

# CHAPTER 2

## ALTERNATIVES AND STRATEGIES

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## **2.A. How These Goals, Alternatives and Strategies Were Developed**

Proposed alternatives and management direction in this plan pertain only to lands administered by the BLM and the Forest Service within the National Monument. Management of non-federal lands within or adjacent to the National Monument boundary will not be addressed in this document. The alternatives vary in many aspects, but some procedures and actions would be the same in all of the alternatives.

### **National Monument Plan Goals**

The following list of goals applies to the management of the National Monument and to the suite of proposed actions provided in this document. These goals were developed by the interagency planning team by considering the list of issues that this Draft Monument Plan is addressing in relation to the purpose and need of this planning document.

- a. Manage Federal public lands to balance the protection and preservation of biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, scientific and scenic values while providing multiple use and enjoyment of the National Monument.
- b. Coordinate and consult with local Tribes regarding the protection, preservation and management of cultural resources and Tribal use of Federal lands within the National Monument.
- c. Provide for healthy functioning ecosystems and manage biological resources to facilitate recovery of listed species and to prevent additional listing of species.
- d. Manage pests, exotic, invasive species, noxious weeds and uncontrolled domestic and feral animals to ensure ecosystem health and public safety.
- e. Manage commercial and permitted uses to provide for long term use, enjoyment, and protection of the National Monument.
- f. Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities consistent with resource protection.
- g. Adapt management in response to changing needs and circumstances.
- h. Inform and educate the public to foster enjoyment and understanding and to promote appropriate use of the National Monument.
- i. Provide for safe visits along Highway 74 and within the National Monument in coordination with partner agencies.
- j. Coordinate interagency fire suppression and fuels management within the National Monument.
- k. Support all management goals through partnerships, cooperative management planning and a land acquisition program as authorized by the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000.

### **Developing Alternatives**

The process of developing alternatives required consideration of various approaches for implementing National Monument legislation, the Federal Land and Policy Management Act (FLPMA), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and other applicable mandates, as well as the goals identified above. In identifying the preferred alternative, the BLM and Forest Service determined that Alternative B (except where noted) most effectively accomplishes the overall objective of maintaining, protecting, restoring or enhancing the National Monument's resources and values; best addresses the diverse

community and stakeholder concerns in a fair and equitable manner; and provides the most workable framework for future management of the National Monument.

### **Range of Alternatives**

The range of alternatives accommodates the range of reasonable management strategies that could resolve the identified public issues and management concerns for management of the National Monument. These issues and concerns were discussed in the Chapter One. All of the alternatives considered in detail are consistent with the overriding purpose for which the National Monument was created—the protection and preservation of the biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, scientific, and scenic values. Consistent with the identified issues and concerns and the overriding purpose of the National Monument, alternatives for National Monument management were formulated to address a range of uses that are not being addressed through another forum as described in Chapter One.

The range of alternatives was structured to range from less intensive to more intensive management. Refer the complete text in Chapter 2 for a full description of actions within each alternative.

**Alternative A** provides the **least intensive management** approach and allows for the greatest recreational use possible to propose through this Management Plan. Specifically, this alternative provides for hang gliding throughout the National Monument, dispersed recreational shooting of firearms, unleashed pets allowed outside of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat, and no requirement for a permit for parking on Forest Service or BLM lands within the National Monument would be required.

**Alternative B** provides for a **moderate recreation use** and represents more intensive management guidance than is proposed in Alternative A, but less restrictive than Alternative C. Hang gliding would be prohibited in Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat, recreational shooting of firearms would be limited to designated areas, leashed pets would be allowed outside of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat, and no requirement for a permit for parking on Forest Service lands within the National Monument would be required.

**Alternative C** provides the **most intensive management** and includes limits to some recreational activities to protect and enhance National Monument resource values. Hang gliding and recreational shooting would be prohibited (hunting would not be affected consistent with California Department of Fish and Game), pets would only be allowed at developed facilities and on paved surfaces outside of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep habitat, a parking fee/permit would be developed for BLM lands and the current Adventure Pass required for Forest Service would continue to be required.

### **Combined Strategies : Alternative A, B, and C**

The nature of some strategies presented is that they are general enough that they do not lend themselves to a range of options. There are not a lot of reasonable options with which to develop more than one alternative for these areas. This is reflected in the text as a combined Alternative (Alternative A, B, and C) and impacts to the existing management are developed by comparing the strategy to the No Action. This Management Plan proposes the following Strategies (identified as a combined Alternative A, B, and C) for the following areas:

Management of Noxious, Invasive, and Non-Native Species

Management of Special Status Species  
Management of Biological Monitoring  
Management Cultural Resources  
Management of Recreational Resources – Recreational Paintball, Pacific Crest  
Trail National Scenic Trail, and Management of Feral and Uncontrolled  
Domestic Animals  
Management of Geologic Resources  
Management of Educational Resources  
Management of Scientific Resources  
Management of Visitation, Facilities, and Uses  
Management of Private Property Concerns  
Management of Water Resources  
Management of Land Acquisitions  
Adaptive Management

**Alternative D** provides the **No Action Alternative**, or the existing management. The No Action Alternative describes the current management situation on Federal lands, which consists of the BLM-managed lands within the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office and Forest Service-managed lands within the San Jacinto Ranger District of the San Bernardino National Forest. This management for BLM-managed public lands is guided by the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (1980, as amended), and for Forest Service-managed lands is guided by the San Bernardino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (SBNF LRMP) (1989). Additional non-discretionary direction specified in the National Monument legislation also applies. The No Action Alternative does not provide or create opportunities for enhancement of the National Monument values beyond the immediate protective measures of the enabling legislation. The No Action Alternative allows the reader to compare the current management with various strategies for future management (Alternatives A, B, C). Descriptions of the current management are provided throughout the chapter under the heading of Alternative D No Action Alternative.

## **2.B. Alternatives and Strategies**

The Alternative and Strategies proposed below are listed by resource area, in the same order as they were listed in the National Monument Act of 2000 (Appendix A.). The National Monument Act of 2000 provides the establishment and purposes of the National Monument and the following sections provide proposed management direction for BLM and Forest Service regarding achieving the establishment and purposes of the National Monument. Each of the resource management strategies this draft Management Plan covers is presented in the following section and a description of how each alternative addresses the strategy is discussed.

### **2.B.1. Management of Biological Resources**

#### **Biological Resources - Management of Habitat**

The Habitat Conservation Objectives described in the CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (See Appendix E) adopt Land Health Standards that apply to BLM-managed land within the National Monument. The Forest Service Standards and Guidelines provide guidance for management of habitats on Forest Service land within the National Monument (Appendix E.) In addition, existing Biological Opinions from the US Fish and Wildlife Service provide guidance to both BLM and Forest Service. These objectives and Standards and Guidelines provide criteria and guidance for the management of vegetative community types to ensure quality habitat for migratory

songbirds, amphibians, and other wildlife species in the National Monument in accordance with law, regulation, and policy. Both agencies will continue to coordinate with local interest groups, Tribes, State and Federal agencies, and local jurisdictions to increase efficiency of rehabilitation activities.

- No additional actions addressing habitat-based management are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

#### **Biological Resources - Management of Riparian and Wetland Resources**

BLM and Forest Service currently assess Proper Functioning Conditions (PFC) of aquatic systems in both riparian and wetland systems every three to five years or sooner as necessary. Any system determined to be functional-at-risk or non-functional is subject to management actions and reassessment.

- No additional actions regarding management of Riparian and Wetland resources are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

#### **Biological Resources - Management of Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep**

The Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep recovery strategy established through the CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (See FD) outlines the measures that BLM will follow to protect and promote the recovery of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep within the National Monument. The Forest Service will follow the strategy to be provided in the Species Management Guide for Bighorn Sheep (pending).

- No additional actions regarding management of Peninsular Ranges bighorn sheep are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

#### **Biological Resources - Management of Noxious, Non-native, and Invasive Plant Species**

BLM and Forest Service would seek partnership opportunities to manage and control the spread of noxious weeds, non-native and invasive species, and manage and promote existing native plant resources, and foster the reintroduction of species that compose the site's natural plant communities. While there are currently no species listed as noxious by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) within the National Monument, BLM and Forest Service would apply the actions listed below to control plants listed as "noxious" in the future.

- The following noxious, non-native, and invasive plant strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

To manage and control the spread of non-native, noxious weeds, and invasive species and foster the reintroduction of indigenous species, BLM and Forest Service would seek partnership opportunities to enhance current efforts through the following actions:

- Inventory public lands to determine distribution of indigenous plant species and non-native species in the National Monument to assess protection and eradication needs, respectively.
  - Ground-truth aerial photos (taken in 2002) to determine locations of non-native vegetation to establish baseline

- conditions. Identify where non-native vegetation eradication efforts are desirable.
- Develop and implement an action plan for eradicating non-native, noxious weeds, and invasive species, as well as an action plan for reintroducing indigenous species and manage existing native vegetation, in coordination with Tribes, Federal, State, and local agencies, experts, and local interest groups such as the Southern California Indian Basketweavers Organization (SCIBO) or Nex'wetem, California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and the Andreas Canyon Club
  - Address types of treatment, funding, work parties, etc.)
  - - Use mechanical means and herbicides to eradicate non-native species.
    - Coordinate with partners for project funding, mitigation funding, and acquisition of grants (National Wildlife Federation, etc.).
  - Educate the public regarding non-native, invasive species including tamarisk, fountain grass, etc. in the National Monument and their impacts to the environment
    - Coordinate with adjacent cities to distribute a list of invasive plants that are discouraged for use in landscaping and decorative plantings.
    - Encourage and assist adjacent cities to develop programs and/or ordinances addressing ornamental and landscaping plantings.
  - Prepare and distribute an annual report describing noxious weed, non-native, and invasive plant treatments and accomplishments.
    - Describe different area types, benefits, acres treated, etc.

#### No Action Alternative D.

Current efforts to remove tamarisk are underway by the Tamarisk Task Force, which meets quarterly to discuss methods and processes for coordinating tamarisk removal among various partners that manage land within the Monument. Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Forest Service, and BLM are active in the Tamarisk Task Force. Direction is also provided in the BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and Forest Service San Bernardino National Forest Management Plan (1989, as amended.) Projects will continue to occur as funding becomes available

#### **Biological Resources - Management of Special Status Species**

Special Status Species are plant and animal species, officially listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA 1973, as amended); those listed or proposed for listing by the State of California under the California Endangered Species Act (1985, as amended), Native Plant Protection Act – CA “rare” plants, and those designated by the BLM State Director and Regional Forester as sensitive. Special Status Species will be managed in accordance with the ESA, BLM standards/policy (BLM Manual 6840) and Forest Service standards/policy and guidelines listed in Appendix D. Special Status Species will be managed to facilitate recovery of listed species and prevent future listings of non-listed plants and animals.

Land Health Standards and Management Directions, standard stipulations, Standards and Guidelines, and appropriate mitigation measures established to reduce impacts to sensitive species will be considered when addressing permit applications and authorized use decisions. Habitat Conservation Objectives (CDCA Plan amendment for the Coachella Valley 2002) will additionally be considered when addressing permit applications and authorized use decisions affecting BLM lands.

- The following special status species strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

- Work with partner agencies, Tribes, and volunteer groups to update existing inventories of the plant and animal species' occurrence and distribution to establish updated models for habitat and baseline conditions for monitoring.
- Coordinate Special Status Species management with California Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, researchers, and local jurisdictions to promote consistency, effectiveness and efficiency of recovery actions and monitoring activities.
- Encourage research projects designed to enhance management activities that facilitate recovery of sensitive species, including Federal and State listed species.
- Develop partnerships with entities such as California Native Plant Society for education and outreach

No Action Alternative D.

CDCA Plan (1980 as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989 as amended). Inventories are conducted on a project specific basis. A Sensitive Species list is maintained and updated annually.

**Biological Resource - Monitoring Program**

- The following biological monitoring strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

- Continue to participate in development of an interagency monitoring program for the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, including monitoring protocols, reporting, and database management. Continue to coordinate the implementation of the interagency monitoring program with California Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, researchers, universities, volunteer organizations and site stewards
- Work with partner agencies to coordinate monitoring of Special Status Species for changes in population size, distribution and habitat use. For example:
  - Conduct overflight bighorn sheep counts, and surveys for desert slender salamander, desert tortoises, fringe-toed lizards, and riparian birds.
  - Select subset of special status plant species representing sensitive habitats for population monitoring every one to three years. Special status species should include both federally listed threatened and endangered species and cultural resource species.

No Action Alternative D.

A general long-term monitoring protocol was developed through the CDCA Plan and through the SBNF LRMP(1989, as amended). BLM and Forest Service will continue to collaborate and participate in monitoring species and habitats addressed in the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

**2.B.2. Management of Cultural Resources**

The ancestral territory of the Cahuilla Indians includes the lands within the boundaries of the National Monument. Portions of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians' reservation fall within the National Monument boundary and the Agua Caliente are cooperatively managing those lands as part of the National Monument. For these reasons the National Monument and its management are of critical concern to all the Bands of Cahuilla Indians.

The management plan would provide for interpretation and usage of cultural resources for public benefit insofar as these activities are compatible with the goal of protection and preservation of cultural and other National Monument resources. A cultural resource is a definite location of human activity, occupation, or use identified through field inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and may include definite locations of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups (BLM Manual: 8100- Cultural Resources Management).

The Plan is based on existing inventory and ethnographic data and shall provide for implementation of an ongoing program of cultural resources identification. Past and recent inventories, ethnographic studies, and consultations with the public and with Cahuilla elders, traditional practitioners and tribal council members groups have identified many important cultural resources, including historic and prehistoric period archaeological sites, traditional collecting and gathering locations, and culturally sensitive landscapes and features. Additional research and field inventories specifically designed to assess resource conditions and evaluate resource significance, need to be conducted to inform and guide management decisions. Field inventory data shall be supplemented by archival research, oral history, and archaeological data recovery as appropriate. Cultural resources shall be evaluated to determine their eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places: the term "historic property" is used to refer to any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register (36 CFR 800). Threats to cultural resources shall be identified and documented and treatment plans developed and implemented accordingly.

This Plan would provide for protection and preservation of cultural resources through inventory, monitoring, site stewardship, physical protection of significant sites and areas, and collection and curation of important artifacts and materials. This plan would also provide for development of a Cultural Resources Management Plan that incorporates and expands upon all of the above components and will develop strategies for directing visitor traffic away from significant and/or vulnerable sites, where possible. Native American coordination and consultation shall be an integral part of the Plan, as described in Section 2-C.3.



Proposals for new facilities, projects, or uses shall be analyzed under NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA for their potential to adversely affect cultural resources. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that Federal agencies take into account the effects of agency undertakings on historic properties. The emphasis within the National Monument shall be on avoidance rather than mitigation of effect. New facilities shall be designed to avoid effects upon significant archeological resources, ethnographic values, or culturally significant landscape features whenever possible. If avoidance is not possible, adverse effects will be mitigated. Mitigation plans will be developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, interested parties, and the Cahuilla Bands as appropriate.

Native American concerns were identified during the public scoping period and through consultation with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Ramona Band of Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians, Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians, and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. These concerns were incorporated into the following alternatives.

### **Cultural Resources - Identification and Evaluation**

#### **Cultural Resources Research**

Archival research, ethnographic data collection, and oral history interviews can identify, locate, and aid in interpreting cultural resources including collecting and gathering locations, Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP), and archaeological sites.

- The following cultural resources research strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C)

- Work with Tribes to identify significant cultural and historic sites and events
- Work with Tribes, partners, local agencies, and volunteer groups to develop an oral history program and to identify and interview members of the public and Native American Tribes who have knowledge of historic use of the National Monument.
- Encourage and facilitate archival research, including reviews of historic maps and documents.
- Develop and maintain a database for site management.

#### No Action Alternative D.

CDCA Plan (1980 as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989 as amended). The CDCA Plan directs the BLM to encourage and support well-directed archaeological, ethnographic, paleontological and historical research throughout the Desert District, especially in high-impact risk areas such as lands classified Class M (Moderate Use) or Class I (Intensive Use) and where management goals will be well-served.

#### **Cultural Resources - Inventory**

Intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventories provide for the physical identification, recordation, and assessment of cultural resources. Inventory proposed in this Plan shall be in addition to inventories required for project-specific compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA. The inventory strategy shall address both the need to provide

input for management decisions and the need to expand our knowledge of the history and prehistory of the region.

- The following cultural resources inventory strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C.)

Seek partnerships with Tribes, agencies, and volunteers to :

- Conduct a sample inventory within the National Monument each year.
- Each year survey one specific area identified through archival and ethnographic research as having a high potential to contain significant or threatened sites. Include inventory of existing roads and trails to identify sites that are being adversely impacted by public visitation and access.
- Record sites to current standards by including photos and sketch maps to document the overall site setting and condition, specific artifacts and features, and any damage whether due to natural or human causes.
- Assess integrity and cultural significance of sites and make site-specific management recommendations for avoidance, protection, or interpretation.

No Action Alternative D.

CDCA Plan (1980 as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989 as amended). Under the CDCA Plan, field inventories for cultural resources are to be undertaken primarily within areas classified as Class M (Moderate Use) or Class I (Intensive Use).

**Cultural Resources - Existing Cultural Conditions Assessment**

Cultural resources are fragile and nonrenewable. Resources may be damaged by both natural and human causes. It is clear that changes to resources will occur through time and that some resource deterioration is inevitable. The Plan shall have as its goal the development of techniques to measure and minimize adverse impacts to cultural resources.

- The following cultural resources assessment strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C.)

To assess existing cultural resources conditions, BLM and Forest Service would seek partnerships with Tribes, agencies, and volunteers to:

- Gather baseline condition data and identify threats to cultural resources through field inventory, review of existing site forms, and consultation with Native American Tribes and members of the public. Solicit input on resource conditions from BLM and Forest Service staff in all disciplines. Determine areas that are vulnerable to specific types of threats. Example: areas adjacent to trails may be most vulnerable to impacts from increased visitation while other areas may be vulnerable to erosion or other natural processes.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program that includes a schedule for monitoring threatened sites, vulnerable areas, and resources along trails. Monitor at least five sites and five miles of trails each year. Develop, implement and maintain a site stewardship program. Provide stewardship training to members of the public and Native American Tribes.

- Track changes over time in the condition of specific resources. Define key indicators of change.
- Make recommendations for avoidance and mitigation of adverse impacts to significant resources.

#### No Action Alternative D.

CDCA Plan (1980 as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989 as amended). General guidelines for surveillance and monitoring of cultural resource locations exist, but there is no current direction for review of existing data or implementation of stewardship programs.

#### **Cultural Resources - Protection and Preservation**

Cultural resource preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Examples of protection and preservation measures include limiting visitor access to sensitive areas, fencing or capping threatened sites, installing protective signage, controlling erosion, restoring or repairing -structures, and conducting data recovery to protect the information potential of a site. Directing visitor usage can also provide a method for protecting resources. Visitors shall be directed to sites and areas that provide interpretative exhibits on prehistoric, historic, and Native American values and can best accommodate use. Visitors shall be discouraged or prohibited from areas where use would adversely impact or destroy sensitive natural or cultural resources.

Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 9(a) the Archaeological Resources Protection Act provide the legal authority to restrict information about endangered cultural resources. Federal agencies may restrict information about a cultural resource's location and its character or nature if disclosure of such information may create a substantial risk of harm, theft, or destruction of such resources. Section 304 of the NHPA provides an exemption from the Freedom of Information Act for information about the location, character, or ownership of historic resources including traditional religious sites.

- The following strategy for protecting and preserving cultural resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C.)

Building upon the data collected as a result of the above strategies for inventory, the BLM and Forest Service would implement the following strategy for protecting and preserving cultural resources:

- Develop a prioritized list of site-specific protection and preservation needs prior to the end of each fiscal year, in preparation for out-year planning and budgeting.
- Seek partnerships with Tribes, agencies, and volunteers to:
  - Implement at least two protection or preservation projects each year.
  - Identify and interpret "magnet" sites to attract visitors and satisfy their desire to experience the history and prehistory of the area. Prepare at least one historic and one prehistoric archaeological site for this type of visitor usage.
  - Propose trail management actions, subject to NEPA, to protect sensitive resources.

- Develop a collection policy. Identify the types of artifacts to be collected and define what circumstances warrant removing an artifact from its original location.
- Develop curation agreements with museums meeting Federal standards for curation and preservation of materials. Native American museums meeting these standards shall be given preference for curation of Native American artifacts.

No Action Alternative D.

CDCA Plan (1980 as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989 as amended). Existing plans recommend protection and preservation of cultural resources through development of management plans, stabilization, surveillance, vehicle route designations, and environmental education/awareness programs.

**Cultural Resources -Interpretation and Education**

Educating the public as to the sensitivity and need for respect of the traditions, cultural values, and religious beliefs of the Cahuilla Indians and other historic residents of the National Monument is integral to the protection of cultural resources and establishing a link between natural and cultural landscapes.

- The following cultural interpretation and education strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Alternative A, B, and C.

Seek partnerships with Tribes, agencies, and volunteers to:

- Develop a program for public interpretation, education and environmental awareness for the National Monument, wherein cultural and ethnographical resources area addressed with other resources.
- Involve interested Tribes in development of interpretive programs (reviewing interpretive materials and programs, providing input, etc.)
- Design educationally-oriented brochures, pamphlets, monographs, web-pages and other works of popular and technical nature, emphasizing the relevance, fragility and other values of cultural and historic resources to be made available to the public.
- Provide information regarding historical use of the National Monument including ranching, mining, and recreation.
- Work with the Cahuilla Indian leadership, elders, and traditional practitioners to establish a mock village site to educate the public and provide an opportunity for sharing how the Cahuilla lived, gathered and prepared food, and created traditional materials such as basketry and ceramics.
- Develop a program of guided hikes and interpretive programs that utilize Tribal members as interpreters, guides and storytellers.
- Develop programs in cooperation with and support of established Cahuilla cultural events and institutions such as the annual agave harvest and tasting sponsored by the Malki Museum.

No Action Alternative D.

CDCA Plan (1980 as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989 as amended). Existing plans provide guidance for interpretation, but do not provide specific recommendations for on the ground interpretation and education. The CDCA Plan states

that a program of public interpretation and education and environmental awareness will be developed under its Recreation Element and calls for design and distribution of educationally oriented brochures, pamphlets, monographs, and other works of popular and technical nature that emphasize the relevance, fragility, and other values of cultural resources.

### **Cultural Resources – Management Plan**

- The following strategy to complete a cultural resources management plan is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C.)

BLM and Forest Service will seek partnerships and funding to initiate planning efforts for a Comprehensive Cultural Resources Management Plan within two years of the completion of the National Monument Management plan. The Cultural Resources Management Plan would be developed in consultation and cooperation with the Monument Advisory Committee, Cahuilla Bands, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and representatives of interested parties. The Cultural Resources Management Plan would incorporate strategies and objectives as outlined in this plan and provided in related planning efforts. In addition, all scoping comments received during the National Monument Management Planning Process would be considered, thus providing a collaborative forum for all interested parties to participate in addressing cultural resources management in the National Monument.

The Cultural Resources Management Plan would:

- Incorporate data from a condition assessment analysis that identifies the existing condition of known cultural resources and areas vulnerable to vandalism, overuse, or damage from natural processes.
- Develop a system for tracking changes in the condition of resources and develop strategies for intervention. This information, and future information, would allow managers to further identify potential resource threats and respond effectively to minimize impacts of human use and natural processes upon resources.
- Identify current and anticipated preservation and restoration needs.
- Prepare a historic context for the National Monument area and develop research questions to guide research efforts.
- Develop a strategy to facilitate research of cultural resources within the National Monument. Encourage the use of a multi-disciplinary approach to clarify the associations between natural and cultural resources in the cultural landscape.
- Develop a strategy that defines the purpose, extent, and uses of National Monument museum collections and provides a consistent approach among the partners to manage archeological artifacts, archival materials, museum objects, and natural resources specimens.

#### No Action Alternative D.

A cultural resources management plan specific to the National Monument will not be developed. Cultural resources would continue to be managed consist with applicable laws and regulations, the CDCA Plan Amendment and the San Bernardino National Forest Management Plan.

### **Cultural Resources - Access to Traditional Material Collecting and Gathering Locations and Ceremonial Sites**

The National Monument holds resources that have been used traditionally by the Cahuilla for their medicinal properties, as food, or for construction of items such as baskets. Access to and sustainability of these resources is a matter of concern for Native American Tribes.

The National Monument also may contain sites that are of ceremonial or spiritual value to the Cahuilla. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) directs Federal agencies to obtain and consider the views of Indian leaders when a proposed land use might conflict with traditional Indian religious beliefs or practices and to avoid unnecessary interference with Indian religious practices during project implementation. Executive Order 13007 (EO 13007) directs Federal agencies to manage Federal lands in a manner that accommodates Indian religious practitioners' access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites, and that avoids adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites, to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions.

- The following strategy for traditional material gathering and access to ceremonial and religious sites is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C.)

- Develop a policy to provide for Tribal member access to gather traditional materials.
- Distribute BLM and Forest Service plant collection policy information to Tribes. Facilitate issuance of any necessary permits.
- In partnership with Cahuilla traditional practitioners, develop a process for monitoring the effects of traditional collecting and gathering.
- Using monitoring results, develop adaptive management programs jointly with local practitioners to manage traditional botanical resources.
- Restrict sensitive information concerning the location of ceremonial sites. Ensure protection and confidentiality of cultural information such as locations of sacred sites and traditional use areas.
- Provide for Native American access to ceremonial and religious sites.
- Coordinate landscape restoration activities to ensure the reintroduction and restoration of native species that have cultural importance.

No Action Alternative D.

The BLM and Forest Service will abide by the direction provided by AIRFA and EO 13007.

**Cultural Resources - Native American Coordination and Consultation**

Federal agencies have a unique and formal legal relationship with Native American Tribes. Tribal governments are considered dependent domestic sovereignties with primary and independent jurisdiction (in most cases) over tribal lands. Consistency review provided to State governments will be afforded to tribal governments concerning proposed BLM plans and actions that impact cultural and ancestral lands. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), National Historic Preservation Act, Archaeological resources Protection Act, Native American Graves and Repatriation Act, and Executive Order 13007 direct Federal agencies to conduct consultation under specific circumstances. Consultation is especially critical to reach mutually acceptable

solutions to questions of resource preservation, interpretive programs, visitor use, and archeological research.

- The following Native American coordination and consultation strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternatives A, B, and C.)

- Focus collaboration on identifying concerns and resolving differences in a manner that respects the cultural traditions of the Cahuilla Indians.
- Provide the Cahuilla Bands the opportunity to aid in resolving conflicts where their traditions and cultural values may be affected by National Monument programs and activities.
- Facilitate cooperation and consultation with and among the Tribes by holding semi-annual meetings regarding the management of the National Monument. Representatives and members of all Cahuilla Bands shall be encouraged to participate.
- Ensure the opportunity for government-to-government consultation with each Cahuilla Band regarding archaeological research, interpretive programs, and resource management for the National Monument.
- Develop Cooperative Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with the Cahuilla Bands to establish relationships and protocols for management of cultural and other resources within the National Monument.
- Assist the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in its efforts to develop and promote its role as a conduit in encouraging Cahuilla involvement with National Monument and the sharing of information and resources between the Cahuilla Bands.

No Action Alternative D.

The BLM and Forest Service will conduct government-to-government consultation as directed by law and regulation.

**2.B.3. Management of Recreational Resources**

Prior to the end of 2003, a trails plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains will be available for the public to review, as referenced in Chapter 1, Section 1.E.1. Management of the trail system within the National Monument will largely be determined through this trails plan. Current efforts through the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan are addressing trail concerns, providing a forum for a multi-jurisdictional solution in a complex landscape of many landowners (Figure 3) No change is proposed to policies for casual collection of material (rockhounding, materials collections) within the National Monument as outlined in Chapter 3, Section 3.D.9, except as noted within the Geological Resources Management Strategy within Section 2.B.4. of this document.

**Recreational Resources - Non-Motorized Recreation**

Current non-motorized activities within the National Monument would continue providing that such uses are consistent with related plan decisions and National Monument goals. Recreational activities would be monitored to ensure that resource values within the National Monument would be protected and maintained.

**Non-motorized Recreation**

Non-motorized recreation, including hiking, backpacking, camping, rock climbing, mountain biking, picnicking, and casual collecting of materials would be consistent with the Wilderness Act, Forest Service Strategic Mountain Bike Plan, the trails plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains (pending), and the BLM's CDCA Plan and Forest Service's SBNF Plan. Within BLM and Forest Service wilderness, mountain biking, hang gliding and other mechanized forms of recreation are not allowed in accordance with the Wilderness Act. Hang gliding, recreational shooting, and paintball use are addressed in this plan (See Below).

### **Camping**

Camping would be allowed at developed camping facilities and at yellow post sites on National Forest land within the National Monument. Dispersed camping would be allowed consistent with the trails plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains (pending). Modification of management prescriptions pertaining to camping would occur to protect sensitive resource areas if needed.

### **Campfires**

Campfire use throughout the National Monument would be subject to BLM and Forest Service restrictions due to drought, fire season, and other potential closures.

- No changes to existing non-motorized recreational uses, camping, and campfires on BLM- and Forest Service- managed lands are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

### **Recreational Resources - Motorized Recreation**

Vehicle routes on BLM lands within the National Monument have been designated as open or closed, through the CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (BLM 2002). Routes on Forest Service lands were designated in the 1989 SBNF LRMP. All motorized vehicles are prohibited off designated roads. All motorized routes and their maintenance levels are listed in Chapter 3 – Motorized Recreation. Road maintenance: road signage would be defined and maintained as appropriate throughout the National Monument to accommodate various use levels and, where appropriate, motorized vehicle types.

- No changes to existing motorized recreation on BLM and Forest Service lands within the National Monument lands are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

### **Recreational Resources - Hang Gliding**

- The following hang gliding management is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Alternative A.

Hang gliding launches from and landing on BLM and Forest Service lands within the National Monument, including the Vista Point launch site off of Highway 74, would be allowed with a permit, subject to management measures to minimize occurrences of landing in sensitive areas.

- BLM and Forest Service would identify Federal lands where hang gliding activities would be inappropriate.



- BLM and Forest Service would coordinate with hang gliding associations to disseminate information about appropriate launching and landing sites.
- Information about restricted landing areas near the National Monument Visitor Center would be installed at Vista Point; landing on or flying over Bighorn Institute property would be identified as a prohibited activity.
- Appropriate landing sites adjacent to the Visitor Center would be identified and signed.

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative B.)

Hang gliding launches from and landing on BLM and Forest Service lands within and adjacent to essential bighorn sheep habitat in the National Monument, including Vista Point, would not be allowed.

- Identification of appropriate launching and landing sites outside bighorn sheep habitat, and dissemination of information about these sites, would occur in coordination with hang gliding associations.
- BLM and Forest Service would identify Federal lands outside bighorn sheep habitat where hang gliding activities would be inappropriate.

#### Alternative C.

Hang gliding launches from and landing on BLM or Forest Service lands within the National Monument, including Vista Point, would not be allowed.

#### No Action Alternative D.

Hang gliding launches from and landing on BLM and Forest Service lands within the National Monument are allowed.

### **Recreational Resources - Recreational Paintball**

- The following recreational paintball management is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Alternative A, B, and C.

Gas or air propelled weapons or simulated weapons (including paintball and paintball-like weapons) would not be allowed within the National Monument.

#### No Action Alternative D.

Gas or air propelled weapons or simulated weapons (including paintball and paintball-like weapons) are currently not disallowed within the National Monument. Forest Plan Revision will be addressing paintball through the San Bernardino National Forest.

### **Recreational Resources - Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)**

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is a nationally designated hiking and equestrian trail that traverses the western portion of the National Monument. Motorized vehicles and mountain bikes are prohibited on the Trail.

- The following recreational Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Management is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C.)

Establish a 500-foot wide management corridor encompassing the Pacific Crest Trail.

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) would be managed according to the existing comprehensive management plan (USDA 1982) with a 500-foot wide management corridor. Management activities affecting Federal lands within the corridor, including actions relating to forest health, water quality, wildlife habitat, trail maintenance, and trail construction or reconstruction, would be analyzed for effects on the PCT and BLM and Forest Service would coordinate with the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) to ensure recreational values are considered. The Memorandum of Understanding between BLM, Forest Service, and the PCTA would be revised as appropriate to reflect this action.

No Action Alternative D. The Pacific Crest Trail will continue to be managed in accordance with the existing management plan. An existing Memorandum of Understanding between BLM, Forest Service, and the PCTA addressing coordination of management activities will remain in place.

### **Recreational Resources - Recreational Shooting**

Recreational shooting is addressed as a separate recreation activity from hunting. Under all alternatives, hunting will continue to be permitted in the National Monument consistent with California Department of Fish and Game regulations. In accordance with these regulations, hunting is not allowed in the State Game Refuge and hunting may not take place within 200 yards of a water source.

- The following recreational shooting management alternatives are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Alternative A.

Recreational shooting on Federal lands, except for hunting, would be allowed only in designated shooting areas within the National Monument. Designated shooting areas would not be established:

- within the State Game Refuge
- within designated Wilderness
- where vehicular access has not been approved
- within 150 yards of certain developed recreational facilities (e.g., Visitor Center, campgrounds)

#### Alternative B.

Recreational shooting, except for hunting, would be allowed as a dispersed activity on Federal lands throughout the National Monument with the following exceptions:

- within the State Game Refuge
- within designated Wilderness
- where vehicular access has not been approved
- within 150 yards of all developed recreational facilities and occupied sites (e.g., roads, trails, Visitor Center, campgrounds, trailheads, etc.)

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative C.)

No recreational shooting, except for hunting, would be allowed on Federal lands within the National Monument. Hunting would continue to be permitted according to California Department of Fish and Game policy.

#### Alternative D: No Action.

Recreational shooting is allowed on all BLM lands except at developed sites and within the State Game Refuge. The San Bernardino National Forest allows for shooting as a dispersed activity throughout the Forest Service land in the National Monument with the following exceptions:

- within the State Game Refuge
- within 150 yards of developed recreational facilities (e.g., campgrounds, residences, buildings, occupied areas, etc.)

Currently recreational shooting is allowed within designated Wilderness.

### **Recreational Resources - Pets**

A comprehensive trails management plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains (pending) will address entry with pets, particularly dogs, inside and outside essential bighorn sheep habitat. Generally, assistance animals (e.g., seeing eye dogs) are exempt from restrictions. Working dogs may be permitted on Federal lands with no leash required, pursuant to an authorization for use of such lands.

The current prohibition of dogs on BLM lands east of Palm Canyon, except for certain areas (west of Cathedral City Cove, south of La Quinta Cove, and a pending location in Palm Desert), will continue in effect until the trails management plan has been completed (Federal Register, Vol. 65, No. 14, January 21, 2000) or until another Federal Register Notice identifies additional changes. The following alternatives establish the framework for decisions to be made relative to pets in this plan.

#### **Within Essential Bighorn Sheep Habitat**

Within essential bighorn sheep habitat (Figure 6), dogs shall be managed in accordance with the bighorn sheep strategy described in BLM's CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (December 2002). Site-specific measures are being developed through a multi-jurisdictional trails management plan (in progress). Interim management prohibits dogs on BLM lands east of Palm Canyon, except west of Cathedral City Cove, south of La Quinta Cove, and a pending location in Palm Desert.

- The following management of pets within Essential Bighorn Sheep Habitat is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

At parking areas, visitor centers, and other developed sites within essential bighorn sheep habitat, dogs would be allowed in designated areas and must be on a leash. Other sites may be designated following the completion of a trails plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains (in progress). Owners would be required to collect and properly dispose of any waste produced by their pet.

#### No Action Alternative D.

At parking areas, visitor centers, and other developed sites within essential bighorn sheep habitat, dogs would be managed consistent with the CDCA Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley, including interim management prohibiting dogs on BLM lands east of Palm Canyon (with exceptions) currently in place pending completion of the trails management plan.

### **Outside Essential Bighorn Sheep Habitat**

- The following management of pets outside Essential Bighorn Sheep Habitat is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Alternative A.

Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat, pets would be allowed on all Federal lands within the National Monument with no leash required. Owners would be required to collect and properly dispose of any waste produced by their pet. Working dogs may be permitted on Federal lands with no leash required, pursuant to an authorization for use of such lands.

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative B.)

Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat, pets would be allowed on all Federal lands within the National Monument with a leash (maximum length of 10 feet) required. Owners would be required to collect and properly dispose of any waste produced by their pet. Working dogs may be permitted on Federal lands with no leash required, pursuant to an authorization for use of such lands.

#### Alternative C.

Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat, pets would be allowed only on paved surfaces and in designated pet areas at developed facilities. Leashes (maximum length of 10 feet) would be required. Developed facilities include visitor centers, trailheads, parking lots, and campgrounds. Signs would be posted in areas where dogs are both allowed and prohibited. Owners would be required to collect and properly dispose of any waste produced by their pet. Working dogs may be permitted on Federal lands with no leash required, pursuant to an authorization for use of such lands.

#### No Action Alternative D.

Pets would continue to be allowed on Federal lands outside essential bighorn sheep habitat. The leash requirement for pets on Forest Service lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Wilderness areas would remain in effect. Leashes are not required on Forest Service lands outside wilderness; leashes are not required on any BLM lands.

### **Recreational Resources - Feral and Uncontrolled Domestic Animals**

- The following management of feral and uncontrolled domestic animals is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

BLM and Forest Service would establish a protocol in cooperation with Riverside County and cities of the Coachella Valley to address feral and uncontrolled domestic animals. Management of pets would be consistent with the pending trails management plan.

#### No Action Alternative D.

BLM and Forest Service currently address feral and uncontrolled domestic animals on an as-needed basis. Management of pets in the National Monument would be consistent with the pending trails management plan.

### **Recreational Resources - Forest Service Adventure Pass**

The Forest Service Adventure Pass is a \$5.00/day, \$30.00 annual recreation use fee established to help finance the maintenance of recreation facilities on National Forest Land. 80% of funds are returned to administrative units where fees were collected. The Adventure Pass is required on vehicles parked on Forest Service land within the San Jacinto Ranger District. No equivalent to the Adventure Pass exists for parking on BLM lands within the National Monument.

- The following management of concerning the Forest Service Adventure Pass is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A and B).

Adventure Pass would not be required when parking on National Forest lands within the National Monument and fees would not be required when parking on BLM land within the National Monument. This would be a No Action Alternative for the BLM. Potential for a voluntary contribution to a friends group to support the improvement and development of visitor facilities and services would be investigated.

#### Alternative C.

Adventure Pass would remain a required pass for parking on National Forest land within the National Monument and a comparable fee would be established for parking on BLM lands within the National Monument. This would be a No Action Alternative for the Forest Service.

#### No Action Alternative D.

The Forest Service Adventure Pass would remain in use on National Forest land and an equivalent pass for parking on BLM land is not required.

### **Recreational Resources - Strategic Recreation Management Plan**

There is a need for coordinated facility maintenance, signing, and public information sharing, and a need to address the compatibility of uses to enhance recreational experiences within the National Monument. The trails plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains (pending) will address where and when the public may hike, bike, and ride horses within the National Monument, and will provide the basis for developing a subsequent Strategic Recreation Management Plan.

The Strategic Recreation Management Plan would be coordinated with the National Monument Advisory Committee, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, other local Tribes, cities, State Parks, applicable recovery teams and representatives of interested parties, and would be consistent with related planning efforts to the legal extent possible.

- The future preparation of a strategic recreation plan is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

Within one year of completion of the National Monument Management plan, BLM and Forest Service would initiate the development of a Strategic Recreation Plan.

The Strategic Recreation Management Plan would:

1. Be consistent with decisions made through the National Monument Management Plan and the trails plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.

2. Be consistent with other related plans (e.g., the San Jacinto Ranger District Strategic Mountain Bike Plan, and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian Trails Management Plan).
3. Address the compatibility of all types of recreational uses within the National Monument (including hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, etc.).
4. Establish a monitoring program to assess levels of use and to determine the need for altering management to protect and preserve resource values (e.g., changes to dispersed camping use policy by establishing camping zones, examine additional campgrounds at upper and lower elevation, etc.).
5. Establish mechanisms for consistency of trail signage, facilities, and maintenance.
6. Outline involvement of working partnerships with trail user groups and local agencies to ensure efficient trail management opportunities
7. Participate in a long term working group to discuss emerging trends and opportunities to accommodate use.

No Action Alternative D:

The BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and Forest Service SBNF Management Plan (1989). Recreation management for trails occurs on an as-needed, case-by-case basis on BLM-managed lands. The Pacific Crest Trail management guidance is provided in the Pacific Crest Trail Management Plan. The San Jacinto Ranger District Mountain Bike Plan provides mountain bike management guidance for Forest Service trails. Future recreation guidance within the National Monument will be provided in the trails plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains (pending).

**2.B.4. Management of Geologic Resources**

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains are among the most impressive of southern California because of their great height and proximity to the Salton trough. These mountains are eroded from a greatly elevated mass of igneous and metamorphic rocks formed deep in the earth's crust, but adjacent to the deeply subsided and sediment-filled Salton trough.

**Geological Resources – Soils and Geology Inventory and Mapping**

- The following inventory and mapping strategy for geologic resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

The strategy for inventory and mapping geologic structures in the National Monument would consist of working with partner agencies, Tribes, and volunteers to:

- Inventory and map all of the important geologic resources within the National Monument, including the Martinez Mountain Landslide, the Santa Rosa Shear Zone, the San Jacinto Fault Zone, and the 'watermark' and related shoreline features of the ancient Lake Cahuilla.
- Inventory and map all abandoned mines on Federal land within the National Monument.

- Compile all sources of geologic maps and current USGS mapping projects to support the preparation of a comprehensive geologic map of the National Monument.
- Facilitate efforts to map the geology in the southerly and easterly portions of the National Monument.
- Develop a 3<sup>rd</sup> order soil survey for non-mapped portions of the National Monument within 2 years of completion of the National Monument Plan

#### No Action Alternative D.

Geologic resources within the National Monument would not be inventoried since a formal program for identification of geologic resources does not exist. Geologic mapping of the National Monument would eventually occur based on regional mapping priorities established by the USGS. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has recently prepared a geologic map of the entire San Bernardino National Forest. This map included portions of the National Monument that are within the Forest. The geology in the southerly and easterly portions of the National Monument has not been completely mapped. Soils within the National Monument have been surveyed for Forest Service lands.

#### **Geologic Resources - Outreach and Interpretation**

- The following outreach and interpretation strategy for geologic resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, & C).

The interpretive strategy for geologic resources would include working with partner agencies, Tribes, and volunteers to:

- Develop interpretation such as guided walks using geologic features in the National Monument and include both general geologic processes, (e.g. erosion, mountain building, and earthquake faulting) and specific geologic features (e.g. Martinez Mountain Landslide, ancient Lake Cahuilla features, and the San Jacinto Fault Zones)
- Work with volunteers to prepare geologic road guides for the Highway 74 and 111 corridors, focusing on the geology and geologic history of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, with emphasis on geologic features visible at specific, safe road turnouts. These road guides would be similar to other published road guides, such as the Geologic Road Guide to Northern California (available through the BLM California Bookstore).
- Establish geologic points of interest within and adjacent to the National Monument by using interpretive signs or plaques describing the geologic feature or process visible at that point. Coordinate with Caltrans for placement of signs off highways and rest stops. (For example an interpretive sign could be placed at the I-10 rest area at Whitewater, describing the significant elevation difference between the prominent uplifted slopes of Mt. San Jacinto and the downdropped Coachella Valley/Salton Trough. Information could then be provided concerning the tectonic origin of the mountain range and the basin and the San Andreas Fault Zone in the region.
- Prepare a pamphlet and/or guide describing the mining history and mineral resources of the National Monument,

- Emphasizing that mineral development is no longer allowed on public lands within the National Monument,
- Include rules and regulations concerning the collection of rocks and minerals within the National Monument
- Address safety issues concerning abandoned mined lands in the National Monument.
- Develop partnerships and research agreements with USGS, Academic Departments, and other applicable entities to:
  - Encourage geologic research in the National Monument
  - Provide opportunities for student internships to prepare interpretive signs and pamphlets, establish representative rock mineral collections and perform research on the unique geologic features within the National Monument, such as the Martinez Mountain Landslide, the Santa Rosa Shear Zone, and ancient Lake Cahuilla features.

#### No Action Alternative D.

Geologic interpretation would continue to occur on a case-by-case basis including several guided walks, trips to schools, and answers to questions from the public as they arise.

#### **Geologic Resources – Protection and Preservation**

- The following protection and preservation strategy for geologic resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C). The strategy for protecting and preserving geologic structures in the National Monument would consist of the following actions:

- Establish a priority for acquisition of areas to protect geological resources
- Restrict the collecting of rocks and minerals within the “tufa” and “coral reef formations” located along the ‘watermark’ of the ancient Lake Cahuilla. These areas should be monitored periodically so as to confirm that the tufa and reef formations are not being disturbed or removed.

#### No Action Alternative D.

Casual collecting of rocks and minerals is allowed as described in the “Collection of materials” section of this document. Acquisition guidance provided in CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and Forest Service SBNF Management Plan (1989).

#### **2.B.5. Management of Educational Resources**

Public information would be designed to promote protection and understanding of the National Monument’s values and resources through increased awareness, appreciation and experience. Visitor information would follow any guidance on signing, interpretive exhibits, displays or facilities determined in this Plan. Public outreach and education for all National Monument visitors would emphasize resource protection and visitor safety. The National Monument Interpretive Concept Plan (2002) will serve as a basis for Interpretation within the National Monument.

#### **Educational Resources - Public Information**

There is a need to increase the visibility and access into the National Monument through providing information to the public. Because of the complexity and number of land



management agencies and partners in the National Monument, the coordination of efforts around messaging will require extra attention. With a priority of the presentation of National Monument messages being consistent among diverse agencies, staff would work with each to determine and encourage parameters that support representation of the National Monument location, expanse, legislation, regulations, site resources, safety issues and points of interest.

- The following public information strategy for educational resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, & C).

The public information strategy would consist of a community and partner-based approach and would include the following actions:

- Provide the public with information on visitation, allowable use, recreation, and events in the National Monument across jurisdictional boundaries (enhance the website, brochures, video, etc.)
- Educate the public about the vision and mission of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) and the National Monument and Forest Service Special Areas.
- Contribute to the development of a National Monument map of trails and take a major role in the sales and/or distribution.
- Use informational tools (“Leave No Trace”, etc.) to minimize resource damage to areas of high visitor use and/or areas with sensitive resources.
- Provide specific messages recognizing varieties of recreation opportunities (i.e. equestrians, backpackers, hikers etc.) and how each user group can prevent resource damage.
- Emphasize the need for visitors to be aware of and respect safety and the private property within and adjacent to National Monument lands.
- Produce a newsletter that presents National Monument messages, experiences, visuals, and reviews.
- Promote the recognition of the National Monument and facilitate the use of the National Monument logo among partner agencies.
- Encourage use of existing interpretive sites within the National Monument (Cahuilla Tewanet, Visitor Center, Sawmill Trailhead, etc.)

No Action Alternative D.

The BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and Forest Service SBNF Management Plan (1989). The National Monument Interpretive Concept Plan (2002) will serve as a basis for Interpretation within the National Monument

**Educational Resources – Signs**

National Monument recognition and unity are most easily established through visual images, and consistency is the key to building recognition, credibility, and effectiveness in a design.

- The following sign strategy for educational resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

The following would be implemented as a sign strategy:

- Enhance communication through regulatory, informative and interpretive signs.
- Install entry signs and interpretive/orientation panels (highway, trail, information centers, etc.)
- Use the National Monument logo as an essential element in design and development.
- Work with partner agencies, tribes, and jurisdictions to provide input in the development of non-federal lands signs.
- Install signs on trails designating uses allowed.

No Action Alternative D. The BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and Forest Service SBNF Management Plan (1989). Direction provided within the National Monument Interpretive and Environmental Education Concept Plan (2002). National and state sign policy would continue to provide guidance throughout National Monument.

### **Educational Resources - Education and Interpretation**

Interpretive displays and programs would develop messages for National Monument visitors by using multiple media. Interpretive tools would enhance visitor understanding of resource values by engaging their interests, curiosity, and senses. The interpretive theme of the National Monument is: *From desert oases to granite peaks, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument encompasses a land of contrasts and a story of adaptations.*

- The following education and interpretation strategy for educational resources is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

Seek partnerships with Tribes, agencies, and volunteers to:

- Provide the public with programs/field trips/outreach/ exhibitions
- Design a traveling exhibit to be used both on-site at the Visitor Center and at community events
- Contribute to community-sponsored events and work with schools and museums
- Develop National Monument Visitor Center exhibitions,
- Develop volunteer programs and partnerships
- Establish a process for educational groups to visit the National Monument outlining what steps are necessary to bring large groups.
- Encourage use/visitation by groups in relation to availability of facilities, staff and safe trail conditions.
- Consider opportunities where appropriate for contracting with private sector businesses, non-profit organizations, academic, state, and local agencies to develop outreach materials
- Coordinate with partners in seeking challenge cost share programs, in-kind contributions, and fee- for-service systems to support specific interpretation projects.

#### No Action Alternative D.

The BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and Forest Service SBNF Management Plan (1989). Direction provided within the National Monument Interpretive and Environmental Education Concept Plan (2002).

### **2.B.6. Management of Scientific Resources**

- The following scientific resources strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Alternative A, B, & C.

- Maintain current coverages of resources on GIS layers to assist with research and management
- Research promoting the understanding and increased knowledge of the National Monument resources would be encouraged, so long as proposed research was consistent with the conservation objectives, Land Health Standards, and Standards and Guidelines for the area of interest.
- Permits would be required for all research in the National Monument to track data being collected within the National Monument and to coordinate among various researchers and land management activities. A shared BLM-Forest Service permit form would be developed. Where applicable, research may be incorporated with interpretive programs occurring within the National Monument. All applications for research within the National Monument would be addressed and approved by the National Monument Manager.
- A listing of current research within the National Monument would be posted on the National Monument webpage with a link to relevant research information.
- Facilitate the transfer of research information to the public through periodic science forums.

#### No Action Alternative D.

Current management according to California Desert Conservation Area Plan (1980, as amended) and San Bernardino National Forest Plan (1989, as amended).

Permits are required for research, but no form exists. Letters are provided with reporting requirements and resource protection guidelines.

### **2.B.7. Management of Scenic Resources**

The BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended) provide guidance for protecting the visual qualities of the National Monument and the integrity of the landscape. Visual Resource Objectives applied through the BLM and Scenery Management System Levels applied through Forest Service planning processes provide visual resource classifications that are considered when management actions are proposed. Refer to Chapter 3, Section 3.H. for a description of the above classifications for scenic values within the National Monument.

- No additional actions regarding management of Scenic resources are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

### **2.B.8. Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses**

#### **Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses – Access**

Valid existing rights include a variety of BLM and Forest Service authorizations such as right-of-way grants, leases, permits and reciprocal agreements. Private land owners within the National Monument are assured access to their property as both the National Monument legislation and existing law requires the BLM and Forest Service to provide reasonable access to non-federally owned land that is surrounded by public land. BLM

and Forest Service would continue to accept applications for granting access to BLM administered lands where they are consistent with local comprehensive plans. Legal access may be provided to private lands within the National Monument via a right-of-way grant.

- The following strategy to secure access to Federal land within the Monument is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

Work with County, City, and private entities to secure legal access across non-federal land through key entry points, land where trails cross, etc. through: 1) easements, 2) acquisitions (see section 2.B.10), 3) agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with cities.

No Action Alternative D.

The BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Legal access across non-federal land is addressed on a case-by-case basis.

**Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses – Private Property Concerns**

The checkerboard nature of land ownership within and adjacent to National Monument boundaries necessitates a commitment by BLM and Forest Service to establish communication and cooperation with adjacent landowners and local communities.

- The following Private Property Owner strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

To enhance current relationships with private property owners, the following strategy would be adopted:

- BLM and Forest Service would engage in public outreach activities designed to keep adjacent landowners and local communities informed of new developments or activities related to the National Monument. A process would be developed to maintain lines of communication with private property owners.
- BLM and Forest Service would strive to build relationships with the surrounding community through numerous approaches including partnerships and collaborative projects. When possible, the BLM and Forest Service would use existing community resources for the development of outreach or educational materials.
- BLM and Forest Service would engage the surrounding communities in efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the resources of the National Monument through hands-on stewardship such as monitoring, restoration projects and scientific research.
- The BLM and Forest Service would identify and use common land management goals as a basis for developing voluntary collaborative projects with adjacent landowners and land users of the National Monument. These projects would be designed to resolve conflicts and promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of resources in the National Monument and on adjacent non-federal land.

No Action Alternative D.

The BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and Forest Service SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Both agencies would continue current outreach efforts and would address private property conflicts on a case-by-case basis

**Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses – Facility Development**

New facility development would be consistent with the purpose of the National Monument (resource values from legislation), the BLM habitat conservation objectives outlined in the BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and the Standards and Guidelines established through the Forest Service SBNF Management Plan (1989). All facilities, existing, newly acquired, jointly operated, or newly constructed, shall comply with current legislation regarding accessibility [The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968]. In addition, any new construction or alteration of existing facilities (including trails) would comply with state and local codes as well as impending federal legislation regarding the accessibility of the outdoor recreation environment. All existing and new facilities would be maintained, designed, and constructed according to BLM and Forest Service standards.

- The following facility development strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

Further guidance for facility development within the National Monument is provided below:

- Develop an architectural theme for the National Monument to set the stage for National Monument facilities, signs, outreach materials, etc.
- Facility development within the National Monument will be addressed on an as-needed basis. Upon the establishment of a need for a facility, the facility will be planned, located, and constructed so long as the proposed facility falls within the following parameters:
  - Prioritize facility placement in already disturbed areas
  - Require the promotion of the understanding and enjoyment of National Monument resources as the goal of any private party ventures and concessionaires
  - Furnish new toilet facilities as needed for health, safety, and resource protection
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of existing signs and interpretive sites and upgrade as needed
- Identify existing and proposed partner facility locations.

No Action Alternative D.

New facility development would be consistent with purpose of the National Monument (resource values from legislation), the BLM habitat conservation objectives outlined in the BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and the Standards and Guidelines established through the Forest Service SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). All facilities, existing, newly acquired, jointly operated, or newly constructed, shall comply with current legislation regarding accessibility. In addition, any new construction or alteration of existing facilities (including trails) would comply with state and local codes as well as impending federal legislation regarding the accessibility of the outdoor recreation

environment. All existing and new facilities would be maintained, designed, and constructed according to BLM and Forest Service standards.

### **Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses – Visitor Use with Regard to Hwy 74**

Highway 74 provides access from the desert floor of the National Monument near the Visitor Center to the upper elevation access points. This highway is a commuter road for those traveling between the Coachella Valley and the Pinyon Community and beyond. BLM and Forest Service need to address use of this road by visitors to the National Monument by working with Caltrans and city and County transportation agencies.

- The following Highway 74 strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

Complete a Memorandum of Understanding between Caltrans, Forest Service and BLM to identify the process for communication, cooperation and consultation regarding activities along Highway 74. Items to address include designing future safe interpretive opportunities, monitoring vehicle use along Highway 74, coordinating outreach regarding safe passage through National Monument on Highway 74, coordinating grant and funding applications, future Corridor Management Plans, etc. Identify cooperative grants with local city and county transportation agencies.

#### No Action Alternative D.

The CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Existing MOU between Caltrans and Forest Service identifies maintenance actions, weed management, etc. BLM and Forest Service would continue to provide input to Caltrans regarding maintenance needs, safety concerns, and planning documentation review.

### **Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses – Monitoring Visitor Use**

A component of resource management is an understanding of levels of use and potential impacts by visitors to the National Monument.

- The following Visitor Use monitoring strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

#### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

Monitor visitor use in the National Monument by using a variety of methods, including counters at the visitor center, trip reports for hikers, permits required for special uses, use surveys, questionnaires, studying trail use patterns, monitoring attendance at programs, installing trail registers. Utilize visitor information gathered at city visitor centers.

#### No Action Alternative D.

The BLM CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) and Forest Service SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended).

## **Management of Visitation, Facilities, Safety, and Uses – Hazards to Facility, Visitor and Public Safety**

- The following Safety strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

BLM and Forest Service will develop a structures map identifying defensible structures to assist in fire and other hazard management. BLM and Forest Service will establish meetings twice a year with Riverside Mounted Police Unit, Desert Sheriffs Search and Rescue and other agencies with public safety responsibility within the National Monument to increase effectiveness with which response to emergencies is coordinated throughout the National Monument. Law Enforcement staff will establish meetings at least twice a year to discuss enforcement coordination and emerging enforcement trends throughout the National Monument.

### No Action Alternative D.

BLM CDCA Plan (1980 as amended) and Forest Service SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). BLM and Forest Service will continue to address hazards to visitors as each agency is made aware of specific concerns.

## **Management of Visitation, Facilities and Uses - Fire Plan**

Fire Management will continue according to Fire Management Direction outlined through existing BLM and Forest Service guidance (Refer to Chapter 3, Section 3.M). There is a need for the development of a comprehensive fire plan for the National Monument following the completion of the draft management plan.

- The following future Fire Plan is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

### Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

Coordinate with Tribes, Bureau of Indian Affairs, California Department of Forestry, Riverside County Fire Department, Cathedral City Fire Department, Palm Springs Fire Department, State Parks and community fire safe councils to develop a Comprehensive Fire Plan for the National Monument to be initiated upon completion of the National Monument Management Plan consistent with priorities set forth in the National Fire Plan. Items to be addressed include:

- Review fire management responsibility, direct protection areas, and coordinated response.
- Establish vegetation management requirements throughout National Monument. Establish clear fire history throughout the National Monument.
- Address established vegetation and species-based needs for fire management throughout the National Monument.
- Identify any needed management direction regarding fuel breaks and access for emergency purposes.
- Include adaptive language such that emergencies and changing environment can be addressed.

### No Action Alternative D.

BLM CDCA Plan (1980 as amended) and Forest Service SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Current fire responsibility is shared between several fire agencies within the National Monument. Current Fire Management Plans (FMP) strategy within the Monument is to suppress 90% of the fire at 10 acres or less (est. 1/3 of Monument is in Wilderness status). Increased fuel loading, adequate suppression resources, protection of resources within the National Monument, and increase in man-caused fires from visitor use within the National Monument are existing factors that an updated Fire Management Plan needs to address.

## **Management of Visitation, Facilities and Uses – Uses**

### **Grazing**

The Secretaries shall issue and administer any grazing leases or permits in the National Monument in accordance with the same laws (including regulations) and Executive Orders followed by the Secretaries in issuing and administering grazing leases and permits on other land under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries. Nothing in the National Monument Act affects the grazing permit of the Wellman family (permittee number 12-55-3) on lands included in the National Monument.

No Grazing allotments occur on BLM managed land in the National Monument. One grazing allotment is on Forest Service land occurring within the National Monument. Grazing will be addressed in the San Bernardino National Forest Plan Revision (in progress).

- No actions pertaining to grazing are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

### **Proposals for New Land Uses**

Proposals for new land uses, such as for road access, communication sites, including cellular telephone, radio and microwave facilities, utility facilities, including electrical, telephone, water, and gas lines; along with temporary uses, such as commercial filming, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Only those uses that further the purpose for which the National Monument was established (Public Law 106-351, Appendix A) would be authorized.

Rights-of-way grants may be issued for access to roads and utility facilities, with all reasonable alternatives for off-National Monument placement considered. Temporary uses, such as commercial filming, may be authorized under revocable, non-possessory, and non-exclusive permits. BLM and Forest Service will regulate and control these rights-of-way facilities and any temporary uses in a manner to protect resources of the National Monument and to prevent unnecessary or undue environmental damage.

- No actions changing the current Special Use permitting process for BLM and Forest Service are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

### **2.B.9. Management of Water Resources**

#### **Water Resources - Surface and Ground Water Resources**

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by the Federal Clean Water Act (as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987) to reduce non-point source pollution to the maximum extent practicable. BMPs are considered the primary mechanisms to achieve California water quality standards. Properly functioning condition assessments and Standards and Guidelines for the Forest Service are additional methods to manage



water resources. All management activities and practices within the National Monument will be consistent with the Best Management Practices described in Chapter 3.

In addition to following the BMPs for achieving water quality standards, BLM and Forest Service would increase levels of interagency coordination as well as coordination with adjoining land managers through the following actions:

- The following water resources management strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B and C).

The BLM and Forest Service will coordinate with USGS, Tribes, Riverside County, local water districts, private water companies, and other private water users to enhance current efforts to manage surface and ground water by the following actions:

- Compile known locations of all springs, tinajas, oases, and streams within the National Monument and to identify potential pollution sources.
- Inventory groundwater quality, existing water wells, groundwater recharge areas, and the relationship of groundwater supplies to springs and oases within the National Monument.
- Determine water quality data throughout the National Monument, to establish coordinated water quality monitoring and compatible actions in times of drought.
- Establish unified management direction as a result of monitoring.
- A watershed assessment and Action Plan would be initiated

No Action Alternative D.

BLM and Forest Service would continue to manage water resources consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) as required by the Federal Clean Water Act (as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987) to reduce non-point source pollution to the maximum extent practicable. Properly functioning condition assessments and Standards and Guidelines for the Forest Service would continue to provide guidance for managing water resources. Hydrologic units will be identified to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> order in an interagency effort during FY 2003.

**2.B.10. Acquisition Strategy**

**Coordination of Acquisitions**

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy was created by the State of California to acquire and protect lands in the Coachella Valley, including the National Monument. The Conservancy's Governing Board includes a representative of BLM, Forest Service, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI), the County of Riverside, and each of the cities with land under its jurisdiction in the National Monument. In addition to regular bimonthly meetings of the Conservancy, periodic meetings of agency managers and acquisition staff have occurred to maintain ongoing coordination of the acquisition program.

Future acquisition of private land within the National Monument, by either Federal agency, would occur with voluntary participants only, and be conducted in accordance with existing laws and regulation pertaining to federal land exchanges and acquisition of non-federal property.

No single set of acquisition priorities for the National Monument as a whole currently exists, but rather a set of priorities that differs from agency to agency depending on the mission and purpose behind land management. These different priorities are not in conflict with each other; but they do underscore the importance of coordination among the various acquisition programs.

- To increase the level of coordination among partner within the National Monument regarding acquisitions, the following alternatives are proposed:

Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).

Establish bi-annual coordination meetings concerning the ongoing acquisition program to (1) identify existing and prospective funding sources, (2) acquisition opportunities based on the agencies' various priorities, (3) potential partnership opportunities, and (4) short term and long term actions to ensure that acquisitions are accomplished and funding opportunities pursued.

Adopt the following criteria to supplement existing BLM and Forest Service acquisitions policies:

- (1) Strategic significance. As noted above, different agencies may have different priorities based on their different missions. Among factors that may be significant to one agency or another are biological resource values, such as lambing habitat or water sources for bighorn sheep, right of way needs for trails or other access purposes, and cultural resource values. The MSHCP/NCCP will identify the areas with high biological value. The MSHCP/NCCP will also delineate trail alignments. The National Monument has not been comprehensively surveyed for cultural resources, but there is an existing body of information that can help to assess the likelihood of cultural resources to occur in various areas.
- (2) Threat level. Areas within the National Monument where there is a threat of development or a potential for a land use conflict are of high priority.
- (3) Opportunity. Lands sometime become available for acquisition through Tax Sale Agreement with the County Tax Collector. Other lands may be offered as a donation or sale at below market value if the owner wishes to seek tax credits or tax deductions. Such opportunities enable acquisitions to be made at relatively little cost.
- (4) Funding availability. Various agencies have access to various funding sources that typically have restrictions as to where or for what purposes the funds can be used.

No Action Alternative D

CDCA Plan Amendment (1980, as amended) and SBNF LRMP (1989, as amended). Regular bimonthly meetings of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, periodic meetings of agency managers and acquisition staff have occurred to maintain ongoing coordination of the acquisition program.

**2.B.11. Wilderness Inventory and Management**

A proposed Forest Service Wilderness Study Area was identified through the San Bernardino Forest Plan Revision Process. The Wilderness Inventory for this proposal is ongoing as a part of the Forest Plan Revision process. Through the National Monument

Scoping process, an additional 4,500 acres of BLM land (non-contiguous with BLM land, but contiguous with the previously proposed Forest Service Wilderness Area) was proposed as a larger Wilderness Study Area. The BLM will coordinate the evaluation of wilderness qualities and potential recommendations to Congress with the Forest Service process. Should an inventory of the BLM lands be required, an additional notification to the public outside of the National Monument Management Plan process will accompany future actions. Wilderness will continue to be managed consistent with current management plan guidance (Appendix H) and the Wilderness Act.

- No actions pertaining to Wilderness are proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

## **2.C. Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program**

### **2.C.1. Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program - Implementing the Plan**

Some land use plan decisions become effective immediately upon approval of the plan by the State Director and Regional Forester. Actions that require enforcement will need to be posted and a Federal Register Notice will be required. Other decisions are implemented as resources and funding become available (BLM Manual 1601 .06F), through Congress, grants or partnerships. All activities on the BLM-managed public lands within the National Monument must be in conformance with the approved CDCA Plan (1980, as amended) (43 CFR 1610.5-3) and the approved National Monument Management Plan. Subsequent actions to implement the CDCA Plan, subsequent activity/implementation level planning, and new projects are subject to further environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other environmental laws. These environmental documents may tier to the environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared for the respective land use plans for BLM and Forest Service and the National Monument Management Plan to provide the cumulative impact analysis for proposed activities. These proposed activities are also subject to laws, regulations and policies which provide guidance on how to protect sensitive resources, as site specific projects are implemented in conformance with the approved plan.

Accomplishment of the all proposed actions would depend on availability of funding. In addition to use of appropriated dollars, the agencies would seek funding from partners, tribes, local agencies, and volunteer groups. Implementing the actions proposed through the National Monument Management Plan with the assistance of partners is critical in effectively managing the resources that the National Monument was established to protect.

- The following Adaptive Management Strategy is proposed through the National Monument Management Plan.

#### **Preferred Plan (Alternative A, B, and C).**

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of implementing the National Monument Management plan, BLM and Forest Service will:

- Facilitate the development of a Technical Review Team to include all partners such as Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, California State Parks, Tribal administrators, State and Federal land representatives, to

implement strategies resulting from the National Monument Management Plan for management of National Monument resources and continued visitor service. Develop cooperative agreements with non-profit organizations and user groups to assist in management.

- Coordinate monitoring of resources within the National Monument with partner agencies and encourage citizen and volunteer organization involvement in monitoring.
- Prioritize monitoring of resources to address resources that are associated with highest levels of threat due to use.

#### Alternative D.

BLM and Forest Service will work to implement National Monument actions as funding becomes available.

#### **2.C.2. Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program - Plan Maintenance**

BLM land use plans shall be maintained (43 CFR 1610.5-4) to further refine or document previously approved decisions incorporated into the plan. Several of the alternatives are contingent upon the Trails Management Plan to be completed through the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

The final, approved Trails Management Plan would be updated in the CDCA Plan Amendment and the National Monument Plan through plan maintenance as uses or restrictions on the BLM-managed public lands would not change substantially. In the event that the Trails Management Plan is not completed, the land use designations established for the BLM-managed lands through the CDCA Plan Amendment would remain intact, until such time a subsequent Plan Amendment is deemed necessary.

Upon completion of the Forest Plan Revision, applicable decisions will be incorporated into the National Monument Plan through plan maintenance or plan amendment, as appropriate.

#### **2.C.3. Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program - Plan Monitoring**

The implementation of this Plan will be monitored to ensure that management actions follow prescribed management direction. Monitoring is an essential component of managing the resources that the National Monument was established to protect because it provides information on changes in resource use, condition, processes and trends. Monitoring also provides information on the effectiveness of management activities and strategies.

Monitoring will be an integral component of adaptive ecosystem management. Close coordination and interaction between monitoring and research are essential for this type of management. Data obtained through systematic and statistically valid monitoring can be used by scientist to develop research hypotheses related to priority issues.

The monitoring process will collect information in the most cost effective manner possible, and may involve sampling or remote sensing. Monitoring could be cost prohibitive if not designed carefully. Therefore, it will not be necessary or desirable to monitor every management action or direction. Unnecessary detail and unacceptable costs will be avoided by focusing on key monitoring questions and proper sampling methods. The level and intensity of monitoring will vary, depending on the sensitivity of the resource, process or trend and the scope of the proposed management activity.

Monitor designated wilderness regarding solitude, group size, and carrying capacity. As part of this process, the task force should develop use capacities for sensitive areas within the National Monument.

**Table 2-1: Policy and Management Guidance for Plan Implementation**

<b>POLICY and MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE</b>	
<b>ELEMENT</b>	<b>Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management</b>
Plan Monitoring	BLM and Forest Service shall monitor and evaluate the continued effectiveness of the National Monument Plan, as amended, in protecting and preserving the resources that the National Monument was established to protect and preserve.
Valid Existing Rights	Disposal of parcels with existing land use authorizations will be subject to valid existing rights. Subsequent actions may not have the effect of terminating any validly issued right-of-way, or customary operation, maintenance, repair and replacement activities in such rights-of-way.
Special Status Species	In order to minimize adverse impacts to special status species and to avoid future listings, the BLM and Forest Service would confer or consult as necessary, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on all special status species.
Cultural Resources	All management actions shall comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which provides for the protection of significant cultural resources. In furtherance of this Act, the 36 CFR 800 procedures shall be conducted pursuant to the State Protocol Agreement (1998) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer. An appropriate level of inventory shall be conducted for all actions with a potential to affect cultural resources.
Native American Concerns	For all public land activities adjacent to reservation lands, the BLM and Forest Service shall consult with the relevant tribes to determine potential impact to Native American trust assets and cultural values and to develop mitigation measures if needed.

<b>POLICY and MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE</b>	
Vector Prevention and Control	In addition to complying with California Health and Safety Code, all permittees on BLM and Forest Service land would be encouraged to consult with the local vector control agency to adopt the best methods for vector prevention and control, including minimizing any areas of standing water or managing such areas (in sand and gravel mines, etc.). BLM and Forest Service would consult with local vector control agencies to follow practices to decrease the probability of mosquito breeding and allow for routine vector surveillance (or abatement if necessary) and maintenance. BLM and Forest Service would include vector control in outreach programs and materials. The California Department of Health Services (DHS) is given broad powers to abate public nuisances and disease vectors within the state (see Health & Safety Code sections §§100170 and §§116100).
Mining and Utility Proposals	Proposed extraction sites will not be established in the National Monument, as all federal land within the National Monument is withdrawn from mineral extractions. Utility proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to review according to the National Environmental Policy Act.
Management of Lands Acquired through Exchange	Lands acquired by shall become part of the area within which they are located and managed accordingly.