

J. Decision Record - Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan

BACKGROUND: The Carrizo Plain Natural Area (CPNA) located in the eastern portion of San Luis Obispo County, California, is cooperatively managed by the Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game, and The Nature Conservancy. These three agencies own and manage approximately 250,000 acres within the Natural Area. The primary mission of the CPNA is to manage the Natural Area so indigenous species interact within a fully functioning system in perpetuity while conserving unique natural and cultural resources and maintaining opportunities for compatible scientific research.

The Natural Area provides a complex of diverse habitats for many rare and endangered species and supports healthy populations of some of these species. It has been identified as a focal point in Recovery Plans for management of these species. In addition to the biological resources, the CPNA is rich in archaeological and historical resources as well as recreational opportunities.

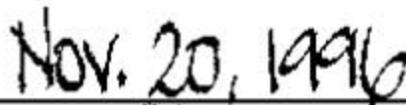
DECISION: I approve the attached Carrizo Plain Natural Area Management Plan thereby adopting the goals and objectives for management of the resources in the CPNA and commit to implement the management actions outlined in the plan consistently throughout the CPNA.

RATIONALE: The management goals and objectives outlined in this plan are the result of a collaborative effort between the CPNA managing partners, interested publics and the scientific community. This plan is in conformance with the Caliente Resource Management Plan and with plans, programs and policies of various Federal, State and local government agencies. The plan incorporates by reference the Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS on February 1, 1996 addressing activities cover under the management plan.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: Based on the analysis provided in the Environmental Assessment which is a part of the management plan, I have concluded that the approval of the plan is not a major federal action and will not result in significant impacts to the environment. The preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to further analyze possible impacts is not required pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

APPEAL RIGHTS: Any person whose interest is adversely affected by these decisions may have certain appeal rights as described in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations 43(CFR)-Part 4.411 to the U.S. Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals.


Area Manager, Caliente Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management


Date