

CHAPTER 2

ALTERNATIVES AND STRATEGIES

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2.A. Introduction - How These Goals, Alternatives and Strategies Were Developed

Proposed Alternatives and management direction in the National Monument Management Plan pertain only to lands administered by the BLM and the Forest Service within the National Monument. Management of non-Federal lands within or adjacent to the National Monument boundary will not be addressed in this document. The Alternatives vary in many aspects, but some procedures and actions would be the same in all of the Alternatives.

National Monument Management Plan Goals

The following list of goals applies to the management of the National Monument and to the suite of proposed actions provided in this document. These goals were developed by the interagency planning team by considering the list of issues that this Proposed National Monument Management Plan is addressing in relation to the purpose and need of this planning document.

- a. Manage Federal public lands to balance the protection and preservation of biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, scientific and scenic values while providing multiple use and enjoyment of the National Monument.
- b. Coordinate and consult with local Tribes regarding the protection, preservation and management of cultural resources and Tribal use of Federal lands within the National Monument.
- c. Provide for healthy functioning ecosystems and manage biological resources to facilitate recovery of listed species and to prevent additional listing of species.
- d. Manage pests, exotic, invasive plant and animal species, noxious weeds and uncontrolled domestic and feral animals to ensure ecosystem health and public safety.
- e. Manage commercial and permitted uses to provide for long-term use, enjoyment, and protection of the National Monument.
- f. Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities consistent with resource protection.
- g. Adapt management in response to changing needs and circumstances.
- h. Inform and educate the public to foster enjoyment and understanding and to promote appropriate use of the National Monument.
- i. Provide for safe visits along Highway 74 and within the National Monument in coordination with partner agencies.
- j. Coordinate interagency fire suppression and fuels management within the National Monument.
- k. Support all management goals through partnerships, cooperative management planning and a land acquisition program as authorized by the National Monument Act of 2000.

Developing Alternatives

The process of developing Alternatives required consideration of various approaches for implementing National Monument legislation, FLPMA, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable mandates as well as the goals identified above. In identifying the Proposed Plan, the BLM and Forest Service determined that Alternative B (except where noted) most effectively accomplishes the overall objective of maintaining, protecting, restoring or enhancing the National Monument's resources and

values; best addresses the diverse community and stakeholder concerns in a fair and equitable manner; and provides the most workable framework for future management of the National Monument.

Range of Alternatives

The range of Alternatives accommodates the range of reasonable management Strategies that could resolve the identified public issues and management concerns for management of the National Monument. These issues and concerns were discussed in Chapter 1. All of the Alternatives considered in detail are consistent with the overriding purpose for which the National Monument was created—the protection and preservation of the biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, scientific, and scenic values. Alternatives for National Monument management were formulated to address a range of uses that are not being addressed through another forum as described in Chapter 1.

The range of Alternatives was structured to range from less intensive to more intensive management. Refer to the complete text in this chapter for a full description of actions within each Alternative.

Management Direction Common to All Alternatives

Certain management direction is contained in all Alternatives. This is direction that will occur independent of which Alternative is selected.

Alternative A

Alternative A provides the **least intensive management** approach and allows for the greatest recreational use possible to propose through this National Monument Management Plan. Specifically, this Alternative provides for hang gliding throughout the National Monument, dispersed recreational shooting of firearms, unleashed pets allowed outside of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat, and no requirement for a permit for parking on National Forest or BLM lands within the National Monument.

Alternative B

Alternative B provides for a **moderate recreation use** and represents more intensive management guidance than is proposed in Alternative A, but less restrictive than Alternative C. Hang gliding would be prohibited in Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat, recreational shooting of firearms would be limited to designated areas, leashed pets would be allowed outside of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat, and a permit for parking on National Forest lands within the National Monument would not be required.

Alternative C

Alternative C provides the **most intensive management** and includes limits to some recreational activities to protect and enhance National Monument resource values. Hang gliding and recreational shooting would be prohibited (hunting would not be affected consistent with CDFG), pets would only be allowed at developed facilities and on paved surfaces outside of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat, a parking fee/permit would be developed for BLM lands and the current Forest Service Adventure Pass (Adventure Pass; Pass) required for National Forest lands would continue to be required.

Combined Strategies: Alternative A, B, and C

The nature of some Strategies presented is that they are general enough that they do not lend themselves to a range of options. There are not a lot of reasonable options with which to develop more than one Alternative for these areas. This is reflected in the text as a combined Alternative (Alternative A, B, and C) and impacts to the existing management are developed by comparing the Strategy to the No Action Alternative (Alternative D). The National Monument Management Plan proposes the following Strategies (identified as a combined Alternative A, B, and C) for the following areas:

- Management of Noxious, Invasive, and Non-Native Plant and Animal Species
- Management of Special Status Species
- Management of Biological Monitoring
- Management Cultural Resources
- Management of Recreational Resources – Recreational Paintball, Pacific Crest Trail National Scenic Trail (PCT), and Feral and Uncontrolled Domestic Animals
- Management of Geological Resources
- Management of Educational Resources
- Management of Scientific Resources
- Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety and Uses
- Management of Private Property Concerns
- Management of Water Resources
- Land Tenure Adjustments
- Adaptive Management

Alternative D

Alternative D provides the **No Action Alternative**, or the existing management. The No Action Alternative describes the current management situation on Federal lands, which consists of the BLM-managed lands within the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office and National Forest lands within the San Jacinto Ranger District of the San Bernardino National Forest. This management for BLM-managed public lands is guided by the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended, 43 CFR 1610.5-3), and for National Forest lands is guided by the SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Additional non-discretionary direction specified in the National Monument legislation also applies. The No Action Alternative does not provide or create opportunities for enhancement of the National Monument values beyond the immediate protective measures of the enabling legislation. The No Action Alternative allows the reader to compare the current management with various Strategies for future management (Alternatives A, B, C). Descriptions of the current management are provided throughout the chapter under the heading of No Action Alternative D.

2.B. Alternatives and Strategies

The Alternatives and Strategies proposed below are listed by resource area, in the same order as they were listed in the National Monument Act of 2000 (Appendix A). The act provides the establishment and purposes of the National Monument, and this section provides proposed management direction for BLM and Forest Service regarding achieving the establishment and purposes of the National Monument. Each of the resource management Strategies this Proposed National Monument Management Plan covers is presented in this section, and a description of how each Alternative addresses the Strategy is discussed.

2.B.1. Management of Biological Resources

Biological Resources - Management of Habitat

The Habitat Conservation Objectives (Objectives) described in the CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (Appendix E) adopt Land Health Standards that apply to BLM-managed land within the National Monument. The Forest Service Standards and Guidelines provide guidance for management of habitats on National Forest lands within the National Monument (Appendix E). In addition, existing BO's from the USFWS provide guidance to both BLM and Forest Service. These Objectives and Standards and Guidelines provide criteria and guidance for the management of vegetative community types to ensure quality habitat for migratory songbirds, amphibians, and other wildlife species in the National Monument in accordance with law, regulation, and policy. Both agencies will continue to coordinate with local interest groups, Tribes, State and Federal agencies, and local jurisdictions to increase efficiency of rehabilitation activities.

- No additional actions addressing habitat-based management are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Biological Resources - Management of Riparian and Wetland Resources

BLM and Forest Service currently assess Proper Functioning Conditions (PFC) of aquatic systems in both riparian and wetland systems every three to five years or sooner, as necessary. Any system determined to be functional-at-risk or non-functional is subject to management actions and reassessment.

- No additional actions regarding management of Riparian and Wetland resources are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Biological Resources - Management of Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep

The Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep recovery Strategy established through the CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (Appendices E and F) outlines the measures that BLM will follow to protect and promote the recovery of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep within the National Monument. The Forest Service will follow the Strategy to be provided in the Species Management Guide for Bighorn Sheep (pending). The Plan is consistent with the Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges (USFWS 2000), and prescriptions were developed using these recommendations. Recovery plans delineate reasonable actions required to recover and/or protect listed species. The USFWS publishes recovery plans, sometimes preparing them with the assistance of recovery teams, contractors, State, and other Federal agencies, Tribes, and other affected and interested parties. Recovery teams serve as independent advisors to USFWS. Objectives of the Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges will be attained and any necessary funds made available, subject to budgetary and other constraints affecting the parties involved. Recovery plans do not obligate cooperating or other parties to undertake specific tasks and may not represent the views nor the official positions or approval of any individuals or agencies involved in recovery plan formulation other than those of the USFWS. They represent the official position of the USFWS only after they have been signed by the Director, Regional Director, or Operations Manager as approved (page ii USFWS 2000).

- No additional actions regarding management of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Biological Resources - Management of Noxious, Non-native, and Invasive Plant and Animal Species

Currently, the BLM and Forest Service are working on separate agency efforts to eradicate and remove non-native plant species. Under the Proposed Plan, coordination and funding opportunities would increase. BLM and Forest Service would seek partnership opportunities to manage and control the spread of weeds, non-native and invasive plant and animal species, to manage and promote existing native plant resources, and to foster the reintroduction of species that compose the site's natural plant communities. While there are currently no species listed as noxious by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) within the National Monument, BLM and Forest Service would apply the actions listed below to control plant and animal species listed as "noxious" in the future.

- The following noxious, non-native, and invasive plant and animal species Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

To manage and control the spread of noxious, non-native, and invasive plant and animal species and foster the reintroduction of indigenous species, BLM and Forest Service would enhance current efforts through the following actions:

- Inventory public lands to determine distribution of indigenous plant species and non-native species in the National Monument to assess protection and eradication needs, respectively.
 - Establish baseline conditions of non-native vegetation by examining locations shown on ground-truthed aerial photos (taken in 2002). Identify where non-native vegetation eradication efforts are desirable.
 - Develop a GIS database, including the results of inventories that would be used to prepare vegetation maps.
 - Develop and implement an action plan for eradicating noxious, non-native, and invasive plant and animal species as well as an action plan for reintroducing indigenous species. Manage existing native vegetation, in coordination with Tribes, Federal, State, and local agencies, experts, and local interest groups such as the Southern California Indian Basketweavers Organization (SCIBO) or NEX'WETEM, California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and the Andreas Canyon Club.
 - Address types of treatment, funding, work parties, etc.
 - Use mechanical means and herbicides to eradicate non-native species.
 - Coordinate with partners for project funding, mitigation funding, and acquisition of grants such as from the National Wildlife Federation.
- Educate the public regarding non-native, invasive species in the National Monument, such as tamarisk and fountain grass, and their impacts to the environment.
 - Coordinate with adjacent cities to distribute a list of invasive plants that are discouraged for use in landscaping and decorative plantings.
 - Encourage and assist adjacent cities to develop programs and/or ordinances addressing ornamental and landscaping plantings.
- Prepare and distribute an annual report describing noxious, non-native, and invasive plant and animal treatments and accomplishments.
 - Describe different area types, benefits, acres treated, etc.

No Action Alternative D

Current efforts to remove tamarisk are underway by the Tamarisk Task Force, which meets quarterly to discuss methods and processes for coordinating tamarisk removal among various partners that manage land within the National Monument. ACBCI, Forest Service, and BLM are active in the Tamarisk Task Force. Direction is also provided in the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Projects will continue to be proposed as funding becomes available.

Biological Resources - Management of Special Status Species

Special Status Species are plant and animal species, officially listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of the ESA; those listed or proposed for listing by the State of California under CESA, Native Plant Protection Act – CA “rare” plants, and those designated by the BLM State Director and Regional Forester as sensitive. Special Status Species will be managed in accordance with the ESA, BLM standards/policy (BLM Manual 6840) and Forest Service standards/policy and guidelines listed in Appendix H. Special Status Species will be managed to facilitate recovery of listed species and prevent future listings of plants and animals. The Forest Plan revision will provide the guidance for species on National Forest lands within the National Monument. Although the Plan provides guidance for the BLM and the Forest Service that is intended to avoid future listings (BLM Manual 6840, Forest Service Manual 2890), in the event of future listings, the guidance established in the CDCA Plan, the SBNF LRMP, and the CVMSHCP will apply to these species. Future inventory and monitoring will include newly listed species as well.

Land Health Standards and Management Directions, standard stipulations, Standards and Guidelines, and appropriate mitigation measures established to reduce impacts to sensitive species will be considered when addressing permit applications and authorized use decisions. Habitat Conservation Objectives (CDCA Plan Amendment) will also be considered when addressing permit applications and authorized use decisions affecting BLM lands.

- The following Special Status Species Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Work with partner agencies, Tribes, and volunteer groups to update existing inventories of plant and animal species occurrence and distribution to establish updated models for habitat and baseline conditions for monitoring.
- Coordinate Special Status Species management with CDFG, USFWS, researchers, and local jurisdictions to promote consistency, effectiveness and efficiency of recovery actions and monitoring activities.
- Encourage research projects designed to enhance management activities that facilitate recovery of sensitive species, including Federal and State listed species.
- Develop partnerships with entities such as CNPS for education and outreach.

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Inventories are conducted on a project-specific basis. A list of sensitive species is maintained and updated annually.

Biological Resources - Monitoring Program

- The following biological monitoring Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Continue to participate in development of an interagency monitoring program for the CVMSHCP including monitoring protocols, reporting, and database management. Continue to coordinate the implementation of the interagency monitoring program with CDFG, USFWS, local agencies and cities, researchers, universities, volunteer organizations and site stewards.
- Work with partner agencies and local governments to coordinate monitoring of Special Status Species for changes in population size, distribution and habitat use. For example:
 - Conduct surveys for bighorn sheep, desert slender salamanders, desert tortoises, fringe-toed lizards, and riparian birds.
 - Select subset of Special Status Plant Species representing sensitive habitats for population monitoring every one to three years. Special Status Species should include both Federal listed threatened and endangered species and cultural resource species.

No Action Alternative D

A general, long-term monitoring protocol was developed through the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and through the SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). BLM and Forest Service will continue to collaborate and participate in monitoring species and habitats addressed in the CVMSHCP.

2.B.2. Management of Cultural Resources

The ancestral territory of the Cahuilla Indians includes lands within the boundaries of the National Monument, therefore the National Monument and its management are of critical concern to all the Bands of Cahuilla Indians. Portions of the ACBCI reservation fall within the National Monument boundary, and the Agua Caliente are cooperatively managing those lands as part of the National Monument.

Management of cultural resources within the National Monument is also of concern to other members of the public. Euroamerican and Hispanic occupation of the area began in the late 1800's. Residents of adjacent communities may have historic ties to the National Monument that span several generations.

The National Monument Management Plan would provide for interpretation and usage of cultural resources for public benefit insofar as these activities are compatible with the goal of protection and preservation of cultural and other National Monument resources. A cultural resource is a definite location of human activity, occupation, or use identified through field inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and may include definite locations of traditional cultural or religious

importance to specified social and/or cultural groups (BLM Manual: 8100 - Cultural Resources Management).

The Plan is based on existing inventory and historic and ethnographic data and shall provide for implementation of an ongoing program of cultural resources identification. Past and recent inventories, ethnographic studies, and consultations with the public and with Cahuilla elders, traditional practitioners and Tribal members have identified many important cultural resources, including historic and prehistoric period archaeological sites, traditional collecting and gathering locations, and culturally sensitive landscapes and features. Additional research and field inventories specifically designed to assess resource conditions and evaluate resource significance, need to be conducted to inform and guide management decisions. Field inventory data shall be supplemented by archival research, oral history, and archaeological data recovery as appropriate. Cultural resources shall be evaluated to determine their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Threats to cultural resources shall be identified and documented and treatment plans developed and implemented accordingly. The term “historic property” is used to refer to any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register (36 CFR 800).

This National Monument Management Plan would provide for protection and preservation of cultural resources through inventory, monitoring, site stewardship, physical protection of significant sites and areas, and collection and curation of important artifacts and materials. This Plan would also provide for development of a Cultural Resources Management Plan that incorporates and expands upon all of the above components and develops Strategies for directing visitor traffic away from significant and/or vulnerable sites, where possible. Native American coordination and consultation shall be an integral part of the National Monument Management Plan, as described in Section 2.B.2. of this chapter.

Proposals for new facilities, projects, or uses shall be analyzed under NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA for their potential to adversely affect cultural resources. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that Federal agencies take into account the effects of agency undertakings on historic properties. New facilities shall be designed to avoid effects upon significant archeological resources, ethnographic values, or culturally significant landscape features whenever possible. If avoidance is not possible, adverse effects will be mitigated. Mitigation plans will be developed in consultation with the SHPO, interested parties, and Tribes as appropriate.

Native American Tribal concerns were identified during the public scoping period and through consultation with the ACBCI, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Ramona Band of Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Mission Indians, Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians, and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. These concerns were incorporated into the following Alternatives.

Cultural Resources - Identification and Evaluation

Cultural Resources Research

Archival research, ethnographic data collection, and oral history interviews can identify, locate, and aid in interpreting cultural resources, including collecting and gathering locations, Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs), and archaeological sites.

- The following cultural resources research Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Work with Tribes to identify significant prehistoric, historic and cultural events.
- Work with Tribes, partners, State and local agencies, and volunteer groups to develop an oral history program and to identify and interview members of the public and Native Americans who have knowledge of historic and prehistoric use of the National Monument.
- Encourage and facilitate archival research, including review of historic maps and documents.
- Develop and maintain a database for site management.

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). The CDCA Plan directs the BLM to encourage and support well-directed archaeological, ethnographic, paleontological and historical research throughout the CDCA, especially in high-impact risk areas such as lands classified Class M (Moderate Use) or Class I (Intensive Use) and where management goals will be well-served.

Cultural Resources - Inventory

Intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventories provide for the physical identification, recordation, and assessment of cultural resources. Inventory proposed in the National Monument Management Plan shall be in addition to inventories required for project-specific compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA. The inventory Strategy shall address both the need to provide input for management decisions and the need to expand our knowledge of the history and prehistory of the region.

- The following cultural resources inventory Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Conduct a sample inventory within the National Monument each year.
- Complete an annual, intensive survey of one specific area identified through archival and ethnographic research as having a high potential to contain significant or threatened sites. Include inventory of existing roads and trails to identify sites that are being adversely impacted by public visitation and access.
- Record sites to current standards by including photos and sketch maps to document the overall site setting and condition, specific artifacts and features, and any damage whether due to natural or human causes.
- Assess integrity and cultural significance of sites and make site-specific management recommendations for avoidance, protection, or interpretation.
- Seek partnerships with Tribes, State and local agencies, and volunteers to accomplish the above.

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Under the CDCA Plan, field inventories for cultural resources are to be undertaken primarily within areas classified as Class M (Moderate Use) or Class I (Intensive Use).

Cultural Resources - Existing Conditions Assessment

Cultural resources are fragile and nonrenewable. Resources may be damaged by both natural and human causes. It is clear that changes to resources will occur through time and that some resource deterioration is inevitable. The Plan shall have as its goal the development of techniques to measure and minimize adverse impacts to cultural resources.

- The following cultural resources conditions assessment Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

To assess existing cultural resources conditions, BLM and Forest Service would:

- Gather baseline condition data and identify threats to cultural resources through field inventory, review of existing site forms, and consultation with Tribes and members of the public. Solicit input on resource conditions from BLM and Forest Service staff in all disciplines. Determine areas that are vulnerable to specific types of threats. Example: areas adjacent to trails may be most vulnerable to impacts from increased visitation while other areas may be vulnerable to erosion or other natural processes.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program that includes a schedule for monitoring threatened sites, vulnerable areas, and resources along trails. Monitor at least five sites and five miles of trails each year. Develop, implement and maintain a site stewardship program. Provide stewardship training to members of the public and Tribes, as identified during the public scoping process and through consultation.
- Track changes over time in the condition of specific resources. Define key indicators of change.
- Make recommendations for avoidance and mitigation of adverse impacts to significant cultural resources.
- Seek partnerships with Tribes, agencies, and volunteers to accomplish the above.

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). General guidelines for surveillance and monitoring of cultural resource locations exist, but there is no current direction for review of existing data or implementation of stewardship programs.

Cultural Resources - Protection and Preservation

Cultural resource preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. Examples of protection and preservation measures include limiting visitor access to sensitive areas, developing protective barriers or capping threatened sites, installing protective signage, controlling erosion, restoring or repairing structures, and conducting data recovery to protect the information potential of a site. Directing visitor usage can also provide a method for protecting resources. Visitors shall be directed to sites and areas that provide interpretative exhibits on prehistoric, historic, and Native American

values and can best accommodate use. Visitors shall be discouraged or prohibited from areas where use would adversely impact or destroy sensitive natural or cultural resources.

It is the policy of the BLM and Forest Service to protect sensitive and confidential information about Native American values, including the location of cultural resources, from disclosure to the public to the greatest degree possible under law and regulation. Federal agencies may restrict information about a cultural resource's location and its character or nature if disclosure of such information may create a substantial risk of harm, theft, or destruction of such resources. Section 304 of the NHPA and Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act provide the legal authority to restrict information about endangered cultural resources. Section 304(a) of the NHPA provides an exemption from the Freedom of Information Act: "The head of a Federal agency or other public official receiving grant assistance pursuant to this Act, after consultation with the Secretary, shall withhold from disclosure to the public, information about the location, character, or ownership of a historic resource if the Secretary and the agency determine that disclosure may (1) cause a significant invasion of privacy; (2) risk harm to the historic resource; or (3) impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners."

- The following Strategy for protecting and preserving cultural resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

Building upon the data collected as a result of the above Strategies for research, inventory, and assessment, the BLM and Forest Service would implement the following Strategy for protecting and preserving cultural resources:

- Develop a prioritized list of site-specific protection and preservation needs prior to the end of each fiscal year, in preparation for out-year planning and budgeting.
 - Implement at least two protection or preservation projects each year.
 - Identify and interpret "magnet" sites to attract visitors and satisfy their desire to experience the history and prehistory of the area. Prepare at least one historic and one prehistoric archaeological site for this type of visitor usage.
 - Propose trail management actions, subject to NEPA, to protect sensitive resources.
 - Develop a collection policy. Identify the types of artifacts to be collected and define what circumstances warrant removing an artifact from its original location.
 - Seek partnerships with Tribes, agencies, and volunteers to accomplish the above.
- Develop curation agreements with museums meeting Federal standards for curation and preservation of materials. Native American museums meeting these standards shall be given preference for curation of Native American artifacts.

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Existing plans recommend protection and preservation of cultural resources through development of management plans, stabilization, surveillance, vehicle route designations, and environmental education/awareness programs.

Cultural Resources - Interpretation and Education

Educating the public as to the sensitivity and need for respect of the traditions, cultural values, and religious beliefs of the Cahuilla Indians and other historic residents of the National Monument is integral to the protection of cultural resources and to establishing a link between natural and cultural landscapes.

- The following cultural interpretation and education Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Develop a program for public interpretation, education and environmental awareness for the National Monument, wherein cultural and ethnographic resources are addressed with other resources.
- Involve interested Tribes in development of interpretive programs (reviewing interpretive materials and programs, providing input, etc.).
- Design and make available to the public educational brochures, pamphlets, monographs, web pages and other works of a popular and technical nature, emphasizing the relevance, fragility and other values of cultural and historic resources.
- Provide information regarding historical use of the National Monument, including ranching, mining, and recreation.
- Work with the Cahuilla Indian leadership, elders, and traditional practitioners to establish a mock village site to educate the public and provide an opportunity for sharing how the Cahuilla lived, gathered and prepared food, and created traditional materials such as basketry and pottery.
- Develop a program of guided hikes and interpretive programs that utilize Tribal members as interpreters, guides and storytellers.
- Develop programs in cooperation with and support of established Cahuilla cultural events and institutions such as the annual agave harvest and tasting sponsored by the Malki Museum.
- Seek partnerships with Tribes, agencies, and volunteers to accomplish the above.

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Existing plans provide guidance for interpretation, but do not provide specific recommendations for on the ground interpretation and education. The CDCA Plan states that a program of public interpretation and education and environmental awareness will be developed under its Recreation Element and calls for design and distribution of educationally oriented brochures, pamphlets, monographs, and other works of a popular and technical nature that emphasize the relevance, fragility, and other values of cultural resources.

Cultural Resources – Management Plan

- The following Strategy to complete a Cultural Resources Management Plan is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

BLM and Forest Service will seek partnerships and funding to initiate planning efforts for a comprehensive Cultural Resources Management Plan within two years of the completion of the National Monument Management Plan. The Cultural Resources Management Plan would be developed in consultation and cooperation with the

Monument Advisory Committee, Cahuilla Bands, the SHPO, and representatives of other interested parties. The Cultural Resources Management Plan would incorporate Strategies and Objectives as outlined in the National Monument Management Plan and provided in related planning efforts. In addition, all scoping comments received during the National Monument management planning process would be considered, thus providing a collaborative forum for all interested parties to participate in addressing cultural resources management in the National Monument.

The Cultural Resources Management Plan would:

- Incorporate data from a condition assessment analysis that identifies the existing condition of known cultural resources and areas vulnerable to vandalism, overuse, or damage from natural processes.
- Develop a system for tracking changes in the condition of resources and develop Strategies for intervention. This information, and future information, would allow managers to further identify potential resource threats and respond effectively to minimize impacts of human use and natural processes upon resources.
- Identify current and anticipated preservation and restoration needs.
- Prepare a historic context for the National Monument area and develop research themes to guide research efforts.
- Establish a mechanism, such as cultural resources working groups, to provide for on-going public participation and input into cultural resources management.
- Develop a Strategy to facilitate research of cultural resources within the National Monument. Encourage the use of a multi-disciplinary approach to clarify the associations between natural and cultural resources in the cultural landscape.
- Develop a Strategy that defines the purpose, extent, and uses of National Monument museum collections and provides a consistent approach among the partners to manage archeological artifacts, archival materials, museum objects, and natural resources specimens.

No Action Alternative D

A Cultural Resources Management Plan specific to the National Monument would not be developed. Cultural resources would continue to be managed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended).

Cultural Resources - Access to Traditional Material Collecting and Gathering Locations and Ceremonial Sites

The National Monument holds resources that have been used traditionally by the Cahuilla for their medicinal properties, as food, or for the construction of items such as baskets. Access to and sustainability of these resources is a matter of concern.

The National Monument also may contain sites that are of ceremonial or spiritual value to the Cahuilla. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA) directs Federal agencies to obtain and consider the views of Indian leaders when a proposed land use might conflict with traditional Indian religious beliefs or practices and to avoid unnecessary interference with Indian religious practices during project implementation. EO 13007 directs Federal agencies to manage Federal lands in a manner that

accommodates Indian religious practitioners' access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites, and that avoids adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites, to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions.

- The following Strategy for traditional material gathering and access to ceremonial and religious sites is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Develop a policy to provide for Tribal member access to gather traditional materials.
- Distribute BLM and Forest Service plant collection policy information to Tribes. Facilitate issuance of any necessary permits.
- In partnership with the Tribes and Cahuilla traditional practitioners, develop a process for monitoring the effects of traditional collecting and gathering.
- Using monitoring results, develop adaptive management programs jointly with local practitioners to manage traditional botanical resources.
- Restrict sensitive information concerning the location of ceremonial sites. Ensure protection and confidentiality of cultural information such as locations of sacred sites and traditional use areas.
- Provide for Native American access to ceremonial and religious sites to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions.
- Coordinate landscape restoration activities to ensure the reintroduction and restoration of native species that have cultural importance.

No Action Alternative D

The BLM and Forest Service will abide by the direction provided by AIRFA and Executive Order (EO) 13007 and EO 13287.

Cultural Resources - Native American Coordination and Consultation

Federal agencies have a unique and formal legal relationship with Native American Tribes. Tribal governments are considered dependent domestic sovereignties with primary and independent jurisdiction over Tribal lands. Consistency review provided to State governments will be afforded to Tribal governments concerning proposed BLM plans and actions that have the potential to impact cultural and ancestral lands. AIRFA, the NHPA, Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and EO 13007 direct Federal agencies to conduct consultation under specific circumstances. Consultation is especially critical to reach mutually acceptable solutions to questions of resource preservation, interpretive programs, visitor use, and archaeological research.

- The following Native American coordination and consultation Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Focus collaboration on identifying concerns and resolving differences in a manner that respects the cultural traditions of the Tribes.
- Provide the Tribes the opportunity to aid in resolving conflicts where their traditions and cultural values may be affected by National Monument programs and activities.

- Facilitate cooperation and consultation with and among the Tribes by holding semi-annual meetings regarding the management of the National Monument. Representatives and members of all affected Tribes shall be encouraged to participate in these Tribal and agency working groups.
- Ensure the opportunity for government-to-government consultation with each Tribe regarding archaeological research, interpretive programs, and resource management for the National Monument.
- Develop Cooperative Agreements and MOUs with the Tribes to establish relationships and protocols for management of cultural and other resources within the National Monument.
- Assist the ACBCI in its efforts to develop and promote its role as a conduit in encouraging Cahuilla involvement with the National Monument and the sharing of information and resources between the Tribes.

No Action Alternative D

The BLM and Forest Service will conduct government-to-government consultation as directed by law and regulation.

2.B.3. Management of Recreational Resources

Prior to the end of 2003, a trails management plan will be available for the public to review, as referenced in Chapter 1, Section 1.E. Management of the trail system within the National Monument will largely be determined through this trails management plan. Current efforts through the CVMSHCP are addressing trail concerns, providing a forum for a multi-jurisdictional solution in a complex landscape of many landowners (Figure 3). If the CVMSHCP is not adopted, BLM would develop a trails management plan addressing trail use and related non-motorized recreational activities on BLM lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, consistent with the goals and objectives of the USFWS Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges and the bighorn sheep recovery Strategy identified in the CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley.

No change is proposed to policies for casual collection of material (rockhounding, materials collections) within the National Monument as outlined in Chapter 3, Section 3.E.9., except as noted within the geological resources management Strategy within Section 2.B.4. of this chapter.

Recreational Resources - Non-motorized Recreation

Management Direction Common to All Alternatives

Current non-motorized activities, including hiking, backpacking, camping, rock climbing, mountain biking, picnicking, and casual collecting of materials, within the National Monument would continue provided such uses are consistent with related Plan decisions and National Monument goals. Recreational activities would be monitored to ensure that resource values within the National Monument would be protected and maintained. Non-motorized recreation would be consistent with the Wilderness Act, Forest Service Strategic Mountain Bike Plan, the pending trails management plan, and the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Within BLM and Forest Service Wilderness, mountain biking, hang gliding and other mechanized forms of recreation are not allowed in accordance with the Wilderness Act. Hang gliding, recreational shooting, and paintball use are addressed in this Plan (see below).

Camping

Management Direction Common to All Alternatives

Camping would be allowed at developed camping facilities and at yellow post sites on National Forest land within the National Monument. Dispersed camping would be allowed consistent with the pending trails management plan. Modification of management prescriptions pertaining to camping would occur to protect sensitive resource areas if needed.

Campfires

Management Direction Common to All Alternatives

Campfire use throughout the National Monument would be subject to BLM and Forest Service restrictions due to drought, fire season, and other potential closures. On BLM managed lands, during fire season, campfires and barbeques are allowed with a permit or are prohibited subject to fire stage restrictions; outside fire season, campfires and barbeques are generally allowed without a permit. The use of campfires varies within National Forest lands. Within campgrounds and picnic areas, fires must be built within the facility provided; at “yellow post” dispersed camping sites, fires must be within the provided fire ring. Campfire use within the San Jacinto Wilderness is allowed with a permit and within designated fire rings; open fires are not allowed in the Santa Rosa Wilderness. All use of campfires, stoves, and barbeques may be prohibited on National Forest lands during fire season closures. Future changes to campfire use may occur through fire management plans, the Strategic Recreation Management Plan, or issuance of Forest Service or BLM special rules, orders, regulations, or policies.

No changes to existing non-motorized recreational uses, camping, and campfire use on BLM- and Forest Service-managed lands are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Recreational Resources - Motorized Recreation

Vehicle routes on BLM lands within the National Monument have been designated as open or closed, through the CDCA Plan Amendment. Routes on National Forest lands were designated in the SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). All motorized vehicles are prohibited off designated roads and on roads designated as closed. All motorized routes and their maintenance levels are listed in Chapter 3, Section 3.N. Road signage would be defined and maintained as appropriate throughout the National Monument to accommodate various use levels and, where appropriate, motorized vehicle types.

- No changes to existing motorized recreation on BLM and National Forest lands within the National Monument are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Recreational Resources - Gliding Activities

- The following management pertaining to hang gliding, paragliding, ultralight flights, and similar activities is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Alternative A

Launches of hang gliders, paragliders, ultralights, and similar aircraft from and landing on BLM and National Forest lands within the National Monument, including the Vista Point launch site off Highway 74, would be allowed with a permit, subject to management measures to minimize occurrences of landing in sensitive areas.

- BLM and Forest Service would identify Federal lands where hang gliding, paragliding, ultralight use, and similar activities would be inappropriate.
- Launching and landing of aircraft, including helicopters, hang gliders, hot air balloons, parasails, and parachutes is prohibited in Wilderness.
- BLM and Forest Service would coordinate with hang gliding and other applicable associations to disseminate information about appropriate launching and landing sites.
- Information about restricted landing areas near the National Monument Visitor Center (Visitor Center) would be installed at Vista Point; landing on Bighorn Institute property would be identified as a prohibited activity.
- Appropriate landing sites on public land adjacent to the Visitor Center would be identified and signed.

Proposed Plan (Alternative B)

Launches of hang gliders, paragliders, ultralights, and similar aircraft from and landing on BLM and National Forest lands within and adjacent to essential Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat in the National Monument, including Vista Point, would not be allowed.

- Identification of appropriate launching and landing sites outside Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat and dissemination of information about these sites would occur in coordination with hang gliding and other applicable associations.
- BLM and Forest Service would identify Federal lands outside Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat where these activities would be inappropriate.
- Launching and landing of aircraft, including helicopters, hang gliders, hot air balloons, parasails, and parachutes, is prohibited in wilderness.

Alternative C

Launches of hang gliders, parasails, ultralights, and similar aircraft from and landing on BLM or National Forest lands within the National Monument, including Vista Point, would not be allowed.

No Action Alternative D

Launches of hang gliders, parasails, ultralights, and similar aircraft from and landing on BLM and National Forest lands within the National Monument, except in designated Wilderness, are allowed. Launching and landing of aircraft, including helicopters, hang gliders, hot air balloons, parasails, and parachutes, is prohibited in Wilderness.

Recreational Resources - Recreational Paintball and Similar Activities

- The following Strategy pertaining to use of gas and air-propelled weapons and simulated weapons is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

The discharge of gas and air-propelled weapons and simulated weapons (including paintball and paintball-like weapons) would not be allowed within the National Monument.

No Action Alternative D

The discharge of gas and air-propelled weapons and simulated weapons (including paintball and paintball-like weapons) is currently not disallowed within the National Monument. The Forest Plan Revision will address paintball activities within the San Bernardino National Forest.

Recreational Resources - Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)

The PCT is a congressionally designated hiking and equestrian trail that traverses the western portion of the National Monument. Motorized vehicles and mountain bikes are prohibited on the PCT.

- The following PCT Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

The PCT would be managed according to the existing comprehensive management plan (USDA 1982), and a 500-foot-wide management corridor around the PCT would be established. Management activities affecting Federal lands within the corridor, including actions relating to forest health, water quality, wildlife habitat, trail maintenance, and trail construction or reconstruction, would be analyzed for effects on the PCT, and BLM and Forest Service would coordinate with the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and other stakeholders to ensure recreational values are considered. The MOU between BLM, Forest Service, and the PCTA would be revised as appropriate to reflect this action. The coordination requirement would not be implemented until the MOU has been revised.

No Action Alternative D

The PCT will continue to be managed in accordance with the existing management plan. An existing MOU between BLM, Forest Service, and the PCTA addressing coordination of management activities will remain in place.

Recreational Resources - Recreational Shooting

Recreational shooting is addressed as a separate recreation activity from hunting. Under all Alternatives, hunting will continue to be permitted in the National Monument consistent with CDFG regulations. In accordance with these regulations, hunting is not allowed in State Game Refuges and hunting may not take place within 200 yards of a water source.

- The following recreational shooting Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Alternative A

Recreational shooting on Federal lands, except for hunting, would be allowed only in designated shooting areas within the National Monument. Designated shooting areas would not be established:

- within State Game Refuges
- within designated Wilderness
- where vehicular access has not been approved
- within 150 yards of certain developed recreational facilities (e.g., Visitor Center, campgrounds)

Alternative B

Recreational shooting, except for hunting, would be allowed as a dispersed activity on Federal lands throughout the National Monument with the following exceptions:

- no recreational shooting within State Game Refuges
- no recreational shooting within designated Wilderness
- no recreational shooting where vehicular access has not been approved
- no recreational shooting within 150 yards of all developed recreational facilities and occupied sites (e.g., roads, trails, Visitor Center, campgrounds, trailheads, etc.)

Proposed Plan (Alternative C)

No recreational shooting, except for hunting, would be allowed on Federal lands within the National Monument. Hunting would continue to be permitted according to CDFG regulations.

No Action Alternative D

Recreational shooting is allowed on all BLM lands except at developed sites and within State Game Refuges. The SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended) allows for shooting as a dispersed activity on National Forest lands in the National Monument with the following exceptions:

- no shooting within State Game Refuges
- no shooting within 150 yards of developed recreational facilities (e.g., campgrounds, residences, buildings, occupied areas, etc.)

Currently, recreational shooting is allowed within designated Wilderness.

Recreational Resources - Pets

Pets are animals that have been tamed or domesticated and kept as companions. Working dogs are those whose use in the National Monument would be allowed in conjunction with a special use authorization such as a grazing lease. Hunting dogs are not considered working dogs; therefore, they would be subject to the same management prescriptions as all other dogs.

A comprehensive trails management plan (pending) for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains addresses entry with pets within essential Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat. Management of pets outside essential Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat is addressed below. Assistance animals (e.g., seeing eye dogs) are generally exempt from restrictions. Working dogs may be permitted on Federal lands pursuant to an authorization for use of such lands (e.g., grazing lease).

Within Essential Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep Habitat

Use of BLM lands, including entry with pets, shall be managed in accordance with the recovery Strategy for Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep described in the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended), i.e., impacts to bighorn sheep shall be reduced using a combination of methods, including voluntary avoidance programs, closures, seasonal restrictions, and permit stipulations and mitigations (see Appendix F). Specific management prescriptions are being developed through the comprehensive trails management plan. Interim management pending completion of the trails plan prohibits dogs on BLM lands east of Palm Canyon, except for specified areas west of Cathedral City Cove and south of La Quinta Cove.

- The following Strategy for pets within essential Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

Pets would be allowed in designated areas only and must be on a leash (maximum length of 10 feet). Owners would be required to collect and properly dispose of their pet's fecal matter. Designated pet areas will be identified in the comprehensive trails management plan (pending).

No Action Alternative D

Pets would be managed consistent with the CDCA Plan Amendment. The temporary prohibition on entry with dogs to BLM lands east of Palm Canyon (with exceptions) would continue, pending completion of the comprehensive trails management plan.

Outside Essential Bighorn Sheep Habitat

- The following Strategy for pets outside essential Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Alternative A

Pets would be allowed on all Federal lands with no leash required. Owners would be required to collect and properly dispose of their pet's fecal matter. Working dogs may be permitted on Federal lands with no leash required, pursuant to an authorization for use of such lands.

Proposed Plan (Alternative B)

Pets would be allowed on all Federal lands with a leash (maximum length of 10 feet). Owners would be required to collect and properly dispose of their pet's fecal matter. Working dogs may be permitted on Federal lands with no leash required, pursuant to an authorization for use of such lands.

Alternative C

Pets would be allowed only on paved surfaces and in designated pet areas at developed facilities such as visitor centers, trailheads, parking lots, and campgrounds. Leashes (maximum length of 10 feet) would be required. Signs would be posted in areas where dogs are both allowed and prohibited. Owners would be required to collect and properly dispose of their pet's fecal matter. Working dogs may be permitted on Federal lands with no leash required, pursuant to an authorization for use of such lands.

No Action Alternative D

Pets would continue to be allowed on Federal lands. The leash requirement for pets on National Forest lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Wilderness areas would remain in effect. Leashes are not required on National Forest lands outside Wilderness; leashes are not required on any BLM lands.

Recreational Resources - Feral and Uncontrolled Domestic Animals

- The following Strategy for the management of feral and uncontrolled domestic animals is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

BLM and Forest Service would establish a protocol in cooperation with Riverside County and cities of the Coachella Valley to address feral and uncontrolled domestic animals. Management of pets would be consistent with the pending trails management plan.

No Action Alternative D

BLM and Forest Service currently address feral and uncontrolled domestic animals on an as-needed basis. Management of pets in the National Monument would be consistent with the pending trails management plan.

Recreational Resources - Forest Service Adventure Pass

The Adventure Pass is currently a \$5.00/day or \$30.00/year recreation use fee established to help finance the maintenance of recreational facilities on National Forest lands. 80% of funds are returned to administrative units where fees were collected. The Adventure Pass is required on vehicles parked on National Forest lands within the San Jacinto Ranger District. No equivalent to the Adventure Pass exists for parking on BLM lands within the National Monument.

- The following Forest Service Adventure Pass Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A and B)

An Adventure Pass would not be required when parking on National Forest lands within the National Monument, and fees would not be required when parking on BLM lands within the National Monument. Potential for a voluntary contribution to a friends group to support the improvement and development of visitor facilities and services would be investigated.

Alternative C

The Adventure Pass would remain a required pass for parking on National Forest lands within the National Monument, and a comparable fee would be established for parking on BLM lands within the National Monument. The National Monument would seek public participation in determining sources of fees, alternate funding, and methods of collection.

No Action Alternative D

The Adventure Pass would remain in use on National Forest lands, and an equivalent pass for parking on BLM lands is not required.

Table 2-1. Forest Service Adventure Pass Revenues 1997-2001

Year	Revenues
1997-1998	\$102,292
1998-1999	\$93,327
1999-2000	\$90,618
2000-2001	\$81,490
2001-2002	\$90,157

Since 80% of the revenues are returned to the local stations, the Forest Service would experience a reduction in revenue, at the local level, of \$72,000 annually.

Recreational Resources - Strategic Recreation Management Plan

There is a need for coordinated facility maintenance, signing, and public information sharing, and a need to address the compatibility of uses to enhance recreational experiences within the National Monument. The pending trails management plan will address where and when the public may hike, bike, and ride horses within the National Monument, and it will provide the basis for developing a subsequent Strategic Recreation Management Plan. The Strategic Recreation Management Plan would be coordinated with the Monument Advisory Committee, ACBCI, other local Tribes, cities, State Parks, applicable recovery teams and representatives of interested parties, and it would be consistent with related planning efforts to the legal extent possible.

- The future preparation of a Strategic Recreation Management Plan is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

Within one year of completion of the National Monument Management Plan, BLM and Forest Service would initiate the development of a Strategic Recreation Management Plan. The Strategic Recreation Management Plan would:

- Be consistent with decisions made through the National Monument Management Plan and the pending trails management plan.
- Be consistent with other related plans (e.g., the San Jacinto Ranger District Strategic Mountain Bike Plan, and the ACBCI Trails Management Plan).
- Address the compatibility of all types of recreational uses within the National Monument (including hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, etc.).
- Establish a monitoring program to assess levels of use and to determine the need for altering management to protect and preserve resource values (e.g., changes to dispersed camping use policy by establishing camping zones, examine additional campgrounds at upper and lower elevation, etc.).
- Establish mechanisms for consistency of trail signage, facilities, and maintenance.
- Outline involvement of working partnerships with trail user groups and State and local agencies to ensure efficient trail management opportunities.
- Participate in a long-term working group to discuss emerging trends and opportunities to accommodate use.

No Action Alternative D

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Recreation management for trails occurs on an as-needed, case-by-case basis on BLM-managed lands. PCT management guidance is provided in the Pacific Crest Trail Management Plan. The San Jacinto Ranger District Mountain Bike Plan provides mountain bike management guidance for Forest Service trails. Future recreation guidance within the National Monument will be provided in the pending trails management plan.

2.B.4. Management of Geological Resources

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains are among the most impressive of southern California because of their great height and proximity to the Salton Trough. These mountains are eroded from a greatly elevated mass of igneous and metamorphic rocks formed deep in the earth's crust, but adjacent to the deeply subsided and sediment-filled Salton Trough.

Geological Resources - Soils and Geology Inventory and Mapping

- The following inventory and mapping Strategy for geological resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

The Strategy for inventory and mapping geologic structures in the National Monument would consist of working with partner agencies, Tribes, and volunteers to:

- Inventory and map all of the important geological resources within the National Monument, including the Martinez Mountain Landslide, the Santa Rosa Shear Zone, the San Jacinto Fault Zone, and the 'watermark' and related shoreline features of the ancient Lake Cahuilla.
- Inventory and map all abandoned mines on Federal land within the National Monument.
- Compile all sources of geologic maps and current United States Geologic Service (USGS) mapping projects to support the preparation of a comprehensive geologic map of the National Monument.
- Facilitate efforts to map the geology in the southerly and easterly portions of the National Monument.
- Develop a 3rd order soil survey for non-mapped portions of the National Monument within two years of completion of the National Monument Management Plan

No Action Alternative D

Geologic mapping of the National Monument may eventually occur based on regional mapping priorities established by the USGS. The USGS has recently prepared a geologic map of the entire San Bernardino National Forest. This map included portions of the National Monument that are within the National Forest. The geology in the southerly and easterly portions of the National Monument has not been completely mapped. Soils within the National Monument have been surveyed for National Forest lands.

Geological Resources - Outreach and Interpretation

- The following outreach and interpretation Strategy for geological resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, & C)

The outreach and interpretation Strategy for geological resources would include working with partner agencies, Tribes, and volunteers to:

- Develop interpretation such as guided walks using geologic features in the National Monument and include both general geologic processes, (e.g. erosion, mountain building, and earthquake faulting) and specific geologic features (e.g. Martinez Mountain Landslide, ancient Lake Cahuilla features, and the San Jacinto Fault Zones).
- Work with volunteers to prepare geologic road guides for the Highway 74 and 111 corridors, focusing on the geology and geologic history of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, with emphasis on geologic features visible at specific, safe road turnouts. These road guides would be similar to other published road guides such as the Geologic Road Guide to Northern California.

- Establish geologic points of interest within and adjacent to the National Monument by using interpretive signs or plaques describing the geologic feature or process visible at that point. Coordinate with the Caltrans for placement of signs off highways and rest stops. For example, an interpretive sign could be placed at the I-10 rest area at Whitewater, describing the significant elevation difference between the prominent uplifted slopes of Mt. San Jacinto and the downdropped Coachella Valley/Salton Trough. Information could also be provided concerning the tectonic origin of the mountain range and the basin and the San Andreas Fault Zone in the region.
- Prepare a pamphlet and/or guide describing the mining history and mineral resources of the National Monument, which
 - Emphasizes that mineral development is no longer allowed on public lands within the National Monument.
 - Includes rules and regulations concerning the collection of rocks and minerals within the National Monument.
 - Addresses safety issues concerning abandoned mined lands in the National Monument.
- Develop partnerships and research agreements with USGS, academic departments, and other applicable entities to:
 - Encourage geologic research in the National Monument.
 - Provide opportunities for student internships to prepare interpretive signs and pamphlets, establish representative rock mineral collections and perform research on the unique geologic features within the National Monument such as the Martinez Mountain Landslide, the Santa Rosa Shear Zone, and ancient Lake Cahuilla features.

No Action Alternative D

Geologic outreach and interpretation would continue to occur on a case-by-case basis including several guided walks, trips to schools, and answers to questions from the public as they arise.

Geological Resources - Protection and Preservation

- The following protection and preservation Strategy for geological resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

The Strategy for protecting and preserving geologic structures in the National Monument would:

- Restrict the collecting of rocks and minerals within the “tufa” and “coral reef formations” located along the ‘watermark’ of the ancient Lake Cahuilla. These areas should be monitored periodically so as to confirm that the tufa and reef formations are not being disturbed or removed.

No Action Alternative D

Casual collecting of rocks and minerals is allowed as described in Chapter 3, Section 3.E.9. of this document. Acquisition guidance provided in the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended).

2.B.5. Management of Educational Resources

Public information would be designed to promote protection and understanding of the National Monument's values and resources through increased awareness, appreciation and experience. Visitor information would follow any guidance on signing, interpretive exhibits, displays or facilities determined in this Plan. Public outreach and education for all National Monument visitors would emphasize resource protection and visitor safety. The National Monument Interpretive and Environmental Education Concept Plan (Interpretive Concept Plan; BLM and Forest Service 2002) will serve as a basis for interpretation of the National Monument.

Interpretation in the National Monument would include educational activities that aim to reveal meanings about the cultural and natural resources found in the National Monument. Through various media such as talks, guided tours, publications and exhibits, education efforts would enhance the understanding, appreciation, and, therefore, protection of historic sites and natural features.

Educational Resources - Public Information

There is a need to increase visibility of and access into the National Monument through providing information to the public. Because of the complexity and number of land management agencies and partners in the National Monument, the coordination of efforts around messaging will require extra attention. With a priority of the presentation of National Monument messages being consistent among diverse agencies, staff would work with each other to determine and encourage parameters that support representation of the National Monument location, expanse, legislation, regulations, site resources, safety issues and points of interest.

- The following public information Strategy for educational resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

The public information Strategy would consist of a community- and partner-based approach and would include the following actions:

- Provide the public with information on visitation, allowable use, recreation, and events in the National Monument across jurisdictional boundaries (enhance the website, brochures, video, etc.).
- Educate the public about the vision and mission of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) and the National Monument and Forest Service Special Areas.
- Contribute to the development of a National Monument map of trails and take a major role in sales and/or distribution.
- Use informational tools ("Leave No Trace," etc.) to minimize resource damage to areas of visitor use and/or areas with sensitive resources.
- Provide specific messages about how each recreational user group can prevent resource damage.
- Emphasize the need for visitors to be aware of and respect safety and the private property within and adjacent to National Monument lands.
- Promote the recognition of the National Monument and facilitate the use of the National Monument logo among partner agencies.
- Encourage use of existing information and facilities within the National Monument (Cahuilla Tewanet, Chamber of Commerce centers, Sawmill Trailhead, etc.)

No Action Alternative D

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). The Interpretive Concept Plan will serve as a basis for interpretation within the National Monument.

Educational Resources - Signs

Signs would be deliberately planned to serve all the needs of visitors as they move through the site. From gateway signs to interpretive signs, each would be designed to meet specific needs. Signs would be used to inform, warn, guide and identify.

National Monument recognition and unity are most easily established through visual images, and consistency is the key to building recognition, credibility, and effectiveness in a signage plan.

- The following sign Strategy for educational resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Enhance communication through regulatory, informative and interpretive signs.
- Install entry signs and interpretive/orientation panels (highway, trail, information centers, etc.).
- Use the National Monument logo as an essential element in design and development.
- Work with partner agencies, Tribes, and jurisdictions to provide input in the development of signs on non-Federal lands.
- Install signs beside trails designating uses allowed, interpretive messages and hazards.

No Action Alternative D

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Direction provided within the Interpretive Concept Plan. Federal and State sign policy would continue to provide guidance throughout National Monument.

Educational Resources - Education and Interpretation

Interpretive displays and programs would develop messages for National Monument visitors by using multiple media. Interpretive tools would enhance visitor understanding of resource values by engaging their senses, curiosity, and interest. The interpretive theme of the National Monument is: *From desert oases to granite peaks, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument encompasses a land of contrasts and a story of adaptations.*

- The following education and interpretation Strategy for educational resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Provide the public with programs/field trips/outreach/exhibitions.
- Design a traveling exhibit to be used both on-site at the Visitor Center and at community events.
- Contribute to community-sponsored events and work with schools and museums.
- Develop National Monument Visitor Center exhibitions.

- Develop volunteer programs and partnerships.
- Establish guidelines for educational groups for their visit to the National Monument.
- Encourage appropriate use/visitation by individuals and groups based on the availability of facilities and staff and on safe trail conditions.
- Consider opportunities, where appropriate, for contracting with private sector businesses, nonprofit organizations, and academic, State, and local agencies to develop outreach materials and messages.
- Coordinate with partners in seeking cost share programs, in-kind contributions, and fee-for-service systems to support specific interpretation projects.
- Seek partnerships with Tribes, agencies, organizations, and volunteers to accomplish the above.

No Action Alternative D

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Direction provided within the Interpretive Concept Plan.

2.B.6. Management of Scientific Resources

- The following scientific resources Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Maintain current coverage of resources on GIS layers to assist with research and management.
- Encourage research that promotes the understanding and increased knowledge of the National Monument resources, so long as proposed research is consistent with the Objectives, Land Health Standards, and Standards and Guidelines for the area of interest.
- Develop a combined BLM and Forest Service permit system to process and approve permits for research on BLM and National Forest lands within the National Monument. Where applicable, research may be incorporated with interpretive programs occurring within the National Monument. All applications for research within the National Monument would be addressed and reviewed by the National Monument Manager, and approval or denial of a permit application by the National Monument Manager would be based on compliance with the Objectives, Land Health Standards, and Standards and Guidelines for the area of interest.
- Post a listing of current research within the National Monument on the National Monument webpage with a link to relevant research information.
- Facilitate the transfer of research information to the public through periodic science forums.

No Action Alternative D

Current management according to the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Permits are required for research, but no form exists. Letters are provided to researchers with reporting requirements and resource protection guidelines.

2.B.7. Management of Scenic Resources

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended) provide guidance for protecting the visual qualities of Federal lands within the National Monument. VRM Class Objectives established through the BLM's CDCA Plan Amendment and Scenery Management System levels established through the Forest Service's planning processes are considered when management actions are proposed. (See Chapter 3, Section 3.I. for a description of the classifications for scenic values within the National Monument.) Impacts to scenic resources resulting from development of private lands within and adjacent to the National Monument are not covered, addressed, or regulated in any manner by the National Monument Plan.

- No additional actions regarding management of Scenic resources are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

2.B.8. Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses

Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses - Access

Valid existing rights include a variety of BLM and Forest Service authorizations such as right-of-way grants, leases, permits and reciprocal agreements. Private landowners within the National Monument are assured access to their property, as both the National Monument legislation and existing law requires the BLM and Forest Service to provide reasonable access to non-Federally owned land that is surrounded by public land. BLM and Forest Service would continue to accept applications for granting access to BLM-administered lands where they are consistent with local comprehensive plans. Legal access may be provided to private lands within the National Monument via a right-of-way grant.

- The following Strategy to secure access to Federal land within the National Monument is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Work with County, city, and private entities to secure legal access across non-Federal land through key entry points, land where trails cross, etc. through: (1) easements, (2) acquisitions (see Section 2.B.10. of this chapter), and (3) agreements and MOUs with cities.

No Action Alternative D

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Legal access across non-Federal land is addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses - Private Property Concerns

The National Monument Act of 2000 affects only Federal lands and Federal interest in lands within the established boundaries of the National Monument. The National Monument Act states, "... it is anticipated certain activities or uses on private lands outside of the National Monument may have some impact upon the National Monument, and Congress does not intend, directly or indirectly, that additional regulations be imposed on such uses or activities as long as they are consistent with other applicable law." However, the checkerboard nature of land ownership within and adjacent to National Monument boundaries (Figure 3) necessitates a commitment by BLM and Forest Service to establish communication and cooperation with adjacent landowners and local communities.

- The following private property concerns Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

To enhance current relationships with private property owners, the following Strategy would be adopted:

- BLM and Forest Service would engage in public outreach activities designed to keep adjacent landowners and local communities informed of new developments or activities related to the National Monument. A process would be developed to maintain lines of communication with private property owners.
- BLM and Forest Service would strive to build relationships with the surrounding community through numerous approaches, including partnerships and collaborative projects. When possible, the BLM and Forest Service would use existing community resources for the development of outreach or educational materials.
- BLM and Forest Service would engage the surrounding communities in efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the resources of the National Monument through hands-on stewardship such as monitoring, restoration projects and scientific research.
- BLM and Forest Service would identify and use common land management goals as a basis for developing voluntary collaborative projects with adjacent landowners and land users of the National Monument. These projects would be designed to resolve conflicts and promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of resources in the National Monument and on adjacent non-Federal land.

No Action Alternative D

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Both agencies would continue current outreach efforts and would address private property conflicts on a case-by-case basis.

Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses - Facility Development

New facility development would be consistent with the purpose of the National Monument (resource values from legislation), the BLM Objectives outlined in the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and the Standards and Guidelines established through the SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). All facilities, existing, newly acquired, jointly operated, or newly constructed, shall comply with current legislation regarding accessibility (The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968). In addition, any new construction or alteration of existing facilities (including trails) would comply with State and local codes as well as impending Federal legislation regarding the accessibility of the outdoor recreation environment. All existing and new facilities would be maintained, designed, and constructed according to BLM and Forest Service standards.

- The following facility development Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

Further guidance for facility development within the National Monument is provided below:

- Develop an architectural theme for the National Monument to set the stage for National Monument facilities, signs, outreach materials, etc.
- Address facility development within the National Monument on an as-needed basis. Upon the establishment of a need for a facility, the facility will be planned, located, and constructed, so long as the proposed facility falls within the following parameters:
 - Prioritize facility placement in already disturbed areas
 - Require the promotion of the understanding and enjoyment of National Monument resources as the goal of any private party ventures and concessionaires
 - Furnish new toilet facilities as needed for health, safety, and resource protection
 - Identify existing and proposed partner facility locations. Cooperative efforts (including the pursuit of cooperative grants) and joint uses of facilities (e.g., Tramway gas station on Highway 111 at the entrance to the City of Palm Springs) would be encouraged as appropriate.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing signs, interpretive sites, and facilities and upgrade as needed.

No Action Alternative D

New facility development would be consistent with the purpose of the National Monument (resource values from legislation), the BLM Objectives outlined in the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and the Standards and Guidelines established through the SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). All facilities, existing, newly acquired, jointly operated, or newly constructed, shall comply with current legislation regarding accessibility. In addition, any new construction or alteration of existing facilities (including trails) would comply with State and local codes as well as impending Federal legislation regarding the accessibility of the outdoor recreation environment. All existing and new facilities would be maintained, designed, and constructed according to BLM and Forest Service standards.

Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses - Visitor Use with Regard to Highway 74

Highway 74 provides access from the desert floor of the National Monument near the Visitor Center to the upper elevation access points. This highway is a commuter road for those traveling between the Coachella Valley and the Pinyon community and beyond. BLM and Forest Service need to address use of this road by visitors to the National Monument by working with Caltrans and city and County transportation agencies.

- The following Highway 74 Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

Complete a MOU between Caltrans, Forest Service and BLM to identify the process for communication, cooperation and consultation regarding activities along Highway 74. Items to address include designing future safe interpretive opportunities, monitoring vehicle use along Highway 74, coordinating outreach regarding safe passage through the National Monument on Highway 74, identifying cooperative grants with local city and county transportation agencies, coordinating grant and funding applications, and collaborating future corridor management plans and Scenic Byway designation.

No Action Alternative D

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). The existing MOU between Caltrans and Forest Service identifies maintenance actions, weed management, etc. BLM and Forest Service would continue to provide input to Caltrans regarding maintenance needs, safety concerns, and planning documentation review.

Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses - Monitoring Visitor Use

A component of resource management is an understanding of levels of use and potential impacts by visitors to the National Monument.

- The following visitor use monitoring Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

Monitor visitor use in the National Monument by using a variety of methods:

- Install counters at the Visitor Center
- Require trip reports for hikers
- Require permits for special uses
- Require use surveys and questionnaires
- Install trail registers and study trail use patterns
- Monitor attendance at programs
- Utilize visitor information gathered at city visitor centers

No Action Alternative D

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended).

Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses - Hazards to Facility, Visitor and Public Safety

- The following hazards Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

BLM and Forest Service will develop a structures map identifying defensible structures to assist in fire and other hazard management. BLM and Forest Service will establish meetings twice a year with Riverside Mounted Police Unit, Desert Sheriffs Search and Rescue and other agencies with public safety responsibility within the National Monument to increase effectiveness with which response to emergencies is coordinated throughout the National Monument. Law enforcement staff will establish meetings at least twice a year to discuss enforcement coordination and emerging enforcement trends throughout the National Monument.

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). BLM and Forest Service will continue to address hazards to visitors as each agency is made aware of specific concerns.

Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses - Fire Plan

Fire management will continue according to fire management direction outlined through existing BLM and Forest Service guidance (see Section 3.N. in Chapter 3). There is a

need for the development of a comprehensive Fire Plan for the National Monument following the completion of the National Monument Management Plan.

- The following future Fire Plan is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

Coordinate with Tribes, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), California Department of Forestry (CDF), Riverside County Fire Department, Cathedral City Fire Department, Palm Springs Fire Department, State Parks and community fire safe councils to develop a comprehensive Fire Plan for the National Monument to be initiated upon completion of the National Monument Management Plan consistent with priorities set forth in the National Fire Plan. Items to be addressed include:

- Fire management responsibility, direct protection areas, and coordinated response
- Vegetation management requirements throughout National Monument and a clear fire history throughout the National Monument.
- Established vegetation and species-based needs for fire management throughout the National Monument
- Needed management direction regarding drought-related fuels reduction, fuel breaks, and access for emergency purposes
- Adaptive language that can address emergencies and a changing environment

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Current fire responsibility is shared between several fire agencies within the National Monument. The current Fire Management Activity Plan (FMAP) within the Monument is to suppress 90% of the fire at 10 acres or less (an estimated 1/3 of the National Monument is Wilderness). Increased fuel loading, adequate suppression resources, protection of resources within the National Monument, and increase in man-caused fires from visitor use within the National Monument are existing factors that an updated FMAP needs to address.

Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses - Uses

Grazing

Grazing leases or permits in the National Monument shall be issued in accordance with the same laws (including regulations) and EOs that govern the leasing or permitting of other land under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries. Nothing in the National Monument Act of 2000 affects the grazing permit of the Wellman family (permittee number 12-55-3) on lands included in the National Monument.

No grazing allotments occur on BLM-managed land in the National Monument. One grazing allotment is on National Forest lands occurring within the National Monument. Grazing will be addressed in the pending Forest Plan Revision.

- No actions pertaining to grazing are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Proposals for New Land Uses

Proposals for new land uses such as road access, communication sites such as cellular telephone, radio and microwave facilities, utility facilities such as electrical, telephone,

water, and gas lines, along with temporary uses such as commercial filming, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Only those uses that further the purpose for which the National Monument was established (Appendix A) would be authorized.

Rights-of-way grants may be issued for access to roads and utility facilities, with consideration of all reasonable alternatives for placement outside of the National Monument. Temporary uses, such as commercial filming, may be authorized under revocable, non-possessory, and non-exclusive permits. BLM and Forest Service will regulate and control these rights-of-way facilities and any temporary uses in a manner to protect resources of the National Monument and to prevent unnecessary or undue environmental damage.

- No actions changing the current special use permitting process for BLM and Forest Service are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

2.B.9. Management of Water Resources

Best Management Practices (BMP) are required by the Federal Clean Water Act (as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987) to reduce non-point source pollution to the maximum extent practicable. BMP are considered the primary mechanisms to achieve California water quality standards. Properly functioning condition assessments and Standards and Guidelines for the Forest Service are additional methods to manage water resources. All management activities and practices within the National Monument will be consistent with the BMP described in Chapter 3.

In addition to following the BMP for achieving water quality standards, BLM and Forest Service would increase levels of interagency coordination as well as coordination with adjoining land managers.

- The following water resources management Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B and C)

The BLM and Forest Service will coordinate with USGS, Tribes, Riverside County, local water districts, private water companies, and other private water users to enhance current efforts to manage surface and ground water by the following actions:

- Compile known locations of all springs, tinajas, oases, and streams within the National Monument and identify potential pollution sources.
- Inventory groundwater quality, existing water wells, and groundwater recharge areas, and examine the relationship of groundwater supplies to springs and oases within the National Monument.
- Include the above in a GIS database.
- Determine water quality data throughout the National Monument to establish coordinated water quality monitoring and compatible actions in times of drought.
- Establish unified management direction as a result of monitoring.
- Initiate a watershed assessment and Action Plan.

No Action Alternative D

BLM and Forest Service would continue to manage water resources consistent with BMP as required by the Federal Clean Water Act (as amended by the Water Quality Act

of 1987) to reduce non-point source pollution to the maximum extent practicable. Properly functioning condition assessments and Standards and Guidelines for the Forest Service would continue to provide guidance for managing water resources. Hydrologic units will be identified to the 5th and 6th order in an interagency effort during FY 2003.

2.B.10. Land Tenure Adjustments

Disposals of Federal Land

The National Monument Act of 2000 provides that, subject to valid existing rights, no Federal lands in the National Monument are available for disposal except through exchange. The act limits exchanges of Federal lands to those that would further the protective purposes of the National Monument or an exchange with the ACBCI referenced in Section 6(e) of the act.

Proposed Exchanges

The BLM is currently considering two exchanges, one with the University of California, Riverside (UCR), and another with the ACBCI. The exchanges are only briefly described in this section because the exchange process will require a separate site-specific environmental document and separate public review and comment on the proposed exchanges.

UCR Exchange

The public lands proposed for transfer to UCR are described as section 22, T.6S., R.6E., SBBM. In the proposed exchange, the United States would acquire section 27, T.6S., R.6E. The purpose of this exchange is for the U.S. to acquire lands in Wilderness, while UCR would incorporate the public lands into the Philip L. Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center reserve system.

Exchange with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

The following Federal lands are proposed for transfer to the ACBCI:

- T.4S., R.4E.:
 - section 16 (all)
 - section 17, W1/2NW1/4NE1/4, W1/2E1/2NW1/4NE1/4
 - section 18, W1/2NE1/4, N1/2NE1/4SW1/4, S1/2 of Lot1, N1/2 of lot2
 - section 36, lots 1-4, W1/2NE1/4, W1/2SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4SW1/4, E1/2NW1/4SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4SW1/4, S1/2NW1/4NW1/4SW1/4
- T.5S., R.4E.:
 - section 5, lots 1-4, S1/2NE1/4, S1/2NW1/4, S1/2
 - sections 16, 21, 27, & 29, 32, & 36 (all)

In exchange, the following ACBCI lands are proposed for transfer to the United States.

- T.5S., R..5E.:
 - sections 7 and 19 (all)
 - section 20, W1/2W1/2

Depending on the appraised values, additional lands may be identified for transfer to the United States.

The purpose of the exchange is to transfer certain Federal lands, which are adjacent to or nearby existing reservation lands, to the ACBCI. The National Monument Act of 2000 recognized that lands in the National Monument have a special cultural value to the ACBCI. The exchange will provide the BLM and the ACBCI with more logical and consistent land management responsibility in the National Management.

Future Exchanges

Other than the proposed exchanges described above, any future exchange, which would transfer Federal lands in the National Monument out of Federal ownership, would require amending the National Monument Management Plan.

Acquisitions of Land or Interests in Land

Section 6 of the National Monument Act of 2000 (Appendix A) provides for acquiring State, local government, Tribal, and privately held land or interests within the bounds of the National Monument only by (1) donation; (2) exchange with a willing party; or (3) purchase from a willing seller. The use of permanent conservation easements is also referenced in the legislation.

Coordination of Acquisitions

Each of the agencies involved in acquiring lands in the National Monument has its own acquisition priorities, based on its geographic area of responsibility and mission. BLM and Forest Service are generally concerned with acquiring parcels that have a checkerboard pattern of public and private ownership. The ACBCI acquisition program is focused on acquiring lands within and adjacent to historical use areas and existing Reservation lands. Through an MOU signed October 13, 1999, the BLM agreed to consult with the ACBCI on proposed acquisitions within the Reservation and reject proposals unless they have first been offered to the Tribal Council. Generally, this MOU has been applied to acquisition proposals in T.4S., R.4E., and T.5S., R.4E. The ACBCI has prepared a Tribal MSHCP, which will further direct their acquisition priorities.

The State Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) acquires lands pursuant to a Conceptual Area Acquisition Plan, which sets priorities based on habitat values for the endangered Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep. The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) was created by the State of California to acquire and protect lands in the Coachella Valley, including the National Monument. The Conservancy's Governing Board includes a representative of BLM, Forest Service, WCB, CDFG, ACBCI, the County of Riverside, and each of the cities with land under its jurisdiction in the National Monument. In addition to regular bimonthly meetings of the Conservancy, periodic meetings of agency managers and acquisition staff have occurred to maintain ongoing coordination of the acquisition program. The Conservancy's priorities are based on protecting scenic, cultural, biological, and recreational resource values. Approval of the CVMSHCP/NCCP, which is anticipated to be in 2003, will shift the emphasis in the Conservancy's priorities more heavily toward biological and recreational resources. The Conservancy's informal role in coordinating and facilitating some acquisitions is expected to continue.

The cities and Riverside County focus on protecting key open space areas within their respective jurisdictions.

Future acquisition of private land within the National Monument by the BLM or Forest Service would occur with voluntary participants only and be conducted in accordance

with existing laws and regulations pertaining to Federal land exchanges and acquisition of non-Federal property.

No single set of acquisition priorities for the National Monument as a whole currently exists, but rather a set of priorities that differs from agency to agency depending on the mission and purpose behind land management. These different priorities are not in conflict with each other; but they do underscore the importance of coordination among the various acquisition programs.

- The following acquisitions coordination Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Establish bi-annual coordination meetings concerning the ongoing acquisition program to identify (1) existing and prospective funding sources, (2) acquisition and partnership opportunities based on the agencies' various priorities, and (3) short-term and long-term actions to ensure that acquisitions are accomplished and funding opportunities pursued.
- Adopt the following criteria to supplement existing BLM and Forest Service acquisitions policies:
 - (1) Strategic significance. As noted above, agencies may have different priorities based on their specific missions. Among factors that may be significant to one agency or another are biological resource values such as lambing habitat or water sources for bighorn sheep, right-of-way needs for trails or other access purposes, geological values, and cultural resource values. The CVMSHCP will identify the areas with high biological value and will delineate trail alignments. The National Monument has not been comprehensively surveyed for cultural resources, but there is an existing body of information that can help to assess the likelihood of cultural resources to occur in various areas.
 - (2) Threat level. Areas within the National Monument where there is a threat of development or a potential for a land use conflict are of high priority.
 - (3) Opportunity. Lands sometime become available for acquisition through a Tax Sale Agreement with the County Tax Collector. Other lands may be offered as a donation or sale at below market value if the owner wishes to seek tax credits or tax deductions. Such opportunities enable acquisitions to be made at relatively little cost.
 - (4) Funding availability. Various agencies have access to a number of funding sources that typically have restrictions as to where or for what purposes the funds can be used.

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Regular bimonthly meetings of the Conservancy and periodic meetings of agency managers and acquisition staff have occurred to maintain ongoing coordination of the acquisition program.

2.B.11. Wilderness Inventory and Management

Additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System are authorized through Congressional action under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and for BLM lands, under

FLPMA. Under the Wilderness Act, FLPMA, or other Congressional authorizations, Federal agencies are directed to inventory lands under their jurisdictions for identification of areas having Wilderness characteristics. Only Congress may designate Wilderness areas.

National Forest lands were inventoried for Wilderness characteristics under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and under the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE and RARE II) process in the 1970's and 1980's. The San Jacinto Wilderness was established under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and enlarged in 1984, and the Santa Rosa Wilderness under the California Wilderness Act of 1984. Pyramid Peak, approximately 17,000 acres (including private lands inside the boundary), was set aside by Congress (Section 102(a)(3)) as the "Pyramid Peak Planning Area." Remaining lands that were analyzed during RARE II, including roadless areas now within the National Monument, were released from consideration for Wilderness study until subsequent National Forest land use planning by passage of the California Wilderness Act of 1984. The Pyramid Peak Planning Area and the 3,159-acre Cactus Springs Inventory Roadless Area are undergoing Wilderness evaluation as part of the current Forest Plan Revision.

BLM managed lands within the National Monument were inventoried as part of the initial Wilderness inventory required through Section 603 of FLPMA and during the development of the CDCA Plan (1980). The recommendations regarding Wilderness characteristics and suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System were submitted to the Secretary of the Interior and to the President and transmitted to Congress in 1991. The inventory resulted in over 68,000 acres of public land in the Santa Rosa Mountains being identified as a Wilderness Study Area in the CDCA Plan. No other lands were found to be of sufficient size, due to the checkerboard pattern of land ownership, to possess Wilderness characteristics. The Santa Rosa Wilderness (addition to the existing Forest Service Santa Rosa Wilderness) was designated by Congress as part of the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 (CDPA). Although the inventory found no additional lands with sufficient size to possess Wilderness characteristics, further inventories of BLM lands may be conducted under the CDCA Plan Amendment, if the following occurs:

- If the Forest Plan Revision identifies additional National Forest lands with Wilderness characteristics, and;
- If land tenure or other ownership changes result in additional BLM lands, of any size, being adjacent to lands with Wilderness characteristics.

This Plan does not identify or establish new Wilderness Study Areas (as defined in Section 603 of FLPMA). No actions pertaining to additional Wilderness designations or recommendations are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

2.C. Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program

Adaptive management is the ability to alter the Plan actions as conditions change or new research becomes available. The BLM and the Forest Service will consider new information regarding species or habitat management and will change management as appropriate.

2.C.1. Implementing the National Monument Management Plan

Some land use plan decisions become effective immediately upon approval of the National Monument Management Plan by the State Director and Regional Forester.

Actions that require enforcement will need to be posted, and a Federal Register Notice will be required. Other decisions will be implemented as resources and funding become available (BLM Manual 1601 .06F) through Congress, grants, or partnerships. All activities on BLM-managed public lands within the National Monument must be in conformance with the approved CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and the approved National Monument Management Plan. Activities on Forest Service-managed lands within the National Monument must be in conformance with the SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Subsequent actions to implement the CDCA Plan or SBNF LRMP, subsequent activity/implementation level planning, and new projects, are subject to further environmental review in accordance with NEPA and other environmental laws. These environmental documents may tier to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the respective BLM and Forest Service land use plans, and the National Monument Management Plan, to provide the cumulative impact analysis for proposed activities. Proposed activities are also subject to laws, regulations, and policies, which provide guidance on how to protect sensitive resources, as site-specific projects are implemented in conformance with the approved Plan.

The following is a summary of the more pertinent laws, regulations, and policies that guide implementation of the National Monument Management Plan.

Table 2-2. Policy and Management Guidance for National Monument Management Plan Implementation

Element	Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
Plan Monitoring	BLM and Forest Service shall monitor and evaluate the continued effectiveness of the National Monument Management Plan, as amended, in protecting and preserving the resources that the National Monument was established to protect and preserve. Baseline data on natural and cultural resources will be further developed as funding becomes available.
Valid Existing Rights	Disposal of parcels with existing land use authorizations will be subject to valid existing rights. Subsequent actions may not have the effect of terminating any validly issued right-of-way or customary operation, maintenance, repair and replacement activities in such rights-of-way.
Special Status Species	In order to minimize adverse impacts to Special Status Species and to avoid future listings, the BLM and Forest Service would confer or consult as necessary with the USFWS on all Special Status Species.
Cultural Resources	All management actions shall comply with the NHPA, which provides for the protection of significant cultural resources. In furtherance of this act, the 36 CFR 800 procedures shall be conducted pursuant to the State Protocol Agreement (1998) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer. An appropriate level of survey shall be conducted for all actions with a potential to affect cultural resources.

Element	Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
Native American Concerns	For all public land activities adjacent to reservation lands, the BLM and Forest Service shall consult with the relevant Tribes to determine potential impact to Native American trust assets and cultural values and to develop mitigation measures if needed.
Vector Prevention and Control	In addition to complying with California Health and Safety Code, all permittees on BLM and National Forest lands would be encouraged to consult with the local vector control agency to adopt the best methods for vector prevention and control, including minimizing any areas of standing water or managing such areas (in sand and gravel mines, etc.). BLM and Forest Service would consult with local vector control agencies to follow practices to decrease the probability of mosquito breeding and allow for routine vector surveillance (or abatement if necessary) and maintenance. BLM and Forest Service would include vector control in outreach programs and materials. The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) is given broad powers to abate public nuisances and disease vectors within the state (see Health & Safety Code Sections §§100170 and §§116100).
Mining and Utility Proposals	Subject to valid existing rights, proposed extraction sites will not be established in the National Monument, as Federal land within the National Monument is withdrawn from mineral extractions. Valid mining claims are exempt from the withdrawal and may be developed. Utility proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to review according to NEPA.
Management of Lands Acquired through Exchange	Lands acquired through exchange shall become part of the area within which they are located and managed accordingly.

Accomplishment of all proposed actions would depend on availability of funding. In addition to use of appropriated dollars, the agencies would seek funding from partners, Tribes, local agencies, and volunteer groups. Implementing the actions proposed through the National Monument Management Plan with the assistance of partners is critical in effectively managing the resources that the National Monument was established to protect.

- The following adaptive management and monitoring Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Proposed Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of implementing the National Monument Management Plan, BLM and Forest Service will:

- Facilitate the development of a Technical Review Team to include all partners such as Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, California State Parks, Tribal administrators, selected scientists and species experts, and State and

Federal technical specialists from the Forest Service and BLM, to implement Strategies resulting from the National Monument Management Plan for management of National Monument resources and continued visitor service. The Technical Review Team will examine survey data and monitoring data as well as scientific research on a regular basis so that future management actions will incorporate this information.

- Develop cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations and user groups to assist in management.
- Coordinate monitoring of resources within the National Monument with partner agencies and encourage citizen and volunteer organization involvement in monitoring.
- Prioritize monitoring of resources to address resources that are associated with highest levels of threat due to use.

No Action Alternative D

The BLM and the Forest Service will work to implement National Monument management actions as funding becomes available.

2.C.2. National Monument Management Plan Maintenance

BLM land use plans shall be maintained (43 CFR 1610.5-4) to further refine or document previously approved decisions incorporated into the National Monument Management Plan. Several of the Alternatives are contingent upon the pending trails management plan to be completed through the CVMSHCP.

The approved trails management plan would be incorporated into the National Monument Management Plan through Plan maintenance as uses or restrictions on BLM and National Forest lands would not change substantially. In the event that the trails management plan is not completed, the land use allocations established for BLM-managed lands through the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) would remain intact until such time a subsequent Plan amendment is deemed necessary.

Upon completion of the Forest Plan Revision, applicable decisions will be incorporated into the National Monument Management Plan through Plan maintenance or Plan amendment, as appropriate.

2.C.3. National Monument Management Plan Monitoring

The implementation of this Plan will be monitored to ensure that management actions follow prescribed management direction. Monitoring is an essential component of managing the resources that the National Monument was established to protect because it provides information on changes in resource use, condition, processes, and trends. Monitoring also provides information on the effectiveness of management activities and Strategies.

Monitoring will be an integral component of adaptive ecosystem management. Close coordination and interaction between monitoring and research are essential for this type of management. Data obtained through systematic and statistically valid monitoring can be used by scientists to develop research hypotheses related to priority issues. The Forest Service and BLM will consider new information regarding species or habitat management as it becomes available. The agencies will incorporate all information that is pertinent to future management actions and management guidance provided in the

National Monument Management Plan, the current CDCA Plan (1980, as amended), and the current Forest Plan Revision process.

The monitoring process will collect information in the most cost effective manner possible and may involve sampling or remote sensing. Monitoring could be cost prohibitive if not designed carefully. Therefore, it will not be necessary or desirable to monitor every management action or direction. Unnecessary detail and unacceptable costs will be avoided by focusing on key monitoring questions and proper sampling methods. The level and intensity of monitoring will vary, depending on the sensitivity of the resource, process or trend and the scope of the proposed management activity.

Designated Wilderness will be monitored regarding solitude, group size, and carrying capacity. As part of this process, Forest Service and BLM should develop use capacities and limits of acceptable change for sensitive areas within the National Monument.