified in 2015 programmatic EA. Alternative 1
- Utilize early detection rapid response to treat non-native species that were not identified in the 2015 programmatic EA for treatment within the planning area. Alternative 1
 - Species that are currently known to occur which may be treated include cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis*), Arabian schismus (*Schismus arabicus*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), herb sophia (*Descurainia sophia*) and woolly mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*).
 - Species that have potential to occur within the planning area in the future and would be treated if found to occur in the planning area include but are not limited to perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), Sahara mustard (Brassica tournefortii), tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*), diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*).

Action 2 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

- Monitor for treatment effectiveness and adapt methodology accordingly. No Action
- Conduct targeted and comprehensive surveys of the planning area for non-native plant species. Alternative 1

Objective 2 Wildlife Habitat

Develop strategies, actions, or measures to conserve, protect and enhance wildlife habitat and minimize impacts from other uses.

Action 1 Riparian:

- Repair, maintain or remove the Movie Flat Spring Box (located on the northwestern edge of Movie Flat) to improve water flow and availability. Alternative 1
 - Remove and manage vegetation to ensure proper function in the future.
 - Remove water tank and cement base. Complete cultural survey and assessments prior to implementation.
 - Add or maintain fencing to protect spring if necessary.

Action 2 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

- Monitor Movie Flat Spring for water flow and availability, riparian vegetation condition and wildlife use. Maintain and improve project as needed. Alternative 1
- Complete an updated inventory of wildlife habitat and species occurrences in the planning area. Specific actions may include: Alternative 1
 - Complete raptor surveys in areas where there may be user conflicts.
 - Complete breeding bird surveys of riparian areas.
 - Conduct springsnail surveys in appropriate aquatic habitat.
- Document occurrences of BLM special status plants and animals in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) or other appropriate databases. Alternative 1
- Develop and implement projects to maintain or enhance springsnail habitat. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, environmental compliance and biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1
- Reevaluate the distribution of Mojave ground squirrel every 5 years. If occupied habitat is documented within the planning area, incorporate Conservation Management Actions (CMAs) from the Bishop RMP, as amended by the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Management Plan, into applicable discretionary actions. Alternative 1
- Develop and implement habitat improvement projects for species such as mule deer, tule elk, Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep and other species. Incorporate guidance from State of California wildlife management plans as appropriate. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, environmental compliance and biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1

Objective 3 Restoration

Apply a full suite of restoration and revegetation techniques to promote the establishment and growth of native vegetation in previously and newly disturbed areas, including but not limited to riparian and wetland habitats, BLM sensitive plant habitats, and areas impacted by wildfire.

Action 1 Restoration of Disturbed Areas: Conduct focused restoration at disturbed areas where impacts are known to be occurring and other impacted areas. Approximately 40 acres are identified for restoration, but additional acres would be restored as needed. Alternative 1 and 2

Restoration techniques/methods include:

- Road re-alignment. No Action
- Seasonal road closure. No Action
- Permanent road closure No Action
- Route barricades (i.e., gate, rocks, or other applicable methods). No Action
- Route hardening (addition of rock material to roadbed). No Action
- Route maintenance (road grading equipment to smooth/grade existing routes). No Action
- Vertical mulching (using site appropriate vegetation litter such as dead plants or branches to camouflage routes or disturbed areas to discourage use and facilitate plant reestablishment). No Action
- Surface decompaction and soil preparation using a variety of methods from hand tools to backhoe or similar equipment with ripper. No Action Includes chunking, ripping, tilling, etc. Alternative 1
- Seeding/broadcasting (may include manual incorporation into soil with hand tools, ATV w/chain or drilling (use of tractor, or similar, to rip soil and drop seed). No Action
- Imprinting/pitting (heavy equipment attachment that creates small depressions in the soil to facilitate seed establishment). No Action
- Signage. No Action
- Collection of plant material (including seed) by BLM for administrative use. No Action
- Planting native plants. Alternative 1
- Erosion control measures such as wattles and blankets. Alternative 1

Action 2 Restoration Limits and Locations: There is no limitation on the number of restoration projects that may occur annually. Prioritize projects based on impact and likelihood of success. Alternative 1

- Use methods that maximize restoration effectiveness based on an assessment by resource specialists. Alternative 1
- Implement small restoration projects without further public input and in conformance with applicable project design features. Alternative 1

- Restoration would occur at existing disturbed areas, including but not limited to dispersed camping area, parking and roads proposed for closure, delineation, reduction in size or conversion to a different use. Alternative 1
- Restoration would occur at new disturbances associated with user created campsites and parking spots, cross-country vehicle travel, impacts related to filming and SRPs, or other activities. Alternative 1
- Evaluate the old alignment of Horseshoe Meadows Road and the Lone Pine Creek diversion and sand trap area south of Whitney Portal Road and west of the City of Los Angeles Aqueduct and implement restoration actions if appropriate. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1
- Break down fire rings and scatter fire scarred rocks in areas that are not designated as campsites. Pressure wash boulders or rock faces to remove fire scarring. Alternative 1
- Remove graffiti on any rocks or vegetation. Alternative 1
- Conduct seeding and planting post disturbance (e.g., wildfire and flood) and associated with vegetation treatments (e.g., fuels treatments and ecosystem resilience actions): Alternative 1
 - Treatments to promote native plant reestablishment would be conducted as determined necessary by resource specialists.
 - Seeding treatments would be conducted using any of the methods described above or similar techniques that may include aerial seeding and hydroseeding.
 - Cross-country vehicle travel may be used as determined appropriate to implement seedling and planting treatments.
- Additional restoration actions related to ecosystems resilience are described in Objective 4. Alternative 1

Action 3 Seed Collection: Commercial seed collection requires a BLM issued permit which includes stipulations to ensure adequate seed is left in place and to reduce potential for impacts to other planning area resources and values. No Action

• Limit commercial seed collection permits within the NSA to collections that would directly benefit restoration efforts in the planning area. Alternative 1

Action 4 Sensitive Plant Habitat Protection: Coordinate with City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (City of Los Angeles) on conservation measures related to a parking area off Horseshoe Meadows Road to reduce impacts to BLM sensitive plants. Measures include locking an existing gate, delineating a route through the area, and installing fencing. Alternative 1

Action 5 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

• Monitor restoration treatments. Base subsequent restoration actions on monitoring and lessons learned from previous treatments. Alternative 1

- Monitor riparian areas for impacts from road crossings, livestock grazing or recreational uses. Develop actions to address areas of concern or improve riparian habitat. Alternative 1
- Use Aquatic Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) or similar monitoring to update data on riparian systems and understand change over time. Alternative 1
- Assess vegetation cover/composition every 5 to 10 years using AIM or similar monitoring and aerial mapping or other methods that can detect change over time. Alternative 1
- Update the existing vegetation type map and periodically review. Alternative 1
- Assess current vegetation cover to provide a baseline to understand changes in cover over time from recreational and other uses. Alternative 1
- Conduct a comprehensive survey for BLM sensitive plant occurrence in the planning area. Alternative 1
- Monitor documented BLM sensitive plant populations and habitats in the planning area. Identify and prioritize restoration needs based on monitoring. Alternative 1

Objective 4 Resilient Ecosystems

Manage pinyon-juniper woodlands, shrubland, riparian and wetland vegetation types to promote healthy resilient ecosystems, increase productivity, and reduce the risk of loss to disturbances such as drought, insects, disease, and wildfire.

Action 1 Pinyon-Juniper Woodland: Implement actions to conserve, protect and enhance up to 100 acres of persistent pinyon-juniper woodlands that occur on rocky outcrops or thin rocky soils that support a very sparse shrub understory. Collaborate with the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe to develop a co-management agreement for implementation of a shared stewardship program that provides for the conservation, management and traditional use of these sites. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1

Use tools such as chainsaws, hand saws, loppers, or other hand tools to implement the following: Alternative 1

- Thin stands to reduce infilling and improve spacing. Remove primarily younger trees established since the beginning of the modern fire suppression era, but also older damaged, diseased, or crowded individuals to achieve variable spacing that retains some groups or clumps of trees, maintains age class diversity, and ensures future pine nut production.
- Remove shrubs under the drip line of pinyon-juniper trees. Shrubs may be burned in piles on site or scattered away from the trees.
- Prune mature trees to remove lower dead branches and lowest canopy branches to raise the canopy slightly above the ground and provide access for pinyon harvest.
- Burn slash in piles on site, scatter, or remove from the site. Larger material may be used as personal use fuelwood.

• Seed or plant burn pile areas or other areas in treatment units with locally collected native species, including pinyon or juniper, based on pre and post implementation monitoring and the recommendation of resource specialists with input from the Tribe.

Action 2 Shrub and Riparian: Restore up to 800 acres of shrubland, riparian, or meadow ecosystems where scattered younger pinyon or juniper have established since the beginning of the modern fire suppression era. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1

Use tools such as chainsaws, hand saws, loppers, or other hand tools to implement the following:

- Cut scattered younger pinyon and juniper trees that have started to establish in open shrublands or in riparian and wetland vegetation types leaving low cut stumps less than 6 inches tall.
- Lop pieces of larger trees into smaller sections to be scattered or piled depending on tree size and density.
- Scatter and conceal slash beneath the brush or scatter it where it will not add to the fuel loading enough to affect fire behavior. All scattered slash must be below the overall shrub heights in the area.
- Pile and burn slash biomass where there is enough to affect fire behavior or remove it from the site for disposal or personal use fuelwood.
- Ensure that edges of treatment units follow natural boundaries and are blended into older or more dense pinyon-juniper stands using graduated thinning and rough edges in ways that minimize visual contrasts and benefit other resources such as pinyon jay habitat.
- Seed or plant burn pile areas with locally collected native species based on pre and post implementation monitoring and the recommendation of resource specialists.

Action 3: Vegetation Composition Restoration: Identify and restore vegetation communities that are departed from their potential natural vegetation composition. Examples include vegetation communities that have reduced species diversity and are functioning below site potential or that have been invaded by non-native species such as annual grasses. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1

- Seed or plant site appropriate species that are underrepresented in the vegetation community such as bitterbrush or native grasses or forbs based on an assessment of need by resource specialists.
- Use methods identified and described in the Objective 3 Restoration section that maximize restoration effectiveness based on an assessment by resource specialists.

Action 4 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

- Monitor pinyon-juniper stands in the planning area for impacts from drought, insects, and disease. Use monitoring data to evaluate if and where treatments are needed to address disease and mortality. Alternative 1
- Monitor pinyon-juniper stands affected by disturbances such as wildfire and evaluate if restoration actions described under the Objective 3 Restoration section are needed. Alternative 1
- Coordinate and consult with the Tribe to plan and implement treatments of persistent pinyon woodlands to promote healthy pine nut production. Alternative 1
- Monitor effectiveness of treatments according to agency policy and the Bishop RMP as amended. Alternative 1
- Consider additional treatment acreage based on success of treatments as identified through monitoring. Alternative 1
- Evaluate the need for other restoration techniques such as prescribed fire or mechanical methods. Alternative 1

2.6 Fuels Management and Wildland Fire

Goal: Reduce wildfire risk to nearby communities and minimize potential wildland fire effects on resources, values, and infrastructure within the planning area.

Objective 1 Fuels Management and Wildland Fire

Implement and maintain fuels treatments that reduce continuity of fuels and provide strategic locations to help firefighters reduce the risk and spread of catastrophic wildfire.

Action 1 Fuels Treatments: Fuels treatments and maintenance occur in approximately 35 acres of the planning area. This includes administrative site (Tuttle Creek Campground, Alabama Hills Information Station) and authorized ROW holders fuels treatments and maintenance. No Action Complete up to 850 acres of additional fuels treatments (Map 12) and maintenance, as necessary. Fuels treatments would be strategically located to help keep wildfires small and allow firefighters to better respond and protect communities, developments, and resources. Existing disturbances such as roads or previous natural disturbances would be used whenever possible. Treatments would not occur within the entire mapped fuels reduction locations but would be focused on vegetation types with sufficient biomass to pose a fire threat and leave other sparser vegetation types undisturbed. Fuels reduction projects would conform to the following: Alternative 1

- In uplands, reduce above ground vegetation biomass leaving a minimum of 10% cover in a mosaic pattern. In mule deer winter range, remaining vegetation would be selected to retain bitterbrush as a preferred species. Alternative 1
- In riparian vegetation, maintain live overstory cover and shading to the greatest extent possible. Treatment would focus on removing above ground dead and down vegetation but could include removal of some live stems of overstory and live understory

vegetation. Treatment would minimize removal of live vegetation, except where needed for effective treatment, access to water sources or to allow for safe removal of dead vegetation. ROW holders may remove more live overstory vegetation where necessary for operations. Alternative 1

- Complete work with crews using hand tools and chainsaws. In upland vegetation and locations that are not too rocky or steep, mowing equipment with less than 10 lbs. ground pressure may also be used. Alternative 1
- Remove the slash by chipping, hauling away, or in limited situations and where the setting is appropriate, by piling and burning. No piles would be constructed in riparian areas. If piles are constructed using slash from riparian vegetation, they would be built in the adjacent uplands. Alternative 1
- Identify further strategic or landscape fuels reduction needs. Evaluate need for, and complete if needed, additional environmental compliance efforts including biological, cultural, and visual resource surveys and assessments prior to implementation. Alternative 1
- Work with CalFire and private property owners to provide defensible space on their property. Alternative 1
- Fuels treatments will not be implemented for defensible space in portions of developments that do not yet have homes (e.g., Whitney Portal Estates) but could be implemented if structures are built that need defensible space. Alternative 1

Action 2 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management: Monitor fuels treatments according to BLM policy. Use FMP (USDI BLM 2005) guidance for adaptive management for factors including acres of wildfire in the Fire Management Unit and increases in invasive annual grass cover. Actions that could be implemented as deemed necessary by resource specialists based on monitoring include but are not limited to: Alternative 1

- Phase and prioritize fuels projects based on assessments by resource specialists and fire managers using factors such as modeled fire behavior, fire history, developments at risk, escape routes and safety zones, natural resource benefits, and the availability of funds for implementation. Alternative 1
- Change frequency of maintenance to improve cover and recovery of native species and limit invasive species. Alternative 1
- Change the extent or maintenance frequency of the treated areas within the approved footprint based on vegetation dynamics and amount of area disturbed by wildfire within the Fire Management Unit. Alternative 1
- Seed or plant treated areas with locally adapted native species consistent with the purpose of the fuels treatments to improve cover of native species and/or limit invasive annual grasses. Methods as described in the restoration action above could be used. Alternative 1
- Treat infestations of invasive plants as described in the non-native plants action above. Alternative 1

• Implement fencing or other barriers if needed to ensure vegetation recovery or limit access to treated areas by OHVs or livestock. Alternative 1

2.7 Livestock Grazing

Goal: Quantify and address potential conflicts between livestock grazing and other resources and values in the planning area while providing for currently permitted use in accordance with applicable law, regulation, policy, and land use plan guidance.

Objective 1 Livestock Grazing

Allow livestock grazing on the Alabama Hills and George Creek allotments to continue (Map 13). Work closely with the permittee to ensure that these allotments are managed in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances planning area resources and values. Improve administrative flexibility to enhance opportunities for adaptive management and conservation use.

Action 1 Grazing: Administer and manage the Alabama Hills and George Creek allotments in conformance with the Bishop RMP as amended by the Secretary of the Interior approved Central California Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (USDI BLM 2000). No Action Livestock grazing will be permitted in a manner consistent with the purposes of the NSA subject to reasonable regulations, policies and practices, and applicable law (Dingell Act). No Action

Action 2 Selective Management Category:

- Retain the Alabama Hills Allotment as a Maintain (M) selective management category allotment or recategorize the allotment to an Improve (I) selective management category allotment based on the findings of updated rangeland health assessments planned under Action 5. Alternative 1
- Recategorize the George Creek Allotment from a Custodial (C) to a Maintain (M) or Improve (I) selective management category allotment based on the findings of updated rangeland health assessments planned under Action 5. Alternative 1
- Manage both allotments to ensure that the portions of the allotments located within the planning area meet Maintain (M) category criteria. Alternative 1

Action 3 Billing: Convert the Alabama Hills and George Creek allotments to actual use billing. Alternative 1

Action 4 Movie Flat: Work with the permittee to identify and manage the portion of the Alabama Hills Allotment in the Movie Flat area to avoid and/or minimize conflicts with other users. Alternative 1

Action 5 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management: Increase compliance monitoring and rangeland health assessment frequency on public rangelands within the planning area. Alternative 1

- Identify key areas in the Alabama Hills and George Creek allotments and conduct focused compliance monitoring efforts within the planning area a minimum of once every two years. Alternative 2
- Complete updated rangeland health assessments for key areas within the planning area within 2 years of plan approval. Alternative 2
- Work with the permittee to develop and implement adaptive management strategies to address site-specific resources concerns identified through compliance monitoring and rangeland health assessments. Alternative 1
- Conduct condition assessments of all range improvement projects within the planning area in coordination with the permittee to determine their current effectiveness and usefulness for meeting livestock management needs and rangeland health objectives. Rebuild or complete needed maintenance for those projects that contribute to effective livestock management and the achievement of rangeland health objectives on the allotments. Remove those projects that are no longer effective or used by the permittee for livestock management or rangeland health purposes. Alternative 2

2.8 Lands and Realty

Goal: Provide for continued operation and maintenance of existing and new public utilities and other rights-of-way (ROWs) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the resources and values of the planning area. Manage commercial cinematographic use and film permits processing to provide continued opportunities for economic, educational, and artistic benefits, while maintaining the planning area resources and values.

Objective 1 Lands and Realty

Allow for operation, maintenance and decommissioning of existing and new public utilities and appurtenant ROWs consistent with law, regulation, policy, land use plan guidance and planning area objectives.

Action 1 ROW Authorizations, Use and Relinquishment:

- Provide for the continued use, operation, maintenance (including vegetation control), repair, construction, reconfiguration, expansion, inspection, renewal, reconstruction, alteration, addition, relocation, improvement, funding, removal, or replacement of existing utility facilities and appurtenant ROWs within or adjacent to the NSA. No Action
- Include stipulations that further the purpose of the NSA and conserve, maintain, or improve other resources and values in the planning area when ROW grants are assigned, renewed, changed, or relinquished. Alternative 1
- Provide for necessary and efficient access to existing utility facilities and ROWs within or adjacent to the NSA in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the resources of the planning area for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of current and future generations. No Action

- Allow the establishment of new utility facility ROWs (including instream sites, routes, and areas) in the NSA only if determined to be the only technical or feasible location after site-specific environmental review that considers alternatives both within existing ROWs and outside of the NSA. If authorized, include stipulations that minimize harm to the purpose of the NSA. No Action
- Inyo County maintains roads under RS 2477. No Action Work with Inyo County to confine road blading to the existing dirt road disturbance width and to reduce the existing disturbance width where practicable. Alternative 1
- Upon application, issue new FLPMA ROWs to Inyo County for roads currently recognized under RS 2477 on BLM Master Title Plats. Include ROW stipulations to minimize impacts to other resources and values in the planning area. Encourage relinquishment of RS 2477 claims. Alternative 1
- Upon application, issue FLPMA ROWs to the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe to
 ensure legal access to the "Trust Land" addition identified in Title XIV, Section
 1404(a) of the Dingell Act (Public Law 116-9) and for the historic water diversion
 across public land in the SW ¼ of Lot 3 and NW ¼ of Lot 4 in T15S, R36E, Section
 29, MDM. Include ROW stipulations to minimize impacts to other resources and
 values in the planning area. Alternative 1.
- Work with ROW holders to manage existing authorizations to reduce impacts to other planning area resources and values where compatible with their use. Alternative 2
- Allow for new ROWs in the SRMA consistent with law, regulation, policy, land use plan guidance and planning area objectives. No Action

Action 2 Section 368 Energy Corridor.

- Require a proponent funded feasibility study for any proposed use of the Section 368 Corridor in the planning area consistent with the legal requirements of Title XIV, Section 1402(h)(C)(iii) of the Dingell Act (Public Law 116-9), which provides that BLM may authorize a "new utility facility rights-of-way" within the NSA if the proposed use is determined to be "the only technical or feasible location, following consideration of alternatives within existing rights-of-way or outside of the Scenic Area." No Action If determined to be infeasible, amend the Bishop RMP to eliminate the Section 368 Energy Corridor Segment(s) within the planning area. Alternative 1
- As time and funding allow, conduct a feasibility study to determine if future use of the Section 368 Corridor in the planning area would be consistent with the legal requirements of Title XIV, Section 1402(h)(C)(iii) of the Dingell Act (Public Law 116-9), which provides that BLM may authorize a "new utility facility rights-of-way" within the NSA if the proposed use is determined to be "the only technical or feasible location, following consideration of alternatives within existing rights-of-way or outside of the Scenic Area." If determined to be infeasible, amend the Bishop RMP to eliminate the Section 368 Energy Corridor Segment(s) within the planning area. Alternative 2

Action 3 Communications:

No communications/cellular infrastructure is present, except for pole mounted cable on existing electric distribution line, which would continue to be allowed. No Action Incorporate project design features and stipulations to minimize impacts to planning area resources and values. Alternative 1

Action 4 Monitoring and Adaptative Management: Monitor ROWs for compliance with stipulations. No Action

Objective 2 Film Permits

Continue to issue and manage film permits to allow use of the planning area as a cinematographic resource, while minimizing impacts to other resources and values. Evaluate applications on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they are consistent with planning area resources and values. Streamline the permitting process for minimum impact film permits and permits that meet pre-identified criteria based on the proposed film location.

Action 1 Film permits Management: Non-recreation related commercial filming will be managed under the appropriate 43 CFR 2920 guidelines and follow the fee schedule outlined in these guidelines. When associated with permitted recreation activities, commercial filming or still photography requiring a permit in accordance with Public Law 106-206 (16 USC 4601–6d) will be issued under SRP guidelines. No Action

In addition:

- Issue up to 50 film permits per year and negotiate permit length and number of film personnel based on applicant needs and impacts to planning area resources and values. Alternative 1
- Issue each film permit with stipulations. Additional stipulations may be added to minimize impacts to planning area resources and values. No Action
- Issue only one permit per site per day to help avoid conflicts with other users or Special Recreation Permit (SRP) holders. Alternative 1 For example, permits may not conflict with other major recreation events such as the Wild Wild West Marathon or the Lone Pine Film Festival. No Action.
- Allow filming only on existing roads and trails and in previously disturbed sites. No Action
- Conduct additional analysis by natural resource and cultural specialists for removal of vegetation or any ground disturbing activities. No Action
- Allow permittees to utilize designated semi-primitive campsites near event locations for up to 2 days before and during the event. Alternative 1
- Allow closed sets based on review of authorizing official. Alternative 1
- Allocate several locations with maximum number of participants per day (Map 11). Alternative 1
 - Lone Ranger Canyon = 400 users
 - Iron Man= 50 users

- \circ Man of Steel = 100 users
- Tall Wall = 20 users
- Paul's Paradise = 20 users
- \circ Meatloaf = 20 users
- \circ Cattle Pocket = 20 users
- \circ Lone Ranger East = 20 users
- \circ Gunga Din = 50 users
- Shark Fin =10 users
- \circ Land Rover = 40 users
- Evaluate the capacity for additional participants at these locations or non-allocated locations to ensure that they will not cause appreciable damage or disturbance to public lands, their resources, or improvements (43 CFR 2920.2-2). Alternative 1
- For commercial film permits that are not minimum impact, tier to the Alabama Hills Film Permits EA (USDI BLM 1993b) and federal register notice. Alternative 1

Action 2 Inventory, Monitoring and Adaptive Management:

- Regularly monitor film permits to minimize user conflicts and ensure that planning area resources and values are protected. Alternative 1
- Conduct visitor capacity and experience surveys and adjust permit stipulations and limit permit numbers if necessary. Alternative 1

2.9 Education, Interpretation, Partnerships and Science

Goal: Provide an area that functions as a living lab and supports research and learning activities that can be used to educate current and future generations,3 and function as a living lab for research and learning, following the National Landscape Conservation System NLCS Science Strategy (USDI BLM 2007b). Signs are addressed in 2.1 Recreational Resources Infrastructure, Health and Safety, Action 4 Signage.

Objective 1 Education, Interpretation and Information

Improve educational and interpretive materials to provide more learning opportunities for visitors.

Action 1 Interpretation and Education:

- Provide a brochure, area map, off highway vehicle (OHV) map and website information. No Action
- Provide interpretive walks during peak seasons in partnership with organizations including Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) and Alabama Hills Stewardship Group (AHSG). No Action
- Complete and implement an Interpretive Plan which could include: Alternative 1
 - Develop materials and methods to encourage responsible recreation.
 - Update and improve paper and digital maps.
 - Develop a map of the local names of the rock formations and areas.

- Develop information about climbing ethics.
- Develop interpretive material on historic mining/ranching features.
- Develop interpretive material/tour/kiosk about filming history.
- Develop interpretive material/tour/kiosk about geology.
- o Develop interpretive material for the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center.
- Develop a docent or steward program to educate visitors, complete restoration, and recruit volunteers.
- Develop interpretive and educational material for non-English speakers.
- Improve distribution of visitor information using a variety of methods and locations such as the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center, Museum of Western Film History, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center and Administrative Offices, Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce, local businesses and online messaging.
- Develop a visitor services program for the planning area to reduce vandalism and trash (Bishop RMP). Alternative 1
- Increase information about the Alabama Hills on partner websites and social media platforms. Alternative 1
- Create and maintain BLM social media sites and content for the Alabama Hills. Alternative 1
- Improve access to digital media through Wi-Fi boosters, hotspots or similar technology. Alternative 1
- Coordinate with nearby BLM offices to provide additional law enforcement capacity on busy weekends. Alternative 1

Objective 2 Partnerships

Consult, coordinate, collaborate, and partner to develop and implement the plan. Continue to work with partners to conserve, enhance and protect the Alabama Hills through interpretation, education, shared stewardship, and volunteerism.

- Consult and coordinate with the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group (AHSG) on plan implementation and associated activities.
- Consult and coordinate with the Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe to develop and implement co-management agreements.
- Consult and coordinate with Inyo County and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power on plan implementation and recreation management interests (Bishop RMP).
- Consult and coordinate with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on discretionary actions that may affect BLM special status species.
- Coordinate with Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association to improve education and interpretation of the planning area.
- Coordinate with the Museum of Western Film History to provide education about the filming history.

- Coordinate with Friends of the Inyo on stewardship projects.
- Continue to host volunteer events and collaborate with partners to implement restoration projects, support citizen-science, and provide visitor information and education services.
- Coordinate with local and national climbing groups to improve climber education, develop best practices, and provide sustainable climbing opportunities.
- Coordinate with local, state and national Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) groups to improve education related to OHV use and sustainable OHV opportunities.
- Work with State of California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation to improve OHV management and to implement restoration and education activities.
- Coordinate with local, state and national biking groups to improve education related to mountain bike use and sustainable biking opportunities.
- Work with the CDFW and USFWS on proactive wildlife habitat and population management projects.
- Develop a cooperative agreement with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to maintain and improve mule deer winter ranges (Bishop RMP).
- Develop partnerships with non-governmental organizations and local, state and federal government agencies/entities to implement the plan.
- Apply for available grants with partners to fund projects and increase staff support in the planning area.
- Install donation boxes at appropriate locations such as kiosks and bathrooms where consistent with law and policy (USDI BLM 2019).

Objective 3 Science

Promote research and monitoring activities in the planning area to inform current and future public lands management.

• Promote the planning area as a living laboratory and focus research and monitoring on acquiring data needed to inform management for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of planning area resources and values.