

Table ES-1: Summary of CDCA Plan Amendment Alternatives			
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D: No Action
<p><u>Wild and Scenic Rivers</u> A total of 20.3 miles of river segments on BLM-managed lands were found eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System. These river segments include portions of Whitewater Canyon, Mission Creek channel, and Palm Canyon. BLM-managed river segments in Little and Big Morongo Canyons, and Whitewater Canyon south of Bonnie Bell were assessed and determined to be ineligible for inclusion.</p>			<p><u>Wild and Scenic Rivers</u> No recommendations would be made at this time.</p>
<p><u>Visual Resource Management</u> Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications would be assigned as follows: (1) Wilderness as VRM Class 1, (2) ACECs and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument as Class 2 (except for wilderness within the monument), (3) BLM-managed lands within CVMSHCP conservation areas, except for wind energy facilities, and sand and gravel mining sites as Class 2, (4) BLM-managed lands associated with existing and future development of wind energy facilities, and sand and gravel mining sites, as Class 4, (5) Remaining BLM-managed lands, other than those in the NECO overlap area as Class 4, and (6) the NECO overlap area would remain unassigned.</p>			<p><u>Visual Resource Management</u> No VRM classifications would be assigned at this time. Wilderness would be managed consistent with VRM Class 1 objectives.</p>
<p><u>Land Health Standards</u> Adopt regional land health standards, addressing soils, native species, riparian/wetland/ stream function, and water quality. These regional land health standards would apply to all BLM lands and programs, and would be implemented through terms and conditions of permits, leases and other authorizations, actions, resource monitoring, assessments undertaken in accordance with BLM's land use plans.</p>			<p><u>Land Health Standards</u> Adopt the National Fallback Standards for use as regional land health standards, addressing soils, riparian/wetland, stream function and native species.</p>
<p><u>Air Quality Management Strategy</u> 1) Install sand fencing to reduce PM10 emissions and maintain habitat for sand dependent species; 2) Authorized uses would be in conformance with the Coachella Valley PM10 State Implementation Plan</p>	<p><u>Air Quality Management Strategy</u> 1) Reduce the number of unpaved routes upwind of sensitive receptors. 2) Manage unauthorized off-road use and provide opportunities for OHV use away from sensitive receptors; 3) Install sand fencing to reduce PM10 emissions and maintain habitat for sand dependent species; 4) Authorized uses would be in conformance with the Coachella Valley PM10 State Implementation Plan</p>		<p><u>Air Quality Management Strategy</u> Authorized uses would be in conformance with the Coachella Valley PM10 State Implementation Plan</p>

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<p><u>Multiple Use Classification</u> Classify wilderness areas as Class “C” (Controlled Use). Classify BLM-managed lands within conservation areas and outside wilderness as Class “L” (Limited Use). Classify BLM-managed lands outside conservation areas as Class “M” (Moderate Use). Classify BLM-managed lands within designated off-highway vehicle open areas, and existing sand and gravel mining areas as Class “I” (Intensive Use).</p>		<p><u>Multiple Use Classification</u> Same as Alternatives A-B except no Class “I” lands would be designated.</p>	<p><u>Multiple Use Classification</u> BLM multiple-use classifications would remain unchanged.</p>
<p><u>Habitat Conservation Objectives</u> Same as Alternative D.</p>	<p><u>Habitat Conservation Objectives</u> Establish conservation objectives based on the following habitat types: (1) sand dunes and sand fields, (2) desert scrub communities, (3) chaparral communities, (4) desert alkali scrub communities, (5) marsh communities, (6) dry wash woodland and mesquite communities, (7) riparian communities, and (8) woodland and forest communities.</p>		<p><u>Habitat Conservation Objectives</u> Guidelines provided in the CDCA Plan, as amended would be used to determine allowable uses within conservation areas.</p>
<p><u>Fire Management</u> Same as Alternative D.</p>	<p><u>Fire Management</u> Fire Management Category A. The following communities are areas where fire would not be desired at all: sand dunes and sand fields. Fire Management Category B. The following vegetation communities are areas where wildfire is not desired: (1) desert scrub, (2) desert alkali scrub, (3) marsh, (4) dry wash woodland, pinyon-juniper woodland and mesquite, and (5) riparian areas. Prescribed fire may be utilized as a resource management tool in very select situations, for example to effectively manage exotic vegetation. Fire Management Category C. (1) Oak woodlands and forest communities and (2) chaparral communities are areas where wildland fire (including prescribed burning) may be allowed, subject to the following constraints: (1) emphasize protection of life and property, especially trail users and montane communities, (2) evaluate potential beneficial or adverse effects on threatened and endangered species habitat, especially endemic species, (3) evaluate potential for adverse effects to significant or sensitive cultural and other natural resources, (4) promote mosaic pattern of vegetation resulting from different fire histories within the larger landscape, (5) protect areas so that they do not burn at less than 15 year intervals.</p>		<p><u>Fire Management</u> No habitats would be categorized at this time. Manage fire in accordance with CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and the District-wide Fire Management Plan.</p>

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<p><u>Special Area Designations</u> Designate BLM-managed lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas which are outside existing ACECs, Wilderness Areas, National Monuments and freeway interchanges in the NECO overlap area as the Coachella Valley Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). Existing ACEC boundaries would remain unchanged.</p>	<p><u>Special Area Designations</u> Include Dos Palmas CVMSHCP conservation sub-area in the Dos Palmas ACEC. Designate Upper Mission Creek conservation sub-area as an ACEC. Designate remaining BLM-managed lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas and outside ACECs and existing Wilderness Areas and National Monuments as the Coachella Valley WHMA.</p>	<p><u>Special Area Designations</u> Designate BLM-managed lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas, and outside existing ACECs, Wilderness Areas and National Monuments as the Coachella Valley ACEC.</p>	<p><u>Special Area Designations</u> No BLM-managed lands would be given additional designations beyond those currently listed in the CDCA Plan as amended and those established by law. Existing ACEC boundaries shall remain unchanged.</p>
<p><u>Land Tenure: Exchange & Sale Criteria</u> Same as Alternative D.</p>	<p><u>Land Tenure: Exchange & Sale Criteria</u> BLM lands in the Coachella Valley would generally be retained in public ownership. Land exchanges and sales may be considered if they would: 1) Facilitate effective and efficient management of conservation areas; 2) Coordinated with the local jurisdictions; 3) Benefit the Coachella Valley conservation areas by directly augmenting public ownership in a sensitive area or diverting intensive uses away from sensitive areas; 4) Not remove endemic species nor rare habitat types from conservation management; 5) Not dispose of eligible historic properties from public ownership except for transfer to Native American Tribes of Native American historic properties; and 6) Not eliminate a significant public benefit.</p>		<p><u>Land Tenure: Exchange & Sale Criteria</u> Public land disposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the CDCA Plan (1980 as amended). Class C, L and I lands may be exchanged, but not sold.</p>
<p><u>Land Tenure: Acquisition Criteria</u> Same as Alternative D.</p>	<p><u>Land Tenure: Acquisition Criteria</u> Acquisition proposals which meet the following criteria may be considered: 1) Be acquired from willing sellers only; 2) Be coordinated with the local jurisdictions; 3) Benefit the Coachella Valley conservation areas by augmenting public ownership in a sensitive area or diverting intensive uses away from sensitive areas; or 4) Improve the presence of a variety of biotic or abiotic habitat components under conservation management.</p>		<p><u>Land Tenure: Acquisition Criteria</u> Acquisitions would be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the CDCA Plan 1980 as amended.</p>

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<p><u>Management of Acquired and Formerly Withdrawn Lands</u> Lands acquired by purchase, donation or lands removed from withdrawal status shall be managed in accordance with the CDCA Plan, as amended and the applicable land and mineral laws upon issuance of an opening order published in the <i>Federal Register</i>. Lands located within the boundaries of ACECs or any other area having an administrative designation established through the land use planning process shall become part of the area within which they are located and managed accordingly upon issuance of the opening order.</p>			<p><u>Management of Acquired and Formerly Withdrawn Lands</u> Acquired and formerly withdrawn lands are subject to applicable land and minerals laws when an opening order is issued and published in the <i>Federal Register</i></p>
<p><u>Communication Sites & Utilities</u> Rights-of-way for new and renewals of windparks, communications sites, and utilities would be considered within conservation areas, if habitat conservation objectives could be met using appropriate mitigation measures..</p>	<p><u>Communication Sites & Utilities</u> Windpark development would be permitted in designated areas and new towers within existing communication sites on a space available basis, consistent with habitat conservation objectives using appropriate mitigation measures. Proposed utilities within designated corridors and within conservation areas may be considered, consistent with the habitat conservation objectives.</p>	<p><u>Communication Sites & Utilities</u> No new communication sites nor windparks within CVMSHCP conservation areas. Renewals would be considered on a case-by-case basis consistent with habitat conservation objectives. Retire inactive windpark sites. Proposed utilities within designated utility corridors and within conservation areas may be considered, consistent with the habitat conservation objectives.</p>	<p><u>Communication Sites & Utilities</u> Rights-of-way for new windparks, renewals of existing windparks, communications sites, and utilities will be considered on a space available basis in conformance with CDCA Plan, as amended.</p>
<p><u>Sand and Gravel Mining</u> Saleable mineral material extraction would be allowed within CVMSHCP conservation areas and outside of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, if habitat conservation objectives could be met.</p>	<p><u>Sand and Gravel Mining</u> Within conservation areas, mining would be restricted to State designated mineral resource zones, and may be allowed if habitat conservation objectives can be met. Outside the conservation areas, mining may be considered consistent with federal laws and regulations.</p>	<p><u>Sand and Gravel Mining</u> BLM lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas would be closed to saleable mineral material extraction.</p>	<p><u>Sand and Gravel Mining</u> Saleable mining actions would be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the CDCA Plan (1980 as amended).</p>

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<p><u>Livestock Grazing</u> Discontinue grazing in White-water Canyon allotment pending completion of a study within the next 10 years that assesses livestock grazing compatibility with conservation of listed species, riparian values, and use/access to intermingled private lands. Upon study completion, conduct NEPA analysis of alternatives intended to conserve and provide for these values consistent with the study. Issue a grazing decision that implements compatible management provisions.</p>	<p><u>Livestock Grazing</u> Retire that portion of the Whitewater Canyon grazing allotment north of the San Bernardino/Riverside County Line. Adjust season of use and grazing capacity accordingly.</p>	<p><u>Livestock Grazing</u> Retire the entire Whitewater Canyon grazing allotment.</p>	<p><u>Livestock Grazing</u> Current management of the Whitewater Canyon grazing allotment as provided in the CDCA Plan, as amended.</p>
<p><u>Wild Horse and Burro Program</u> Retain Palm Canyon and Morongo Herd Management Area (HMA) designations. Maintain levels set in accordance with current CDCA Plan, as amended. Establish Palm Canyon HMA as a grazing allotment for branded horses.</p>	<p><u>Wild Horse and Burro Program</u> Retire Palm Canyon & Morongo HMAs. BLM parcels within and adjacent to the Palm Canyon HMA (T.5 S., R.4 E.) and T.4 S., R. 4 E. would be transferred to the Agua Caliente Tribe via land exchange, in accordance with the Monument Act of 2000. Amend existing MOU to allow BLM to provide management assistance for horses on tribal lands.</p>	<p><u>Wild Horse and Burro Program</u> Retire Palm Canyon and Morongo HMAs. Remove existing animals from BLM-managed lands.</p>	<p><u>Wild Horse and Burro Program</u> Retain Palm Canyon and Morongo and Herd Management Areas (HMA) designations. Levels set at six and 16 animals, respectively in accordance with current CDCA Plan, as amended.</p>

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<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Area Designations</u> Designate Indio Hills, Drop 31, Windy Point, and Iron Door as areas “open” to motorized vehicles. Manage Drop 31 in accordance with objectives outlined below for the Meccacopia Special Recreation Management Area. Indian Avenue Preserve and Willow Hole-Edom Hill would be designated “closed.” Outside existing area closures, all other public lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas would remain “limited.”</p>	<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Area Designations</u> Establish Drop 31 as an OHV Open Area; manage in accordance with objectives outlined below for the Meccacopia Special Recreation Management Area. Windy Point south of Highway 111 would be designated “closed.” Indian Avenue Preserve and Willow Hole-Edom Hill would be designated “closed.” The expanded area of Dos Palmas ACEC would be additionally be designated “closed.” All other BLM-managed public lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas and outside existing area closures would remain as “limited.”</p> <p>Work with the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation to establish a vehicle free-play area north of Interstate 10 and east of Dillon Road on acquired lands as an outlet and opportunity for displaced off-highway vehicle users.</p>	<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Area Designations</u> Windy Point south of Highway 111 would be designated “closed.” Indian Avenue Preserve and Willow Hole-Edom Hill would be designated “closed.” All other BLM-managed public lands within the CVMSHCP conservation areas and outside existing area closures would remain as “limited.”</p>	<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Area Designations</u> No new area closures nor off-highway vehicle open areas would be established at this time. Existing area closures within the Big Morongo Canyon ACEC, and Dos Palmas ACEC would remain unchanged. Wilderness areas are closed to casual motorized-vehicle use by statute.</p>

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<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Access: Route Designations</u> 71 miles of existing routes outside areas closed to casual motorized-vehicle use would be designated as “open.” Maintain the public route network as needed and seek legal access across private land parcels from willing sellers in areas designated for public recreation. Manage vehicle access in the Dunn Road area primarily for administrative purposes such as flood control, law enforcement, search and rescue, fire control, and permitted uses such as research and commercial recreation, subject to private landowner permission.</p>	<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Access: Route Designations</u> 45 miles of routes would be designated open, consistent with the habitat conservation objectives and the air quality management strategy. Redundant routes which would be “closed” to minimize air quality impacts. Off-road travel on public lands would not be allowed except in designated “open” areas. Short recreational spur roads east of the Indio air quality monitoring station would be closed.</p> <p>Maintain the public route network and seek legal access across private land parcels from willing sellers in areas designated for public recreation. Manage vehicle access in the Dunn Road area for administrative purposes such as flood control, law enforcement, search and rescue, and fire control, as well as controlled levels of permitted uses such as research and commercial recreation, subject to private landowner permission.</p>	<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Access: Route Designations</u> 25 miles of routes would be designated open. Maintain the public route network as needed and seek legal access across private land parcels from willing sellers in areas needed to maintain the route network. Manage vehicle access in the Dunn Road area in a manner that allows routes to naturally reclaim over time. Where the routes are passable, allow administrative vehicle access for flood control, law enforcement, search and rescue, and fire control.</p>	<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Access: Route Designations</u> Motorized-vehicle access would continue on 71 miles of existing routes outside existing area closures.</p> <p>Maintain the public route network as needed and seek legal access across private land parcels from willing sellers in areas designated for public recreation. Manage vehicle access in the Dunn Road area for administrative purposes such as flood control, law enforcement, search and rescue, fire control, research and commercial recreational uses.</p>

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	<p>Existing gates would be maintained on Dunn Road and new gates would be installed to preclude unauthorized access from the Royal Carrizo area. Public land portions of Dunn Road, Dry Wash Road, and the access route from Royal Carrizo would be closed except for administrative and permitted access until bighorn sheep populations recover. The designation of these roads may be re-evaluated at that time. Permitted use may include limited research and recreational access by permit, contingent on acquiring access across private lands and compliance with the terms of a biological opinion. Motorized commercial recreational access would be confined to the fall months and both activities and the areas to be visited would be designed to avoid conflicts with bighorn sheep recovery. Legal access to landowners and agencies may be provided through a right-of-way grant with terms and conditions based upon a biological opinion. Temporary landowner access may be authorized by permit.</p>		

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<p><u>Special Recreation Mgt Area</u> Establish the Meccacopia SRMA which includes the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains Wildernesses, Drop 31 “open” area, and Red Cloud Mine Road. Develop a management strategy through preparation of a management plan which protects wilderness values, and enhances quality of motorized and non-motorized vehicle recreation.</p>	<p><u>Special Recreation Mgt. Area</u> This alternative is similar to Alternative A. In addition, and as part of the overall management strategy, establish wildlife watering zones by constructing and maintaining additional water sources with limited vehicle access to discourage bighorn sheep from using the Coachella Canal and to minimize conflicts with off-highway vehicle users. Development of water sources inside wilderness areas would be consistent with limits and guidelines established in the NECO Plan. Additional guzzlers in wilderness may be considered upon completion of the relevant meta-population plan by CDFG.. Wildlife water sources outside wilderness may be developed based on analysis and approval of site specific proposals in consultation with CDFG.</p>	<p><u>Special Recreation Mgt. Area</u> Establish the Meccacopia SRMA which includes the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains Wildernesses, and Red Cloud Mine Road. Develop a management strategy through preparation of a management plan which protects wilderness values, and enhances quality of motorized and non-motorized vehicle recreation. Close areas where vehicle use is significantly limiting or preventing wildlife access to water.</p>	<p><u>Special Recreation Mgt. Area</u> No SRMA would be designated at this time. Management would continue based on existing uses and designations.</p>
<p><u>Recreation: Stopping, Parking, and Vehicle Camping</u> Stopping, parking, and vehicle camping would be allowed within 100 feet from the centerline of an approved route except where fenced.</p> <p>This exception applies to all alternatives: <i>Where wilderness boundaries are coincident with approved routes, stopping, parking, and vehicle camping must remain outside of wilderness boundary.</i></p>		<p><u>Recreation: Stopping, Parking, and Vehicle Camping:</u> would be allowed within 300 feet from the centerline of an approved route except within ACECs and conservation areas where the limit would be 30 feet for stopping and parking. No camping within CVMSHCP conservation areas..</p>	<p><u>Recreation: Stopping, Parking, and Vehicle Camping</u> Stopping, parking, and vehicle camping would be allowed within 300 feet of a route of travel except within ACECs where the limit would be 100 feet.</p>

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<p><u>Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep Recovery Strategy</u> Adopt a recovery strategy for Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat on BLM-administered public lands. As part of that strategy, the following are common to all alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Acquire, or exchange to acquire, bighorn sheep habitat from willing landowners. ▶ Manage aircraft activities to reduce or eliminate habitat fragmentation or interference with bighorn sheep resource use patterns. A working group of the Desert Managers Group has been established to address interagency coordination issues on an ongoing basis. ▶ Develop and implement education and public awareness programs. ▶ Reduce or eliminate wild horse populations from bighorn sheep habitat. ▶ Implement a fire management plan in fire adapted habitats to help maintain bighorn sheep habitat. ▶ Manage road use to reduce or eliminate habitat fragmentation or interference with bighorn sheep resource use patterns. ▶ Participate in the development of an interagency trails management plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains. The goal of this trails management plan would be to provide for reasonable opportunities for recreational trail use while facilitating recovery of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep. Actions developed through this trails plan would be subject to change through a multi-jurisdictional adaptive management and monitoring program. Until the trails plan is finalized, the terms of the interim biological evaluation filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on January 31, 2001, and as amended on February 6, 2001 to reflect designation of critical habitat, would apply. 			
<p><u>Bighorn Sheep Recovery Strategy</u> (cont.) Approach recovery by emphasizing restoration of natural resources that support the sheep's basic physical and biological needs. Make public lands available for testing other measures if they are proposed by the USFWS or CDFG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Maintain existing water sources and provide additional water sources using methods that restore natural sources (e.g. tamarisk removal). Installation of artificial waters would not be considered until restoration efforts are substantially complete. ▶ Construct fences to exclude bighorn sheep from areas which may be used as urban 	<p><u>Bighorn Sheep Recovery Strategy</u> (cont.) Approach recovery by emphasizing reduction in overall levels of disturbance distributed as equitably as possible across all land uses and testing measures to address levels of mortality and augment population, while providing more resources to support the sheep's basic physical and biological needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Maintain existing water sources and provide additional water sources on public lands. Maintaining water would involve water source restoration, primarily through tamarisk removal. Installation of artificial waters would be conducted in carefully selected locations between Highway 74 	<p><u>Bighorn Sheep Recovery Strategy</u> (cont.) Approach recovery by emphasizing natural processes with very limited management intervention, except to provide more water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Concentrate efforts to provide additional water sources on public lands through installation of artificial waters. ▶ Construct fences across public lands to exclude bighorn sheep from urban area when public lands are a small but necessary part of completing a fence across other ownerships. ▶ Research and monitoring activities would be allowed. Review and analysis would be on a case-by case basis, contingent on the following 	<p><u>Bighorn Sheep Recovery Strategy</u> (cont.) Continuation of current management in accordance with the CDCA Plan (1980, as amended).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue efforts to control tamarisk. Artificial waters may be considered on a case-by-case basis ▶ Fence construction may be considered on a case-by-case basis. ▶ Research and monitoring proposals may be considered on a case-by-case basis. ▶ Public lands may be considered for reintroduction, augmentation, or predator control after analysis and public comment.

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<p>sources of food and water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Permit research activities that require helicopter use and direct handling or contact with sheep, in consultation with USFWS and CDFG. (1) helicopter use would be allowed during lambing season and in BLM wilderness areas, (2) helicopters would be routinely used to retrieve dead sheep and lambs during and outside the lambing season, instead of relying primarily on ground searches, and (3) theoretical/academic research would be allowed, including manipulative methods that included intentional disturbances. ▶ Prepare an annual report describing the results of bighorn sheep monitoring and research activities on public land to support adaptive management, enhance understanding of human/sheep interactions, understand habitat relationships, understand predator relationships, and clarify factors affecting population trends. ▶ Make public lands available for predator control if proposed by USFWS and CDFG. ▶ Make public lands available for reintroduction and augmentation activities, in 	<p>and Palm Canyon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Construct fences to exclude bighorn sheep from urban area where there is clear evidence of regular and repeated movement of sheep into developed urban areas, but only once adequate water sources are assured above the proposed fence alignment. ▶ BLM will seek to reduce impacts resulting from all land uses including trail use, motorized vehicles, permitted uses, utility corridors, communication sites, a variety of casual uses, and research. The aforementioned trails management plan includes a more detailed strategy to reduce disturbances to bighorn sheep from casual and permitted trail uses. This CDCA plan amendment addresses motorized vehicle access which includes all forms of motorized vehicle use, including closed or limited access for certain routes. Permitted uses would be subject to environmental review and conformance with the habitat conservation objectives established through the CDCA plan amendment, as well as endangered species consultation under the Endangered Species Act if the 	<p>parameters: (a) No more than 15 sheep would be captured on the BLM lands; (b) No captures would be allowed in designated Wilderness Areas on BLM land. (c) No lambs would be captured during the lambing season on BLM land to reduce disturbance to ewes and lambs during the lambing season. (d) No more than 5 dead sheep would be retrieved by helicopter from the BLM lands during the lambing season (January 1 -June 30).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Consider permitting predator control on public lands only with substantial evidence tying significant bighorn sheep predation losses to an individual animal. ▶ Make public lands available for reintroduction and augmentation activities. Work in consultation with USFWS and CDFG. 	

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consultation with USFWS and CDFG.	<p>use would likely result in a may affect determination to bighorn sheep or critical habitat. No actions for mining, communication sites, grazing allotments, or utility corridors are proposed through the CDCA plan amendment because the activities are not located within essential habitat for Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep within the planning area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Review research and monitoring proposals and annual reports describing the results of bighorn sheep monitoring and research activities on public land to ensure that the research supports the recovery of the sheep. Permits and proposals for research on public land may be subject to 30-day public review and comment. ▶ Work with the USFWS & CDFG to develop and implement research and monitoring techniques that are less reliant on helicopters and/or direct handling of wild sheep. ▶ Work with USFWS & CDFG to develop actions to implement a five year study to examine the role of Mountain lion predation in determining the population dynamics of bighorn sheep, and develop appropriate 		

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	<p>management options between Highway 74 and Palm Canyon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Work with USFWS & CDFG to develop actions to safely test the effectiveness of reintroduction and augmentation activities on public lands in the vicinity of Snow Creek on the north side of San Jacinto Mountain. 		
<p><u>Hiking, Biking & Equestrian Trails</u> Manage trail segments across public lands in coordination with members of the public, local jurisdictions, State and other Federal agencies to provide for a year-round suite of non-motorized recreation opportunities on interconnected trails in the Coachella Valley and surrounding mountains. Non-motorized uses of the public lands within the Coachella Valley planning area may be limited, including area and trail closures, as needed to protect sensitive resources. New trails which avoid impacts to sensitive resources and are developed in coordination with the community may be allowed.</p>			<p><u>Hiking, Biking & Equestrian Trails</u> Non-motorized uses of the public lands and development of new trails would be allowed, in accordance with Federal law and regulation.</p>

Table ES-2: Summary of Trails Management Plan Alternatives

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D: No Action
<p><u>Trail Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Individuals would be requested to voluntarily not use selected trails within essential habitat from Feb.15 to Sept. 30. ▶ Other trails within essential sheep habitat would be available year-round. Trails outside sheep habitat would be open year-round ▶ Trail use would be monitored 	<p><u>Trail Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Trail use within Seasonal Trail Areas would be prohibited from Jan. 15 to June 30, except for the Art Smith and Boo Hoff Trails which would be available 2 days per week from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15 and May 1 to June 30. Such use of Art Smith would discontinue upon completion of the Palm Desert to La Quinta connector trail. Trails near sheep watering sources will be closed from July 1 to Sept. 30. ▶ Use of self-issue free permits at major trail heads would be required from Oct. 1 to Jan.14 ▶ Trails outside sheep habitat would be open year-round. ▶ The Seasonal Trail Area closures would be phased in, as new perimeter trails are constructed, and not to exceed nine years. ▶ Sheep ambassadors would continue to provide trail monitoring and outreach to trail users. ▶ The trails management plan would be reviewed annually and adjusted by mutual consent of the Trails Management 	<p><u>Trail Use</u></p> <p>Major trails in essential sheep habitat would be closed Jan. 1 to June 30. Trails near sheep watering sources would also be closed from July 1 to Sept. 30.</p>	<p><u>Trail Use</u></p> <p>All trails would be open year-round for non-motorized activities.</p>

Table ES-2: Summary of Trails Management Plan Alternatives			
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<p><u>Cross-Country Travel</u> Individuals would be requested to voluntarily refrain from cross-country travel in essential sheep habitat from Feb.15 to Sept.30.</p>	<p><u>Cross-Country Travel</u> Cross-country travel would be prohibited in essential sheep habitat from Jan.15 to Sept. 30.</p>	<p><u>Cross-Country Travel</u> Cross-country travel would be prohibited year-round in essential sheep habitat.</p>	<p><u>Cross-Country Travel</u> Cross-country travel would be allowed year-round.</p>
<p><u>Camping</u> Individuals would be requested to voluntarily refrain from camping in essential sheep habitat from Feb. 15 to Sept. 30, except along trails not subject to the voluntary trail avoidance program. No camping within 1/4 mile of water sources.</p>	<p><u>Camping</u> Camping would be prohibited in essential sheep habitat from Jan. 15 to Sept.30. Campers would be required to obtain a free-use permit from Oct. 1 to Jan. 14. Camping would be prohibited within 1/4 mile of water sources.</p>	<p><u>Camping</u> Camping would be prohibited year-round in essential bighorn sheep habitat.</p>	<p><u>Camping</u> Camping would be allowed year-round.</p>
<p><u>Dogs</u> Same as Alternative A</p>	<p><u>Dogs</u> In essential sheep habitat, dogs allowed only in designated areas and must be kept under restraint. Designated areas include: 1) area west of Cathedral City Cove, 2) Homme-Adams Park and adjacent lands in Palm Desert, 3) an area south of La Quinta Cove. The following are exempt from the prohibition: 1) seeing-eye dogs, 2) dogs assisting law enforcement or search & rescue operations, and 3) dogs kept in vehicles.</p>	<p><u>Dogs</u> Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p><u>Dogs</u> Dogs would be allowed, subject to existing regulations.</p>

Table ES-2: Summary of Trails Management Plan Alternatives			
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D: No Action
<p><u>New Trail Development</u> Proposals for new trails would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Trail construction in essential sheep habitat may only occur Oct.1 to Feb.14.</p>	<p><u>New Trail Development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ New trails developed within perimeter corridors would be available year-round. ▶ Other new trails would be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Trail construction may only occur July 1 to Jan. 14. ▶ A new trail linking Palm Desert to La Quinta would be built, subject to seasonal closure. </p>	<p><u>New Trail Development</u> New trails within identified perimeter corridors may be considered. Trail construction may only occur Oct. 1 to Dec.31</p>	<p><u>New Trail Development</u> Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p><u>Trail Rerouting</u> Trails within essential sheep habitat would be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with application of specified criteria to protect resource values. Trail re-routing in essential sheep habitat may only occur Oct.1 to Feb.14.</p>	<p><u>Trail Rerouting</u> Trails would be rerouted to protect sensitive resource values Trail re-routing in essential sheep habitat may only occur between Oct. 1 to Jan. 14. Outside sheep habitat, proposed trail re-routes would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p><u>Trail Rerouting</u> Trails would be rerouted to protect sensitive resource values Trail re-routing in essential sheep habitat may only occur between Oct. 1 to Dec.31</p>	<p><u>Trail Rerouting</u> Proposals for trail reroutes would be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p><u>Trail Decommission and Removal</u> Proposals to decommission and remove trails would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Trail removal in essential sheep habitat may only occur Oct.1 to Feb.14.</p>	<p><u>Trail Decommission and Removal</u> Redundant trails in the Murray Hill complex and other areas would be identified, based on certain criteria, and removed. Trail removal would only occur between Oct.1 to Jan. 14.</p>	<p><u>Trail Decommission and Removal</u> Redundant trails in the Murray Hill complex and other areas would be identified, based on certain criteria, and removed. Trail removal would only occur between Oct. 1 to Dec.31.</p>	<p><u>Trail Decommission and Removal</u> Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p><u>Murray Hill Facilities</u> Picnic tables and equestrian hitching posts at the summit of Murray Hill would remain in place.</p>	<p><u>Murray Hill Facilities</u> Picnic tables and equestrian hitching posts at the summit of Murray Hill would be relocated outside the Seasonal Trail Area. Relocation would occur only from Oct. 1 to Jan.14.</p>	<p><u>Murray Hill Facilities</u> Picnic tables and equestrian hitching posts at the summit of Murray Hill would be removed and not relocated within essential bighorn sheep habitat.</p>	<p><u>Murray Hill Facilities</u> Same as Alternative A.</p>
<p><u>Noncommercial, Noncompetitive</u></p>	<p><u>Noncommercial, Noncompetitive</u></p>	<p><u>Noncommercial, Noncompetitive</u></p>	<p><u>Noncommercial, Noncompetitive</u></p>

Table ES-2: Summary of Trails Management Plan Alternatives

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D: No Action
<p><u>Organized Group Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups would be subject to the same voluntary Seasonal Trail Areas avoidance outlined above. ▶ Groups of 10 to 24 individuals would be requested to obtain a free permit for activities in essential sheep habitat Jan.1 to Dec.31. ▶ Groups of 25 or more require a Special Recreation Permit, and may not use voluntary avoidance areas. ▶ Group size in the Santa Rosa Wilderness would be requested to be 15 individuals or less, with ½ mile separation between groups. 	<p><u>Organized Group Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups would be subject to the Seasonal Trail Area restrictions outlined above. ▶ Groups of 10 to 24 individuals would be required to obtain a free permit for activities in essential sheep habitat year-round. ▶ Groups of 25 or more require a Special Recreation Permit. ▶ Group size in the Santa Rosa Wilderness would be 15 individuals or less with half mile separation between groups. 	<p><u>Organized Group Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups would be subject to the Seasonal Trail closures outlined above. ▶ Groups of 10 to 24 individuals would be required to obtain a free permit for activities in essential sheep habitat year-round. ▶ Groups of 25 or more require a Special Recreation Permit. ▶ Group size in the Santa Rosa Wilderness would be 15 individuals or less with two-mile separation between groups. 	<p><u>Organized Group Activities</u></p> <p>Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups would be allowed, though a special recreation permit may be required for use of BLM-managed lands.</p>
<p><u>Non-motorized Commercial Recreation Activities</u></p> <p>Commercial recreation requires issuance of a special recreation permit, and may not use voluntary trail avoidance areas.</p>	<p><u>Non-motorized Commercial Recreation Activities</u></p> <p>Non-motorized commercial recreation activities may be permitted, subject to the same Seasonal Trail Area restrictions outlined above and outside voluntary trail avoidance areas.</p>	<p><u>Non-motorized Commercial Recreation Activities</u></p> <p>Non-motorized commercial recreation may be permitted, subject to the same Seasonal Trail Area closures outlined above.</p>	<p><u>Non-motorized Commercial Recreation Activities</u></p> <p>Non-motorized commercial recreation activities may be allowed. A special recreation permit issued through existing regulatory processes would be required for such activities on BLM-managed lands, except when exemptions apply.</p>
<p><u>Motorized Commercial</u></p>	<p><u>Motorized Commercial</u></p>	<p><u>Motorized Commercial</u></p>	<p><u>Motorized Commercial</u></p>

Table ES-2: Summary of Trails Management Plan Alternatives			
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D: No Action
<p><u>Recreation Activities</u> Motorized commercial recreation activities would be prohibited year-round in essential bighorn sheep habitat except on Dunn Road where permits may be issued Oct. 1 to Feb.14, subject to private landowner permission.</p>	<p><u>Recreation Activities</u> Motorized commercial recreation activities would be prohibited year-round in essential bighorn sheep habitat except on selected portions of Dunn Road where permits may be issued Oct. 1 to Jan.14, subject to private landowner permission.</p>	<p><u>Recreation Activities</u> Motorized commercial recreation activities would be prohibited year-round in essential bighorn sheep habitat.</p>	<p><u>Recreation Activities</u> Motorized commercial recreation activities may be allowed. A special recreation permit issued through existing regulatory processes would be required for such activities on BLM-managed lands, except when exemptions apply.</p>
<p><u>Competitive Recreation Events</u> Competitive recreation events may be permitted in essential bighorn sheep habitat where the voluntary trail avoidance program does not apply.</p>	<p><u>Competitive Recreation Events</u> Competitive recreation events would be prohibited year-round in essential bighorn sheep habitat.</p>	<p><u>Competitive Recreation Events</u> Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p><u>Competitive Recreation Events</u> Competitive recreation events may be permitted, through existing regulatory processes, except when exemptions apply.</p>
<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Use of Trails</u> Motorized vehicles would be prohibited on all trails in essential bighorn sheep habitat except when specifically approved for trail construction and maintenance projects. Approval for use of motorized vehicles for such projects would be addressed on a case-by-case basis, and may be given only when and where the voluntary trail avoidance program is not in effect.</p>	<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Use of Trails</u> Same as Alternative A except that approval for use of motorized vehicles for trail construction and maintenance projects may be given only when and where Seasonal Trail Area closures and the voluntary trail avoidance program are not in effect.</p>	<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Use of Trails</u> Motorized vehicles would be prohibited on all trails in essential bighorn sheep habitat.</p>	<p><u>Motorized-Vehicle Use of Trails</u> Motorized-vehicle use of trails for trail construction and maintenance projects would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.</p>

Table ES-2: Summary of Trails Management Plan Alternatives			
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D: No Action
<p><u>Public Outreach</u> An information and education program addressing all management prescriptions described under this alternative would be implemented.</p>	<p><u>Public Outreach</u> An information and education program addressing all management prescriptions described under this alternative, would be implemented. Guided hikes would be provided during the fall season. Viewing areas would be established to afford the public opportunities to see bighorn sheep and other wildlife from a distance. Interpretation of some cultural artifacts would also be provided.</p>	<p><u>Public Outreach</u> Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p><u>Public Outreach</u> Existing information and education programs pertaining to the use of trails and areas would be continued.</p>