

Environmental Element	Table ES-4: Effects of Multi-Jurisdictional Trails Management Plan Alternatives NOTE: Where specific plan element actions are not discussed, no beneficial nor adverse impacts are anticipated.			
	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
ACECs	No impact as no ACECs have been designated within the area affected by the trails management plan.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	.Same as Alternative A.
Wilderness	Voluntarily avoiding trail use of certain wilderness trails during specified periods, thereby promoting recovery of the endangered bighorn sheep population, would benefit wilderness resources through preservation of wildlife values. Requesting noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups to break into groups of no more than 15 individuals each and maintain separation between groups would enhance opportunities for solitude. Requesting individuals to refrain from cross-country travel in essential bighorn sheep habitat during specified periods would channel all use in the wilderness to specified trails, thereby diminishing opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for primitive recreation would be reduced on Boo Hoff and Guadalupe trails during seasonal	Prohibiting trail use of certain wilderness trails during specified periods, thereby promoting recovery of the endangered bighorn sheep population, would benefit wilderness resources through preservation of wildlife values. Requiring noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups to break into groups of no more than 15 individuals each and maintain separation between groups would enhance opportunities for solitude. Prohibiting cross-country travel in essential bighorn sheep habitat during specified periods would channel all use in wilderness to certain trails, thereby diminishing opportunities for solitude. New trail development linking Lake Cahuilla to Martinez Canyon could increase use in the canyon,	Prohibiting trail use of certain wilderness trails during specified periods, thereby promoting recovery of the endangered bighorn sheep population, would benefit wilderness resources through preservation of wildlife values. Requiring noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups to break into groups of no more than 15 individuals each and maintain separation between groups would enhance opportunities for solitude. Prohibiting cross-country travel in essential bighorn sheep habitat year-round would channel all use in wilderness to certain trails, thereby diminishing opportunities for solitude. New trail development linking Lake Cahuilla with Martinez Canyon could increase use in the canyon, thereby diminishing	To the degree that recovery of the endangered bighorn sheep population is adversely affected by unrestricted trail use , wilderness resources would be compromised upon a decline in wildlife values. Allowing cross-country travel year-round would help disperse individuals, thereby enhancing opportunities for solitude.

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Wilderness (cont.)	closures.	thereby diminishing opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for primitive recreation would be reduced on Boo Hoff and Guadalupe trails during seasonal closures.	opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for primitive recreation would be reduced on Boo Hoff and Guadalupe trails during seasonal closures.	
Wild & Scenic Rivers	No impact as outstandingly remarkable values of BLM-managed river segments determined eligible for possible designation as wild and scenic rivers would be maintained.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Livestock Grazing and Farmlands	No impact to livestock grazing or farmlands as actions proposed in this trails management plan would not affect activities on the grazing allotment under USFS jurisdiction or any lands under lease for agricultural production.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Transportation	No impact as actions proposed in this trails management plan would not affect issuance of rights-of-way for motorized-vehicle access where needed.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

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Soil, Geology, Mineral, Energy Resources	No impact to mineral and energy resources as actions proposed in this trails management plan would not affect valid existing rights or impose limitations on development of energy resources. Effects of trail use on soils would be minor given low rainfall in the region and water diversion facilities on existing trails (e.g., water bars).	No impact to mineral and energy resources as actions proposed in this trails management plan would not affect valid existing rights or impose limitations on development of energy resources. Effects of trail use, trail rerouting, trail removal, and new trail development on soils would be minor given low rainfall in the region, water diversion facilities on existing trails and installation of such facilities on new trails (e.g., water bars), and mitigation measures likely imposed upon approval to removal specific trails.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.
Recreation	Restricting trail use of certain trails in essential bighorn sheep habitat (chiefly in the Santa Rosa Mountains) on a voluntary basis during specified periods would diminish opportunities for certain non-motorized recreational activities (e.g., hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking) for individuals and noncommercial,	Prohibiting trail use in Seasonal Trail Areas during specified periods would diminish opportunities for certain non-motorized recreational activities (e.g., hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking) in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, though new trail development (perimeter trails and a trail connecting the cities of	Prohibiting trail use of additional trails relative to Alternative B would diminish opportunities for certain non-motorized recreational activities (e.g., hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking) in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains to a greater degree than other alternatives herein addressed, though new trail development	Unrestricted trail use in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains would maximize opportunities for certain non-motorized recreational activities. To the degree that recovery of the endangered bighorn sheep population would be adversely affected by unrestricted trail use, however, opportunities for wildlife viewing and

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Recreation (cont.)	<p>noncompetitive organized groups willing to comply with the trail avoidance program, especially those individuals and groups accustomed to accessing trails via trailheads located in the mid-Coachella Valley (Palm Desert and La Quinta in particular). Opportunities for such activities would be least affected in the Palm Springs area since many trails there would not be subject to the voluntary trail avoidance program. Individuals and noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups not willing to comply with the trail avoidance program would not be affected.</p> <p>Restricting cross-country travel and camping in essential bighorn sheep habitat on a voluntary basis during specified periods would diminish opportunities for these activities for individuals willing to comply. Individuals not willing to comply would not be affected. Prohibiting dogs in</p>	<p>Palm Desert and La Quinta), as well as use of the Art Smith Trail two days per week until the Palm Desert to La Quinta trail is completed, would somewhat mitigate these impacts. This prohibition would affect both individuals and noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups. Opportunities for non-motorized recreational activities would be least affected in the Palm Springs area since many trails there occur within a perimeter trails area that would not be subject to the Seasonal Trail Area closure. Phasing in of the Seasonal Trail Area closures coincident with completion of adjacent new trails preceded by an interim voluntary trail avoidance program would affect opportunities for recreation in a manner similar to that discussed under Alternative A where the trail use prohibition has not yet been implemented.</p> <p>Prohibiting cross-country</p>	<p>(perimeter trails) would somewhat mitigate these impacts. This prohibition would affect both individuals and noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups. Opportunities for non-motorized recreational activities in the Palm Springs area would also be diminished to a greater degree than under other alternatives since many trails in the perimeter trail areas described for Alternative B, where use would be allowed year-round, would be seasonally closed with no new trails being developed nearby. Immediate seasonal closure of trails upon plan approval with no phasing in of closures coincident with completion of new perimeter trails would further diminish opportunities for non-motorized recreational activities, especially in Palm Desert and La Quinta, though such impacts would be temporary until new trail development is completed.</p>	<p>photography would be diminished.</p> <p>Allowing cross-country travel and camping throughout the year would maximize opportunities for these activities. Allowing dogs in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, subject to existing regulations, would afford additional opportunities to exercise these pets in a natural mountainous setting and may provide for a heightened level of security desired by certain individuals traveling in the backcountry.</p> <p>Impacts to recreation from requiring that special recreation permits be obtained for use of BLM lands by motorized and non-motorized commercial recreation providers, and sponsors of competitive recreation events cannot be determined as the decision regarding issuance of such permits in accordance with</p>

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Recreation (cont.)	<p>essential bighorn sheep habitat, except in designated areas, would diminish opportunities for exercising these pets in a natural mountainous setting. For individuals who hike with dogs for personal protection, this prohibition could instill a sense of insecurity while using trails or force these individuals to hike elsewhere where dogs are permitted.</p> <p>Impacts to recreation from requiring that special recreation permits be obtained for use of BLM lands by noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups of 25 or more individuals, motorized and non-motorized commercial recreation providers, and sponsors of competitive recreation events cannot be determined as the decision regarding issuance of such permits in accordance with existing regulatory processes is unknown.</p>	<p>travel and camping in essential bighorn sheep habitat during specified periods would diminish opportunities for these activities. Prohibiting dogs in essential bighorn sheep habitat, except in designated areas, would result in the same impacts as described under Alternative A. Trail decommission and removal of redundant trails in the Murray Hill complex, as well as removal of other trails in accordance with specified criteria, would concentrate use on fewer trails thereby increasing the potential for occurrences of trail use conflicts. Relocation of Murray Hill facilities would have a minor effect on the use and enjoyment of the Clara Burgess Trail since such facilities are not considered integral to the overall experience for most users. As the Clara Burgess Trail would be closed from January 15 to June 30, installation of these facilities</p>	<p>Prohibiting cross-country travel and camping in essential bighorn sheep habitat throughout the year would diminish opportunities for these activities to a greater degree than under other alternatives herein addressed. Prohibiting dogs in essential bighorn sheep habitat, except in designated areas, would result in the same impacts as described under Alternative A. Trail decommission and removal in the Murray Hill complex, as well as removal of other trails in accordance with specified criteria, would result in the same impacts as described under Alternative B. Relocation of Murray Hill facilities would result in the same impacts to the use and enjoyment of the Clara Burgess Trail as described under Alternative B. Future use of these facilities if installed at a location outside essential bighorn sheep habitat cannot be predicted absent</p>	<p>existing regulatory processes is unknown. Determinations regarding the need for noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups to obtain a special recreation permit for use of BLM lands would be made on a case-by-case basis, hence impacts to recreation cannot be determined.</p>

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Recreation (cont.)		<p>at a new location (within essential bighorn sheep habitat) that could be accessed throughout the year would likely provide opportunities for greater utilization of them.</p> <p>Impacts to recreation from requiring that special recreation permits be obtained for use of BLM lands by noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups of 25 or more individuals, and motorized and non-motorized commercial recreation providers cannot be determined as the decision regarding issuance of such permits in accordance with existing regulatory processes is unknown. Prohibiting competitive recreation events in essential bighorn sheep habitat would chiefly diminish opportunities for orienteering meets.</p>	<p>identification of a new site.</p> <p>Impacts to recreation from requiring that special recreation permits be obtained for use of BLM lands by noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups of 25 or more individuals and non-motorized commercial recreation providers cannot be determined as the decision regarding issuance of such permits in accordance with existing regulatory processes is unknown. Prohibiting motorized commercial recreation activities and competitive recreation events in essential bighorn sheep habitat would eliminate opportunities for jeep touring on Dunn Road and such events as orienteering meets, respectively.</p>	

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Motorized-Vehicle Access	No impact as motorized-vehicle access is addressed by the Coachella Valley CDCA Plan Amendments. Motorized-vehicle use of trails as addressed by this plan pertains to trail maintenance only, not general access.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Floodplains and Hydrology	No impact as actions proposed in this trails management plan would not affect waters of the United States and related floodplains.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Water Quality	No impact as actions proposed in this trails management plan would not affect water quality.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Biological	Pertains to all Alternatives: Human disturbance can alter habitat use and activity patterns of bighorn sheep. Population declines, shifts in habitat use, and interruption of seasonal migration routes have been linked to human disturbance. Voluntarily avoiding trail use of certain trails during specified periods would benefit bighorn sheep by limiting human	Prohibiting trail use of certain trails during specified periods would benefit bighorn sheep by promoting recovery of the population resources through preservation of wildlife values. Human disturbance can alter habitat use and activity patterns of bighorn sheep. Population declines, shifts in habitat use, and interruption of	Prohibiting trail use of certain trails during specified periods would benefit bighorn sheep by promoting recovery of the population resources through preservation of wildlife values. Human disturbance can alter habitat use and activity patterns of bighorn sheep. Population declines, shifts in habitat use, and interruption of	To the degree that recovery of the endangered bighorn sheep population is adversely affected by unrestricted trail use , biological resources would be compromised upon a decline in wildlife values. Allowing cross-country travel year-round would increase the chance for human disturbance to bighorn sheep, potentially

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Biological (cont.)	<p>disturbance. The degree to which voluntary avoidance is practiced would affect the degree to which bighorn sheep are disturbed. Voluntarily refraining from cross-country travel in bighorn habitat from February 15 - September 30 would benefit bighorn sheep by reducing the amount of human disturbance. The degree to which voluntary avoidance of cross country travel is practiced would affect the degree to which bighorn sheep are disturbed. Voluntarily refraining from camping in bighorn sheep habitat from February 15 - September 30 would decrease disturbance to sheep during lambing season and hot summer months. The degree to which voluntary avoidance is practiced would affect the degree to which bighorn sheep are disturbed by humans. Prohibiting camping within 1/4 mile of all water sources benefits water quality, bighorn sheep and other species. Requiring</p>	<p>seasonal migration routes have been linked to human disturbance. Self-issued free permits would benefit bighorn sheep and other species by providing a method to monitor use on trails. Seasonal trail area closures implemented in phases would benefit bighorn sheep by reducing potentially harmful human disturbance. Perimeter trails would benefit bighorn sheep by providing alternative recreation options outside and on the edge of bighorn critical habitat, thereby providing additional opportunities for recreation users. Prohibiting cross-country travel in bighorn habitat from January 15 - September 30 would benefit bighorn sheep by reducing the amount of human disturbance to the sheep during lambing season and during hot summer months. Prohibiting camping from January 15 - September 30 would decrease the impact of human disturbance to sheep during those months.</p>	<p>seasonal migration routes have been linked to human disturbance. Trail area closures would benefit bighorn sheep by reducing potentially harmful human disturbance. Prohibiting cross-country travel in bighorn habitat throughout the year would benefit bighorn sheep by reducing the amount of human disturbance to the sheep during lambing season during hot summer months, and throughout the rest of the year. Prohibiting camping year round would decrease the impact of human disturbance to sheep throughout the year.</p> <p>Dogs -Same as A. Perimeter trails-Same as B. Trail Construction - Same as B. Trail Rerouting - Same as B. Trail Decommissioning - Same as B. Noncommercial, Noncompetitive Organized Group</p>	<p>limiting the recovery of the population. Continuing to allow camping year-round increases the chance of human disturbance to bighorn sheep during lambing season, hot summer months, and throughout the year. Allowing dogs within bighorn habitat increases harm to bighorn sheep by providing more opportunities for disturbance to the sheep. Trail rerouting would benefit sheep if trails are rerouted to outside bighorn sheep habitat. Trails reroutes would harm sheep if reroutes occur within bighorn sheep habitat and resource values are not protected. construction would harm bighorn sheep by providing increased disturbance. Disturbance due to construction would be minimized by prohibiting development during lambing season and during hot summer months. Trail reroute construction would harm bighorn sheep by</p>

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Biological (cont.)	<p>dogs to be restrained in bighorn sheep habitat would benefit bighorn sheep by reducing disturbance caused by dogs. Providing specified areas for dogs benefits bighorn sheep by providing alternate locations outside of bighorn sheep habitat for dogs to be taken. Trail rerouting would benefit bighorn sheep if trails within bighorn habitat were rerouted to outside of bighorn habitat. Applying criteria to protect resource values would benefit bighorn sheep and would benefit other impacted biological resources. Noncommercial, Noncompetitive Organized Group Activities would benefit sheep if these activities were voluntarily avoided during lambing season and during hot summer months. The benefit to bighorn sheep would increase with increased participation of voluntary program. Permits would benefit bighorn sheep by providing information about trail use. Breaking up large</p>	<p>A free use permit system would benefit bighorn sheep by providing a method to track potential human disturbance to sheep. Prohibiting camping within 1/4 mile of all water sources benefits water quality, bighorn sheep and other species. Dogs - Same as A. Perimeter trails would benefit bighorn sheep by providing recreation opportunities on the edge of bighorn habitat, thus reducing human disturbance caused by recreation on existing trails that cross large areas of bighorn habitat. Trail construction would harm bighorn sheep by providing increased disturbance. Disturbance due to construction would be minimized by prohibiting development during lambing season and during hot summer months. Trail rerouting would benefit bighorn sheep if trails within bighorn habitat were rerouted to outside of</p>	<p>Activities - Same as B. Non-motorized Commercial Recreation Activities - Same as A. Motorized Commercial Recreation Activities would not disturb bighorn sheep during the entire year. Motorized-Vehicle Use of Trails would not harm bighorn sheep. Motorized Vehicle Use may harm resources and habitat where vehicles approved for use. Public Outreach - Same as A.</p>	<p>providing increased disturbance. Disturbance due to construction would be minimized by prohibiting development during lambing season and during hot summer months. Trail Decommissioning-Same as A. Noncompetitive Organized Group Activities - Potential harm to bighorn sheep if group activities provide high levels of disturbance to bighorn sheep. Non-motorized Commercial Recreation Activities - Same as A. Motorized Commercial Recreation Activities allowed during lambing season and the hot summer months would disturb bighorn sheep during the most vulnerable times of the year. disturb bighorn sheep during the most vulnerable times of the year. Competitive recreation events allowed during lambing season and the hot summer months would disturb bighorn sheep</p>

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Biological (cont.)	<p>groups and separating them by specified distances would benefit the sheep by limiting disturbance intensity to sheep</p> <p>Non-motorized Commercial Recreation Activities impact to bighorn sheep need to be considered on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Motorized Commercial Recreation Activities would disturb bighorn sheep throughout the length of Dunn Road, but would not cause any disturbance during lambing season and hot summer months.</p> <p>Competitive recreation events would cause disturbance to bighorn sheep only during non-lambing and winter months. Motorized-Vehicle Use of Trails would disturb sheep and may disturb them during the vulnerable lambing season and hot summer months.</p> <p>Public Outreach - Increased public outreach would benefit bighorn sheep in providing more educated and respectful recreation users.</p>	<p>bighorn habitat. Applying criteria to protect resource values and wildlife water sources would benefit bighorn sheep. Trail rerouting of Guadalupe Trail would benefit desert slender salamander populations if disturbance by humans is currently occurring and were to be limited by a trail reroute. Trail Decommission and Removal would benefit bighorn sheep by reducing human disturbance from trail use. Decommissioning trails would cause a one-time harmful impact to sheep by increasing disturbance, but would provide a longer term benefit to bighorn by decreasing the amount of future human disturbance caused by additional trails. Prohibiting the decommissioning of trails during lambing season and hot summer months decreases the harm to bighorn sheep.</p> <p>Noncommercial, Noncompetitive</p>		<p>during the most vulnerable times of the year. winter months.</p> <p>Motorized Vehicle Use may harm resources and habitat where vehicles approved for use - to be decided on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Public Outreach - Same as A.</p>

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Biological (cont.)		<p>Organized Group Activities - Same as A, but benefit to bighorn sheep is not based on voluntarily refraining from using trails - the benefit is based on closure of seasonal trail areas to groups. This would benefit bighorn sheep by limiting human disturbance.</p> <p>Non-motorized Commercial Recreation Activities - Same as A.</p> <p>Motorized Commercial Recreation Activities would disturb bighorn sheep throughout the upper portion of Dunn Road, but would not cause any disturbance during lambing season and hot summer months.</p> <p>Motorized-Vehicle Use of Trails - Same as A.</p> <p>Public Outreach - Same as A.</p>		

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Cultural/Native	<p><u>Trail Use</u> Some trails within the planning area lead to or pass through archaeological sites. Use of trails may negatively impact cultural resources by increasing visitor traffic to sensitive cultural areas. In some locations, trail users have constructed cairns or used paint to guide others to cultural resources. Mountain bikes and horse traffic may increase erosion where trails pass through archaeological sites.</p> <p>Closure of trails for portions of the year would decrease visitation to those areas, decreasing both the potential for negative effects to cultural resources and the ability of the public to view and learn to appreciate the sites. However, use & impacts may increase on trails remaining open.</p> <p>Closures of trails could also limit Native American access to ceremonial sites or traditional plant collecting areas.</p>	<p><u>Trail Use</u> Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p><u>Trail Use</u> Same as alternative A.</p>	<p><u>Trail Use</u> Some trails within the planning area lead to or pass through archaeological sites. Use of trails may have a negative impact on cultural resources by increasing visitor traffic to sensitive cultural areas. In some locations current trail users have constructed cairns or used spray paint to guide others to cultural resources. Mountain bikes and horse traffic may increase erosion where trails pass through archaeological sites.</p>

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Air Quality	Trail use and other activities allowed under this alternative would not substantially contribute to the non-attainment of PM-10 standards documented at the Indio air quality monitoring station.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Noise	No impact as trail use and other activities allowed under this alternative would generate little noise in remote areas.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Haz Mat/Waste	No impact as trail use and other activities allowed under this alternative would not likely generate hazardous waste or solid wastes in quantities subject to Federal, State and local laws.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

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Visual Resource Management	Conformance with Visual Resource Management class 2 objectives proposed through the Coachella Valley CDCA Plan Amendments is not determined until project proposals are submitted to the BLM and a Contrast Rating that measures the degree of contrast between a proposed activity and the existing landscape is prepared.	New trail development is anticipated to conform with Visual Resource Management class 2 objectives proposed through the Coachella Valley CDCA Plan Amendments.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.
Utilities	No impacts as actions proposed in this trails management plan would not affect existing or proposed utilities.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

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Socio-Economic	<p>Opportunities for non-motorized and motorized commercial recreation activities would be subject to existing regulatory permitting requirements. Such opportunities would be diminished under this alternative given imposed limitations (e.g., restrictions regarding when and where such activities may be allowed). However, the degree to which opportunities would be diminished is unknown as the decision regarding issuance of permits in accordance with existing regulatory processes is unknown.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A except opportunities for non-motorized and motorized commercial recreation activities would be fewer.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B except that opportunities for non-motorized commercial recreation activities would be fewer and motorized commercial recreation activities would be prohibited in essential bighorn sheep habitat.</p>	<p>Opportunities for non-motorized and motorized commercial recreation activities would be subject to existing regulatory permitting requirements. The degree to which opportunities would be available is unknown as the decision regarding issuance of permits in accordance with existing regulatory processes is unknown.</p>
Environmental Justice	<p>The actions proposed under this alternative would result in few to no impacts to nearby residences. Any major construction project proposed on the public lands is subject to further review in order to minimize health risks to children and to promote environmental justice.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p>