

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Bakersfield District
Bishop Resource Area
787 N. Main Street, Suite P
Bishop, California 93514

April 1993

Bishop Resource Management Plan Record of Decision



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest Use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

Bishop Resource Management Plan Record of Decision

Approved by:

Ed Hastey
State Director, California

Date

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management¹
California State Office
Bakersfield District
Bishop Resource Area

¹The USDA Forest Service, Inyo National Forest, is a Cooperating Agency for the Transmission Line Corridor portion of this Record of Decision.

Bishop Resource Management Plan Record of Decision

Responsible Agency: Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield District.

Cooperating Agency: USDA Forest Service, Inyo National Forest, for the Transmission Line Corridor portion of the Record of Decision.

Type of Action: Administrative

Abstract: The Bishop Resource Management Plan Record of Decision records the Bureau of Land Management's final land use decisions for managing public lands administered by the Bishop Resource Area, Bakersfield District, California.

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Record Of Decision

Introduction

This document records the decisions made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for managing BLM administered public land surface and federal mineral estate in the Bishop Resource Area. Located in the eastern Sierra region of California in Inyo and Mono Counties, the Bishop Resource Area encompasses 750,000 acres of public land and about 9,000 acres of federal mineral estate under private land (Figure 1). The area office also administers mineral leases on two million acres of the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests.

The Bishop Resource Area is divided into nine geographically delineated management areas (Figure 2). This Record of Decision includes policies, guidelines, valid existing management, standard operating procedures, and land use decisions applicable to the entire resource area; land use decisions specific to each management area; and a decision regarding designation of an east-west transmission line corridor. It also includes livestock grazing decisions carried forward from earlier documents.

The Inyo National Forest was a cooperating agency for the decision regarding potential designation of an east-west transmission line corridor across BLM and Forest Service managed lands.

Decision

The decision is to approve the proposed action as published in the final Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP and EIS), issued in October 1991 (dated August 1991), except for decisions concerning the east-west transmission line corridor and the

Bodie Bowl Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The east-west transmission line corridor decision is changed to the "No Action" alternative. In the Bodie Bowl ACEC, the proposed locatable mineral withdrawal has been expanded to include all public lands within the ACEC boundary, and language has been added to ensure consideration of potential park and visitor facilities in the ACEC management plan. A complete listing of approved decisions is included in this Record of Decision.

The approved RMP decisions focus on resolving four major issues identified through public involvement early in the planning process. These issues were:

Recreation - how to provide for a variety of recreational uses, meet increasing demand for recreation opportunities, and reduce potential conflicts with other uses or values;

Wildlife - where and what management prescriptions are needed to enhance or maintain important wildlife habitats and populations;

Minerals - how to meet the demand for mineral uses and reduce potential conflicts with other uses or values; and

Land Ownership and Authorizations - where BLM should acquire or dispose of land, how and where public lands should be available for special or private uses, and how land use authorizations can be managed to reduce potential conflicts with other uses or values.

In addition to these issues, specific decisions relate to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Special Recreation Management Areas, Scenic Byways, and

LOCATION MAP
Bishop Resource Area
Bakersfield District

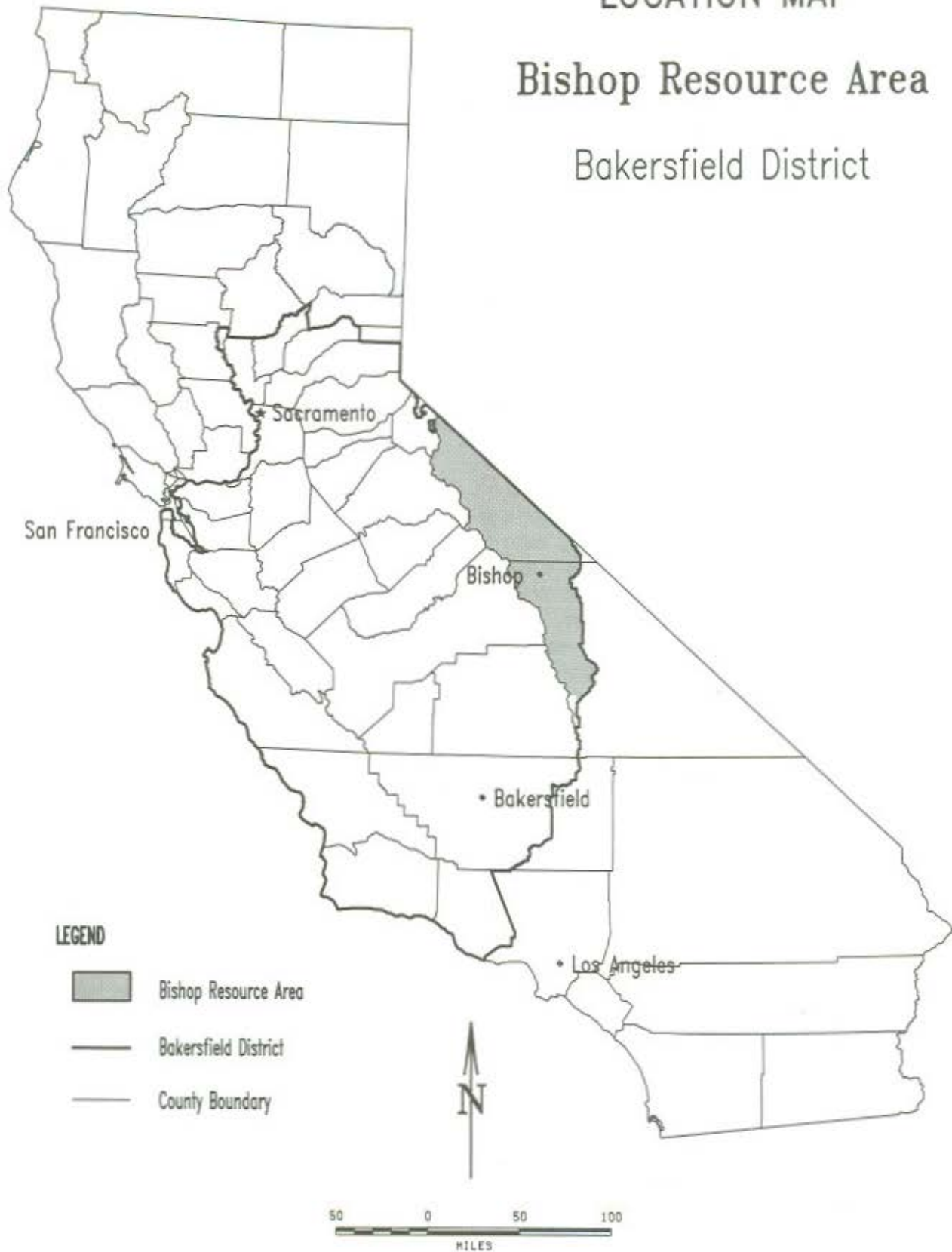
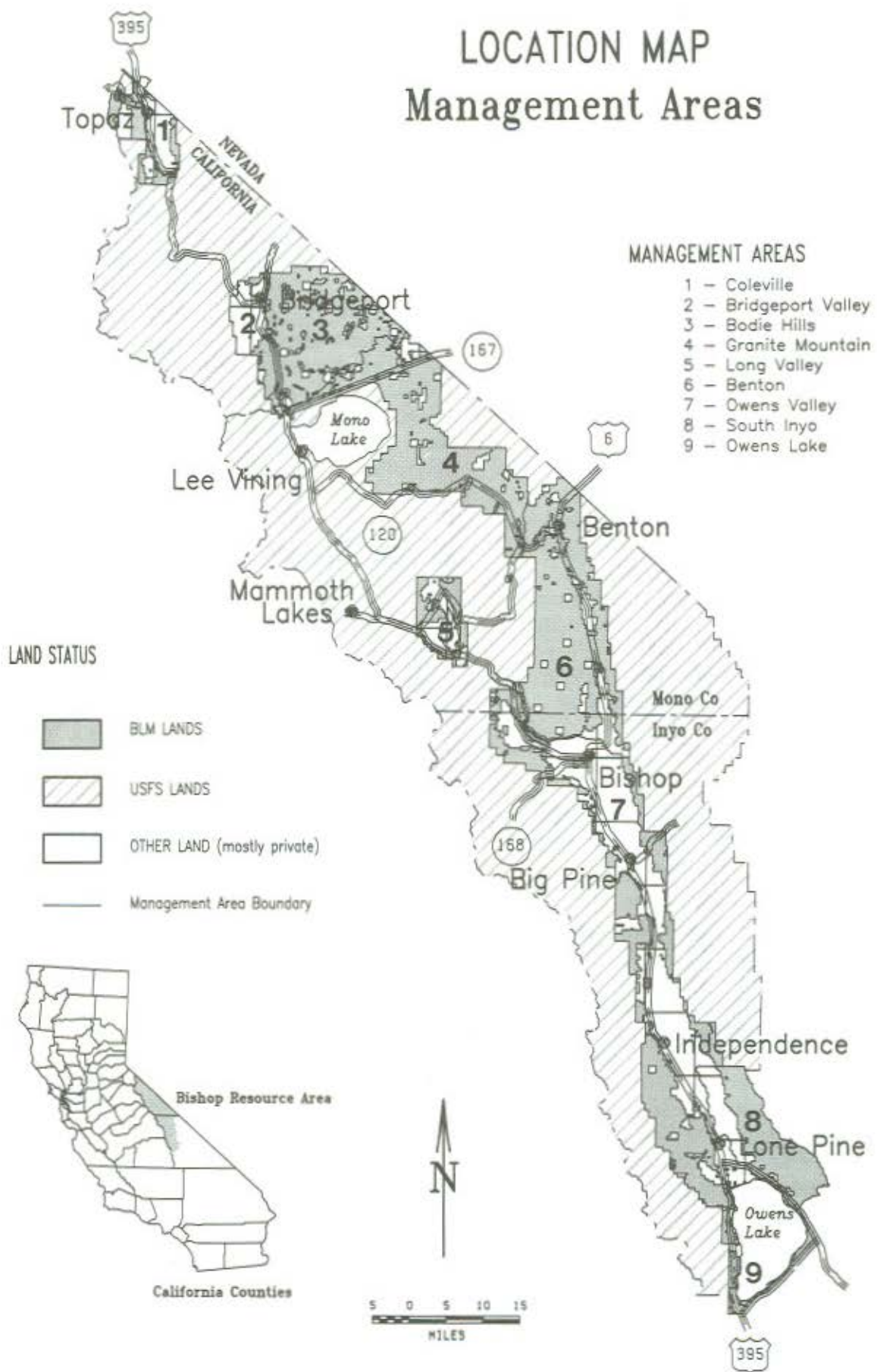


Figure 1

LOCATION MAP Management Areas



streams eligible for study as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System. There are also decisions addressing livestock grazing, cultural resources, fuelwood harvesting, fire suppression, and an east-west transmission line corridor.

Area Manager's Guidelines, Valid Existing Management and Standard Operating Procedures listed in Chapter 1 of the final RMP will also guide management of the resource area, and help determine how proposed actions are implemented. These are also included as part of this Record of Decision.

Implementation of the RMP will require some additional planning and environmental analyses. Prior to authorizing site specific actions (habitat improvement projects, fencing, mineral development, etc.), the appropriate level of additional environmental analysis will be performed and documented in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and Department of the Interior and BLM manuals.

Alternatives Considered

Four alternatives were analyzed in the draft RMP and EIS. These were: 1) No Action/Continuation of Present Management; 2) Custodial Management; 3) Natural Resource Enhancement; and 4) the Preferred Alternative. The first alternative represented a continuation of present levels of resource use and direction. The second alternative represented a direction which favored commodity production such as mining, livestock grazing, and motorized recreation with little BLM oversight or management activity. The third alternative was the environmentally preferable alternative. It represented a direction favoring protection or enhancement of environmental values such as wildlife habitat and aesthetics. The fourth alternative sought to resolve issues in a balanced

manner, providing for development of resources while protecting or enhancing environmental values.

Following extensive public comment and analysis on the draft, a proposed action was then developed and presented in the final RMP and EIS. The approved RMP is the proposed action from the final, with changes regarding the east-west transmission line corridor and the Bodie Bowl Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) that resulted from protest resolution. It is an alternative that allows continued commodity production and increased response to local community needs, yet provides for better protection of the environment than did the preferred alternative in the draft.

Management Considerations

The BLM has the responsibility to manage public lands and resources to provide for a variety of uses. Through the RMP process, the BLM and the public have painted a picture of the resource conditions and activities they desire to see on these lands. Decisions in the RMP are designed to enhance our ability to achieve this picture. Many of the decisions provide guidelines and standards which all activities will follow so the picture can become reality. Because of overwhelming public desire, we placed an emphasis on environmental values in the final RMP decisions.

Over 8,000 acres of Bureau land are identified for potential disposal, and over 18,000 acres of private land are identified as potential acquisitions. The large amounts of land in each category are intended to provide flexibility for land exchanges. If an opportunity arises for a land exchange which would allow us to acquire prime habitat or improve management of public lands and resources, the exchange could occur without a plan amendment. The decision to emphasize land exchanges is intended to prevent a net loss to the local

tax base. It is doubtful that even 25% of the proposed disposals and acquisitions will be completed within the life of the plan.

Groundwater pumping and water export have been central issues in the eastern Sierra for several decades. BLM's position is clarified with the decision to protect local resource conditions by prohibiting groundwater pumping on Bureau land where it would interfere with valid existing water rights, desired plant community goals, or other resource condition objectives.

Watershed withdrawals no longer serve the purpose for which they were originally designed. These withdrawals place serious constraints on our ability to properly manage the land. A change in the watershed withdrawals is proposed that would improve our ability to manage Bureau land, protect federal water rights, and maintain our "4e" comment authority with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Recreation is a mainstay of the eastern Sierra economy. The type best suited for Bureau lands is predominantly dispersed use in semi-primitive, undeveloped settings. The RMP decisions stress the maintenance and enhancement of these settings. They also provide for a variety of recreation opportunities that are compatible with those settings and other RMP prescriptions. Future development of recreation opportunities will include management of uses compatible with the semi-primitive setting.

Scenery is an important value to visitors who travel to the eastern Sierra. Visual resource management was strengthened in the final RMP to increase protection for areas of high scenic quality and to reduce cumulative adverse impacts on visual resources in the region. Since the early 1980s, Americans have grown increasingly sensitive to impairment of scenic landscapes and environmental values. They prefer increased environmental protection and appear to be willing to incur costs associated with that protection. The RMP's emphasis on visual

resource management reflects this viewpoint.

The "limited" off-highway vehicle designation which covers most of the resource area is necessary to prevent adverse impacts that would result from unrestricted use. Detailed activity plans, developed with public participation, will identify specific vehicle use opportunities and restrictions.

Wildlife resources are another important value in the eastern Sierra region. Bureau lands provide habitats for a variety of plant and animal species and the public has expressed growing concern for proper management and protection of these habitats. Numerous decisions in the RMP emphasize protection and enhancement of important plant and animal habitats without eliminating other land uses. Specifically, yearlong protection restrictions and desired plant community goals were established to maintain and restore streams, riparian areas, meadows, aspen groves and other important wildlife habitats.

Livestock grazing decisions are not being changed in most areas because decisions based on the Benton-Owens Valley and Bodie-Coleville Grazing EISs completed in the early 1980s are still valid. Federal grazing regulations and BLM rangeland monitoring policy allow for changes in grazing use based on monitoring of resource condition and objectives. Livestock management may change in some areas to improve management of important vegetation and habitat types.

The existing mineral withdrawals on the Bishop Petroglyph Loop and at the Dogtown historic site will continue to protect cultural resources. Additional withdrawals, such as the withdrawal around Bodie State Historic Park, will be implemented to protect important historic, wildlife, riparian and recreational values. Withdrawals were not proposed to protect endangered, threatened or candidate species since most habitats occur in areas with low mineral potential or on sites already under valid claim.

The Bodie Bowl has been the focus of considerable controversy due to potential impacts of mining on the town of Bodie. Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation, a locatable mineral withdrawal, and other decisions affecting the Bowl were made to protect the integrity of the National Historic Landmark (NHL). The boundary of the NHL will be determined by the Department of the Interior and include historic resources within the Bodie Bowl that are of national significance. The ACEC boundary (5,935 acres) covers the zone of influence on historic and associated visual resources which deserve special recognition and management. As a result of ACEC designation, this nationally significant resource will receive additional recognition and all mineral exploration and development activities will require a Plan of Operations. This gives BLM greater control over these activities. The entire ACEC will also be withdrawn from mineral entry to preclude the establishment of future mining claims within the Bodie Bowl and thereby help protect these important cultural, recreational and scenic values.

An ACEC Plan will be developed with full public participation and input. Limits of Acceptable Change that will be developed for the ACEC Plan will describe standards which all activities on public lands within the ACEC must meet. Mineral development and other activities could occur if they could meet these standards.

No east-west transmission line corridor is established. If we receive an application for a transmission line in the resource area, a complete environmental analysis will be prepared and a decision will be made based upon that analysis.

Mitigation and Monitoring

RMP decisions will be reviewed annually to track implementation and to determine if plan amendments are needed. Resources

will also be systematically monitored to ensure that resource condition objectives established in the RMP are being met. Future management changes will be made based on monitoring and evaluation.

The implementation of RMP decisions is tracked using the Bureau's Decision Implementation Tracking System. This computerized tracking system, referred to as "DEC," consists of a summary of each RMP decision, the estimated cost to implement each decision, and a schedule for implementing each decision. Using DEC, all decisions are evaluated annually to assure compliance with RMP direction. The DEC system is also used to forecast annual funding needs and to determine when changes in the plan are necessary.

Activity plans will explain how, when, and where resources will be monitored. This monitoring will determine the effectiveness of Bureau actions in meeting resource condition objectives (for example, desired plant community goals and livestock utilization standards) established in the RMP. An interdisciplinary team will develop these plans for a variety of programs including livestock grazing (Allotment Management Plans), wildlife (Habitat Management Plans), off-highway vehicles (such as the High Desert Off-Highway Vehicle Plan), and others.

Mitigation and stipulations will be built into individual plans and projects based upon the required environmental review. Additionally, actions within the resource area will follow Area Manager's Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures listed in Chapter 1 of the final RMP, and in this document.

Public Involvement

The Bishop Resource Area made a conscientious effort to involve the public in the planning process, with numerous public notices, public meetings and mailings.

To initiate the process, we consulted with federal, state, county and city agencies as well as numerous private organizations and individuals. Key issues to be addressed in the RMP and EIS were identified following these consultations. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the Bishop RMP was published in the Federal Register on June 27, 1988, and identified the six preliminary issues to be analyzed. The NOI also stated that there would be extensive public involvement during plan development.

Public scoping meetings were held in Lone Pine, Bridgeport, Walker, Bishop and Independence, California in July of 1988 to identify public concerns. Notification was sent to about 650 individuals.

Announcements were also made in the local media. Ninety-four people attended these public scoping meetings. The results were summarized and sent to all who attended and to those on the RMP mailing list. The preliminary issues identified in the NOI were generally confirmed at the meetings. Some new concerns were also identified.

A NOI of proposed planning criteria for the RMP was published in the Federal Register in September 1988. Planning guidelines based on public and internal comments were prepared and distributed in April and June of 1989.

After a range of potential management alternatives were developed by BLM staff, public workshops were held in Bridgeport, Mammoth Lakes, Benton, Bishop and Independence, California in April 1990 to obtain further public input before publication of the draft RMP and EIS. A letter announcing the workshops and a summary of the alternatives were sent to those on the RMP mailing list. There were several announcements in the media and key contacts were personally notified. Many received detailed advance briefings. An average of 75 people attended each workshop and much valuable input was received. Several individuals were pleased

to have the opportunity to provide input before the draft RMP was published.

After publication of the draft, the 90 day public review period was from October 19, 1990 to January 17, 1991. To facilitate review and receive comments, public meetings were held in Independence, Bishop, Bridgeport and Benton, California in late November and early December. A total of 160 people attended the meetings. About two weeks after the meetings, a letter which summarized comments and responded to concerns was sent to individuals on the RMP mailing list. Over 600 comment letters were also received during the public review period. Substantive oral and written comments were made on livestock grazing, mining, off-highway vehicle use, transmission line corridors, acquisitions and disposals, watershed withdrawals and many other topics. Responses were made in the final RMP to all written comments received.

Numerous meetings were held with concerned individuals and organizational representatives during preparation of the final. They provided input, and were allowed to examine our files.

The final RMP and EIS was mailed to approximately 650 addresses, including agencies, organizations, political entities, individuals and libraries. A complete list is on file at the Bishop Resource Area office.

Contact was continued with interested individuals and organizations during the final protest period. Notice of availability of the final RMP and EIS was made in the Federal Register by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on November 8, 1991. The official protest period ended on December 9, 1991. Contact has continued with most interested parties during the resolution of protests.

The Bishop Resource Area is committed to working with interested individuals, groups and agencies during plan implementation.

General Policies

The following laws and policies guide planning and implementation of the RMP. [References are to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)].

1. Management will be on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield [Section 102(a)(7)].
2. Public lands are to be retained in federal ownership unless disposal serves the national interest [Section 102(a)(1)].
3. Public lands may be made available for disposal if they are difficult and uneconomic to manage and are not suitable for management by another federal department or agency [Section 203(a)(1)].
4. Public lands will be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use [Section 102(a)(8)].
5. Public lands will be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber including implementation of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, as it pertains to the public lands [Section 102(a)(12)].
6. The Bureau will give priority to the management and protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern [Section 202(c)(3)].
7. The Bureau will weigh long-term benefits to the public against short-term benefits [Section 202(c)(7)].
8. Management of public lands will consider:
 - a. Safety of the public and Bureau personnel;
 - b. Relative cost-effectiveness of managing individual tracts;
 - c. Fiscal ability of the Bureau to effectively manage lands and interests (including easements) over the long term; and
 - d. Alternative management schemes and creative partnerships with other agencies and organizations.
9. The BLM will not dispose of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) or other resources of high national interest to non-federal agencies. Disposal of the habitat of endangered, threatened or sensitive species to non-federal agencies or nonprofit organizations may be considered only if the protection and conservation that would be afforded the habitat following transfer of title equals or exceeds the level afforded by federal ownership. Such determination would be made by the State Director. Disposal of the habitat of officially listed endangered or threatened species would occur only after consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
10. BLM will continue to cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game on Deer Herd Management Plans.
11. Site-specific inventories and analyses for endangered and threatened species, historic and prehistoric cultural

properties, and mineral values are required prior to disposal of public lands and interests.

12. BLM will comply with the provisions of Sections 106 and 110 of the Historic Preservation Act including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for actions which may affect prehistoric and historic properties.
 13. The Bureau will consult with local Indian communities to identify their concerns when projects might affect them. These concerns will be considered in the decision making process.
 14. BLM will comply with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, including consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on projects that may affect endangered or threatened species.
 15. BLM will participate in the state's comment process to provide input on proposed water uses which may affect the public lands.
3. Transfers of Bureau land to other agencies will be limited to small and isolated parcels.
 4. Vegetation will be a key element in the plan and management will be directed toward the achievement of desired plant community goals.
 5. Vegetative goals for watershed protection and wildlife, riparian and sensitive plant habitats will be given strong consideration in relationship to livestock forage needs. Permitted desired practices will be allowed provided vegetative goals can be met.
 6. Rehabilitation of riparian areas will receive high priority for project implementation. Efforts will be made to return all watersheds in declining condition to equilibrium.
 7. Actions that interfere significantly with efforts to maintain or enhance mule deer winter range will generally not be allowed.
 8. Actions that interfere significantly with efforts to maintain or enhance sage grouse habitat will generally not be allowed.

Area Manager's Guidelines

1. The preferred method of land tenure adjustment (both acquisition and disposal) is exchange. The Bureau intends to acquire lands from willing sellers.
2. Acquisitions and disposals identified in this RMP provide a list of parcels available for transfer. The Bureau intends to balance acquisitions and disposals such that no net decrease in private land occurs during the life of the plan.
9. Allotment Management Plans in the Bodie Hills Management Area will be developed or revised using the Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) process.
10. The RMP provides that off-highway vehicle use on all public lands will be limited to designated routes, with 1 open area (Poleta Canyon) identified. Specific route designations will be made in the on-going High Desert Off-highway Vehicle Study, the USFS/BLM Interagency Study, and the Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) process in the Bodie Hills. If the Southern Inyo Wilderness Study Area is designated as wilderness, the area will be closed to vehicle use.

11. Mineral leasing decisions within the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forest boundaries will be in conformance with the respective forest plans.
12. Fuelwood harvesting prescriptions will be compatible with those on adjacent National Forest System lands.
13. Fire management plans and policies will emphasize suppression cost reduction and fire prevention at the urban-wildland interface.

Valid Existing Management

Decisions and recommendations made in the following documents are still valid and are incorporated into this Record of Decision.

1. Benton-Owens Valley and Bodie-Coleville Grazing EISs (1981 and 1982). These documents cover 69 allotments and 633,980 acres of Bureau land. Decisions carried forward are listed in the Livestock Grazing Decisions section and Appendix 4 of this Record of Decision.
2. Benton-Owens Valley/Bodie-Coleville Final Wilderness EIS (1987). This document covers 19 Wilderness Study Areas which include 287,876 acres of Bureau land.
3. California Vegetative Management EIS. Any herbicide use will be consistent with procedures and limitations described in the California Vegetation Management Final EIS and Record of Decision (November 1988).
4. Existing Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMPs), Habitat Management Plans (HMPs), Allotment Management Plans (AMPs), Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Management Plans, Cooperative

Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) will remain in effect. Existing plans and agreements will be updated as required to incorporate RMP decisions.

5. Bureau lands in the Mammoth-June Lakes Airport Land Use Plan Area will be managed in accordance with the Benton-Owens Valley Management Framework Plan amendment (1989) for that area.
6. The Cooperative Management Agreement with Bodie State Park will remain in effect.

Standard Operating Procedures

Standard Operating Procedures provide specific guidelines for managing the various resources and activities occurring throughout the resource area.

Grazing Systems

1. Plant phenology of key forage species for livestock and wildlife will be considered in determining grazing schedules.
2. Grazing system design will include consideration of wildlife habitat, watershed and desired plant community goals.
3. Average annual livestock utilization of key forage species on meadows will not exceed 60% unless there is an Allotment Management Plan or desired plant community goal which requires a different level.
4. Allotment Management Plans will be used to resolve conflicts between livestock and other resource values.

Grazing Management Practices

1. Salting and supplemental feeding locations will not be located within 1/4 mile of riparian zones, aspen groves and meadows, or on sage grouse strutting grounds, sensitive plant habitats or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.
2. Sheep will be herded.
3. Sheep bedding grounds will be designated, and will not be located within 1/4 mile of riparian zones, aspen groves, meadows and sage grouse strutting grounds, or on sensitive plant habitats or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.
4. Trailing use will be controlled and trailing routes will be identified.
5. Livestock conversions proposed by the permittee will be considered on the basis of resource needs, allotment capability and management objectives. If conversions are made mainly for convenience of the permittee, range improvement structures necessary to implement the conversion will be financed and constructed by the permittee.
6. Annual utilization checks will be conducted during the grazing season on selected meadows and key wildlife habitats.
7. Trampling of soils will be monitored in conjunction with forage utilization to determine whether the limit of allowable grazing has been achieved.

Range Improvement Project Development

1. Livestock watering and handling facilities (corrals, chutes, dipping vats, etc.) will normally not be located within 1/4 mile

of riparian zones, aspen groves and meadows, or on sage grouse strutting grounds, sensitive plant habitats or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.

2. Fences will not be located on sage grouse strutting grounds or sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion. Let-down fences will be constructed in areas where sage grouse are susceptible to strikes on wire as they enter or leave a lek site.
3. Fence construction will conform with the objectives and specifications in Bureau Manual 1737.
4. All livestock watering facilities will be designed to facilitate wildlife use. Wildlife escape ramps will be installed and maintained in water troughs.
5. Springs and seeps incurring damage from livestock trampling will be fenced.
6. Benefits to range, fisheries, wildlife, recreation and watershed will be considered when designing range improvement projects.
7. Vegetation manipulation projects will be rested from grazing for at least two growing seasons following treatment.
8. Vegetation manipulation projects will use irregular patterns to create more edge. Islands of vegetation will be left for cover.
9. All chemical applications will be preceded by an approved Pesticide Use Proposal and supervised by a Certified Pesticide Specialist. Before chemicals are applied, the BLM will comply with Department of the Interior regulations and Bureau Manual 9222, and other applicable laws, regulations and court orders. Herbicide use will be prohibited within 150 feet of streams. Any pesticide (as defined under Section 2 (u) of the

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended) used will be:

- a. Registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California;
 - b. Specifically registered for the proposed use;
 - c. Used only in accordance with requirements for safe mixing, storing, loading and disposal of such poisons;
 - d. Marked with a current label;
 - e. Used in accordance with its label and all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations; and
 - f. Applied so that worker safety is ensured.
10. Maintenance of structural improvements shall be provided by the user deriving the primary benefit from the improvement.
11. Brush control will be prohibited on sage grouse breeding complexes and wintering grounds.
12. All vegetation manipulations will leave 200 feet of undisturbed vegetation on both sides of all roads. Vegetation will not be manipulated on drainages with over 30% slope.
13. Seed mixtures adapted to the planting site will be used for seeding. Mixtures will include a variety of browse, forbs and grass species that are desirable for both livestock and wildlife. All seed sources will be certified "weed free."
14. Burned areas will be rested for three growing seasons before grazing.

Wildlife

1. Consult with the California Department of Fish and Game prior to design and accomplishment of wildlife habitat improvement projects.
2. Notify the California Department of Fish and Game one year in advance of any revegetation or vegetation manipulation projects.
3. Manage candidate species, sensitive species and other species of management concern in a manner to avoid the need for listing as state or federal endangered or threatened species.
4. Consult informally with the California Department of Fish and Game about any project with potential impacts on state-listed endangered or threatened plants and animals.
5. Consult with the California Department of Fish and Game about any proposals that may result in the depletion of resident or migratory fish.
6. An inventory for candidate species and other species of management concern will be completed prior to authorizing any activity that may impact a stream with a thermal source.

Riparian and Wetland

1. Maintain the natural channel configuration of all streams.
2. No new road construction will be permitted within 150 feet of riparian areas unless absolutely necessary and impacts can be mitigated. Avoid the construction of roads or trails that parallel streams.

3. Construction of new stream crossings will be kept to a minimum. All stream crossings will be designed and constructed to maintain existing channel morphology and minimize impacts to riparian and aquatic habitat. Crossings in streams supporting active or potential fisheries will be designed and constructed to allow fish passage. The streambed will be armored upstream and downstream of any crossing that has neither a bridge nor a culvert.
 4. Relocate existing roads out of riparian areas where feasible or necessary to restore watershed stability.
 5. Remove livestock watering facilities from riparian zones where feasible.
 6. Rehabilitate or fence riparian areas that consistently show resource damage from any cause if conflicts cannot be resolved in another manner.
 7. Avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development or new construction in wetlands wherever there is a practical alternative.
3. No stream modifying activities or other activities that increase sedimentation of the aquatic zone will be permitted during the following periods:
 - a. February 15 to August 20 for streams with resident rainbow trout or cutthroat trout populations; and
 - b. October 1 to April 15 for streams with resident brown trout or brook trout populations.
 4. Construction activities within streams will comply with the State Fish and Game Code as to notification and incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures.
 5. Limit vegetation removal and other surface disturbing activities to the minimum required for project implementation. Require soil retaining structures or other special methods as needed to control erosion on steep slopes or unstable soils.
 6. Best Management Practices and appropriate mitigation will be identified during project level environmental review and applied during project implementation for any ground disturbing activity that may reduce soil productivity, or cause surface erosion or mass wasting.
 7. Avoid the use of soil disturbing equipment or vehicles on wet, poorly drained or erosive soils.
 8. Require soil layer separation and topsoil stockpiling for any activity that involves mechanical soil disturbance. Soil layers will be redeposited and recontoured to their natural configuration following project completion.
 9. Secure any necessary permits or clearances from state and local agencies relative to air quality requirements for projects that may impact air quality.

Soil, Water and Air

1. An inventory of existing water quality and beneficial uses will be completed prior to authorizing any project with potential impacts on water quality. Best Management Practices and appropriate mitigation will be identified during project level environmental review and applied during project implementation to ensure compliance with the Federal Antidegradation Policy.
2. Any activity involving discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or their adjacent wetlands will be reviewed for compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Minerals

1. Reclamation bonds will be required for all minerals actions occurring under a Plan of Operations in accordance with Memorandums of Understanding with Inyo and Mono Counties.
2. Claim markers must be in conformance with state law and Bureau policy.
3. All Notices of Intent will be reviewed for undue and unnecessary degradation determination. Cultural, endangered and threatened species, and sensitive plant habitat clearances will be done as a minimum.
4. All mineral operations will conform with the state's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, and county and local health and operations requirements.
5. For abandoned mine shafts and mine shafts under a Plan of Operations, a survey for wildlife use, particularly bats, will be conducted. If bats are present, mines will be gated. Gate design will also consider the needs of other wildlife species potentially inhabiting the mine. If sealing of known hibernacula or maternity roosts must occur, sealing will not occur during the winter or maternity period. If surveys determine there is no use or potential for use by bats, sealing may be done at any time.

Realty

1. A site-specific environmental assessment will be required before any disposal of BLM land. Only parcels identified in the RMP will be available for disposal. All other BLM lands will be retained in public ownership.
2. All existing and future powerlines must meet non-electrocution standards for raptors. Raptor habitat enhancement will be incorporated into facility design where feasible.

3. The Bureau will file for state appropriative water rights for all existing and any new surface water facilities on which federal funding has been or will be expended. In addition, the Bureau will assert federal reserved water rights for Public Water Reserves.

Recreation

1. All Bureau lands will be designated as either closed, limited, or open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use.
2. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use will be monitored throughout the resource area. Monitoring efforts will be concentrated in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Study Areas, other specially designated areas and areas incurring resource impacts. Mitigation, where needed, will be applied to eliminate or reduce resource problems caused by OHV use.
3. Within two years of the RMP Record of Decision, the BLM will begin studies to make suitability or non-suitability determinations for waterways determined eligible under the Wild and Scenic River review process.

Visual

1. Enforcement emphasis for Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes 2-4 will be along key observation points. Outside key observation points, the Bureau will apply designated VRM class prescriptions but the Area Manager may allow development to exceed the VRM class for reasons such as technological infeasibility or low visitor use.
2. The Area Manager may allow temporary projects to exceed Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards in class 2-4 areas, if the project will terminate within two years of initiation. Rehabilitation will begin at the end of the

two year period. During the temporary project, the Area Manager may require phased mitigation to better conform with prescribed VRM standards.

3. Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes acknowledge existing visual contrasts. Existing facilities or visual contrasts will be brought into VRM class conformance to the extent practicable when the need or opportunity arises (i.e. rights-of-way renewals, mineral material site closures, or route designation activity plans).
4. Visual Resource Management Class I enforcement will apply uniformly throughout the Conway Summit and Slinkard Valley Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and the suitable portion of Southern Inyo Mountains Wilderness Study Area unless subsequent activity plans specify otherwise.
5. All powerlines will be constructed using non-specular wire. Steel towers will be constructed of corten steel.

RMP Decisions

The approved RMP decisions are presented in two parts: the area-wide decisions, which present management prescriptions valid throughout the entire Bishop Resource Area; and the decisions for individual management areas, which present management prescriptions specific to each of the nine management areas.

Management area narratives include the following:

Description - A brief description of the important resources or values within the management area.

Management Theme - A statement of the general management philosophy for the management area. Management themes provide direction for addressing unforeseen proposals.

Decisions - Statements of land use allocations and resource condition objectives.

Support Needs - Supplemental actions necessary to implement the plan. Support needs will help guide BLM budgeting and programming.

Rationale - Explanation for selection of proposed actions specific to the management area.

Decisions are illustrated on the following maps included with this document:

Map 1 (Land Status) - depicts land ownership in the Bishop Resource Area.

Map 2 (Special Management Areas) - illustrates areas within the Bishop Resource Area deserving special management attention. The proposed Southern Inyo Wilderness Area, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, campgrounds, streams eligible for study as potential additions to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and the Poleta Canyon off-highway vehicle open area are shown on Map 2.

Map 3 (Land Use Restrictions) - depicts yearlong protection and seasonal protection areas, existing and proposed locatable mineral withdrawals, and areas to be closed to grazing.

Map 4 (Lands and Minerals) - shows potential land acquisitions and disposals, designated utility corridors, areas open to mineral location, and preferred geothermal development zones.

Area-Wide

Management Theme

Resolve issues in a manner that will protect and enhance environmental values while allowing for resource use and development.

Decisions

Unless otherwise stated in the plan, all Bureau lands will be retained in public ownership. Lands identified for disposal are either difficult or uneconomic to manage and would best serve the public interest in private ownership. Land disposal may also be used to resolve inadvertent occupancy trespass (cases where survey error has resulted in home construction on Bureau land). Bureau lands will not be available for disposal under the agricultural land laws.

- Land exchange is the preferred method of disposal. Where land exchange is impractical, lands identified for disposal may be sold under authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).
- Disposals to resolve inadvertent occupancy trespass will be limited to the smallest legal subdivision which includes the private development.
- Recreation and Public Purpose Act patents may be issued on lands identified for disposal.

Prohibit groundwater pumping where it would interfere with valid existing water uses, desired plant community goals, or other resource condition objectives.

Replace or revise the Executive Order and Congressional Watershed Withdrawals. Any replacement or revised designation must retain the Bureau's "4e" comment authority and protect federal water rights to the same extent they are protected under the existing withdrawals.

Utility Corridors 1/2 mile wide are designated along the following transmission lines:

- The 500 kV DC Intertie from where it enters California near State Highway 167 to where it exits the resource area near Olancho.
- The 115 kV SCE Double Circuit Line from the Bishop Substation to where it exits the resource area near Olancho.

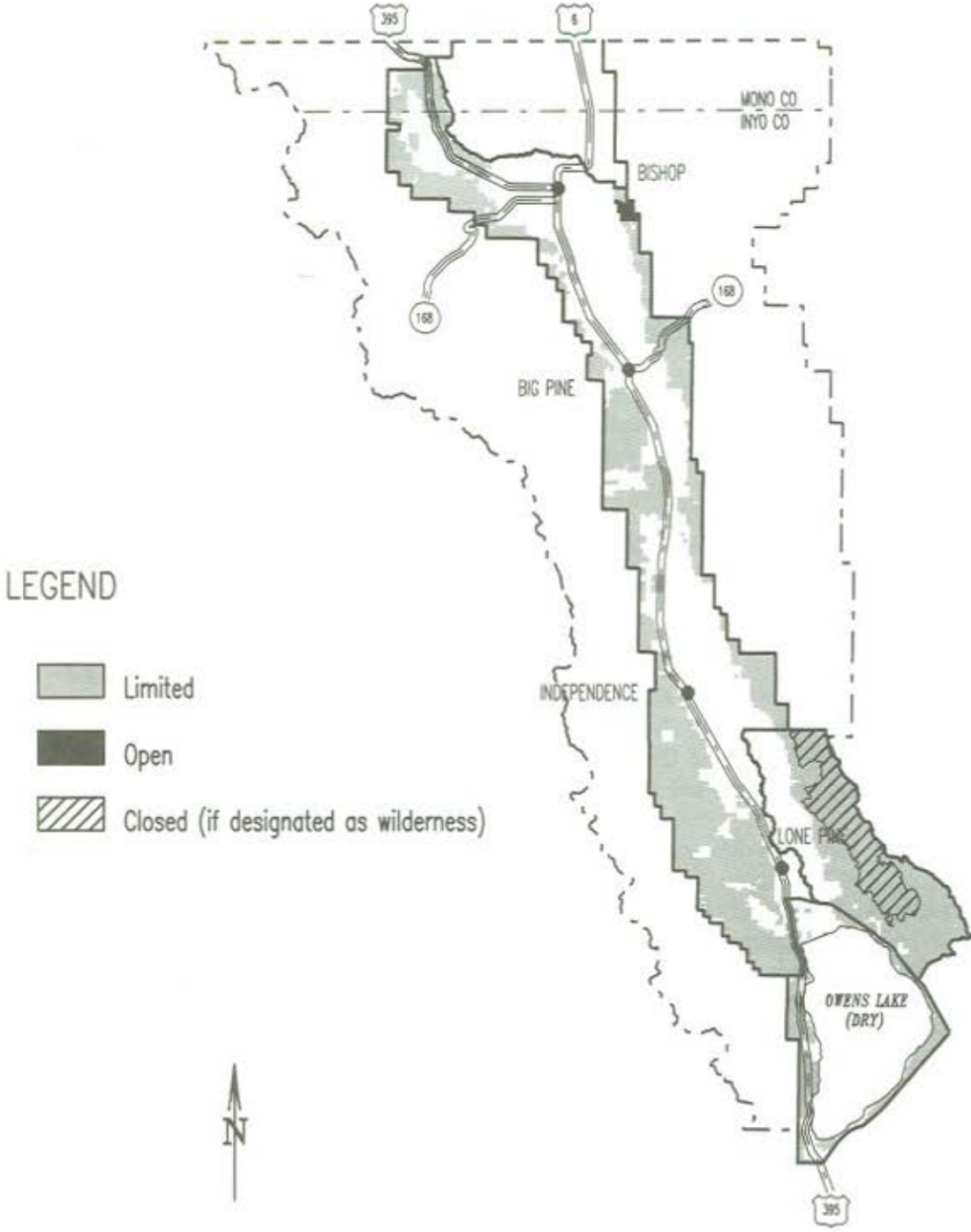
The following conditions and mitigation measures apply to these corridors:

1. Corridors extend for 1/4 mile on both sides of the specified lines with the following exceptions:
 - a. In the vicinity of Benton Hot Springs the corridor is limited to 1/4 mile west of the DC Intertie; and
 - b. Between and along Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) on the Volcanic Tableland, future lines will have to share existing facilities until one or all of the WSAs are released to non-wilderness uses by Congress.
2. Future facilities in these corridors may be allowed to exceed Visual Resource Management (VRM) and Yearlong Protection standards. Extensive mitigation will be required and may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Painting and use of non-specular steel materials to reduce visibility; and
 - b. Requiring the use of shared facilities.
3. The first applicant for a right-of-way in either corridor will be required to conduct a study to determine how many transmission lines the corridor can accommodate.

Manage the resource area to provide for a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities. Emphasize primitive, semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive nonmotorized and roaded natural experiences. Maintain and enhance semi-primitive and other physical settings by providing compatible recreation opportunities within those settings. Manage visitor use to conform with semi-primitive and other physical settings. Recreation management may include developing trails for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding; providing off-highway vehicle use opportunities; designating scenic byways; interpreting natural and cultural resources; and establishing an environmental education program. The Bodie Bowl and the Alabama Hills will remain designated as Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs).

- Manage the Bodie Bowl SRMA to preserve the historic integrity of the Bodie National Historic Landmark in coordination with Bodie State Historic Park.
 - Manage the Alabama Hills SRMA to protect unique geologic features and scenic values and to provide compatible recreational opportunities.
 - Provide campgrounds at Tuttle Creek, Goodale Creek, Horton Creek (Owens Valley Management Area) and Crowley Lake (Long Valley Management Area).
 - Vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails on 748,700 acres. Poleta Canyon is open to vehicle use on 1,300 acres. If Congress designates the Southern Inyo Wilderness Study Area as wilderness, 28,200 acres will be closed to vehicle use (Figures 3 and 4). Some seasonal closures will be designated in the resource area in off-highway vehicle management plans. Snowmobile use will be limited to designated areas and routes.
 - Designate U.S. Highway 395 along all Bureau land in Mono County as a Scenic Byway.
 - Manage all activities to conform with Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards (Figures 5 and 6, and Appendix 3). VRM standards will be applied according to Visual Standard Operating Procedures.
- Protect and enhance unique or important vegetation communities and wildlife habitats.
- Yearlong Protection of endangered, threatened, candidate, and sensitive plant and animal habitats.
 - Yearlong Protection of aspen groves, meadows and riparian areas.
 - Manage all stream reaches that contain essential habitat characteristics described in the recovery plan for any endangered or threatened fish species to meet desired plant community goals for riparian areas.
 - Yearlong Protection within 1/3 mile of sage grouse leks.
 - Seasonal Protection within 2 miles of active sage grouse leks from 5/1 to 6/30.
 - No camping within 1/3 mile of sage grouse leks from 3/1 to 6/30.
 - Increase to 60% the amount of sagebrush habitat within 2 miles of leks that has optimum characteristics for sage grouse. (Presently only 30% of sagebrush habitat has optimum characteristics for sage grouse).
 - Manage sagebrush-bitterbrush areas within 2 miles of sage grouse leks to meet desired plant community goals.
 - Pursue the acquisition of wetlands or endangered, threatened, candidate or sensitive plant and animal habitats as opportunities arise.

OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS



(SOUTH HALF)

Figure 3

OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS

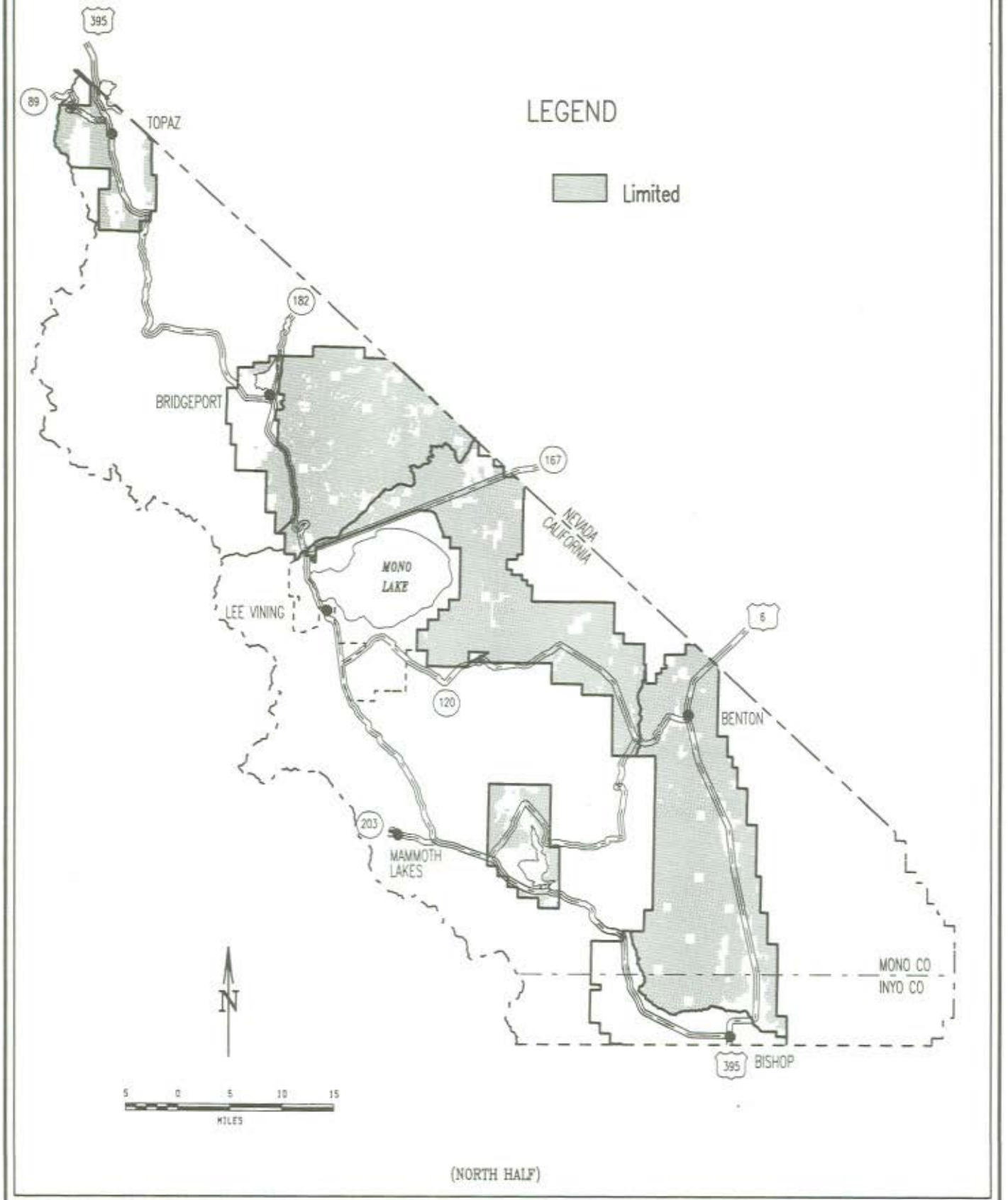
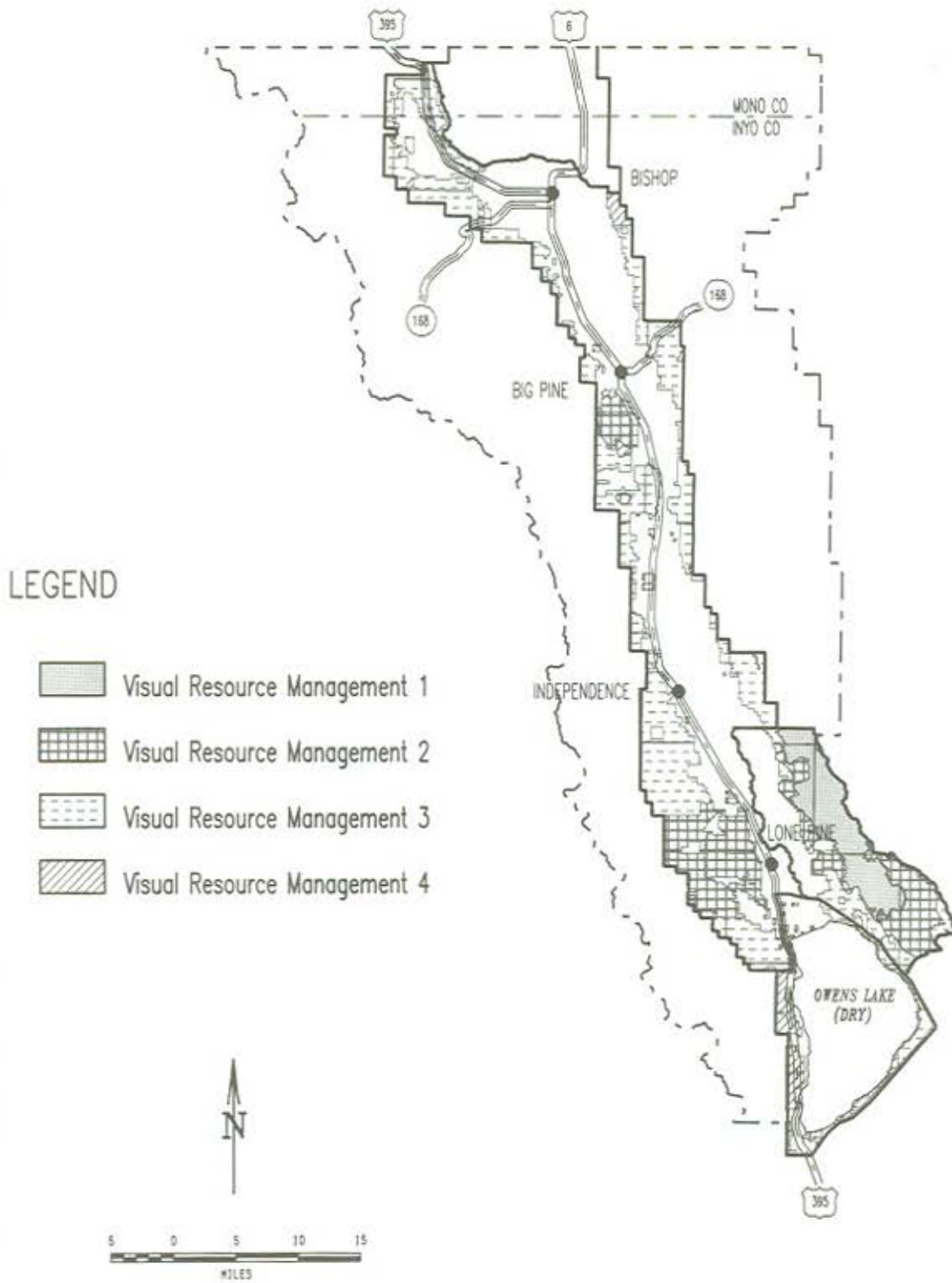


Figure 4

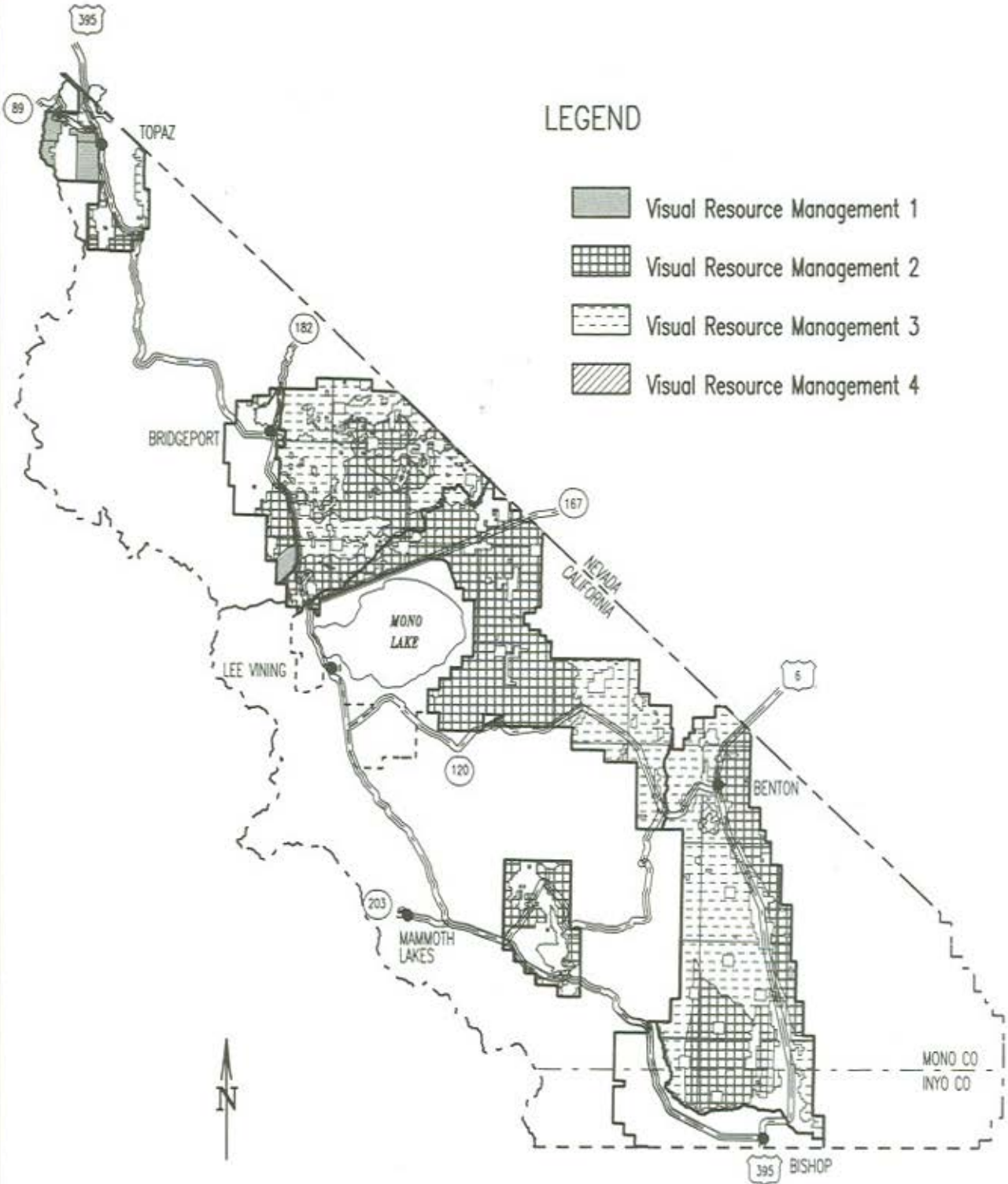
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



(SOUTH HALF)

Figure 5

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



(NORTH HALF)

Figure 6

- Manage all activities to assure no net loss of wetlands or riparian habitats. Allow mitigation for impacts to wetlands or riparian habitats to occur outside of the resource area.
- On stream reaches with vegetative bank protection ratings of less than 3, do not allow the streambank artificial soil alteration rating to exceed 20%. Stricter vegetative bank protection and streambank soil alteration standards may be applied in activity plans.
- Maintain 95% of the previous 10 year mean monthly flow, or 95% of the existing flow, whichever is greater, for all area streams and springs, subject to valid existing rights.

The entire resource area will remain open for locatable mineral entry with the following exceptions:

- The Dogtown and Bishop Petroglyph Loop mineral withdrawals (2,000 acres) are closed to mineral entry.
- There are 7,535 acres proposed for withdrawal to protect wildlife, recreation, visual and historic values. If Congress designates the Southern Inyo Wilderness Study Area as wilderness, an additional 28,200 acres will be withdrawn from mineral entry.

Provide salable minerals for community and private use.

Provide for geothermal exploration and development.

Livestock management practices including initial stocking rates and forage allocations are based on decisions in the Benton-Owens Valley and Bodie-Coleville Grazing EISs. The following management prescriptions supplement existing grazing decisions:

- Livestock grazing utilization on key species will not exceed 60% on any

allotment unless a different level is specified in an activity plan. When utilization levels, verified through monitoring, exceed 60% a change in livestock management practices will be implemented to achieve the 60% level. Required changes will be developed in consultation and coordination with the livestock permittee and other affected parties. Changes may include one or a combination of the following: changes in grazing preference, season of use, or location of use.

- Livestock grazing utilization on bitterbrush within mule deer migration corridors or winter ranges will not exceed 30% of annual growth.
- Manage livestock use of sagebrush vegetation types within 2 miles of sage grouse leks to achieve shrub structure and density characteristics more homogeneous (less patchy) than average. Horizontal cover (grass, forb and shrub combined) in these areas will range between 8 and 20%.
- If tule elk numbers decline to less than 440 due to competition with livestock for available forage, a change in livestock management practices will be considered and may be implemented.
- Prohibit livestock grazing in unallotted areas or areas outside of existing allotment boundaries.

Manage cultural resources for information potential by initiating data recovery projects at threatened sites.

Allow only noncommercial harvesting of pinyon nuts.

Limit the intensity of fire suppression efforts used to control wildfires to the most economical response consistent with human and resource values at risk.

- Prohibit the use of bulldozers or other heavy equipment in old growth timber

stands, prominent viewsheds, riparian areas, aspen groves, cultural sites, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), mule deer winter ranges, the Alabama Hills and the entire South Inyo and Owens Lake management areas. This restriction may be lifted by the Area Manager to protect human life, private property, structures, visitor safety or sensitive or valuable resources.

Support Needs

Monitor resource conditions as needed to define present conditions and evaluate if resource condition objectives are being achieved. Use monitoring information to determine if changes to authorized uses are needed and if those changes require a plan amendment.

Prepare off-highway vehicle designation and implementation plans in cooperation with the Toiyabe and Inyo National Forests, City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and other interested parties.

Coordinate with CalTrans, Mono County, Toiyabe National Forest and Inyo National Forest to designate U.S. Highway 395 as a Scenic Byway.

Develop a program for interpretation of cultural and natural resources. Provide interpretive signing at selected cultural sites.

Develop a program to educate the public on the values of preserving their historic and prehistoric heritage. Work with public schools to enhance their curriculum and to provide training for teachers and students.

Coordinate all fish and wildlife reintroductions with the California Department of Fish and Game and other agencies or groups as appropriate.

Cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other appropriate agencies on

the development and implementation of endangered and threatened species recovery plans.

Develop Waterfowl Habitat Management Plans for the resource area. Include actions to protect nesting areas, construct habitat improvement projects, and complete habitat inventories and nesting surveys.

Design and implement habitat improvement projects in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Quail Unlimited, Cal Trout and other conservation organizations.

Coordinate with the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests on the administration of grazing allotments with common operators.

Quantify instream flows over a 10 year period with the following management area priority: (1) Owens Valley, (2) Bodie Hills and Bridgeport Valley, (3) Coleville, (4) Benton and Long Valley, and (5) Granite Mountain, Owens Lake and South Inyo.

Identify all salable mineral deposits. Develop a coordinated mineral material sales program with other appropriate agencies. Complete fair market value appraisals for all salable minerals and update as needed.

Modify the fire suppression plan to incorporate fire-related decisions. Include burn prescriptions to allow for the implementation of limited and modified suppression techniques.

Use prescribed burning to support desired plant community, fire prevention and wildlife habitat goals.

Update the Fuelwood Management Plan.

Coleville Management Area

Description

This area comprises 21,560 acres of Bureau land in the northernmost portion of the resource area (Figure 7). Important resources include old growth fir in Slinkard Valley, mule deer winter range in Slinkard and Antelope Valleys, and eleven perennial streams. Three of the streams provide recreational trout fishing and Mill Creek provides habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout. Scenic values in the area are high. Part of the West Walker River has been designated by the State of California as a Wild and Scenic River.

Management Theme

Manage with an emphasis on wildlife habitat enhancement. Species of concern are mule deer, mountain beaver and species associated with old growth forests. Secondary emphasis is on visual resources and recreation.

Decisions

Dispose of up to 45 acres for patent of existing Recreation and Public Purpose Act leases for the Walker Landfill and the Toiyabe Indian Health Clinic.

Acquire up to 846 acres of private land west of U.S. Highway 395 to protect mule deer winter range and scenic values. No private homes will be acquired.

Enhance semi-primitive dispersed recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, camping and biking.

Designate a Scenic Byway along portions of State Highway 89.

Manage the area to conform to the following Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards:

- VRM I - Slinkard Valley ACEC.
- VRM III - North of State Highway 89 and east of Antelope Valley.
- VRM II - Remainder of the area.

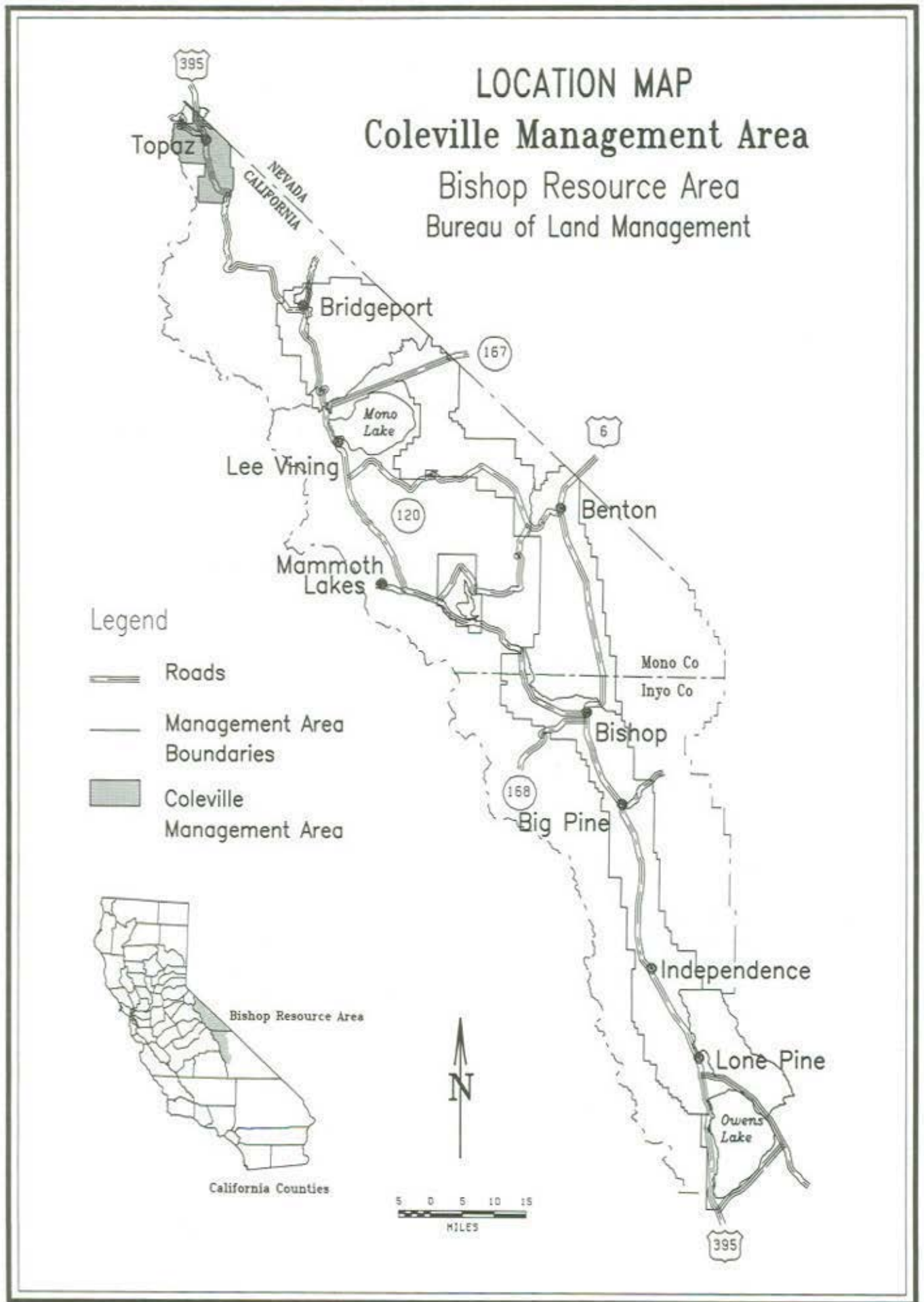
Yearlong Protection of mule deer winter range east of Eastside Lane.

Enhance habitat for native quail populations.

Manage Mill Creek, Slinkard Creek, Slinkard Creek Tributaries 1 and 2, and Rodriguez Creek so they remain suitable for reintroduction of Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with the following Desired Plant Community (DPC) prescriptions:

- Meet DPC goals on 50 acres (100%) of riparian habitat to increase wildlife habitat diversity, provide high quality fish habitat and control erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 120 acres (100%) of aspen to increase wildlife habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 370 acres (100%) of old growth white fir to maintain habitat diversity, provide habitat for old growth associated species and ensure adequate forest regeneration.
- Meet DPC goals on 7,435 acres (75%) of pinyon-juniper to increase wildlife habitat diversity and improve mule deer habitat.
- Meet DPC goals on 850 acres (75%) of sagebrush-bitterbrush to provide cover and forage for mule deer.



10,520 acres that includes Slinkard Valley (see Special Management Areas Map) are designated as the Slinkard Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The goals of the ACEC are to protect wildlife habitat and scenic values and to enhance recreation opportunities. The following management prescriptions apply to actions occurring within the ACEC:

- Maintain and improve habitat conditions for mountain beaver (Category 2 species) by limiting the types of uses and vegetative treatments allowed in riparian zones.
- Yearlong Protection of old growth white fir stands.
- Manage all activities to conform to VRM I standards.
- Eliminate livestock grazing on the Dry Canyon and Slinkard Valley allotments if alternative grazing areas are found.

Protect and interpret the historic Golden Gate Mine site.

Consolidate salable minerals to one pit.

Actions within the State-designated corridor of the Walker River will be consistent with the State Wild and Scenic River designation.

Prohibit timber harvesting in old growth areas. Allow commercial and non-commercial fuelwood harvesting of live pinyon and juniper to improve wildlife habitat or meet desired plant community goals. Dead wood (down only) may be collected for campfire use.

Support Needs

Coordinate with CalTrans, BLM Carson City District, Toiyabe National Forest and Mono County to designate State Highway 89 as a Scenic Byway.

Coordinate any recreation management for Topaz Lake with Mono County and the Walker River Irrigation District.

Develop a Habitat Management Plan for the West Walker deer herd in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game and Toiyabe National Forest.

Develop water sources for mule deer east of Eastside Lane.

Develop water sources for native quail populations.

Develop an activity plan for the Slinkard ACEC that emphasizes wildlife, scenic and recreational values.

Implement measures to restore meadows and control erosion in Slinkard and Little Antelope Valleys to improve habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout and other riparian dependent species. Coordinate these activities with the California Department of Fish and Game and Toiyabe National Forest.

Monitor water quality to determine the impacts of cattle and recreational use.

Develop protective and interpretive measures for the Golden Gate Mine site.

Inventory old growth white fir stands for presence and abundance of the southern spotted owl. Evaluate these stands for spotted owl habitat suitability.

Survey bald eagle habitat near Topaz Lake to assess management needs.

Rationale

The Coleville Management Area has significant natural resources including old growth timber, key deer winter range, potential habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout, and habitats that support a diverse

assemblage of wildlife species such as pine marten, blue grouse, black bear, mountain beaver and waterfowl. These resources are receiving increased pressure from expanding communities and uncontrolled dispersed recreational use. There is tremendous potential to manage and increase recreational use while lessening impacts to the natural resource base. Many visitors who pass through the area do not realize the scope of recreation opportunities available in this management area.

These decisions will protect and enhance natural resources, while improving recreation opportunities. They also provide some land for local community services. With more intensive management, it will be possible to both increase recreational use and control adverse impacts to the natural environment. ACEC designation for the area surrounding Slinkard Valley will provide additional protection and recognition of the outstanding biological diversity and scenery of this relatively small area.

Bridgeport Valley Management Area

Description

This area contains 13,050 acres of Bureau land west of Bridgeport and north of Conway Summit (Figure 8). It has important scenic, wildlife and riparian values, and supports mineral, recreation and livestock uses. The Travertine Hot Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) has important cultural and recreational values, as well as high geothermal potential.

Management Theme

Emphasize scenic, recreational, cultural and wildlife values in the Virginia Creek and Dog Creek areas while accommodating some community needs near Bridgeport.

Decisions

Dispose of up to 270 acres to provide for residential expansion and community services.

Acquire up to 1,338 acres of private land to protect riparian, wildlife and scenic values.

Enhance semi-primitive dispersed recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, camping, biking and snowmobiling.

Manage the area to conform to the following Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards:

- VRM I - Conway Summit ACEC.
- VRM II - Southern block of Bureau lands.
- VRM III - Remainder of the area.

Manage the marshes in Sections 18 and 19 on the west side of Bridgeport Reservoir to enhance waterfowl habitat and provide waterfowl hunting and viewing opportunities.

Enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with the following Desired Plant Community (DPC) prescriptions:

- Meet DPC goals on 100 acres (75%) of riparian habitat to increase wildlife habitat diversity, provide high quality fish habitat and control erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 470 acres (75%) of aspen to increase wildlife habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 85 acres (75%) of wet meadows to increase habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 1,780 acres (25%) of sagebrush-bitterbrush to provide cover and forage for mule deer and sage grouse.

LOCATION MAP

Bridgeport Valley Management Area

Bishop Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management



2,700 acres near Conway Summit (see Special Management Areas Map) are designated as the Conway Summit Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The goals of the ACEC are to protect scenic values and to enhance dispersed recreation opportunities. The following management prescriptions apply to actions occurring within the ACEC:

- Yearlong Protection of the ACEC. Target resources are scenery, riparian habitat and recreation opportunities.
- Prohibit livestock grazing on the Conway Summit acquired lands.
- Manage all activities to conform to VRM I standards.
- Enhance dispersed recreation opportunities such as winter sports, camping, mountain biking and hiking.

Travertine Hot Springs (see Special Management Areas Map) is retained as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The goals of the ACEC are to enhance recreation opportunities and to protect candidate species habitats, unique geologic features and cultural resources. The following management prescriptions apply to actions occurring within the ACEC:

- Yearlong Protection of the ACEC. Target resources are recreation opportunities, candidate species habitats, geologic features, and cultural and Native American values.
- Geothermal exploration and development will be allowed only if evidence is provided which shows no impact to the thermal aquifer or surface water source would occur.
- Prohibit shooting in the ACEC.
- Propose the ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral exploration and development.

Protect and interpret the Dogtown historic site.

Propose the following stream reaches for withdrawal from locatable mineral exploration and development:

- Dog Creek from Dunderberg Creek to 1.5 miles downstream.
- Virginia Creek from the Toiyabe National Forest boundary to the south boundary of the Dogtown locatable mineral withdrawal.

Provide salable minerals at the Green Creek mineral material pits.

Support Needs

Coordinate recreation management with the Toiyabe National Forest. Focus management efforts along Virginia Creek between Conway Summit and the National Forest boundary.

Coordinate any recreation management for Bridgeport Reservoir with Mono County and the Walker River Irrigation District.

Acquire access around Bridgeport Reservoir to enhance recreation opportunities. Avoid wetland habitat.

Develop interpretive facilities at waterfowl areas in Sections 18 and 19.

Participate on the Mono County Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee. Support the development of a Special Area Management Plan for wetlands in Bridgeport Valley.

Participate with appropriate agencies in determination of Bridgeport Reservoir water level.

Develop a comprehensive Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the Bridgeport Valley and Bodie Hills management areas.

Develop an Allotment Management Plan for the Green Creek Allotment.

Develop an activity plan for the Conway Summit ACEC that emphasizes scenic values and recreational uses including camping, mountain biking, hiking and winter sports.

Develop an activity plan for the Travertine Hot Springs ACEC that emphasizes recreational use and protection of candidate species habitats, geologic features, and cultural and Native American values.

Develop a hydrologic model of Travertine Hot Springs to provide the basis for impact assessment on geothermal exploration or development.

Explore cooperative management of the Travertine Hot Springs ACEC with Native Americans and other groups.

Provide a BLM information outpost at the Dogtown historic marker on U.S. Highway 395.

Coordinate with CalTrans to relinquish and rehabilitate selected mineral material pits.

Rationale

Spectacular scenery, important riparian habitat, and significant recreational and cultural values in the Bridgeport Management Area contrast with other important land uses such as mineral development, rights-of-way, livestock grazing and community needs.

The Conway Summit ACEC and VRM I classification will protect the spectacular scenery and enhance compatible uses such as dispersed recreation and camping. Rights-of-way can be routed east of U.S. Highway 395 along an existing transmission line in a VRM III area.

Riparian habitat, cultural resources and other values will be protected by locatable mineral withdrawals for Dog Creek, Virginia Creek, the Dogtown historic site, and the Travertine Hot Springs ACEC. These areas have high potential for mineral development

and sensitive resources can be best protected by withdrawing these lands. Most of the management area would remain open to mining, and valid existing mineral rights will be recognized.

Geothermal exploration and development will be allowed in the Travertine Hot Springs area only if hydrologic studies show that these activities will not impact the thermal aquifer or surface water source. This requirement was included to protect special status species, geological features, and recreational and cultural values.

Providing land for community services and residential expansion near Bridgeport will help the local community. Recreation improvements such as interpretive facilities and access around Bridgeport Reservoir will help support increased tourism.

Bodie Hills Management Area

Description

This area encompasses 121,150 acres of Bureau land east of Bridgeport (Figure 9). It includes the Bodie National Historic Landmark and has significant mineral, wildlife, riparian, livestock grazing, cultural, and recreational values. Cooperation and coordination with Bodie State Historic Park is an important concern in this management area.

Management Theme

Manage to protect historic and scenic values and to enhance wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities.

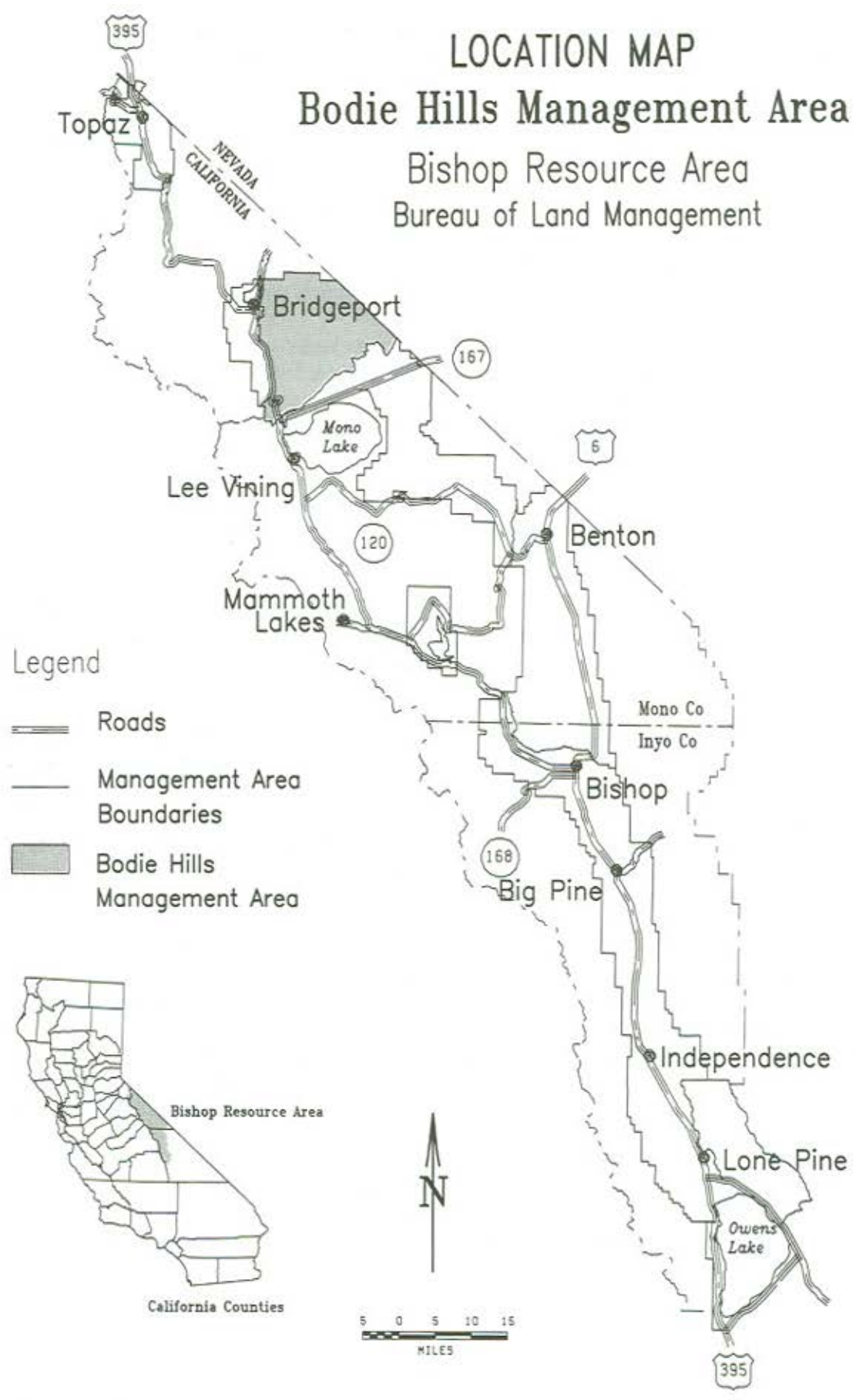
Decisions

Dispose of up to 80 acres to Bodie State Historic Park for patent of the existing Recreation and Public Purpose Act lease for the Bodie Cemetery. Provide acreage for park and visitor facilities as determined in the Bodie Bowl ACEC management plan to

LOCATION MAP

Bodie Hills Management Area

Bishop Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management



protect the values of the State Historic Park and the National Historic Landmark, and to improve management of the area.

Dispose of up to 2 acres near Bridgeport to provide for residential expansion and community services.

Acquire up to 5,725 acres of private land to protect wildlife, riparian, recreational and cultural values.

Enhance dispersed recreation opportunities such as off-highway vehicle touring, primitive camping, mountain biking, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing and environmental interpretation.

Designate Scenic Byways along Geiger Grade and State Highway 270 (Bodie Road) and a Backcountry Byway from Bodie State Historic Park to Aurora.

Manage the area to conform to the following Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards:

- VRM II - Bodie Bowl and main travel corridors.
- VRM III - Remainder of the area.

Seasonal Protection and no snowmobile use in sage grouse wintering areas from 11/15 to 5/1.

Vehicle routes impacting sensitive plant habitats or areas where mule deer or sage grouse concentrate will be closed, seasonally closed or rerouted to improve and protect habitat.

Stabilize and restore selected stream reaches in Aurora Canyon, Hot Springs Canyon, Rough Creek and all tributaries, Atastra Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Bodie Creek, Clark Canyon, Rattlesnake Gulch and

Clearwater Creek to improve riparian and aquatic habitat quality. Target specific improvements to:

- Improve channel water storage capacity to increase base flow.
- Reduce turbidity and sedimentation.
- Improve the aquatic environment to increase fish and invertebrate populations.
- Reduce water temperatures in summer to 60 degrees F or less.
- Provide habitat suitable for Lahontan cutthroat trout reintroduction.

Enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with the following Desired Plant Community (DPC) prescriptions:

- Meet DPC goals on 95 acres (50%) of riparian habitat to increase wildlife habitat diversity, provide high quality fish habitat and control erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 470 acres (50%) of aspen to increase wildlife habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 101 acres (50%) of wet meadows to increase habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 26,915 acres (75%) of pinyon-juniper to increase wildlife habitat diversity and improve mule deer habitat.
- Meet DPC goals on 25,250 acres (50%) of sagebrush-bitterbrush to provide cover and forage for mule deer, pronghorn and sage grouse.

5,935 acres surrounding the town of Bodie (see Special Management Areas Map) are designated as the Bodie Bowl Area of

Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The goals of the ACEC are to preserve the existing historical integrity of the Bodie National Historic Landmark and to protect scenic values. The following management prescriptions apply to actions occurring within the ACEC:

- No surface disturbing activities which may adversely affect the National Historic Landmark will be permitted until Limits of Acceptable Change are established in the ACEC management plan.
- No surface disturbing activities will be allowed to exceed the established Limits of Acceptable Change.
- Manage all activities to conform to VRM II standards (see Visual Standard Operating Procedures and Appendix 3).
- Prohibit shooting in portions of the Bodie Bowl to protect historic structures and ensure public safety.
- Yearlong Protection of the ACEC. Target resources are historic and scenic values.
- Propose the entire Bodie Bowl ACEC for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.
- Employ full fire suppression techniques against all wildfires.

Travertine Hot Springs (see Special Management Areas Map) is retained as an ACEC (see Bridgeport Valley Management Area for ACEC goals and decisions).

Eliminate grazing on the Copper Mountain Allotment if the current permittee transfers or relinquishes his grazing privileges.

Allow commercial and non-commercial green fuelwood and Christmas tree harvesting to improve wildlife habitat or meet desired plant community goals. Dead wood (down only) may be collected for campfire use.

Support Needs

Prepare an activity plan for the Bodie Bowl ACEC through a public participation process that includes all interests and interested agencies. The plan will include:

- Limits of Acceptable Change (LACs) for the entire Bodie Bowl ACEC. LACs may be developed through an EIS analyzing a Plan of Operations or separately as part of the ACEC management plan. An explanation of the LAC concept is provided in Appendix 5 of the final RMP.
- A no shooting zone for the Bodie Bowl that considers historic values, public safety and hunting opportunities. Identification of the no shooting zone will be coordinated through the Coordinated Resource Management Planning process or ACEC plan.
- Issues identified by the California Department of Parks and Recreation or by the public during the ACEC planning process shall be considered and can be provided for, including but not limited to access and facility needs. One goal is consistency of management approach with State Parks.

Coordinate and consult with the California State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for all activities which may affect the Bodie National Historic Landmark.

Develop an activity plan for recreational use in the management area. Incorporate an interpretive element to highlight wildlife, geologic and cultural values.

Coordinate Scenic Byway and Backcountry Byway designations with CalTrans, Toiyabe National Forest, Bodie State Historic Park and Mono County.

Identify and implement closure or seasonal closure of vehicle routes impacting sensitive plant habitats or areas where mule deer or

sage grouse concentrate through the Coordinated Resource Management Planning process.

Develop a comprehensive Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the Bridgeport Valley and Bodie Hills management areas.

Monitor water quality to determine the impacts of recreation, grazing and mining activities.

Coordinate with Mono County to reduce the adverse impacts of road maintenance.

Develop or revise Allotment Management Plans through the Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) process. Existing CRMPs will be revised to incorporate desired plant community and stream improvement goals.

Identify mineral material sources near Bridgeport and U.S. Highway 395.

Coordinate with CalTrans to relinquish and rehabilitate mineral material pits to meet viewshed objectives.

Rationale

The Bodie Hills Management Area has a large number of high quality resources including wildlife, cultural resources, recreation opportunities, livestock grazing and minerals. These decisions are designed to accommodate a wide variety of uses, while protecting and improving sensitive areas and resources.

The Bodie Bowl has been the focus of considerable controversy due to potential impacts of mining on the town of Bodie. ACEC designation, a locatable mineral withdrawal, and other decisions affecting the Bowl were made to protect the integrity of the National Historic Landmark. The boundary of the National Historic Landmark will be determined by the Department of the Interior and include historic resources within the Bodie Bowl that are of national significance. The ACEC boundary (5,935

acres) covers the zone of influence on historic and associated visual resources which deserve special recognition and management. As a result of ACEC designation, this nationally significant resource will receive additional recognition and all mineral exploration activities will require a Plan of Operations. This gives BLM greater control over these activities. The entire ACEC will also be withdrawn from mineral entry to preclude the establishment of future mining claims within the Bodie Bowl and thereby help protect these important cultural, recreational and scenic values. With the exception of the withdrawal area, the management area as a whole will remain open to mining.

Yearlong Protection restrictions, desired plant community goals, and acquisition proposals were established to maintain and restore streams, riparian areas, meadows, aspen groves and other important wildlife habitats.

Intensive recreation management will be implemented to decrease adverse impacts in sensitive areas and enhance recreation opportunities throughout the Bodie Hills Management Area.

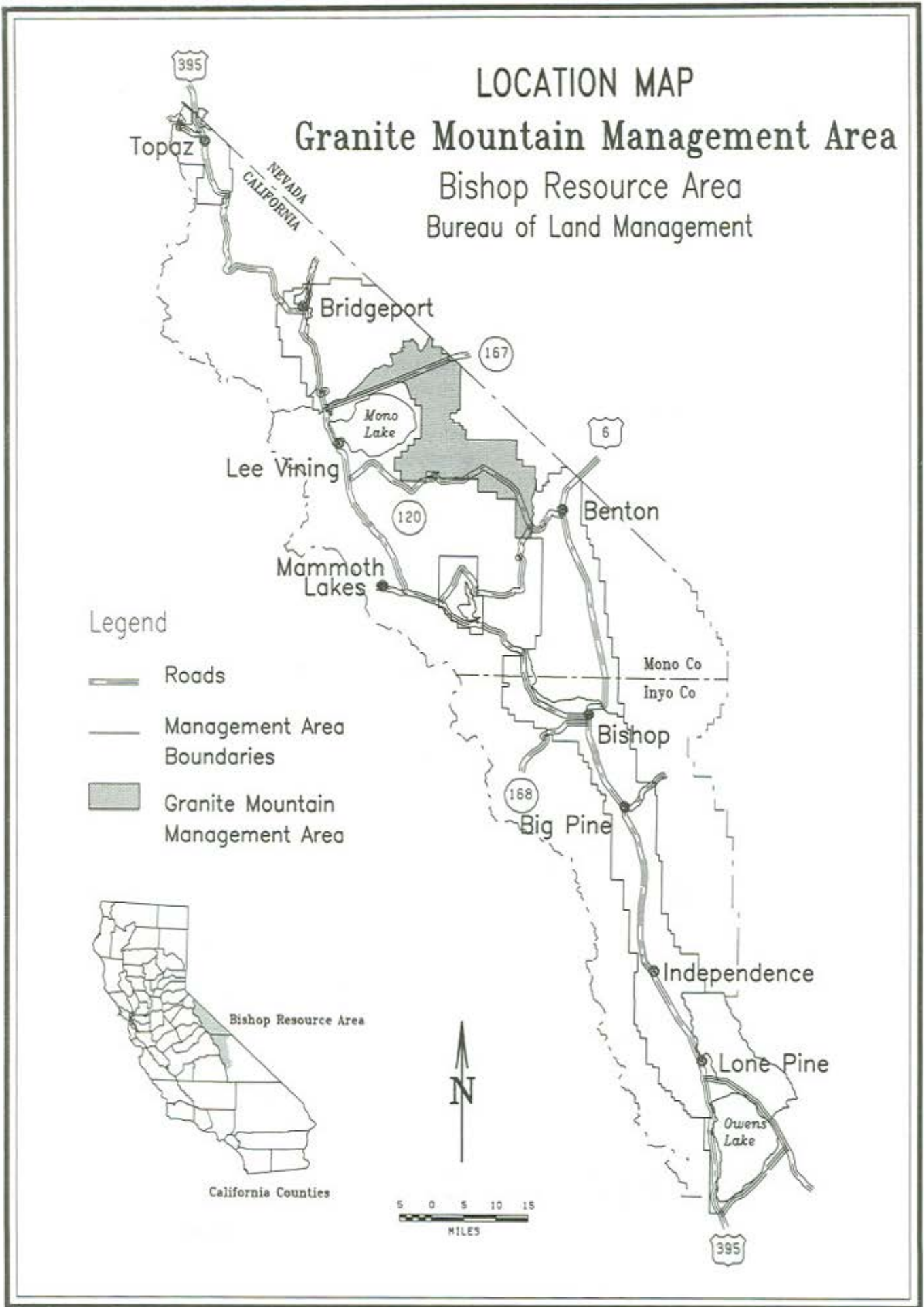
Granite Mountain Management Area

Description

This area contains 160,490 acres of Bureau land around the Mono Basin Scenic Area and in Adobe Valley (Figure 10). The area has important wildlife, wild horse, scenic, and recreational values. There is little locatable mineral potential. Geothermal potential is high in the Mono-Long Valley Known Geothermal Area.

Management Theme

Protect and enhance wildlife habitat and scenic values. Provide opportunities for dispersed recreation while allowing mineral exploration and development.



Decisions

Dispose of up to 80 acres near Mono City for residential expansion and community services.

Acquire up to 1,120 acres of private land to enhance recreation opportunities and protect scenic values. Acquire lands or scenic easements where private development would degrade scenery and violate visual resource management objectives for Mono Basin.

Enhance semi-primitive nonmotorized and motorized dispersed recreation opportunities in the Mono Basin, Granite Mountain and Cowtrack Mountain areas. Developed facilities for recreational purposes will be kept to a minimum and designed for resource protection.

Manage the area to conform to the following Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards:

- VRM II - Mono Basin and Granite Mountain.
- VRM III - Adobe Valley.

Enhance habitat for sage grouse, mule deer and pronghorn.

- Use selective removal of decadent vegetation to improve migratory habitat for the Mono Lake deer herd.
- Prohibit grazing in the Frazier Canyon Allotment.

Enhance waterfowl habitat at Larkin, Antelope, Black and Adobe Lakes.

- Acquire up to 3,515 acres of private wetland.
- Reestablish the Larkin Lake Allotment. Livestock grazing will only be authorized to maintain waterfowl habitat quality.

Protect raptor nesting and roosting sites in the Dry Creek and Granite Mountain areas.

- Yearlong Protection of the Jeffrey pine at Dry Creek.

Stabilize and restore Adobe Creek to improve habitat conditions for the existing brown trout population.

- Improve channel water storage capacity to increase base flow by 30%.
- Do not allow the streambank artificial soil alteration rating to exceed 20%.

Enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with the following Desired Plant Community (DPC) prescriptions:

- Meet DPC goals on 8 acres (75%) of riparian habitat to increase wildlife habitat diversity, provide high quality fish habitat and control erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 100% of the area's wet meadows to increase habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 25 acres (100%) of Jeffrey pine to maximize wildlife habitat diversity and ensure adequate forest regeneration.
- Meet DPC goals on 8,495 acres (50%) of pinyon-juniper to increase wildlife habitat diversity and improve mule deer habitat.
- Meet DPC goals on 8,570 acres (25%) of sagebrush-bitterbrush to provide cover and forage for mule deer, pronghorn and sage grouse.

Manage habitat for the Montgomery Pass wild horse herd in accordance with the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory Coordinated Resource Management Plan.

Prohibit commercial timber harvesting of Jeffrey pine at Dry Creek. Allow commercial and non-commercial fuelwood harvesting of

dead (down only) and live trees to improve wildlife habitat or meet desired plant community goals. Allow commercial and non-commercial Christmas tree harvesting of pinyon in Frazier Canyon to improve mule deer habitat.

Support Needs

Develop an interpretive plan highlighting historic, wildlife, scenic and geologic values. Focus efforts in the Mono Basin and Bodie travel corridors.

Develop water sources in the Mono Basin and Granite Mountain areas for sage grouse, mule deer and pronghorn.

Inventory sage grouse wintering areas and strutting grounds.

Coordinate with private landowners at Conway Ranch to retain current fishery and wildlife habitat on Wilson Creek.

Develop a cooperative management agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game to improve and protect wetland and aquatic habitat in Adobe Valley. Fence the Larkin Lake Allotment along the California/Nevada border.

Fence the unnamed spring at Dutch Pete's and Indian Spring to prevent degradation.

Determine raptor nesting site protective zones and measures.

Rationale

The Granite Mountain Management Area has a number of significant resources including habitat for mule deer, sage grouse and pronghorn, and an important visual background for the Mono Basin National Scenic Area. These decisions were selected because they will protect and improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions, enhance recreation opportunities, and protect visual resources near the Mono Basin National Scenic Area.

Long Valley Management Area

Description

This area consists of 18,210 acres of Bureau land around Crowley Lake (Figure 11). The area has numerous thermal springs and high geothermal potential. The area also has significant wildlife, wetland, and recreational values.

Management Theme

Enhance recreation opportunities through the improvement of facilities. Protect and enhance wildlife and scenic values.

Decisions

Land use authorizations within the Mammoth-June Lake Airport planning area will be consistent with safety mitigation specified in the airport plan. The airport plan restricts the height, lighting, and steam emissions from geothermal and other developments that would interfere with safe operation of the airport.

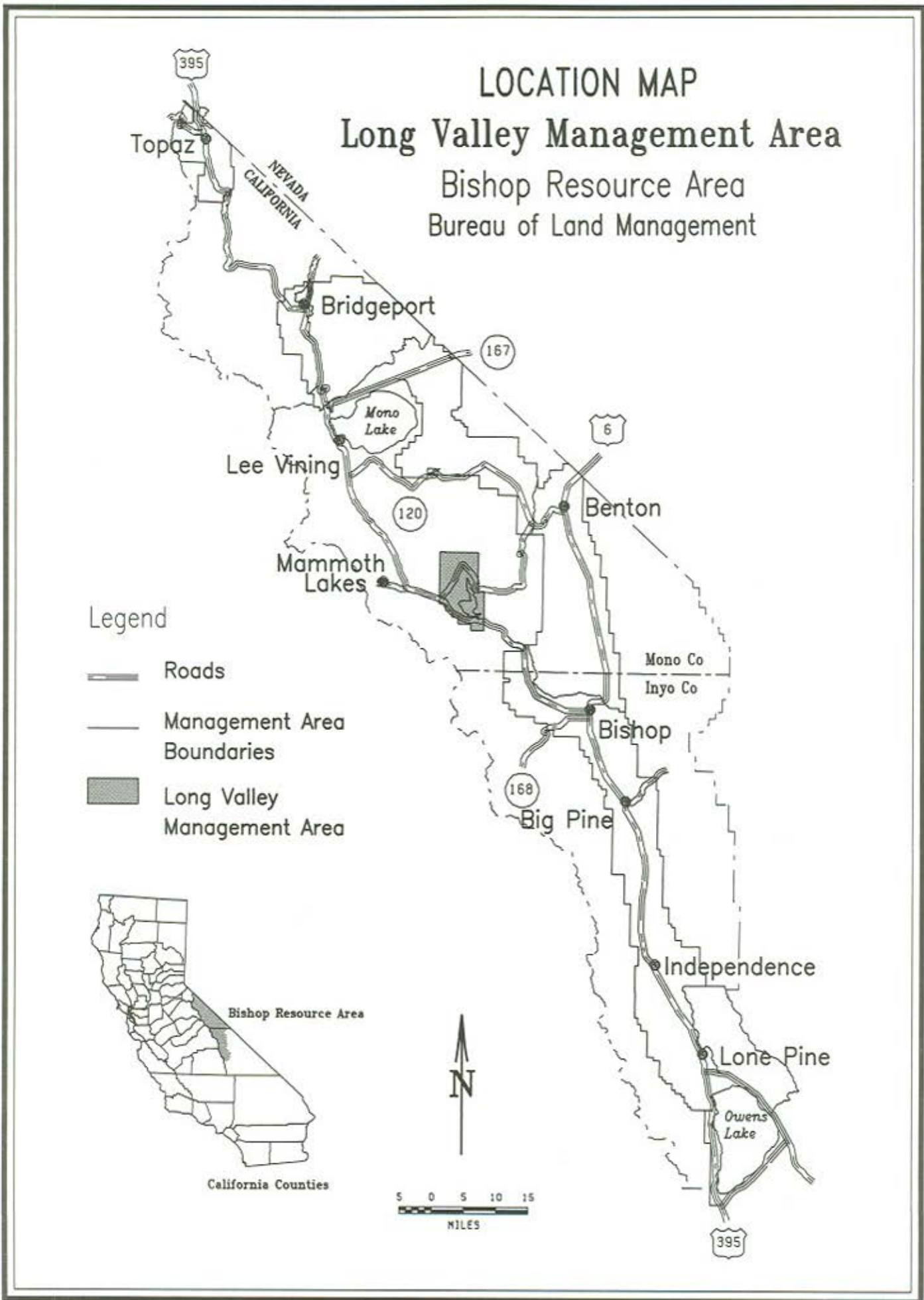
Provide for recreation opportunities such as mountain biking, off-highway vehicle touring, camping and interpretation of natural and geologic features.

Provide for recreational hot spring use while mitigating impacts to endangered, threatened and sensitive species, riparian areas and wet meadows.

Manage the entire area to conform to Visual Resource Management (VRM) II standards.

Protect crucial sage grouse and mule deer habitats with the following measures:

- Seasonal Protection and no snowmobile use in sage grouse wintering areas from 11/15 to 5/1.



- Manage livestock use to enhance meadow habitat for sage grouse on the Hot Creek and Wilfred Creek allotments.
- Acquire up to 475 acres of private land to protect sage grouse habitat.
- Yearlong Protection of the mule deer migration corridor.
- Acquire up to 80 acres of private land to protect the mule deer migration corridor.

Maintain or enhance habitat for endangered, threatened and candidate species, and other species of management concern.

- Yearlong Protection of Great Basin springsnail and Owens speckled dace habitats.
- Develop new habitats for Owens tui chub and Owens speckled dace.
- Acquire up to 10 acres of private land to protect Owens speckled dace, Great Basin springsnail and diving beetle habitats.

Enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with the following Desired Plant Community (DPC) prescriptions:

- Meet DPC goals on 35 acres (100%) of riparian habitat to increase wildlife habitat diversity, provide high quality fish habitat and control erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 50% of the area's wet meadows to increase habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 610 acres (75%) of Jeffrey pine to maximize wildlife habitat diversity and insure adequate forest regeneration.
- Meet DPC goals on 1,100 acres (25%) of sagebrush-bitterbrush to provide cover and forage for mule deer, pronghorn and sage grouse.

Allow commercial and non-commercial fuelwood harvesting of dead (down only) trees.

Support Needs

Prepare an activity plan for recreation management in the area. Include prescriptions for management of hot springs, interpretation of geologic and other natural features, consideration of mountain bike trails, and management of dispersed camping and other recreational activities.

Prepare a Habitat Management Plan for sage grouse in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game, Inyo National Forest, and City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Coordinate with Mono County to protect sage grouse habitat.

Prepare a Habitat Management Plan for the Round Valley deer winter range and migration corridor in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game, Inyo National Forest, and City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Construct ponds or related habitats for Owens tui chub and Owens speckled dace.

Coordinate with CalTrans to relinquish and rehabilitate selected mineral material pits.

Develop Allotment Management Plans for the Hot Creek and Wilfred Creek allotments.

Rationale

The Long Valley Management Area contains crucial habitats for mule deer, sage grouse, and other wildlife. There is tremendous potential to enhance recreation opportunities and increase visitor use. While the potential for geothermal development exists, unless there is a major change in the world energy situation, development of geothermal resources on Bureau land appears unlikely in the near future.

These decisions will protect the integrity of the mule deer migration corridor and sage grouse leks. The decisions were also selected to enhance recreation opportunities and reduce the impacts of recreation and other activities on sensitive wildlife species.

Benton Management Area

Description

This area extends from Benton to Bishop and contains 178,220 acres of Bureau land (Figure 12). The area has a major wetland in the Fish Slough Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), endangered fish habitat, and important cultural and recreational values. Extensive mineral material deposits occur throughout the area.

Management Theme

Provide for a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities. Enhance scenic and wildlife resources while providing for land disposals along U.S. Highway 6.

Decisions

Dispose of up to 5,435 acres of Bureau land for agricultural use, residential expansion and community services.

Provide up to 200 acres adjacent to the Benton Indian Reservation for withdrawal to expand the reservation.

Enhance semi-primitive dispersed nonmotorized recreation opportunities in the south Tableland area. Provide opportunities for hiking, sightseeing and resource interpretation. Allow off-highway vehicle use in conformance with the High Desert Off-highway Vehicle Plan.

- Allow no new routes on the south Tableland except for those identified in the High Desert Off-highway Vehicle Plan.

- Prohibit mineral material sales on the south Tableland to protect scenic and recreational values.
- Acquire up to 640 acres on the south Tableland to protect scenic and recreational values.

Manage the northern Tableland and Blind Springs Hill areas for semi-primitive motorized recreation as per the High Desert Off-highway Vehicle Plan.

Manage the remainder of the area for semi-primitive nonmotorized and motorized recreation opportunities.

Manage the area to conform to the following Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards:

- VRM II - South Tableland and alluvial fans of the White Mountains from Paiute Creek to the Nevada border.
- VRM IV - Blind Springs Hill.
- VRM III - Remainder of area.

Protect crucial sage grouse and mule deer habitats with the following measures:

- Seasonal Protection of sage grouse wintering areas from 12/1 to 5/1.
- Seasonal Protection of the Casa Diablo mule deer winter range from 11/1 to 4/30.

Maintain or enhance habitat for endangered, threatened and candidate species, and other species of management concern.

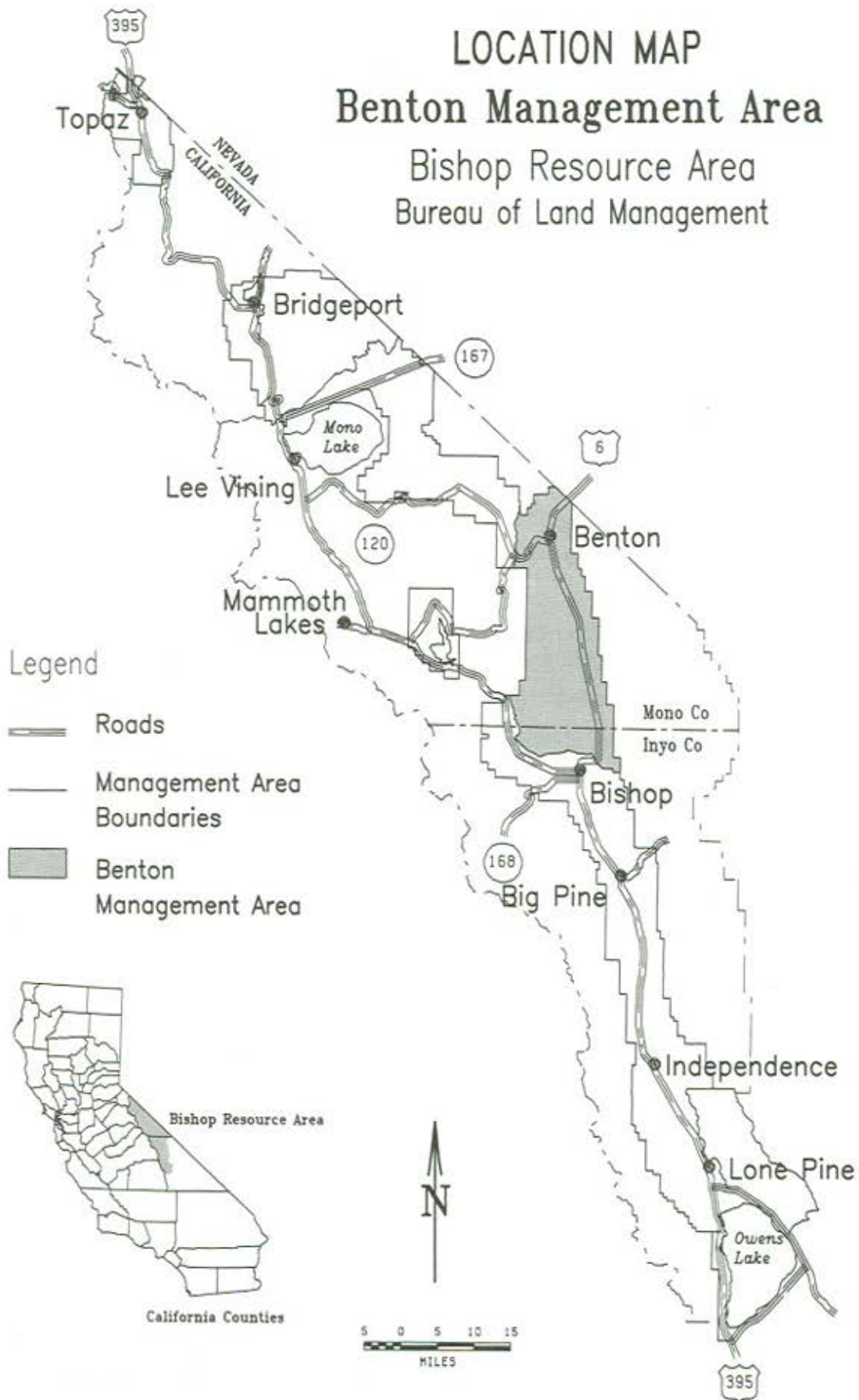
- Yearlong Protection of Owens speckled dace, Owens Valley vole and Great Basin springsnail habitats.
- Develop new habitats for Owens pupfish, Owens tui chub and Owens speckled dace along Marble Creek, at the unnamed spring in Section 21 near Millner Creek, at the unnamed spring in Section 23 near

LOCATION MAP

Benton Management Area

Bishop Resource Area

Bureau of Land Management



Paiute Creek, at the Hill Ranch in the N1/2 of the NE1/4 of section 5 near Lone Tree Creek and at the Devernois Ranch in the S1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 20 near Willow Creek.

- Acquire up to 80 acres of private land near Marble Creek to protect Owens speckled dace habitat.
- Acquire up to 160 acres of private land at Willow Creek and the spring source north of Jeffrey Canyon for habitat protection and reintroduction of Owens pupfish and Owens speckled dace.
- Prohibit geothermal leasing and other activities affecting the aquifer of thermal water sources essential to any endangered, threatened or candidate species, or other species of management concern.

Stabilize and restore portions of Silver Creek and Marble Creek to improve riparian and aquatic habitat quality.

- Restore streambank stability and channel morphology.
- Improve riparian vegetation condition.

Enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with the following Desired Plant Community (DPC) prescriptions:

- Meet DPC goals on 20 acres (100%) of riparian habitat to increase wildlife habitat diversity, provide high quality fish habitat and control erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 100% of the area's wet meadows to increase habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 1,111 acres (25%) of pinyon-juniper to increase wildlife habitat diversity and improve mule deer habitat.
- Meet DPC goals on 5,859 acres (25%) of sagebrush-bitterbrush to provide cover

and forage for mule deer and pronghorn. Manage the Volcanic Tableland Allotment to meet DPC goals for sagebrush-bitterbrush.

Fish Slough (see Special Management Areas Map) is retained as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The goals of the ACEC are to protect endangered fish and sensitive plant habitats, wetlands, cultural properties, geologic features and scenic values. The following management prescriptions apply to actions occurring within the ACEC:

- Yearlong Protection of Zone 1 of the ACEC. Target resources are endangered fish and sensitive plant habitats, wetlands, cultural properties, geologic features and scenic values.
- Prohibit livestock grazing in the Fish Slough Allotment.

Allow commercial and non-commercial fuelwood harvesting to improve wildlife habitat or meet desired plant community goals.

Support Needs

Develop an interpretive program that highlights Fish Slough ACEC, pronghorn, geologic values on the Volcanic Tableland, and cultural values (Petroglyph Loop, Carson-Colorado Railroad and other historic values).

Rehabilitate abandoned mineral material sites on the south Tableland.

Develop a Habitat Management Plan for the Casa Diablo mule deer winter range in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game and Inyo National Forest.

Construct ponds or related habitats for Owens pupfish, Owens tui chub and Owens speckled dace.

Develop an Allotment Management Plan for the Marble Creek Allotment to improve mule

deer winter range and meet the goals of the Casa Diablo Deer Herd Management Plan.

Rationale

These decisions were selected to handle the diverse demands in the Benton Management Area by setting aside some areas for protective management and providing other areas for intensive land use.

The proposed action makes several thousand acres available for community services, residential expansion, and agricultural use; and allows for intensive uses (such as mineral material sales) in portions of the management area.

Management decisions will protect scenery, and protect and enhance key wildlife habitat. They will also provide for a wide variety of dispersed semi-primitive recreation opportunities. The emphasis on semi-primitive non-motorized recreation management in the south Tableland is consistent with vehicle route designations recommended in the High Desert Off-Highway Vehicle Plan. The area's relatively few routes and semi-primitive values, and a strong interest in maintaining semi-primitive recreational activities in the area culminated in these final RMP prescriptions.

Owens Valley Management Area

Description

This area encompasses 153,750 acres of Bureau land in the Owens Valley between Bishop and Lone Pine (Figure 13). The area contains the scenic Alabama Hills, three developed campgrounds, and areas of dispersed recreation use. Important wildlife resources include mule deer winter range in Round Valley and on the alluvial fans of the Sierra Nevada, several springs and streams, and tule elk calving habitat. There is also demand for community expansion in an area

land-locked by City of Los Angeles (Department of Water and Power) and federal lands.

Management Theme

Manage for the full spectrum of uses. Emphasize recreational use and environmental education while providing for land disposals.

Decisions

Dispose of up to 2,640 acres for agricultural use, residential expansion and community services.

Provide up to 200 acres adjacent to the Independence Indian Reservation for withdrawal to expand the reservation.

Acquire up to 1,106 acres of private land at Hogback Creek to protect riparian values.

Develop an environmental education center in Bishop.

Manage the Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) to enhance semi-primitive nonmotorized and roaded natural opportunities such as photography, mountain biking, hiking, four-wheel drive touring and horseback riding.

- Allow camping in designated areas only.
- Yearlong Protection of the Alabama Hills. Target resources are scenic values, geologic features and riparian habitats.
- Acquire up to 634 acres of private land to protect recreational and scenic values.

Manage the remainder of the area for semi-primitive nonmotorized and motorized recreation opportunities.

Designate Scenic Byways along Manzanar Road, Movie Flat Road and State Highway 168.

LOCATION MAP

Owens Valley Management Area

Bishop Resource Area

Bureau of Land Management

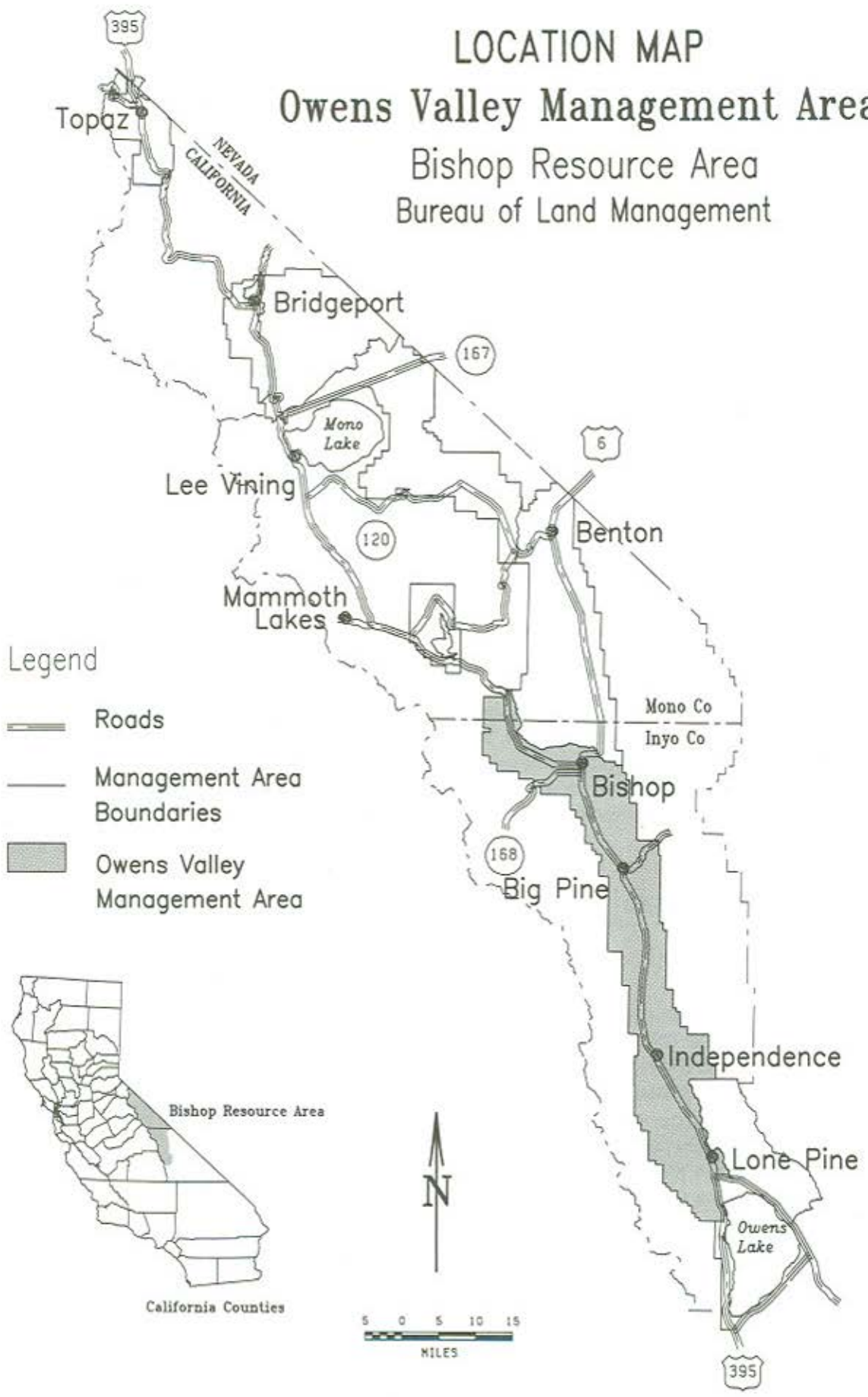


Figure 13

Manage the area to conform to the following Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards:

- VRM II - Alabama Hills SRMA, Red Mountain and Crater Mountain.
- VRM IV - Poleta Canyon and Fish Springs Hill.
- VRM III - Remainder of the area.

Protect crucial mule deer and tule elk habitats with the following measures:

- Yearlong Protection of the Round Valley mule deer migration corridor.
- Seasonal Protection of the Round Valley, Goodale and Monache mule deer winter ranges from 11/1 to 4/30.
- Acquire up to 1,820 acres of private land to protect the Round Valley mule deer winter range and migration corridor.
- Prohibit grazing in the Sherwin, Round Valley, Keough, and Black Rock allotments.
- Eliminate grazing on the Wells Meadow allotment if the current operator transfers or relinquishes his grazing privileges.
- Maintain or enhance mule deer winter ranges to meet objectives of California Department of Fish and Game herd management plans.
- Manage deer winter ranges to provide at least 70% of the bitterbrush in mature or younger age classes, and to provide enough annual growth to support 5,400 deer on the Round Valley winter range, 4,000 deer on the Goodale winter range and 1,000 deer on the Monache winter range.
- Yearlong Protection of tule elk calving areas.

Maintain or enhance habitat for bald eagle, Pacific bigeared bat, Mount Lyell salamander, Owens Valley vole, ferruginous hawk and sensitive plants.

- Acquire up to 240 acres of private land at Lubkin Creek to protect Owens Valley vole, Great Basin springsnail and riparian habitats.

Maintain or enhance habitat for Owens pupfish, Owens tui chub, Great Basin springsnail and Owens speckled dace.

- Develop new habitats for Owens tui chub, Owens pupfish and Owens speckled dace.
- Yearlong Protection of Owens speckled dace and Great basin springsnail habitats.
- Acquire up to 160 acres of private land at Graham Ranch Spring to protect Great Basin springsnail habitat and reintroduce Owens pupfish.

Manage stream reaches in Horton Creek, Goodale and Tuttle Creek campgrounds to improve streambank stability and aquatic habitat quality.

- Remove campsites from riparian zones.
- Reinforce streambanks to prevent erosion.

Stabilize and restore selected stream reaches in Sawmill Creek, Symmes Creek, Taboose Creek, Goodale Creek, Independence Creek and Horton Creek to improve riparian and aquatic habitat quality and to preserve diverse wildlife and plant assemblages.

Enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with the following Desired Plant Community (DPC) prescriptions:

- Meet DPC goals on 115 acres (75%) of riparian habitat to increase wildlife habitat diversity, provide high quality fish habitat and control erosion.

- Meet DPC goals on 100% of the area's wet meadows to increase habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 4,071 acres (25%) of sagebrush-bitterbrush to provide cover and forage for mule deer and tule elk.

5,735 acres surrounding Crater Mountain (see Special Management Areas Map) are designated as the Crater Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The goals of the ACEC are to protect scenic values, enhance recreation opportunities and provide for interpretation of geologic features.

- Acquire up to 140 acres of private land within the ACEC to protect recreational and scenic values.

Prohibit fuelwood harvesting.

Support Needs

Develop a visitor services program for the Alabama Hills to reduce vandalism and trash.

Develop an interpretive program to address wildlife, historic (Carson-Colorado Railroad), geologic (lava flows, Crater Mountain and Alabama Hills) and recreational values.

Coordinate mutual recreation interests with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Inyo County.

Coordinate Scenic Byway designations with Inyo National Forest, CalTrans, Inyo County and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Prepare a Habitat Management Plan for the Round Valley mule deer winter range and migration corridor in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game, Inyo National Forest, and City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Develop a cooperative agreement with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to maintain and improve mule deer winter ranges.

Construct ponds or related habitats for Owens tui chub, Owens pupfish and Owens speckled dace.

Inventory riparian habitats for presence and abundance of the least Bell's vireo and yellow billed cuckoo. Evaluate riparian areas for habitat suitability for both species.

Develop an activity plan for the Crater Mountain ACEC.

Develop an Allotment Management Plan for the Alabama Hills Allotment.

Rationale

By protecting key wildlife areas and providing other lands for development, these decisions will meet the conflicting demands placed on public lands in the Owens Valley.

Over 2,000 acres of Bureau land will be available for community service needs, agricultural use and residential expansion. This decision was made to provide an exchange base for acquisition of sensitive lands in the resource area so that there will be no net loss to the local tax base.

Several damaged streams will be restored and stabilized. Habitat will be protected and expanded for tule elk, mule deer, Owens tui chub, Owens pupfish, and other wildlife.

The environmental education center will provide visitors and local residents an opportunity to learn about the resource values of the public lands and proper use ethics, thus improving BLM's ability to manage and protect those resources.

South Inyo Management Area

Description

This area consists of 65,000 acres of Bureau land in the southern end of the Inyo Mountain Range (Figure 14). Approximately 28,000 acres are being recommended to Congress for wilderness designation. There is important wildlife habitat, including potential bighorn sheep habitat. The area also contains the Saline Valley Salt Tram and small stands of bristlecone pine.

Management Theme

Manage to protect wilderness, wildlife, visual and cultural values and to enhance recreation opportunities.

Decisions

Dispose of up to 82 acres for agricultural use.

Manage for primitive recreation opportunities in the proposed Southern Inyo Wilderness Area. Provide for semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities in the remainder of the area.

- Manage the suitable portion of the Southern Inyo Wilderness Study Area as wilderness.
- Acquire easements for hiking access to the Long John Canyon, Pat Keyes, Union Wash and Forgotten Pass trails.
- Yearlong Protection of the proposed wilderness. Target resources include all wilderness values.

Designate Owenyo Road as a Scenic Byway.

Manage the area to conform to the following Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards:

- VRM I - Proposed wilderness area.
- VRM II - The foothills of the Inyo Mountains and that portion of the Inyo Range south of Swansea.
- VRM III - Remainder of the area.

Maintain and enhance habitat for mule deer, bighorn sheep, California quail and mountain quail in the Inyo Mountains.

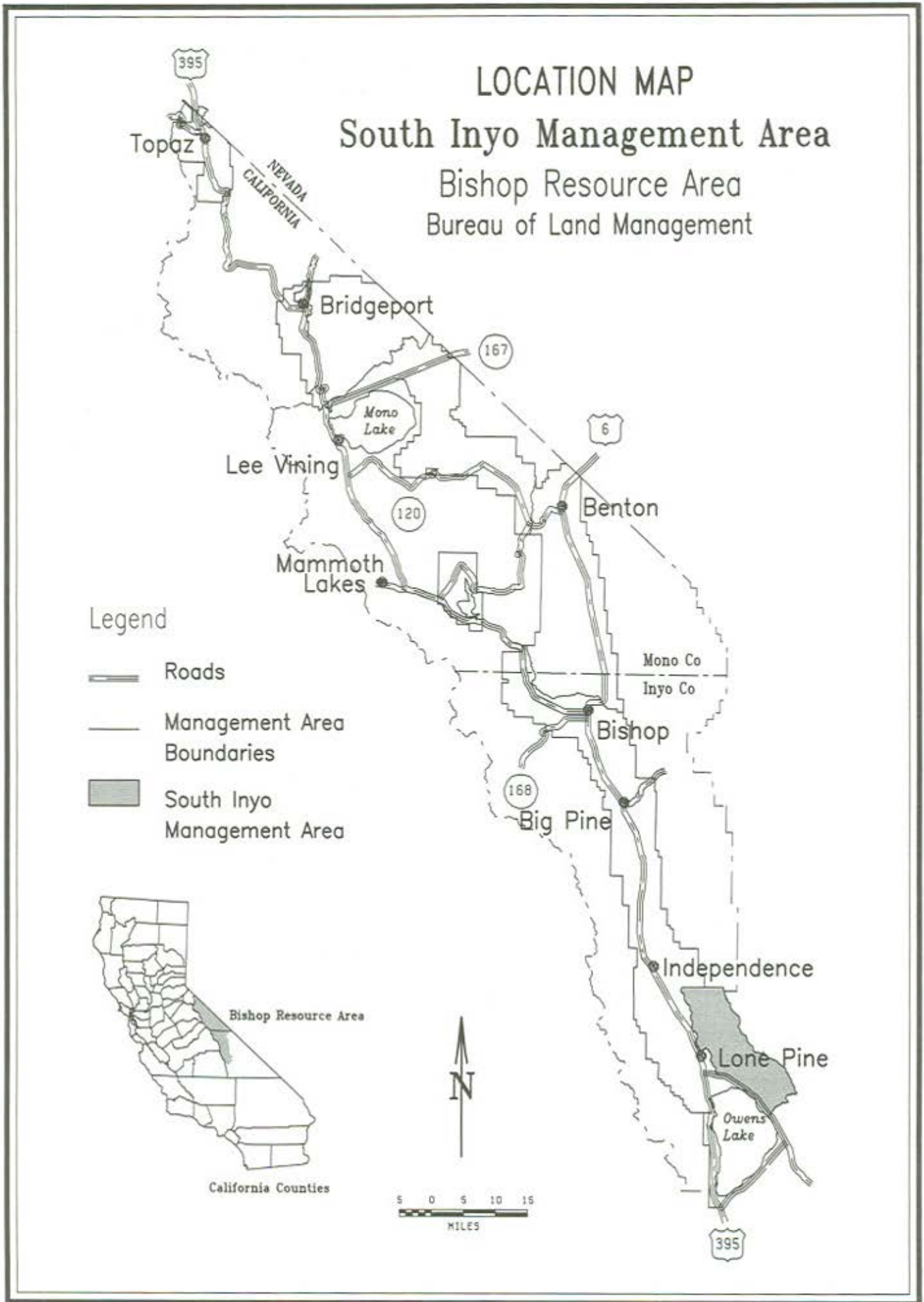
- Provide habitat suitable for the reintroduction of bighorn sheep between Mount Inyo and the Inyo National Forest boundary.
- Maintain or improve existing vegetative conditions.

Maintain habitat for Great Basin springsnail, Owens Valley vole and Pacific bigeared bat.

Seasonal Protection of prairie falcon nesting habitat in Long John Canyon from 4/1 to 6/30.

Enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with the following Desired Plant Community (DPC) prescriptions:

- Meet DPC goals on 3 acres (100%) of riparian habitat to increase wildlife habitat diversity and control erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 1,200 acres (100%) of bristlecone pine-limber pine to preserve the existing plant assemblage.
- Meet DPC goals on 1,053 acres (75%) of dune habitat to maintain habitat for the Owens sand dune snout beetle.



- Meet DPC goals on 5,120 acres (25%) of pinyon-juniper to increase habitat diversity and improve mule deer habitat.
- Meet DPC goals on 219 acres (75%) of sagebrush-bitterbrush to provide cover and forage for mule deer.

2,220 acres that includes 1,200 acres of bristlecone pine on the Inyo crest (see Special Management Areas Map) are designated as the Keynot Peak Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The goals of the ACEC are to protect the scientific and aesthetic values of the bristlecone pine-limber pine stands. The following management prescriptions apply to actions occurring within the ACEC:

- Yearlong Protection of the ACEC. Target resources are the bristlecone pine-limber pine plant communities.
- Allow the removal of wood under permit only. Permits will be issued only for research or museum purposes.
- Prohibit campfires.
- Manage the ACEC to meet wilderness guidelines.

Propose a 1/8 mile wide corridor along the Pat Keyes trail for withdrawal from locatable mineral exploration and development.

Prohibit geothermal exploration and development when it conflicts with habitat for endangered, threatened or candidate species, or other species of management concern.

Protect, stabilize and interpret the Salt Tram.

Prohibit livestock grazing to protect soils, vegetation, and wilderness and scenic values.

Allow commercial and non-commercial fuelwood harvesting outside of the proposed wilderness area to improve wildlife habitat or meet desired plant community goals.

Support Needs

Provide interpretive facilities at the Pat Keyes trailhead.

Develop an activity plan for the proposed Southern Inyo Wilderness Area immediately after designation.

Coordinate with Inyo County and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to designate Owenyo Road as a Scenic Byway.

Develop a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the entire area.

Develop water sources for mule deer, bighorn sheep and quail in the Inyo Mountains.

Rationale

The Southern Inyo Wilderness Study Area has been recommended as suitable for Wilderness designation in a decision separate from the RMP process.

The decision not to allow livestock grazing is carried through because there is not enough forage in this area for grazing to be practical.

Over 2,000 acres of Bureau land were considered for disposal for agricultural use under other alternatives. Only 82 acres are included in the proposed action because increased well pumping for agricultural use in this area could harm habitat for threatened species around Owens Lake.

Habitat for important species such as mule deer, bighorn sheep, quail, and the Great Basin springsnail will be maintained and enhanced.

A 1/8 mile corridor is proposed for withdrawal from mineral entry along the Pat Keyes trail to protect important recreation opportunities. A withdrawal was considered to protect visual resources and primitive recreation opportunities in the foothills of the

Inyo Mountains. This withdrawal has not been adopted because the small amount of mineral development anticipated will have minor impacts on those resources, while any mineral development would provide some benefit to the local economy.

Owens Lake Management Area

Description

This area contains 15,790 acres of Bureau land near Owens Lake (Figure 15). The area includes important tule elk calving grounds and habitat for several wildlife species listed as candidates for threatened and endangered status. The area also has important scenic qualities and cultural resources, and some geothermal potential.

Management Theme

Manage to protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

Decisions

Provide direction and financial support to the InterAgency Visitor Center.

Manage the area to conform to the following Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards:

- VRM III - East of Owens Lake.
- VRM IV - West of Owens Lake.

Maintain and enhance habitat for mule deer and tule elk.

- Yearlong Protection of tule elk calving areas.

Maintain and enhance habitat for Owens pupfish, Owens tui chub, western snowy

plover, Owens Valley vole and Owens sand dune snout beetle.

- Acquire up to 160 acres of private land near Swansea to protect Owens sand dune snout beetle habitat.
- Acquire up to 424 acres of private land south of Owens Lake to protect western snowy plover habitat.

Improve trout habitat on Braley Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Cartago Creek.

Manage Ash Creek as a riparian comparison area.

Enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with the following Desired Plant Community (DPC) prescriptions:

- Meet DPC goals on 7 acres (100%) of riparian habitat to increase wildlife habitat diversity, provide high quality fish habitat and control erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 100% of the area's wet meadows to increase habitat diversity and reduce erosion.
- Meet DPC goals on 3,214 acres (75%) of dune habitat to maintain habitat for the Owens sand dune snout beetle.

Prohibit geothermal exploration and development when it conflicts with habitat for endangered, threatened and candidate species, or other species of management concern.

Incorporate dust abatement measures in all discretionary actions.

Prohibit fuelwood harvesting.

Support Needs

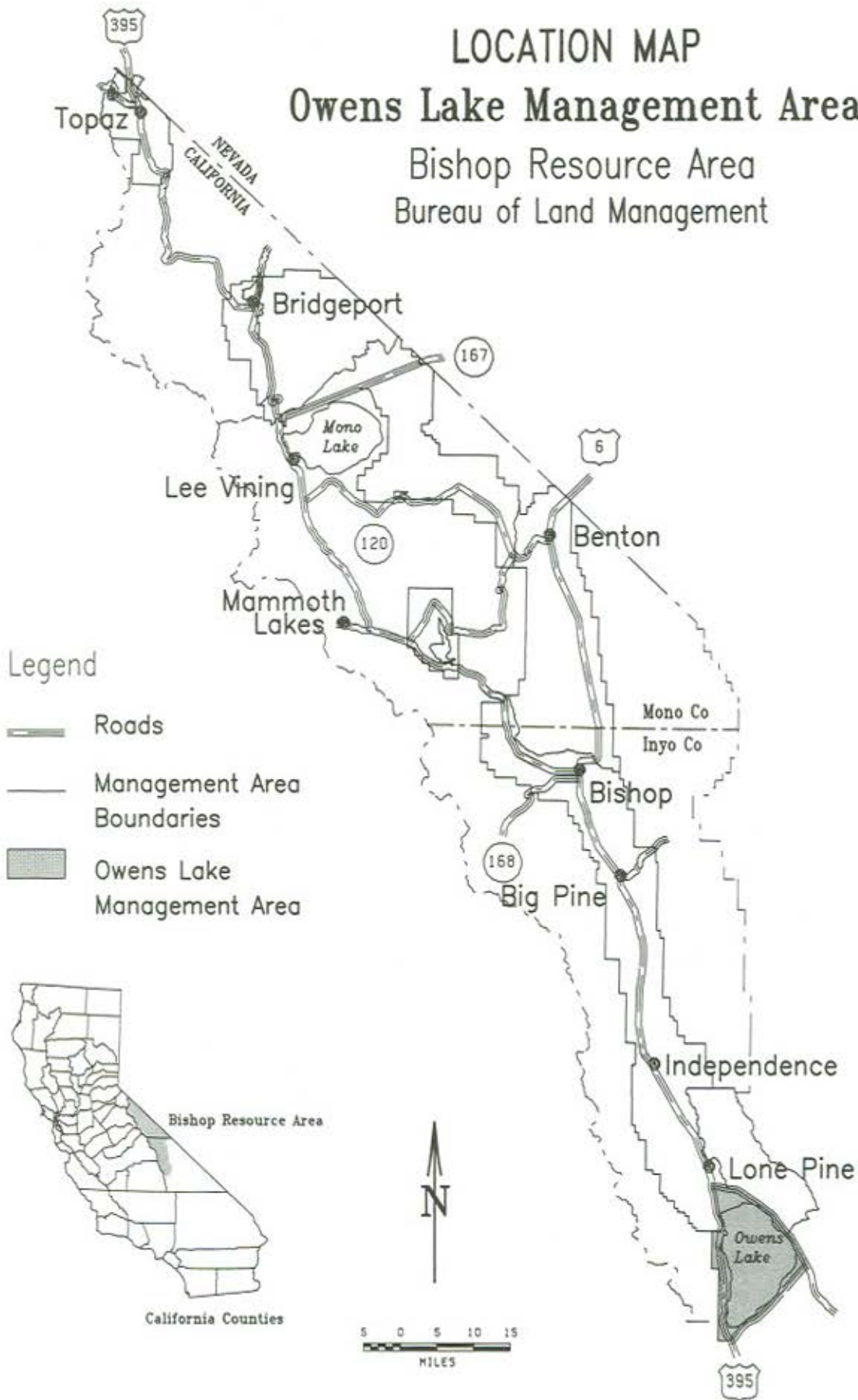
Expand the InterAgency Visitor Center to include a repository for scientific collections and interpretive displays.

LOCATION MAP

Owens Lake Management Area

Bishop Resource Area

Bureau of Land Management



Develop cooperative management agreements to enhance habitat of endangered and threatened species on private land.

Coordinate with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to provide trout habitat in Cottonwood Creek.

Fence Braley Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Cartago Creek to exclude livestock. Provide offshore water developments for livestock.

Maintain the livestock enclosure on Ash Creek.

Rationale

Much of the periphery of Owens Dry Lake provides habitat for threatened species and other wildlife. BLM acquisition is proposed for many of these locations so that habitat can be protected and enhanced.

Over 5,000 acres of Bureau land was considered for disposal for agricultural use. No disposals are included in these decisions because increased water pumping for agricultural use in this area could harm habitat for threatened species; and soil disturbance from agricultural use would increase dust problems.

East-West Transmission Line Corridor Decision

Four alternatives for the designation of an east-west transmission line corridor were considered: the No East-West Corridor Alternative, the Pizona Corridor Alternative, the Queen Valley Corridor Alternative and the Soldier Canyon Corridor Alternative. The 3 corridor study areas included both Bureau and National Forest System lands in the vicinity of Montgomery Pass and Westgard Pass (Figure 16). Resources of concern in these areas include wild horses, mule deer,

pronghorn, threatened and endangered species, and cultural and visual resources.

Decision

The No East-West Corridor alternative has been selected. No east-west corridor will be designated at this time. Under this alternative, a future east-west corridor designation could be considered anywhere in the resource area. Prior to any such designation, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be completed.

Rationale

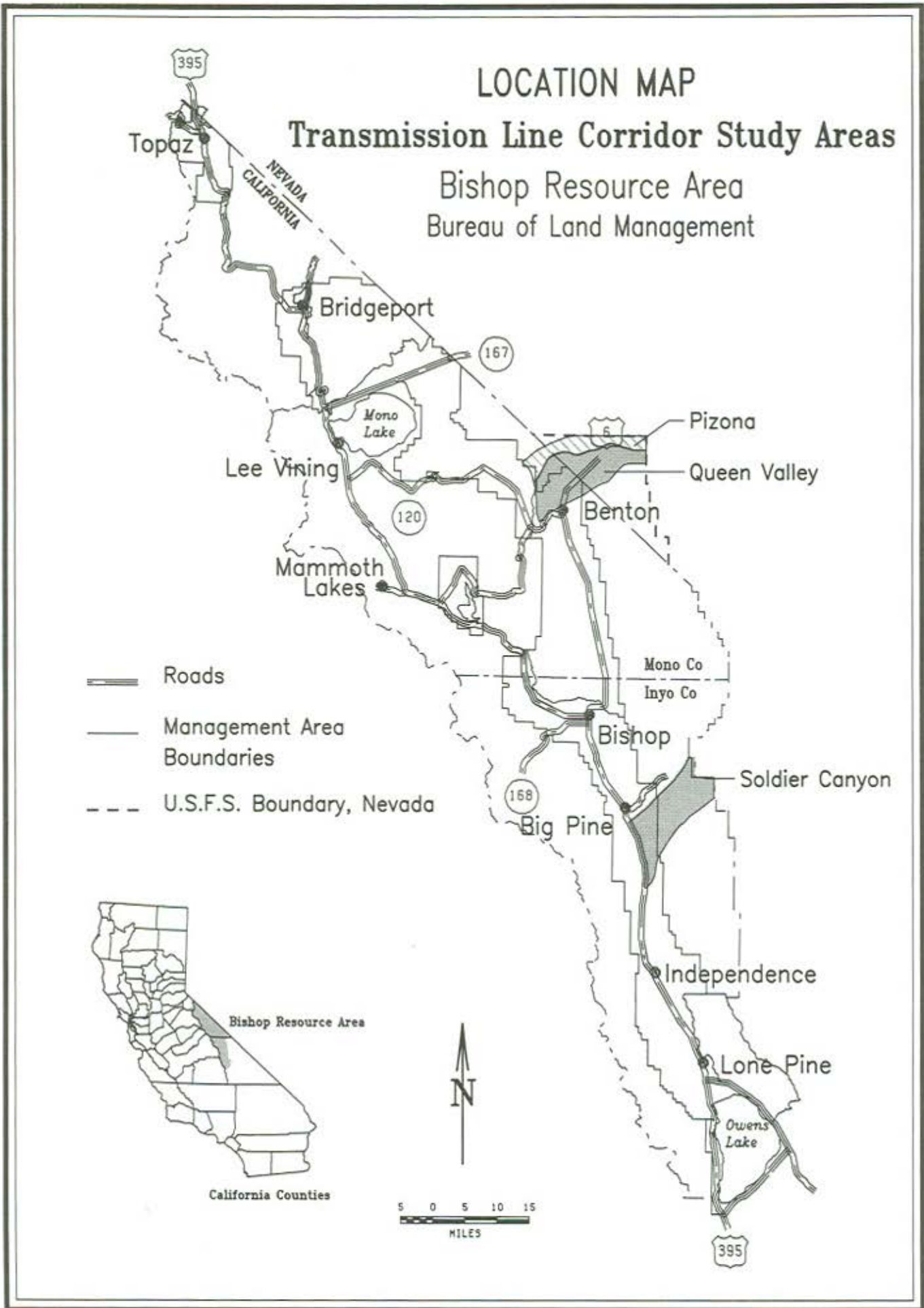
The impact analysis did not present data that justify designating a corridor in any one study area in preference to the others, or eliminating any area from further consideration. There are significant resource concerns in each of the three areas; further information is required to determine if corridor designation would be appropriate. The more detailed study involved in a comprehensive EIS would provide this information.

Conditions

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required for any proposed transmission line. The first applicant for a project will be responsible for financing studies (part of the EIS) to determine the number of transmission lines a designated east-west corridor could support, and the mitigation that would be required.

Any transmission line within a designated east-west corridor will be subject to the following mitigation measures:

1. The EIS must include a visual analysis and surveys for cultural resources and sensitive plants. Appropriate mitigation to protect these resources will be developed based upon the results of these analyses.



2. All development must conform to Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescription Area and Management Area specific direction of the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.
3. All development must conform to Standard Operating Procedures, Area-wide and Management Area specific direction of the Bishop Resource Management Plan.
4. Road construction will not be permitted in Forest Service Prescription Area 17 or other areas where road construction would have an unacceptable impact on sensitive resources such as mule deer or cultural resources.
5. Non-specular conductors and dull-toned towers will be required.
6. The Inyo National Forest landscape architect will participate in developing alternatives for the design and location of transmission lines. All feasible means of reducing visual impacts will be used, particularly at highway crossings.
7. Tower and line construction will adhere to BLM and Forest Service standards and guidelines for the prevention of raptor electrocution.
8. Construction will be authorized to occur at a time and in a manner as prescribed by the BLM and Forest Service to prevent displacement of elk, pronghorn and deer from crucial habitats.
9. Right-of-way clearing will be limited to the minimum needed to safely construct the line. Vegetation under the line that does not constitute a direct hazard will be left in place. All disturbed areas, cuts and fills will be restored and revegetated. Road widths will be limited to the minimum required for line maintenance.
10. The right-of-way will be maintained in conformance with the Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide developed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and California Department of Forestry.
11. Use structures that are most suitable for a given site without requiring extensive site modifications, especially grading.
12. Colors for structures will be chosen after a thorough visual analysis. Colors may have to vary depending on site conditions.
13. Support facilities needed as part of the main system will be designed to limit their land disturbing impact.
14. Corridor width will be limited to 1/2 mile and will extend for 1/4 mile on both sides of the first transmission line constructed.

Livestock Grazing Decisions

In the initial planning stages of the RMP, the Bishop Resource Area, Bakersfield District and California State offices considered whether livestock grazing should be analyzed in detail. It was determined that grazing decisions analyzed in the Benton-Owens Valley (1981) and Bodie-Coleville (1982) Grazing EISs were still valid and meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). This determination was based on review of federal grazing regulations, BLM rangeland monitoring policy, and rangeland inventory and monitoring data collected in the resource area.

Current federal grazing regulations and BLM rangeland monitoring policy provide for adjustments in livestock grazing use when monitoring shows a change is warranted. In

the Benton-Owens Valley EIS area, inventory data collected in the early 1980s indicated that adjustments in grazing preference or season of use were needed. These adjustments were made in the mid-1980s and have been validated by monitoring. In the Bodie-Coleville EIS area, inventory and monitoring data collected throughout the 1980s indicate that on most allotments changes in grazing management and development of range improvement projects are the appropriate actions. These changes and projects are being developed in Allotment Management Plans.

As a result, most of the existing livestock grazing decisions are incorporated into this Record of Decision. While there are some decisions in the RMP regarding grazing (for example, allotment status and utilization standards), the RMP does not address stocking levels, seasons of use, or other details of livestock management. If monitoring shows that resource condition objectives established in the RMP are not being met, changes in livestock management practices will be made at the activity plan level to achieve those objectives.

Appendix 1 of the final RMP, Summary of Grazing Decisions from the MFPs, is reproduced as Appendix 4 of this document. This appendix also describes criteria for categorization of allotments as Maintain (M), Improve (I), or Custodial (C).

Guidelines for Implementing the Livestock Grazing Program

Grazing Systems

1. Plant phenology of key forage species for livestock and wildlife requirements will determine treatment schedules.
2. Considerations for wildlife habitat and watershed resource needs will be met in grazing system design.

3. Average annual livestock grazing utilization of key forage species on meadows will be limited to 60% for any meadow grazed.

Grazing Management Practices

1. Locations for salting and supplement feeding will be at least 1/4 mile away from riparian zones, aspen groves, and meadows. Rotation of use areas will be achieved wherever practicable. Watering facilities will be developed sufficient distances from these areas to prevent livestock concentration on them.
2. Sheep will be herded.
3. Sheep bedding grounds will be designated and will not be located within 1/4 mile of riparian zones, aspen groves, meadows, or on sage grouse strutting grounds and sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion.
4. Trailing use will be authorized and controlled. Trailing routes will be identified.
5. Emphasis will be given to ensure adherence to authorized grazing use areas.
6. Livestock will be excluded from grazing use on the Mono Lake related lands.

Coleville Management Area

1. Livestock grazing will continue to be authorized in the Koenig Ranch, Aristro Ranch, and Sarman Ranch allotments. Allocation levels and conditions are identified in Table 4, Appendix 4. The management goal for these allotments is to maintain a maximum sustained yield of livestock forage on public lands with a minimum amount of management concern (Class C).

2. The Topaz Allotment range program will be developed by the Carson City BLM office in conjunction with the portion of the allotment in Nevada.
 3. No further grazing will be authorized in the previously allotted Wild Oat Allotment except in conjunction with sheep trailing purposes. A two-day maximum time period can be permitted for trailing through the area.
 4. No further grazing will be authorized in the previously allotted Chichester Allotment.
 5. No grazing will be authorized in any areas previously unallotted.
 6. Livestock grazing will continue to be authorized in the Dry Canyon and Slinkard Valley allotments. Allocation levels and conditions are identified in Table 4, Appendix 4.
 - a. The management goal for the Dry Canyon Allotment is to maintain a maximum sustained yield of livestock forage on public lands with a minimum amount of management concern (Class C). An ultimate goal is to make arrangements with the California Department of Fish and Game to convert this grazing use to state-owned lands in Slinkard Valley. This action would enhance mule deer habitat on public lands within the existing allotment; and
- allotment. Until this arrangement has been made, grazing use will continue on public lands within traditional sheep and cattle grazing use areas.
7. Livestock use will be limited to trailing purposes only along the east side of Antelope Valley and will be controlled by the following requirements:
 - a. Only one day trailing time each way will be allowed on public lands for each band of sheep or herd of cattle;
 - b. Livestock will be retained along Eastside Road and within 100 yards of the roadway; and
 - c. All trailing permits will be coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service.

Bridgeport Valley Management Area

1. The management goals for the Dog Creek and Green Creek allotments are to maintain a maximum sustained yield of livestock forage as well as to improve wildlife habitat (sage grouse and mule deer) by reducing season of use conflicts. A deferred grazing system will be applied as part of a moderate amount of management concern (Class M). Allocation goals and conditions are identified in Table 4, Appendix 4.
2. Emphasis will be placed on the Dog Creek Allotment to defer grazing at the higher elevations until later in the season.
3. The western boundary of the Green Creek Allotment is adjusted to follow the Summers Creek Road.
4. The management goals for the West Reservoir and Walters Ranch allotments are to maintain a maximum sustained

yield of livestock forage on public lands with a minimum amount of management concern (Class C). The West Reservoir Allotment is to be administered by the USDA, Forest Service and incorporated with the Mount Jackson Allotment on the Toiyabe National Forest. Allocation levels and conditions are identified in Table 4, Appendix 4.

5. The remaining areas of public lands will remain unallocated. Livestock trailing can be permitted across public lands adjacent to the east side of Highway 182.

Bodie Hills Management Area

1. Grazing allocation levels and conditions for the Aurora Canyon, Travertine Hills, Potato Peak, Bodie Mountain, Mormon Ranch, and Little Mormon allotments are identified in Table 4, Appendix 4.
2. The management goals for the Travertine Hills Allotment are to maintain the maximum sustained yield of livestock forage and to improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with a moderate amount of management concern (Class M). Measures to accomplish these needs include:
 - a. Activate a deferred rotation grazing system; and
 - b. Exclusion of livestock use from Clark Canyon, Aurora Canyon, Travertine Hot Springs, Hot Springs Canyon and meadow areas.
3. The management goals for the Aurora Canyon Allotment are to improve the maximum sustained yield of livestock forage and to improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with an intensive amount of management concern (Class I). A deferred grazing system will be activated to meet these needs. This allotment is the traditional

cattle use area (north portion) of the previously known Potato Peak Allotment.

4. The management goals for the Potato Peak Allotment are to improve the maximum sustained yield of livestock forage and to improve wildlife habitat with an intensive amount of management concern (Class I). A deferred grazing system will be activated to meet these needs. This allotment now includes only the traditional sheep use area (south portion) of the previously known Potato Peak Allotment.
5. The management goals for the Mormon Ranch and Mono Settlement allotments are to maintain the maximum sustained yield of livestock forage and to improve wildlife habitat with a moderate amount of management concern (Class M). A deferred grazing system will be activated to meet these needs.
6. The management goals for the Bodie Mountain Allotment are to improve the maximum sustained yield of livestock forage and to improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with an intensive amount of management concern (Class I). A rest-rotation grazing system will be activated to meet these needs.
7. Grazing allocation levels and conditions for the Rancheria Gulch, Mormon Ranch, Copper Mountain, and Mono Settlement allotments are identified in Table 4, Appendix 4.
8. The management goals for the Copper Mountain, Little Mormon, and Rancheria Gulch allotments are to maintain the maximum sustained yield of livestock forage and improve wildlife habitat and watershed conditions with a moderate amount of management concern (Class M). A deferred-rotation grazing system will be required for all these allotments to achieve these goals.

9. No grazing will be authorized in the previously recognized Larkin Lake Allotment (California portion) in order to protect and enhance wetland habitat. A fence will need to be constructed along the state boundary to effectively exclude livestock grazing.

Granite Mountain Management Area

1. Designate grazing system type, season of use and forage allocation on the following allotments as shown in Table 2, Appendix 4:
 - a. Frazier Canyon (6003);
 - b. Mathieu (6026);
 - c. Adobe Valley (6027);
 - d. Black Lake (6028);
 - e. Granite Mountain (6034);
 - f. Adobe Lake (6036);
 - g. Symons (6037);
 - h. Mono Lake (6054); and
 - i. Mono Mills (6055).
2. Combine all of the Granite Basin Allotment (6035) with the Granite Mountain Allotment (6034).
3. Coordinate with the Inyo National Forest to institute the following administrative changes:
 - a. Coordinate the grazing use in allotment 6034 with grazing in the Forest Service Dexter Creek Allotment;
 - b. Coordinate grazing on allotment 6037 with adjacent allotments on the Inyo National Forest; and
 - c. Allotment 6026 is to be administered by the Forest Service in conjunction with the Black Canyon Allotment.
4. Revise the Allotment Management Plan for allotment 6027, and work with the

operator of allotment 6034 to determine the grazing system to be implemented.

5. Conduct the following vegetative treatments:
 - a. Chemically control 3,760 acres of sagebrush on the Adobe Valley Allotment (6027); and
 - b. Prescribe burn 3,000 acres previously burned and reseed with Indian ricegrass, and chemically treat 2,500 acres of sagebrush on allotment 6034.
6. In allotment 6027, improve water distribution from existing wells and develop new livestock water facilities west of Highway 120 in pastures 4 and 5.
7. Provide for continued livestock trailing through the area.
8. Designate the grazing system type, season of use, forage allocation and management category of the Mono Mills Allotment (6055) as follows:
 - a. The management category will be "M" with the specific grazing system to be determined jointly with the operator (vegetative treatments and proposed range improvements will not be initiated until the grazing system has been developed); and
 - b. The forage allocation will be 2,812 AUMs for sheep only and 52 AUMs for mule deer; the season of use will be from July 1 - October 15 of each year.
9. Coordinate grazing administration of allotment 6055 with the adjacent sheep allotment on the Inyo National Forest.
10. Develop a grazing system for the Mono Mills Allotment (6055) with the operator.

11. Conduct the following vegetative treatments only after implementation of a grazing system:
 - a. Prescribe burn 6,000 acres previously burned only from November 1 to March 31. In the Mono Mills Allotment (6055) no burning in drainage bottoms.
 - b. An additional 2,000 acres may be burned within the Mono Lake Allotment (6054) and Mono Mills Allotment (6055) if compatible with land use planning direction.
 12. Implement the identified fence projects and water developments as indicated on the project overlay and in the Grazing EIS.
 13. The management goals for the Mono Sand Flat Allotment are to improve the maximum sustained yield of livestock forage, improve wildlife habitat and recreation values, and provide habitat for use by the equivalent of 30 head of wild horses for a six-month period. This will be done with an intensive amount of management concern (Class I). Designate the grazing system type, season of use, forage allocation and management category as found in Table 4, Appendix 4. The Mono Lake relicted land boundary will be fenced to exclude livestock grazing and additional livestock water sources will be sought to replace those no longer available on the relicted lands.
 - d. Long Valley (6044);
 - e. Tobacco Flat (6045); and
 - f. Casa Diablo (6081).
2. The following allotment boundary adjustments will be made:
 - a. Combine allotments 6017 and 6018 into a single allotment (6018 Hot Creek);
 - b. Include the previous Little Round Valley Unallotted area into the existing allotment boundary of 6020;
 - c. Exclude that portion of allotment 6044 east of Crowley Lake to the Forest Service boundary (This portion will create the new Casa Diablo Allotment 6081); and
 - d. The entire allotment boundary of 6081 will be created from the portion of allotment 6044 which is on the east shore of Crowley Lake.
 3. The following administrative changes will be implemented:
 - a. The new Hot Creek Allotment (6018) will be administered by the U.S. Forest Service with the Antelope Allotment on the Inyo National Forest;
 - b. Grazing use on allotment 6020 will be coordinated with the use of the McGee Mountain Allotment on the Inyo National Forest;
 - c. The Forest Service will administer the grazing on allotment 6045 in conjunction with the Tobacco Flat Allotment on the Inyo National Forest; and
 - d. Grazing administration and management of allotment 6081 is to be done by the Forest Service in conjunction with grazing use of the Casa Diablo Allotment on the Inyo National Forest.

Long Valley Management Area

1. Designate the grazing system type, season of use and forage allocation on the following allotments as shown in Table 2, Appendix 4.
 - a. Hot Creek (6018);
 - b. Little Round Valley (6020);
 - c. Wilfred Creek (6022);

4. The U.S. Forest Service will manage grazing on allotment 6018 to meet the following vegetative goals:
 - a. Improve the riparian vegetation within Hot Creek meadow to a good ecological condition;
 - b. Prevent any decline of the grass and forb composition in sagebrush stands and meadows;
 - c. Prevent any further invasion of sagebrush or rabbitbrush in meadow vegetation zones; and
 - d. Succulent plants will be adequately available to sage grouse during the brood rearing period June 15 - July 31.
5. Sustain existing forage production on the Long Valley (6044), Tobacco Flat (6045) and Little Round Valley (6020) allotments.
6. Manage allotment 6022 to obtain a good ecological condition of meadows for sage grouse habitat; defer grazing of public lands in this allotment until June 1 of each year.
7. Coordinate the development of a grazing system for allotment 6018 (the specific grazing system to be determined by the Forest Service) and develop a grazing system for allotment 6022.
8. Implement the following range improvements in support of the range program:
 - a. Remove the allotment boundary fence along the eastern boundary of allotment 6018; and
 - b. Modify and improve the Convict Creek fence.
9. Provide for continued livestock trailing use through the area.

Benton Management Area

1. Designate the grazing system type, season of use and forage allocation on the following allotments as shown in Table 2, Appendix 4:
 - a. Bramlette (6038);
 - b. Volcanic Tablelands (6007);
 - c. Hammil Valley (6024);
 - d. Marble Creek (6025);
 - e. Chalfant Valley (6030);
 - f. Laws (6040);
 - g. Jeffrey (6041);
 - h. Chalk Bluff (6043);
 - i. Lone Tree (6053); and
 - j. Blind Springs (6080).
2. The following boundary adjustments will be made:
 - a. Adjust the southwest boundary of allotment 6007 to the Owens River Gorge to include the unallotted area.
 - b. Establish the southwest boundary for 6080 by incorporating portions of the Benton Range Unallotted area and portions of the Marble Creek Allotment (6025) west of Highway 6.
 - c. Exclude lands west of Highway 6 from allotment 6025 (lands to be incorporated into new allotment 6080).
 - d. Modify the northeast boundary of allotment 6024 to include the presently unallotted area (modification will establish north boundary line to the ridge of Blind Springs Hill).
 - e. If the operator of allotment 6043 chooses not to develop needed fences, then the allotment will be adjusted to present area of cattle use.

3. The following administrative changes will be implemented:
 - a. The BLM will assume grazing administration of the Birch Creek Allotment on the Inyo National Forest in conjunction with grazing management of allotment 6025;
 - b. BLM will assume administration of the adjacent Inyo National Forest allotment in conjunction with grazing management of allotment 6053; and
 - c. BLM will coordinate area of use determinations into the adjacent National Forest with the U.S. Forest Service on allotments 6053, 6041, 6040, 6030, 6024 and 6025.
4. Develop grazing systems in consultation with the operators of allotments 6080, 6024, and 6025.
5. Develop needed fences and water facilities on allotments 6024 and 6080 to facilitate grazing system implementation.
6. Develop identified water facilities north of Marble Creek on allotment 6025, fence both sides of Marble Creek for a distance of three miles, and build three miles of pasture division fence.
7. Develop additional water facilities on allotment 6030 to improve livestock distribution.
8. Require the permittee to develop needed fencing (boundary) and additional water development for improved livestock distribution if cattle are continued to be grazed on allotment 6043.
9. Fence a portion of Silver Creek to protect the riparian habitat in allotment 6040.
10. Work with operators on allotments 6080 and 6024 to develop a grazing system which will afford protection to bitterbrush during critical winter deer use.
11. Provide for continued livestock trailing use through the area; however, ensure that sheep bedding areas are rotated to prevent continued surface deterioration.
12. Forage allocation and management direction for the Bramlette Allotment (6038):
 - a. The management category for allotment 6038 is "I", with the grazing system to be developed in consultation with the operator;
 - b. Forage allocation is 738 AUMs for livestock use (cattle) from October 1 to May 31, 12 AUMs for mule deer and 50 AUMs for wild horses;
 - c. Adjust the southwest boundary to run south along the ridgeline to Blind Spring Hill;
 - d. Coordinate possible area of use limits with the adjacent Inyo National Forest;
 - e. Develop a grazing system in conjunction with the operator which will afford protection of bitterbrush during critical winter deer use;
 - f. Reseed 720 acres previously treated; if successful, reseed 14,000 acres in rangesite D-29-50 with Indian ricegrass and preferred wildlife forage species; and
 - g. Construct required water facilities and six miles of boundary fence.

Owens Valley Management Area

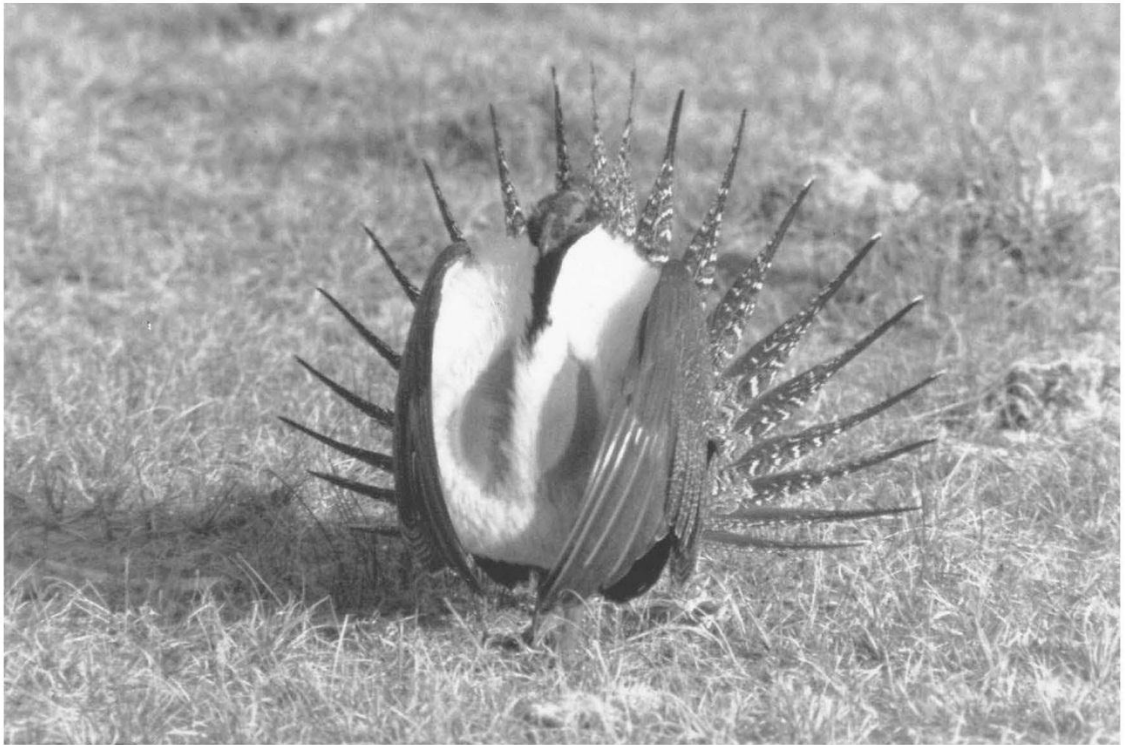
1. Designate the grazing system type, season of use and forage allocation on the following allotments as shown in Table 2, Appendix 4:
 - a. Shannon/Baker Creek (6021); and
 - b. Wells Meadow (6051).
2. The following boundary adjustments will be made:
 - a. Coordinate with allotment 6021 permittees and the U.S. Forest Service to determine where the appropriate separation of allotment boundaries should be between the Forest Service's Shannon Canyon and Baker Creek allotments.
3. The following administrative changes will be implemented:
 - a. Area of use determinations into adjacent National Forest lands associated with use of allotment 6051 will be coordinated with the Inyo National Forest;
 - b. Consider having the Inyo National Forest administer grazing use of public lands within allotment 6021 in conjunction with allotments on the National Forest;
 - c. BLM will assume grazing administration on all of the Independence Allotment (6014) on the adjacent National Forest;
 - d. BLM will assume grazing administration on all of the Alabama Hills Allotment (6046) on the adjacent National Forest; and
 - e. Grazing administration of allotment 6082 will be performed by the Inyo National Forest.
4. Designate the grazing system type, season of use and forage allocation on the following allotments as shown in Table 2, Appendix 4:
 - a. Zurich (6012);
 - b. Owens Valley (6013);
 - c. Independence (6014);
 - d. Sawmill Creek (6015);
 - e. Owens Valley Common (6016);
 - f. West Crater Mountain (6019);
 - g. Black Mine (6023);
 - h. Poleta (6031);
 - i. Tinemaha (6033);
 - j. Alabama Hills (6046);
 - k. Red Mountain (6047);
 - l. West Santa Rita (6048);
 - m. Aberdeen (6049);
 - n. Poverty Hills (6050);
 - o. East Crater Mountain (6079); and
 - p. George Creek (6082).
5. The following boundary adjustments will be made:
 - a. Move the north boundary of allotment 6013 about 1/2 mile further south to the next unnamed canyon. This will deduct 264 acres from this allotment, and add 182 acres (4 AUMs) into the allotments which were previously unallotted;
 - b. Move the southern boundary of 6031 about 1/2 mile further south to the unnamed canyon. This will add about 264 acres (4 AUMs) to this allotment from 6013;
 - c. Omit 440 acres of public land from allotment 6048 in section 34 considered unsuitable for grazing;
 - d. Separate the existing Crater Mountain Allotment into two allotments, 6019 and 6079;
 - e. Incorporate portions of the presently unallotted area, between Bairs Creek and Shepherd Creek, into the Independence Allotment (6014);

- f. Separate the public land west of the Cline Drift Fence into the George Creek Allotment (6082); and
 - g. Incorporate the public land west of the Cline Drift Fence into the National Forest allotment (George Creek) for grazing administrative purposes.
6. Area of use determinations into adjacent National Forest allotments from allotments 6012, 6013, 6016, 6019, 6023, 6031, 6033, 6047, 6048, and 6049 will be coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service.
 7. Monitor the impacts of livestock grazing on critical tule elk calving areas in allotments 6012, 6049 and 6050; develop grazing systems if impacts so warrant.
 8. Construct the following range improvements:
 - a. Build 1/2 mile of allotment boundary fence between allotments 6013 and 6031 as identified;
 - b. Develop additional water facilities in allotment 6047 to improve livestock grazing distribution;
 - c. Construct a boundary fence between allotments 6019 and 6079, as needed, to control livestock movement between allotments; and
 - d. Develop additional water facilities on allotments 6019 and 6079 to improve livestock distribution.
 9. Provide for livestock trailing through the area.

Owens Lake Management Area

1. Forage allocation and management direction for the Ash Creek Allotment (6042) is as follows:
 - a. The Management category will be "C" with a deferred grazing system developed cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service and the operator; and
 - b. Forage allocation will be 130 AUMs for cattle use between February 1 - May 31 of each year.
2. Transfer the grazing administration of allotment 6042 to the Inyo National Forest.
3. Develop an Allotment Management Plan for the Ash Creek Allotment (6042) in coordination with the Inyo National Forest.
4. Improve the vegetative condition in the Ash Creek Allotment (6042) to a good ecological condition within 25 years. A portion of the creek will be fenced to exclude grazing along the riparian vegetation zone.
5. Construct the following range improvements on allotment 6042:
 - a. Develop internal pasture fences and additional boundary fences as needed to implement the deferred system (permittee to assist in development); and
 - b. Develop additional watering facilities as needed to implement the proposed grazing system.
6. Allow continued use of the livestock trail through the area.

Appendices



Sage Grouse in Long Valley

Appendix 1

Desired Plant Community Definitions

Desired Plant Community for Jeffrey Pine in Dry Creek in the Granite Mountain Management Area and Doe Ridge in the Long Valley Management Area.

Desired plant community for Jeffrey pine: The goal is to maximize wildlife habitat diversity. Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) density (% canopy/crown cover) would not be reduced from the present level. Insure an average of 1 snag tree per 5 acres with a minimum 16 inch diameter at breast height (DBH) and 30-48 feet tall. Retain in place an average of 2 uncharred class one or class two logs per 5 acres with a minimum size of 21 inch DBH and 20 feet long. Do not disturb or burn any class three, four or five logs. Leave other fallen limb slash in place on at least 25% of the area.

Desired Plant Community for Bristlecone Pine and Limber Pine in the South Inyo Management Area.

Desired plant community for the subalpine forest above 9,000 feet elevation of which the bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) is the outstanding assemblage species: The goal is to retain the current composition of plant species within the assemblage. The subalpine forest occupies approximately 1,500 acres and occurs at this single site in the resource area. Limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) shares the overstory. Bristlecone pine would be maintained within the subalpine forest assemblage at $\geq 6\%$ of plant composition over the long term. Limber pine would also represent $\geq 6\%$ of plant composition over the long term. All dead and down woody material would be left in place. All snag trees (no minimum height) would be left in place.

Desired Plant Community for Sand Dunes in the Owens Lake and South Inyo Management Areas.

Desired plant community for stabilized and partially stabilized desert dunes along the periphery of Owens Lake: The goal is to insure adequate vegetative cover and microclimatic conditions for the Category 2 species *Trigonoscota owensi*, Owens sand dune snout beetle. Dunes and sand accumulations would be maintained through retention of present vegetative cover which varies from scant cover of widely scattered shrubs and herbs to nearly closed shrub canopies. Plants which predominate in the dune areas and are primarily responsible for stabilization of dune hummocks are spiny saltbush (*Atriplex confertifolia*), desert holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), cattle spinach (*Atriplex polycarpa*), burro weed (*Franseria dumosa*), black greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), and seep weed (*Suaeda torreyana*). Maintain the current overall vegetative cover of approximately 7% in the dune habitat.

Desired Plant Community for Big Sagebrush/Low Sagebrush/Bitterbrush in the South Inyo Management Area.

Desired plant community description for the big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)/low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscuta*)/bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) vegetation type above 8,400 feet elevation: The goal is to maximize vegetative habitat characteristics for management indicator species like mule deer. For those areas with site potential, mule deer habitat characteristics will include hiding cover: vegetation at least 17 inches tall and capable of concealing 90% of a

bedded adult deer at 150 feet. Patches of hiding cover would consist of shrubs offering the hiding capability on a minimum of 0.75 acres. Thermal cover requirements, generally, cannot be met for deer in this vegetation type. Fawning habitat should consist of low shrubs ≥ 2.0 feet with at least 40% canopy cover and minimum patch size of 0.25 acres. No characteristics are assigned for fawning site understory vegetative cover. Ratios of habitat types within deer range should provide 55% forage area, 35% hiding cover and 10% fawning habitat. Specific vegetation characteristics for forage areas will be developed in activity plans but must be consistent with the goal of this DPC. Where possible, management will seek to maximize cover and vigor of bitterbrush.

Desired Plant Community for Big Sagebrush/Bitterbrush in the Owens Valley Management Area.

Desired plant community description for the big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)/bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) vegetation type: The goal is to maximize vegetative habitat characteristics for management indicator species like mule deer and tule elk. For those areas with site potential, mule deer habitat characteristics will include hiding cover: vegetation at least 24 inches tall and capable of concealing 90% of a bedded adult deer at 150 feet. Patches of hiding cover should be a minimum of 5 acres in size. Thermal cover would consist of stands of evergreen trees and/or shrubs at least 5 feet tall with a crown cover of $\geq 75\%$. Minimum stand size should be 2 acres with stand width ≥ 300 feet. Fawning habitat should consist of low shrubs or small trees ≥ 2.2 feet with at least 40% canopy cover and minimum patch size of 1 acre. Fawning site understory vegetative cover should range from 70-90% (along stream riparian and riparian - shrub ecotones). Ratios of habitat types within deer range should provide 55% forage area, 20% hiding cover, 10% thermal cover and 15% fawning habitat. Specific vegetation characteristics for forage areas will be

developed in activity plans but must be consistent with the goal of this DPC. Where possible, management will seek to maximize cover and vigor of bitterbrush and perennial grasses.

Vegetation requirements of tule elk are poorly understood for the Owens Valley. However, hiding cover on Bureau lands would likely be adequate for elk where vegetation is at least 40 inches tall and capable of concealing 90% of a bedded elk at 150 feet. Patches of hiding cover should be a minimum of 5 acres in size. Characteristics for thermal cover and fawning habitat are unknown. Vegetation composition on Bureau lands should be maintained west of Highway 395 for its current value as elk forage.

Desired Plant Community for Big Sagebrush/Bitterbrush in the Benton, Granite Mountain, and Coleville Management Areas.

Desired plant community description for the big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)/bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) vegetation type: The goal is to maximize vegetative habitat characteristics for management indicator species like mule deer and pronghorn. For those areas with site potential, mule deer habitat characteristics will include hiding cover: vegetation at least 24 inches tall and capable of concealing 90% of a bedded adult deer at 150 feet. Patches of hiding cover should be a minimum of 8 acres in size. Thermal cover would consist of stands of evergreen or deciduous trees and shrubs at least 5 feet tall with a crown closure of $\geq 75\%$. Minimum stand size should be 2 acres with a stand width ≥ 300 feet. Fawning habitat should consist of low shrubs or small trees ≥ 2.2 feet with at least 40% canopy cover, a minimum patch size of 1 to 5 acres, and understory vegetative cover ranging from 70-90% (only along stream riparian and riparian/shrub ecotones). Ratios of habitat types within deer range should provide 55% forage area, 20% hiding cover, 10% thermal cover and

15% fawning habitat. Specific vegetation characteristics for forage areas will be developed in activity plans but must be consistent with the goal of this DPC. In mule deer foraging areas, management will seek to maximize cover and vigor of bitterbrush where possible.

For those areas with site potential, pronghorn vegetative habitat characteristics would include 10-40% grass, 5-15% forbs and 10-45% shrubs by composition with ground cover averaging 50%. Mean vegetation height would be 15 inches. A minimum of 750-1000 lbs/acre of air dried pronghorn forage should be available following livestock turnoff.

Desired Plant Community for Big Sagebrush/Bitterbrush in the Long Valley Management Area.

Desired plant community description for the big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)/bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) vegetation type: The goal is to maximize vegetative habitat characteristics for sage grouse, a management indicator species. The description applies to the various vegetative components within a 2 mile radius of a strutting ground (lek). The area up to 1 mile from a lek would be managed for 30-40% shrub canopy cover. The area from 1-2 miles from a lek would be managed for 20-50% shrub canopy cover. Within the 2 mile radius, big sagebrush and bitterbrush height would range between 12-14" over 60% of the area with a density of 1 plant for every 4-9 ft² and include a grasslike understory of 1 plant per 0.75 ft². Preference would be given to sage grouse habitat needs where mule deer and sage grouse habitat overlap.

Desired Plant Community for Big Sagebrush/Bitterbrush in the Bodie Hills and Bridgeport Valley Management Areas.

Desired plant community description for the big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)/bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) or big sagebrush/bitterbrush/aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) vegetation type: The goal is to maximize vegetative habitat characteristics for management indicator species like sage grouse and mule deer. The DPC will apply to those areas identified as habitat for sage grouse and mule deer on the GIS resource maps. For sage grouse the description applies to the various components of the vegetation within 2 miles of a strutting ground (lek). Dense brushy areas up to 1 mile from a lek would be managed for 30-40% shrub canopy cover. The area from 1-2 miles from a lek would be managed for 20-50% shrub canopy cover. Within the 2 mile radius, big sagebrush and bitterbrush height would range between 12-14" over 60% of the area with a density of 1 plant for every 4-9 ft² and include a grasslike understory of 1 plant per 0.75 ft². Preference would be given to sage grouse habitat needs where mule deer and sage grouse habitat overlap. Vegetation outside the 2 mile radius of leks would be managed for near optimal mule deer habitat characteristics to include hiding cover, which would consist of large shrubs and/or trees which offer the hiding capability over a minimum of 0.75 acres, thermal cover, which would consist of saplings or shrubs at least 5 feet tall with 75% or more crown cover, a minimum patch size of 2-5 acres and 300 feet width, and fawning cover, which would consist of low shrubs or small trees from 2-6 feet tall ranging from 70-100% understory vegetative cover, under a tree overstory of

approximately 50% crown cover with a minimum patch size of 1-5 acres. The proportion of hiding cover: thermal cover: fawning cover would be approximately 20%: 15%: 5% with the remainder as forage area. Due to edaphic, slope, and aspect conditions, not all habitat within the management area can provide the above vegetative parameters. Those areas which have the capability will be managed for the described vegetative condition. Specific vegetation characteristics for forage areas will be developed in activity plans but must be consistent with the goal of this DPC. Where possible, management will seek to maximize cover and vigor of bitterbrush.

Desired Plant Community for the Old Growth Fir Community in the Coleville Management Area.

Desired plant community for the red fir (*Abies magnifica*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus murrayana*) which comprise the old growth timber stands: The goal is to maximize habitat for those wildlife species associated with the old growth timber areas and to maintain or improve the current floral characteristics of individual old growth stands. Generally, this will require retaining the current mix of tree species, size/age composition, snag density, log density, understory vegetation composition, species richness, and variety of age classes. Two or more tree species (e.g. red fir and white fir) must be present that provide a full range of tree sizes. Eight or more large (>30 inch diameter) or old (>200 years old) red firs must be present per acre. Intermediate and small size classes may have red fir, white fir or Jeffrey pine as the predominate species for a stand. The canopy would be multilayered. Conifer snags number $\geq 1 \frac{1}{2}$ snags per acre with dimensions > 20 inch diameter and > 15 feet tall. Logs are present at ≥ 10 tons per acre with 2 pieces per acre ≥ 24 inch diameter and > 50 feet long. Minimum stand size is 1 acre due to the intact nature of other vegetation types (pinyon/juniper, aspen/shrub, aspen/willow) providing edge influence on the stands. An

individual stand may have specific trees (<100 years old) cut and left in place if a high probability exists for improving habitat conditions for a wildlife species (e.g. pine marten) poorly represented in the old growth areas or for a wildlife guild.

Desired Plant Community for the Section 22 Spring Complex and Springs and Associated Wetlands in the Owens Lake Management Area (Meadows in the Sierra Nevada region of California are wetland or semi wetlands supporting a cover of emergent hydrophytes and mesophytes and dry herbland of the subalpine zones).

Desired plant community description for the wetland vegetation type located at Section 22 springs and other springs and associated wetlands: The goal is to maximize essential habitat characteristics for migratory and resident bird species. A site in which standing or flowing water or saturated soil would be present for a portion or all of the year. The site, typically, would be dominated by a dense growth of herbaceous monocots. Foliar cover of all plant (non-invader) species on the site would be 80% or greater. At least 4-6 inches of residual herbaceous plant height will remain at the end of the growing season or at the time of livestock turnoff, whichever is later. Native shrubs would be nonexistent in the site. Retain the natural vegetation complex in a late seral or potential natural community condition.

Desired Plant Community Description for Springs and Associated Wetlands in the Owens Valley Management Area (Meadows in the Sierra Nevada region of California are wetland or semi wetlands supporting a cover of emergent hydrophytes and mesophytes and dry herbland of the subalpine zones).

Desired plant community description for springs and associated wetlands: The goal is to maximize essential habitat characteristics for the vertebrate and invertebrate fauna using the site. A site in which standing or flowing water or saturated

soil would be present for a portion or all of the year. The site, typically, would be dominated by a dense growth of herbaceous monocots. Foliar cover of all plant (non-invader) species on the site would be 80% or greater. At least 4-6 inches of residual herbaceous plant height will remain at the end of the growing season or at the time of livestock turnoff, whichever is later. Trees such as black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) or willow (*Salix* sp.) would occasionally border or be located within the site. Native shrubs would be nonexistent or found in trace amounts in the site. Restore or retain the natural vegetation complex in a late seral or potential natural community condition.

Desired Plant Community Description for Springs and Associated Wetlands in the Benton Management Area (Meadows in the Sierra Nevada region of California are wetland or semi wetlands supporting a cover of emergent hydrophytes and mesophytes and dry herbland of the subalpine zones).

Desired plant community description for springs and associated wetlands: The goal is to maximize essential habitat characteristics for the vertebrate and invertebrate fauna using the site. A site in which standing or flowing water or saturated soil would be present for a portion or all of the year. The site, typically, would be dominated by a dense growth of herbaceous monocots. Foliar cover of all plant species on the site would be 80% or greater. At least 4-6 inches of residual herbaceous plant height will remain at the end of the growing season or at the time of livestock turnoff, whichever is later. Trees such as black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) or willow (*Salix* sp.) would occasionally border the site. Native shrubs would be found at < 5% total plant

composition in the site or be located only on the capillary fringe of the wet area. Restore or retain the natural vegetation complex in a late seral or potential natural community condition.

Desired Plant Community Description for Springs and Associated Wetlands in the Bodie Hills and Bridgeport Valley Management Areas (Meadows in the Sierra Nevada region of California are wetland or semi wetlands supporting a cover of emergent hydrophytes and mesophytes and dry herbland of the subalpine zones).

Desired plant community description for springs and associated wetlands: The goal is to maximize essential habitat characteristics for the vertebrate and invertebrate fauna using the site. A site in which standing or flowing water or saturated soil would be present for a portion or all of the year. The site, typically, would be dominated by a dense growth of herbaceous monocots. The vegetation is composed mostly of species in the following genera: *Arnica*, *Carex*, *Eleocharis*, *Hesperochiron*, *Hordeum*, *Potentilla*, *Senecio*, *Ranunculus*, and other native herbaceous plants. Shrubs like big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), green rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*) and others would be found in only trace amounts in the site. Foliar cover of all plant species on the site would be 95% or greater. At least 4-6 inches of residual herbaceous plant height will remain at the end of the growing season or at the time of livestock turnoff, whichever is later. Trees such as aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) or willow (*Salix* sp.) would occasionally border the site.

Desired Plant Community Description for Springs and Associated Wetlands in the Granite Mountain and Long Valley Management Areas (Meadows in the Sierra Nevada region of California are wetland or semiwetlands supporting a cover of emergent hydrophytes and mesophytes and dry herbland of the subalpine zones).

Desired plant community description for springs and associated wetlands: The goal is to maximize essential habitat characteristics for the vertebrate and invertebrate fauna using the site. A site in which standing or flowing water or saturated soil would be present for a portion or all of the year. The site would be dominated by a dense growth of herbaceous monocots. Shrubs common to the Great Basin would be found in only trace amounts on the site. Foliar cover of all herbaceous species on the site would be 95% or greater. At least 4-6 inches of residual herbaceous plant height will remain at the end of the growing season or at the time of livestock turnoff, whichever is later. Willow (*Salix* sp.) would occasionally border the site.

Desired Plant Community for Aspen Groves in the Coleville, Bodie Hills and Bridgeport Management Areas.

Desired plant community for aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) groves: The goal is to maximize wildlife habitat diversity. Manage aspen stands at a mid-seral or higher ecological condition with emphasis on improving the aspen age-class structure. Insure a tree size composition of 13% = 12 inches or larger diameter at breast height (DBH), 37% = 10-12 inch DBH, and 50% < 10 inch DBH. Average 3 snag trees/acre with > 10 inch DBH and > 20 feet high. Retain an average of 3 uncharred class 1 or class 2 logs per acre with a minimum size of 12 inches in diameter at the large end and at least 20 feet in length. Cover (the proportion of ground overshadowed by plants \leq 5 feet in height) under the tree canopy would be maintained between 70-100%. The understory vegetative

structure would be highly varied, containing at least 4 levels with many types of stem and branch structure. The understory composition is rich, containing a large number (> 14) of species. A variety of age classes in the understory vegetation would be represented.

Desired Plant Community for Riparian Vegetation at Springs in the South Inyo Management Area.

Desired plant community for riparian vegetation at springs: The goal is to maximize forage volume and the diversity of microclimatic features in the site. Ninety percent of the riparian vegetation would be composed of very wet soil adapted plants in vigorous condition. Reproduction of hydrophytes would be evident and proceeding at a rate in the under and overstory to insure maintaining current stand size. Vegetative cover in the site would be 60% or greater. The understory vegetation structure would be highly varied, containing at least 4 levels with many types of stem and branch structure. A variety of vegetation species and age classes would be represented.

Desired Plant Community for Riparian Vegetation Along Streams in the Coleville, Bodie Hills, Bridgeport Valley, Granite Mountain, Long Valley, Benton, Owens Valley and Owens Lake Management Areas.

Desired plant community for riparian vegetation along streams: The goal is to maximize forage volume and the diversity of microclimatic features in the riparian site. Additional goals are retention or improvement of streambank stability and bank morphology. Ninety percent of the site would be composed of very wet soil adapted plants in vigorous condition or by boulders and rubble which do not allow bank erosion. Vegetation overhang within 12 inches of water surface would average 5 inches. Reproduction of hydrophytes would be evident. Upland plants (shrubs) are limited largely to the riparian-upland ecotone

or at the stream capillary fringe. Trees (including conifers), shrubs, sedges, rushes, and grasses combined would cover more than 90% of the stream bank away from boulders and rubble. A minimum of 70% of the stream (water column) would be shaded by vegetation. Riparian vegetation growth is vigorous for woody plants and at least 4-6 inches of residual herbaceous plant height will remain at the end of the growing season or at the time of livestock turnoff, whichever is later. Reproduction of species in both the under and overstory would proceed at a rate to insure continued ground/bank cover. The understory vegetation structure would be highly varied, containing at least 4 levels with many types of stem and branch structure. A variety of vegetation species and age classes are represented.

NOTE: In the Benton Management Area, Montgomery Creek will not be included under a DPC description due to stream gradient, propensity for flash flooding and the inability to control the natural erosion within the stream channel in an economical manner. Morris Creek is also eliminated from DPC guidelines since much of the water which historically ran in the natural stream channel is now diverted into Nevada, and the remaining water (< 0.5 cfs) is now flowing in a manmade channel.

Desired Plant Community for Pinyon/Juniper in the Coleville, Bodie Hills, Granite Mountain, Benton and South Inyo Management Areas.

Desired plant community description for the pinyon (*Pinus monophylla*)/juniper (*Juniperus* sp.) vegetation type: The goal is to maximize wildlife habitat diversity with an emphasis on mule deer habitat improvement. Dense stands of pinyon or pinyon and juniper which have < 25% understory vegetative cover, a tree crown cover > 20% and an overall stocking rate > 75 trees per acre would receive priority treatment for a change in vegetation composition. The desired stocking rate would be 20 to 40 trees per acre containing an uneven aged mix of trees where at least 40% of stand composition would consist of seed trees (> 100 years old). A minimum of 1/2 of all felled trees would be left in place. Insure an average of 1 snag tree per acre (1 snag tree per 3 acres in South Inyo Management Area) with minimum dimensions of 10 inches DBH and 15 feet in height. Retain in place an average of 2 uncharred class 1 or class 2 logs per acre with minimum dimensions of 12 inch diameter at the large end and 15 feet in length. Class 3, 4 or 5 logs would not be disturbed or burned. Limb slash would be left in place or piled on tree stumps or in the interspaces where little to no shrub or tree production occurs. Invasion of annual cheatgrass (*Bromus* sp.) or other exotic weeds should not occur after stand alteration.

Appendix 2

Interim Management Guidelines for Study Rivers

Once a river segment or waterway is determined eligible and classified as wild, scenic or recreational, it must be afforded adequate interim protection until the study process is complete and a suitability or nonsuitability decision is made. In general, management prescriptions for river corridors identified for study should provide protection in the following ways:

1. **Free-flowing Values.** The free-flowing characteristics of identified river segments cannot be modified to allow stream impoundments, diversions, channelization, and/or rip-rapping (to the extent the BLM is authorized under law to prohibit such actions).
2. **River Values.** Outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river segment or area must be protected (subject to valid existing rights) and, to the extent practicable, enhanced.

3. **Classification Impacts.** Management and development of the identified river and its corridor cannot be modified, subject to valid existing rights, to the degree that its eligibility or classification would be affected (i.e., its classification cannot be changed from wild to scenic, or scenic to recreational).

The following table provides a description of classification criteria to determine whether a study river is wild, scenic or recreational. Then under each classification, it identifies specific guidelines for interim management of study rivers until a suitability or nonsuitability decision is made. Rivers recommended as suitable must be ultimately designated by Congress in order to be added to the Wild and Scenic River system.

Table 1. Guidelines for Interim Management of Study Rivers on Bureau of Land Management Lands in the Bishop Resource Area

General Guidance

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides some guidance as to how study rivers would be managed until designated suitable by Congress or released to multiple use. It states, "Each component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration, primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its aesthetic, scenic, historic, archaeological, and scientific features. Management plans for any such component may establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development, on the special attributes of the area." Sec. 10(a) P.L. 90-542 Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

	Wild River Classification	Scenic River Classification	Recreational River Classification
Classification Description	Wild river areas are defined by the Act to include, "Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America". Management of wild river areas should give primary emphasis to protecting the values which make it outstandingly remarkable while providing river related outdoor recreation opportunities in a primitive setting.	Scenic river areas are defined by the Act to be "Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads." Management of scenic river areas should maintain and provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a near-natural setting. The basic distinctions between a "wild" and "scenic" river area are the degree of development, types of land use, and road accessibility. In general, a wide range of agricultural, water management, silvicultural and other practices could be compatible with scenic river values, providing such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment.	Recreational river areas are defined by the Act to be "Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past." Management of recreational river areas should be designed to protect and enhance existing recreational values. The primary objective will be to provide opportunities for the public to participate in recreation activities dependent on or enhanced by the largely free-flowing nature of the river.

Table 1. (Continued)

	Wild River Classification	Scenic River Classification	Recreational River Classification
Land Use Activities: Forestry Practices	Cutting of trees will not be permitted except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience (such as clearing for trails and for visitor safety) or to protect the environment (such as control of fire). Timber outside the boundary but within the visual corridors will be managed and harvested in a manner to provide special emphasis on visual quality.	Forestry practices including timber harvesting could be allowed provided that such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. The river area should be maintained in its near natural environment. Timber outside the boundary but within the visual area should be managed and harvested in a manner which provides special emphasis on visual quality.	Forestry practices including timber harvesting would be allowed under standard restrictions to protect the river environment and its associated values.
Land Use Activities: Agricultural Practices and Livestock Grazing	Agricultural use is restricted to a limited amount of domestic livestock grazing and hay production to the extent currently practiced. Row crops are prohibited.	A wider range of agricultural and livestock grazing uses is permitted to the extent currently practiced. Row crops are not considered as an intrusion on the "largely primitive" nature of scenic corridors as long as there is not a substantial adverse effect on the natural-like appearance of the river area.	Lands may be managed for a full range of agricultural and livestock grazing use to the extent currently practiced.
Land Use Activities: Recreation Facilities	Major public use areas, such as large campground, interpretive centers or administrative headquarters are located outside the wild river area. Simple comfort and convenience facilities, such as toilets, tables, fireplaces, shelters or refuse containers may be provided as necessary within the river area. These should harmonize with the surroundings. Unobtrusive hiking and horseback riding trail bridges could be allowed on tributaries, but would not normally cross the designated river.	Larger scale public use facilities such as moderate size campgrounds, interpretive centers, and administrative headquarters are allowed if such structures are screened from the river. Modest and unobtrusive marinas also can be allowed.	Interpretive centers, administrative headquarters, campgrounds, and picnic areas may be established in close proximity to the river. However, recreational classification does not require extensive recreation development.

Table 1 (Continued)

	Wild River Classification	Scenic River Classification	Recreational River Classification
Land Use Activities: Public Use and Access	Recreation use including but not limited to hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating is encouraged in river areas to the extent consistent with the protection of the river environment and outstandingly remarkable values. Public use and access may be regulated and distributed where necessary to protect and enhance river values.	This is the same as for wild river classification.	This is the same as for wild river classification.
Land Use Activities: Motorized Travel	Motorized travel on land or water could be permitted, but is generally not compatible with this classification. Normally, motorized use will be prohibited in a wild river area. Prescriptions for management of motorized use may allow for search and rescue and other emergency situations.	Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited, or restricted to protect the river values. Prescriptions for management of motorized use may allow for search and rescue and other emergency situations.	Motorized travel on land will generally be permitted on existing roads. Controls will usually be similar to that of surrounding lands. Motorized travel on water will be in accordance with existing regulations or restrictions.
Land Use Activities: Rights-of-Way and Utilities	New transmission lines, natural gas lines, water lines, etc., are discouraged unless specifically prohibited, outright by other plans, orders, or laws. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are unavailable, locations and construction techniques will be selected to minimize adverse effects on river area related values and fully evaluated during the site selection process.	This is the same as for wild river classification.	This is the same as for wild river classification.

Table 1 (Continued)

	Wild River Classification	Scenic River Classification	Recreational River Classification
Land Use Activities: Road and Trail Construction	No new roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel would be permitted within a narrow incised river valley, or if the river valley is broad, within 1/4 mile of the river band. A few inconspicuous roads leading to the boundary of the river area and unobtrusive trail bridges may be permitted. New trails may be constructed provided that they do not detract from the essentially primitive character of the area.	Roads may occasionally bridge the river area, and short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads or screened railroads could be allowed. Maintenance of existing roads and any new roads will be based on the type of use for which the roads are constructed and the type of use that will occur in the river area. New trails may be constructed to enhance the values for which the river was designated.	Parallel roads or railroads could be constructed on one or both river banks. There can be several bridge crossings and numerous river access points. New trails may be constructed as long as there is no conflict with other river values.
Land Use Activities: Minerals	Subject to existing regulations (e.g., 36 CFR 228 and 43 CFR 3809) and any future regulations that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior may prescribe to protect rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases could be allowed and existing operations allowed to continue. All mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment. Reasonable mining claim and mineral lease access will be permitted. Mining claims beyond 1/4 mile of the river, but within the wild river area boundary, and perfected after the effective date of the wild river designation can be patented only as to the mineral estate and not the surface estate.	Subject to existing regulations (e.g., 36 CFR 228 and 43 CFR 3809) and any future regulations that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior may prescribe to protect the values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases could be allowed and existing operations allowed to continue. All mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Reasonable mining claim and mineral lease access will be permitted. Mining claims perfected after the effective date of the scenic river designation can be patented only as to the mineral estate and not the surface estate.	Subject to existing regulations (e.g., 36 CFR 228 and 43 CFR 3809) and any future regulations that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior may prescribe to protect the values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases could be allowed and existing operations allowed to continue. All mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Reasonable mining claim and mineral lease access will be permitted. Mining claims perfected after the effective date of the recreation river designation can be patented only as to the mineral estate and not the surface estate.

Table 1 (Continued)

	Wild River Classification	Scenic River Classification	Recreational River Classification
Land Use Activities: Water Quality	Water quality will be maintained or improved to meet Federal criteria or Federally approved state standards. River management plans shall prescribe a process for monitoring water quality on a continuing basis.	This is the same as for wild river classification.	This is the same as for wild river classification
Land Use Activities: Water Supply	Water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited	Water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited. Maintenance of existing facilities and construction of some minor new diversion structures would be permitted provided that the area remains natural in appearance and the practices or structures harmonize with the surrounding environment.	New major water structures are prohibited. Existing low dams, diversion works, rip rap and other minor structures may be maintained provided the waterway remains generally natural in appearance. New minor diversion structures or management practices, e.g., water bars, diversion ditches, etc. may be allowed provided that the area remains generally natural in appearance and the structures harmonize with the surrounding environment.
Land Use Activities: Flood Control	No new flood control dams, levees, or other works are allowed in the channel or river corridor. The natural appearance and essentially primitive character of the river must be maintained.	Flood control dams and levees are prohibited. Existing structures protecting major improvements, homes, bridges, highways, etc., may be maintained.	Existing flood control and protection works may be maintained. New structures to provide bank stabilization such as rock or log placement, must not affect free-flowing characteristics nor conflict with outstandingly remarkable values. In addition, new structures must be compatible with the classification and the area must remain natural in appearance with structures harmonizing with the environment.

Table 1 (Continued)

	Wild River Classification	Scenic River Classification	Recreational River Classification
Land Use Activities: Hydroelectric Power	No development of hydroelectric power facilities would be permitted.	This is the same as for wild river classification.	This is the same as for wild river classification.
Land Use Activities: Ground Water	Federal agency groundwater development for range, wildlife, recreation, or administrative facilities may be permitted if there are no adverse effects on outstandingly remarkable values	This is the same as for wild river classification.	This is the same as for wild river classification.
Land Use Activities: Fire Protection and Suppression	Management and suppression of fires within a designated river area will be carried out in a manner compatible with contiguous Federal lands. On wildfires, methods will be utilized that minimize suppression activities that cause long term impacts on the river and river area. Presuppression and prevention activities will be conducted in a manner which reflects management objectives for the specific river segment. Prescribed fire may be utilized to maintain or restore ecological condition or to meet objectives specified in the river management plan.	This is the same as for wild river classification.	This is the same as for wild river classification.
Land Use Activities: Insects, Disease and Noxious Weeds	The control of forest and rangeland pests, diseases and noxious weed infestations will be carried out in a manner compatible with the intent of the Act and management objectives of contiguous Federal lands.	This is the same as for wild river classification.	This is the same as for wild river classification.

Table 1 (Continued)

	Wild River Classification	Scenic River Classification	Recreational River Classification
Land Use Activities: Cultural Resources	Historic and prehistoric resource sites will be identified, evaluated, and protected in a manner compatible with the management objectives of the river and in accordance with applicable regulations and policies. Where appropriate, historic or prehistoric sites will be stabilized, enhanced, and interpreted.	This is the same as for wild river classification.	This is the same as for wild river classification.
Land Use Activities: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement	The construction and maintenance of minor structures for protection, conservation, rehabilitation, or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat are acceptable in wild river areas provided they do not affect the free-flowing characteristics of the river, nor conflict with outstandingly remarkable values. In addition, structures and practices should be compatible with the classification, assure the area remains natural in appearance and harmonize with the surrounding environment.	This is the same as for wild river classification.	This is the same as for wild river classification
Land Use Activities: Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas	Management of river areas which overlap designated wilderness or wilderness study areas will meet whichever standard is highest. If an area is released from wilderness study area status and the associated interim management policy, the applicable river classification guidelines and standards would then apply.	This is the same as for wild river classification	This is the same as for wild river classification

Table 1 (Continued)

	Wild River Classification	Scenic River Classification	Recreational River Classification
Land Use Activities: Visual Resources	Preservation of existing landscape character through natural ecological change is the objective. Limited management activities are not precluded, provided any change to the characteristic landscape is low and does not attract attention.	Retention of the existing landscape character is the objective. Management activities can occur, provided the change to the characteristic landscape is low and does not attract the attention of the casual observer.	Partial retention of the existing landscape character is the objective. Management activities can occur, provided the change to the characteristic landscape is no more than moderate and does not dominate the view of the casual observer.

Appendix 3

Visual Resource Management Class Objective Descriptions

Class I Objective. The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

Class II Objective. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen from key observation points, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III Objective. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention from key observation points but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class IV Objective. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view from key observation points and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Appendix 4

Summary of Grazing Decisions from the MFPs

This appendix portrays a summary of grazing decisions from the Management Framework Plans (MFPs) for the Benton-Owens Valley and Bodie-Coleville grazing EIS areas. It also includes a brief description of the Bureau's selective management criteria for categorizing grazing allotments on public lands.

Table 1 summarizes grazing decisions established in the MFP for the Benton-Owens Valley planning area. Table 2 shows changes to those decisions implemented to date. Table 3 summarizes grazing decisions established in the MFP for the Bodie-Coleville planning area. Table 4 shows changes to those decisions.

The Bureau's National Rangeland Management Policy established standard criteria for determining selective management categories for grazing allotments on public lands. An allotment's selective management category may change as resource conditions change or new information becomes available. These changes do not require plan amendments or AMP decisions. The goal is to have as many allotments in the Maintain (M) category as possible. Selective management categories for all allotments in the Bishop Resource Area are shown on the tables included in this appendix.

The Bureau's standard criteria for allotment categorization are presented below.

Maintain (M) Category Criteria - present range condition is satisfactory, the allotment has moderate to high resource production potential and is producing near that potential, no serious resource use conflicts or controversy exist, opportunities may exist for positive economic return from public investments, present management is accomplishing the desired results, and any other appropriate criteria.

Improve (I) Category Criteria - present range condition is unsatisfactory, the allotment has moderate to high resource production potential but is not producing near that potential, serious resource use conflicts or controversy exist, opportunities exist for positive economic return from public investments, opportunities exist to achieve the allotment's potential through changes in management, and any other appropriate criteria.

Custodial (C) Category Criteria - present range condition is not a factor, the allotment has low resource production potential and is producing near that potential, limited resource use conflicts or controversy may exist.

Table 1. Summary of Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Benton-Owens Valley EIS Area.

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
6001 Keough ³	C	1,029	0	29	C	Unspecified	S
6002 Black Rock ³	C	963	0	36	H	Unspecified	S
6003 Frazier Canyon ³	C	7,564	0	223	C,S	7/15-11/15	S
6004 Fish Slough ³	C	1,496	0	39	C	11/1-5/31	S
6007 Volcanic Tablelands	C	34,861	4,456	1,332	S	5/1-6/15	S
6008 Round Valley Common	I	10,876	444	389	C	6/1-10/15	RR
6009 Evans	C	1,160	364	342	C,S	Unspecified	S
6010 Bishop Creek ⁴		4,717	274	0			
6012 Zurich	C	8,839	240	392	C,S	11/1-4/30	S
6013 Owens Valley	C	1,582	137	48	C,S	Unspecified	S
6014 Independence	I	16,443	420	406	C	4/1-6/30	DR
6015 Sawmill Creek ³	C	2,082	0	24	C	Unspecified	S
6016 Owens Valley Common	C	638	38	13	C,S	Unspecified	S
6017 Long Valley Common ⁵		4,854	398	0	C		S
6018 Hot Creek	M	1,349	107	321	C	Unspecified	S
6019 West Crater Mtn.	M	6,540	300	331	C	12/1-6/30	S
6020 Little Round Valley	C	471	43	43	S	Unspecified	S
6021 Shannon Canyon/ Baker Creek	C	3,000	90	90	C	4/1-6/30 10/1-12/31	S
6022 Wilfred Creek	I	6,965	315	253	C	6/1-11/30	S
6023 Black Mine	C	1,658	34	47	C,S	Unspecified	S
6024 Hammil Valley	I	39,156	1,950	1,964	C	6/15-2/28@	S
6025 Marble Creek	I	18,097	871	794	C	Yearlong@	RR
6026 Mathieu	C	1,950	50	50	C,S	6/1-10/31	S
6027 Adobe Valley	I	24,043	1,241	1,636	C,S	6/15-11/15	RR
6028 Black Lake	C	885	49	24	C,S	6/1-10/31	S

Table 1. Summary of Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Benton-Owens Valley EIS Area (continued).

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
6030 Chalfant Valley	M	13,140	870	399	C	10/1-5/15	S
6031 Poleta	C	2,345	120	58	C,S	Unspecified	S
6032 Sherwin	I	3,071	45	97	C	6/1-10/15	RR
6033 Tinemaha	C	3,681	250	159	C,S	Unspecified	S
6034 Granite Mtn.	M	16,956	192	798	C,S	7/1-10/15	S
6035 Granite Basin ⁷		3,652	300	0	C,S	7/1-8/31	S
6036 Adobe Lake	C	1,804	112	77	C,S	6/1-10/31	S
6037 Symons	C	3,134	144	93	C,S	6/1-10/31	S
6038 Bramlette	I	31,718	1,032	738	C	10/1-2/28	S
6040 Laws	C	3,065	186	56	C,S	10/1-5/15	S
6041 Jeffrey	C	4,600	261	257	C,S	10/1-5/15	S
6042 Ash Creek ⁶	I	3,008	300	130	C	2/1-5/31	RR
6043 Chalk Bluff	M	12,517	593	455	C,S	10/1-5/15	S
6044 Long Valley ⁹	C	2,496	100	11	C,S	Unspecified	S
6045 Tobacco Flat	C	304	40	32	C	Unspecified	S
6046 Alabama Hills	I	47,010	1,364	1,077	C	2/1-5/31	DR
6047 Red Mtn.	M	4,871	330	251	C	12/1-6/30	S
6048 West Santa Rita	C	761	47	8	C,S	Unspecified	S
6049 Aberdeen	C	4,279	224	231	C,S	12/1-5/31	S
6050 Poverty Hills	M	4,354	44	96	C	12/1-3/15 5/1-6/30	S
6051 Wells Meadow	I	1,263	152	69	C	6/1-10/15	RR
6053 Lone Tree	C	3,559	360	182	C	10/1-5/15	S
6054 Mono Lake ⁸		8,536	416	0	S	7/1-8/15	S
6055 Mono Mills	M	35,932	1,907	2,812	S	7/1-10/15	S
6079 East Crater Mtn.	M	3,524	75	136	C	12/1-6/30	S

Table 1. Summary of Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Benton-Owens Valley EIS Area (continued).

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
6080 Blind Spring	M	5,870	0	130	C	6/15-2/28	S
6081 Casa Diablo ¹⁰	C	2,193	0	40	C,S	Unspecified	S
6082 George Creek	C	3,160	0	183	C	4/15-6/30	S
Total	53	432,021	21,285	17,401			
Total I	11	201,650	8,134	7,553			
Total M	10	96,517	4,418	5,729			
Total C	28	112,095	7,345	3,949			
Unallotted Areas	1	4,717	274				
Allotments to be Combined	3	17,042	1,114				

1 Estimates are derived from a weight estimate survey, and are an estimate of total available livestock forage.

2 S=Seasonal DR=Deferred rotation RR=Rest rotation

3 Formerly unallocated areas designated to become allotments.

4 Allotment to be unallocated.

5 Allotment to be combined with 6018.

6 Ash Creek unallocated area to be incorporated for an additional 40 AUMs Active Preference and an RR grazing system developed.

7 Allotment to be combined with 6034.

8 Allotment to be combined with 6055.

9 Allotment boundary to be changed by grazing decision.

10 Formerly part of allotment 6044.

@ Grazing decision specifying stagger or restricted use on bitterbrush for deer winter range.

Table 2. Summary of Changes in Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Benton-Owens Valley EIS Area.

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
6001 Keough	C	1,029	29	29	C	Unspecified	S
6002 Black Rock	C	963	36	36	H	Unspecified	S
6003 Frazier Canyon	C	7,564	223	223	C,S	7/15-11/15	S
6004 Fish Slough	C	1,496	39	39	C	11/1-5/31	S
6007 Volcanic Tablelands ⁶	C	44,006	3,788	1,332	S	5/1-6/15	S
6008 Round Valley Common ^{4,6}	I	5,248	389	389	C	6/1-10/15	RR
6009 Evans ⁹							
6012 Zurich ⁵	C	8,839	392	392	C,S	11/1-4/30	S
6013 Owens Valley ^{5,6}	C	1,764	116	48	C,S	Unspecified	S
6014 Independence ⁷							
6015 Sawmill Creek	C	2,082	24	24	C	Unspecified	S
6016 Owens Valley Common ⁵	C	640	32	13	C,S	Unspecified	S
6018 Hot Creek ^{5,8}	M	6,203	445	321	C	5/15-10/31	S
6019 West Crater Mtn. ⁵	M	6,540	331	331	C	12/1-6/30	S
6020 Little Round Valley ³	C	1,118	43	43	S	Unspecified	S
6021 Shannon Canyon/ Baker Creek	C	3,000	90	90	C	4/1-6/30 10/1-12/31	S
6022 Wilfred Creek ⁵	I	6,965	295	253	C	6/1-11/30	S
6023 Black Mine ^{5,8}	C	1,658	47	47	C	Unspecified	S
6024 Hammil Valley ^{3,5,8}	I	41,320	1,964	1,964	C	10/1-6/15@	S
6025 Marble Creek ^{5,6,8}	I	14,791	845	794	C	Yearlong@	RR
6026 Mathieu ⁸	C	1,950	50	50	C	6/1-10/31	S
6027 Adobe Valley ^{5,8}	I	24,043	1,391	1,636	C	6/15-11/15	RR
6028 Black Lake ⁵	C	885	41	24	C,S	6/1-10/31	S

Table 2. Summary of Changes in Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Benton-Owens Valley EIS Area (continued).

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
6030 Chalfant Valley ^{5,8}	M	13,140	399	399	C	10/1-6/15	S
6031 Poleta ^{5,8}	C	2,345	100	58	C	Unspecified	S
6032 Sherwin ^{4,6}	I	1,811	97	97	C	6/1-10/15	RR
6033 Tinemaha ⁹	C	3,681	220	159	C	Unspecified	S
6034 Granite Mtn. ⁵	M	20,608	594	798	C	7/1-10/15	S
6036 Adobe Lake ⁵	C	1,804	100	77	C,S	6/1-10/31	S
6037 Symons ⁵	C	3,134	127	93	C,S	6/1-10/31	S
6038 Bramlette ^{3,5,8,10}	I	33,308	655	738	C	10/1-5/31 [@]	S
6040 Laws ⁸	C	3,065	186	56	C	10/1-5/15	S
6041 Jeffrey ^{5,8}	C	4,600	257	257	C	10/1-5/15	S
6042 Ash Creek ⁵	C	3,008	243	130	C	2/1-5/31	D
6043 Chalk Bluff ^{3,5,8}	C	15,607	555	455	C	10/1-5/15	S
6044 Long Valley ^{6,8}	C	303	11	11	C	Unspecified	S
6045 Tobacco Flat ^{3,5}	C	380	32	32	C	Unspecified	S
6046 Alabama Hills ^{5,8}	M	65,234	1,770	1,077	C	2/1-6/30	D
6047 Red Mtn. ⁵	M	4,871	304	251	C	12/1-6/30	S
6048 West Santa Rita ^{5,6,8}	C	321	8	8	C	Unspecified	S
6049 Aberdeen ^{5,8}	C	4,279	231	231	C	12/1-5/31	S
6050 Poverty Hills ^{5,8}	M	4,354	78	96	C	12/1-3/15 5/1-6/15	S
6051 Wells Meadow ^{5,8}	I	1,263	129	69	C	4/1-10/15	RR
6053 Lone Tree ⁵	C	3,559	301	182	C	10/1-5/15	S
6054 Mono Lake ^{3,5,8,11}	M	8,536	537	653	S	7/1-10/15	S
6055 Mono Mills ⁵	M	35,932	2,142	2,812	S	7/1-10/15	S
6079 East Crater Mtn. ⁵	M	3,524	136	136	C	12/1-6/30	S

Table 2. Summary of Changes in Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Benton-Owens Valley EIS Area (continued).

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
6080 Blind Spring ⁵	M	5,870	130	130	C	6/15-2/28 [@]	S
6081 Casa Diablo. ^{5,6,8}	C	2,193	40	40	S	Unspecified	S
6082 George Creek ^{5,6,8}	C	3,160	183	183	C	3/1-6/30	S
Total	50	431,994	20,183	17,306			
Total I	8	128,794	5,773	5,940			
Total M	11	174,812	6,866	7,004			
Total C	29	128,433	7,544	4,362			
Unallotted Areas	1	0	0				
Allotments Combined	1	0	0				

1 Estimates are derived from a weight estimate survey, and are an estimate of total available livestock forage.

2 S=Seasonal DR=Deferred rotation D=Deferred RR=Rest rotation

3 Allotment acreage change due to incorporation of unallocated area.

4 No grazing until AMP is implemented.

5 Preference adjustment from that shown in Table 1.

6 Allotment boundary change made by grazing decision, other adjustments made accordingly.

7 Combined with allotment 6046; also season of use change.

8 Grazing decision specifying kind of livestock, season of use or grazing system.

9 Entire allotment or portion thereof in Mono Basin National Scenic Area; adjustments made accordingly.

10 One permittee relinquished his permit.

11 Allotment not incorporated.

@ Grazing decision specifying stagger or restricted use on bitterbrush for deer winter range.

Table 3. Summary of Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Bodie-Coleville EIS Area.

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
6066 Slinkard Valley	I	7,923	75 95	75 95	S C	5/15-5/31 5/15-10/31	S
6071 Bodie Mountain	I	46,547	5,647	3,816	C,S	6/1-10/15	RR
6072 Mono Sand Flat	I	59,188	2,514	1,550	C	12/1-5/31	RR
6073 Potato Peak	I	18,243	2,647	2,238	S	6/1-10/31	DR
Aurora Canyon ³	I	17,832	1,245	1,051	C	6/15-9/30	RR
6057 Copper Mountain	M	2,448	324	191	C,S	6/16-10/31	DR
6058 Dog Creek	M	5,340	990	952	S	6/1-10/31	DR
6059 Rancheria Gulch	M	15,213	1,600	1,257	S	6/1-10/31	DR
6060 Dechambeau Ranch	M	9,712	600	489	S	6/1-8/15	DR
6061 Mono Settlement	M	2,625	240	201	S	6/1-10/31	DR
6062 Travertine Hills	M	8,947	740	1,193	C,S	5/17-10/31	DR
6070 Little Mormon	M	8,616	1,230	956	S	6/1-10/31	DR
6074 Mormon Ranch	M	3,358	329	226	S	7/22-10/15	DR
6075 Goat Ranch	M	1,956	164	68	S	6/1-7/20	DR
6076 Green Creek	C	3,838	550	483	S	6/1-10/31	DR
3601 Topaz (Calif.)	C	200	5	2	C	4/1-5/15	S
6056 West Reservoir	C	753	70	16	C	6/16-9/30	S
6063 Dry Canyon ⁴	C	893	78	40	C	5/15-10/31	S
6064 Koenig Ranch	C	548	5	16	C,H	5/1-10/31	S
6065 Aristo Ranch	C	651	112	34	C	5/1-10/31	S
6068 Sarman Ranch	C	445	22	13	C,S,H	5/1-10/31	S
6078 Walters Ranch	C	516	54	15	S	5/1-6/30	S
3554 Larkin Lake	Unallotted	295	40	0		Temporary non renewable use only in accordance with HMP	

Table 3. Summary of Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Bodie-Coleville EIS Area (continued).

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
3599 Wild Oat ⁵	Unallotted	1,749	219	0	S		Trailing use allowed by permit
6067 Chichester Ranch ⁵	Unallotted	280	3	0			No grazing
6069 Little Antelope	Unallotted	5,134	0	0			No grazing
0000 Bodie	Unallotted	1,387	0	0			Trailing use allowed by permit
0001 East Antelope	Unallotted	3,175	0	0			Trailing use allowed by permit
0002 West Antelope	Unallotted	477	0	0			No grazing
Total	28	227,773	19,597	14,977			
Total I	5	149,733	12,223	8,825			
Total M	10	62,053	6,766	6,016			
Total C	6	3,490	346	136			
Unallotted Areas	7	12,497	262	0			

1 Estimates are derived from a weight estimate survey, and are an estimate of total available livestock forage. No adjustments in existing preference levels will be made until monitoring studies and actual use data verify the need for adjustment.

2 S=Seasonal DR=Deferred rotation RR=Rest rotation

3 Formerly part of allotment 6073, Potato Peak. Present preference is shown as it would be divided by the new allotment boundary.

4 Preference will eventually be relinquished pending exchange of use with CDF&G administered state lands within allotment 6066.

5 Cancellation of existing permits require a two-year notification prior to the cancellation or relinquishment.

Table 4. Summary of Changes in Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Bodie-Coleville EIS Area.

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
6066 Slinkard Valley	No	Change					
6071 Bodie Mountain	I	46,547	5,647	3,816	C,S	6/1-10/15	D
6072 Mono Sand Flat ¹	I	52,516	2,360	1,396	C	12/1-5/31	RR
6073 Potato Peak ²	I	13,528	1,086	1,676	C	6/1-10/31	D
6083 Aurora Canyon ⁶	I	17,832	1,736	1,051	C	6/15-9/30	D
6084 Mt. Biedeman ⁹	I	4,859	480	480	S	6/1-10/31	D
6057 Copper Mountain	M	2,448	324	191	C,S	6/16-10/31	S
6058 Dog Creek ³	M	6,300	990	962	S	6/1-10/31	D
6059 Rancheria Gulch ⁴	M	21,514	1,600	1,257	S	6/1-10/31	S
Dechambeau Ranch ^{1,5}							
6061 Mono Settlement ¹	M	758	112	73	S	6/1-10/31	D
6062 Travertine Hills ¹⁰	M	8,467	740	1,193	C,S	5/17-10/31	D
6070 Little Mormon	M	8,616	1,230	956	S	6/1-10/31	D
6074 Mormon Ranch	M	3,358	329	226	S	7/22-10/15	D
Goat Ranch ⁷							
6076 Green Creek	M	3,838	550	483	S	6/1-10/31	D
3601 Topaz (Calif.) ⁸	C	200	5	2	C	4/1-5/15	S
6056 West Reservoir	No	Change					
6063 Dry Canyon	No	Change					
6064 Koenig Ranch	No	Change					
6065 Aristo Ranch	No	Change					
6068 Sarman Ranch	No	Change					
6078 Walters Ranch	No	Change					
3554 Larkin Lake	Unallotted	295	0	0		Temporary non-renewable use only in Accordance with HMP	

Table 4. Summary of Changes in Grazing Decisions from the Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Bodie-Coleville EIS Area (continued).

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Existing AUMs of Active Preference	Estimated Livestock Forage AUMs ¹	Kind of Livestock	Season of Use	Grazing System ²
3599 Wild Oat	Unallotted	1,749	0	0			Trailing use allowed by permit
6067 Chichester Ranch	Unallotted	280	0	0			No grazing
6069 Little Antelope	No	Change					
0000 Bodie	No	Change					
0001 East Antelope	No	Change					
0002 West Antelope	No	Change					
0003 Travertine ACEC Unallotted		480	0	0			
Total	29	215,487	17,700	14,056			
Total I	6	143,205	11,479	8,589			
Total M	8	55,229	5,875	5,331			
Total C	7	4,006	346	136			
Unallotted Areas	8	12,997	0	0			

1 Portion of allotment in Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, adjustments made accordingly.

2 590 additional AUMs in suspended preference pending completion of range projects; also changed kind of livestock separated a portion for creation of allotment 6084, and change in grazing capacity due to the change in kind of livestock.

3 Land exchange, BLM acquired 960 acres with no increase to active preference.

4 No change in active preference after merger of allotments 6060 and 6075.

5 Remaining BLM portion merged into allotment 6059; no active preference increase. No longer an allotment.

6 AUM adjustment based on separation from allotment 6073.

7 Loss of base property qualifications, allotment was merged into allotment 6059; no active preference increase. No longer an allotment.

8 Administered by Toiyabe National Forest; majority of the allotment is in Nevada.

9 Allotment created from portion of allotment 6073.

10 Loss of 480 acres due to construction of Travertine Boundary Fence for Travertine ACEC.

Glossary

(Including Acronyms)

ACEC. Area of Critical Environmental Concern: An area within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife or natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

ACTIVITY PLAN: A detailed, site-specific plan for management of a single resource program or plan element undertaken as necessary to implement the more general resource management plan (RMP) decisions.

ALLOTMENT: An area of land assigned to one or more livestock operators for grazing livestock. Allotments generally consist of BLM land but may also include state-owned and private land. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and seasons of use are specified for each allotment.

ALLOTTED: An area of land determined by the RMP to be established as an allotment to be used for grazing livestock.

AMP. Allotment Management Plan: A livestock grazing management plan for a specific allotment based on multiple-use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources-watershed, vegetation and wildlife. An AMP establishes the seasons-of-use, the number of livestock to be permitted on the range and the rangeland developments needed.

AUM. Animal Unit Month: The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or five sheep for 1 month.

BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY: A backcountry, non-paved route designated for its scenic or recreation value. Often requires the use of a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

BLM. Bureau of Land Management.

CALVING AREA: An area important for tule elk during the calving season (spring and early summer). It typically includes cover to hide calves from predators, and palatable and nutritious forage.

CANDIDATE SPECIES:

Category 1: Plant and animal species for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently has on file substantial information to support a proposal to list as threatened or endangered.

Category II: Plant and animal species for which current information indicates that a proposal to list as threatened or endangered is possibly appropriate, but for which more information is needed to support a listing proposal.

CRMP. Coordinated Resource Management Plan: A plan for management of one or more allotments that involves all the affected resources, e.g., range, wildlife and watershed.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES: Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activities, occupations, and endeavors as reflected in sites, buildings, structures, or objects, including works of art, architecture, and engineering. Cultural resources are commonly discussed as prehistoric and historic values, but each period represents a part of the full continuum of cultural values from the earliest to the most recent.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: A broad, general term which may refer to cultural properties, or to any traditional lifeway value of an identified social or cultural group.

DESIGNATED RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDOR: A parcel of land, either linear or areal, that has been identified by law, by Secretarial Order, through the land use planning process, or by other management decision, as a preferred location for existing and future right-of-way grants and suitable to accommodate more than one type of right-of-way or one or more rights-of-way which are similar, identical, or compatible.

DESIRED PLANT COMMUNITY: A plant community in which specific vegetative characteristics are defined to attain the desired goal for the aggregation of plants and animals living within the site.

DISCRETIONARY ACTION: Any action which the BLM has authority to either approve or deny.

EA. Environmental Assessment: The procedure for determining the significance of impacts of some proposed action on a given environment and the documentation of the analysis. An EA may be preliminary to an EIS.

ECOLOGICAL CONDITION: The present state of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community. An expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble the potential natural plant community. Ecological status was formerly known as range condition. Ecological condition classes are defined below:

Early Seral: Sites with 0 to 25% of the potential natural community present.

Mid Seral: Sites with 26 to 50% of the potential natural community present.

Late Seral: Sites with greater than 50% of the potential natural community present.

Potential Natural Community: The final vegetation community that emerges after a series of successive vegetational stages. This climax community perpetuates itself unless disturbed by natural or human forces.

EIS. Environmental Impact Statement.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: An animal or plant whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, and as further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

FIRE MANAGEMENT: The integration of fire protection, prescribed burning, and fire ecology knowledge into multiple use planning, decision making, and land management activities. Fire management is a program of placing fire in perspective with overall land management objectives to fulfill the needs of society.

FLPMA. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976: Public Law 94-579, which gives the BLM legal authority to establish public land policy, to establish guidelines for administering such policy and to provide for the management, protection, development and enhancement of the public lands.

FULL FIRE SUPPRESSION: An all-out effort to extinguish wildfires to prevent unacceptable resource damage or loss of life and property. Includes bulldozers, retardant drops, etc.

GRAZING PREFERENCE: The total number of AUMs of livestock grazing on public lands apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee or lessee.

GRAZING SYSTEM: Sequence of livestock grazing, by area, designed to accomplish management objectives.

HMP. Habitat Management Plan: A written and officially approved plan for a specific geographic area which identified wildlife habitat and related objectives, establishes

the sequence of actions for achieving objectives and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

KEY OBSERVATION POINT: One or a series of points on a travel route or at a use area or a potential use area, where the view of a management activity would be most revealing. This includes all federal, state, and county maintained roads; recreation use trails, campgrounds, scenic overlooks, day use areas, etc.

kV. Kilovolt.

LADWP: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

LEASABLE MINERALS: Minerals such as coal, oil shale, oil and gas, phosphate, potash, sodium, geothermal resources and all other minerals that may be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

LEK: Sage grouse strutting grounds used during the mating season for courtship displays.

LIVESTOCK TRAILING: The intentional movement of livestock by herding them from one location to another.

LOCATABLE MINERALS: Any valuable mineral that is not salable or leasable, including gold, silver, copper, tungsten and uranium, etc.

MFP. Management Framework Plan: A planning decision document prepared before the effective date of the regulations implementing the land use planning provisions of FLPMA.

MINERAL ENTRY: The filing (location) of mining claims with the BLM by an individual to protect his right to a valuable (locatable) mineral.

MINERAL ESTATE: Mineral and/or subsurface ownership.

MINERAL MATERIALS: Common varieties of sand, building stone, gravel, clay, moss rock etc. obtainable under the Mineral Act of 1947, as amended.

MINERAL WITHDRAWAL: Closure of land to mining laws, including sales, leasing and location, subject to valid existing rights.

MONITORING: The orderly collection and analysis of data to evaluate progress in meeting resource management objectives. Monitoring may also include: 1) the collection of data to evaluate progress in complying with laws, regulations, policies, executive orders, and management decisions. 2) the collection of data to assist in resource protection. Sampling of data and observation of progress toward plan objectives, the accuracy of impact analyses, and the effectiveness of mitigation measures are also of particular interest in terms of RMP monitoring activities.

MULTIPLE-USE: Management of public lands and their various resource values so that they are used in the combination best meeting the present and future needs of the American people. Relative resource values are considered, not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest potential economic return or the greatest unit output.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK: A site, structure or object judged by the Secretary of Interior to possess national significance in American history, archeology, architecture, engineering and culture.

NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM: Rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values and designated by Congress under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for preservation of their free-flowing condition.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM: A system composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as wilderness areas. These areas shall be

administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people; management actions will preserve wilderness values for future use and enjoyment.

NEPA. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

NOI. Notice of Intent: This term has two distinct meanings: 1) A notice submitted to BLM by a geophysical exploration company outlining a proposed mineral exploration program. This is a non-discretionary action, meaning that BLM cannot prohibit. 2) A notice printed in the Federal Register announcing that the agency is going to do an RMP and/or and EIS.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS:

Open: Means an area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in Subparts 8341 and 8342 of this title.

Limited: Means an area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the following type of categories: Numbers of vehicles; types 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; and other restrictions.

Closed: Means an area where off-road vehicle use is prohibited. Use of off-road vehicle use is prohibited. Use of off-road vehicles in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons; however, such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorized officer.

OHV. Off-Highway Vehicle: Any motorized vehicle designed for cross-country travel over any type of natural terrain. Exclusions (from Executive Order 11644, as amended by Executive Order 11989) are any military, fire, emergency or law enforcement vehicles

while being used for emergency purposes, any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized or otherwise officially approved, vehicles in official use and any combat support vehicle in time of national defense emergencies.

PASTURE: As used in this document, a subdivision of a grazing allotment.

PATENT: A government deed that conveys legal title for land to an individual or another government entity.

PERMITTEE (GRAZING): A person who has livestock grazing privileges on an allotment or allotments within the resource area.

PETROGLYPH: Prehistoric rock art, pecked into a stone surface.

PLAN AMENDMENT: A change in a RMP initiated by the need to consider monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances or a proposed action that may result in a change in the scope of resource uses or a change in the terms, conditions and decisions of the approved plan. An amendment shall be made through an EA of the proposed change or an EIS if necessary. If an EIS is prepared, a 90-day public review period is required.

PLANNING CRITERIA: The standards or rules and other factors developed by the manager and interdisciplinary team for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis, and data collection during planning.

PLAN OF OPERATIONS: As used in this document, a plan submitted by an operator (lessee or mining claimant) which outlines in detail proposed exploration and mining activities that would disturb more than 5 acres.

PUBLIC LAND: Vacant, unappropriated and unreserved land that never left federal ownership; also, land in federal ownership obtained in exchange for public land or for

timber on public land; land administered by the BLM.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT: An authorized activity or program on or relating to rangelands which is designed to improve production of forage; change vegetation composition; control patterns of use; provide water; stabilize soil and water conditions; and provide habitat for livestock, wild horses and burros, and wildlife. The term includes, but is not limited to, structures, treatment projects, and use of mechanical means to accomplish the desired results.

RARE SPECIES: A plant species that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is in such small numbers throughout its range that it may be endangered if its environment worsens; the rare category is a state category, not a federal one.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES: Those outdoor recreational activities which offer satisfaction in a particular physical, social and management setting in the EIS area. These activities are primarily hunting, fishing, wildlife, viewing, photography, boating and camping.

RESOURCE AREA: The smallest administrative sub-division of a BLM district.

RIGHT-OF-WAY: The legal right for use, occupancy, or access across land or water areas for a specified purpose or purposes. Also, the lands covered by such a right.

RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDOR: See Designated Right-of-Way Corridor.

RIPARIAN AREA: Geographically delineated areas with distinctive resource values and characteristics that include: 1) areas of land that are directly influenced by free or unbound water and have visible or physical characteristics reflecting this influence. 2) the stream channel, spring, or other water body which comprises the aquatic environment.

RMP. Resource Management Plan: A written land use plan that outlines BLM's decisions and strategies for management of the resources in a particular area. The RMP replaces the MFP in BLM's planning system.

ROADED NATURAL: Area is characterized by predominantly natural appearing environments with moderate evidences of the sight and sound of man. Such evidences usually harmonize with the natural environment. Interaction between users may be low to moderate, but with evidence of other users prevalent. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards and design of facilities.

ROW. Right-Of-Way.

SALABLE MINERALS: See Mineral Materials.

SCE: Southern California Edison.

SCENIC BYWAY: A paved or all-weather, maintained road designated for its scenic or recreational values.

SCOPING PROCESS: An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Scoping may involve public meetings, field interviews with representatives of agencies and interest groups, discussions with resource specialists and managers, written comments in response to news releases, direct mailings and articles about the proposed action and scoping meetings.

SEASONAL PROTECTION: During the period specified, no discretionary actions which would adversely affect target resources would be allowed. Existing uses and casual use would be managed to prevent disturbance which would adversely affect the target resources. Locatable

mineral exploration and development could continue, with appropriate mitigation.

SEASON OF USE: The time of livestock grazing on a range area.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED: Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate-to-large size. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is permitted.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED: Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate-to-large size. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is not permitted.

SENSITIVE SPECIES (PLANTS AND ANIMALS): Species occurring on public lands and requiring special management attention to protect it and to prevent irreparable damage to the important resources or other natural systems or processes on which it depends. The sensitive list is made up of species listed in category 3c in the Federal Register, Vol. 50 No. 188, September 27, 1985, page 39526.

SHPO. State Historic Preservation Officer: The official who is appointed by the Governor to be responsible for administering the State Historic Preservation Program pursuant to Section 101(b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES: Plant and animal species either federally listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, and state-listed or BLM determined priority species.

SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT CONCERN: Plant or animal species which have no formal classification under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), but due to low population level or limited available habitat require special management actions to insure their continued existence. Management actions are designed to prevent formal listing of the species.

STIPULATION: A requirement, usually dealing with protection of the environment, that is made a part of a lease, grant, or other authorizing document.

STOCKING RATE: An expression of the number of animals and the grazing period allotted to a specific area. It is usually expressed as a ratio, such as acres/AUM.

STREAMBANK SOIL ALTERATION RATING: A rating, by class, which reflects the changes taking place in the bank from any force. The streambank is evaluated on the basis of how far it has moved away from optimum conditions for the respective habitat type.

SUBSURFACE MINERALS: Minerals found below the earth's surface, including oil and gas.

THREATENED SPECIES: Any plant or animal species that is likely to become an endangered species throughout all or a significant portion of its range, as defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act means a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management. Any animal determined by the commission as rare on or before January 1, 1985, is a threatened species.

TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR: The preferred location of future electric transmission lines.

UNALLOTTED: Refers to an area of land which BLM has determined that shall not to be grazed by livestock.

UTILIZATION: The proportion or degree of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). May refer to either a single plant species, a group of species, or the vegetation as a whole. Utilization is synonymous with use.

VEGETATIVE BANK PROTECTION RATING: A rating, by class, which reflects the ability of streamside vegetation to protect the streambank from erosion. Streamside vegetation is evaluated on the basis of how far it is from optimum conditions for the respective habitat type.

VISUAL RESOURCES: The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) which result in scenic quality.

VRM. Visual Resource Management: Management system containing specific objectives for maintaining or enhancing visual resources, including the amount of acceptable change to the existing landscape to meet established visual goals.

WILDERNESS AREA: An area officially designated as wilderness by Congress. Wilderness areas will be managed to reserve

wilderness characteristics and shall be devoted to the public purposes of conservation and recreational, scenic, scientific, education, and historical uses.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT POLICY: The BLM policy that governs administration of public lands designated as wilderness areas by Congress. It is based on the Wilderness Act of 1964 and FLPMA of 1976. FLPMA requires a wilderness area to be a roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in Section 603 of FLPMA and in Section 1(c) of the Wilderness Act.

WINTER RANGE: An area important for terrestrial wildlife species during the winter months. It typically includes palatable and nutritious shrub species on lands mostly free of snow during the winter.

WITHDRAWAL: Actions which restrict the use of public land and segregate the land from the operation of some or all of the public land and/or mineral laws. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction of management to other federal agencies.

YEARLONG PROTECTION: No discretionary actions which would adversely affect target resources would be allowed. Existing uses and casual use would be managed to prevent disturbance which would adversely affect the target resources. Locatable mineral exploration and development could continue, with appropriate mitigation.