

2.2.3 Alternative C

Use of private lands for various purposes (e.g., hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, new trail development, trail rerouting, trail removal, commercial activities, and competitive events) is at the discretion of the landowner. Where needed, acquisition of land from willing sellers and/or easements from willing grantors will be pursued, dependent on available funding. Activities on State lands would be subject to the California Code of Regulations. Activities on tribal lands are subject to approval of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Trails on tribal lands are not subject to the management prescriptions herein identified, but are considered relative to trail connectivity and network viability. Where Federal permits (including *Special Recreation Permits*) are required, they will be issued through BLM's regulatory process and will comply with NEPA and the Endangered Species Act.

I. TRAIL USE

- Non-motorized activities would be prohibited from **January 1 to September 30** on the trails listed below:

<p><u>Trails subject to closure from January 1 to September 30</u></p> <p><u>East of Palm Canyon</u> North Lykken Trail (closure applies north of Desert Riders Park at the western terminus of the Museum Trail only) Skyline Trail (eastern trailhead is located at Desert Riders Park at the western terminus of the Museum Trail)</p> <p><u>South Palm Springs</u> Araby Trail Shannon Trail Berns Trail Garstin Trail Clara Burgess Trail Wild Horse Trail Goat Trails Eagle Canyon Trail Dry Wash Trail Fern Canyon Trail Vandeventer Trail Hahn Buena Vista Trail</p> <p><u>Cathedral City / Rancho Mirage</u> Cathedral Canyon Trail (closure does not apply to the trail's two legs immediately adjacent to Cathedral City Cove) Dunn Road</p> <p><u>Palm Desert</u> Art Smith Trail Carrizo Canyon Trail Schey Trail</p> <p><u>La Quinta</u> Bear Creek Canyon Trail Bear Creek Oasis Trail Guadalupe Trail Boo Hoff Trail La Quinta Cove to Lake Cahuilla Trail (includes the Morrow Trail and a portion of the Boo Hoff Trail)</p>
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- Non-motorized activities would be prohibited **January 1 to June 30** on other trails in designated critical bighorn sheep habitat. These trails are identified below.

Trails subject to closure from January 1 to June 30 only

East of Palm Canyon

South Lykken Trail
Picnic Table Trail (located east of the South Lykken Trail; closure applies west [uphill] of picnic tables only)

Cathedral City / Rancho Mirage

Mirage Trail (Bump and Grind) uphill of flat overlook located at the approximate center of Section 24, T5S, R5E

Trails available for year-round use in designated critical bighorn sheep habitat

East of Palm Canyon

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
North Lykken Trail (applies south of Desert Riders Park only)
Museum Trail (Palm Springs Desert Museum to Desert Riders Park)
Picnic Table Trail (located east of the South Lykken Trail; applies east [downhill] of picnic tables only)

South Palm Springs

Henderson Trail
Alexander Trail
Palm Canyon Trail
Indian Potrero Trail
Potrero Canyon Trail

Cathedral City / Rancho Mirage

Bighorn Overlook Trail
Mirage Trail (Bump and Grind) downhill of flat overlook located at the approximate center of Section 24, T5S, R5E

Palm Desert

Eisenhower Mountain Trail (access through *The Living Desert*)

Southern Santa Rosa Mountains

Cactus Spring Trail
Martinez Canyon Trail

U.S. Forest Service lands

All trails in designated critical bighorn sheep habitat

Perimeter trail corridors and other locations

All new trails upon development (see NEW TRAIL DEVELOPMENT)

IMPLEMENTATION –TRAIL USE

- All trail closures would be effective upon approval of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Communities Conservation Plan.

II. CROSS-COUNTRY TRAVEL

- Cross-country travel would be prohibited year-round in essential bighorn sheep habitat.
- Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, cross-country travel would be allowed year-round subject to existing regulations.

III. CAMPING

- Camping would be prohibited year-round in essential bighorn sheep habitat.
- Outside designated critical bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, camping is allowed subject to existing regulations.

IV. DOGS

- Dogs would be prohibited in essential bighorn habitat except in designated areas.
- Dogs would be allowed outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains subject to existing regulations.
- The following areas in bighorn sheep habitat would be approved for entry with dogs on leashes:
 - P West of Cathedral City Cove
 - P Homme-Adams Park and adjacent lands in Palm Desert An area south of La Quinta Cove *outside* designated critical bighorn sheep habitat would be open to entry with dogs.

V. NEW TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- New trails along the mountain perimeter would be developed in identified corridors where feasible.

Guidelines for development of new perimeter trails

- P These trails would generally run parallel to an dries not more than 200 feet above the toe of slope.
- P New perimeter trails would not be constructed within ¼ mile of water sources used by bighorn sheep.
- P New perimeter trails would incorporate topographic variability where possible.
- P Construction of approved perimeter trails would be allowed only from **October 1 to December 31.**

Perimeter Trails East of Palm Canyon

- Northern terminus of the North Lykken Trail connecting to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail at Snow Creek.
- Northern terminus of the North Lykken Trail along the western flank of the flood control levee at Tachevah Canyon to Desert Riders Park.

Perimeter Trails South Palm Springs

- No new perimeter trail construction is proposed.

Perimeter trail alignments in Cathedral City / Rancho Mirage

- The Rimrock shopping center to Cathedral City Cove: from northern terminus, around the Cathedral City Cove, then around the Cove generally flanking the flood control levees on both sides. The two legs of the Cathedral Canyon Trail

immediately adjacent to Cathedral City Cove would be utilized.

- On the southeast side of Cathedral City Cove, the new trail would not extend uphill of the flood control channel except where the trail occurs north of the new bighorn sheep fence under construction in association with the Mirada project.
- No new perimeter trail construction is proposed from the Rancho Mirage City Hall area to Magnesia Spring Canyon.

Perimeter trail alignments in Palm Desert

- Santa Rosa Mountains National Monument Visitor Center to the west ridge of Deep Canyon.
- Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center loop trail.
- Homme-Adams Park loop trail and connector to the Mirage Trail.

Perimeter trail alignments in La Quinta

- A new perimeter trail to the west of La Quinta Cove linking with existing trails immediately south of the Cove is proposed.
- A new perimeter trail southeast of La Quinta Cove on the western flank of the Coral Reef Mountains is proposed.

Perimeter trail alignments in the Southern Santa Rosa Mountains

- A new perimeter trail linking the existing Boo Hoff Trail at the eastern boundary of the Santa Rosa Wilderness with the Martinez Canyon Trail is proposed.
- Proposals for new trail development outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

VI. TRAIL REROUTING

- Trails would be rerouted to protect sensitive wildlife habitat or other resource values (e.g., cultural resources, soils).
- Trail re-routing in essential bighorn sheep habitat may only occur October 1 to December 31.
- Identification of trails to be rerouted for protection of wildlife habitat would be based on the best publicly available data.
- A reroute of a portion of the Guadalupe Trail to avoid habitat for the desert slender salamander would be considered upon locating the salamander's habitat
- Trail reroutes would be addressed on a case-by-case basis outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.

VII. TRAIL DECOMMISSION AND REMOVAL

- Redundant trails in the Murray Hill complex would be identified and removed.
- Trail removal in essential bighorn sheep habitat may only occur October 1 to December 31.
- Additional redundant trails would be identified using aerial photography and other

methods.

- Trails would be identified for permanent closure using the following criteria:
 - P Where relocation is not meaningful and feasible (see glossary)
 - P Seasonal restrictions cannot be effectively monitored and enforced
 - P Decisions regarding permanent closure and removal of trails will be based, in part, on reports citing recurring violations of trail closures
 - P Where two or more trails have the same or similar purpose (e.g. connects the same two points, or provides the same recreation experience. Secondary and tertiary braided trails and trail shortcuts would generally be considered redundant.
- Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, proposals to decommission and remove trails would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

VII. MURRAY HILL FACILITIES

- Picnic tables and equestrian hitching posts at the summit of Murray Hill shall be removed and not relocated within designated critical bighorn sheep habitat.

IX. NONCOMMERCIAL, NONCOMPETITIVE ORGANIZED GROUP ACTIVITIES

- Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups are prohibited on certain trails in designated critical bighorn sheep habitat when such trails are closed to non-motorized activities (see TRAIL USE).
- Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups of 10- 24 would be required to obtain a free permit for activities on BLM-managed lands in essential bighorn sheep habitat **January 1 – December 31**.
- Groups of 25 or more using BLM-managed lands must obtain a *special recreation permit* prior to use except where exemptions apply.
- Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups of 16 to 24 individuals entering the Santa Rosa Wilderness, would be required to break into groups with no more than 15 individuals in any one group, and attempt to maintain at least two-mile separation between groups.
- Permits may be issued (1) for use of trails not subject to seasonal closure, and (2) for use of trails that are subject to seasonal closure, but only when the closure is not in effect.
- Non-commercial, non-competitive organized group activities may be allowed outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.

X. NON-MOTORIZED COMMERCIAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Non-motorized commercial recreation activities would be prohibited on certain trails in essential bighorn sheep habitat when such trails are closed to non-motorized activities (see TRAIL USE).
- Non-motorized commercial recreation activities may be permitted on the trails

identified above (subject to seasonal closure) from **October 1 to December 31**, and year-round on all other trails in designated critical bighorn sheep habitat,

- *A special recreation permit* would be required for non-motorized commercial recreation activities on BLM-managed lands in essential bighorn sheep habitat, except where exemptions apply.
- *A special recreation permit* may be required for non-motorized, commercial recreation activities on BLM-managed land outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, except where exemptions apply.

XI. MOTORIZED COMMERCIAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Motorized commercial recreation activities would be prohibited year-round on BLM-managed public land in essential bighorn sheep habitat.
- *A special recreation permit* for motorized commercial recreation activities on BLM-managed land outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains would be, except where exemptions apply.

XII. COMPETITIVE RECREATION EVENTS

- Competitive recreation events would be prohibited year-round on BLM-managed land in essential bighorn sheep habitat.
- *A special recreation permit* would be required for competitive recreation use on BLM-managed land outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, except where exemptions apply.

XIV. MOTORIZED-VEHICLE USE OF TRAILS

- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all trails in designated critical bighorn sheep habitat, except those which can accommodate full-size four-wheel vehicles. All-terrain vehicles are not considered as full-size four-wheel vehicles.
- BLM-managed portions of trails that can accommodate full-size four-wheel vehicles are subject to the route designation process (see California Desert Conservation Area Plan amendment, motorized-vehicle access element).

XII. PUBLIC OUTREACH

- An information and education program addressing all management prescriptions herein described, upon approval, would be implemented.
- Guided hikes during the fall season would be undertaken by BLM in partnership with local jurisdictions and user groups to provide outreach and education.
- Outreach and education would not be limited to bighorn sheep ecology but would include desert ecology in general.
- Viewing areas would be established so that the public can view bighorn sheep and other wildlife from a distance designed to prevent disturbance to the animals.