# E. Public Use Elements

The following are proposed objectives and actions for Native Americans, minerals, recreation and acquisition sections. Action items are prioritized in the Plan Operation section. Priority will generally be given to inventory, monitoring and evaluation in order to gather information necessary to appropriately implement other management actions.

### 1. Native Americans

Native Americans have expressed a strong cultural and religious interest in the CPNA. It is the BLM's responsibility to recognize traditional Native American cultural and religious values as an important part of our Nation's heritage. The managing partners will address potential disruption of traditional expression or maintenance of these values that may result from their decisions. BLM will host periodic coordination meetings with Native American communities and Advisory Council to discuss current management issues and concerns, along with fulfilling our legal responsibilities.

<u>Goal 1:</u> Provide the opportunity for Native Americans to participate in planning and consultation processes by identifying their cultural, religious and traditional values which could be affected by proposed management actions. Access to "Traditional Use Areas" by Native Americans with cultural or traditional ties to this region is fully supported and encouraged by the managing partners.

Native Americans and the managing partners will develop guidelines to identify groups and individuals having cultural ties to the CPNA.

**Objective 1.1:** Identify, and establish communication with, Native American groups and individuals having traditional and cultural ties to the CPNA.

- Action 1.1a: Develop a list of Native American groups having cultural ties with the CPNA through efforts with the California Native American Heritage Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, regional Native Americans, the BLM California State and Santa Fe Offices and through demographic research.
- Action 1.1b: Encourage the formation of a Native American Advisory Council consisting of interested individuals from Chumash, Salinan, and Yokuts tribal groups. The managing partners will continue consultation with groups that don't wish to participate in the Advisory Council.
- Action 1.1c: Logistical support for the Native American Advisory Council will be supplied by the BLM.

**Objective 1.2:** Preserve the opportunity for Native Americans to practice traditional beliefs within the CPNA.

Action 1.2a: Allow Native Americans to utilize Painted Rock and other areas on the CPNA in appropriate manners upon agreement of the Native American Advisory Council and the managing partners. Access by non-Native Americans to certain areas may be restricted during times of use by Native Americans.

**Potential Impact:** General surface disturbing impacts are not likely to exceed 5 acres for the life of the plan.

**Mitigation Measure:** The minor impacts will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general surface disturbing impacts, and by the standard operating procedures.

**Potential Impact:** Minimal general wildlife harassment impacts are possible.

**Mitigation:** The measures described above should be adequate for the minimal level of disturbance anticipated.

### 2. Extractable Minerals

The probability of successful exploration and commercial development is low, based on the history of activity. Exploration for oil and gas could occur if the price of oil rose significantly from its current level, but that is not projected to occur over the plan life.

**Goal 1:** Manage the exploration and development of oil and gas in a manner compatible with the mission of the CPNA.

While the managing partners administer most of the surface rights within the CPNA, the mineral estate was privately retained on nearly all lands acquired during the last 10 years. The CPNA will remain open to leasing and drilling for oil and gas with major environmental constraints.

**Objective 1.1:** Manage leasing subject to constraints specific to the CPNA published in the final version of the Caliente RMP.

- Action 1.1a: Inform lessees of the sensitive resources and special constraints.
- Action 1.1b: Oil, gas and geothermal leasing at Soda Lake will be subject to a No Surface Occupancy stipulation as specified in the Caliente RMP.

**Objective 1.2:** Manage the existing oil producing acreage on the southern side of the Caliente Range to maintain ecological processes and to assure lease restoration. It is estimated that 30 acres of habitat will be disturbed in the development of these producing areas within the life of the plan.

- Action 1.2a: Design roads, well pads and facilities to impact and fragment the least acreage practicable. New facilities should be designed to maintain natural drainage and runoff patterns, reduce visual impacts and to reduce hazards to wildlife, especially California condors.
- Action 1.2b: Wells which are not commercially developed will be reclaimed to natural contours and vegetation as soon as appropriate. Restoration methods including timing of planting, acceptable species and evaluation criteria are available from the BLM office.
- Action 1.2c: BLM inspection staff will inspect facilities for environmental compliance on federal lands. Shut-in or abandoned wells will be inventoried during a one-time inspection and evaluated for final abandonment and restoration prioritization. Action 1.2d:

  Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs), Sundry Notices (leasehold activities

requiring surface disturbance), and Final Abandonment Notices will be reviewed using the existing NEPA approval process. The managing partners will be kept informed of all oil and gas activities.

**Objective 1.3**: Exploration wells and geophysical surveys will be conducted with the least impact practicable to sensitive resources. It is estimated that 20 acres of habitat will be disturbed by exploration wells and access roads and 125 acres of habitat disturbed by geophysical surveys during the life of the plan.

Action 1.3a: Design

Design roads, well pads, and facilities for exploratory wells to impact and fragment the least acreage practicable. New facilities should be designed to maintain natural drainage and runoff patterns, reduce visual impacts, and to reduce hazards to wildlife, especially California condors. Non-commercial wells will be restored as soon as appropriate using BLM restoration methods.

Action 1.3b:

Geophysical surveys will be conducted on roads to the maximum extent practicable. When this is not possible, sensitive resources will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. After the data gathering phase resource specialists will evaluate impacts and recommend remediation when appropriate. In particular, areas with erosion potential may need restoration after the geophysical operation.

**Potential Impact:** General surface disturbing impacts are likely. Exploratory and development wells require scraping and leveling for the well pads and access roads. Geophysical operations require shaking the underlying rock strata by either blasting charges in shallow wells or from large trucks with vibrating plates pressed against the ground.

**Mitigation:** These impacts will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general surface disturbing impacts, and by the standard operating procedures.

**Potential Impacts:** Potentially hazardous oil field operations, whether on or off federal leases, can lead to large and permanent environmental impacts. The loud and sometimes visually intrusive aspects of drilling operations may impact the environment.

**Mitigation:** Require up-grading of existing facilities if found to be potentially unsafe. Reduce visual impacts through project design.

**Potential Impact:** General wildlife harassment impacts are possible.

**Mitigation:** The measures described above should be adequate for the moderate level of disturbance anticipated.

**Potential Impact:** General wildlife collision impacts are possible. Proposals in areas historically or currently frequented by California condors will potentially impact this species.

**Mitigation:** The measures described above should adequately address these potential impacts. Potential impacts to California condors will be identified and mitigation measures developed in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Condor Recovery Program.

**Goal 2:** Manage the development of solid mineral resources in a manner compatible with the mission of the CPNA.

Of solid mineral resources, only sodium minerals have been commercially extracted within the boundary of the CPNA. Gypsum is being commercially extracted from a pit north of State Highway 58, and from a pit along Belmont Road in the California Valley. Sand and gravel is being extracted for road maintenance within the CPNA. Although several other solid mineral commodities occur within the CPNA, it not expected that any will be prospected or extracted.

**Objective 2.1:** Conduct solid mineral exploration and development in a manner that maintains ecological processes.

Action 2.1a: Mineral exploration and development will be conducted to minimize impacts to sensitive resources by using the least area feasible, avoiding sensitive resources as practicable, reducing diversions of sheet or drainage runoff, avoiding fragmenting important community components, reducing visual impacts, and restoring land to natural contours and vegetation after completion. Sand and gravel extraction for road maintenance will be limited to that needed for local government (County) and managing partners. It is estimated that 25 acres will be disturbed during the life of the plan for the extraction of sand and gravel.

Action 2.1b: Conduct validity examinations for mining claims and operations proposed under the mining laws.

Action 2.1c: Collect and digitize mineral estate ownership, lease and mining claim owners within the CPNA.

**Potential Impacts:** General surface disturbing impacts are likely.

**Mitigation:** These impacts will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general surface disturbing impacts, and by the standard operating procedures.

**Potential Impact:** Visual resources may be impaired.

**Mitigation:** To mitigate impairment of visual resources, every effort will be made to locate future sand and gravel pits out of sight.

**Potential Impact:** Minimal general wildlife harassment impacts are possible.

**Mitigation:** The measures described above should be adequate for the moderate level of disturbance anticipated.

### 3. Recreation

The CPNA provides the public with many opportunities to enjoy and learn about the unique natural features found in the area. Birding, especially for sandhill cranes and long-billed curlews, nature photography, hunting, wildflower touring, Painted Rock visits, and weekend country drives have been a part of the Carrizo experience for many years. The reintroduction of tule elk and pronghorn antelope have brought additional interest and visitors. Wild pig hunting has increased hunter activity from primarily deer and quail seasons to a year-long stream of activity.

Recreation-related activities create challenges for management and protection of sensitive biological and cultural resources. Visitation has increased over the last few years and will continue to increase as the public becomes more aware of the area. Therefore, it will be a critical element of this management plan to prevent new and eliminate existing incompatible public uses and recreation activities while promoting the optimum enjoyment of the area. When possible, recreational development will be encouraged outside of the CPNA, such as a full-service campground which might be feasible on privately owned land.

Recreation management is a vital part of the overall CPNA management strategy. It should be guided by two principal objectives: providing a natural setting, and providing a special type of visitor experience. Both objectives are important, but achieving them may result in conflict. Because a facility-oriented approach is inappropriate in the CPNA, approaches based on use management, visitor behavior and public education must be stressed.

Collecting visitor data and monitoring results of management actions are essential to improve management. Data has been and will continue to be collected to provide accurate, systematic, and reliable information for recreational management decisions.

#### a. Facilities

Certain facilities, such as trails and interpretive exhibits as described in the Interpretive Prospectus (Technical Appendix), are desirable to educate the public and direct visitors to points of interest and to help prevent unintentional degradation of the resources. Access must be considered when offering visitor services and must be incorporated in any new facility design or rehabilitation.

Goal 1: Provide recreational facilities including trails and interpretive exhibits.

**Objective 1.1:** Develop facilities which would enhance public enjoyment and educational experiences while minimizing impact to resources and existing uses.

- Action 1.1a: Design facilities to have the least adverse impact possible to resources and existing uses.

  Monitor impacts associated with visitor use and facility development.
- Action 1.1b: Provide facilities at the Painted Rock Parking Area and interpretation on a portion of the Painted Rock Trail.

The Painted Rock Project Plan (Technical Appendix) specifies development of the parking lot to accommodate twenty cars and two buses, picnic tables, toilet facilities, and a small information kiosk. An interpretive plaque will be located on the trail to depict the story of Painted Rock and the surrounding environment. Self-guided trail brochures will be available at the education center and at the trailhead. No signs or facilities of any kind will be located at the rock site in order to make the area as natural as possible, and to respect Native American concerns and traditions.

- Action 1.1c: Develop a parking area along Elkhorn road near Wallace creek that will include an interpretive Kiosk. A short trail will lead from the parking area to the Fault.
- Action 1.1d: Develop an trail, approximately 1 mile long, along Soda Lake near the overlook to interpret the different plant communities. This trail will focus impacts in certain areas to help protect the fragile resources.

A portion of this trail is already being used by visitors who stop at the overlook and walk to Soda Lake. A brochure will be developed to identify plants and to provide visitors with a sense of the importance of the area.

- Action 1.1e: Remove the plaques from the top of the hill at the Soda Lake Overlook and relocate them at a lower elevation to restore the visual integrity of the site. A toilet facility will be located at the parking area.
- Action 1.1f: Develop a roadside pullout with a kiosk at the southern end of Soda Lake road.
- Action 1.1g: Use traffic counters, trail registers and visitor questionnaires to monitor visitor use and requirements.

**Potential Impact:** General surface disturbing impacts are likely. Trail construction and maintenance will likely be less than 5 acres over the life of the plan. Trail construction along Soda Lake could result in disturbance to the lake's edge environment. Fairy shrimp, known to occur in Soda Lake, may be effected by such environmental changes. Kiosk construction, roadside pullouts and parking areas will require 5 acres of surface disturbance. Most of the surface disturbance required for the Painted Rock parking area has occurred and impacts have been analyzed.

**Mitigation:** The impacts will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general surface disturbing impacts, and by the standard operating procedures. Soda Lake Trail will be designed with input from fairy shrimp experts to assure a least impacting project.

**Potential Impact:** General wildlife harassment impacts are possible. Trail use along Soda Lake could result in increased disturbance to roosting sandhill cranes and long-billed curlews and if severe, cause changes in roosting behavior. Currently the birds are subjected to disturbance by humans along Soda Lake Road and from the east side of the Soda Lake.

**Mitigation:** The measures described above should be adequate for the minimal level of disturbance anticipated. Birds roosting in Soda Lake are currently subjected to more dispersed and erratic disruption by human visitors. Access should be closed west of Simmler-Soda Lake Road during the period of use by sandhill cranes. The lake trail will tend to focus human use thereby allowing the roosting birds to habituate to that level and location of disturbance. Information available at the proposed Soda Lake kiosk will include the importance of minimizing disturbance to roosting birds. Even with increased visitation, the birds will be less disturbed with the trail and restricted human use enforced on the east side of Soda Lake than they are currently.

### 1. Camping

In the past camping has been allowed throughout the area. Most of the camping demand has focused on activities related to hunting and birding. To prevent impacts on sensitive areas and to provide for the needs of the visiting public, designated camping areas have become necessary. Only those areas that will result in minimize impacts to resources will be considered as designated camping areas (See Map #3).

**Objective 1.2**: Provide designated camping areas and related facilities compatible with the goals of the CPNA.

- Action 1.2a: Designated camping areas identified in this plan will be monitored for impacts and visitor use surveys will be made to determine present and future demands.
- Action 1.2b: Limit overnight camping to 14 days in any 30 day period, no more than 28 days in a one year, and to designated camping areas, except as specified in writing by the Caliente Resource Area Manager.
- Action 1.2c: Develop the Selby parking area as a campground.

This facility will have toilets, fire rings, water, tables with shade structures compatible with the landscape, 15 individual sites and capability for group camping. Horse gates will be installed to provide access to the Caliente Mountains. A kiosk will show private holdings in the area and provide information on shooting restrictions, camping rules, and methods of reducing impacts to sensitive resources. Horse corrals will be located adjacent to the campground and water should be supplied via Five Willows Spring or the Selby well. The total size of the area will be approximately 5 acres. A preplan has been approved for this site (Technical Appendix) and a project plan will be developed in plan year one. This campground will be the first developed camping facility.

- Action 1.2d: Develop the KCL Ranch headquarters or other suitable location as a general purpose overnight camping facility This facility will have toilets, fire rings, tables with shade structures, and 15-20 individual sites and capability for group camping. A kiosk will be located within the campground. Horse corrals will be available on site and a horse gate will be installed in the perimeter fence. The total size of the area will be approximately 5 acres.
- Action 1.2e: Portions of the Temblor and Caliente Mountains will be designated camping areas allowing for car, tent, backpack, or horse camping (Map #3). Low impact ("primitive") and horse camping will be allowed along the Caliente ridge and within the WSA. No facilities will be located within this designated camping area.
- Action 1.2f: If additional camping areas are required, evaluations of potential sites will be based on, but not limited to, potential for deleterious environmental impacts, accessibility to all-weather roads, size of the area, appropriate location for visitor interest and use, availability of water, viewshed and VRM impacts, and security.

**Potential Impact:** General surface disturbing impacts will occur. The disturbance will include complete site preparation on approximately 5 acres at each campground, moderately increased by foot traffic immediately around the campgrounds or designated camp sites, and negligible beyond 200 yards from the campgrounds. The concentration of visitor use may increase the likelihood of burrow collapse by humans, pack animals, and pets. Cultural resources may also be compromised adjacent to these concentrated use areas. It is assumed that these impacts will be detected to within 200 yards of the campgrounds. This encompasses an area of 29 acres around each campground, not including the campground. Similar impacts may occur rarely up to 400 yards from the campgrounds, an additional area of 93 acres around each campground.

**Mitigation:** Most impacts associated with camping will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general surface disturbing impacts, and by the standard operating procedures. In order to reduce impacts adjacent to camping areas, pack animals will be permitted only in designated areas. Pets must

be under the control of their owners at all times. Information kiosks will contain information about sensitive resources and how visitors can reduce impacts. Restricting camping to designated areas will reduce overall the amount of ground disturbance and focus it in areas where impacts to sensitive resources can be mitigated. Data on visitor use and resource conditions will be gathered to assist management in evaluating the effectiveness of management in attaining project goals.

**Potential Impact:** General wildlife harassment impacts are likely. Preparing the campgrounds will require removal of most vegetation, except large trees, and blading of the site. Most species will be permanently displaced as a result. Some species will be attracted to the trees and refuse generated by the campers. Immediately adjacent to the campgrounds wildlife will be subject to increased human disturbance. The intensity of the disturbance will be related to the distance from the campground and the steepness of the terrain. Close, level areas will receive the most disturbance. Highest numbers of campers will likely occur during the fall and spring. The spring period, when many wildlife species are attending young, will probably result in the most serious harassment. Generally, dispersed camping in designated areas may also cause disruptions in natural animal behavior. This type of camping will tend to concentrate in areas favored by humans and will have impacts similar to campgrounds. More dispersed camping will mostly result in short-term, transitory impacts. However, it can be anticipated that the location of camp sites will occasionally occur at times critical to species' survival or reproduction (for example next to a kit fox pupping den or within a mountain plover foraging or roosting area). Increased visitation to campgrounds along access roads will be addressed in the Infrastructure portion of the plan.

**Mitigation:** Most impacts associated with camping will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general wildlife harassment impacts, and by the standard operating procedures. In order to reduce impacts adjacent to camping areas, pack animals will be permitted only in designated areas. Pets must be under the control of their owners at all times. Information kiosks will contain information about sensitive resources and what visitors can do to reduce impacts. Campgrounds should be kept free of refuse to reduce the likelihood of attracting wildlife, and signs prohibiting wildlife feeding will be posted. Restricting camping to designated areas as described above will reduce overall the amount of wildlife harassment and focus it in areas where impacts to sensitive resources can be mitigated. Data on visitor use and resource conditions will be gathered to assist management in evaluating the effectiveness of management in attaining project goals.

## **b.** Hunting

As land was acquired in the CPNA, recreational hunting became more significant because of the new availability of public land and because of improved access. The most popular hunting areas have included the Temblor and Caliente Mountain Ranges with emphasis on wild pig, tule elk and upland game birds.

Hunting is allowed and encouraged in the CPNA and will continue to be one of the principal recreational uses. However, the use of lead bullets in hunting big game, particularly wild pigs, could present a potential impact to the California condor from lead ingestion while feeding on carrion. Outreach efforts will stress the hazards of lead in animal remains. Hunter information meetings, sportsmen's clubs, and other related gatherings offer opportunities to explain the condor recovery program and emphasize techniques for preventing the loss of condors from lead poisoning.

**Goal 2:** Provide opportunities for hunting consistent with the mission.

**Objective 2.1**: Manage hunting and shooting in a manner compatible with the goals of the CPNA.

- Action 2.1a: All sections of the California Fish and Game Code and Title 14, CCR, are in effect and will be enforced by any law enforcement officer.
- Action 2.1b: Monitor hunting to determine if conflicts exist with sensitive resources. The finding will determine if changes in hunting areas are warranted.
- Action 2.1c: Develop a hunter information guide with maps showing open and closed hunting areas, the mission of the CPNA, and use restrictions. Emphasis should be placed on special concerns for cultural resources and the California condor and its recovery.
- Action 2.1d: Direct visitors to established facilities outside the CPNA for target shooting.
- Action 2.1e: Close the area from Painted Rock to the Goodwin Education Center to the discharge of firearms because of the high visitor use in this area. (details in Supplemental Rules section)
- Action 2.1f: Establish a 1/4 mile radius closure for the discharge of firearms around the Selby and KCL campgrounds, Goodwin, Washburn and MU ranch headquarters, Soda Lake Overlook complex and the Wallace Creek interpretive site.

**Potential Impact:** Minimal general surface disturbing impacts are likely. Additionally, cultural resources can be inadvertently damaged. Game animals may occur in areas with high cultural sensitivity.

**Mitigation:** The minor impacts will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general surface disturbing impacts, and by the standard operating procedures. A concerted effort is needed to inform hunters and other users of the value of cultural resources and measures they can take to avoid damaging them.

**Potential Impact:** Minimal general wildlife harassment impacts are possible. Most hunter activity causes only brief disturbance to wildlife. Hunting around rock outcrops and water sources during the breeding season may cause harassment of wildlife.

**Mitigation:** The measures described above should be adequate for the minimal level of disturbance anticipated. Information about species attracted to rock outcrops and water sources during the breeding season should be made available to hunters.

### c. Other Recreation

Other recreation opportunities exist such as equestrian use, photography, sightseeing, and hiking. Group use and organized outings require BLM Special Recreation Use Permits (SRUPs) are required.

**Goal 3:** Permit other types of recreation if compatible with sensitive resources.

**Objective 3.1:** Allow SRUPs compatible with the goals and objectives of this plan.

Action 3.1a: A Special Recreation Use Permit or Letter of Authorization will be required for activities which are consistent with the management plan for organized groups of 20 or more people. Permits will be administered by the BLM in coordination with the managing partners.

Action 3.1b: Other recreational activities not identified in this plan will be denied if they are found to be incompatible with the sensitive resources or the mission of the CPNA. Examples include certain types of competitive and large group activities, such as motorcycle runs and organized equestrian events.

If a proposed event detracts from the natural, cultural, or esthetic values of the CPNA or poses a risk to those resources that could be avoided by simply moving the event outside of the Carrizo, then the application will be denied. Recreational activities that focus on the special resources of the Carrizo, benefit the Carrizo, or provide public education opportunities with no potential for causing negative impacts to those resources may be approved.

**Potential Impact:** Minimal general surface disturbing impacts are likely.

**Mitigation:** The minor impacts will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general surface disturbing impacts, and by the standard operating procedures.

Potential Impact: Minimal general wildlife harassment impacts are possible.

**Mitigation:** The measures described above should be adequate for the minimal level of disturbance anticipated.

### d. Interpretation

The CPNA is a place of unusual natural characteristics where management of recreation activities is necessary to preserve those characteristics for future generations. Interpretation will be used to facilitate education and management. The intent of this interpretive program is to foster within the visitor a sense of stewardship for natural and cultural resources, to enhance the visitor experience and promote volunteerism, and to increase public awareness of the mission.

**Goal 4:** Convey an understanding and appreciation of the unique resources so that visitors may enjoy and protect them.

**Objective 4.1:** Increase the understanding and awareness of the resource values of the CPNA and foster an interest in their protection.

Action 4.1a: Use the Interpretive Prospectus as an outline for CPNA interpretive services (Technical Appendix).

Action 4.1b: Continue developing outreach programs with local schools, Universities and special interest groups.

**Objective 4.2**: Complete the Guy L. Goodwin Education Center to enhance the educational and recreational enjoyment of visitors.

- Action 4.2a: Develop an operational strategy for the Goodwin Education Center including long term goals, funding and staffing by plan year two.
- Action 4.2b: Establish the Goodwin Education Center as the primary location for visitor information and educational materials.

Some uses of the Goodwin Education Center include a staging area for field trips and interpretive hikes, and a place to hold special events.

- Action 4.2c: Secure funding and complete interpretive exhibits in the Goodwin Education Center by plan year two.
- Action 4.2d: Establish a docent recruitment and training program to provide interpretive services and assist with public outreach. This will provide opportunities for public involvement.

**Potential Impact:** Minimal general surface disturbing impacts are likely.

**Mitigation:** The minor impacts will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general surface disturbing impacts, and by the standard operating procedures.

#### e. Vehicular Access

Vehicular access must be managed to minimize impacts to fragile resources. Off road vehicle travel is not allowed. Access will be provided, as described in Section III, Infrastructure and Administration, to make use of recreational opportunities as consistence with the mission.

<u>Goal 5:</u> Access will be provided to make use of recreational opportunities within the CPNA as consistent with the mission.

**Objective 5.1:** Provide access for recreation and to facilities where compatible with sensitive resources.

- Action 5.1a: Areas will be monitored each year to determine if routes should be closed permanently or seasonally. Closures are designed to reduce safety hazards (fire danger and washouts), impacts to sensitive resources and unnecessary damage to roads.
- Action 5.1b: Provide access to Painted Rock. The portion from Soda Lake Road to the Goodwin Education Center will be upgraded to an all-weather surface. Access from Selby Road will be maintained for administrative use and for groups having special permission.

**Potential Impact:** General surface disturbing impacts are likely and will be described in the Infrastructure portion of this plan.

**Mitigation:** Mitigation measures will be described in the Infrastructure portion of this plan.

**Potential Impact:** General wildlife harassment impacts are possible and will be described in the Infrastructure portion of this plan.

**Mitigation**: Mitigation measures will be described in the Infrastructure portion of this plan.

# 4. Lands Acquisition and Ownership

BLM, DFG, and TNC own 211,757 acres within the CPNA. There are 41,871 acres of private land remaining. The largest parcel is approximately 22,000 acres; the rest are less than 1,000 acres each. The managing partners will pursue acquisition of the remaining parcels to minimize the potential for incompatible land use.

**Goal 1:** Acquire remaining private lands to protect and enhance the natural and cultural values.

**Objective 1.1:** Acquire, from willing sellers, all remaining private lands within the boundaries of the CPNA.

- Action 1.1a: Acquire lands by donation, compensation, exchange or purchase. Lands will be acquired based on availability, biological or cultural values and management needs. There are approximately 145 separate land acquisitions remaining to be completed within the CPNA.
- Action 1.1b: Establish agreements or acquire easements to protect resources with owners of parcels which cannot be acquired in fee.
- Action 1.1c: Cooperate with SLO County to address private land development issues within the CPNA. Action 1.1d: Retain all acquired lands and original public land within the CPNA, but allow for exchange of parcels between BLM, TNC, and DFG if mutually beneficial for management purposes. Retain all original mineral rights on split estate lands.

**Objective 1.2:** DFG will add the non-DFG State land on Caliente Mountain to the CPER.

- Action 1.2a: DFG will secure an operational lease from the State Lands Commission for operation and maintenance of the State land on Caliente Mountain.
- Action 1.2b: DFG will manage the acquired property consistent with management activities on the remainder of the CPNA.

**Potential Impacts:** Minimal general surface disturbing impacts are likely.

**Mitigation:** The minor impacts will be adequately addressed by the mitigation measures described for the general surface disturbing impacts, and by the standard operating procedures.