



*Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains
National Monument
Proposed Management Plan and
Final Environmental Impact Statement*

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Bureau of Land Management**

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Proposed Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument/FEIS
Preface



Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
6240/1610 DP
CA668.70

Dear Reader:

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) prepared for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Plan is available for your review. We welcome your participation in evaluating the document.

The FEIS presents three action alternatives and a no-action alternative, each developed with differing emphasis. Public comment was considered in developing and analyzing issues and alternatives in this document along with local government, known interest groups and data developed by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) staff. Three public meetings were held during the 90-day comment period. The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument received 30 individual comment letters, which were assessed by BLM and FS staff and were utilized in clarifying and strengthening the FEIS.

If you would like further consideration of your interest/concerns prior to the final decision on the National Monument Management Plan alternatives, please identify them in writing prior to the end of the 30-day comment period. Comments must be received within the official comment period. The comment period will end 30 days after publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument will announce the official comment period closing date in a news release to be printed in local newspapers. All written comments should be sent to the attention of Danella George, National Monument Manager, BLM Palm Springs Field Office, PO Box 581260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258, or to the email address: ca_srsj_nm@ca.blm.gov. Documents referenced in this FEIS may be examined at the BLM Palm Springs Field Office during regular working hours.

The final decision on the National Monument Management Plan will be based on the analysis contained in the FEIS, additional data available, public input, management feasibility, and policy and legal constraints. Approval of the National Monument Management Plan will be documented in a Record of Decision (ROD). The Public will be notified of its availability through a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register and through newspapers and mailings. All ROD's will be available on the BLM website at www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings.

Relationship to the Forest Service San Bernardino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (SBNF LRMP):

No portions of the National Monument Management Plan amend the SBNF LRMP.

Relationship to the Bureau of Land Management California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan:

The portions of the National Monument Management Plan that are proposed plan amendments to the CDCA Plan (See Table ES-4) are subject to administrative review via a plan protest if you believe the approval of the Proposed CDCA Plan Amendment would be in error under **43 CFR 1610.5-2**. Careful adherence to those guidelines will assist in preparing a protest that will assure the greatest consideration to your concerns.

Only those persons or organizations who participated in our planning process leading to the development of the National Monument Management Plan may protest. Before deciding to protest, I encourage you to contact me or Greg Hill at (760) 251- 4800 to determine if your concerns might be met in some way other than via a protest or to assist you in the protest process if it is appropriate.

A protesting party may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process. If several individuals, landowners, or interest groups share an issue, a combined protest on the common issue or concern may be mutually more efficient and effective.

The period for filing a protest begins when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the Notice of Availability of the FEIS in the Federal Register. The protest period extends for 30 days. There is no provision in BLM's regulations for an extension of time. To be considered "timely," your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. Although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Protests must be filed in writing to:

Director, Bureau of Land Management (210)
Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, D.C. 20035

The overnight mail address is:
Director, Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protests Coordinator (WO-210)
1620 L Street N.W., Room 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036

Protests filed late, or filed with the State Director, or District, Field or Monument Manager shall be rejected. Resolution of the protests is entirely the province of the Director of BLM, whose decision is the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

E-mail protests will not be accepted. Faxed protests will be considered as potential valid protests provided that (1) the signed, faxed letter is received by the Washington Office protest coordinator by the closing date of the protest period and (2) the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Please direct faxed protests to "BLM Protest Coordinator" at 202-452-5112.

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- 1) The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
- 2) A statement of the issue(s)/concern(s) being protested.
- 3) A statement of the part or parts of the National Monument Management Plan being protested. To the extent possible, this should reference specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc.
- 4) A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were disclosed for the record.
- 5) A concise statement explaining why you believe that the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong. A protest merely expressing disagreement with the State Director's decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

Comments and protests, including the names and addresses of those submitting comments and protests, will be available for public review. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,

Danella George
National Monument Manager
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

USER'S GUIDE

The Proposed Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and Final Environmental Impact Statement includes a summary, five chapters, glossary, references, maps and appendices.

The **Summary** is a synopsis of the Proposed Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Tables that briefly compare the respective Alternatives and summarize the effects of the Alternatives to the resources, processes and users are found within the summary.

Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need) contains introductory material for the Proposed Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and Final Environmental Impact Statement. It describes the purpose and need for the preparation of the planning and scoping process and outlines the planning criteria.

Chapter 2 (Alternatives and Strategies) is organized according to the values that the National Monument was established to protect: biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, scientific, and scenic. These sections are followed by additional management areas. Alternative D throughout is the No Action, or current management Alternative. Alternatives A, B and C describe various ways activities would be managed in the National Monument. Each Alternative varies from more intensive to less intensive management, with the underlying premise to maintain, protect, restore or enhance relevant and important ecological and biological value.

Chapter 3 (Affected Environment) describes the current environment that would be affected or impacted by implementing any of the Alternatives. It also describes the existing management for resource areas within the National Monument where no changes to current management are proposed. It includes a description of the environmental processes, resources and major uses related to the issues. Tables are found throughout the chapter.

Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences) describes potential impacts and changes to the National Monument environment with the implementation of each of the Alternatives.

Chapter 5 (Consultation and Coordination) summarizes public involvement, lists agencies and organizations receiving the document, and provides a List of Preparers for the Proposed Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The **Glossary** and **References** provide an aid to the reader in understanding the material contained in this document.

The **Figures (Maps)** and **Appendices** contain additional information to aid the reader in understanding the document.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Proposed National Monument Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

A

ABOP	Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil and Latex Paint
ACBCI	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADC	Animal Damage Control
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
AML	Abandoned Mined Lands
AML	Appropriate Management Level
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
APE	Area of Potential Effects
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
AQCR	Air Quality Control Regions
AQS	Air Quality Standard
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
AU	Animal Unit
AUM	Animal Unit Month

B

BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
BO	Biological Opinion
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation

C

C&MUA	Classification and Multiple Use Act
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDF	California Department of Forestry
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDHS	California Department of Health Services
CDPA	California Desert Protection Act of 1994
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMP	Coordinated Management Plan
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CMP	Coordinated Resource Management and Planning
CVAG	Coachella Valley Association of Governments
CVMSHCP	Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District

D

DAG	Desert Access Guide
DBH	Diameter, breast high

DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DLE	Desert Land Entry
DOD	Department of Defense
DOI	Department of the Interior
DRP	Draft Resource Plan
DTRP	Desert Tortoise Resource Plan June 1994
DWMA	Desert Wildlife Management Area
E	
EA	Environmental Assessment
EDD	Employment Development Department (California)
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973
F	
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FMAP	Fire Management Activity Plan
FS	Forest Service
FSH	Forest Service Handbook
FSM	Forest Service Manual
G	
GEM	Geology, Energy, Minerals (Survey)
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GMP	General Management Plan
GPS	Global Positioning System
H	
HA	Herd Area
HAZMAT	Hazardous Material
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HMA	Habitat/Herd Management Area
HMAP	Herd Management Area Plan
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
HWMP	Hazardous Waste Management Plan
I	
IBLA	Interior Board of Land Appeals
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
J	
JTNP	Joshua Tree National Park
L	
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
M	
MAST	Mountains Area Safety Task Force
MCCA	Mountains and Canyons Conservation Area
MFP	Management Framework Plan

MIS	Management Indicator Species
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOG	Management Oversight Group
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSA	Management Situation Analysis
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
MSM	Most Stringent Measures
MUC	Multiple-Use Classes
N	
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves and Repatriation Act
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
NIIMS	National Interagency Incident Management System
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System
NIMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NNL	National Natural Landmark
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPB	Net Public Benefit
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
O	
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
ONA	Outstanding Natural Areas
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
P	
PCT	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
PCTA	Pacific Crest Trail Association
PFC	Proper Functioning Condition
PL	Public Law
PM10	Particulate Matter of 10 Microns or Less in Size
PRBS	Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep
R	
R&PP	Recreation and Public Purpose (Act)
RAMP	Recreation Area Management Plan
RARE I	Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (1970s)
RARE II	Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (1980s)
RIM	Recreation Information Management
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW	Right-of-Way
RPA	Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
RS	Revised Statute

RU	Recovery Units
RVD	Recreation Visitor Day
S	
S&G	Standards and Guidelines
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SCIBO	Southern California Indian Basketweavers Organization
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SLC	State Lands Commission
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1976
SMS	Scenery Management System
SRA	State Response Area
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
T	
T&E	Threatened and Endangered (Species)
TASIN	Tribal Association of Sovereign Indian Nations
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
U	
UPA	Unusual Plant Assemblages
URA	Unit Resource Analysis
US	United States
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of the Interior
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geologic Service
USHGA	United States Hang Gliding Association
V	
VFCA	Valley Floor Conservation Area
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
VQO	Visual Quality Objective
VRM	Visual Resource Management
VTAP	Voluntary Trail Avoidance Program
W	
WCB	Wildlife Conservation Board
WECS	Wind Energy Conversion Systems
WH&B	Wild Horses and Burros
WHMA	Wildlife Habitat Management Area