

2.2.1 Alternative A

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

I. TRAIL USE

- Individuals would be requested to voluntarily refrain from using trails in essential bighorn sheep habitat from **February 15 to September 30**.

**Primary trails subject to the voluntary trail avoidance program,
February 15 through September 30**

East of Palm Canyon

- Skyline Trail (eastern trailhead is located at Desert Riders Park at the western terminus of the Museum Trail)

South Palm Springs

- Clara Burgess Trail
- Dry Wash Trail
- Fern Canyon Trail
- Vandeventer Trail
- Hahn Buena Vista Trail

Cathedral City / Rancho Mirage

- Cathedral Canyon Trail
- Dunn Road, except from Cathedral City Cove to the second BLM gate in Section 5, T5S, R5E

Palm Desert

- Art Smith Trail
- Carrizo Canyon Trail
- Schey Trail

La Quinta

- Bear Creek Canyon Trail, except for the segment in Section 13, T6S, R6E (immediately south of La Quinta Cove)
- Bear Creek Oasis Trail
- Guadalupe Trail
- Boo Hoff Trail

All other trails within bighorn sheep essential habitat would also be subject to the voluntary trail avoidance program, except those identified in the following table as open year round.

- Certain trails would be exempt from the Voluntary Trail Avoidance program and available for use year-round.

Primary trails excepted from the voluntary trail avoidance program.

These trails are open year round.

East of Palm Canyon

- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail – closed to mountain bikes
- North Lykken Trail
- Museum Trail
- South Lykken Trail
- Picnic Table Trail (located east of the South Lykken Trail)

South Palm Springs

- Araby Trail
- Shannon Trail
- Berns Trail
- Garstin Trail
- Henderson Trail
- Alexander Trail
- Goat Trails
- Eagle Canyon Trail
- Wild Horse Trail
- Andreas Hills connector trails with the Wild Horse Trail
- Palm Canyon Trail
- Indian Potrero Trail
- Potrero Canyon Trail

Cathedral City / Rancho Mirage

- Dunn Road from Cathedral City Cove to the second BLM gate in Section 5, T5S, R5E
- Bighorn Overlook Trail
- Mirage Trail (Bump and Grind) to the flat overlook

Palm Desert

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

La Quinta

- Segment of Bear Creek Canyon Trail in Section 13, T6S, R6E (immediately south of La Quinta Cove)
- La Quinta Cove to Lake Cahuilla Trail (includes the Morrow Trail and a portion of the Boo Hoff Trail)

Southern Santa Rosa Mountains

- Cactus Spring Trail
- Martinez Canyon Trail

U.S. Forest Service lands

All trails in essential bighorn sheep habitat

- Individuals would be requested to venture no more than 100 feet from trails for purposes of resting, nature study, or other similar activities.

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- The Santa Rosa Wilderness Area is closed to mechanized forms of transport, including mountain bikes and hang gliders, in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the California Desert Protection Act of 1994.
- All trail use within essential bighorn sheep habitat would be subject to monitoring to assess impacts of trail use on bighorn sheep.
- Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, trails would be open year-round for non-motorized use subject to existing regulations.
- Implementation of the voluntary trail avoidance program would be undertaken upon approval of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan.

II. CROSS-COUNTRY TRAVEL

- Individuals would be requested to voluntarily refrain from traveling cross-country in essential bighorn sheep habitat from **February 15 to September 30**.
- Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, cross-country travel would be allowed year-round subject to existing regulations.

III. CAMPING

- Individuals would be requested to voluntarily refrain from camping in essential bighorn sheep habitat from **February 15 to September 30**, except along trails not subject to the voluntary trail avoidance program (see "TRAIL USE").
- From **February 15 to September 30** in essential bighorn sheep habitat, individuals would be requested to camp no more than 100 feet from trails that are not subject to the voluntary trail avoidance program (see "TRAIL USE").
- Individuals would be required to camp *at least* 1/4 mile from water sources throughout the year.
- Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, camping would be allowed subject to existing regulations.

IV. DOGS

- In essential bighorn sheep habitat, dogs would be allowed only in designated areas.
- Dog owners would be required to keep dogs under restraint to ensure they do not freely roam.
- Leash restrictions would be enforced by city, state, and federal agencies.
- The following areas in essential bighorn sheep habitat would be approved for entry with dogs on leashes:
 - P West of Cathedral City Cove
 - P Homme-Adams Park and adjacent lands in Palm Desert
 - P An area south of La Quinta Cove and outside designated critical bighorn sheep habitat would be open to entry with dogs
- Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, dogs would be allowed subject to existing regulations.

Exceptions to the prohibition of dogs

Persons requiring accompaniment by a seeing-eye dog, and those using dogs to facilitate search and rescue or law enforcement operations are exempt from the prohibition. The prohibition also does not apply to dogs inside a motor vehicle.

V. NEW TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- Proposals for new trail development inside and outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Trail construction in essential bighorn sheep habitat may only occur October 1 to February 14.

VI. TRAIL REROUTING

- Proposals for trail reroutes in essential bighorn sheep habitat would be considered on a case-by-case basis, with the following criteria applied:
 - P Benefits to bighorn sheep or other sensitive wildlife would occur
 - P Protection of other resource values (e.g., cultural resources, soils) would be considered.
 - P Habitat use and distribution data support decisions.
- Trail re-routing in essential bighorn sheep habitat may only occur October 1 to February 14.
- Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, proposals for trail reroutes would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

VII. TRAIL DECOMMISSION AND REMOVAL

- Proposals to decommission and remove trails inside and outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Trail removal in essential bighorn sheep habitat may only occur October 1 to February 14.

VIII. MURRAY HILL FACILITIES

- Picnic tables and equestrian hitching posts at the summit of Murray Hill would remain in place.

IX. NONCOMMERCIAL, NONCOMPETITIVE ORGANIZED GROUP ACTIVITIES

- Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups would be requested to voluntarily refrain from using trails in essential bighorn sheep habitat from **February 15 to September 30**, except for trails that are not subject to the voluntary trail avoidance program (see ATRAIL USE@).
- Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups of 10 to 24 individuals would be requested to obtain a free permit for activities in essential bighorn sheep habitat throughout **January 1 – December 31**.
- Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized groups of 16 to 24 individuals would be requested to break into groups with no more than 15 individuals in any one group, and attempt to maintain at least 2-mile separation between groups when entering designated wilderness areas.
- Noncommercial, noncompetitive organized group of 25 or more individuals would be required to obtain a *special recreation permit* from the BLM when recreating on BLM-managed lands in bighorn sheep habitat, except when exemptions apply.

- *Special Recreation Permits* would be issued through existing BLM regulatory processes, including compliance with NEPA and the Endangered Species Act. Compliance with stipulations developed by the BLM and in consultation with the USFWS would be mandatory.
- All permits would be issued only for use of trails and areas where and when the voluntary trail and cross-country avoidance programs are not in effect.
- Outside essential bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, noncommercial, noncompetitive organized group activities would be allowed on BLM-managed land, subject to existing regulations.

X. NON-MOTORIZED COMMERCIAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Non-motorized commercial recreation activities may be permitted in essential bighorn sheep habitat where and when the voluntary trail avoidance program does not apply.
- A *special recreation permit* would be required for non-motorized commercial recreation activities on BLM-managed lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains except when exemptions apply.
- *Special Recreation Permits* would be issued through existing BLM regulatory processes, including compliance with NEPA and the Endangered Species Act. Compliance with stipulations developed by the BLM and in consultation with the USFWS would be mandatory.

XI. MOTORIZED COMMERCIAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- Motorized commercial recreation activities would be prohibited year-round in essential bighorn sheep habitat except on Dunn Road.
 - P *Dunn Road:*** Motorized commercial recreation activities may be permitted **October 1 to February 14** only on BLM-managed portions of Dunn Road, subject to issuance of a *special recreation permit*.
- A *special recreation permit* would be required for motorized commercial recreation activities on BLM-managed lands, including vending associated with recreational use, except when exemptions apply.
- *Special Recreation Permits* would be issued through existing BLM regulatory processes, including compliance with NEPA and the Endangered Species Act. Compliance with stipulations developed by the BLM and in consultation with the USFWS would be mandatory.

XII. COMPETITIVE RECREATION EVENTS

- Competitive recreation events may be permitted in bighorn sheep habitat where and when the voluntary trail avoidance program does not apply.
- A *special recreation permit* would be required for all competitive recreation use of BLM-managed lands, except when exemptions apply (see Appendix X).
- *Special Recreation Permits* would be issued through existing BLM regulatory processes, including compliance with NEPA and the Endangered Species Act. Compliance with stipulations developed by the BLM and in consultation with the USFWS would be mandatory.

XIII. MOTORIZED-VEHICLE USE OF TRAILS

- Motorized vehicles would be prohibited on all trails in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains except for motorized vehicles specifically approved for trail maintenance and construction projects.
- Approval for use of trails by motorized vehicles for trail maintenance projects in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Motorized-vehicle use of trails may be authorized only where and when the voluntary trail avoidance program is not in effect.

XIV. PUBLIC OUTREACH

- An information and education program addressing all management prescriptions herein described, upon approval, would be implemented.