



# East Mojave National Scenic Area



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

May 1988







# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Needles Resource Area

101 Spikes Road

P.O. Box 888

Needles, California 92363

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Final East Mojave National Scenic Area Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. The Final Plan was prepared after careful review of 327 written comments and nearly one hundred oral statements received during the Draft Plan's review period which ended on September 10, 1987. I would like to thank those of you who took the time to write to us or who came to one of our ten public meetings. Your contributions made a significant difference in the Final Plan.

The Final Plan has been printed separately from the Environmental Assessment (EA). Selected comments have been reproduced in the EA, along with BLM's response. To facilitate your review, comments were grouped together by subject matter as presented in the Draft Plan. Please note that planned action numbers in the Draft have in some cases been changed in the Final Plan. A comparison chart has been included in the Final Plan Summary on page x.

Because of the high level of interest in the East Mojave and this planning process, there will be a 45-day public review of the Final Plan. Comments received will be incorporated into the Record of Decision, which will formally approve the plan for implementation. Any changes to the Final Plan would be listed on an errata sheet.

Comments on the Final Plan should be received no later than June 27, 1988. The Record of Decision will be mailed to you approximately 45 days later. Should you have any question or require additional information, please contact John Bailey. Comments should be sent to:

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Sincerely,

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# East Mojave National Scenic Area

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

# FINAL

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## EAST MOJAVE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

The East Mojave region of the California Desert was designated a National Scenic Area in late 1980 by the Secretary of the Interior as an integral part of the California Desert Conservation Area. To explain what this designation implied, BLM prepared a statement of management philosophy in 1981 with assistance from interested members of the public and users of the area. The final East Mojave Plan is an extension of the Desert Plan's guidelines and policies, focused by the Philosophy Statement to more specifically address the issues facing the region. The management plan reviews all resources and uses in the Scenic Area, with primary attention on land tenure adjustment, off-highway vehicle use, enhancement of recreation opportunities, and improvement of the area's scenic quality. While the management plan does not propose a change in direction from the Desert Plan, it does give more specific guidance for management over the next ten years that will be necessary to accommodate increases in visitor use while conserving the region's natural and human resources.

Management Area: The East Mojave National Scenic Area covers 1.5 million acres in northeastern San Bernardino County, California. 1.3 million acres are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Needles Resource Area Office.

Other Plans: The East Mojave is managed under the framework of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, completed in 1980, which broadly spells out guidelines for protection and use of the California Desert's resources. More detailed planning in the East Mojave has been completed for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, grazing allotments, wildlife habitat areas, and areas with concentrations of burros (see Part 2 and the Appendices), and has been incorporated into the Scenic Area Plan. Private lands are managed under guidelines established by the San Bernardino County General Plan.

Management Direction: The Scenic Area Plan is an update of the Desert Plan's guidelines and policies as they apply specifically to the East Mojave. It describes additional management which is needed to accommodate a projected fourfold increase in visitation over the next ten years, while maintaining the region's environmental quality.

Approximately 150,000 acres of private and State lands are proposed for acquisition by BLM to consolidate ownership and improve recreation and resource management in important areas. BLM will establish a partnership with the County and the intermingled private landowners emphasizing the maintenance of environmental quality and private sector supply of visitor services. To eliminate potentially significant use conflicts, 90,000 acres of public land are also proposed for withdrawal from the mining laws. The Scenic Area's 120,000 acres of public land classified for "moderate" use are proposed for reclassification to "limited" use through the Desert Plan amendment process.

Nonmotorized access would be significantly increased through development of trails through some of the East Mojave's most spectacular terrain. Primitive trails would be marked out in several of the Scenic Area's mountain regions for hiking, horseback, and mountain bike riding.

A superb network of roads and trails provides access for nearly all users of the East Mojave. BLM will provide signing and maps to assist visitor use of this network, and will establish additional controls on vehicle use to minimize resource and user conflicts. Additional access-related actions include the closure to vehicle use of many heavily vegetated or ill-defined washes, and the closure of short road segments where vehicle use is conflicting with other management considerations, or is destroying important resources.

A drive along the historic Mojave Road has become one of the most popular recreation experiences in the California Desert. BLM proposes to increase the opportunity for these "self-guiding" experiences by working with volunteer groups to interpret additional roads and trails in a similar manner.

The recreation experience of most visitors will be improved by several actions designed to increase BLM's field presence and information services. The most significant efforts will be the establishment of visitor contact stations at Kelso Depot and the Hole-in-the-Wall area; publication of a regularly updated visitor guide; and the development of interpretive sites and programs to tell the story of the East Mojave's natural and cultural history, use, and management.

Mid Hills and Hole-in-the-Wall campgrounds will be redesigned to accommodate increases in use and enhance the visitor's experience. Primitive camping sites will be designated near popular areas to allow continued camping with minimal impact to sensitive resources. To eliminate the undesirable effects of cross-country vehicle use near existing routes, a policy will be adopted allowing vehicle camping alongside roads, or in areas of previous use, in place of the current policy allowing vehicle camping within 300 feet of a route of travel.

Shooting and hunting are among the more popular recreation activities in the East Mojave. To reduce the danger to other visitors, "no shooting" safety zones will be established around all designated camping areas, interpretive sites, the Granite Mountain Research Natural Area, and Piute Creek. New regulations will be adopted and posted to ensure safer firearm use.

Scenic quality will be maintained or improved by the adoption of proposals to require more intensive mitigation of visual changes, prohibit large-scale activities such as wind energy developments, and remove or repair structures to reduce contrasts.

The wildlife of the area will gain from actions to monitor grazing, expand the range of bighorn sheep and elf owl, acquire private lands in crucial desert tortoise habitat, and reduce disturbance to wildlife habitat, particularly in desert tortoise areas, through vehicle-use restrictions.

Additional studies will be conducted over the next few years to provide information needed for better management of soils, vegetation, range, and cultural resources. The data gained will significantly increase our knowledge of the area and help monitor trends in the condition of these resources. An annual monitoring report will be published by BLM to outline what is happening in the East Mojave in terms of use, management accomplishments, and future needs.

Implementation: Plan implementation will require an additional 27 employees for the Needles Resource Area over the next five years as well as funding for additional contracts, campgrounds, and other construction efforts, and equipment. These projected costs will be in addition to the present funding for the Needles Resource Area.

Environmental Assessment: This document (published separately) analyzes the impacts which are expected to occur from full implementation of the management plan. Overall, impacts to resources will be beneficial even though use levels will be increasing. A stronger BLM presence in the East Mojave, increases in visitor information, and stronger management guidelines will help maintain the character of the East Mojave.

Responses to over 400 comments received from the public during the review of the draft Plan are included in the Environmental Assessment. Several changes were made to the final Plan as a consequence. On the whole, commenters approved of the Plan's direction, but many favored stricter environmental controls and increased enforcement efforts.

COMPARISON TABLE OF CHANGES MADE IN FINAL PLAN

Draft		Final	Draft		Final
A-1	no change	A-1	D-1	no change	D-1
A-2	modified	A-2	D-2	no change	D-2
A-3	modified	A-3	D-3	no change	D-3
A-4	no change	A-4	-	added	D-4
A-5	no change	A-5	D-4	now D-5	D-5
A-6	modified	A-6	D-5	now D-6	D-6
A-7	modified	A-7	D-6	now D-7	D-7
-	added	A-8	E-1	no change	E-1
-	added	A-9	E-2	slight change	E-2
B-1	replaced	B-1	F-1	no change	F-1
B-2	modified-now B-3	B-3	F-2	slight change	F-2
B-3	modified-now B-2	B-2	F-3	slight change	F-3
B-4	modified	B-4	G	no action proposed	G
B-5	modified	B-5	H-1	no change	H-1
B-6	no change	B-6	-	added	H-2
B-7	merged with B-5	B-5	I-1	no change	I-1
B-8	now B-7	B-7	I-2	slight change	I-2
B-9	now B-8	B-8	J-1	no change	J-1
B-10	now B-9	B-9	J-2	no change	J-2
C-1	no change	C-1	J-3	modified	J-3
C-2	no change	C-2	J-4	no change	J-4
C-3	no change	C-3	J-5	no change	J-5
C-4	no change	C-4	-	added	J-6
C-5	no change	C-5	K-1	no change	K-1
C-6	modified	C-6	L-1	slight change	L-1
C-7	modified	C-7	L-2	no change	L-2
C-8	no change	C-8	L-3	no change	L-3
C-9	no change	C-9	-	added	M-1
C-10	no change	C-10	N-1	modified	N-1
C-11	slight change	C-11	O-1	no change	O-1
C-12	slight change	C-12	P-1	slight change	P-1
C-13	modified	C-13	P-2	no change	P-2
C-14	slight change	C-14	P-3	no change	P-3
C-15	modified	C-15	P-4	no change	P-4
C-16	modified	C-16	P-5	no change	P-5
C-17	merged with C-16	C-16			
C-18	now C-17	C-17			
C-19	modified-now C-20	C-20			
C-20	eliminated	-			
C-21	now C-18	C-18			
C-22	now C-19	C-19			
-	added	C-21			



# INTRODUCTION

- PURPOSE AND NEED
- MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY
- LOCATION AND SETTING
- GEOGRAPHIC AREAS
- HISTORY
- MAJOR ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
- RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER DOCUMENTS AND DECISIONS





# Introduction

In 1976, under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Congress recognized the California Desert Conservation Area as an area with varied resource values, uniquely located adjacent to an area of large population. In the Act, Congress identified the unique features of the Desert:

- The desert environment is a total ecosystem, extremely fragile, easily scarred, slowly healed.
- The lands and resources are threatened particularly by the pressures of increased use.

To assure these values and resources were conserved for future generations, as well as to provide for both present and future use, a comprehensive plan for the management, use, development and protection of the public lands in the California Desert was prepared—The California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

The Desert Plan was developed over a four-year period beginning in late 1976. Throughout the planning effort, the East Mojave region was acknowledged as a unique area of special significance. Following thorough analysis and consideration of thousands of public comments, the final California Desert Plan proposed designation of the East Mojave as a National Scenic Area. This recommendation was approved by Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus in December 1980, and Secretary of the Interior James Watt in 1981, with the proviso that the "concept (of a scenic area) should be fully and accurately described."

Over the course of the last two years, the Bureau has worked to develop a management plan that embodies this concept. The East Mojave National

Scenic Area Management Plan is the culmination of these efforts. It provides the direction for preserving the scenic quality of this unique area and for preparing a comprehensive framework for managing and allocating resources in the management area for the next ten years (1988–1997). To this end the Plan:

- provides an overview of the East Mojave's resources, uses, and management;
- makes adjustments to current management to focus more clearly on a consistent set of long-term goals and objectives;
- enhances recreation opportunities and provides necessary services for up to 200,000 visitors per year by 1997; and
- institutes a partnership with other landowners and government agencies to establish a consistent pattern of protection, use and development.

## Purpose and Need

The purpose of the East Mojave National Scenic Area Management Plan is to provide the Bureau with guidance in implementing provisions of the California Desert Plan within the management area. The Management Plan will provide specific direction for resolving many of the compelling issues and problems currently facing the National Scenic Area. It translates the broad guidance of the Desert Plan into specific proposals which will be further detailed through site planning. As such, this Plan is an intermediate step between the Desert Plan, which established use allocations and individual site plans, which will be prepared prior to developing specific facilities, such as trails or campgrounds.

This Management Plan discusses the immediate needs of the area for the next 10 years, but the decisions made in this and the Desert Plan also represent a long-range vision and commitment to the East Mojave. The need for this vision is obvious--the human population of the California Desert is expected to increase 150 percent by the year 2010. Although the East Mojave is only lightly used at present, and has so far escaped the development conflicts and problems with off-road vehicles that have plagued other desert areas, now is the time to look ahead to provide "preemptive" management to avoid or minimize these problems.

In 1985, BLM began work on the Scenic Area Plan, focusing on interpretation, signing, the Mojave Road, and facility development for recreation visitors. In contrast to program plans which deal with small areas or single uses, this plan was intended to examine the entire Scenic Area. It became apparent early in the process of identifying issues that the public was concerned as much with resource and land use programs as with recreation use. These concerns were heightened by a general lack of public

awareness of the actions and policies BLM had developed, based on proposals in the 1980 Desert Plan, to manage the Scenic Area. Consequently, the Plan's scope was broadened to include all resources and uses in the Scenic Area, with an emphasis on land uses, recreation, access and visual resource management. The Scenic Area Plan has been designed to address needs for an expected fourfold increase in visitation over the next ten years, and represents BLM's vision of how best to maintain the delicate balance between human use and the region's natural qualities.



## Management Philosophy

The concept of an East Mojave National Scenic Area developed from a feeling people have for the California Desert--a feeling that within the total uniqueness of the desert, this is a very special place. Its vastness, the open vistas, the loneliness it exudes, its beauty in a raw, untouched sense, and the past traces of man's touch, remain with each person in a different way. To articulate this "sense of the desert" so others, in some way, will understand its meaning, its spirit, its significance, is hard to do; but to explain the management of its public lands and resources as a public trust by the Bureau of Land Management is the more difficult task.

The Bureau of Land Management, guardian of the 1.3 million acres of public land in the East Mojave region, with public input, developed a management philosophy statement for these lands in 1981 (see Appendix B for the complete text). This followed designation of the East Mojave National Scenic Area as one part of the approved California Desert Conservation Area Plan, which was completed in 1980.



The philosophy statement essentially says:

- Designation as a National Scenic Area was adopted in the Desert Plan so as to ensure continuation of the uses and occupations which give the region its character, and yet give special emphasis to retaining the area's natural scenic qualities in evaluating and permitting changes and new uses.
- The area will continue to be managed by the BLM under the framework of public land laws and regulations contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Special management of the National Scenic Area will be as reflected in the California Desert Plan. Ninety percent of the National Scenic Area was designated as Class "C" or "L" (see p. 28 for discussion of class designations used in the 1980 California Desert Plan), calling for limited use and/or wilderness protection, a much larger percentage in such categories than other parts of the California Desert Conservation Area.
- Special management of the National Scenic Area will be reflected in authorizations for use. For example, permits will stipulate mitigating measures designed to reduce scenic intrusion, and will require reclamation and restoration.

To make this statement of ideas about the East Mojave come to life, six management goals were adopted by the Bureau. These are:

1. Make the region a demonstration showcase for multiple-use management.
2. Assure retention of the balance between use and natural values.
3. Provide for public enjoyment and understanding of the region, its history and natural features.
4. Limit the region's "development" in the sense of more paved roads and large campgrounds on public lands; yet provide improved visitor services and information, and enhance resource values by adding appropriate improvements such as water.
5. Stabilize and, as appropriate, rehabilitate or re-create important historic structures.
6. Manage visitor uses in a manner that encourages dispersion so as to maintain the region's character and scenic values as well as to protect resources.



To accomplish these goals and the special management of the region envisioned in the California Desert Plan, the BLM will:

1. Give Desert Plan implementation, especially protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, highest priority in the East Mojave National Scenic Area, located within BLM's Needles Resource Area.
2. Provide adequate staffing in the Needles Resource Area to assure continuous BLM use supervision and compliance presence in the region.
3. Provide increased visitor services, especially visitor contact and interpretation, by signing, contact, and patrol. Leave recreationists with a sense of discovery, but be sure they have opportunities to understand and appreciate what they see. As appropriate, provide visitor contact at mobile or fixed units at main entry points.
4. Provide boundary signing to call public attention to the National Scenic Area and the concerns within the region.
5. Establish a partnership with intermingled landowners and users, emphasizing mitigation of impacts wherever they occur, land tenure adjustment, assurance of access, and good stewardship of the land and of resources. Assure continued public involvement in planning and implementation.
6. Develop a vigorous program of protection of the National Scenic Area's scenic qualities through visitor contact, example, and stipulation. Encourage restoration where feasible.
7. Assure, by management review, that scenic quality maintenance is reflected in all BLM-initiated activity planning and implementing actions.

## Location and Setting

The East Mojave National Scenic Area covers approximately 1.5 million acres of Federal, State, and private land in northeastern San Bernardino County. Of this area, about 1.3 million acres are public lands administered by BLM's Needles Resource Area as an integral part of the California Desert District. The center of the Scenic Area is 75 miles southwest of Las Vegas, Nevada; 60 miles northwest of Needles, California, and 90 miles east of Barstow. Primary access provided by I-15, I-40 and US 95 allows driving times from Los Angeles and Phoenix of five and six hours, respectively. Geographically, the "East" Mojave is in the south-central portion of the Mojave Desert, but occupies the easternmost portion of the Mojave Desert in California.

The East Mojave has seen significant human use over the past 100 years, first for its grazing resources, then its mineral wealth, and since the 1960's, for its recreation opportunities. The area has also served as a corridor for transportation and utilities between the Los Angeles basin and resources and population centers in Nevada and Utah.

The region is sometimes called the "Lonesome Triangle" because a permanent population of only 500 resides within or adjacent to its boundaries. Scattered throughout the small towns, mines, and ranches of the region, this local population is supplemented on weekends by an increasing number of visitors, researchers, school groups, and individuals or groups who pursue a variety of recreation activities including hunting, touring, or rock hounding. These temporary visitors also include a growing number of private property owners whose stays range from a weekend to a few months at a time.

Local economies depend on income from livestock grazing and mining within the East Mojave, and on visitor services supplied along the Interstates. Most visitors come to the area with sufficient supplies and require only supplemental items and fuel. Their effect on the local economy has been minor. However, as more visitors come to the region, economic benefits can be expected to increase.

# LOCATION MAP

MAP 1-1



The largest town in the vicinity of the Scenic Area is Baker, located on I-15 about 50 miles west of the Nevada border. Several smaller towns or settlements are scattered throughout the East Mojave along the County-maintained road network, the majority (Kelso, Nipton, Cima, Goffs) beginning life as railroad towns or sidings. Kelso Depot, closed to the public since 1985, is an outstanding neo-Spanish structure built in the 1920's by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. A nonprofit organization is negotiating a lease with the railroad and plans to restore the building. Until then, no public services will be available in Kelso. The other towns, along with two commercial

establishments along I-15, are the "service centers" for the East Mojave, with general stores, water and, in some cases, gasoline and telephones.

As visitor interest in the area increases, services provided by the private sector and conforming to San Bernardino County regulations will become an important factor. Services most likely to be added are gas stations, trailer camping facilities, and recreational services such as horseback riding and guided tours. Lanfair Valley, Fourth of July Canyon, and existing communities are likely to see the greatest level of private development.





## Geographic Areas

The East Mojave can be divided into a variety of distinctive regions based upon landform and vegetation patterns. Since these areas are referred to throughout the Plan, a brief description of each is given here to provide a better understanding of the region. Prominent land uses for each area are also included. Table 2-2 (page 40) lists the special management area designations referred to in the area descriptions. Map A in the back pocket shows the boundaries of the geographic areas described below.

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### Cima Dome



This 70-square-mile, gently rounded granite dome is covered by one of the desert's finest Joshua tree forests which, besides being an intriguing display of an unusual plant community, is also an excellent habitat area for wildlife. Teutonia Peak is a popular hiking destination, as is Wildcat Butte. The area is a proposed National Natural Landmark, and is protected by an 18,000-acre withdrawal from mineral entry in effect since 1972. Major activities: grazing and recreation (sightseeing, hiking, nature study).

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### Cinder Cones



To the west of Cima Dome several layers of ancient lava punctuated by over 30 extinct volcanic cones are noted for their petroglyph-covered basalts and geologic features. The northern part of the lava field is a suitably recommended wilderness study area. Most of the cones are included in the Cinder Cones National Natural Landmark. Two cinder mines operating in the region since the 1950's allow a peek into the heart of two of the cinder cones. Major activities: recreation (sightseeing, nature study), mining, and grazing.

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### Clark Mountain



Clark Mountain, located north of I-15 near the California-Nevada border, is the highest mountain in the East Mojave (7,929 feet). It is capped by a large grove of white fir set among very scenic limestone ridges and canyons which provide a strong lure for hikers and photographers. To protect the rugged splendor of this area, a vehicle closure has been in effect since 1973.

Designation as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern by the Desert Plan was made in recognition of the mountain's scenic, cultural, and wildlife resources.



The scenic limestone layers of Clark Mountain proper are surrounded by highly mineralized, metamorphic rocks. The largest gold mine in the East Mojave, the New Colosseum Mine northeast of Clark Mountain, began operation in late 1987. It is the latest in a number of large-scale mining operations that have dominated the area around Clark Mountain for the last several decades. Major activities: mining, grazing, recreation (hiking, touring), wildlife habitat management, and cultural resource management.

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### Devil's Playground



Sand carried into Soda Lake by historic flooding of the Mojave River has been blown southeast by prevailing winds to cover a large expanse of land. Key landmarks are the Cowhole and Kelso Mountains, and Old Dad Mountain, home to one of the highest concentrations of bighorn sheep in the California Desert. The region contains important archaeological sites and excellent wildlife habitat. Major activities: off-highway vehicle touring, sightseeing, and wildlife habitat management.

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### Fenner Valley



This area in the southeast corner of the East Mojave is the northern portion of the large Fenner-Chemehuevi Valley crucial desert tortoise habitat. This area also contains a portion of Camp Clipper, one of eleven desert military training camps established by General George Patton during World War II. Major activities: recreation (hunting, history study), grazing, and wildlife habitat management (desert tortoise).

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### Granite Mountains



The southernmost mountain in a chain stretching northeast across the East Mojave to the Nevada border, the Granite Mountains are noted for their unusually diverse range of plants (over 400 species) and animals, including 120 bird species, 40 mammals, and 33 reptiles. Most of the Granite Mountains are recommended by BLM as suitable for wilderness designation. A 6,720-acre area has been designated a Research Natural Area, jointly managed by BLM and the University of California. Cottonwood Cove, Granite Pass, Sheep Corral and Budweiser Spring are the most popular recreation destinations. Major activities: education and research, recreation (camping, climbing, hiking), and livestock grazing.

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### Ivanpah Valley



This creosote-covered bajada, located between the Ivanpah and New York Mountains, contains crucial desert tortoise habitat. A permanent desert tortoise study plot has been located here to assess possible long-term impact to the tortoise from cattle grazing. Major activities: grazing, wildlife habitat management (desert tortoise).

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### Kelso Dunes



Sands at the southern end of the Devil's Playground have formed the continent's third tallest dune system. Recommended by BLM as suitable for wilderness designation, the Kelso Dunes are one of the more popular recreation destinations in the East Mojave. The area has been closed to vehicle use since 1973 to protect vegetation. Major activities: nature study, recreation (hiking, photography), and grazing.

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### Lanfair Valley



Key features in this large region are the mining areas of Castle Mountains (the Hart Mining District), Vontrigger Hills, and Signal Hill. In between is a flat, grass-covered valley that has the highest concentration of private lands in the East Mojave, a legacy of agricultural settlement early in this century. Major activities: recreation (Mojave Road, camping, hunting), mining, and grazing.

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### Marl Mountains



This area contains one of the most remote segments of the historic Mojave Road. The dominant feature is the Marl Mountains; the rest of the area is an extensive bajada covered by a scattering of Joshua trees. Major activities: recreation (Mojave Road) and grazing.

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### Mescal Range



The Ivanpah Mountains and Mescal Range lie south of Mountain Pass, and comprise a highly mineralized area with numerous prospects, roads, and recent mineral exploration efforts. Near Mescal Range is the 480-acre Dinosaur Trackway Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the only known exposure of dinosaur footprints in California. Currently, those tracks are being documented by the San Bernardino County Museum. Major activities: mining, grazing, sightseeing, and paleontological research.

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### Mid Hills



The Mid Hills, north of the Providence Mountains, are a low, rounded series of exposed granite crags and boulders. To the south, volcanic hills form a striking backdrop to BLM's Hole-in-the-Wall campground and fire station complex. Mid Hills campground is slightly higher in elevation (5,600 feet) and is set within a pinyon-juniper woodland which covers a major portion of the East Mojave above 5,000 feet. Dense stands of sage and other high desert brush are reminiscent of the Great Basin area. This region is the most heavily used part of the East Mojave for a wide range of recreation activities. Primitive camping is very popular along Wildhorse Canyon and Macedonia Canyon Roads. The area is well known for deer and upland game hunting opportunities; and hiking and climbing use has been increasing sharply over the past five years. Grazing improvements such as windmills and pole corrals lend a definite old-west character to the region. Major activities: recreation and grazing.



## New York Mountains and Castle Peaks



The New York Mountains, trending northeast to the Nevada border, continue the central high elevation "spine" of the East Mojave. Elevations vary from 4,600 to over 7,200 feet, making this one of the highest areas in the East Mojave. The New York Mountains consist of two distinct regions divided by Ivanpah Road. To the west, the mountains are characterized by a steep, sharply eroded north face, and a more gently sloping south flank carved out by long canyons. Caruthers and Fourth of July Canyons are the largest and are best known for their chaparral and live oak woodlands. Also notable is a small grove of white fir near the top of Caruthers Canyon, a relic stand from the last ice age. Pinto Mountain, a striking volcanic hill on the south end of the New York Mountains and the surrounding valley, are prime wildlife areas. Several old mines are located along the higher ridges of the New York Mountains. The patented Vanderbilt Mine is a mill-site for other gold-producing mines in the East Mojave region.



To the east of Ivanpah Road, the New York Mountains are dominated by a group of very scenic reddish spires known as the Castle Peaks. This portion of the New York Mountains is suitably recommended for wilderness designation. In recognition of the range's significant scenic quality, wildlife and vegetation resources, the Desert Plan designated the entire New York Mountain range an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Major activities: recreation (camping, hunting, rock collecting, nature study), grazing, and mining.



## Piute Range



This small mountain range, located on the eastern edge of the Scenic Area, contains the only perennial stream in the East Mojave. The presence of permanent water has created an oasis for plants and wildlife, and explains the presence of valuable archaeological and historical resources. The ruins of an Army outpost (Fort Piute) and traces of the Mojave Road attract an increasing number of visitors each year. Piute Range is a suitably recommended wilderness study area. The southern end, which contains Piute Creek, Piute Canyon and the remains of the Mojave Road, was designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in 1980. Substantial progress has been made in improving the riparian zone through elimination of tamarisk and the planting of hundreds of cottonwoods. A trial project is under way to transplant the elf owl into this area. Major activities: recreation (sightseeing, hiking, nature study), grazing, research/education, wildlife habitat management (elf owl, bighorn sheep), and cultural resource management.

## **Providence Mountains (North and South)**

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The Providence Mountains are one of the most scenic mountain ranges in the East Mojave--limestone cliffs cap a sheer north face in the North Providence Mountains; volcanic flows forming the north side provide a striking contrast in color; dense stands of cacti and desert shrubs stand out on the encircling bajadas.

Major portions of both the North and South Providence Ranges are recommended by BLM as suitable for wilderness designation in recognition of their outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and high resource values.

These areas also contain rich mineral deposits. A major mineral zone along the mountains' south face is marked by several old mines and is an area of high potential for future development. Vulcan Mine at Foshay Pass was a major iron ore producer during World War II. The State administers 5,900 acres as Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, known best for the Mitchell Caverns which are a National Natural Landmark. Several other "wild caves" exist in this limestone area. Major activities: recreation (touring, spelunking, hiking), mining, and livestock grazing.





### Soda Lake



The only major playa in the Scenic Area is also the lowest area in elevation at 920 feet above sea level. The lakebed is closed to vehicle use with the exception of the Mojave Road. On the western shoreline is Soda Springs, one of the original stopping points on the Mojave Road, later developed as a health spa and renamed "Zzyzx." Soda Springs is now the home of the Desert Studies Center, operated by a consortium of seven campuses from the California State University system. It is also home to the endangered Mohave tui chub which lives in three ponds fed by the springs. Soda Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern was established for the area's wildlife and cultural resource values. Major activities: research, education, nature study, and wildlife habitat management.

### Woods & Hackberry Mountains

This large region shares many characteristics with the Mid Hills, including the pinyon-juniper-sage association, and grazing improvements which lend a rustic character to the region. Three distinctively shaped volcanic mountains dominate the area: Table Mountain is a regional landmark visible from most of the Scenic Area, and a popular peak for hikers. The larger Woods Mountains are steep-faced ridges enclosing some very colorful canyons which are noted for several outstanding "cactus gardens." To the east, the even more massive Hackberry Mountains are best known for several significant fossil and gem collecting areas. Separating these three mountains are several very large wash systems which are popular access routes to good rock collecting and hunting areas. A main stop on the historic Mojave Road, which traverses the area's northern edge, is Camp Rock Spring, site of an official Army post in the 1860s. The spring was designated an Area of Critical Environmental concern in 1980. Major activities: recreation (hunting, touring, rock collecting) and grazing.

## History

The cultural prehistory of the East Mojave has not been determined with certainty. The area has received limited inventory of cultural values and few sites have undergone detailed study. However, a chronology of aboriginal lifeways can be hypothesized, drawing from a broad, regional data base.

Occupation of the Mojave Desert possibly occurred earlier than 12,000 years before present (BP). Indisputable evidence for the age of lithic tools attributed to this period, however, has not yet been satisfactorily demonstrated.

The earliest established pattern of habitation, the Fluted-Point Tradition, spans the period between 12,000 BP through 11,000 BP. The Tradition's western expression is commonly found in association with post-glacial lakeshores, and likely is the precursor of the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition.

The Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition's regional affiliate, the Lake Mojave Complex, lasting from 10,000 to 7,000 BP, was one of the earliest recognized indications of early man in the New World. Notably, the complex derives its name from the Scenic Area's Pleistocene Lake Mojave, known today as Soda and Silver playas. While multiple adaptive strategies were likely practiced by these early Americans, increased precipitation during this period led to a focused economy based on foraging resources specific to lakeside and marshy environments.

With the close of the Pleistocene epoch, temperatures as well as sea levels rose and inland lake levels fell. Consequently, subsistence practices changed and a new cultural pattern gradually developed. The previously dominant focused economy yielded to seasonal migrations exploiting more diverse environments. The greater incidence of choppers, scrapers, and scraper planes revealed in the

archaeological record attests to the increased importance of procuring more varied plant resources. In the East Mojave, the cultural tradition associated with this period, the Pinto Complex, falls between 7,000 to 4,000 BP.

The following Gypsum Period, dated from 4,000 BP to 1,500 BP, is distinguished by the inception of seed milling technology, associated selective gathering and the stockpiling of surpluses. The surpluses in turn assured increased survival and increased populations.

The subsequent Saratoga Springs Period, 1,500 BP to 700 BP, is noted for significant technological changes resulting from Anasazi influence. Major contributions of this neighboring southwestern culture included the introduction of ceramics, turquoise mining, and the replacement of the spear and atlatl with the bow and arrow.

With the inception of the Shoshonean Period, 700 BP into the protohistoric, Piute groups migrated southward into the East Mojave, displacing the longstanding Mojave occupation eastward to the Colorado River. The period's end came with the onset of Euro-American expansion westward, culminating in the breakdown of social and cultural traditions, and substantial reductions in Native American populations.

The earliest account of historic exploration of the region was that of a Spanish expedition led by Francisco Garcés and Juan Bautista Anza in 1775-76. The first known American penetration of the area was a fur trapping reconnaissance headed by Jedediah Smith, who made two crossings in 1826-27. Other noteworthy early explorers traveling through the East Mojave included John Fremont, Kit Carson, Francis Aubry, Robert Williamson, Amiel Whipple and Edward Beale. It was Beale's explorations between 1857-59 that led to the establishment of a trans-desert wagon route on the Indian trail known as the Mojave Trail. In 1858, regular mail and stage service was established between San Bernardino, California, and Prescott, Arizona, using this trail. However, by 1883, its use was largely abandoned due to the completion of the Atlantic and Pacific (later Santa Fe) railway.

Beginning as early as the 1860's, man's emphasis changed from crossing through the East Mojave to the extraction of its resources. During the mid-1860's, the area's mineral riches began to be discovered. Mining camps and townsites sprang up wherever a major strike was made.

One of the most notable of these sites was at Ivanpah near the base of Clark Mountain. At its height, the town had a population of 500 and supported two

mills, several saloons, a blacksmith shop and a slaughter house. Other important mining towns include Hart near the Castle Mountains, and Providence along the eastern slopes of the Providence Mountains. Each of these sites and the hundreds of other isolated camps in the region endured a relatively brief, but nonetheless spectacular, lifetime. By 1920, however, most had died, bringing this colorful era to a close.

In the early 1900's, ranching and farming showed promise, and homesteaders descended into the Lanfair Valley to try their luck at dry farming. Conflicts with local ranchers over water rights along with the hardships and realities of the desert led to the abandonment of the region as a farming area, leaving large blocks of land under private ownership.

In the ensuing years, the region's road network expanded considerably. By the 1920's and early 1930's numerous highway-oriented services developed. With improvements in the dependability of automobiles, and more leisure time and money to spend, the public was more willing to venture out into the East Mojave. The recreation visitor thus became the new breed of explorer.

Interest in preserving and protecting key resources in the East Mojave led to several proposals in the 1960's and '70's to increase management presence in this region, and on public lands in the entire California Desert. These efforts led to the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in 1976, the creation of the California Desert Conservation Area, and the mandate for a desertwide plan. The Desert Plan, completed in 1980, designated the East Mojave as the Nation's first National Scenic Area (the Secretarial Order approving the designation is reproduced as Appendix A).

## Major Issues and Management Objectives

The first step in the development of the Management Plan was the identification of issues requiring resolution, and development of objectives to address them. Issues are the problems or concerns identified by the public or BLM which are addressed in the Management Plan. The objectives are the guidance statements that direct the resolution of these issues through the planning process and are intended to focus the planning effort.

BLM initiated efforts to determine what issues needed resolution in the East Mojave in 1985. An "ad hoc" committee was established with representation from San Bernardino County, the Sierra Club, California Association of Four Wheel Drive Vehicles, Friends of the Mojave Road, Citizens for Mojave National Park, local residents, mining interests, and wildlife hunting interests. In several formal and informal gatherings, these individuals described what their different visions of the East Mojave's future were, and outlined ways they felt these visions could be achieved.

Issues derived from consultation with the "ad hoc" committee members were supplemented by other scoping efforts, including two detailed briefings before the California Desert Advisory Council to which the public had been invited through press releases and publication of advance notice in the Federal Register; announcement in two issues of the Desert District's Planning Newsletter and other BLM public affairs bulletins; and a thorough review of opinion statements made in regional newspapers, journals, and newsletters. BLM personnel involved in the planning effort also discussed issues with representatives of companies or groups having a known interest in the Scenic Area's management. BLM professionals, themselves, had visions for management of the East Mojave's resources and lands which were incorporated into the scoping process.

From these comments, eleven major issues were identified that summarize the concerns or problems the East Mojave Management Plan should address. BLM had initially considered a plan which would address recreation opportunities and conflict resolution, with an emphasis on interpretation, signing, vehicle access, and nonmotorized recreation opportunities. It became apparent early on in the issue identification process that the public felt, five years after the Desert Plan's approval, that a full-scale review of all major uses and resources was called for, so subsequent scoping efforts were broadened beyond recreation interests.

Although there often was sharp disagreement over suggested ways to resolve issues, there was a striking

consistency from all sources as to the significant issues facing the East Mojave. The major issues identified for analysis in the Management Plan are presented here along with broadly stated objectives for their resolution.

1. Recreation Management. The lands of the East Mojave National Scenic Area are used for sightseeing, hunting and plinking, rock hounding, camping, and other general recreation activities. Low use levels at present provide an opportunity for dispersed, unregulated recreation. As use levels increase, additional controls will need to be in place to maintain the quality of a visitor's experience. There is a growing demand for nonmotorized activities which is not being met, even though opportunities are outstanding in many areas of the East Mojave.

The objectives necessary to resolve this issue are:

- Maintain the opportunity for dispersed, generally unstructured recreation activities while providing necessary services and controls for high intensity use at selected sites.
- Place special emphasis on meeting the needs of nonmotorized activities.

2. Motorized Vehicle Use. Motorized vehicle use is a major component of recreational and commercial activities in the Scenic Area. Most motorized vehicles are used to pursue other interests such as hiking and enjoyment of the area's scenery or historic resources, rather than as an activity unto itself. However, some motorized use such as all-terrain vehicle play is purely recreational and the demand for motorized recreational use is likely to increase. This use may adversely impact the Scenic Area's wildlife, cultural resources, scenic quality and soils. Additional attention is needed to protect these values and balance the protection of these values with the increasing demand for motorized use.

The objectives necessary to resolve this issue are:

- Revise vehicle designations to reflect current knowledge of resource condition and use patterns.
- Take actions necessary to assure and improve motorized vehicle access in significant areas by acquiring legal access (easements or acquisitions).

3. Access and Land Ownership Adjustments. As recreational demand increases, so will the problems associated with access and land ownership. Public lands can accommodate much of this demand if legal public access to key tracts is obtained, and some adjustments are made between public and private lands for improved management. Additional attention is needed to acquire those portions of the Scenic Area where legal access is needed and where land ownership adjustments would achieve more efficient management and utilization of public resources.

The objectives necessary to resolve this issue are:

- Improve recreation opportunities and resource protection in significant or sensitive areas by acquiring legal access and by consolidating land ownership.
- Provide access opportunities for all users, both motorized and nonmotorized.

4. Visual Resource Management. There is a demand in part of the East Mojave for resources or use opportunities which by nature are surface-disturbing: mining, off-highway vehicle use, livestock grazing. Emphasis is needed to preserve the East Mojave's scenic integrity while allowing acceptable uses authorized by the Plan to continue, and to recognize and take advantage of the contribution made to the area's visual character by man's interaction with the environment.

The objective necessary to resolve this issue is:

- Maintain or improve overall scenic quality by establishing reasonable standards for allowable visual changes, and develop cost-effective measures to rehabilitate areas or structures not meeting the guidelines.

5. Wilderness Values and Management. The East Mojave National Scenic Area contains Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) which comprise nearly 50 percent of the total Scenic Area. The wilderness values associated with each WSA could be adversely affected as use of the Scenic Area increases and more demand is placed on those WSAs. Special attention is needed to protect these values.

The objectives necessary to resolve this issue are:

- Protect the suitability of WSAs for designation as wilderness.
- Reduce the chance for impairing activities to occur, while still providing an adequate level of surveillance or use supervision.
- Develop wilderness management plans consistent with other Scenic Area objectives on the WSAs designated as wilderness by Congress.

6. Archaeological and Historic Resources. A limited number of surveys have been conducted in the East Mojave to determine the extent of the area's archaeological resources. These surveys have revealed rich cultural values which include temporary camps, pottery scatters, middens, rock art complexes, burial sites, and roasting pits. These values could be adversely impacted as user demands and visitor interest increases in the Scenic Area. There is a special need to complete investigations in areas of known cultural resource value and provide a higher level of monitoring and site protection.

The objectives necessary to resolve this issue are:

- Provide for protection and preservation of cultural resources threatened by vandalism or natural deterioration.
- Focus research attention on little-studied areas of known cultural resource significance.
- Assure coordination with Native American groups continues.

7. Vegetation. Although no specific threats to significant species or communities were identified, there was concern expressed regarding the relationship between livestock grazing and the health of the Joshua tree forest on Cima Dome and vegetation cover on the Kelso Dunes. A second issue involved the ability of the East Mojave to provide firewood and other vegetative products on a sustained yield basis. The final major issue revolved around the encroachment of introduced species and the effects of human use on native vegetation, particularly in riparian areas.

The objectives necessary to resolve this issue are:

- Preserve the wide range of vegetation communities and species living in the East Mojave.
- Increase research and long-term monitoring of vegetation communities.

8. Wildlife Habitat. In portions of the Scenic Area, mineral exploration or motorized vehicle use may conflict with wildlife. Special attention is needed to identify appropriate levels of use for these areas and restrict surface-disturbing activities if necessary to avoid the disturbance of sensitive wildlife habitat.

The objective necessary to resolve this issue is:

- Preserve wildlife habitat for all sensitive species, and reduce impacts on general wildlife habitat to continue the great diversity of species currently found in the East Mojave.

9. Livestock Grazing. Nearly 90 percent of the East Mojave National Scenic Area is covered by grazing allotments. On an annual basis over 3,000 cattle graze on these lands. Not only is there a need to minimize vandalism to range-related facilities, but concern has been expressed that grazing may not be compatible with the region's sensitive resources. There is a need for more monitoring to ensure that proper stocking levels are maintained. As recreational use increases, vandalism to range improvements may intensify. Special attention is needed in selected areas to address these concerns, particularly the Mid Hills area, Cima Dome, the Granite Mountains, and Kelso Dunes.

The objectives necessary to resolve this issue are:

- Maintain the range condition of "good and excellent condition" lands while improving the conditions of "poor and fair condition" rangeland through accepted range management practices.
- Reduce vandalism of range improvements through public education, increased presence of BLM personnel, and reduced visibility of projects.



10. Mineral Development. Significant deposits of commercially valuable minerals or mineral materials are located in several areas of the East Mojave where other valuable resources occur, or outstanding use opportunities exist. There is a need to strike a balance between the national need for minerals, industry concerns regarding an overregulated working environment, legitimate resource values which conflict with mineral exploration and development activities, and the known high mineralization of the East Mojave region.

The objectives necessary to resolve this issue are:

- Provide sand, gravel, and other materials for essential public services.
- Encourage mineral development consistent with the principles developed in the National Mineral Policy and Development Act of 1970, and in a manner to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

11. Nonmineral Development. Human use of the desert is expanding rapidly. By the year 2010, the California desert's population is expected to increase 150% from today's level. Controls on land use, limitations on the scale of nonmineral development, consolidation of private/public lands, and more attention to reclamation and enforcement are required to encourage growth in acceptable areas, and to acceptable standards.

The objectives necessary to resolve this issue are:

- Prepare guidelines that allow controlled development in appropriate areas, and in a manner that maintains the Scenic Area's natural and rural character.
- Consolidate ownership of lands to facilitate resource management objectives and reduce use-related conflicts.

12. Fire Management. Fire's importance in the workings of ecosystems has long been recognized. Concern was raised that full suppression can sometimes cause more resource damage than the fire itself. These factors indicate the need for special fire planning, while at the same time recognizing the need for continued full suppression to protect both private property and structures as well as high value natural resources that are not fire adapted. Additional research is needed on successional processes associated with fires, and relationship with grazing and other land uses.

The objective necessary to resolve this issue is:

- Manage fire as a natural element in the ecosystem while providing full suppression where required to protect structures, private property, or fire-sensitive resources.



## Relationship to Other Documents and Decisions

### THE CALIFORNIA DESERT PLAN

The East Mojave National Scenic Area is an integral part of the California Desert Conservation Area and is managed under the overall guidance of the Desert Plan. Special protection of the Scenic Area was called for, not through specific management actions or prescriptions for the East Mojave, but in the context of the Desert Plan's multiple-use class zones, a specially prepared statement of management philosophy, and secondary resource activity plans which are described below. The Desert Plan, after an extensive public review process and consideration of several alternatives, allocated resources for various uses, such as wilderness, grazing, crucial wildlife habitat, and utility line corridors. Any changes in these allocations which are proposed by this Plan will be fully analyzed through the Desert Plan Amendment process.

The Desert Plan assigned "multiple-use class" zones to the East Mojave National Scenic Area which are shown on Map I-2. These classes, similar to zones used by county and city governments, are based on resource sensitivity and types of use in the area. The Desert Plan established guidelines and restrictions (reproduced in Appendix C) governing resource and use management in each class. Ninety percent of the East Mojave was designated as multiple-use Class C (controlled use for areas recommended by BLM as suitable for wilderness designation) and L (limited use). In terms of the California Desert Conservation Area, the proportion of lands in these two protective zones is much larger than for other similarly sized areas in the California Desert.

TABLE I-1

#### Relative Distribution of Use Classes

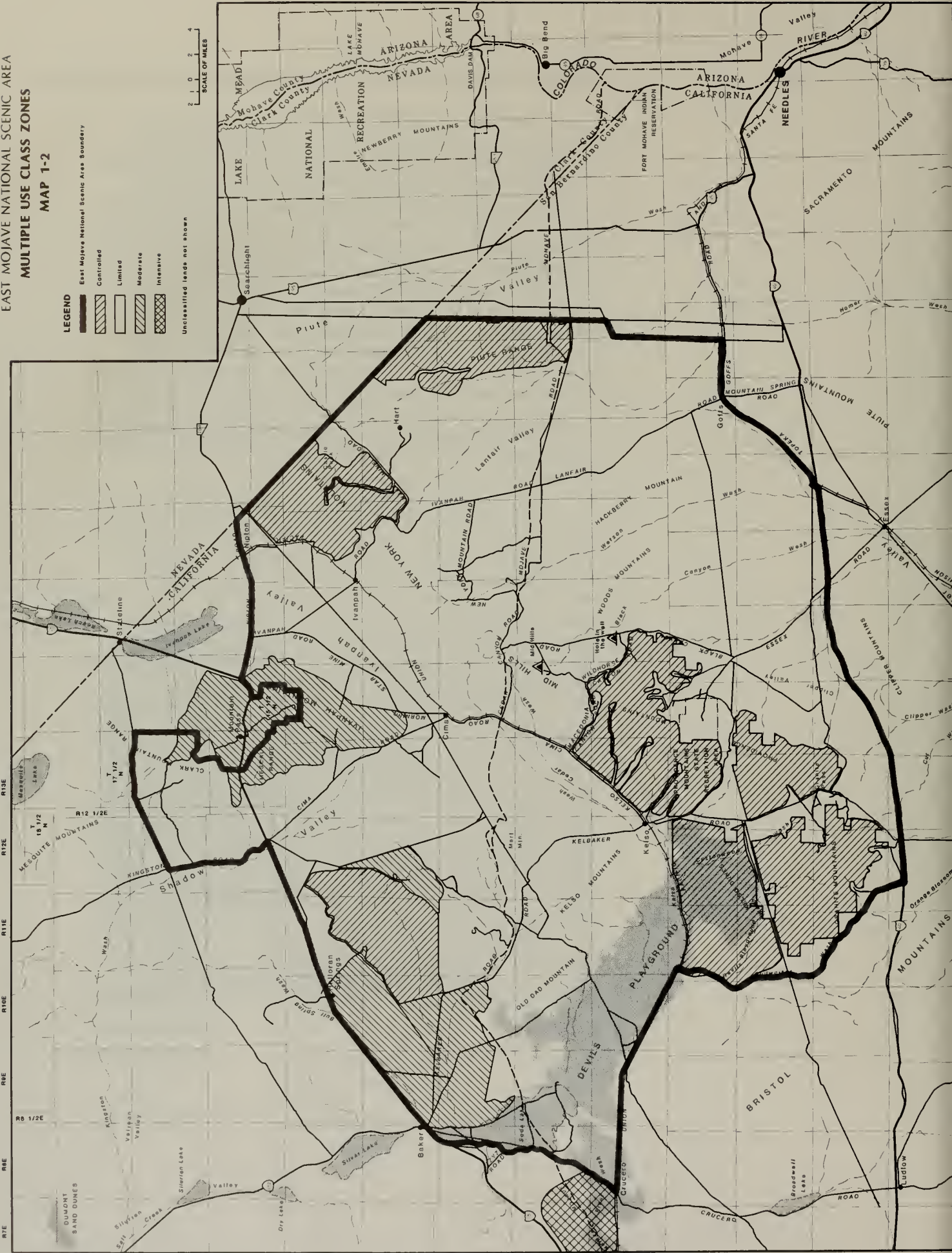
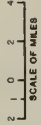
<u>Use Class</u>	<u>Acres in CDCA</u>	<u>Acres in East Mojave</u>
Controlled	1.9 million (13%)	271,000 (21%)
Limited	5.9 million (52%)	884,000 (69%)
Moderate	3.3 million (28%)	120,000 (10%)
Intensive	.5 million (4%)	none
Unclassified	.3 million (3%)	4,440 (1%)

EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

MULTIPLE USE CLASS ZONES

MAP 1-2

- LEGEND**
- East Mojave National Scenic Area Boundary
  - Controlled
  - Limited
  - Moderate
  - Intensive
- Unclassified lands not shown



Controlled Use: This class indicates areas which BLM has preliminarily recommended as suitable for wilderness designation by Congress. All routes of travel not specifically exempted by Congress will be closed to vehicle use; the areas will be closed to mineral entry; and limitations on human use will be enforced so as to retain the areas' natural, wilderness character. Grazing will be allowed to continue but with strict controls on new grazing improvements and the use of vehicles for maintenance. BLM has recommended seven areas in the East Mojave, covering a total of 271,000 acres of public land, as suitable for wilderness designation.

Limited Use: This class is designed to protect sensitive, natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resources while providing for generally lower intensity, carefully controlled multiple use of resources. Vehicle use is limited to "approved" routes of travel. Public appropriation of lands through Desert Land Entries or other land laws is not allowed. All mining activities require approval of a Plan of Operation with reclamation required to prevent "undue or unnecessary" degradation. Distribution lines (for electricity, phones) will be placed underground except where more impact would result than from an overhead alignment. Approximately 884,000 acres of public land in the East Mojave have been classified for this use category.

Moderate Use: Class M areas provide for a balance between higher intensity use and protection of public lands. Vehicle use is limited to existing routes of travel. Mining activity which disturbs fewer than five acres requires the filing of a Notice instead of a Plan of Operation. Off-highway vehicle racing is allowed on existing routes of travel after proper assessment of potential impacts. Additional uses allowed in this class, but not in the limited or controlled use classes, are nuclear and fossil fuel powerplants, mechanical or chemical control of vegetation, and permanent airstrips. Three areas in the East

Mojave totaling 120,000 acres have been assigned to this class: the Ivanpah/Mescal Range area south of Clark Mountain, and two areas in the Cinder Cones/Lava Beds region.

Intensive Use: These areas provide for concentrated use of lands and resources to meet human needs. They are committed to uses such as large-scale mining and off-highway vehicle areas. No intensive use zones are within the Scenic Area, but two are near its border: the Razor Off-Highway Vehicle Area west of Soda Lake, and the Mountain Pass mining operations.

Unclassified: Scattered or isolated parcels, usually surrounded by private lands or within cities or towns have not been assigned a multiple-use class, and are potentially available for sale or exchange to private interests. In the Scenic Area, 4,440 acres are in this category, primarily in the Lanfair Valley and Cima areas.

## ACTIVITY PLANS

To further interpret the general management framework established by the Desert Plan, the preparation of more specific plans was called for in programs such as wildlife habitat improvement, wild horse and burro management and control, livestock grazing, and for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. These program plans follow the general guidance of the Desert Plan, and interpret its direction for specific situations in the Scenic Area. To date, six plans for ACECs, five wildlife habitat management plans, eleven livestock grazing allotment management plans, and the East Mojave Burro Herd Management Plan have been completed for areas completely or partially within the Scenic Area. Additional wildlife plans and a fire management plan are scheduled.

### Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

The Desert Plan designated six ACECs which are all or partly within the East Mojave, recognizing specific resources or concerns which required special management attention:

Clark Mountain:	scenic quality, wildlife habitat, cultural resources
Dinosaur Trackway:	paleontological resources
New York Mountains:	scenic quality, wildlife habitat, vegetation
Piute Creek:	scenic quality, wildlife habitat, vegetation, cultural resources
Rock Spring:	cultural resources
Soda Springs:	wildlife habitat, cultural resources.

Management plans for each of these ACECs were completed between 1981 and 1986. The plans examined off-highway vehicle use, land use/resource conflicts and other issues. Management actions were prescribed to resolve these issues through vehicle route designations, land acquisition, habitat improvement, reconstruction or rehabilitation, and other actions. (Appendix D lists these actions approved for each ACEC in the East Mojave; Map 2-1 shows their locations.) These decisions and actions have been incorporated into the East Mojave Management Plan. The East Mojave Plan in some cases recommends additional actions in ACECs which are intended to supplement previous planning efforts. In other cases, prescriptions from plans for ACECs are being adopted for the entire Scenic Area in recognition of their effectiveness in resolving or anticipating certain problems.

Other special area designations have been made for public lands in the East Mojave, including the Granite Mountain Research Natural Area, National Natural Landmarks, Outstanding Natural Areas, and Recreation Lands. The latter designation has been superseded by the area's designation as a National Scenic Area, and all but one of the Outstanding Natural Areas are within an ACEC or Landmark. These duplicative designations will be recommended for revocation, and the Kelso Dunes Outstanding Natural Area, Granite Mountains Research Natural Area, and the two BLM-managed Landmarks will be considered for ACEC designation through the Desert Plan Amendment process (see Action A-8 in Part 2). Table 2-1 lists all special area designations which apply to the East Mojave.

#### Allotment Management Plans (AMPs)

Eleven grazing allotments are totally or partly within the Scenic Area. Allotment Management Plans for these areas, prepared over the past five years, describe the grazing system to be followed, range improvements that are required to fully implement the system, environmental safeguards to reduce conflicts with wildlife, and mechanisms to adjust use levels in conjunction with availability of forage. Their purpose is to implement grazing decisions made by the 1980 Desert Plan. Coordinated with the rancher, these plans integrate grazing management on public, private, and State lands which are under the rancher's control. Appendix E contains a summary of one Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to indicate the format and scope of these planning efforts. The AMPs were reviewed during the preparation of the East Mojave Management Plan for consistency with management objectives for the Scenic Area. No changes in use allocations are being proposed. The grazing program was considered in the analysis of other program needs, particularly wildlife, vegetation, and visual resource management. This Plan calls for revisions in AMPs to ensure consistency with overall objectives for the East Mojave (see Action L-1, page 91).

#### Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Plan

Herd Management Areas were established by the Desert Plan, after allocating forage to wildlife and evaluating potential impacts to wildlife and cultural resources. Decisions were then made establishing target levels for each area after considering other resource or use needs. A Herd Management Plan for the East Mojave was prepared in 1984 to describe the methods that would be used to reduce burro numbers to the target levels, and establish a time frame for completing the work. Desert

Plan allocations and Herd Management Plan recommendations have been incorporated unchanged into the East Mojave Management Plan.

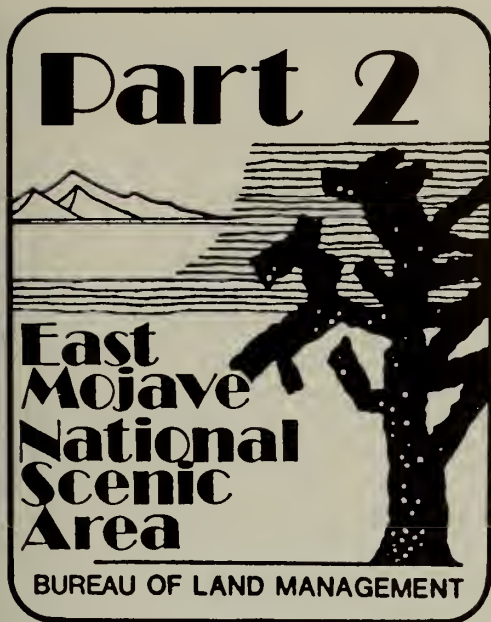
#### Wildlife Habitat Management Plans

Five plans have been completed in the East Mojave that specifically address wildlife habitat concerns in key areas. Three wildlife plans were completed in association with planning for the Clark Mountain, New York Mountain, and Piute Creek Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The first two address bighorn sheep issues, and the Piute Creek Plan directs improvement of riparian habitat for wildlife. Also completed were plans addressing the endangered Mohave tui chub populations at Soda Springs, and bighorn sheep issues in the Old Dad-Kelso Mountain area. These planning efforts are incorporated into the East Mojave Management Plan and referenced where appropriate.

#### **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

Private lands in the East Mojave are developed according to policies, regulations or guidelines established by San Bernardino County as outlined in their General Plan. The East Mojave area falls under the category of "Rural Conservation" which limits the subdivision of parcels to 40 acres or greater, and establishes a policy to limit the intensity of development. During the preparation of the East Mojave Management Plan, several meetings between BLM and County officials were held to determine how to resolve development issues on private lands that would have an effect on public land management. After the East Mojave Plan is approved, a memorandum of agreement will be developed between the County and BLM to implement certain actions requiring BLM-County coordination. The East Mojave Management Plan calls for a partnership approach to public-private land issues which will be outlined in greater detail in the memorandum of agreement.





# **MANAGEMENT DIRECTION**

- A. LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND OWNERSHIP
- B. ACCESS
- C. RECREATION MANAGEMENT
- D. VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- E. WILDERNESS
- F. CULTURAL RESOURCES
- G. NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS
- H. AIR, SOILS, WATER
- I. VEGETATION
- J. WILDLIFE
- K. WILD HORSES AND BURROS
- L. LIVESTOCK GRAZING
- M. MINERALS
- N. ENERGY PRODUCTION AND UTILITY CORRIDORS
- O. FIRE MANAGEMENT
- P. MONITORING



# Management Direction

The guidelines established by the Desert Plan have succeeded to a large extent in allowing BLM to conserve the unique blend of human use and natural resources that gives the East Mojave its special character. As visitor interest and use increase, new actions will be needed to expand opportunities for dispersed use and maintain or improve the region's environmental quality without imposing excessive controls and restrictions.

The following proposals should be thought of as refinements in the Desert Plan, based on BLM's experience in managing the uses of the region. Each resource or use discussion contains a "Current Management" narrative that describes the present management program and major accomplishments. The "Proposed Management" narrative summarizes new actions and provides justification or rationale for each, background material to more fully explain the action, statements of policy that more clearly define what BLM's management direction will be over the next ten years, and enforcement strategies where applicable. In a few sections where no new actions are proposed, the narrative outlines proposals that previous planning efforts have indicated will be required over the next few years.

Some proposed actions will require amendments to the Desert Plan or Congressional concurrence to allow implementation. Other actions are solutions to specific problems or needs that the Desert Plan did not consider in detail. Note that implementation of some actions will be deferred until use levels or monitoring data indicate a need.

## A. Land Classification and Ownership

Land ownership and the general guidelines for the use of those lands are at the heart of many of the issues facing the East Mojave. This section includes BLM proposals to redefine land-use categories and the land ownership pattern, along with policies for dealing with trespass and waste sites.

### DESERT PLAN MULTIPLE-USE CLASSES

To meet resource protection objectives and more effectively control impacts from mining, grazing and recreation use, three areas designated for moderate use, covering approximately 10% of the East Mojave's public lands (120,000 acres), are recommended for reclassification to limited use (Class L) during the 1988 cycle of the Desert Plan amendment process.

*A-1: Change the "moderate" multiple-use class designation on 120,000 acres in the East Mojave to 'limited' use.*

### LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENT

Current Management: The 1980 Desert Plan established guidelines for the acquisition, disposal or exchange of lands in accordance with applicable laws to reduce conflicts with other owners, and improve the opportunities for use or protection of desert lands. Desert Plan guidelines allow for the sale of public lands left unclassified, or designated as multiple use Class I (intensive use), or Class M (moderate use). Federal law does not allow the disposal of any public lands designated as wilderness study areas.

Since the release of the Desert Plan, 25,000 acres have been acquired through two major exchanges with the Santa Fe-Pacific Realty Corporation: the first resulting in BLM acquisition of 9,440 acres in the Granite Mountains area, and most recently, acquisition of nearly 15,000 acres in the East Mojave, including properties in four Wilderness Study Areas recommended by BLM as suitable for wilderness designation, and properties along the Mojave Road and in the Woods Mountains.

The Clark and New York Mountains management plans recommend acquisition of 2,200 acres of State and private lands having important recreation sites as well as plant, animal and cultural resources. Discussions have also been held with private owners who would like to block up their properties and, in so doing, allow BLM to acquire properties containing important resources.

A 1985 Desert Plan Amendment considered an adjustment in the Scenic Area's boundary in the Baker area, and various proposals to allow the sale of a limited amount of public land within the Baker Community

Services District in anticipation of future growth of that area. It was rejected, with the understanding that the East Mojave Plan would establish a policy for resolving development conflicts in the East Mojave.

Proposed Management: The Bureau intends to establish a partnership with other landowners in the East Mojave and with San Bernardino County to ensure that key resources and areas receive the protection they need, allow development of private lands to meet the needs of visitors and individual landowners, and resolve development issues. A close working relationship with San Bernardino County will also be needed to coordinate scenic easement agreements and an orderly acquisition program.

A-2: Lands will be acquired by BLM, following procedures and guidelines established by the Desert Plan and by applicable Federal laws and regulations. As a matter of policy, BLM will give priority to exchanges with a landowner before considering the purchase of private lands, and will normally offer public lands outside the Scenic Area in exchange for private or State lands within the Scenic Area.

The only exceptions to this policy will be in cases where the exchange is clearly in the public interest—for example, when the resource values on the private parcel to be acquired are significantly greater than on the public lands to be traded; and when the landowner will not consider sale or exchange for public lands outside the Scenic Area.

BLM will review, on a case-by-case basis, the merits of acquiring private or state lands not currently recommended for acquisition if they are offered. Resource values, public access needs, development potential, and cost will be factors used in making these decisions.

*A-2: Acquire, by donation, exchange or purchase, approximately 150,000 acres of private and State lands as shown on Map A and listed in Tables 2-2 and 2-3.*

Acquired lands will be assigned a multiple-use class which conforms to the surrounding public lands. Lands acquired in Wilderness Study Areas will be managed according to Interim Management Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (see Appendix I); lands acquired in suitably recommended WSAs will also be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Assuming approval of Action A-1, all acquired lands would therefore be managed under Class C or Class L guidelines.

BLM will pursue exchanges with willing private landowners, continue to implement a cooperative agreement with the State to consolidate Federal/State holdings, and conduct land exchanges with Santa Fe-Pacific, which has expressed an interest in exchanging most of their properties in the Scenic Area. The costs of these exchanges would be shared. When a private landowner would rather sell than exchange, BLM will request an appropriation through our budget process.

A-3: When sensitive private lands cannot be acquired in fee (generally, those along scenic corridors or listed in Table 2-1 as high priority), BLM will attempt to purchase a scenic easement which will become a perpetual encumbrance or deed restriction, and will guarantee compatible uses even if the property is sold. For less sensitive private parcels, BLM will enter into voluntary agreements with willing landowners. Agreements would cover size and color of structures, setbacks from roads and trails, signs, storage of materials, and vegetation removal. The intent of these agreements will not be to halt development, but to guide it in ways that are cost-effective and desirable from a scenic and or environmental standpoint. The Bureau will work with San Bernardino County to develop procedures for implementing this action.

A-4: Map A in the back pocket shows seven "visitor service" areas which are primarily in private ownership, and particularly well suited to supply additional services for the increasing number of Scenic Area visitors, but with minimal disturbance to the East Mojave's

*A-3: Establish agreements to maintain scenic quality with private owners of parcels which will not be acquired by BLM.*

*A-4: Enter into an agreement with San Bernardino County to address public-private land development issues.*

character. These sites are already served by utilities, are on the maintained road network, and in many cases already provide lodging, gasoline and food services. BLM will enter into a County-landowner dialogue in the capacity of an adjacent landowner to work towards an agreement on acceptable development standards.

Specific topics to be addressed by the MOA will be: utility service lines, building setbacks, building designs, waste disposal, native plant harvesting, public access across private lands, road needs and maintenance, parcel sizes, zoning restrictions/districts, scenic easements, and mineral development standards.



TABLE 2-1  
Priorities for Land Acquisitions

<u>Geographic Areas</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Acres to be Acquired</u>		<u>State</u>	<u>Notes</u>
		<u>Private</u>	<u>Other</u>		
		<u>Railroad</u>	<u>Other</u>		
Cima Dome	M			1,920	proposed landmark
Cinder Cones	H			2,560	suitable WSA; cultural
	M			1,920	Nat'l Natural Landmark
	H		640		Mojave Road
	M		640	1,280	viewshed
Clark Mountain	H		5	1,735	Clark Mtn. ACEC
Devil's Playground	H		1,280		Mojave Road
	H			640	bighorn habitat
	M			1,280	bighorn habitat
Fenner Valley	H	14,720			tortoise habitat
	M	3,200			viewshed
	L	4,480			viewshed
Granite Mountain	H		40	1,920*	suitable WSA
	H	1,920			valuable recreation site
	M		160		recreation site
Ivanpah Valley	H		4,480	640	tortoise habitat
Kelso Dunes	H		640	3,200	suitable WSA
	L		640		viewshed
Lanfair Valley	H	7,680			tortoise habitat
	H		4,480		Mojave Road
	M	16,000	640		to reduce potential for "worst case" development
Marl Mountain	H		640		Mojave Road
Mescal Range	M			640	bighorn habitat
Mid Hills	H			1,280	recreation sites

\* Does not include State property in Research Natural Area.



TABLE 2-1  
Priorities for Land Acquisitions

<u>Geographic Areas</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Acres to be Acquired</u>		<u>State</u>	<u>Notes</u>
		<u>Private</u>	<u>Railroad Other</u>		
New York Mountains and Castle Peaks	H		1,500	1,920	high value cultural, vegetation resources in ACEC
	H		80	640	suitable WSA (Castle Peaks)
	H		1,280		Mojave Road
	M		7,040		important wildlife habitat
Piute Range	H	960	640	640	suitable WSA
Providence Mountains (north)	H			3,840	suitable WSA
	H	2,560			viewshed
	M			640	recreation site
Providence Mountains (south)	H	400	3,200	1,280	suitable WSA
	H	2,560			viewshed
	M	3,920	320	1,120	recreation site, viewshed
	L	8,960			viewshed
Soda Lake	L		640	640	scenic viewshed
Woods and Hackberry Mountains	H		2,560		Mojave Road, recreation tortoise habitat
	H	5,210			wildlife, recreation values
	M	8,320	1,280		viewshed
	L	5,760			
TOTAL ACREAGE		86,650	32,825	29,735 =	149,210

Determination of Priorities

- High (H): Parcels in suitably recommended Wilderness Study Areas, or recommended for acquisition in plans for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or that contain resources of high value and area in areas with potential for development.
- Moderate (M): Parcels containing valuable resources in areas that are judged not to have a high potential for development.
- Low (L): Important viewsheds, or parcels with resources of importance, but with minimal potential for "inconsistent" development.

TABLE 2-2  
Acreage Totals for  
Recommended Land Acquisitions\*

	<u>High Priority</u>	<u>Medium Priority</u>	<u>Low Priority</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Cima Dome		1,920		1,920
Cinder Cones	3,200	3,840		7,040
Clark Mountains	1,740			1,740
Devil's Playground	1,920	1,280		3,200
Fenner Valley	14,720	3,200	4,480	22,400
Granite Mountains	3,880	160		4,040
Ivanpah Valley	5,120			5,120
Kelso Dunes	3,840		640	4,480
Lanfair Valley	12,160	16,640		28,800
Marl Mountain	640			640
Mescal Range		640		640
Mid Hills	1,280			1,280
New York Mountains and Castle Peaks	5,420	7,040		12,460
Piute Range	2,240			2,240
Providence Mountains (South)	7,440	5,360	8,960	21,760
(North)	6,400	640		7,040
Soda Springs			1,280	1,280
Woods & Hackberry Mountains	7,770	9,600	5,760	23,130
TOTALS	77,770	50,320	21,120	149,210

\*See Table 2-1 for determination of priorities.

## WITHDRAWALS AND WITHDRAWAL REVIEW

Current Management: All withdrawals and segregations in the Scenic Area have been reviewed over the past five years to determine whether, in light of new mining regulations such as the 43 CFR 3800 regulations established in 1980, and other administrative actions such as approval of the Desert Plan, they are still required to preserve public land resources.

Initial recommendations for the revocation or retention of withdrawals, segregations, and classifications were made in 1984. The segregations made by classifications R-236 and R-1217 (described on page 102) were recommended for termination, since the Desert Plan's multiple-use class guidelines fulfilled the intent of the earlier classifications. Many of the larger mineral withdrawals made by Public Land Order 5224 were also recommended for revocation. Recommended for retention were the withdrawals for important cultural resource sites, and the Mid Hills and Hole-in-the-Wall campground areas. The need for withdrawals from the mining laws was reduced by implementation of new mining regulations, authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which for the first time allowed BLM to require surface reclamation and the filing of performance and reclamation bonds to ensure compliance with reclamation requirements.

**A-5:** *Revoke classifications made under the Classification and Multiple Use Act, pending approval of actions recommended in A-7.*

**A-6:** *Maintain only those mining law withdrawals that meet management objectives, and recommend eliminating duplicative withdrawals.*

**A-7:** *Recommend additional withdrawals from the mining laws as shown on Map B and summarized in Table 2-3. Existing mining law withdrawals in these areas would be revoked only if and when these new proposals are approved by the Secretary.*

Proposed Management: The need for protective withdrawals was reviewed for all significant resources and areas in the East Mojave during the preparation of this Plan to determine where additional mining law withdrawals would be needed to meet Plan objectives.

Most existing mining law withdrawals in the East Mojave are recommended by this Plan for retention, and will either be amended to conform to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), or will be replaced by a larger FLPMA withdrawal. Duplicative mining law withdrawals in areas BLM wishes to exclude from mineral entry will be replaced by a single withdrawal under the terms established by Section 204 of FLPMA. In areas where no withdrawal will be needed, all current mineral withdrawals will be recommended for revocation.

The withdrawals would apply only to locatable minerals. Saleable mineral policy is addressed by Action M-1 (page 93); leasable mineral policy will be addressed in a Desert Plan Amendment scheduled for consideration in 1989.

Current 43 CFR 3809 surface management regulations generally provide adequate protection to most lands open to mining activity. However, in specific locations where highly valued or unique geologic, scenic, floral, faunal, or cultural resources are found, or where critical water resources occur, protection in the form of a withdrawal from mining use is essential to ensure their long-term preservation. In addition, protective withdrawals will ensure lands will remain in public ownership and not transfer to private parties as a result of patent provisions of the mining law.

The recommendations made below will require formal submission to the Secretary of the Interior and, for those affecting 5,000 or more acres, to the U.S. Congress for review.

A mineral report will be prepared for each of these preliminary withdrawal recommendations. The report will describe known or potential mineralization of the area, past exploration or mining activities, and current mineral activity. A separate justification will be provided for each proposal, assessing the uniqueness of the resource, anticipated impacts from mining and other activities, ability of the area or resource to tolerate (with mitigation) surface disturbance, presence of improvements or structures, and size (i.e., is the proposed area the minimum required for the intended purpose). This assessment and attendant public review may result in modifications to the preliminary recommendations discussed on the following pages.

BLM actions relating to land use classifications and withdrawals terminated since January 1, 1985, have been frozen by Court order pending the resolution of a lawsuit filed by the National Wildlife Federation. Any recommendations made by this Plan affecting terminated, existing, or proposed withdrawals will be considered as interim recommendations, and their implementation possibly delayed until the case is settled.

**C&MU Act**

This Plan concurs with the 1984 BLM recommendation to terminate the protective classifications and segregations made under the Classification and Multiple Use Act.

Rationale: Desert Plan guidelines and additional mining law withdrawals proposed below have or would replace the segregative effects of the two classifications (R236 and R1217) made on public lands in the Scenic Area.

**Public Water Reserves**

Maintain withdrawals around identified springs and water holes, segregating the areas from mineral entry under the mining laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawals, existing classifications and withdrawals would be terminated or revoked pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: Protection of water quality and flow rate at important springs and water holes is critical to wildlife, livestock and human survival. Mineral withdrawals are intended to reduce development activities at the source of water supply to protect known cultural resources associated with desert water resources and vegetation associated with seeps and springs, which are designated by the Desert Plan as "highly sensitive" Unusual Plant Assemblages.

**Caruthers  
Canyon**

Propose a 3,720-acre withdrawal at Caruthers Canyon, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, mining law segregations will be terminated pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: Caruthers Canyon contains a number of rare and sensitive plants including white fir, the Caruthers Canyon and Keystone Chaparral Unusual Plant Assemblages, important wildlife habitat for deer and upland game, extensive cultural resources, and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in a very scenic setting. These values led to the area's designation as an Outstanding Natural Area and as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

**Cima Dome**

Maintain an 18,620-acre withdrawal for Cima Dome, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, existing classifications and withdrawals will be terminated or revoked pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: Cima Dome is a well known geologic feature and is proposed for National Natural Landmark status. The area currently withdrawn was designated an Outstanding Natural Area in 1972. The 320-acre area being proposed as an addition to the existing withdrawn area covers Wildcat Butte, a site with excellent recreation potential for hiking and interpretation. In addition to its geologic importance, the dome is home to one of the finest Joshua tree forests in the United States, rivaling stands in the Joshua Tree National Monument. Good water availability from a number of developed sources makes the area valuable for wildlife including the gilded northern flicker, recently listed by the State as an endangered species.

**Cinder Cones**

Propose a 20,320-acre withdrawal for the Cinder Cones, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, existing classifications and withdrawals will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: The Cinder Cones region contains extensive lava flows interspersed with over 30 extinct volcanoes. Most of the area is included in the Cinder Cones National Natural Landmark. The classic conical shape of many of the volcanic peaks indicates recent volcanic activity. Because of their vivid coloration, "soft"

texture, and prominence, the Cinder Cones are highly susceptible to damage from road building and other surface-disturbing actions.

**Clark  
Mountain**

Propose a 1,840-acre withdrawal at Clark Mountain, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, 480 acres segregated under R1217 will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: Clark Mountain is the highest peak in the East Mojave. The area proposed for withdrawal contains eight plant species listed by the California Native Plant Society as rare or endangered, Unusual Plant Assemblages (white fir and basic rupicola), and important habitat for bighorn sheep and highly specialized birds. This withdrawal was originally proposed in the management plan for the Clark Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

**Cow Cove**

Propose an 840-acre withdrawal at Cow Cove, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA.

Rationale: Cow Cove represents one of the more extensive areas of cultural resources found in the East Mojave. Because of the concentration, extent, integrity, and public interest (both to the general public and the scientific community) in the cultural resources present, impacts of mining operations would pose risks which could not be mitigated. The area is currently open to mineral entry, but is located in a Wilderness Study Area recommended by BLM as suitable for designation.

**Granite  
Mountains**

Propose a 11,280-acre withdrawal at the Granite Mountains, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA.

Rationale: The Granite Mountains have long been considered important to university-level research on desert ecology. The proposed withdrawal would cover the entire Granite Mountain Research Natural Area. Additionally, extensive areas of cultural resources which were recently identified promise to provide clues about the region's past environment as well as new information on human history of the area. Important recreation sites in the Granite Pass area providing exceptional camping opportunities are also proposed for withdrawal.

## Hole-in-the-Wall

Maintain a 160-acre withdrawal at Hole-in-the-Wall campground segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws, pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with the FLPMA withdrawal, 160 acres segregated under PLO 5224 will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.



Rationale: The Hole-in-the-Wall area contains one of two BLM campgrounds in the East Mojave, on which considerable public funds have been spent to develop and maintain facilities.

## Kelso Dunes

Maintain an 11,590-acre withdrawal at Kelso Dunes, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, existing classifications and withdrawals will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: The Kelso Dunes, a designated Outstanding Natural Area, are the third tallest dune system in the United States. They are managed for nonvehicular recreation including sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and photography. Mining operations would significantly alter the character of the dunes, change use patterns, and take away from the "quiet dunes" concept under which the area is being managed. The area proposed for withdrawal is within a Wilderness Study Area recommended by BLM as suitable for wilderness designation.

**Mid Hills**

Propose a 690-acre withdrawal at Mid Hills, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with the FLPMA withdrawal, existing classifications and withdrawals will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: The Mid Hills area contains the second of the two Bureau-administered recreation sites in the East Mojave. Considerable public funds have been expended to construct and maintain Mid Hills campground and associated facilities.

**Piute Creek**

Propose a 2,530-acre withdrawal at Piute Creek, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, the existing 410-acre segregation will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: Piute Creek is the only perennial stream in the East Mojave. Not only does the creek support a well-developed riparian zone, it also provides habitat and water for bighorn sheep and upland game. In 1985, Elf Owls, a State-listed endangered species, were introduced to the canyon. Piute Canyon also contains extensive cultural resources including historic Fort Piute, Old Mojave Road, and numerous archaeological sites. The area is a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and has been recommended by BLM as suitable for wilderness designation.

**Providence Mountains**

Propose a 110-acre withdrawal at Providence Mountains, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, 110 acres segregated under classification R236 will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: Located in the center of the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area is a 110-acre block of public land. The existence of mining claims on this parcel prohibited its transfer by lease to the State of California when the State Recreation Area was established. The Bureau recommends validity examinations be performed on this claim block after a protective withdrawal is in place.



## Rock Springs

Propose a 640-acre withdrawal at Rock Springs, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA.

Rationale: Rock Springs was an important water source along the Old Mojave Road and was the site of an official Army Post in the 1860's. Prior to its occupation by the Army, the spring and surrounding hillsides and benches supported seasonal Indian encampments. Currently the site provides water for wildlife and livestock, and provides for recreation and scientific study. This withdrawal was originally proposed in the management plan prepared for the Rock Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

## Soda Lake

Propose a 5,520-acre withdrawal at Soda Lake, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, existing classifications and withdrawals covering a portion of the area will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.



Rationale: Soda Lake is one of the largest and most well-defined playas in the California Desert. Along its western shoreline, a number of seeps and springs support a discontinuous riparian zone which culminates at Soda Springs. Numerous cultural sites are found along the shoreline in the area of larger water sources. Currently, Soda Springs is the site of the Desert Studies Center. In historic times, the springs were the site of an Army outpost located along the Old Mojave Road. Due to the availability of water, Soda Lake and Soda Springs provide habitat for a variety of birds and have the only known population of the endangered Mohave tui chub. Shoreline development would threaten cultural resources and ongoing research projects. This withdrawal was originally proposed by the management plan prepared for the Soda Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

**Wildhorse Mesa**

Propose a 9,040-acre withdrawal at Wildhorse Mesa, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, the existing segregations will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: Wildhorse Mesa contains one of the most extensive cultural resource concentrations in the region. Isolated by terrain and lack of access, the mesa contains a wealth of scientific data.

**Woods Mountains**

Propose a 2,400-acre withdrawal at Woods Mountain, segregating the area from mineral entry under the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws pursuant to Section 204 of FLPMA. Concurrent with implementation of the FLPMA withdrawal, 850 acres segregated under classification R236 will be proposed for revocation pursuant to the withdrawal review process.

Rationale: Woods Mountains contains a large concentration of cultural resources, some of which are unique in the East Mojave region. The area proposed for withdrawal possesses outstanding opportunities for archaeological study. Information gained thus far has contributed greatly to our overall knowledge of the prehistory of the area.

**SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATIONS**

Several designations have been made for special areas within the East Mojave that are duplicative or may no longer be needed. Also, BLM has recently revised its national policy on designations, expanding the Area of Critical Environmental concern program to include most special areas. The designations listed in Table 2-4 (page 50) will be evaluated through the Desert Plan Amendment process for possible ACEC designation. Designations no longer needed, such as the two Recreation Lands, will be recommended for revocation. This action is administrative in nature, and will not affect on-the-ground management.

*A-8: Review special area designations for appropriateness and need.*

TABLE 2-3  
Acreage of Proposed Mineral Withdrawals

<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres Currently Segregated</u>	<u>Proposed Additional Acreage</u>	<u>Total Proposed Acreage</u>	<u>Acres In Suitable WSAs</u>	<u>Claims<sup>1</sup></u>
Caruthers Canyon	575	3,145	3,720	---	254
Cima Dome	18,300	320	18,620	---	0
Cinder Cones	4,800	15,520	20,320	---	512
Clark Mountain	480	1,360	1,840	---	9
Cow Cove	----	840	840	840	9
Granite Mountains	1,680	9,600	11,280	8,280	60
Hole-in-the-Wall	160	---	160	---	0
Kelso Dunes	11,590	---	11,590	11,590	363
Mid Hills	570	120	690	---	2
Piute Creek	410	2,120	2,530	1,770	18
Providence Mt.	110	---	110	---	39
Rock Spring	---	640	640	---	6
Soda Lake	1,440	4,080	5,520	---	8
Wildhorse Mesa	390	8,650	9,040	8,980	39
Woods Mountains	620	1,780	2,400	---	0
Totals:	41,125	48,175	89,300	31,460	1,345

<sup>1</sup> Mining claims on file as of January 1987.

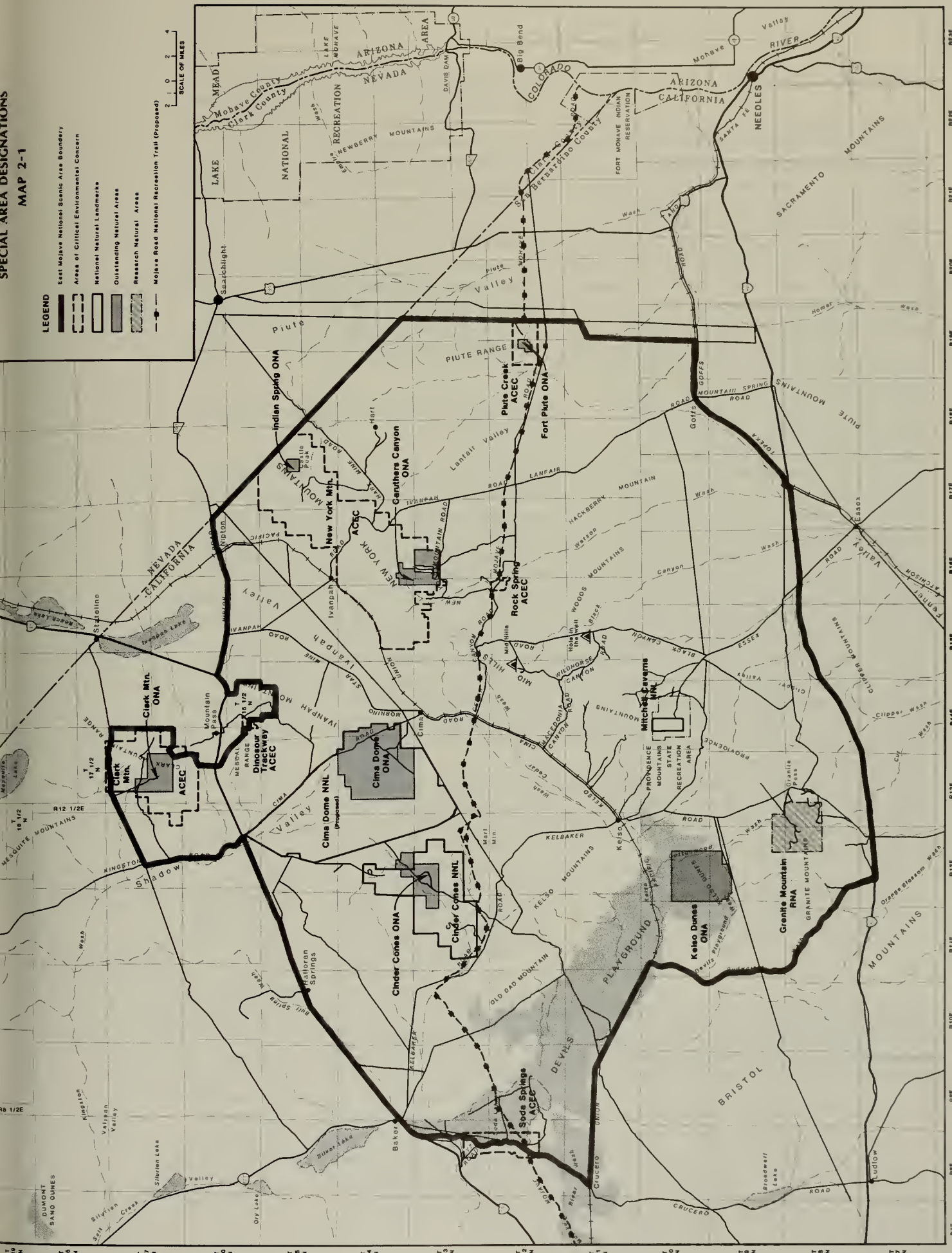
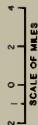
TABLE 2-4  
Special Area Designations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Designation Date</u>
ACECs--Original Desert Plan Designations		
Clark Mountain	21,700	1980
Dinosaur Trackway	590	1980
New York Mountains	62,720	1980
Piute Creek	4,320	1980
Rock Springs	663	1980
Soda Springs	7,770	1980
Research Natural Area		
Granite Mountains	6,720	1986
National Natural Landmarks		
Cima Dome	49,500	(proposed)
Cinder Cones Natural Area	25,600	1975
Mitchell Caverns (State Administered)	1,600	1975
Outstanding Natural Areas		
*Cima Dome	18,390	1972
*Cinder Cones	4,783	1972
*Clark Mountain	4,480	1972
Kelso Dunes	11,590	1972
*Indian Spring (Castle Peaks)	640	1972
*Caruthers Canyon	4,200	1972
*Fort Piute	410	1972
Recreation Lands		
*Eastern Mojave	745,852	1972
*Fort Piute	5,395	1972

\* These areas are already covered by other special area designations, and will be recommended for elimination as separate entities.

**SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATIONS**  
**MAP 2-1**

- LEGEND**
- East Mojave National Scenic Area Boundary
  - Area of Critical Environmental Concern
  - National Natural Landmark
  - Outstanding Natural Areas
  - Research Natural Areas
  - Mojave Road National Recreation Trail (Proposed)



T 19 N T 16 N T 15 N T 14 N T 13 N T 12 N T 11 N T 10 N T 9 N T 8 N T 7 N

R 12 1/2 E R 12 E R 11 E R 10 E R 9 E R 8 E R 7 E R 6 E R 5 E R 4 E R 3 E R 2 E R 1 E

## UNAUTHORIZED USE

Current Management: Unauthorized use of public lands in the East Mojave is an issue, but not one of significant proportions. Unauthorized use may involve occupancy, grazing trespass, wood and plant theft, unauthorized right-of-way or facility construction, or mineral material removal. Incidents are investigated and/or monitored regularly. Abatement of unauthorized use is dealt with on an individual basis with the method of resolution being based on the sensitivity of the resource(s) involved, the legal issues raised by the case, the need for expediently resolving the situation, and the attendant cost of taking action. In some cases such as an unauthorized structure, for example, it may be more cost effective to authorize the use through an exchange, direct sale, or lease, rather than by eviction and removal. This is particularly true where the past and potential impact of the occupancy is not a detriment to other resources and evidence points to an honest mistake in location or judgment. On the other hand, in cases of vegetation theft (illegal wood cutting or native plant removal), it is preferable to take direct action upon discovery, generally through some type of law enforcement action. Follow-up civil action may be taken in lieu of or in addition to criminal prosecution. Whatever method is selected, the total cost in both time and money is surprisingly high.

*A-9: Systematically review and expedite the resolution of all cases of unauthorized use.*

Proposed Management: Computerization of case documentation and increased surveillance will be provided to improve the efficiency of abatement efforts.

A "trespass task force" approach on selected clusters of unauthorized use will be initiated to both speed efforts at resolution and improve the cost effectiveness of the program. All abatement efforts will be accompanied by a comprehensive public affairs program to fully explain to the general public and elected officials the laws, regulations, and environmental rationale for these actions. The objective of the abatement program will be directed towards fair and equal enforcement, with resolution being the ultimate goal.

## HAZARDOUS AND NONHAZARDOUS WASTE

BLM will work with San Bernardino County to resolve nonhazardous waste disposal problems of residents and visitors to the East Mojave. Options include transporting waste to disposal sites outside the Scenic Area, and development of a containerized system similar to one being proposed for Baker. It is BLM policy to not allow non-hazardous waste sites on public lands. Plans for a waste dump station at Hole-in-the-Wall for use by recreational vehicles are described under Action C-17.

Hazardous waste sites will not be located on public lands in the East Mojave, other than in association with approved mining projects with a reclamation bond. Large-scale hazardous waste siting in the East Mojave is not compatible with visual resource management and land tenure objectives for the East Mojave; therefore BLM will not consider proposals to transfer public lands in the East Mojave to private interests wishing to develop such sites. BLM and the County will work jointly to review abandoned mining projects to determine whether hazardous substances remain. When hazardous wastes are found on public land, BLM follows established procedures to render the waste harmless and/or remove it.

## B. Access

Virtually every type of land-based activity requires some form of access, either as a means of reaching a destination, as a means to pursue other activities, or as an end in itself. The East Mojave's wealth of roads and trails, properly used, can provide opportunities for access for vehicles, hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists. Some routes are particularly suited to specific uses or users. Others pass through areas of such significance that closure has, or will, become necessary as use increases. The following actions are designed to capitalize on the opportunities these routes provide while minimizing resource conflicts.

### MOTORIZED ACCESS

Current Management: The Bureau considers the access network of the East Mojave as an important resource, guiding the visiting public and authorized users through the region without subjecting the area to unnecessary damage. Extensive studies to date conclude that the existing approved access network is sufficient to meet public needs. BLM Rangers and other staff continually monitor vehicle use and local conditions to determine when or where changes should be made. Particular attention is paid to Wilderness Study Areas and other sensitive areas. BLM's California Desert District conducts periodic reviews of route and area designations and makes appropriate changes after public review. New road construction, while not absolutely prohibited, is approved only on a case-by-case basis.

The Desert Plan designated areas as open, closed, or limited for vehicle use. Three areas in the East Mojave are closed to vehicles to protect natural resources: Clark Mountain, the Kelso Dunes, and Soda Lake. Vehicle use in the rest of the Scenic Area is limited to existing and/or approved routes. There are no "open" areas within the East Mojave. However, the Razor Off-Highway Vehicle Area located southwest of Soda Lake, shares a six-mile common boundary with the Scenic Area.

An inventory of vehicle routes based on available maps, aerial photographs, field checks, and public comment was made in 1982-85. This route network was then reviewed by Bureau resource specialists in the fields of wildlife, vegetation, cultural resources, recreation, geology, and range management to determine which routes could or could not be used by vehicles without adversely affecting natural, scenic, or cultural values. After a review of public comments, 17 routes were closed to vehicle use, primarily in the Soda Lake and Cinder Cones areas. In addition, one segment of the

Barstow to Vegas race course near the north end of Soda Lake was "limited" to race use only, and selected routes near Soda Springs were "limited" to research use to both protect and facilitate ongoing research study projects. The decision to leave most routes open to the public was based on low use levels, few identified resource conflicts, and public need. Table 2-5 beginning on page 57, and Map C provide additional information on these designations.

Closed routes/areas may still be accessed by motorized vehicles by permit from BLM for specific, limited activities such as mining exploration, maintenance of big game guzzlers or range improvements, special studies, or for emergencies. Private landowners would also have access rights on closed roads leading to their property. Unlicensed vehicles (including dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles) are allowed on most existing routes of travel in the East Mojave, but are not allowed on County-maintained roads.

Proposed Management: BLM will manage licensed and unlicensed off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Scenic Area through use of the existing vehicle route designation process, increased patrol and law enforcement efforts, a concentrated education and awareness program, and volunteer assistance from interested individuals, organizations, and user groups.

Current OHV use in the East Mojave is relatively low when compared to many areas of the California Desert, and has fortunately resulted in only minor resource damage or user conflicts in some areas. To address these problems, a combination of actions is proposed that in total will significantly reduce the possibility of any further resource degradation and improve control of OHV use without overregulation as overall use increases.

A concentrated effort will be made to increase our education and awareness programs in a manner that will emphasize the Scenic Area's special character and as such will not be treated the same as other Desert areas when managing off-highway vehicle use (see Actions C-1 through C-10). Special emphasis will be given to information on the correct use of off-highway vehicles and their potential to create resource damage. BLM will work closely with the State of California and user groups to educate the public and promote off-highway vehicle safety. Examples of projects include signing, trail guides, pamphlets and entry point information.



**B-1:** *Increase ranger patrols and enforcement efforts in the East Mojave.*

B-1: (Enforcement/Education) The plan recommends an increase in our ranger patrol and enforcement efforts in the Scenic Area. Additional ranger positions located at duty stations in the East Mojave will greatly increase our ability to enforce vehicle restrictions imposed through the route designation process, the Desert Plan, and as outlined in 43 CFR 8342 (Appendix G). BLM will hire two additional resident rangers for FY 1988; the ranger force will continue to expand as need and budgeting allows.

**B-2:** *Periodically review the vehicle route designations and revise accordingly to address conflicts with sensitive resources and uses.*

To the greatest extent possible we propose to utilize volunteers to achieve our off-highway vehicle management objectives. Volunteers could assist our ranger force in detection and reporting of violations. They can be instrumental in the development and distribution of education and awareness information and can serve as BLM information sources in a variety of settings, such as campground hosts and information station aides.

**B-3:** *At a minimum vehicle use within washes will be limited to washes wide enough to accommodate use without disturbance to wash banks or vegetation. Additional limitations to vehicle use will be implemented to protect sensitive resource values on a case-by-case basis through the route designation process.*

B-2: (Vehicle Route Designations) The vehicle route designation process allows for the analysis of individual routes and provides a means to tailor East Mojave off-highway use to meet access needs, while protecting sensitive resources. Each of the nineteen geographic regions identified on pages 57 to 60 will be intensively inventoried to determine the current status of the routes and identify various management actions required to resolve use conflicts, if any. Priority inventory efforts will be concentrated within regions which are currently receiving intensive use or contain identified sensitive resource values. Results of the inventory will be published annually in the "State of the Scenic Area Report" with the vehicle route designations revised following normal Desert District procedures described under "Current Management."

B-3: (Use of Desert Washes) Wide, sandy washes have long been used as part of the Desert's vehicle route network, particularly after the introduction of four-wheel drive vehicles in the late 1940s. The Desert Plan's Vehicle Access Element allows vehicle travel in washes with a prior history of such use; Action B-3 would establish an additional criterion which would have to be met before a wash route in the Scenic Area can be approved for vehicle use. Examples of washes which meet the criteria and which will remain open to vehicle use include Watson, Willow, Woods, and Black Tank washes. Additional site-specific inventories will be conducted to identify which washes can be used and avoid disturbance of sensitive resources such as desert tortoise habitat, archaeologically sensitive areas, densely vegetated sites, or washes which are simply

not wide enough to accommodate vehicle use. This inventory will be reviewed annually with the assistance of the public to ensure that washes needed for access are considered for incorporation into the approved route network.

**B-4: (Signing/Barriers)** The effectiveness of route designations depends to a great extent on implementation through signs, maps, and physical controls. Proposed signing strategies are included in Table 2-5. All signing in the East Mojave will be coordinated with and integrated into State, County, and BLM signing programs. Regulatory signs will be installed at the six main entry points into the Scenic Area to inform visitors of the general vehicle use guidelines that apply to the area.

Whenever feasible, natural or unobtrusive barriers will be installed in place of or in conjunction with signs to more effectively implement access restrictions. An inventory will be maintained to record location and type of signs, barriers, cattleguards, gates, and other vehicle control structures located in the East Mojave to facilitate regular inspection and maintenance by BLM personnel. Appendix H shows examples of the signs that have been approved for use in the California Desert.

Additional signing will be installed to notify the public of access hazards, use regulations, and points of interest. Examples are signs explaining fire danger, camping regulations, no-shooting safety zones, Archaeological Resource Protection Act regulations, and prohibitions on certain activities such as harassment of wildlife or loitering at waters. These signs will conform to BLM standards and be located so as to be effective but not obtrusive.

***B-4: Sign areas and routes to regulate use in conformance with California Desert District policies.***



TABLE 2-5

### Vehicle Access Designations and Sign Plan for the East Mojave

The following list provides information on specific route recommendations by geographic area, and signing requirements needed to effectively implement these decisions. Please refer to Map C in the back pocket for the general location of the routes or areas referred to.

<u>Area of Concern</u>	<u>Recommendation/Rationale</u>
Cima Dome	<p>Close SH434, 448, SH447 south of Wildcat Butte, and the east half of SH445: these routes can barely be made out due to natural reclamation, and are not required for access to mining or grazing improvements. Closure will protect natural values in the Joshua tree woodland.</p> <p>Signing: approved roads in this area which are used by the public will be signed in 1988.</p>
Cinder Cones	<p>Close all routes on the sides of the cinder cones within the area shown on Map C, with the exception of route SH5036, which will remain open to vehicle use. A partial closure was recommended during a review of routes in 1985; this action supplements the earlier effort so as to include all routes in the area of concern. Closure to vehicles is required to allow natural reclamation of the area to continue. Route SH5036 will remain open to provide vehicular access to an overlook on top of one of the cones.</p> <p>Close a portion of SH508: use of the two-mile segment shown on Map C is conflicting with cultural resource management. Previous efforts to protect cultural resources with on-site barriers have not been successful.</p> <p>Close the last one-quarter mile of SH354: increasing vehicle use is causing damage to an important cultural site.</p> <p>Close SH401: this portion of the Barstow to Vegas course will be relocated out of the Scenic Area after the 1987 race; reclamation work was completed January 1988.</p> <p>Signing: approved routes in washes will be signed in 1989 to discourage route proliferation. Signing in support of the route closures on the cinder cones will be installed upon approval of this Plan.</p>
Clark Mountain	<p>Open route SH2024: this existing road is in a area which has been closed to vehicles since 1972. It would provide access to an outstanding trailhead site, and would increase hiking opportunities in the Clark Mountain area. The road will be open for approximately one-third mile, and still clearly shows evidence of previous vehicle use.</p>

The operators of the New Colosseum Mine have constructed three miles of new road for access to the mine, which began operations late in 1987. The former road through Colosseum Gorge has been closed, and will allow the creation of a riparian area in the canyon where seeps are located.

Signing: the closed area boundary will be resigned in 1988. The boundary of WSA 227 will be signed in 1989.

Devil's Playground Delete route SH621: this was included on the route inventory in error and does not exist.

Signing: vehicle use conflicts exist along the boundary shared with the Razor Off-Highway Vehicle Area. Scenic Area boundary signs will be installed between Soda Springs and Crucero, the three approved routes going east from the boundary will be signed open, and special signing will be developed to indicate that vehicle use is allowed on marked routes only.

Elsewhere in the Devil's Playground, all approved routes will be signed by the end of 1989 to clarify the ambiguous vehicle access situation caused by blowing sand covering evidence of prior vehicle use and/or established vehicle routes. BLM's intent is to allow vehicle access but not indiscriminate cross-country travel.

Fenner Valley Washes not already designated open will be closed to vehicle use to protect crucial desert tortoise habitat.

Signing: private/public land boundaries will be signed along the more frequently used routes to reduce the potential for use conflicts. Due to crucial desert tortoise habitat in Ivanpah and Fenner Valleys, all washes not approved for vehicle use will be signed closed in 1988.

Granite Mountains Close routes MH776 and MH636: both are severely washed out, and use invites trespass over private, fenced property.

Close routes MH639, 782, 784, 785, and 7810: use of these routes leads to trespass on University of California owned lands which are fenced.

Close routes MH 7823, 7824, 7825, and 7826: cultural resources are being damaged by vehicle use.

Signing: access routes to popular recreation sites such as the Sheep Corral, Granite Pass camping areas, and Budweiser Spring will be signed. Access routes leading to camping areas will be modified to avoid unnecessary disturbance to adjacent resources. Entry points into WSA 256 will be signed in 1988.

Ivanpah Valley	<p>Washes not designated open will be closed to vehicle use to protect crucial desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p>Signing: private/public land boundaries will be signed along the more frequently used routes to reduce the potential for use conflicts. Due to crucial desert tortoise habitat in Ivanpah and Fenner Valleys, all washes not open to vehicles will be signed closed in 1988.</p>
Kelso Dunes	<p>No changes in vehicle use designations are required.</p> <p>Signing: the "closed" area will be resigned in 1987, and the southern boundary of WSA 250 marked.</p>
Lanfair Valley	<p>Washes south of the Mojave Road not designated open will be closed to vehicle use to protect crucial desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p>Signing: private/public land boundaries will be signed along the more frequently used routes to reduce the potential for use conflicts.</p>
Marl Mountain	<p>No changes in vehicle use designations are required.</p> <p>Signing: approved washes will be signed in 1988.</p>
Mescal Range	<p>Close SH441 I: this route has not been used for several years. It will be developed as an interpreted hiking trail.</p> <p>Signing: all primary access roads will be signed in 1989.</p>
Mid Hills	<p>Close MH216 and I313: use of these roads is causing serious damage to cultural resource sites.</p> <p>Close to unlicensed vehicles all roads in the Mid Hills and Hole-in-the-Wall campgrounds and a two-mile segment of Wildhorse Canyon Road between Black Canyon Road and the entrance to Mid Hills campground. Unlicensed vehicle play is creating conflicts with other users.</p> <p>Signing: to prevent proliferation of routes, end points of roads will be signed and, if terrain allows, natural barriers will be placed to discourage the extension of routes. Entry points into WSA 264 will be signed in 1988.</p>
New York Mountains and Castle Peaks	<p>Close routes MH159, I510 and I511: vehicle use is causing damage to cultural resource sites.</p> <p>Signing: WSA boundary signing will be completed in 1988. Private/public land boundaries along popular access routes will also be signed to reduce the potential for use conflicts. The "cherry-stemmed" road into the center of WSA 266 will be signed, and WSA boundary markers installed along the Nevada border and southern boundary.</p>

- Piute Range
- Two routes have been closed: MH258 was constructed in trespass and closed in 1985 to vehicle use to promote revegetation. AF325, a portion of the Mojave Road, has been impassable to vehicles for several years. The closure protects riparian vegetation along Piute Creek, and allows hiking use on an original section of the Mojave Road.
- Signing: barriers and signs will be installed to prevent vehicle access into the Piute Creek riparian area. All routes in the Wilderness Study Area will be signed and wilderness boundaries marked at all entry points in 1988.
- Providence Mountains (North)
- Close a portion of MH354: vehicle use is disturbing cultural resource sites. The route will be closed from its crossing of a major wash to its end at the base of Wildhorse Mesa.
- Close MH484, 488, 4812, and 4813: vehicle use is inconsistent with management policy of the Providence Mountain State Recreation Area.
- Signing: marking the boundary of WSA 263 will be completed in 1988. Signing of all secondary, approved routes will be completed in 1989.
- Providence Mountains (South)
- No changes in vehicle use designations are required.
- Signing: all entry points into WSA 262 will be signed in 1988. Routes passing through the WSA will be signed in 1989.
- Soda Lake
- Use on four routes is "limited" to authorized users: use of routes AF367, AF3641, and AF3643 is restricted in support of the Soda Lake vehicle closure. Use on AF324 is limited to avoid damage to cultural resources while allowing access for research. The Barstow to Vegas race (on AF3641) will be relocated out of this area after the 1987 race.
- Close SH481, SH541 and SH543 to prevent damage to the Soda Lake bed. These routes are often impassable due to wet conditions. An alternate route for Mojave Road travelers is located south of SH541 (the original route), and is labeled "Mojave Road" on Map C.
- Signing: additional signing needed to enforce the lake bed's vehicle closure will be installed in 1988.
- Woods and Hackberry Mountains
- No need for changes in vehicles use designations has been identified.
- Signing: the large washes traversing this area (such as Watson and Woods washes) which have been approved for use will be signed to identify a single route and minimize route proliferation in the vicinity of the wash.

## NONMOTORIZED ACCESS

Current Management: BLM treats nonmotorized access as a "casual use," with few restrictions or controls. The only significant restriction is a half-hour limit on human activity at waters to minimize conflict with wildlife and livestock. Management actions are currently limited to providing general information on desirable locations for hiking, biking, or horseback riding, and potential dangers or resource conflicts to be aware of.

These actions will significantly expand the opportunity for nonmotorized access in the East Mojave, and meet increased demands for this type of recreation access need.

### Proposed Management

**B-5:** *Develop a nonmotorized trail system to accommodate hiking, mountain bike and equestrian use. This trail system will use a combination of existing routes, abandoned roads and limited new trail construction. The trail system will provide a spectrum of different trail types, varying in length, difficulty, and degree of development to accommodate a wide range of users.*

**B-5: (Nonmotorized Trails)** Four high-priority trail segments are currently being considered by BLM: an eight-mile trail between Hole-in-the-Wall and Mid Hills campgrounds, a two-mile trail to the top of Teutonia Peak, a route between Hole-in-the-Wall to Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, and a trail to the top of Table Mountain. Additional trails will be proposed in the future to address user needs as demand increases or as opportunities arise through volunteer efforts. The initial trail routing has taken advantage of existing facilities and popular destinations within the East Mojave. Portions of the trail between Mid Hills and Hole-in-the-Wall Recreation Area have already been located.

Trail length will vary depending on whether hiking, mountain bike or horseback riding will be the primary use. Equestrian and mountain bike trails will average 10 to 15 miles, and primarily use existing routes of travel. Facilities such as hitching posts or rails and parking areas will be provided at trailheads.

Hiking routes will emphasize day use and be designed as loop trails where feasible. As the trail system develops, opportunities for long-distance hiking will be provided by linking trail segments together. Development will be minimal, mainly limited to marking trail routes and signing at trailheads. Trail construction will be limited to resolving safety and environmental conflicts. Interpretive trails will generally be more highly developed (see C-7 for additional analysis). Portions of these trails may be designed to accommodate the handicapped user.

Water will be for many prospective trail users the main limiting factor in planning a hike, bike trip, or horseback ride. Trails will be routed to provide opportunities for caching water supplies, or to make use of springs or seeps. For equestrian use, BLM may consider entering into agreements with private owners of developed waters to allow for their use.

BLM will also work with the Desert Trail Association concerning their proposal for the East Mojave segment of a point-to-point hiking trail that would eventually go from Canada to Mexico.

**B-6: (Trail Guides)** Many visitors prefer to hike, bike or ride horseback while finding their way to a particular destination (a peak, unique view, or some notable feature). To respond to the growing number of requests for trail use information, BLM will prepare a series of trail guides containing maps of specific areas which show recommended motorized access points to trailheads, and suggested routes for hiking, biking, and/or horseback riding. Text will describe the trail location, information on special features or resources, availability of water, and level of difficulty. BLM will solicit help from hiking, biking, and equestrian groups when developing these guides.

***B-6: Develop a series of trail guides for hiking, equestrian, and mountain bike users.***

Trail guides are planned for the following areas, with priority indicated by number:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| (1) Mid Hills<br>Providence Mountains    | (4) Woods/Hackberry<br>Mountains     |
| (2) Cima Dome<br>Cinder Cones            | (5) Granite Mountains<br>Piute Range |
| (3) New York Mountains<br>Clark Mountain | (6) Mescal Range                     |

Other areas may have trail guides developed if demand warrants. These guides would be sold to the public at BLM offices and Desert Information Outposts.



## ROAD AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Current Management: Most maintained roads in the East Mojave are the responsibility of the County, and are kept up to high standards through regular grading or repair. BLM grades Wildhorse Canyon Road once or twice a year. Other routes are maintained by right-of-way holders or landowners on an "as needed" basis.

### Proposed Management

**B-7:** *Provide regular maintenance on Wildhorse Canyon Road and Aiken's Mine Road. Maintenance on other roads used for access to recreation sites will be done on an as-needed basis.*

**B-8:** *Provide maintenance as needed on all hiking, biking, and equestrian trails to assure safe and continued trail use opportunities and to protect resource values.*

### Proposed Management:

B-7: Wildhorse Canyon Road and Aiken's Mine Road are receiving increasing use by the general public, but are not receiving sufficient maintenance to guarantee year-round public access. BLM will work with private interests and/or San Bernardino County to ensure regular maintenance. Periodic maintenance on additional roads leading to designated recreation sites will also be provided. All BLM-maintained roads will be incorporated into a districtwide Transportation Plan.

Although no additional road paving is proposed at present for the East Mojave, some road segments may be hardened to reduce road maintenance costs and/or reduce dust levels from increased vehicle use.

B-8: Numerous trails will be identified and developed as a result of this Plan. In order to assure that these trails will be available for continued use, maintenance will be completed on an as-needed basis. Trails will be monitored to determine the maintenance needs. BLM will work closely with volunteer groups to establish adopt-a-trail type efforts to accomplish maintenance activities.



## EASEMENTS

BLM has not yet acquired any easements for access over State or private lands, but has received an initial grant from the State's Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Fund to acquire perpetual, exclusive easements to ensure continued public access on the Mojave Road's privately owned segments. To date, use levels and user conflicts with private land developments have been low enough that most private landowners have not found it necessary to block access to the public on roads crossing their lands.

However, access to a number of proposed recreation sites or trails in the East Mojave will entail the crossing of private- or State-owned lands. Once a determination has been made that a private parcel will not or cannot be acquired, negotiations will commence to acquire an access easement. Where access is required in support of a particular project (for example, development of a trail or interpretive site), this determination will be made as part of the site-specific project plan.

### Proposed Management

***B-9:** Obtain easements over private or State lands to ensure public access on roads or trails.*

## C. Recreation Management

Most recreation in the Scenic Area has been "casual use" that generally requires no permit and occurs with little or no interaction with BLM. Management has been designed to be low-key in nature, characterized more by indirect action than by highly visible efforts. Recreation use in the East Mojave is managed by: (1) maintaining a desirable recreational setting through resource management programs; (2) informing the public of available opportunities through maps, brochures, and other publications; (3) providing an adequate network of routes for access to recreation sites; (4) reducing conflicts between various users and the environment; and (5) providing specific services when necessary to enhance an opportunity or meet public demand.

The recreation management program for the East Mojave will be expanded significantly to meet projected increases in visitor demand over the next ten years. The program will be described under six major headings:

- Information and Interpretation
- Recreational Vehicle Trails
- Camping
- Emergency Services and Public Safety
- Firearm Use
- Competitive Events

Provisions to accommodate handicapped use will be considered in design plans for developed recreation facilities, with the primary focus on access needs of wheelchair travelers.

The previous section on Access should also be consulted since many of the actions described will increase recreation opportunities in the Scenic Area.



## INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

Current Management: During the initial years of implementing the Desert Plan, BLM developed several map series which covered the desert at various levels of detail. A series of "Interim" Access Guides provided maps with a greater level of detail. These earlier maps are now being replaced by the "Desert Access Guides," an updated map series that reflects decisions made regarding open or closed status of roads and trails and includes a significant amount of information on desert safety, use regulations, and features of interest.

Several brochures have been prepared to answer general visitor questions about the East Mojave, including an overview of the Scenic Area, and guides to the Piute Creek area, Camp Rock Spring, the Hole-in-the-Wall region, and the Mojave Road. BLM has obtained several copies of the Guide to the Mojave Road and East Mojave Heritage Trail - Needles to Ivanpah for loan to the public, and has signed an agreement with the Southwest Natural and Cultural Heritage Association to provide additional interpretive and informative materials for the public. Uniformed BLM personnel also have presented interpretive programs on request to groups visiting the East Mojave over the last five years.

Regulatory and informational signs have been placed in key locations throughout the East Mojave to indicate areas or roads that are closed to vehicle use, warn of specific hazard, explain use regulations at campgrounds, warn of prohibitions against such activities as destruction or removal of desert tortoises or cultural materials, and explain the history or significance of specific sites. Many interpretive plaques have been put up by private groups such as E Clampus Vitus and the Friends of the Mojave Road in cooperation with BLM.

Proposed Management: One of the critical needs identified during the drafting of this Plan was for better information services targeted not only to the general sightseer, but to all users of the East Mojave. Implementation of these actions will allow BLM to provide nearly every person visiting the East Mojave with information that will enhance their experience and further BLM's environmental protection objectives. The following commentary gives additional information on the proposed actions:

### Proposed Management

**C-1:** Provide information and area regulations at six main entry points to the East Mojave.

**C-2:** Provide information displays about the Scenic Area at the California Desert Information Center (formerly the Barstow Way Station) the Visitor Orientation Center at Soda Springs, and adjacent Interstate rest areas.

**C-3:** Develop facilities at Hole-in-the-Wall recreation area to provide a year-round visitor contact station and quarters for a resident Ranger.

**C-4:** Establish "Desert Information Outposts" at Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, Amboy, Baker, Chambless, Cima, the Cima Road exit at 1-15, Essex, Goffs, and Nipton.

**C-5:** Establish a visitor contact station at Kelso Depot, and quarters in Kelso for a resident ranger.

C-1: There are six main entry points into the East Mojave at intersections of County roads and Interstates 15 and 40. Each site is being designed to provide basic use information, including vehicle, firearm, and other Scenic Area regulations, maps, and brochures.

C-2: These interpretive displays will provide a general orientation to the Scenic Area, and be designed according to standards already established for each site. The California Desert Information Center will also have a full series of brochures and information sheets on the East Mojave for public distribution.

C-3: Hole-in-the-Wall has been proposed as one of two primary interpretive/information sites in the East Mojave due to its location in the heart of the Scenic Area and its high recreation use (the other is Kelso--see C-5). BLM will maintain a small staff at this site to provide regular public contact during the October-to-May use season. Kelso Depot and the Desert Information Outposts would serve as supplemental administrative or visitor contact sites.

C-4: The Desert Information Outpost program is a voluntary effort on the part of local merchants to provide a wide range of information to desert visitors. Brochures, maps, and books will be supplied, and signs/displays provided to properly identify the Outposts.

C-5: Kelso Depot Fund, Inc., is a nonprofit organization established recently to restore the historic Kelso Depot and find appropriate uses for the structure. BLM is working closely with this organization to secure an agreement with the building's present owner (Union Pacific Railroad) that guarantees public use, and will assist in restoration work. When these efforts are completed, BLM will prepare interpretive displays and provide information services at this location. The building may also be used to provide housing for temporary or full-time employees or volunteers. The Cost and Implementation Schedule (page 130) contains budgeting data for two alternatives: (A) estimates costs only for interpretive design and exhibit construction; (B) assumes BLM ownership, with cost estimates for restoration and maintenance, along with exhibits. Depending on degree of BLM use, the agency may ask for a special appropriation for its share of restoration and maintenance costs.

C-6: The Interpretive Plan will receive high priority for completion by 1989 to allow coordinated implementation of Actions C-7 through C-10. Resource interpretation will emphasize resource issues, the resource base, uses, and management activity, providing a complete picture of man's interrelationship with the East Mojave. Information may take the form of on-site displays, publications, maps, road guides, interpretive trails, interpretive programs (question and answer sessions, walks, hikes, slide shows), and environmental education programs. Interpretive topics may be added, changed, or adapted to new needs or information to provide visitors with the most accurate and up-to-date information. The appropriate means of interpreting a topic will be decided based on the characteristics of an area and the type of information to be conveyed to the public. The following list suggests the range of possible topics to be developed and used in this program.

Vegetation: special areas or species; habitat improvement, plant identification, and desert adaptation.

Wildlife: diversity, special species, habitat improvement, desert adaptation.

Wild Burros: history of the burro in America, the adopt-a-burro program, methods and reasons for control.

Geology: structural geology, faulting, volcanic activity, and erosional processes.

Historical Uses: railroad, energy, homesteading, mining, grazing, utilities. This may include past, present, and future uses and technological advances.

Historical and Cultural Resources: early explorers, military use, and prehistoric resources. Cultural resource interpretation will be provided in a manner that does not disclose site locations. Off-site interpretation will focus on resource protection efforts the public can participate in, and will provide information to develop a better understanding of those fragile resources.

Other topics may include: general natural resources, fire, history of public lands, the California Desert, and BLM policies and objectives.

Prescheduled interpretive programs will be developed and conducted by BLM employees and volunteers. Hikes, campfire programs, and informal talks will be used to establish more effective contact with visitors to the East Mojave and to create a greater public awareness of the area in support of resource management and protection goals.

*C-6: Develop an Interpretive Plan for the East Mojave covering the area's cultural and natural history, and man's interaction with the resources of the region. The Plan will outline themes to be presented at specific sites; address cooperative interpretive opportunities with Providence Mountain State Recreation Area and California Department of Fish and Game; and provide for a series of interpreted walks or lectures.*

### Proposed Management

**C-7:** *Develop interpretive facilities at key points or areas of interest to interpret features, history, and uses of the East Mojave.*

**C-8:** *Publish a uniform series of information bulletins describing opportunities for specific recreational activities and covering topics of general visitor interest.*

**C-9:** *Provide a regularly updated guide on interpretive programs, activities, seasonal recreation opportunities, and articles of general interest. This may be integrated into a publication covering the entire California Desert Conservation Area.*

**C-10:** *Provide for the sale of books, maps and other publications pertaining to the East Mojave through the auspices of a cooperating natural history association.*

C-7: Several points or areas of interest suitable for interpretation are located throughout the East Mojave. BLM intends to develop these sites to provide the visitor with an overview of the East Mojave's resources, uses, and management following guidelines to be established by the Interpretive Plan. Development of each site will be tailored to use levels, site constraints, and the nature of the resource or use being interpreted. Design plans will be prepared with an emphasis on maintaining the region's historic character. Sites on private lands would be developed only if owner permission is obtained. BLM will work with history-oriented groups such as E Clampus Vitus on some of these projects.

Developments at each site may include one or more of the following: interpretive signs or plaques, short self-guided interpretive trails with signs or an accompanying brochure, picnic sites and/or trash receptacles, and parking. Restrooms may be considered at some sites.

C-8: These information bulletins will be developed in coordination with other agencies having a management role in the East Mojave, including the Department of Fish and Game and Providence Mountain State Recreation Area. Recreation opportunities such as rock climbing, rock collecting, hunting, camping, and bird watching would be included in the series. Plants, animals and wildlife management, mining history, geology, grazing, and resource management techniques would be among the general interest sheets developed.

C-9: The guide will be oriented towards recreation users. It would be distributed at BLM offices, Desert Information Outposts, and by mail or phone request. The publication will contain positive language about the proper use of desert resources, with special emphasis on safe firearm use and vehicle use.

C-10: The California Desert District currently has an agreement with the Southwest Natural History Association to provide interpretive material for sale to the public. The Needles Resource Area will work with this and other organizations to provide new materials for publication. Eventually, a cooperating association may be established for the East Mojave as visitor interest and demand increase.

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TRAILS

Current Management: To date two recreational vehicle trails have been developed and interpreted to help tell the story of the East Mojave. Following much of Edward Beale's original wagon route, the Mojave Road was resurrected by a dedicated group of volunteers known as the Friends of the Mojave Road. In cooperation with the BLM, the route was researched and marked to facilitate public travel. Along with the field work, volunteers developed a detailed mile-by-mile guide to aid travelers. The Guide to the Mojave Road contains not only maps, historical information, and instructions on how to follow the old Road, but also information on the value of desert resources, instruction on "desert etiquette" regarding their protection, and the needs of other users of the desert. The route is now one of the main recreation attractions in the California Desert.

The same group has recently completed and published the first of four volumes that will interpret a 600-mile "East Mojave Heritage Trail," a substantial portion of which will be within the Scenic Area.

### Proposed Management:

C-11: The proposed designation of the Mojave Road will give it the national recognition it deserves. The inset on pages 72 and 73 describes in detail BLM proposals for management of the Mojave Road over the next ten years. The nomination as a National Recreational Trail will be formally proposed once access easements have been acquired across all private lands.

C-12: Several additional routes in the East Mojave which pass through areas of scenic quality, historic interest or natural history offer outstanding interpretive opportunities for travelers with the means of getting off the maintained route network. BLM will work with interested user groups including the cooperating association (C-10), to develop interpretive materials for these routes. BLM will monitor these efforts to ensure that proper environmental safeguards are provided in terms of route selection and protection of site-specific resources that may be impacted by increased visitor use.

### **Proposed Management**

***C-11: Nominate the Mojave Road for designation as a National Recreational Trail, and manage according to guidelines described in the Mojave Road Management Plan (see inset).***

***C-12: Develop additional interpreted vehicle trails covering a variety of recreational experiences and topics.***



The Friends of the Mojave Road, the volunteer group which developed the recreational potential of the Mojave Road, will be publishing three more volumes to complete the East Mojave Heritage Trail, which uses existing roads in or near the Scenic Area to give visitors a close-up view of the history and natural beauty of the entire East Mojave region, including areas outside the Scenic Area boundary. Other trails which may be developed are abandoned railroad beds such as the Barnwell to Searchlight Railroad.

Interpretation for selected roads or trails will be provided through guide books oriented towards the type of vehicle, road conditions, and interpretive potential of the route(s) being described. In addition to guide books for four-wheel drive trails such as the Mojave Road, BLM will provide guides for selected maintained roads in the East Mojave.

The State Off-Highway Vehicle Commission's proposed Statewide Motorized Trail System may include some routes in the East Mojave. In most cases, only existing approved routes of travel will be used. A project plan will be prepared to determine the exact location of each route proposed for inclusion in the State's system, and establish guidelines to ensure that use is consistent with Scenic Area objectives for access and recreation. Generally, these guidelines will require that:

- existing, approved vehicle routes be used;
- information be provided at a level of detail so as to minimize resource risk from uninformed behavior;
- signs or markings be minimal to discourage use without the informative guides; and
- mitigation be fully implemented before use by the general public is encouraged.

## MOJAVE ROAD MANAGEMENT POLICY

**Background:** This historic route traverses the entire East Mojave from east to west. Established in the 1860's as a wagon route, the "Government Road" provided an important land line between Prescott, Arizona and the coast. The route was resurrected by the Friends of the Mojave Road, a volunteer group under the leadership of Dennis Casebier, and is now one of the premier recreation attractions in the East Mojave.

**Management Area:** The Mojave Road and alternate trails between the Colorado River and Camp Cady (near Barstow), covering a distance of about 130 miles; plus 300 feet to either side of the route. Map C shows the route and alternate trails.

**Use:** The Mojave Road will remain available to off-highway vehicle, equestrian, mountain bike and hiking use except for the limitations or constraints listed below.

**Constraints:** The Mojave Road passes through six Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Vehicles may use routes of travel in WSAs as long as use would not impair the area's suitability for wilderness designation. In these WSAs, the Mojave Road cannot be "improved" by mechanical means. In the Wilderness Study Reports being prepared for submission to Congress, BLM will recommend that a corridor be left open for vehicle use on the Mojave Road if any of these WSAs should be designated as wilderness.

The Mojave Road also passes through four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). In these areas, use of the road will be subject to the constraints set by the management plans. Plans have already been completed for Piute Creek, Rock Spring, and Soda Springs ACECs; the Afton Canyon ACEC Plan is currently under way. (A list of actions prescribed by the completed plans appears in Appendix D).

**Limitations:** Certain uses of the Mojave Road are incompatible with Scenic Area objectives, or would not meet guidelines established for Wilderness Study Areas or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: (1) competitive and/or commercial events where speed is the major factor or which would disrupt general recreation use will be prohibited; (2) large groups with ten or more vehicles or horses will be required to camp either in designated areas within the Mojave Road management area, or outside the management area along routes approved for vehicle use (see below for a list of designated areas); and (3) a notification system will be established for groups with more than ten vehicles to help reduce user concentrations on weekends. When annual monitoring determines that user concentrations are exceeding the road's ability to handle the traffic, a permit system will be established. Specific prescriptions will be developed, in cooperation with users, and based on resource capability and user demand, to ensure that the level of desired use and quality of the experience is achieved. Currently, permits are required only for groups with 50 or more vehicles.

**Management Policy:** BLM and several user groups have worked closely to develop the recreational potential of the Mojave Road in a manner that retains the sense of discovery for the user. The following guidelines were developed to ensure that the route's primitive character is retained, and potential user conflicts resolved.

### (1) Interpretation

The Friends of the Mojave Road have prepared a detailed Mojave Road Guide that provides maps, route description and a wealth of information on the history and resources of the trail and its surroundings. BLM has implemented a "loaner" program to make this guide available to the public free of charge. Future interpretive materials published by the Bureau will strongly encourage all Mojave Road users to obtain this guide for their trip. Additionally, interpretive sites are planned for Piute Spring, Rock Spring, and Soda Springs. These will consist of sign(s) designed consistent with the overall signing scheme for the East Mojave.

## (2) Trail Markings

The Mojave Road has been marked with cairns (rock piles) at all intersections and along poorly defined segments. No signs have been installed, which helps discourage use by travelers without a Mojave Road Guide, and who are not intending to use it for its historical value. An interpretive marker has been installed at the Mojave Road's intersection with Kelso-Cima Road, but does not serve as a road sign. BLM intends to install a marker along River Road in Nevada to mark the eastern start of the road in response to visitor needs.

## (3) Easements

To ensure public access along the Mojave Road, BLM will acquire perpetual exclusive easements totaling 28.2 miles in length and 50 feet in width (approximately 160 acres) along private land portions of the road. Total costs of over \$1,300,000 have been approved for payment out of the State Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Fund. Where cost effective, lands will be acquired by purchase in fee simple, in lieu of an access easement. This program will be coordinated with the Bureau's land tenure adjustment program for the East Mojave (see discussion for Action A-2).

## (4) Use Conflicts

Five cattleguards have been installed at fence crossings to minimize problems with gates. Stops at waters will be limited to no more than 30 minutes to minimize disruption to wildlife and livestock. An exception to this will be at Piute Creek, where stopping or camping would have no effect on wildlife or cattle watering.

## (5) Maintenance

The route will not be maintained by grading, brushing, or other mechanical means. Maintenance activities will be limited to filling in washouts, removing debris, restoring cairns, repairing cattleguards or gates, and other actions as needed to keep the road in a primitive but passable condition.

## (6) Cooperative Management Agreement

BLM currently has an interim agreement with the Southern District of the California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc. (CA4WD), which it intends to renew as a formal agreement upon adoption of this Management Plan. The agreement calls for regular inspections, maintenance, and labor for approved projects.

## (7) Camping

BLM policy in the California Desert currently allows camping within 300 feet of any existing or approved route of travel. Along the East Mojave portions of the road (as proposed by the East Mojave Management Plan), camping will be limited to previously disturbed areas (see Action C-14). Additionally, camping will not be allowed along the Mojave Road where it passes through WSAs. Groups with ten or more vehicles will be required to camp in designated areas along the Mojave Road. The designated areas will initially be east of Fort Piute (pending approval by the owner), Grotto Hills, Willow Wash east of Kelbaker Road, 17 Mile Point, the eastern edge of Soda Lake in the Little Cowhole Mountains, and the "Granites," south of Soda Lake. Other sites may be designated, or changes made in existing camping designations as needed. As use of the Mojave Road increases, it is likely that during the lifetime of this Plan (1988-1997) all camping along the road will be limited to designated areas to maintain environmental quality along the route.

## (8) Monitoring

BLM Rangers assess the cumulative effects of Mojave Road use, and document infractions or problems as they occur. Annual monitoring will look at use patterns and levels, environmental quality along the route, and specific user or resource-user conflicts. This information will be used to determine when additional actions mentioned above or in the East Mojave Management Plan will be initiated. BLM will work with users to determine what a desirable standard for use levels would be, based on demand and objectives for environmental protection.

## CAMPING

Current Management: To provide suitable opportunities for primitive camping while still protecting sensitive resources, the California Desert Plan established a policy specifying that, unless special restrictions apply, access for vehicle camping is allowed within 300 feet of existing or approved routes of travel. To minimize disturbance to wildlife and cattle, no camping is allowed within 600 feet of waters.

BLM has two developed campgrounds for visitors at two areas receiving heavy visitor use. The largest is the 26-site Mid Hills Campground located approximately 20 miles north of I-40, high in a pinyon-juniper forest. Hole-in-the-Wall Campground is situated next to a colorful volcanic outcropping and contains six developed sites and room for large groups.

Proposed Management: These actions were designed to maintain or improve camping opportunities in the Scenic Area, in a manner that will disperse use not only within specific areas that are particularly suited for camping, but also throughout the East Mojave.

C-13: Many desert recreationists prefer camping together in groups whether for social or security reasons. The designated primitive camp areas will be identified to satisfy that need. Unrestricted camping in some areas has resulted in adverse impacts to sensitive resources. In order to reduce these impacts, camping will be limited to designated locations within selected areas. Initially, these designated camp areas will be undeveloped, but as use increases, facilities may be needed for management purposes. Restrooms, trash receptacles, parking areas, vehicle barriers and signs are the most likely facilities that may be added. Initially, camp areas will be designated in the vicinity of Caruthers Canyon, Cima Dome, Cinder Cones, Clark Mountain, Granite Pass (Kelbaker Road), "the Granites" (south of Soda Springs), Grotto Hills, Little Cowhole Mountains, the Piute Creek area, 17-Mile Point, and Willow Wash (see Map 2-2). Camp areas will be sited to avoid resource conflicts, and within walking distance of the areas' key features to avoid conflicts with day users. Additional sites would be designated as the need arises, based on monitoring data and recreation trends. Mojave Road camps will remain primitive in character.

### Proposed Management

*C-13: In addition to the two existing developed campgrounds, identify several designated camping areas. These areas will be generally undeveloped, with facilities provided only where necessary for public health and safety or environmental protection.*

**C-14:** *Limit the parking of motorized vehicles for the purpose of camping to already disturbed areas along existing routes of travel, unless otherwise prohibited.*

**C-15:** *Upgrade and redesign the existing facilities at Mid Hills campground. Provide facilities for family and group camping, trail access, equestrian use, handicapped access, and group interpretation.*

**C-16:** *Provide developed overnight camping, day use, visitor contact and administrative facilities at Hole-in-the-Wall recreation area. Complete user requirement studies and physical site inventories to identify appropriate level of development types of facilities and services to be provided.*

C-14: To better protect resources in the East Mojave, it is the intent of this plan to minimize new surface-disturbing activities wherever possible, prompting reconsideration of the current 300-foot allowance for vehicle camping along existing routes in the Scenic Area. There are hundreds of vehicle camping sites throughout the Scenic Area which are adjacent to or at the end of existing routes of travel which will provide the opportunity for a backcountry camping experience well into the future. Little impact is anticipated on current camping use patterns.

Some backcountry or primitive camping sites are in areas of high resource value. BLM will review these sites, and take steps to relocate camping in the same vicinity to protect these resources. In heavily used areas, BLM will work with users to establish limits of acceptable change and develop methods to maintain the desired primitive experience.

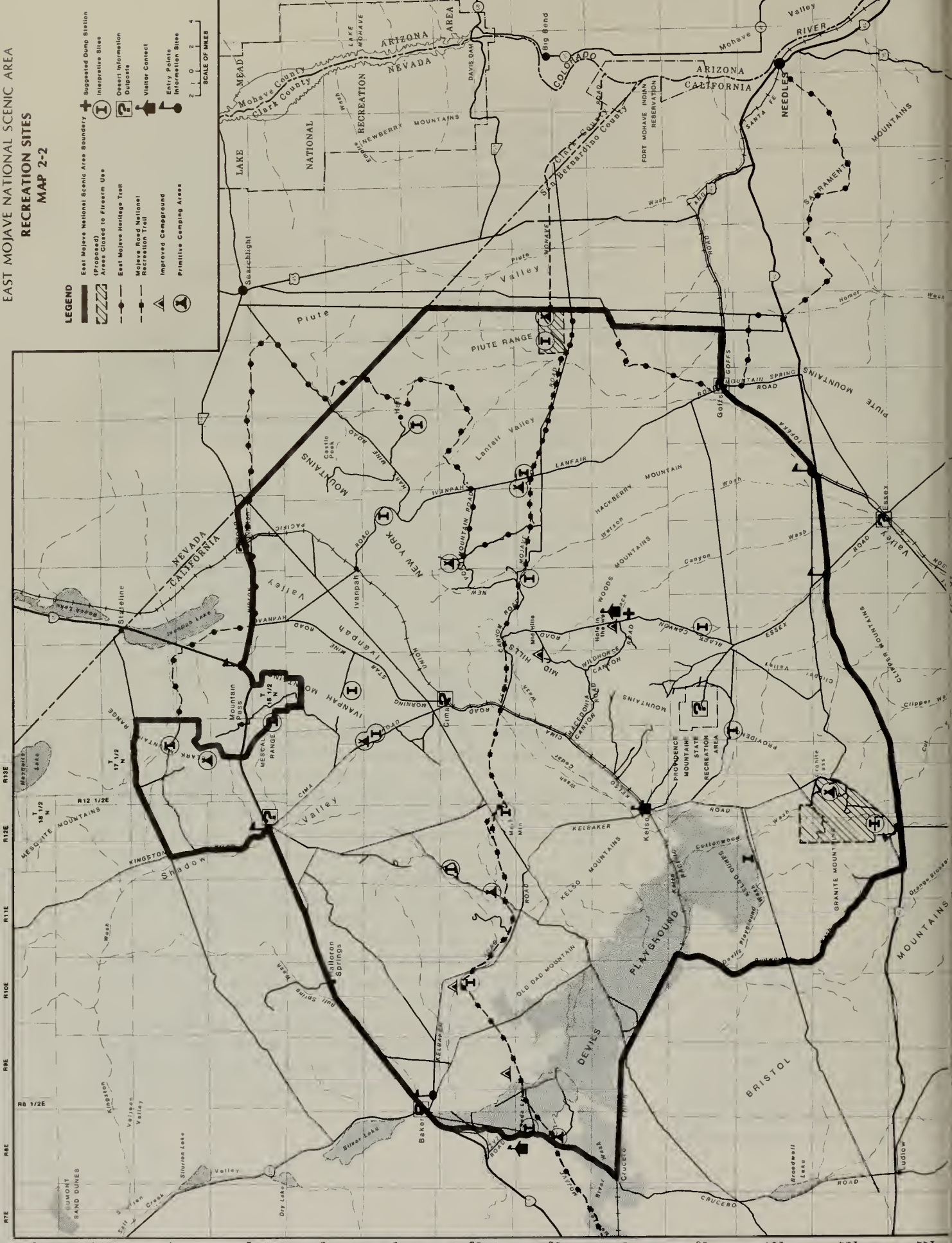
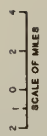
C-15: Mid Hills Campground was developed during the mid 1960's and has not received the site improvements required to meet existing facility standards. The campground contains 26 family camping units with no provisions for group camping, interpretation or other identified user needs. The site is in serious need of repair. Many of the family units including the traffic barriers, picnic tables, fire grills, roads and vehicle pull-offs are substandard and were not designed to accommodate today's recreation vehicles.

The existing facilities will be redesigned to accommodate current user needs. The facility will not be significantly enlarged to accommodate additional users, but redesigned and upgraded to address changing user requirements. Two or three large campsites suitable for group and equestrian use will be provided, along with an area for a campground host. Wheelchair access will be available at at least one restroom and adjacent campsites. Site design will incorporate and maintain the rustic nature of the current physical setting.

C-16: Hole-in-the-Wall Campground was developed in the mid 1960's to accommodate overnight and picnic use. Current use levels are exceeding the design capacity of the site. This factor coupled with poor original site design, increases in visitor use within the East Mojave, the growing popularity of group camping activities and ATV play has resulted in site deterioration and user conflicts.

EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA  
RECREATION SITES  
MAP 2-2

- LEGEND**
- East Mojave National Scenic Area boundary
  - ⊕ Suggested Dump Station
  - Ⓜ (Proposed) Interpretive Sites
  - Ⓜ (Proposed) Area Closed to Firearm Use
  - East Mojave Heritage Trail
  - Mojave Road National Recreation Trail
  - Improved Campground
  - Primitive Camping Areas
  - Ⓜ Desert Information Outpost
  - Ⓜ Visitor Contact
  - Ⓜ Entry Point Information Site



The site provides excellent opportunities for day use, sightseeing, exploring and picnicking. The geologic formations enhance the scenic and interpretive values which have provided the catalyst for use. This site is centrally located, represents a major staging area for all types of users, offers excellent visitor contact opportunities for the BLM, and is only one of two sites identified for developed camping opportunities within the East Mojave.

The functional relationships of the existing administrative site (fire station) the proposed visitor contact station, residences, day use, and camping facilities have not been explored. Additional site planning is required to provide the data needed for survey and design.

Site planning will include considerations for the handicapped visitor, visitor contact, a sanitary dump station, group and individual camping facilities, trailhead (Hole-in-the-Wall to Mid Hills or Providence Mountain), water, interpretation of adjacent geologic features, and day use, group or family camping, and picnic facilities. Steps will be taken to separate day use and overnight facilities.

Illegal dumping of sewage from recreation vehicle holding tanks has become an increasingly serious health problem, particularly at the two BLM campgrounds and along County roads. Enforcement of County, State, and Federal regulations concerning illegal sewage dumping will be increased; and provisions will be made for a dump station facility at Hole-in-the-Wall recreation area.

#### MAINTENANCE

Our experience has shown that well-maintained facilities portray a sense of pride by the managing agency and indicate to the visitor a commitment and a management presence essential in reducing vandalism and providing quality recreation experiences. In addition, developed recreation sites represent a substantial investment that can best be protected by regularly scheduled maintenance.

Current recreation facility maintenance in the East Mojave is limited to work at Mid Hills and Hole-in-the-Wall campgrounds. Some maintenance such as campground cleanup is done on a weekly basis, while other sites needing less attention are inspected quarterly or annually. New facilities that will be constructed, including the six entry points, interpretive points of interest, and the designated camping areas will require an increase in staffing and funding to provide maintenance to the "optimum standards" called for.

#### Proposed Management

**C-17:** *Operate and maintain BLM recreation sites at optimum standards. Repair of substandard facilities will be identified during annual maintenance inspections.*

## EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

General first aid and Emergency Medical Technician services are available locally from Hole-in-the-Wall Fire Station, Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, and BLM Rangers while on patrol. For more serious injuries, ambulance services operate from Baker, Barstow, and Needles. Emergency helicopter response is also available from the California Highway Patrol, San Bernardino County Sheriff, and Las Vegas Flight for Life. BLM maps and brochures provide locations of emergency services and important emergency telephone numbers. By law, all search and rescue activities are coordinated by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's office. BLM Rangers, Fish and Game Wardens, and Providence Mountain State Recreation Area Rangers often assist in search operations.

Specific hazards throughout the East Mojave, such as open mine shafts, are fenced or blocked off as required. However, hazards still exist. Unexploded ordnance from World War II military training maneuvers is still found in the southern and eastern parts of the East Mojave. Trained disposal crews are dispatched from Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base to disarm these devices on-site.

C-18: As increasing nonmotorized trail use occurs, undeveloped springs and seeps will be sought out by visitors to supplement their supply of water. Waters that may be expected to receive human use, or that are referred to in Trail Guides, will be inspected for biological contaminants, and for heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, and selenium. Appropriate signs would be placed on-site warning of contamination.

C-19: Abandoned mine shafts will be fenced or blocked to prevent entrance by unsuspecting visitors; signing of these potentially hazardous sites is a high priority in BLM's California Desert District.

*C-18: Regularly test springs or other waters that are likely to be used by visitors for contamination.*

*C-19: Complete actions to fence or render harmless abandoned mine shafts.*



## FIREARM USE

Current Management: Several State, County and Federal regulations provide controls on this activity in the East Mojave.

- Code of Federal Regulations:

8365.1-4 - "No person shall cause a public disturbance or create a risk to other persons on public lands . . . ."

8365.2-5 - "On developed recreation sites and areas, unless otherwise authorized, no person shall:

a. Discharge or use firearms, other weapons, or fireworks."

- California Penal Code:

12031-374c - Prohibits the shooting of any firearm from or upon a public road or highway.

- San Bernardino County Ordinance:

22015 - "Except as otherwise provided by statute of the State of California, it shall be unlawful for any person to discharge a firearm in the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County within 150 yards of any building without having in his possession the written permission of the owner or tenant thereof, or within 150 yards of any tent, motorhome, house trailer, or other temporary encampment of persons without the permission of the occupants thereof without having in his immediate possession the written permission of the occupants or tenants thereof."

The strict enforcement of the above regulations is the responsibility of BLM for Federal Regulations, and County Sheriffs and State Fish and Game Wardens for State and County regulations. BLM Rangers currently cannot enforce State and County regulations on public lands unless the regulations are adopted by BLM.

Proposed Management: The primary goal of this proposal is to protect persons, property and public resources. Enforcement of shooting restrictions is well established with the existing campgrounds. BLM must, however, adopt special supplementary regulations regarding the discharge of firearms and establishment of "no shooting safety zones" within other areas within the East Mojave. The adoption of these supplementary regulations will supply the BLM Rangers with the authority to enforce County ordinances, pertaining to discharge of firearms, and reduce the potential for accidents throughout the East Mojave.

### Proposed Management

**C-20:** (Use of Firearms)  
Adopt the following supplementary rules and regulations for protection of persons, properties, and public resources with respect to the discharge of firearms.

1. Adopt the San Bernardino County Ordinance No. 22.015 "Prohibited Areas," described under Current Management for Federal enforcement;
2. Establish "no shooting safety zones" at Fort Piute Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Granite Mountain Research Natural Area, public lands within the boundary of Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, and developed interpretive sites as shown on Map 2-2.
3. Prohibit the use of firearms within 50 yards of either side of the following roads:
  - a. Kelbaker Road
  - b. Ivanpah/Lanfair Road
  - c. Cedar Canyon Road
  - d. Cima Road
  - e. Kelso-Cima Road
  - f. Black Canyon Road
  - g. Essex Road (north of 1-40)
  - h. Mojave Road

A "no shooting" zone is needed at Fort Piute Creek because the area is known for its hiking, bird watching, historical and archaeological sightseeing, and camping opportunities. The area attracts a large number of visitors and the potential for shooting accidents is significant.

Granite Mountain Research Natural Area provides excellent research opportunities, attracting increasing numbers of researchers and visitors year-around. Sheep Corral is also attracting significant numbers of visitors for camping. The "no shooting" zone is designed to relocate shooting use to areas with less concentrations of people.

When public lands were transferred to the State for the Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, unpatented mining claims were retained under Federal control. The "no shooting" zone on these claims would eliminate a conflicting use within the boundary of the Recreation Area, the rest of which is already closed to shooting.

The roads listed above carry the main flow of traffic throughout the Scenic Area, and consequently the threat of injury by firearm use is of some public concern. The proposed regulation would prohibit firearm use across the roadways, as well as within 50 yards of either edge.

#### COMPETITIVE EVENTS

Off-highway vehicle events in the East Mojave are already strictly limited by multiple use Class L and interim wilderness study area management guidelines which are in place for 90% of the Scenic Area (the exceptions are the Class M areas). BLM will further limit competitive use in the Scenic Area through adoption of the policy described in the box.

It is BLM's intent to reroute the Soda Lake to I-15 portion of the Barstow to Vegas course out of the Scenic Area after the 1987 race. This will be accomplished through the normal environmental assessment process in 1988. The Clark Mountain segment, being on well-established roads through terrain that does not encourage straying, will remain available for this yearly event.

#### **Proposed Management**

*C-21: Competitive and/or commercial events where speed is the major factor will be prohibited in the East Mojave National Scenic Area. The only exception will be the Clark Mountain segment of the Barstow to Vegas race course.*

## D. Visual Resource Management

Current Management: BLM manages scenic quality in the East Mojave by attempting to limit the degree of change in the "characteristic landscape" to standards which are based on scenic quality and sensitivity of an area (see Appendix F for a description of Visual Resource Management Classes I through IV which currently apply to the Scenic Area). To assess visual impacts of proposed actions, a review is made by trained BLM specialists to estimate, in an objective manner, how noticeable a proposed development will be. Changes in color, form, texture, and line created by the proposed action can be modified to reduce visual contrasts. For major projects, visual simulations are prepared by drawing the proposed development onto a photo or drawing. These simulation techniques are very effective methods of determining the degree of contrast, and help suggest ways to reduce visual contrasts.

BLM policy in the East Mojave has been to relocate, redesign, or reject large-scale proposals over which the agency has discretionary authority when visual management objectives for the area cannot be met. Proper siting, the use of natural screening, burial of facilities, careful use of colors, reduction of the project's size, or repetition of natural elements of the landscape are usually successful in keeping visual impacts within acceptable limits.

Proposed Management: These actions will help BLM maintain or improve the existing scenic character of the East Mojave:

D-1: All new discretionary developments on public lands in the East Mojave will be designed to meet BLM guidelines for visual resource management (VRM) Classes I and II, which are described in Appendix F. VRM Class I will apply to the three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern designated for scenic quality concerns (Piute Creek, New York Mountains, and Clark Mountain, shown on Map A) and any areas designated as wilderness by Congress. VRM Class II guidelines will be used to assess visual impacts for proposed actions elsewhere in the East Mojave.

If these standards cannot be met, the project will be located elsewhere or foregone unless Federal/State/County law, public safety, or achievement of Scenic Area objectives require otherwise. An attempt will be made in all cases to meet VRM Class II objectives. Nondiscretionary projects such as mining operations will be designed to be as visually unobtrusive as "best practices" allow. The intent of these guidelines is not to "freeze" or eliminate developments, but to put limits on the degree of contrast a new building, campground, or range improvement can create. These standards will be

### Proposed Management

*D-1: Assure that the natural and historic character of the Scenic Area is retained by managing the Scenic Area under Visual Resource Management Class Classes 1 and 11 guidelines only (see narrative below).*

particularly useful in evaluating the cumulative effects of structures or other actions in the important viewsheds of the Scenic Area. VRM objectives will be considered along with noise or other intrusive factors when making final decisions.

D-2: Visual simulations have proven their value for development of effective mitigation techniques. Visual simulations will be required for most projects in Wilderness Study Areas, along proposed scenic corridors, and in areas of high visual sensitivity, unless the scale of the project does not warrant it.

D-3: Existing structures in the East Mojave will be evaluated according to standard visual management practices to determine ways of reducing contrasts. Normally, changes in design or color will be made as part of regular maintenance. Structures that are of historic interest or that lend character to an area would not be altered. Every effort will be made to maintain the rustic character of old developments.

D-4: The Scenic Area has accumulated a surprising amount of debris, including abandoned automobiles, and a large number of old dumps. BLM will continue on its own and with the assistance of volunteers to eliminate these eyesores. In some cases where removal would be a major effort and no hazardous wastes are involved, the sites may be covered over with soil and revegetated. The historical importance of older dump sites will be evaluated before removal is authorized and appropriate measures taken for data recovery. Action A-10 also addresses the issue of waste disposal.

D-5 and D-6: The proposed scenic corridors are areas from which preservation of visual quality will be paramount in maintaining the opportunity for the unobstructed views so highly prized by visitors to this region. The corridors will include Kelbaker, Cima, Kelso-Cima, Essex, Lanfair, Ivanpah, Cedar Canyon, Black Canyon, Wildhorse Canyon, and Aiken's Mine Roads, as well as the Mojave Road. Within the scenic corridors, every attempt will be made to take advantage of screening provided by terrain or vegetation. Signing limitations (D-5) are intended to supplement efforts in maintaining the visual quality of these corridors.

D-7: Data gathered over the last few years have shown that the most suitable location for wind energy development in or near the East Mojave cannot be commercially developed with today's technology. In addition, even a small-scale lease for such development in the East Mojave would have a serious effect on the area's scenic quality. Therefore, such use is deemed incompatible with visual resource management objectives for the East Mojave.

*D-2: Require visual simulations for projects that will disturb more than five acres, or that would be located in areas of high visual sensitivity.*

*D-3: Inventory existing structures on public lands and take action where necessary and feasible to make them visually less intrusive.*

*D-4: Remove trash, abandoned vehicles and other debris from public lands in the East Mojave.*

*D-5: Establish one-mile-wide scenic corridors along County and BLM-maintained roads, and along the Mojave Road.*

*D-6: Assure that all signs in viewsheds of scenic corridors and the interstates will be administrative or interpretive in nature, and must meet strict visual standards.*

*D-7: Allow no wind energy development in the Scenic Area and Mountain Pass, other than for domestic or range use.*

Existing Desert Plan guidelines will be followed to ensure protection of the East Mojave's scenic quality. Of particular note is a Desert Plan guideline for areas designated for "limited use" (multiple-use Class L) that requires the burial of distribution lines unless burial would cause more adverse impacts than overhead placement. BLM will analyze all requests for local services crossing public lands, including phone lines and electric lines (33 kV or less) with particular consideration to visual resource management objectives. Costs and other resource impacts will also be considered.

## **E. Wilderness**

Current Management: Until Congress makes a final determination on BLM's recommendations, Wilderness Study Areas are managed according to the Bureau's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review. During this interim period, all surface-disturbing activities must be reviewed for compliance with the "nonimpairment" criteria established by the Interim Management Policy (see Appendix I).

With nearly 50 percent of the Scenic Area in Wilderness Study Area status, it is absolutely essential that interim management efforts are effective in maintaining the wilderness characteristics of the areas. To ensure effectiveness, BLM has established a monitoring program, taken steps to inform the public about the management and location of these areas, and required timely reclamation where necessary.

All Wilderness Study Areas in the Scenic Area are monitored at least once a month. Monthly ground patrols are supplemented by aerial surveys flown at least twice yearly. When unauthorized activities are observed, the activity is halted. Civil and/or criminal proceedings are initiated if determined to be necessary. An assessment is made of the impacts and a reclamation plan developed that meets the interim nonimpairment criteria. To date, the few unauthorized uses which have occurred within Wilderness Study Areas in the East Mojave have been successfully reclaimed to a natural-appearing condition. Reclamation of all activities in Wilderness Study Areas is projected to be completed by June 30, 1989.

To increase public awareness and discourage unauthorized activities, BLM's Needles Resource Area has developed a series of 15' topographical maps outlining land status, the boundaries of the Scenic Area, Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and areas withdrawn from mineral entry. These maps are available to the public.

A computer program for all monitoring efforts (patrols, visitor observations, aerial surveys, incidents, violations) has been developed. This information is updated on a continuous basis and provides an ongoing data base for monitoring each Wilderness Study Area. BLM's Needles Resource Area is in the process of documenting all areas where reclamation is required but where the responsible party is unknown. Case files, photographic records and reclamation costs are being developed for each disturbance. When this assessment is completed, a funding request will be made for the reclamation work deemed necessary.

Proposed Management: The following actions are intended to supplement the current program which has proven effective in maintaining the wilderness qualities of the 23 Wilderness Study Areas in the East Mojave.

E-1: Installation of signs will be completed over the next year for most of the Wilderness Study Areas in the East Mojave. Signs will be located along boundaries receiving moderate to heavy visitor use, or where a risk of impairing use is identified. Most of the Wilderness Study Areas have vehicle routes which will also be signed to notify the public of the special use regulations pertaining to these areas. A timetable for signing is included in the "Vehicle Access Designations and Sign Plan" listing on pages 57-60.

E-2: BLM's present monitoring capabilities will be expanded by increasing the frequency of visits to Wilderness Study Areas. BLM will also solicit volunteer help to increase monitoring capabilities for all Wilderness Study Areas in the East Mojave. BLM will also include information about Wilderness Study Areas and their management in Desert Access Guides and in Scenic Area publications to increase public awareness of all aspects of the wilderness program.

Monitoring actions described in Section P (below) will improve BLM's ability to determine long-range trends, and allow a more detailed examination of all Wilderness Study Areas on a regular basis. Monthly overflights of the East Mojave will provide a systematic examination of all Wilderness Study Areas on a more frequent basis than the current three or four flights a year (P-4). Color aerial photos (P-5) will allow comparisons with 1982 and 1976 photos to assess long-term changes in these areas.

### **Proposed Management**

*E-1: Install signs along selected boundaries and within Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) to provide better public identification.*

*E-2: Increase surveillance and monitoring in all WSAs.*

*See also Actions P-4 and P-5.*

Once Congress has determined which areas will be wilderness, a management plan will be prepared for each designated area. Designated wilderness areas will be managed to meet the objectives of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as well as any specific Congressional directives made at the time of designation. Wilderness Study Areas not designated as wilderness by Congress will be returned to multiple-use management under Desert Plan multiple-use guidelines for "limited" use.

Owners of private land within areas designated wilderness will be encouraged to take the opportunity to exchange for public lands, or sell their lands directly to the United States.

When formally reporting the results of its wilderness review to Congress, BLM will recommend that, if areas through which the Mojave Road passes are designated wilderness, a corridor be established allowing continued vehicle use of the affected sections of the Mojave Road.



## F. Cultural Resources

Current Management: In response to actions initiated by BLM or by outside interests requiring agency approval, provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act are initiated. Literature searches and field inventories of the project area are conducted, where required. Cultural properties discovered are then subjected to an evaluation for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Possible effects of the action are determined and measures to mitigate adverse effects such as avoidance, physical protection, and data recovery are developed. BLM then seeks concurrence with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Based in part on the results of the consultation process, the proposed action is approved, pending completion of the protective measures, or denied.

All archaeological studies conducted on lands administered by BLM are subject to Federal laws, implementing regulations, and professional standards explicitly outlining qualification requirements and research methodology.

The BLM under Federal law may not disclose information on the nature and location of cultural properties. However, some sites are known to the public or possess interpretive values. In these cases, actions are taken to protect the site including road closures, fencing, stabilization or data recovery. Sites that are at risk are inspected regularly by BLM Archaeologists and Rangers. Signs are often placed near sites to inform visitors of the site's value and the laws and penalties regarding their removal or destruction.

Proposed Management: Protective actions outlined above will continue but with additional emphasis on monitoring and mitigation to accommodate increasing visitor use and to increase our cultural resource data base in a systematic way. Implementation of these new proposals will allow initiation of an active research effort, along with a public interpretation program which will significantly aid in protecting these important cultural resources. Effective implementation will require at a minimum an additional full-time archaeologist and two seasonal employees.

F-1: Archaeological studies are targeted to areas of known important sites and are intended to protect and preserve representative samples of cultural resources occurring in the East Mojave. The proposed study areas are situated throughout the East Mojave. The prescriptions listed in the box will contribute appreciably in managing important cultural resources.

### Proposed Management

*F-1: Conduct studies of archaeological complexes associated with varying environmental settings. The study will entail detailed recordation, subsurface testing, and documentation supporting possible nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.*



F-2 and F-3: The studies described above will aid in assessing current or potential conflicts, which will be resolved through standard practices such as route closure, erosion control, and educational signing. This information will help in designing a monitoring program to determine long-term trends and where and when mitigation is required.

*F-2: Prioritize and monitor cultural sites/areas, documenting condition and trends.*

*F-3: Develop and implement mitigation measures for cultural properties subject to depredation and natural deterioration as documented through cultural resource monitoring efforts.*

*Related Management Actions: A-2, B-1, B-2, C-6 and C-7.*

Select cultural properties of significance which occur on nonpublic lands will be sought for acquisition through donation, exchange, or purchase (see Action A-2). BLM will work with owners of such cultural resources to determine what protective measures may be feasible if Federal acquisition will be delayed or is not possible.

Additional controls being recommended for motorized vehicles (B-1 and B-2) will help reduce indirect impacts to cultural resources by emphasizing the use of vehicles on established routes. Interpretation of carefully selected cultural sites (C-6 and C-7) will increase public awareness of cultural resources, and the values which are at risk from vandalism or careless desert behavior.

## G. Native American Concerns

BLM has identified a broad spectrum of traditional Native American cultural values within the East Mojave. Traditional areas of hunting and food gathering, areas of religious significance, and archaeological sites of particular concern to the Native American community occur throughout the Scenic Area. Contemporary Mojave and Chemehuevi continue to view the area as culturally significant and of particular and special significance in perpetuating their cultural heritage. Issues including collection of plant and animal products, access, and religious practice have been addressed in consultation with these groups.

Specific concerns have often been tied to archaeological and historic properties associated with the long history of land use by Native Americans in the East Mojave. Detailed consultation and review procedures have been developed to assure full participation of the Native American community in decisions of the Bureau which may affect these resources.

## H. Air, Soils, Water

### Air

Air quality is considered during the environmental review process for any new actions proposed for an area. Attempts to reduce air pollution problems generally revolve around limitations on the levels of surface disturbance activity allowed, vehicle closures to help reduce disturbance and allow natural revegetation to occur, wetting the area while soils are exposed, and rehabilitation by planting, mulching, or some other acceptable means which helps reestablish plant cover. The proposed monitoring station at Mid Hills would cost approximately \$10,000 to install, and would significantly improve our monitoring capabilities. Currently, for the East Mojave data is provided by a monitoring station in Barstow.

### Soils

Surface-disturbing actions are analyzed on a case-by-case basis to reduce impacts to soils, decrease erosion potential, and increase the potential for revegetation. Reclamation plans can include measures to stabilize slopes, break up surface compaction, or salvage topsoil for use after an action is completed.

The proposed soil surveys will be coordinated with the range management program and will eventually provide all allotments within the Scenic Area with range site descriptions based on soil types. The range site descriptions provide an estimate of potential vegetation based on soils, climate, and comparisons with "relict" areas. This information serves as a baseline to measure current conditions against, and for development of reasonable, attainable objectives in the range management and surface protection programs. An "Order 3" survey also provides ecological site descriptions which will be of particular benefit to range management. A priority system will be established to concentrate on the more sensitive areas of the East Mojave. These surveys will be conducted incrementally beginning with 20,000 acres in 1989 and 30,000 acres per year thereafter, depending on the availability of funding.

### Water

To ensure an adequate supply of water for wildlife or recreational use, BLM files for appropriated water rights with the State of California if the water sources are springs. A major effort in the early 1980s resulted in over 300 water rights filings for wildlife use in the California Desert Conservation Area. Water source

### Proposed Management

*H-1: Conduct Order 3 Soil Surveys on grazing allotments to determine potential vegetation.*

*H-2: Install an air quality monitoring station in the Mid Hills area.*

inventories and water rights filings are part of an ongoing program which also includes the regular monitoring of waters used by visitors.

Water source inventories and water rights filings for wildlife use will continue. Proposals to develop additional waters for wildlife use are described under "wildlife" below. Waters used by visitors will continue to be monitored on a regular basis, and studies will be initiated to determine whether contamination is present (Action C-18). BLM will maintain mineral law and mineral leasing withdrawals on waters that have been shown to be needed for wildlife (Actions A-6, A-7).

## I. Vegetation

Current Management: It is Bureau policy to conserve Federal- and State-listed threatened or endangered plants. BLM, through its actions and/or decisions, will not jeopardize the continued existence of any federally listed threatened or endangered plant, nor will it destroy or adversely modify critical habitats of any such species. It is also Bureau policy to conserve sensitive plants which are afforded the full protection of the Endangered Species Act. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is conducted on a formal basis in the case of federally listed species, and informally for BLM "sensitive" species.

The thirteen Unusual Plant Assemblages which occur in the Scenic Area receive special management attention as mandated by the Desert Plan. Each assemblage is monitored a minimum of once a year, in accordance with individual assemblage monitoring plans. All proposed actions which will affect an assemblage are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and, if necessary, mitigating measures are developed to avoid adverse impacts. "Highly sensitive" and "very sensitive" assemblages are managed to preserve their habitat and ensure their continued existence. A substantial amount of work has been completed at Piute Creek to eliminate the non-native tamarisk and replace it with native species more beneficial to wildlife.

Commercial harvesting of live plants in the East Mojave is currently not authorized except for "salvage" operations where the vegetation must be removed in the course of an authorized action (e.g., mining or powerline construction). Harvesting of live plants for personal use such as landscaping is authorized by permit, but collection within the Scenic Area is discouraged.

Due to the presence of a substantial number of trees (at least for the California Desert Conservation Area), demand for firewood in the Scenic Area is higher than one would normally expect in the desert. California Desert Conservation Area firewood policy allows one cord of pinyon or juniper per family per year at a cost of \$10/cord, and 1/4 cord of catclaw or mesquite at \$10 per 1/4 cord. Only dead-and-down wood may be collected, and no commercial firewood collecting is permitted.

Proposed Management: Protection of sensitive plant species' habitat and Unusual Plant Assemblages will continue as a high priority. Private lands in these areas are being recommended for acquisition (A-2), and withdrawals from mineral entry proposed to ensure retention under public ownership (A-6 and A-7). Vegetation will also benefit from proposals to control vehicle use in washes (B-3). Another important objective will be the preservation and where feasible the restoration of plant communities and species diversity in the East Mojave. Action I-1 will further this objective. Action H-1 will also help by improving our information base on soils and ecosystems in the East Mojave.

I-1: Native vegetation at selected waters in the East Mojave will be restored through tamarisk eradication, fencing of the water source, and development of pipelines and troughs to provide alternate waters for livestock and wildlife. The success of tamarisk eradication will depend on whether or not a court-imposed moratorium on the use of herbicides on public land is lifted. Our highest priority will continue to be the restoration of native vegetation and elimination of tamarisk at Piute Creek. Springs and seeps in the Mid Hills, North Providence, New York and Clark Mountain regions will be targeted for this work.

I-2: Dead and down fuelwood in the East Mojave can sustain existing use levels for ten years or less. Elimination of firewood sales is recommended because of the limited nature of the resource and the expected increase in visitor use over the next several years may lead to even greater demands than can be supplied. The removal of the existing dead biomass may also have adverse effects on wildlife populations and nutrient recycling.

Although collection of firewood will still be allowed for campfire use, BLM will strongly recommend in all Scenic Area-related publications that visitors bring their own wood or use campstoves. The agency will also encourage store owners in or adjacent to the Scenic Area to sell firewood.

### Proposed Management

*I-1: Restore native vegetation at selected seeps and springs.*

*I-2: Eliminate firewood sales but allow casual collection.*

*Related Actions: A-2, A-6, A-7, B-1 and B-2.*

## J. Wildlife

Current Management: The California Desert Plan calls for the preparation of eleven Habitat Management Plans within the East Mojave, covering a total of over 400,000 acres. Five have been completed--for Piute Creek, Clark Mountain, New York Mountains, Old Dad Mountain, and Soda Springs.

BLM has an extensive spring and water development program. Six big game guzzlers were installed in the Scenic Area between 1981 and 1987 in a combined effort by BLM, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDF & G), and numerous volunteers. Most springs within the East Mojave are checked on a regular maintenance schedule to ensure wildlife availability. At least five springs per year are checked and, if necessary, redeveloped. BLM policy has been to promote the natural development of a spring by piping water off-site for wildlife and livestock use. Dozens of small game and upland game drinkers have been built throughout the East Mojave, primarily by volunteer help. Maintenance of these and the big game guzzlers are the responsibility of CDF & G.

Bighorn sheep populations are monitored periodically in cooperation with CDF & G to record locations, population trends, age structure, sex ratios, and lamb production. Since 1983, 115 desert bighorn have been removed by BLM and CDF & G from the expanding population at Old Dad Mountain to reduce population pressures and establish new herds in other locations. Future bighorn "transplants" are scheduled for the Ivanpah-Mescal Mountain area, and additional captures may be made from the large herd in the Clark Mountain Range.

In 1980, BLM established a 2,100-acre livestock enclosure in Ivanpah Valley to serve as a control plot in a study of the effects of cattle grazing on desert tortoise habitats. The two-year study funded by BLM showed little difference in tortoise densities inside or out of the enclosure. BLM also currently monitors two permanent desert tortoise study trend plots within the Scenic Area at four-year intervals. One of these plots, located in Fenner Valley near Goffs, is the site of a four-year study of mortality factors and reproduction of tortoise populations carried out in association with Southern California Edison. The other trend plot is located near the livestock enclosure in Ivanpah Valley.

Eighteen Elf Owls, a California endangered species, have been introduced into the riparian woodland habitat at Piute Creek. This three-year project is an effort to reestablish the Elf Owl in its probable historical range. Ongoing at Piute Creek is an extensive project to eradicate tamarisk and plant cottonwood trees to improve habitat. Over 300 trees have been planted so far. BLM also plans to fence the lower and upper ends of Piute Creek to protect riparian habitat from livestock and burros.

Proposed Management: New actions which will benefit wildlife include the acquisition of private and State lands in the Clark Mountains, New York Mountains, Fenner Valley, Ivanpah Valley, and other areas with important wildlife habitat (Action A-2), and improvement of springs and riparian areas (Action I-1). The wildlife program will continue its focus on current efforts to improve habitat at Piute Creek and the regular inspection and/or restoration of springs.

J-1 and J-2: The desert bighorn is thriving in the East Mojave. Future guzzlers will be installed to expand the bighorn sheep's current range, facilitate transplants into their historical range, or improve habitat in areas they already occupy. In addition to the two actions listed, BLM will continue its cooperative efforts with CDF & G to relocate excess bighorn from the Old Dad Mountain-Kelso Peak area to other desert ranges, including ranges in the East Mojave.

J-3: The Elf Owl introduction program at Piute Creek will be monitored over the next two years by the California Department of Fish and Game, and additional introductions made after the review is completed.

J-4: Livestock waters are often the only sources of reliable water in many regions of the East Mojave, making them critical factors for wildlife populations. Bird ramps will be installed on all water troughs, and trough height will be limited to 18 inches to facilitate use by big game. Where feasible, water will be piped off-site to accommodate wildlife use. These actions will be completed during regular maintenance inspections, and in cooperation with the ranchers who operate them.

### Proposed Management

*J-1: Construct big game guzzlers in association with the California Department of Fish and Game where necessary to improve habitat and maintain viable bighorn sheep populations.*

*J-2: Transplant bighorn sheep into the Ivanpah Mountain/Mescal Range area, in cooperation with CDF&G.*

*J-3: Continue the Elf Owl introduction program at Piute Creek if CDF&G determinessuch releases are likely to succeed in establishing breeding pairs.*

*J-4: Improve the availability of livestock waters for wildlife use.*

*J-5: Develop desert tortoise Habitat Management Plans for crucial habitat areas in Fenner and Ivanpah Valleys, following guidelines being developed by the Desert District's Desert Tortoise Management Committee.*

*J-6: Determine status/trend of raptor populations and identify special use areas.*

*Related Actions: A-1, B-3 and I-1.*

J-5: Desert tortoise populations in the East Mojave appear to be stable. The Habitat Management Plans will address issues for three large management areas which include portions of the East Mojave. The only immediate actions to be taken to protect desert tortoise habitat will be the closure of washes to vehicle use (Action B-3), which will decrease impacts to vegetation and wash banks, and the acquisition of private/State lands in crucial habitat areas (Action A-2).

J-6: Little is known about the current status and trend of raptor species' populations in the East Mojave. The existence of special use areas (breeding, nesting, foraging, wintering) has not been determined. Baseline data on raptor species' status and trend will be acquired during the next five years. Appropriate management actions will be developed for any special use areas identified through monitoring, and incorporated into habitat management plans.

Additional Habitat Management Plans for the Granite Mountains, Cima Dome and Indian Springs (Cinder Cones) will be prepared within the next five years.

## **K. Wild Horses and Burros**

A Herd Management Area Plan for the East Mojave was completed in 1984 which describes how BLM proposes to manage horse and burro populations in the Scenic Area. Methods of removal, resolution of conflicts with other resources and users, and monitoring techniques were analyzed in the Plan.

Utilization and trend transects are read annually to monitor burro impacts within each of the five Herd Management Areas (HMA) in the East Mojave. Aerial counts are conducted every three or four years to monitor population size. In keeping with Bureau policy to remove burros from private lands or when a particular animal becomes a problem, a roundup was funded in 1988 to remove burros from private property and areas not currently identified as HMAs.

Burro numbers will continue to be monitored throughout the East Mojave, and roundups conducted to reach the targeted numbers in each Herd Management Area by 1992. Once these targets have been reached, BLM will review ongoing studies to determine whether the forage allocations for horses, burros, livestock, and wildlife are adequate.

## L. Livestock Grazing

Current Management: All eleven allotments within the Scenic Area are authorized through 10-year leases with the ranchers. Use of perennial forage is authorized on ten allotments, and one is controlled strictly on the basis of yearly ephemeral plant production.

Annual monitoring of the range in the past has been an effective management tool. Approximately 40 range trend and utilization transects are placed throughout these allotments in the Scenic Area. They have been read either twice a year (spring and fall) or once a year, depending on transect placement and grazing use in the area. Overall range condition in the East Mojave is assessed as fair to good with a stable to improved trend. During severe drought or low production years, such monitoring enables BLM to adjust cattle numbers on the public lands or, in extreme cases, to temporarily close the rangeland to grazing. Similarly, in high production years the rancher may apply for a short-term temporary use authorization to use the excess plant forage.

When determining livestock allocations on an allotment, BLM considers such factors as trends in range condition, existing wild horse and burro numbers, wildlife needs and historical use, and current livestock use. These factors are integrated with the results of ongoing monitoring studies to determine an adjusted carrying capacity. If monitoring indicates existing livestock authorizations are too high, based on the adjusted carrying capacity, the level of authorized grazing use is adjusted as necessary. However, an allocation cannot be raised until monitoring studies verify that an increase is warranted.

Proposed Management: No changes in use allocations for grazing in the Scenic Area are being proposed, but the additional measures described below will, by improving BLM's information base on range trends, help determine if allocations are correctly targeted. One action described under Air, Soils and Water (H-1) calls for a moderately detailed soils survey that will provide a reliable means of determining the best vegetation patterns for each allotment.



L-1: The Allotment Management Plans will be reviewed for consistency with other elements of this Plan. Objectives, prescriptions, and monitoring techniques will be evaluated and modified or supplemented as necessary. Specific issues that will be addressed are:

- relationship between cattle grazing and the Joshua tree forests on Cima Dome;
- vegetation response to livestock grazing in the Kelso Dunes; and
- interrelationships of cattle grazing on desert tortoise and bighorn sheep habitats.

### **Proposed Management**

**L-1:** Review Allotment Management Plans for all allotments in the East Mojave by 1990, and revise as necessary.

**L-2:** Expand the range monitoring program in the Scenic Area by 1989.

**L-3:** Remove all abandoned range improvement materials.

*Related Action: H-1.*

L-2: Expansion of the range monitoring program will be accomplished by increasing the number of study locations by at least 15%, providing additional exclosures and utilization mapping, and initiating specific studies concerning the issues referred to above. These studies and additional research projects may be developed in association with the Mojave Desert Range Project, and research stations located at the Granite Mountains Research Natural Area and the Desert Studies Center at Soda Springs.

L-3: Through the years, damaged project materials have often been left in place when they were replaced. As a result, junk piles have accumulated at several sites. Nonfunctional and irreparable water tanks, troughs, pipelines, and fences that are judged to have no historical or scenic value will be removed.



## M. Minerals

Current Management: Most of the East Mojave is open to mineral entry, location and leasing under the principles of multiple use as directed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. All mineral exploration and/or development proposals by mining claimants, lessees, contractors or permittees require a description of the activity, precise location, number of acres to be disturbed, equipment to be used, etc., and a commitment to reclaim the disturbed areas upon completion of the operations. Plans of Operation are required for mining work in most of the East Mojave. BLM prepares an environmental assessment of these plans to determine whether they are sufficient to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands. Activity that would jeopardize a threatened or endangered species or its habitat cannot be authorized without consultation and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Extensive measures for protection are required when there are known cultural resources, or when there are properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. For mining work disturbing fewer than five acres in areas designated for "moderate" use (affecting 120,000 acres in the Scenic Area), a Notice is required. BLM may advise the operator that certain actions could result in unnecessary or undue degradation, and therefore must cease or not begin, but cannot require a performance bond for reclamation, which can be required for a Plan of Operation.

Existing or proposed mineral activities within Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) are restricted to nonimpairing, temporary impacts. Leasing of minerals in WSAs is prohibited, except for producing areas. Proposed mining operations are critically reviewed to determine whether or not any surface disturbance can be reclaimed to the point of being substantially unnoticeable in the WSA as a whole. This reclamation requirement must be met by June 30, 1989. Plans of Operation will not be approved in WSAs after that date. Some mining operations are accorded valid existing rights or "grandfathered" rights and are thus exempt from the nonimpairment criteria. Mining claimants asserting those rights need to demonstrate that certain conditions existed on or before October 21, 1976, the date of passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which called for the wilderness review of public lands, or before the lands were designated Wilderness Study Areas (May 1978). Bonding is mandatory in California for mining activity in WSAs.

BLM's Needles Resource Area reviews an average of 30 proposals each year for work on mining claims in the

East Mojave. Normally, one or two of these proposals are for commercial production. The majority are for exploration work only, including core drilling, trenching, access road maintenance, and bulk sampling.

Oil and gas leases require a Notice of Intent for exploration activities and an Application to Drill for development activities. When received by BLM, these applications undergo environmental review by BLM resource specialists. Mitigation measures may be required to reduce surface disturbance and protect resources, including visual quality. Since 1983, BLM has maintained a moratorium on leasing in Wilderness Study Areas at the direction of Congressional legislation appropriating funds for the agency.

The removal of saleable materials may be authorized after an environmental review of resources and impacts that can be expected to occur from removal. Normally, the areas disturbed are less than 40 acres in size, and require minimal work to reclaim the surface. Larger material sites, usually in association with major road building or road maintenance projects, may cover parts of several sections and require extensive mitigation, including recontouring and revegetation.

Proposed Management: BLM will allow mineral development consistent with national policy, and in a manner which prevents unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands. Mineral development in the East Mojave is a long-standing activity that has helped to define the region's character. Modern technology and reclamation requirements can help maintain the balance between this use and other activities or resources in the Scenic Area.

Limits on extraction of mineral materials are being established with the recognition that the materials are common and easily available from sources outside the Scenic Area. These materials will be available from the Scenic Area only for local governmental needs, primarily County road maintenance.

Funding will be requested for validity examinations only for claims which are proposed for patenting, and for existing claims in areas which are withdrawn from mineral entry under Actions A-6 and A-7. BLM will also request additional funding to allow compliance checks on all approved mining operations in the Scenic Area. The withdrawals being recommended by Actions A-6 and A-7 have very high cultural, scenic, or other resource values. BLM will carefully review any proposed closure and ensure the closures are fully justified and necessary for the protection of resources which are unique or at risk in light of the mineral potential.

### **Proposed Management**

***M-1: Limit extraction of mineral materials (sand, gravel, cinders) to local governmental needs.***

A mineral leasing policy for the California Desert Conservation Area will be proposed as a 1989 Desert Plan Amendment. For the East Mojave, this policy will be designed to conform to objectives of the Scenic Area Management Plan. It will consider the option of no mineral leasing where environmental concerns warrant such a restriction, and propose guidelines for lease exploration and development where such activity will be allowed.

## N. Energy Production and Utility Corridors

New utility lines must be built in corridors approved by the Desert Plan. The objective for the Scenic Area is to locate developments of this sort outside the East Mojave wherever possible. Utility Corridor E extends one-half mile into the East Mojave along the Scenic Area's eastern boundary. The proposed 1988 Desert Plan Amendment would relocate the corridor to the east to retain a three-mile-wide developable corridor. This proposal is being made in order to eliminate potential development conflicts with visual resource management guidelines for the East Mojave. The development of the Scenic Area portion of the corridor is currently constrained by a (suitably recommended) Wilderness Study Area.

BLM will also recommend the elimination of contingent corridor "W" from further planning. The Desert Plan Amendment process will allow a thorough discussion of the issues in a desertwide context.

Energy production in the East Mojave will generally be considered an incompatible activity, with the exception of windmills or generators for domestic, ranch, or mining use. Large-scale energy production could not be mitigated to conform to this Plan's objectives for visual resource management or land status/development, and could seriously degrade the recreational opportunities in significant portions of the Scenic Area.

### Proposed Management

*N-1: Locate utility corridor "E" outside the Scenic Area and consider elimination of contingent corridor "W", through the Desert Plan Amendment process.*

## O. Fire Management

Current Management: BLM fire management policy is to provide full suppression of all fires on public lands. Depending on specific circumstances, some fires may be allowed to burn to nearby natural barriers to avoid unnecessary damage to resources from suppression activities. Nearly all recorded fires in the East Mojave have been the result of lightning, with very few documented to have been started by campfires. During fire season, all open fires in the Scenic Area require permits except in approved campgrounds.

A nine-member fire crew is on duty at Hole-in-the-Wall during the May through October fire season. In an average year, they respond to 40-50 fires, with a response time of from 15 minutes to one hour. Most fires burn only a few acres, while the largest fire to have occurred during the last several years was a 10,000-acre blaze in the South Providence Mountains during the summer of 1980.

Helicopter support is available with a maximum response time of one hour. An agreement with San Bernardino County provides additional support from County crews stationed in Needles, Harvard (near Barstow), and Wonder Valley. An automatic lightning detection system covers the East Mojave region. After an electrical storm, the area is surveyed from the air to determine if a response is required. An automatic network of weather stations on a 75-mile grid is planned for 1988 with computer links to the Boise Interagency Fire Center.

Proposed Management: "Limited suppression" provides greater management flexibility while enhancing cost effectiveness. Many fires in the East Mojave occur in areas where resource values do not warrant the use and cost of full suppression techniques. In some cases, full suppression would be more damaging than the fire itself. The "limited suppression" plan will take into account the location and nature of sensitive resources, private lands, and structures, historic patterns of fire occurrence, and areas where prescribed burns will be required to reduce dangerous concentrations of fuel. The Plan will also develop an aggressive fire prevention program following guidelines for interpretation and signing described under "Recreation Management."

### Proposed Management

*0-1: Prepare a fire management plan for the East Mojave that will include recommendations for a "limited suppression" policy, and prescribed burning.*

## P. Monitoring

Current Management: There are two distinct elements to BLM's current monitoring program in the Scenic Area: visitor contact/use surveillance, and assessment of the condition and trend of resources and special management areas. To accomplish the first, the Resource Area has three rangers based in Needles to serve as the agency's "eyes and ears." A fourth ranger position added in 1986 will become the East Mojave's first resident ranger, based at Hole-in-the-Wall. Although the Scenic Area comprises one-third of the Resource Area's total acreage, three of the four rangers have been assigned to patrol there. Approximately 2,750 ranger patrol hours were spent in the East Mojave in the 1985 fiscal year. Other Resource Area staff members also spend time in the East Mojave on work projects, adding an additional 1,500 work hours in the area. During the May to October fire season, up to nine employees stationed at Hole-in-the-Wall conduct daily patrols of the East Mojave. These on-the-ground patrols are supplemented by an average of one aircraft overflight every three months.

Proposed Management: It is inevitable that change will occur in the East Mojave as the result of the implementation of management decisions made in this Plan and the anticipated increase in human use. BLM will constantly need to monitor these changes and multiple-use activities to: (1) determine how much change can occur before BLM needs to take management actions to deal with change; (2) ascertain how effective Plan decisions have been in achieving management goals and objectives; (3) obtain baseline data for future Plan revisions; and (4) fulfill statistical reporting requirements. The monitoring program outlined below will gather data needed to assess anticipated changes in resource condition/trend in the East Mojave. BLM will work closely with user groups to develop acceptable multiple-use standards (limits of acceptable change) for achievement of management goals.

Resource conditions/trends will be assessed through several monitoring programs, some accomplished by the Rangers and others by resource specialists. Many of these actions have been discussed earlier under the appropriate resource heading. A brief summary is included here for reference.

A. Land Classifications and Ownership	Plan actions will be monitored to ensure conformance to use guidelines, segregations, or withdrawals, and approved plans.
B. Access	Road and trail use will be monitored to detect area/route closure violations, and use or resource conflicts.
C. Recreation	Use levels at recreation sites, compliance with use regulations, and use conflicts will be monitored.
D. Visual Resource Management	Reclamation work will be assessed for effectiveness in minimizing visual changes.
E. Wilderness	Each WSA will be inspected at least once a month by on-ground patrol, supplemented by aircraft overflights an average of twice a year.
F. Cultural Resources	Cultural resources will be prioritized according to the extent of visitation and depredation, and monitored.
G. Native American	Known sites or areas of value to Native American groups will be inspected on a regular schedule.
H. Air, Soils, Water	Air quality will be monitored by a detection station proposed for the Mid Hills area. BLM monitors water quality at campgrounds quarterly.
I. Vegetation	Unusual plant assemblages and existing or potential habitat for sensitive, threatened or endangered species are inspected at least once a year. Wood cutting/collecting is monitored.
J. Wildlife	In cooperation with California Department of Fish and Game, bighorn surveys are conducted every one or two years. BLM, in coordination with these efforts, will monitor disease levels in livestock utilizing bighorn sheep habitat. Two large desert tortoise study areas have been established and are used to assess population trends. Availability of waters to wildlife is determined and remedial action taken when necessary.
K. Wild Horses & Burros	Numbers/locations are assessed every year or two to determine need for roundups.
L. Livestock Grazing	Number of cattle are monitored for compliance with use authorizations. Range trends are assessed through several study plots, overall review of allotment conditions.
M. Minerals	Exploration/development activities are inspected for compliance with approved Plans of Operation.
N. Energy-Utilities	Inspections are conducted during construction and after to ensure compliance with mitigation requirements.
O. Fire	Daily field and aircraft patrol during fire season is supplemented by automatic detection system for lightning strikes.
General	Aerial photos are taken at approximately five-year intervals to help assess cumulative impacts and overall trends from use and development.

Frequency of monitoring is a function of use levels, resource sensitivity, available staff and, in the case of formal resource monitoring, research design. Campgrounds are visited at least once every two days during the week, for example, but as many as four times a day on weekends or during high use periods. Cultural sites adjacent to heavily traveled roads may be inspected once a week, while sites in remote areas may be inspected from the air once a year. Special management areas such as Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, desert tortoise habitat and cultural resource sites receive more surveillance than areas with dispersed use or limited resource concerns.

P-1: Preparation of an annual Status Report will cover the period from October 1 to September 30, corresponding to the Federal Government's fiscal year. It is expected that the report would be available to the public in December or January for the preceding fiscal year. The first report will contain baseline information to explain what has been done since the region was designated a Scenic Area in late 1980. A major emphasis of this report will be on resource/use trends and BLM's response to issues. The report will also be used to discuss how this and other plans are being implemented, and will describe when actions that are tied to use levels or use patterns will be initiated. The report will:

- (a) summarize all approved actions and reclamation work completed;
- (b) summarize identified unauthorized uses, and action taken to resolve the trespass;
- (c) describe visitor use patterns, numbers, and trends;
- (d) assess current condition of sensitive resources and specially designated areas;
- (e) document actions taken to implement this and other approved plans affecting the East Mojave;
- (f) analyze trends and assess cumulative impacts;
- (g) identify research needs or studies currently under way; and
- (h) recommend corrective measures or additional actions, as appropriate.

This information will be incorporated into appropriate files in the Geographic Information System described below. Baseline data for rare, threatened, endangered and sensitive plants will be recorded on California Native Plant Field Survey forms and filed with the California Natural Diversity Data Base in Sacramento.

### **Proposed Management**

*P-1: Prepare an annual "Status Report" for the East Mojave, including a summary of monitoring efforts.*



**P-2:** Record all land use/resource data in a standardized, mappable format through use of a Geographic Information System.

**P-3:** Install traffic counters to monitor visitor use.

**P-4:** Conduct aircraft overflights at least once a month.

**P-5:** Update color aerial photographs.

P-2: The Geographic Information System is a computerized data base that can be used to generate maps showing resources, uses, topography, land status, withdrawals, or other previously entered information. The main benefits are the system's speed in showing potential use conflicts and the ease of adding new data. The system would be designed for compatibility with existing BLM computer data bases. BLM will also work with San Bernardino County to share data bases and avoid duplication of work.

P-3: Traffic counters will be installed at the six key entry points to the East Mojave, and at entry points to the campgrounds, Fort Piute, Kelso Dunes, and other use sites to obtain reliable visitor use data for the Scenic Area.

P-4: Aerial surveillance is a very effective method of assessing overall trends and locating unauthorized uses. Wilderness Study Areas and Special Management Areas will be the most important beneficiaries of this type of monitoring. The flights will also indicate where visitor use is occurring so on-ground patrols can be focused where they are needed most.

P-5: New color aerial photos can be compared with 1977 and 1982 photos to identify trends in areas of special concern, and help BLM assess cumulative impacts. It is recommended that aerial photos be taken at five-year intervals.



# Part 3

East  
Mojave  
National  
Scenic  
Area

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

# AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

- A. LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND OWNERSHIP
- B. ACCESS
- C. RECREATION MANAGEMENT
- D. VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- E. WILDERNESS
- F. CULTURAL RESOURCES
- G. NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS
- H. AIR, SOILS, WATER
- I. VEGETATION
- J. WILDLIFE
- K. WILD HORSES AND BURROS
- L. LIVESTOCK GRAZING
- M. MINERALS
- N. ENERGY PRODUCTION AND UTILITY CORRIDORS



# Affected Environment

The East Mojave has long been known for its diverse natural values, open space, and colorful history. While many of its individual features or visitor opportunities may be duplicated in varying degrees in other areas of the desert, the region, when looked at as a whole, becomes a rich patchwork of landforms, plant communities, and broad scenic vistas. When man's intrepid efforts to traverse, explore, profit, or merely exist in the area are woven into the rugged and unforgiving fabric of the landscape, the East Mojave assumes a character which is not equaled anywhere else in the California Desert. Today, the charm of the East Mojave exists not because of its natural beauty alone, but also because of its populations (human, plant, and animal), their uses of the land, and the manner in which these uses are controlled to ensure that multiple-use values are maintained for future generations.

## A. Land Classification and Ownership

Resource ownership and control adds significantly to the complexity of land management since the surface owner does not necessarily own the minerals, roads, water, or other resources that may be found there. For an example of this complexity, BLM has control over wildlife habitat (soils, vegetation) but the State has management responsibility for wildlife and so regulates hunting and trapping on public lands. The State also has control over water resources. The 1872 Mining Law gives ownership of minerals to mining claimants, who can then sell their interests or patent the lands, thereby gaining some surface control. The surface of some lands has been acquired by BLM, but the minerals are still owned by private parties. Trespass, which is the unauthorized use of public (or private) lands, may also complicate matters by interfering with the public's opportunity for access or other use, and BLM's ability to effectively manage resources.

Another element of complexity is added by withdrawals, segregations, and management classifications. The Desert Plan's multiple-use classes, mineral withdrawals, power and water reserves, Desert Land Entry withdrawals, and other factors affect what use may be made of specific lands.

### LAND TENURE

Ownership of the East Mojave is shared among hundreds of organizations and individuals. The Bureau of Land Management is the dominant member of this consortium, administering 86% of the land in the East Mojave. The most significant private landowner is the Santa Fe-Pacific Realty Corporation (formerly the Southern Pacific Land Company) with 87,000 acres. The State of California owns approximately 58,000 acres, most in the category of "State School Sections" established to support the State's teacher retirement fund. These lands, and the mineral rights on an additional 26,000 acres of now private land, are administered by the State Lands Commission. The University of California also controls 2,280 acres in the Granite Mountain Research Natural Area, and the Department of Fish and Game owns 140 acres adjacent to Piute Creek. The remaining 59,000 acres are private lands, primarily located in the Lanfair-Pinto-Round Valley regions and the towns of the East Mojave. See Map A (back pocket of the Plan) for land ownership patterns in the Scenic Area.

TABLE 3-1  
Land Ownership

BLM	1,296,000 acres	86%
State	58,000 acres	4%
Santa Fe-Pacific	87,000 acres	6%
Other Private	59,000 acres	4%
TOTALS	1,500,000 acres	

## WITHDRAWALS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

A large body of laws was enacted over the past 200 years that in one way or another encouraged the transfer of public lands or resources into private ownership. From the start, however, some lands or resources were recognized as valuable public property that would best be left in public ownership. Therefore, numerous laws and regulations have been established that restrict the private taking of public lands or resources in specific areas. One form of restriction is a withdrawal or segregation--the withholding of Federal land from sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws for the purpose of limiting activities under those laws in order to maintain other public uses or resources. Classifications may impose another form of restriction.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act revoked many laws under which withdrawals and classifications had been made, and replaced them with new provisions. In brief, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to withdraw public lands from uses determined to be inconsistent with the management of the public lands or its resources. Withdrawals of less than 5,000 acres may be made by the Secretary for a period not to exceed 20 years. Withdrawals of 5,000 acres or more require notification of Congress, which may adopt a resolution not approving the withdrawal, or take no action and allow the withdrawal to go into effect. Additionally, withdrawals segregating public lands from mineral entry or the operation of the mining and/or mineral leasing laws will have mineral potential reports prepared, along with an environmental assessment addressing the impacts to and from mineral development.

The Secretary of the Interior was also assigned the responsibility for reviewing withdrawals to determine the need for their continuation. The purpose for this review was to eliminate overlapping withdrawals, and those made for a specific purpose which may no longer apply. Withdrawals and withdrawal review recommendations affecting the East Mojave are summarized on the following pages. Map B (back pocket) and Table 2-3 provide additional information about these actions.

## WITHDRAWALS

Public Water Reserves: The Public Water Reserves were established by Section 10 of the Act of December 29, 1916 (43 U.S.C. 291 et seq.) to prevent the control of large areas of land by monopolization of scarce water sources. Specific withdrawals under this law were made on a site-by-site basis. An Executive Order of April 17, 1926, established Public Water Reserve number 107, which designated any and all public lands within a quarter mile of any spring or water hole also on public land, as a Public Water Reserve. This law effectively doubled the acreage and number of Public Water Reserves in the East Mojave. Water in excess of the amount needed to support a family, now generally accepted as 210 gallons a day, could be appropriated on a case-by-case basis. All Public Water Reserves are segregated from agricultural entry, sales, and mining for nonmetalliferous minerals such as potassium or sodium. There are 3,065 acres in the East Mojave which are designated Public Water Reserves.

Public Land Order (PLO) 5224: In 1972, 19 areas in California were designated as Recreation Lands. In support of this recognition of special recreation and resource values, PLO 5224 withdrew approximately 36,463 acres in the "Eastern Mojave" and "Fort Piute" Recreation Lands from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws. This withdrawal affected areas within what is now the East Mojave National Scenic Area which were deemed to possess either outstanding natural features or were of important historic or recreational value. These areas included many of the same ones previously segregated by classifications R-236 and R-1217: Cima Dome, Cinder Cones, Kelso Dunes, Mid Hills Campground. It also covered additional cultural resource sites, Piute Creek, and Hole-in-the-Wall Campground.

Public Land Order 5437: A 1,120-acre withdrawal from the mining laws was established at Soda Springs to protect historic values.

## CLASSIFICATIONS

Classification and Multiple Use Act: This 1964 law was enacted to protect resources on the public lands until such time as legislation was passed to determine which public lands should be retained, and which should be disposed of. Two classifications, R-236 and R-1217, apply to the East Mojave. Together, they had the effect of classifying the lands for retention under public ownership, and segregating the lands in the East Mojave from agricultural entry under the public land laws and from disposal by sale. Approximately 9,000 acres were additionally segregated from the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws, by R-236; and 28,435 acres by R-1217, including portions of the Kelso Dunes, the Cinder Cones, Cima Dome, and the Mid Hills. The identified Public Water Reserves (those specifically designated) were also segregated from the mining laws, giving them protection from all forms of entry.

California Desert Plan, as Amended: The Desert Plan's multiple-use zones described in Part 2 are classifications that in many ways superseded previous classifications, segregations, and withdrawals. These zones prohibit agricultural uses and the sale of public lands, duplicating the most important functions of R-236 and R-1217.



## MISCELLANEOUS WITHDRAWALS/ CLASSIFICATIONS

Plans developed for Clark Mountain, New York Mountain, Rock Spring, and Soda Springs Areas of Critical Environmental Concern recommend additional withdrawals from mining laws for protection of resources. Additional segregations have been made for materials sites used during the construction of I-15 and I-40 and flood control dikes associated with these highways, and for small tracts.

## UNAUTHORIZED USE

Only a few cases of unauthorized use have been identified within the East Mojave National Scenic Area, most involving unauthorized occupancy associated with mining claims. Priorities for resolving unauthorized use in the East Mojave are based on (1) resource conflicts, especially in Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Wilderness Study Areas, (2) age of the occupancy, (3) threats to resources or hazards to the public, and (4) workload impacts. In regard to age of occupancy, new cases are dealt with first as the violators can usually be located, impacts are generally small in scale, and legal entanglements are limited. Older cases often involve pre-1955 mining laws which give claimants certain rights which they do not have under present law or policy.

## HAZARDOUS AND NONHAZARDOUS WASTE

At present there are four nonhazardous waste dumps in the East Mojave. One south of Baker is on public lands, and the remainder on private lands near the towns of Goffs, Cima, and Kelso. BLM provides trash pickup services at the two maintained campgrounds.

Hazardous materials such as cyanide or dynamite are sometimes used in the East Mojave, primarily at mining sites. Storage and use are monitored by BLM and State agencies. It is not known whether hazardous materials have been stored at abandoned sites.

## B. Access

### MOTORIZED ACCESS

There are 235 miles of paved roads and 325 miles of graded roads maintained by San Bernardino County, BLM, or private interests both within and bordering the Scenic Area. Additionally there are hundreds of routes totaling over 2,500 miles which are maintained primarily by the passage of vehicles, including a number of unmaintained trails within Wilderness Study Areas. Most of the Scenic Area's roads and trails have been in existence for several decades and are the legacies of past mining, agriculture, ranching, and homesteading activities. Many accompany pipelines, transmission lines, or other utilities crossing the East Mojave. Some have been developed to provide access to specific sites for popular recreational use, such as campsites, rock collecting areas, or scenic viewing areas.

### NONMOTORIZED ACCESS

Hiking and horseback riding have always been associated with many recreational experiences in the East Mojave. Opportunities are excellent but, as yet, undeveloped. Short trails exist in the Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, and BLM has identified portions of an eight-mile route between Hole-in-the-Wall and Mid Hills campgrounds, but no trail work has been started. The Desert Trail Association has proposed a national trail from Mexico to Canada which would pass through the East Mojave, but a specific route has not been identified.

In the absence of trails, visitors choose a destination and find their way with maps or simple determination, occasionally using old roads that head in the right direction. Several mountain peaks in the East Mojave are described in popular hiking guides and receive a good deal of use from individuals and groups. These activities are considered casual uses by BLM, and are monitored but not managed in the sense of permits or limits.

The Scenic Area currently supports little use from mountain bicycles, but it is expected that this use will increase. Mountain bike sales have soared in past years and it is logical to assume that some use will reach the East Mojave, especially in light of the National Park and Forest areas currently being closed to mountain bike use.

### EASEMENTS

BLM has not yet acquired any easements for access over State or private lands, but has received an initial grant from the State's Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Fund to acquire perpetual, exclusive easements to ensure continued public access on the Mojave Road's privately owned segments. To date, use levels and user conflicts with private land developments have been low enough so that most private landowners have not found it necessary to block access to the public on roads crossing their lands.

## C. Recreation

The East Mojave is one of the most valuable multiple-use recreation areas in the California Desert, containing some of the desert's finest scenery, notable natural and cultural features, and opportunities for a wide variety of recreational activities. Although total recreation use of the East Mojave is relatively low compared to other desert areas, this region probably is used for a wider range of recreational pursuits than most other parts of the California Desert. An important intangible element that has served as a major attraction for many users is the sense of freedom in unfettered open space that prevails because of the dispersed, low level of use found in most areas of the East Mojave. People do not have a feeling of being controlled that they sometimes perceive in parks. BLM seeks to provide this type of experience while maintaining an appropriate level of management and resource protection.

### MAJOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Most recreation use in the East Mojave is oriented toward the observation and enjoyment of the area's scenery and natural or historical resources. The extensive network of roads and trails that have been developed over the past 100 years to provide access to mining districts, grazing improvements, and homesteads now provides outstanding opportunities for exploration. Education and research are also among the highest identified uses. Seven of the most studied sites in the desert are in the East Mojave, including Cima Dome, Kelso Dunes, Clark, Providence, New York, and Granite Mountains, and Soda Springs. Excellent hunting opportunities for upland game birds (dove, quail, and chukar) exist in the area. About one fourth of San Bernardino County's annual buck harvest, 25-30 mule deer, is taken here. Beginning in the fall of 1987, legal hunting of the bighorn sheep in the Old

Dad/Kelso Mountain area and Marble Mountains will be permitted. A strictly limited number of permits will be issued by the California Department of Fish and Game in 1987.

Rock collectors frequent Hackberry Wash, some of the old mines, and several scattered locations for gem quality minerals and petrified wood. The caves of the Providence Mountains and Mescal Range make the East Mojave one of the best caving areas in the California Desert. Backpacking and hiking, not generally thought of as desert recreational activities, have become popular uses in the Providence, New York, Granite, and Clark Mountains. The oasis at Kelso Depot and the Piute Creek area are two of the most popular birdwatching locations in the desert, particularly during spring and fall migrations.

Many visitors prefer to camp away from other users, or search for areas near particular features to set up a primitive camp. Over the years, many camping areas have been established by repeated use that now attract additional users because of homemade improvements such as fire rings, rock slab picnic tables, or simply a cleared space. Granite Pass, Caruthers Canyon, the Fort Piute area, and several locations along Wildhorse Canyon and New York Mountain Roads are particularly popular.

The use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is of secondary importance to most recreationists, serving as a means of pursuing other interests rather than as an activity unto itself. For example, there are no open, free play off-highway vehicle areas in the East Mojave, and only one competitive event, the annual Barstow to Law Vegas race. Even this use is severely limited as the course in the East Mojave is restricted to the periphery of the Scenic Area near Baker and Clark Mountain.

## USE LEVELS

Over the past ten years, recreation use has been monitored by aerial surveys, visitor registers, and Ranger patrol. Visitor use is also recorded at Providence Mountain State Recreation Area and on County-maintained roads. Current estimates, based on Ranger counts and records kept by Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, indicate the Scenic Area receives 60,000 visits per year. Several areas within the East Mojave receive moderate to intensive use, including BLM's Hole-in-the-Wall and Mid Hills Campgrounds, Mitchell Caverns, the Mojave Road, Rock Spring, Fort Piute, Kelso Dunes, Soda Springs, Devil's Playground, Clark and New York Mountains, and Wildhorse Canyon. Each of these areas receives more than 2,000 visits a year. Field observations indicate that most visitors stay for two or three days with overnight use increasing by approximately 5% each year. The number of day-use visitors has increased at an even faster rate. Within the ten-year period of this Plan, overall use levels are expected to rise to between 200,000 and 250,000 visits per year, primarily from increases in day use.

## USE PERIODS

The eight months from October through May account for nearly 90% of the visits to the Scenic Area. The first two or three weekends of upland game and deer hunting seasons (October-November), and the three- and four-day holiday weekends from Thanksgiving through Easter are the most concentrated use periods, accounting for the majority of use for the entire year. The two weeks around Easter bring large numbers of university and college groups to the area for week-long stays. Organized group tours and outings also use the Easter

period for visits. Very few recreation visits are made on weekdays. During the past few years, summer visitation has begun to increase, particularly by foreign visitors. Residents of bordering towns such as Needles, Bullhead City, and Laughlin seek the higher elevations of the East Mojave to escape the intense heat of the Colorado River valley. As these cities increase in population, summer use of the Scenic Area will also rise.

## TRENDS IN RECREATION USE

Some general trends for recreation use in the East Mojave are:

- An increase from the current 60,000 visits/year to 200,000 visits/year by 1997.
- Sharp increases in day use and summer use.
- An increased demand for physical fitness, adventure and risk sports, OHV use, and winter sports.
- A demand for additional facilities such as parking areas for recreation vehicles, campgrounds, hiking trails, and picnic facilities.
- Increased emphasis on providing handicapped access.

The table below describes activities, the estimated percentage of visitors participating in particular activities, and current use trends. In this list, OHV exploring is considered a sightseeing activity, but also figures prominently in the use of the Mojave Road, and as an activity associated with nearly every other use. This information was developed from interviews with BLM and State employees who have had several years of field experience in the East Mojave.

Totals are greater than 100% because most visitors participate in more than one activity.

As a point of reference, data developed for the California Desert Plan indicate that dominant activities observed for the East Mojave region included camping, sightseeing, rock collecting, and hiking. Secondary activities included hunting and target shooting, motorcycle riding, archery, and photography.

TABLE 3-2  
Percent of Visitor Participation in Recreation Activities

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Current Participation</u>	<u>Trend</u>
Sightseeing/OHV exploring	90%	Up
Hunting	50%	Stable
Shooting/plinking	40%	Down
Camping	70%	Up
Nature study/research	30%	Up
Hiking and backpacking	20%	Up
Rock collecting	15%	Stable

## D. Visual Resource Management

The scenic quality of the East Mojave does not reside in any particularly spectacular feature. There are more scenic mountains or sand dunes elsewhere. What makes this region stand out from the rest of the California Desert is the spectacular range of features: Joshua tree forests lying next to fields of ancient lava, which are only a few miles away from a sea of sand, which is overlooked by mountains capped by sheer 500-foot limestone cliffs. Then there are the "long views," when one can step away from the edge of a road and see fifty miles into a desert that reveals only a hint of its past. These two elements—variety and the long-distance view—are the most significant characteristics of the East Mojave's visual quality.



## E. Wilderness

Even though the East Mojave has been used for intensive mining and grazing over the past one hundred years, by the late 1970's nearly 50% of the Scenic Area remained in such a natural state as to meet the basic criteria for consideration as wilderness, resulting in the designation of 23 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in the East Mojave. Total WSA acreage in the Scenic Area amounts to approximately 705,000 acres. During the development of the Desert Plan, these areas were subject to intensive study. After an analysis of wilderness characteristics, other resources, existing or potential uses, and public comment, the Final Desert Plan recommended that seven WSAs totaling 271,000 acres

(289,000 acres if enclosed private/State lands are included), or approximately 20% of the Scenic Area, were suitable for formal wilderness designation by Congress. The remaining 16 WSAs were recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness due to the existence of other uses or opportunities which outweigh their value as wilderness, or their comparatively low wilderness quality compared with other WSAs being considered. To protect their primitive character, however, BLM recommended "limited use" designations and designated some as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to provide increased resource protection of these nonsuitable areas. Table 3-3 provides a listing of all Scenic Area WSAs, which are shown on Map 3-1.

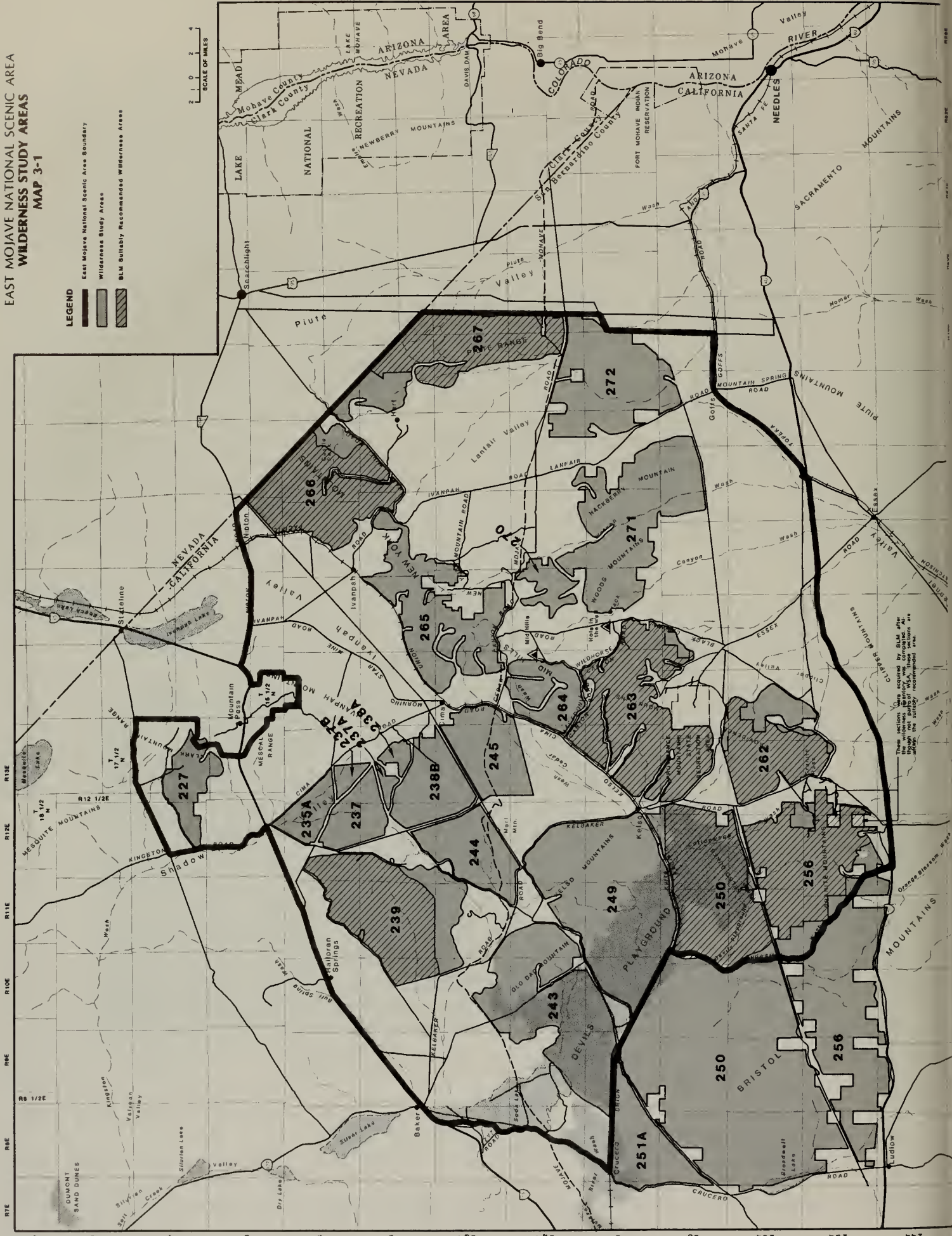
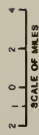
TABLE 3-3  
Wilderness Study Areas Within the East Mojave National Scenic Area

Wilderness Study Area Number	Area Name	Ownership				Total Lands in WSA Within EMNSA
		Public		State	Private	
		Suitable	Nonsuitable			
227	Clark Mountain	---	14,440	---	---	14,440
235A	Shadow Valley	---	10,150	---	---	10,150
237	Magee-Atkins	---	13,800	640	---	14,440
237A	Deer Spring	---	2,560	640	---	3,200
237B	Valley View	---	3,200	---	---	3,200
238A	Teutonia	---	2,976	---	---	2,976
238B	Cima Dome	---	21,310	640	---	21,950
239	Cinder Cones	39,120	10,880	2,560	---	52,560
243	Old Dad Mountain	---	57,900	1,900	---	59,800
244	Rainbow Wells	---	21,120	640	640	22,400
245	Eight Mile Tank	---	22,760	---	640	23,400
249	Kelso Mountain	---	76,200	3,660	180	80,040
250	*Kelso Dunes	46,720	1,280	1,920	640	50,560
256	*Granite Mountains	43,840	5,440	1,920	1,600	52,800
262	S. Providence Mt.	22,320	5,680	960	2,920	31,880
263	N. Providence Mt.	49,920	1,340	3,200	60	54,520
264	Mid Hills	---	18,000	640	---	18,640
265	New York Mountains	---	45,070	1,280	1,380	47,730
266	Castle Peaks	35,320	4,000	640	80	40,040
267	Fort Piute	33,720	7,640	640	1,280	43,280
270	Table Mountain	---	8,250	---	---	8,250
271	Woods Mountains	---	43,820	640	11,120	55,580
272	Signal Hill	---	36,130	1,760	6,670	44,560
TOTALS:		270,960	433,946	24,280	27,210	756,396

\* WSAs which extend beyond the Scenic Area boundary.  
Acreage shown is for the part within the Scenic Area.

**EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA  
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS  
MAP 3-1**

- LEGEND**
- East Mojave National Scenic Area Boundary
  - ▨ Wilderness Study Area
  - ▧ BLM Suitably Recommended Wilderness Area



These areas were studied by BLM after the wilderness character was completed. All areas are suitable for wilderness study areas.



## F. Cultural Resources

The East Mojave contains some of the finest examples of cultural resources in the entire California Desert. These vary from an extensive concentration of rock art (including petroglyphs, or rock etchings; and pictographs, or rock painting) to a major segment of the historic Mojave Road.

Although numerous archaeological sites have been recorded in the East Mojave, they likely represent only a small portion of the area's cultural resource sites. An inventory conducted for the Desert Plan studied selected areas to determine sensitivity, but did not cover large enough areas to substantially add to the area's data base.

Archaeological localities of the East Mojave include: prehistoric villages with rock shelters, petroglyphs and pictographs, as well as quarries and high-density lithic scatters in the Providence Mountain area; the petroglyphs of the Woods Mountains, Cinder Cones, and Lanfair Valley; the large open sites, rock shelters, and pictographs of the Granite Mountains; the numerous clusters of fire-affected rocks with associated pottery, milling assemblage, and lithic tools associated with Pleistocene lake shores; the large roasting pits associated with the limestone formations of the Mescal Range and Clark Mountains; the extensive string of campsites, milling sites, and lithic scatters of the Piute Range; and the campsites and petroglyphs associated with the trails connecting the Colorado River with the Pacific Coast.

The historical features of the East Mojave include: the remains of one of the most desolate official U.S. Army camps in the west at Camp Rock Spring (1867); the late-1860's army outposts and relay stations at Piute Creek (Fort Piute) and Marl Spring; the nationally significant Mojave Road (circa 1859-1883) linking California with the southwest; the 1880's mining townsite of Providence with the associated Bonanza King Mine; the 1890's town of Vanderbilt and the Boomerang Mine millsite; the townsites of Ivanpah and Lanfair; segments of two early transcontinental railroads—the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad (1883), and the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroads (1905); several abandoned railways, including the Tonopah-Tidewater Railway and the Barnwell and Searchlight Railway (1907-1923); homesteading and small mining operations from about 1910 to 1925; and portions of Camp Clipper, a World War II desert training camp.

## G. Native American Concerns

During the preparation of the Desert Plan, Native American groups having ties with the California Desert identified specific areas or sites of interest or concern (e.g., interments, religious expression, or cultural values). This information was written up in summary form for each planning unit, and a regional synthesis of Native American values associated with particular resources and/or geographic regions was prepared for a number of areas, including the East Mojave, where such values were geographically concentrated.

## H. Air, Soils, Water

### AIR QUALITY

The East Mojave is located within the Southeast Desert Air Basin. Air quality is considered good to very good. With the exception of suspended particulates in the form of wind-blown dust, average annual values for the major pollutants in the Scenic Area rarely exceed Federal and State air quality standards. The area has been designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Class II air management zone. This designation allows "moderate, well controlled and sited industrial growth" to take place. The nearest air quality station, located in Barstow, is used to monitor the region for major pollutants.

### SOILS

Two soils inventories conducted in the East Mojave in 1976 encompassed nearly 2 million acres and provided BLM with soils information upon which to base future land use decisions. As many as 21 different types were identified in the East Mojave and are as diverse as the landforms from which they were born. Some of the many that are found include: soils with sandy textures containing gravel and cobbles; soils with medium textures; soils with calcium carbonate (caliche) accumulations; fine textured soils found in playas; soils with a developed horizon indicating age or formation during a different moisture regime; shallow soils; and upland soils. Other soil types in places such as escarpments, rough broken land, ephemeral streams, dunes, and lava flow areas are also found.

### WATER

Over 200 springs and seeps have been identified in the East Mojave National Scenic Area. Many have been improved by the installation of retention dams, pipelines, and troughs for use by

livestock. Most are also available for wildlife and burro use. Piute Creek is the only perennial stream in the East Mojave and is an important wildlife water source as well as a popular recreation site.

Water wells in the Scenic Area utilize ground water stored in aquifers. Each valley in the East Mojave can be expected to contain water, although the water quality, quantity, and depth to water varies considerably. Utilization of ground water resources is based on surface ownership; therefore, BLM has priority for uses of ground water underlying the public lands in California. A Notice of Intent to drill a water well is required and, if annual use exceeds 25 acre-feet/years, a special State permit is required.

Water wells have been drilled primarily for domestic use and livestock needs but a number of wells have also been drilled for mining use. Two wells, one at Mid Hills and another at Hole-in-the-Wall, supply water for visitor use at these two BLM campgrounds. Over 100 wildlife waters--including big game guzzlers, wildlife drinkers and quail drinkers--have been jointly developed in the East Mojave by the California Department of Fish and Game, BLM, and volunteers.

Public Water Reserves were created by a 1926 Executive Order. Since that date, all springs and water holes, and all lands one-quarter mile from each spring or water hole that are vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved have been withdrawn for domestic and livestock consumption. The withdrawal also segregated the area from non-metalliferous mining locations. Water in excess of what is needed for human and stock watering purposes must be appropriated under California State law.

BLM appropriates excess water from Public Water Reserves through the State after determining the minimum needed for human and stock watering purposes, amount of excess available, amount needed for the intended appropriated use, a determination that the spring or water hole is vacant and unappropriated, and impacts to other uses or potential uses (e.g., mining) in the area.

## I. Vegetation

The wildlife and vegetative resources in the East Mojave area reflect the intermingling of three major North American Deserts: the Great Basin, Mojave, and Sonoran Deserts. The East Mojave is primarily in the Mojave Desert but contains floral and faunal elements of the Great Basin and Sonoran Deserts and some elements of the California Coastal and Arizona Interior chaparral zones. The Mojave Desert is considered a unique floristic unit and is commonly designated a floristic province. Many plant species are found only within this area. Enclaves of flora characteristic of each of the surrounding provinces occur within the boundaries of the Scenic Area.

Canyons of the New York Mountains have species of manzanita, California lilac, oak, and silk tassel which are characteristic of coastal California and the chaparral of Arizona. The Mid Hills have large stands of Great Basin sagebrush and Utah juniper. Sonoran species such as smoke tree and ocotillo are found extending a dozen or so miles into the southeast corner of the Scenic Area.

Of the 1,000 species of vascular plants estimated for the entire 25-million-acre California Desert Conservation Area, 700 are recorded from the East Mojave. Approximately 60% of the Scenic Area is creosote bush scrub, 20% Joshua tree woodland, 15% pinyon-juniper woodland, and 5% various other assemblages.

Thirteen unusual plant assemblages occur in the area. These assemblages were designated as "unusual" in the Desert Plan due to their restricted habitat, discontinuous distribution, age, size, or density. Table 3-4 describes each type of assemblage found in the East Mojave and its sensitivity rating, which is based on an estimate of each assemblage's ability to recover from habitat disturbance. The scale of sensitivity ranges from "highly sensitive" to "subject to disturbance but not as sensitive."

A number of sensitive plants occur in the East Mojave National Scenic Area. "Sensitive" plants are designated by BLM's California State Director and must meet at least one of the following criteria: (1) plants identified as candidates for listing as endangered or threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in a Federal Register Notice of Review; (2) plants that have been officially proposed for listing as endangered or threatened by the FWS in a Federal Register Notice; or (3) plants not meeting either of the above criteria but which have been designated as sensitive by the State Director, based in part on information from the California Natural Diversity Data Base (maintained by California Department of Fish and Game), and private groups such as the California Native Plant Society.

TABLE 3-4  
Unusual Plant Assemblages

1. White Fir Two isolated populations of Rocky Mountain white fir (*Abies concolor concolor*) occur in the Scenic Area in the New York and Clark Mountains. Along with a population in the Kingston Mountains, these small groves represent the westernmost occurrence of Rocky Mountain white fir. Considered "very sensitive."
2. Chaparral An "enriched" pinyon-juniper/oak woodland with affinities to Arizona interior chaparral and California coastal chaparral occurs in Caruthers, Keystone and Live Oak Canyons in the New York Mountains. Considered "sensitive."
3. Calcicolous Scrub Vegetation associated with limestone and dolomitic outcrops occurring in the Providence, New York and Clark Mountains. Characterized by the occurrence of many uncommon plants. Considered "highly sensitive."
4. Sagebrush Scrub Great Basin sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata tridentata*) occurs in the Round and Gold Valleys in the Mid Hills area. Considered to be "subject to disturbance, but not sensitive."
5. Desert Grassland Characterized by the presence of approximately 20 species of perennial grasses, this assemblage is found in Lanfair Valley. Considered to be "subject to disturbance, but not sensitive."
6. Shadscale Scrub This stand of *Atriplex confertifolia* occurs at Valley Wells and is characteristic of alkaline soils of the Great Basin Desert. Considered to be "subject to disturbance, but not sensitive."
7. Joshua Tree Woodland The Cima Dome area supports a very dense and extensive stand of *Yucca brevifolia* var. *jaegeriana*. Considered to be "subject to disturbance, but not sensitive."
8. Kelso Dunes The Kelso Dunes support vegetation that is highly adapted to life in the sand, including a number of perennial grasses. Considered "very sensitive."
9. Huge Mojave Yucca The slopes of the Hackberry, Woods and Providence Mountains support stands of very large *Yucca schidigera* (up to 10 feet tall). Considered "sensitive."
10. Succulent Shrub The slopes of the Hackberry and Woods Mountains support an extensive stand of succulent shrubs, including barrel cactus, silver cholla, buckhorn cholla, hedgehog, pin-cushion, beavertail, and prickly pear cacti. Considered "sensitive."
11. Seeps and Springs The relatively scarce occurrence of seeps and springs in the California Desert has resulted in all vegetation associated with seeps and springs being designated as Unusual Plant Assemblages. Considered "highly sensitive."
12. Riparian Piute Creek, the only perennial stream in the East Mojave, supports a lush stand of cottonwoods, willows, and other streambank vegetation. Considered "highly sensitive."
13. Mesquite Thickets Mesquite thickets indicate the presence of a high water table and occur in substantial numbers in the Scenic Area near Crucero. Considered to be "subject to disturbance, but not as sensitive."

There are six "sensitive" species known to occur in the East Mojave (listed below with a number identifying the criterion which led to their designation): Erigeron parishii—Parish's daisy (1); Eriogonum ericifolium var. thornei—Thorne's buckwheat (1); Ferocactus acanthodes var. acanthodes—barrel cactus (1); Forsellesia pungens var. glabra—pungent forsellesia (3); Opuntia basilaris var. brachyclada—little beavertail cactus (1); Penstemon stephensii—Stephen's beardtongue (1); Sphaeralcea rusbyi var. eremicola—Rusby's desert mallow (1).

Wildflower displays occur in the spring following wet, mild winters, and in late summer following the summer thunderstorms. Generally, the spring bloom is the most spectacular and draws many visitors to the desert. The Hole-in-the-Wall area, Lanfair Valley, and Kelso Dunes/Devil's Playground areas are good locations to view wildflower displays.



## J. Wildlife

The intermingling of the three desert systems (Mojave, Sonoran, and Great Basin) has produced about 35 wildlife habitat types. These diverse habitats support almost 300 species of wildlife. Thirty-six species of reptiles, 200 of birds, and 47 of mammals have been observed. Some of the more notable reptiles are the gila monster, desert tortoise, Mojave fringe-toed lizard, regal ring-necked snake, and desert striped whipsnake. Significant birds include the Prairie Falcon, Bendire's Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Gray Vireo, and Lucy's Warbler. The East Mojave has one of the finer bat faunas of the California Desert. There are also populations of rock squirrels in pinyon-juniper rockland, a relict population of dusky-footed woodrats, porcupines, and mountain lions.

Hunting species include the Mourning Dove, Gambel's Quail, and Chukar (an introduced species). Also introduced is a population of rocky mountain mule deer which annually attracts a large number of hunters to the Scenic Area. The State issues permits to operate trap lines on public lands. In the East Mojave, an average of 15 permits are issued each year, with coyotes (trapped year-round) and bobcats (trapped in fall and winter) being the most commonly taken animals.

There are five "sensitive" wildlife species in the East Mojave: desert tortoise, desert bighorn sheep, Mohave tui chub, banded gila monster, and the Gilded Northern Flicker. The desert tortoise is fully protected under California law and may not be collected without a special permit. It is currently a candidate for listing on the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

In the East Mojave, the best desert tortoise habitat is in Ivanpah and Fenner Valleys, which have population densities in excess of 100 animals per square mile. Map 3-2 shows the areas identified as "crucial" habitat, which are those areas deemed necessary to maintain a viable tortoise population.

The desert bighorn sheep currently is fully protected under State law, but legislation was recently approved allowing a very limited hunt beginning in the fall of 1987. Nine permits were issued for the Old Dad Mountain/Kelso Peak area in the East Mojave, and the Marble Mountains south of the Scenic Area for the 1987 season. There are approximately 550 to 600 desert bighorn in the East Mojave.

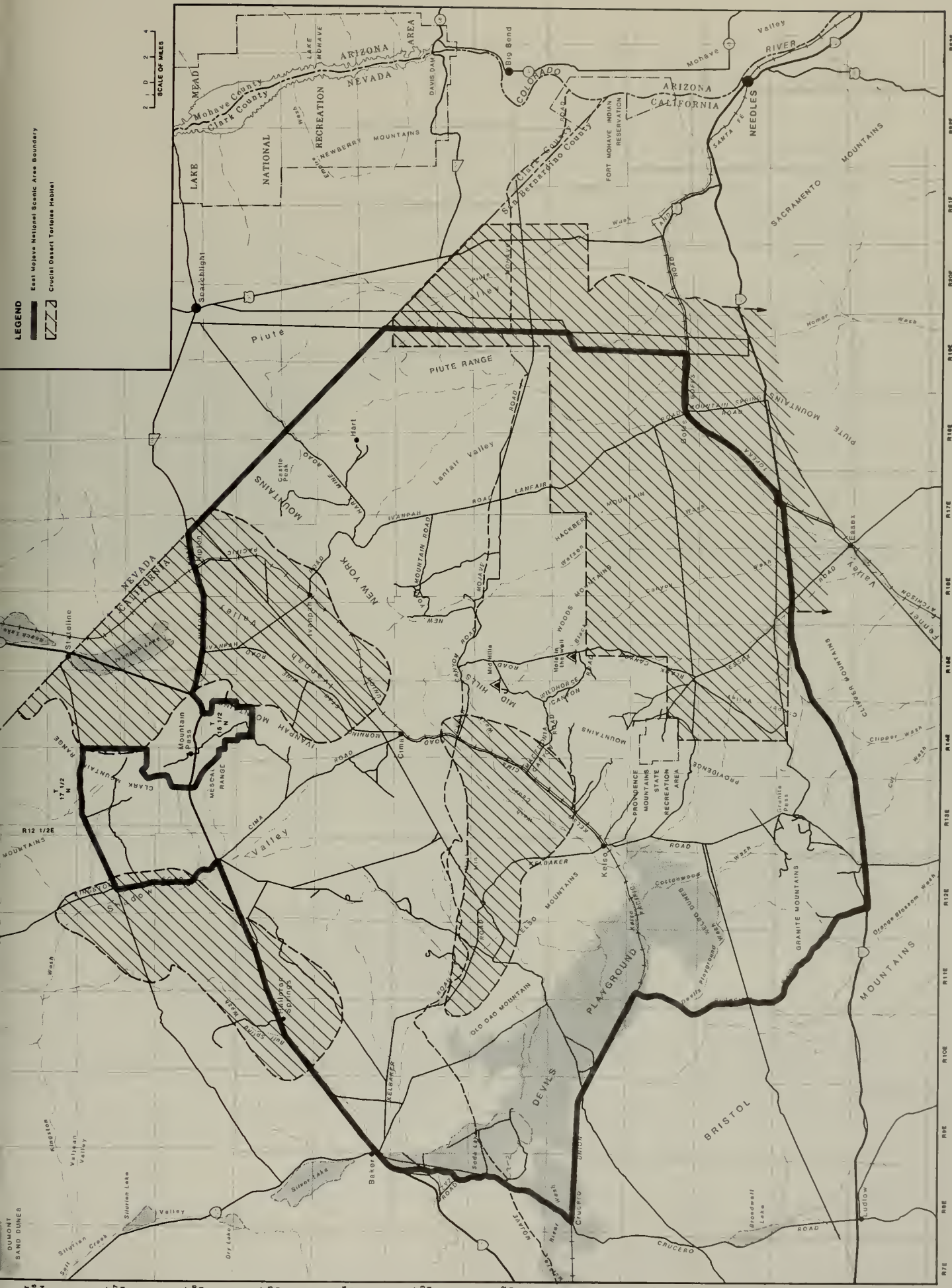
Mohave tui chub (*Gila bicolor mohavensis*) exist at Soda Springs and at two additional sites where they have been successfully introduced. A habitat management plan for this Federal- and State-listed endangered species was prepared by BLM specialists in 1978, and revised in 1984. Much of the plan has been implemented, focusing on measures to maintain the chubs' habitat and monitor water quality and quantity.

The banded gila monster has been observed infrequently in California-- three of the five reported sightings have been in the East Mojave. The species is a candidate for listing on the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

The Gilded Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus chrysoides*) found in the Cima Dome area and elsewhere, was recently listed by the State of California as an endangered species.

**LEGEND**  
 East Mojave National Scenic Area Boundary  
 Crucial Desert Tortoise Habitat

SCALE OF MILES  
 0 1 2 4



R 7 E R 8 E R 9 E R 10 E R 11 E R 12 E R 12 1/2 E R 13 E R 14 E R 15 E R 16 E R 17 E R 18 E R 19 E

T 10 N T 11 N T 12 N T 13 N T 14 N T 15 N T 16 N T 17 N T 18 N T 19 N

## K. Wild Horses and Burros

Burros were probably introduced to the East Mojave by miners in the mid to late 1800's. With the decline of mining and the advent of motor vehicles, burros were no longer needed and were turned loose. Horses were probably introduced to the area by ranchers in the late 1800's, and by farmers and homesteaders in the 1930's and 1940's

Four areas of wild horse and burro concentrations are located completely within the East Mojave. They include the Cinder Cones (or Lava Beds), Cima Dome, the Woods/Hackberry Mountains, and the Providence/Granite Mountains. One other is partly within the Scenic Area near Clark Mountain. These were designated Herd Management Areas in the Desert Plan; they were reviewed for availability of forage and conflicts with wildlife and livestock. Determinations were then made as to desirable herd levels.

Table 3-5 summarizes BLM's burro management objectives established for the East Mojave by the Desert Plan.



TABLE 3-5  
Target Levels for Burro Removal Program

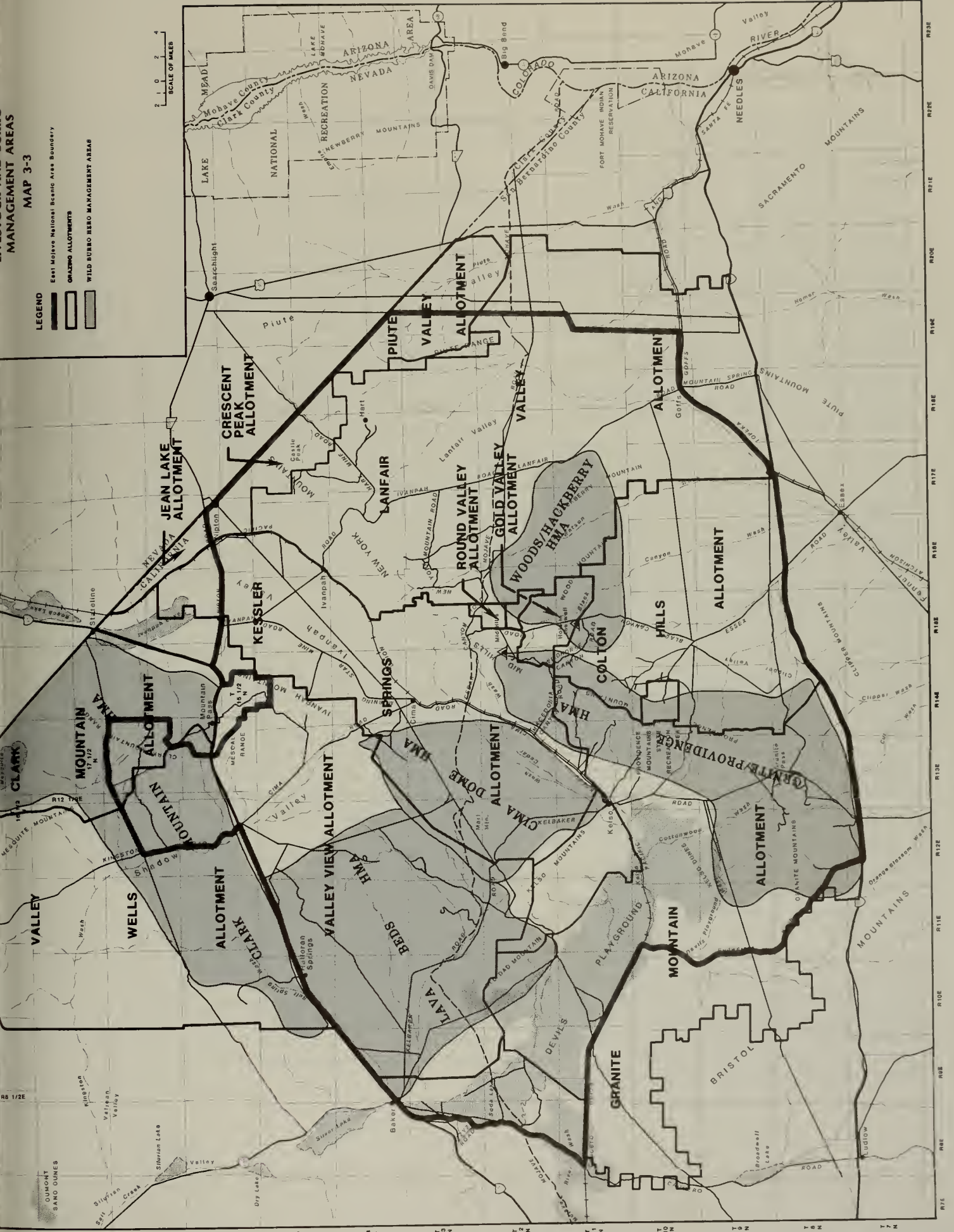
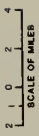
<u>Herd Management Area (see Map 3-3)</u>	<u>1986 Population Estimates</u>	<u>Proposed Population</u>	<u>Removed Since 1977</u>
Clark Mountain	60	44	109
Lava Beds (Cinder Cones)	150	75	460
Granite/Providence Mtns.	35	0	279
Woods/Hackberry Mtns.*	15	0	128
Cima Dome	<u>55</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTALS	315	174	979

\* In addition to feral burros there are currently 13 wild horses in the Woods/Hackberry HMA. The target level for this herd is six animals.



**MANAGEMENT AREAS**  
**MAP 3-3**

- LEGEND**
- East Mohave National Biotic Area Boundary
  - ▭ GRAZING ALLOTMENTS
  - ▭ WILD BURRO BERSO MANAGEMENT AREAS



## L. Livestock Grazing

The East Mojave National Scenic Area contains some of the finest grazing land in the California Desert. The mixture of the warm-season Mojave Desert flora and the cool-season Great Basin vegetation produces a rich and productive rangeland. Eleven grazing allotments administered by the Needles Resource Area lie at least partially within the Scenic Area. These allotments cover 1,255,343 acres of Federal land in the East Mojave and provide approximately 35,503 active animal unit months (AUMs: the amount of forage consumed by a cow and calf each month).

The first cattle were probably brought into the area by Indians or Spaniards for food. However, the first horses and cattle kept in the East Mojave for domestic purposes probably belonged to miners in Ivanpah and Rock Springs areas. Grazing operations began in the East Mojave prior to 1900 in Lanfair Valley (the Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company) and near the Granite Mountains. During the early 1900's, cattle were loaded at railroad chutes at Goffs and Cima and transported to feedlots. Water, which was the main limiting factor in the East Mojave, had to be purchased from the railroad or packed in on horseback. Other settlers also came to the desert in an attempt to live off the land. Dry land farmers settled in Lanfair Valley and grew peaches and grapes, but were soon driven out due to lack of water. At one time, Piute Spring was both an alfalfa ranch and a turkey ranch.

In early cattle operations, cattle were allowed to roam freely on the rangeland guided by topographic features, water availability, and seasonal preferences. Much of the East Mojave had been heavily grazed at various times between

1900 and 1940 (for example, in 1920 the Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company alone owned 9,223 cattle). In 1986, fewer than 3,500 cattle were authorized for the entire East Mojave.

Since the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934, grazing in the Scenic Area has been subject to certain restrictions. Each allotment is administered under an allotment management plan (AMP). AMPs integrate grazing management on public land and on private and State parcels which are under the control of the rancher. Coordinated with the rancher, the AMP establishes a grazing system for each allotment, determines the need for range improvements (primarily for water), and describes a system for adjusting cattle numbers based on current range conditions. The grazing system is designed to efficiently use authorized allocations of forage, based on amount and type of plant cover, moisture, range condition, and prior allocations to wildlife species.

Grazing in the East Mojave takes place year-round. Most allotments are managed under rotation grazing systems, using range improvements such as fences and developed water sources, as well as placement of salt blocks to control distribution of cattle. Range improvements include fences, corrals, pipelines, wells, windmills, stock tanks, and spring developments that are cooperatively constructed by the rancher and BLM. In many cases, funding for materials is donated, while the rancher provides labor for its construction. The rancher is responsible for future maintenance of range improvements on his allotment. Additionally, the Desert Plan states that, where conditions warrant and where it is legally possible, all existing water sources and those developed in the future will include consideration for wildlife. This water for wildlife is provided at the rancher's expense.

TABLE 3-6  
Grazing Allotments

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Acres in East Mojave</u>	<u>Range Condition</u>
Clark Mountain	88,312	17,500	Fair
Colton Hills	147,827	140,000	Good
Crescent Peak	31,780	31,780	Good
Gold Valley	16,190	16,190	Good
Granite Mountains	345,969	262,000	Good
Kessler Spring	252,172	219,000	Good
Lanfair Valley	339,553	225,000	Good
Piute Valley	33,468	13,000	Good
Round Valley	653	653	Poor
Valley View	281,802	268,000	Good
Valley Wells	237,258	34,000	Fair

## M. Minerals

The East Mojave is located at the southern end of the Basin and Range geomorphic province, characterized by block-fault mountain ranges separated by alluvium-filled valleys. A wide variety of sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks outcrop in the mountain ranges within the boundary of the Scenic Area and create not only a scenic landscape, but also a highly mineralized one. Radiometric data show that the oldest known Precambrian rocks are about 1.7 billion years old, while dating of charcoal associated with a young volcanic flow south of Halloran Springs gives a date of about 400 years.

The East Mojave is a repository of a wide variety of mineral resources, formed under a wide range of geologic environments. These environments include deposits formed by magmatic concentration, contact metasomatism, hydrothermal activity, volcanism, sedimentation, and supergene processes. Weathering and metamorphism played a role in the enrichment of many of the deposits to convert them into either viable mines or deposits of potential economic value.

Intensive mining activity occurred in the East Mojave between 1865 and 1892. Since 1892 mining in this area has been subject to cycles of prospecting and mineral extraction stimulated by completion of the Union Pacific Railroad in the early 1900's and fluctuations in prices for the mineral commodities. Over 200 mines have been active at one time or another in the Scenic Area. Metallic minerals that have been extracted in commercial quantities include gold, silver, copper, tungsten, lead, and zinc.

Nonmetallic minerals include talc, clay, gypsum, volcanic cinders, and rare earth elements.

Oil and gas deposits may possibly occur here but there are no producing wells or fields at present. There is also limited potential for geothermal development but once again there is no activity in this area. However, significant portions of the East Mojave have been classified as "prospectively valuable" for these commodities.

There are several active mining operations at present, including gold mines (New Colosseum, Morningstar, Rattlesnake, and Golden Quail mines), cinder mines, a sericite mine in the New York Mountains, and clay mines in the vicinity of Hart. Vanderbilt Mine, a former gold mining area, is now used for milling and ore processing. The largest operation is the open-pit New Colosseum Mine northeast of Clark Mountain. The Castle Mountain Project is also an open-pit mine which is scheduled to begin operations sometime in 1988. See Map 3-4 for locations of active mining operations.

The mineral industry has shown increasing interest in the Scenic Area's mineral resources. Including the claims with operating mines, this interest in the Scenic Area is represented by the location of over 10,000 mining claims, representing over 25% of all claims in San Bernardino County and 7% of the total claims in California. Approximately 60% of the claims in the East Mojave are lode, or hardrock mineral claims. The remaining 40% are placer claims, generally located on alluvial deposits. Claims are scattered throughout the Scenic Area, but particularly heavy concentrations occur in the Providence, New York and Clark Mountains, the Ivanpah/Mescal Range, and the Hart area.

Interest in East Mojave minerals is also represented by three oil and gas leases, free use permits and sales contracts for mineral materials (sand and gravel), and extensive use by hobby mineral collectors. Approximately 430,000 acres in the East Mojave have been leased in the recent past for potential oil and gas development, but only 5,838 acres are currently under lease. This acreage figure does not serve as a true measure of interest due to BLM's current moratorium on mineral leasing in Wilderness Study Areas.

BLM policy is to encourage and facilitate the development of domestic mineral resources to meet critical material needs. Management and disposal of energy and nonenergy mineral resources on lands owned by the United States is conducted under specific laws, and regulations or policies that are issued to support those laws.

Locatable Minerals: On all public land open to the operation of the mining laws, disposition of this class of mineral resources is authorized by the General Mining Law of 1872 (17 Stat. 91). The law allows for mineral prospecting, exploration and development on mining claims containing valuable deposits of metallic minerals, certain industrial minerals, and uncommon varieties of sand, gravel, clay, building stone, and pumice. Acquisition of minerals under the authority of this statute is by a claim-location system. No rentals or royalties are paid to the United States; however, at least \$100 worth of annual labor and/or improvements are required on the claim each assessment year (September 1 - September 1).

Leasable Minerals: This category includes oil, gas, potash, phosphate, and compounds of sodium and potassium; geothermal mineral resources; and minerals in land acquired by agencies of the United States. Leasing is at the discretion of BLM. Rentals and royalties are returned to the United States, which then returns 50% to the State in which the lease was issued.

Saleable Minerals: Sand, gravel, common varieties of clay, stone, cinder, pumice (not block pumice), and petrified wood are subject to sale by BLM under a permit and contract system. Free use of mineral material is authorized for non-profit and governmental organizations. Except for free use, fair market value is received by the United States for the disposal of these minerals.

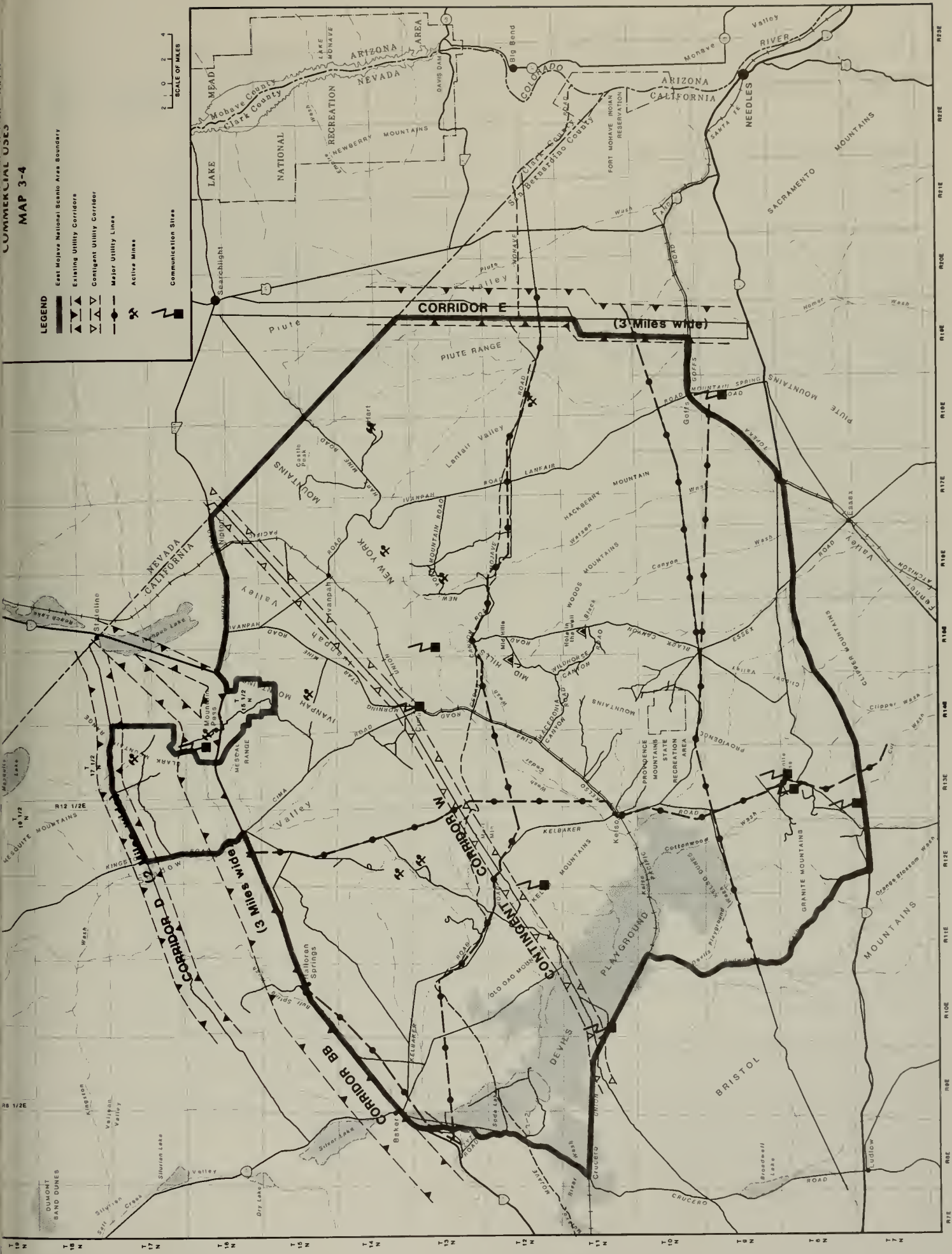


TABLE 3-7  
Mineral Occurrence in the East Mojave

<u>Geographic Area</u>	<u>Mineral</u>	<u>Geographic Area</u>	<u>Mineral</u>
Castle Peaks	lead perlite silver zinc	Lanfair Valley	clay gold tungsten
Cima Dome	cinders geothermal	Marl Mountain	gold tungsten
Cinder Cones	cinders copper geothermal gold sand and gravel talc	Mescal Range	copper gold lead limestone magnesite silver tin tungsten zinc
Clark Mountains	copper fluorite gypsum lead silica silver tungsten zinc	Mid Hills	gold limestone (agg.)
Devil's Playground	copper iron lead gold limestone (agg.) limestone (chem.) oil and gas silica sand silver	New York Mountains	copper fluorite gold iron limestone (agg.) limestone (chem.) molybdenum sericite tungsten
Fenner Valley	no data	Piute Range	no data
Granite Mountains	stone (agg.)	Providence Mts. (North)	gold molybdenum silver iron limestone (chem.)
Ivanpah Valley	gold oil and gas	Providence Mts. (South)	base metals
Kelso Dunes	sand and gravel silica sand iron gold	Soda Lake	oil and gas potassium sodium
		Woods and Hackberry Mountains	gold silver

MAP 3-4

- LEGEND**
- East Mohave National Scenic Area Boundary
  - Existing Utility Corridor
  - Contiguous Utility Corridor
  - Major Utility Lines
  - Active Mines
  - Communication Sites



## N. Energy Production and Utility Corridors

The Desert Plan identified 16 corridors in which major new utility lines could be constructed in the California Desert. Three, corridors BB, D, and E shown on Map 3-4, are within the Scenic Area. Corridor BB parallels I-15, passing through the Scenic Area for 30 miles. A 1986 Desert Plan amendment relocated the portion of this corridor west of Cima Road completely out of the Scenic Area to a location north of I-15. A gas line and two transmission lines are completed or approved along this corridor. At least one fiber-optic line, and possibly more, will be constructed in the foreseeable future. Corridor D, located north of Clark Mountain, has four transmission lines and a buried fiber-optic line. No additional powerlines can be constructed within the corridor unless Wilderness Study Area constraints are lifted by Congress, but underground lines, including a proposed natural gas line, may still be built. Corridor E contains two transmission lines and forms the eastern boundary of the Scenic Area.

In addition to these planning corridors, the Desert Plan also established "contingent corridors" which can be developed further only after approval of a Desert Plan amendment designating them as utility corridors. One, contingent Corridor W, contains three transmission lines and traverses the East Mojave over Cima Dome and the Devil's Playground. Additional utility lines, including buried telephone lines, oil pipelines and transmission lines, traverse the East Mojave, but are not in corridors that can be further developed. Map 3-4 identifies all designated planning and contingent corridors, and other major existing utility lines.

Communication sites are scattered throughout the East Mojave's higher peaks and mountain passes. At present, there are seven commercial and/or public service sites located on public and private lands within the Scenic Area. In 1986, proposals for two additional sites


were submitted to BLM and San Bernardino County to improve local telephone service. In addition to these sites, BLM maintains a solar-powered unit on Clark Mountain as part of a desertwide emergency radio net. Due to the recent advent of fiber-optic lines for voice communications, long-distance microwave transmission systems may become obsolete. It is anticipated that the trend for future requests for communication rights-of-way will be for linear cable routes rather than mountaintop sites. Exceptions would be for the establishment of a cellular system for mobile telephones, improvements in local telephone service, or for public radio station transmissions. Most of these sites would be adjacent to the interstate highways and in the Goffs, Lanfair and Cima areas. Currently, there are no plans to remove any existing mountaintop sites and replace them with fiber-optic systems.

There is little potential for development of conventional energy sources such as coal or oil. However, the State of California has granted approval for a 16-megawatt coal fired plant outside the Scenic Area east of Clark Mountain near Ivanpah Dry Lake. The potential for the development of alternate sources of energy in the East Mojave, such as wind and solar, are marginal. Anemometer studies for wind speed and duration at one of the most likely wind energy areas near Mountain Pass have not been promising for commercial wind energy development.

Transportation rights-of-way include grants for railroads and interstate highways. Studies are also under way to determine the feasibility and potential impact of a high-speed train between Los Angeles and Las Vegas along the I-15 corridor. Several additional rights-of-way have been issued for access to private lands or development areas. Generally, these rights-of-way are open to other, nonconflicting public uses.



# Part 4



East  
Mojave  
National  
Scenic  
Area

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

# IMPLEMENTATION

- STAFFING
- AGREEMENT WITH OTHER AGENCIES
- COST AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE



# Implementation

Several actions have been proposed in Part 2 for implementation over the next five to ten years. To achieve the objectives indicated, BLM will require increases in staffing, new or revised agreements with other agencies, and funding for equipment or contracts to complete on-the-ground work. This part outlines those needs, and is divided into three sections:

- Staffing;
- Enforcement;
- Agreements with Other Agencies;
- Cost and Implementation Schedule.

Priority in funding and work will be given to the ranger program and enforcement efforts, signing and public information projects, and the land acquisition program. The Cost and Implementation Schedule, prepared with these priorities in mind, will indicate in a general sense the projects BLM feels are most essential in achieving the goals and objectives of this plan. More specific prioritization will be provided in the annual "State of the Scenic Area" report described on page 97.

## Staffing

Staffing is an integral part of implementation of the East Mojave National Scenic Area Management Plan. Currently, a staff of 20 serves the needs of the entire Needles Resource Area. Of the total available work time, approximately 60% is spent on or directly related to the Scenic Area. However, the Scenic Area reflects only 35% of the total geographic area managed by the Resource Area staff (1.5 million acres out of 4.5 million acres.) Upon approval of the Plan and its attendant implementation measures an increase in staffing will be necessary. These increases will bring total staff size to 47 in fiscal year 1992, or an increase of 27 positions.

Proposed increases in staffing have been directly related to anticipated increases in visitation and related resources workload. Over time, actual numbers of employees will increase to a certain point and then remain relatively stable while the skill mix within that number may change.

Regardless of the staffing scenario, continued emphasis will be placed on the use of volunteers and the National Student Conservation Association. These sources of help have been and will continue to be valuable tools concerning management of the public lands in general and the East Mojave National Scenic Area in particular.

## Enforcement

The Scenic Area Plan will mean nothing unless it is enforced. The Plan calls for several new regulations and use restrictions which the public will have to be informed of, and BLM will need to increase its presence in the Scenic Area to guarantee compliance. By 1989 BLM will have three rangers living and working in the East Mojave, supplemented by an additional ranger force stationed in Needles. New regulations proposed by this plan will be published in the Federal Register as soon as the Plan is approved.

## Agreements With Other Agencies

Some of the implementation actions called for in this Plan require actions on the part of other agencies in cooperation with those proposed by the Bureau. To allow for the coordination of these actions, Memoranda of Understanding will be established or amended as applicable.

The County of San Bernardino currently has an agreement with the Bureau reflecting a number of issues. This agreement will be amended to reflect mutual goals and objectives and avoid duplication of effort regarding the following:

- zoning and parcel size;
- development standards for new structures;
- vegetation harvesting;
- signing and billboards;
- road maintenance/improvements;
- traffic counts;
- enforcement of applicable building code for all new structures on Federal land;
- scenic easements and/or access;
- OHV use on private lands (by other than owner); and
- sharing of Geographic Information Systems data bases.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation currently operates the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area. The Department and the Bureau have cooperated in the past and will continue to do so regarding the following:

- mutual aid agreement for law enforcement and firefighting;
- hiking and/or equestrian trails;
- interpretation/information (Desert Information Outposts);
- vehicle controls and appropriate signing;
- safety (mine shafts, structures, natural hazards, etc.);
- other activities which cross or have an impact on mutual boundaries; and
- management of small areas of public land within the park boundary.

Many other agencies have responsibilities within the National Scenic Area. The Bureau has enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial association with the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Division of Mines and Geology, the California Off-Highway Vehicle Commission, the California Highway Patrol, and other State agencies. These associations will continue and be refined as necessary.

Likewise, the Bureau has cooperated with other Federal agencies such as the U.S. Geologic Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Mines, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others. These associations will be maintained and updated as necessary under this Plan.

The following tables reflect anticipated cost and implementation schedules over a five-fiscal-year period. The schedule begins with Fiscal Year 1988 (October 1, 1987 - September 30, 1988) and ends with Fiscal Year 1992. Although this plan covers a ten-year period, major implementation actions will take place during the first five years. After that time a relatively stable annual cost is projected at essentially the FY 1992 level.

Implementation actions are keyed directly to specific elements of the Plan. For further explanation of the proposed action please refer to that element. Estimates of costs are considered feasible within the current budget climate although some realignment of overall priorities may be required. These implementation measures and costs associated with them are in addition to existing levels of manpower and funding.

COST AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>FY '88</u>	<u>FY '89</u>	<u>FY '90</u>	<u>FY '91</u>	<u>FY '92</u>
A-1 Change Class M to L	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300		
A-2 Acquire selected private/ State lands (exchange)		\$26,000	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$51,000
A-3 Scenic Easements		\$3,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600
A-4 Agreement with county on public-private land develop- ment and other issues		\$2,600			
A-5 Revoke CM&U Classification	\$2,600				
A-6 Revoke duplicative withdrawals, maintain needed withdrawals	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$2,600		
A-7 Additional withdrawals	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$10,400	\$7,800	\$7,800
A-8 Review, expedite resolution of trespass cases	\$6,200	\$6,200	\$6,200	\$3,100	\$3,100
B-1 Increase patrol, enforcement of vehicle regulations	\$11,400	\$14,400	\$8,800	\$7,800	\$10,400
B-2 Periodically review, revise route designations	\$11,900	\$11,900	\$8,300	\$7,800	\$10,400
B-3 Adopt more strict definition of "drivable" washes					
B-4 Sign areas/routes to implement vehicle policy	\$6,700	\$6,200	\$3,600	\$2,600	\$2,600
B-5 Develop a system of non- motorized trails	\$6,000	\$7,800	\$12,800	\$7,600	\$10,100
B-6 Nonmotorized trail guides		\$22,800	\$15,200	\$15,200	\$15,200
B-7 Road maintenance (vehicles)	\$7,600	\$7,600	\$7,600	\$7,600	\$7,600
B-8 Maintenance for nonmotorized trails		\$4,400	\$4,400	\$4,500	\$4,500
B-9 Access Easements			\$40,800	\$40,800	\$14,800
C-1 Entry point information signing	\$8,200		\$20,400		\$3,600
C-2 Interpretive displays at rest areas and other sites	\$6,400	\$4,600	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,800
C-3 Provide year-round visitor contact at Hole-in-the-Wall	\$5,600	\$10,200	\$12,800	\$225,200	\$109,000
C-4 Establish nine Desert Information Outposts	\$3,600	\$1,550	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400
C-5 Establish visitor center at Kelso Depot	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$6,200	\$8,800	\$89,000

COST AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>FY '88</u>	<u>FY '89</u>	<u>FY '90</u>	<u>FY '91</u>	<u>FY '92</u>
C-6 Develop and implement an interpretive plan	\$20,200	\$23,300	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$40,000
C-7 Develop interpretive sites		\$12,800	\$12,800	\$12,800	\$18,000
C-8 Information sheets		\$20,500	\$20,500	\$7,700	\$7,700
C-9 Publication of visitor information	\$5,600	\$5,600	\$6,100	\$6,100	\$6,600
C-10 Displays for books, maps, etc.	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
C-11 Management of Mojave Road	\$1,800	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
C-12 Develop additional recreational vehicle trails and guides			\$5,700	\$8,300	\$8,300
C-13 Establish designated camping areas	\$6,950	\$6,950	\$6,850	\$6,050	\$63,250
C-14 Restrict backcountry vehicle camping to existing disturbed or used areas	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$9,000
C-15 Upgrade Mid Hills campground		\$16,500	\$21,500	\$17,000	
C-16 Redesign Hole-in-the-Wall recreation site	\$3,100	\$35,400	\$313,000	\$16,500	\$2,600
C-17 Maintain recreation sites to Bureau standards		\$30,000	\$72,000	\$93,000	\$93,000
C-18 Inspect water for contamination and sign as needed	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$3,350	\$3,350	\$3,350
C-19 Fence or render harmless abandoned mining shafts	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	
C-20 Adopt supplemental rules for firearm use, including "no shooting" zones	\$1,800	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$2,800
C-21 Prohibit speed-related competitive events					
D-1 Limit new disturbances to those allowed under VRM Class I and II standards					
D-2 Require visual simulations	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
D-3 Reduce visual contrasts of existing structures	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$5,100
D-4 Remove trash, abandoned material	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$4,300

COST AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

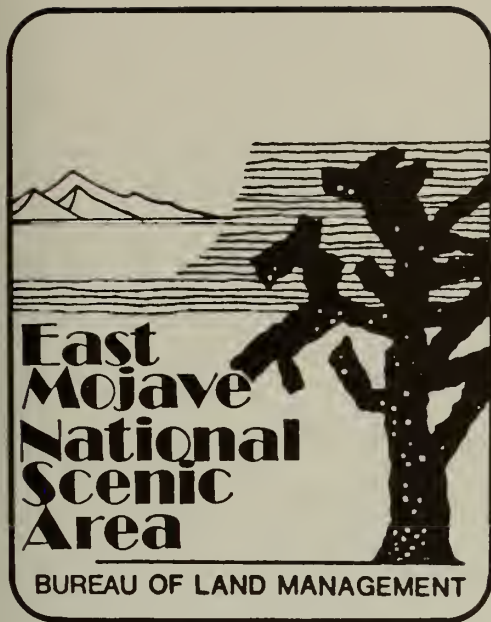
<u>ACTION</u>	<u>FY '88</u>	<u>FY '89</u>	<u>FY '90</u>	<u>FY '91</u>	<u>FY '92</u>
D-5 Establish scenic corridors along selected BLM or County maintained roads	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650
D-6 Limit signs to administrative needs					
D-7 Allow no wind energy development in the Scenic Area and Mountain Pass area					
E-1 Sign boundaries, entry points into WSAs	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$3,100
E-2 Increase surveillance and monitoring on all WSAs	\$2,600	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,100
F-1 Initiate detailed studies of selected archaeological complexes		\$14,000	\$14,000	\$64,800	\$64,800
F-2 Monitor cultural sites/areas	\$8,300	\$8,300	\$15,300	\$8,550	\$8,800
F-3 Develop/implement mitigation program for cultural sites	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
G Continue consultation with Native Americans (base funding)					
H-1 Conduct Order 3 soil survey		\$76,300	\$76,300	\$76,300	\$76,300
H-2 Install air quality monitoring station		\$2,600	\$11,300		
I-1 Restore native vegetation at selected seeps and springs	\$16,100	\$16,100	\$29,700	\$16,100	\$16,100
I-2 Eliminate firewood sales but allow casual collection					
J-1 Construct big game guzzlers (one every four years)		\$14,800			
J-2 Transplant bighorn sheep into Mescal Range area		\$2,600			\$5,200
J-3 Monitor elf owl transplant program for an additional three years	\$10,350	\$780	\$780	\$780	
J-4 Improve availability of live-stock water for wildlife use		\$12,500	\$12,500	\$25,000	\$25,000
J-5 Develop desert tortoise habitat management plans	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$2,300
J-6 Determine status/trend of raptor populations	\$4,300	\$12,600	\$12,600	\$12,600	\$12,600



COST AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>FY '88</u>	<u>FY '89</u>	<u>FY '90</u>	<u>FY '91</u>	<u>FY '92</u>
K-1 Continue burro removal program		\$15,200	\$22,800	\$22,800	\$5,100
L-1 Review Allotment Management Plans and revise	\$4,550	\$4,550	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$4,550
L-2 Expand range monitoring program		\$6,500	\$6,500	\$23,800	\$31,200
L-3 Remove abandoned or non-functional range improvement material		\$5,100	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$5,100
M-1 Limit extraction of mineral materials					
N-1 Locate utility corridor E outside the Scenic Area; eliminate or relocate contingent corridor "W" outside Scenic Area	\$2,600				
O-1 Adopt a limited suppression policy for fire management		\$5,200			
P-1 Status Report	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,100
P-2 Develop a Geographic Information System data base	\$6,300	\$15,200	\$40,600	\$45,800	\$26,500
P-3 Install traffic counters	\$9,800	\$1,800	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$1,550
P-4 Conduct monthly aircraft overflights	\$6,450	\$6,450	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
P-5 Update color aerial photographs	\$55,200				\$55,200
MAJOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE BENEFITING ALL ACTIONS	\$28,500	\$100,000	\$100,000		
-----					
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COST	319,750	\$658,630	\$1,103,780	\$944,330	\$981,850
* CURRENT (BASE) EXPENDITURE	\$392,000	\$392,000	\$392,000	\$392,000	\$392,000
** TOTAL PROPOSED ANNUAL COST	\$711,750	\$1,050,630	\$1,495,780	\$1,336,330	\$1,373,850
-----					
BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY					
LABOR COSTS	\$460,200	\$616,200	\$681,460	\$828,360	\$913,900
PURCHASING/CONTRACTING	\$251,550	\$450,300	\$829,550	\$538,800	\$459,950





# APPENDICES

- SECRETARIAL ORDER DESIGNATING THE EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA
- MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT
- DESERT PLAN MULTIPLE USE CLASS DESIGNATION GUIDELINES
- AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN-PLAN SUMMARIES
- ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARIES
- VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES
- ROUTE DESIGNATION CRITERIA
- EXAMPLES OF SIGNS
- WILDERNESS STUDY AREA NONIMPAIRMENT CRITERIA
- GLOSSARY



## APPENDICES

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- A. SECRETARIAL ORDER DESIGNATING THE EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA
- B. MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT
- C. DESERT PLAN MULTIPLE-USE CLASS GUIDELINES
- D. ACEC PLAN SUMMARIES
- E. ALLOTMENT PLAN SUMMARIES
- F. VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES
- G. ROUTE DESIGNATION CRITERIA
- H. EXAMPLES OF SIGNS
- I. WILDERNESS STUDY AREA NONIMPAIRMENT CRITERIA



offered for coal lease until Congress determines whether the area will be wilderness or not. This direction therefore becomes one of our Planning Criteria.

If it is desirable to lease coal in the PRLA's in 1983, wilderness consideration and environmental assessment of the PRLA coal (possibly in the Fort Union EIS) will have to be closely coordinated.

#### ACEC's

Areas that qualify for ACEC status will be considered for ACEC management as an MFP alternative.

#### Withdrawal Review

In order to coordinate the land use plans and withdrawal review process within the allowable time frame, the MFP draft decisions will prioritize the identified withdrawals (sequentially) for subsequent review. (This prioritization will be coordinated with the tentative review dates stated in the District Manager's memo of 9-10-80 to the State Director.) This schedule should allow systematic review and multiple use analysis of withdrawals within the 1991 completion date. However, pertinent BLM withdrawals will be fully addressed in the forthcoming planning effort.

#### Planning Criteria

Land use planning in the New Prairie planning area is both first and second generation. The Jordan-North Rosebud planning effort is all first generation. The Jordan-North Rosebud Planning effort is all in 1977 (the initial pre-planning analysis) and continuing to date. Numerous public meetings have been held and comments received. Revision of the PPA was completed in December, 1979. During FY 1980 the pre-planning analysis data was re-organized to the new format, i.e., Project Situation Analysis, and Project Situation Analysis Summary. Issues Criteria-Planning Criteria were developed and 3350 copies were mailed to boxholders in the planning areas and to governmental agencies of all levels for public comment and inter-agency coordination. The responses received will continue to be used in guiding development of the planning documents.

#### Quality Control

Pre-planning and planning documents are developed by a multidisciplinary team of resource specialists under the direction of a planning coordinator and in consultation with resource specialists in the resource area and with District and State Office specialists and with their counterparts in other agencies.

Technical review is accomplished by the Division of Resources. Management review is completed by the Area Manager and District Manager.

The criteria for the New Prairie and Jordan-North Rosebud planning areas were prepared by an interdisciplinary team and were reviewed by resource specialists in the District Division of Resources and in the Big Dry Resource Area, as well as by specialists in the State Office Division of Resources and Division of Planning and Environment. Public comments have been reviewed and analyzed and the issues and criteria revised accordingly.

**Ray Brubaker,**

*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 81-1737 Filed 1-15-81; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-84-M**

#### Designation of East Mojave National Scenic Area

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of designation of East Mojave National Scenic Area.

**SUMMARY:** The rich diversity of outstanding natural, scenic and cultural resources of this area of the East Mojave Region of the California Desert Conservation Area warrants it special recognition. The area will be managed in accordance with the California Desert Conservation Area Plan approved December 18, 1980. This designation as the East Mojave National Scenic Area will provide added emphasis to the Bureau of Land Management's plan to protect the area's outstanding natural, scenic and cultural resources.

Pursuant to the authority in section 601 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1781), and 43 CFR Subpart 2070, those public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and described in the California Desert Conservation Area Plan as the East Mojave National Scenic Area are hereby designated the East Mojave National Scenic Area.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 13, 1981.

**ADDRESS:** Any inquiries or suggestions should be sent to: District Manager, California Desert District, 1695 Spruce Street, Riverside, California 92507.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gerald C. Hillier at the above address or 714 787-1462.

**Cecil D. Andrus,**

*Secretary of the Interior.*

January 13, 1981.

[FR Doc. 81-1637 Filed 1-15-81; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-84-M**

#### Idaho Falls District Grazing Advisory Board, Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Pub. L. 92-463 that the Idaho Falls District Grazing Advisory Board will meet February 21, 1981.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Bureau of Land Management Office, 940 Lincoln Road, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401. The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral statements to the Board between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. or file written statements for the Board's consideration. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement must notify the Idaho Falls BLM District Manager at the above address by February 6, 1981. Depending on the number of persons wishing to make oral statements, a per person time limit may be established.

The agenda for the meeting will include:

1. Update on status of projects discussed at the last meeting.
  2. Discussion on Advisory Board projects and expenditure of Advisory Board funds.
  3. Use of Range Betterment funds.
  4. Election of officers.
  5. Allotment Management Plans in the Little Lost River and Birch Creek Valley's.
  6. Arrangements for the next meeting.
- Summary minutes of the Board meeting will be kept in the District Office and be available for public inspection and reproduction, (during regular business hours) within 30 days following the meeting.

Dated: January 9, 1981.

**O'dell A. Frandsen,**

*District Manager.*

[FR Doc. 81-1628 Filed 1-15-81; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-84-M**

[W-70796 and W-70865]

#### Trailblazer Pipeline Project, Wyoming; Applications

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Sec. 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185) the Overthrust Pipeline Company and Colorado Interstate Gas Company have filed right-of-way applications (W-70796 and W-70865, respectively) to construct, operate, maintain, repair, replace and remove two segments of a 36" O.D. buried pipeline for the purpose of transporting natural gas from the overthrust belt in southwestern Wyoming to facilities located in Beatrice, Nebraska. The proposed pipeline will affect the following described public lands:

4. Issue No. 4: Establish a Scenic Area in the East Mojave

Pros - Special recognition is warranted by the rich diversity of outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural resources in the area. This concept will still provide for multiple use, sustained yield management under the aegis of the BLM. The area will be managed according to the multiple-use classes involved, as well as ACEC or Special Area designations, but with a very strong added emphasis on protecting scenic quality. Grazing, mining, and other important economic activities will be allowed while intensive recreation pressures could be avoided. A scenic area would complement the Plan goals and objectives for the CDCA and would not undermine efforts to establish a regional identity for the entire Conservation Area.

Cons - A scenic area would not go far enough to reflect the outstanding values of the East Mojave. Greater protection of values in addition to scenic quality is warranted.

Recommended - Establish an East Mojave Scenic Area Decision

*National*

There is general agreement and significant public sentiment in the CDCA which supports establishing a scenic area under BLM jurisdiction and multiple-use management in the East Mojave. This designation within the CDCA will provide that special consideration and attention is given to the area.

Issue No. 4

- Approve
- Do Not Approve
- Approve With Modifications

*This concept should be full and accurately described to the public.*

*Gary B. Hart*  
Assistant Secretary of Interior  
for Land and Water Resources



## APPENDIX B

### MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY, EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA, CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (reprinted as originally published in Federal Register/Vol. 46, No. 160/Wednesday, August 19, 1981).

The East Mojave National Scenic Area, an area of 1.3 million acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was established by the U.S. Department of the Interior as an integral part of the comprehensive plan for the California Desert Conservation Area, adopted December 17, 1980.

The region embraced within the East Mojave National Scenic Area was so designated because of its unique blend of human use (past and present) and genuinely unique natural features. Designation as a National Scenic Area was adopted in the Plan so as to ensure continuation of the uses and occupation which gives the region its character, and yet give special emphasis to retain the area's natural scenic qualities in evaluating and permitting changes and new uses.

The area has been, and will continue to be managed by the BLM under the framework of public land laws, regulations contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and the California Desert Plan. The designation applies only to public lands within its boundaries and will not affect either private or State lands nor valid existing rights such as under the U.S. Mining Laws, except to the extent they are already affected by law or regulations.

Special management of the National Scenic Area will be as reflected in the California Desert Plan. Ninety percent of the National Scenic Area was designated as Class "C" or "L", calling for limited use and/or wilderness protection, a much larger percentage in such categories than other parts of the California Desert Conservation Area. The National Scenic Area designation does not add a new layer of guidelines or regulations. It simply establishes a boundary around an area of high resource value and sensitivity, as reflected by multiple use classes.

Special management of the National Scenic Area will be reflected in implementing actions for the Desert Plan. Activity plans for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation, and other programs will reflect concern for the scenic values in the National Scenic Area and developments will be limited, made unobtrusive, or mitigated so their impact on visual resources is minimal or not at all. Likewise, prescriptions for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) will emphasize protection and management techniques which do not intrude on scenery and will become a part of the landscape.

Special management of the National Scenic Area will be reflected in authorizations for use. Permits involving construction will stipulate mitigating measures designed to reduce scenic intrusion, and will require reclamation and restoration.

Management goals for the East Mojave National Scenic Area will be to:

1. Make the region a demonstration showcase for multiple-use management.
2. Assure retention of the balance between use and natural values.
3. Provide for public enjoyment and understanding of the region, its history and natural features.
4. Limit the region's "development" in the sense of more paved roads and large campgrounds on public lands; yet provide improved services and information and enhance resource values by adding appropriate improvements such as water.
5. Stabilize, and as appropriate, rehabilitate or re-create important historic structures.
6. Manage uses in a manner that encourages dispersion so as to maintain the region's character and scenic values as well as to protect resources.

To accomplish these goals and the special management of the region envisioned in the California Desert Plan, the BLM will:

1. Give implementation of the Desert Plan, especially ACEC protection, highest priority in the East Mojave National Scenic Area within the Needles Resource Area.
2. Assure adequate staffing in the Needles Resource Area to assure continuous BLM use supervision and compliance presence in the region. (The Needles Resource Area has already been established, located in the region in response to the public's desire for increased on-the-ground activity by BLM in the East Mojave region.)
3. Provide increased visitor services, especially visitor contact and interpretation, by signing, contact, and patrol. Leave recreationists with a sense of discovery, but be sure they have the opportunity to understand and appreciate what they see. As appropriate, provide visitor contact at mobile or fixed units at main entry points.
4. Provide boundary signing to call public attention to the National Scenic Area and the concerns within the region.
5. Establish a partnership with intermingled private landowners and users, emphasizing mitigation of impacts wherever they occur, land tenure adjustment, assurance of access, and good stewardship of land and resources. Assure continued public involvement in planning and implementation.

6. Develop a vigorous program of protection of the National Scenic Area's scenic qualities through contact, example, and stipulation. Encourage restoration where feasible.
7. Assure, by management review, that scenic quality maintenance is reflected in all BLM-initiated activity planning and implementing actions.

Gerald E. Hillier  
District Manager, California Desert District  
August 1, 1981

# Appendix C ~ MULTIPLE USE CLASS GUIDELINES

	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS C Controlled Use (Wilderness Management)	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS L Limited Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS M Moderate Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS I Intensive Use
	(Note: Class C identifies areas "preliminarily recommended" for wilderness designation by Congress. These guidelines summarize the kinds of management likely to be used in these areas after formal designation of wilderness by Congress.)			
1. AGRICULTURE	Agricultural uses (excluding livestock grazing) are not allowed.		Agricultural uses may be allowed on suitable land classified for these purposes. Prospective leases for potential desert crops, e.g., jojoba guayule, or others, may be allowed only after NEPA requirements have been met.	
2. AIR QUALITY	These areas will be managed to protect their air quality and visibility in accordance with Class II objectives of Part C of the Clean Air Act Amendments unless otherwise designated another class by the State of California (see 42 USC 7474, and the final regulations, if and when promulgated) as a result of recommendations developed by any BLM air-quality management plan.			
3. WATER QUALITY	These areas will be managed to maintain and enhance both surface and groundwater resources.	Areas designated in this class will be managed to provide for the protection and enhancement of surface and groundwater resources, except for instances of short-term degradation caused by water development projects. Best management practices, developed by the Bureau during the planning process outlined in the Clean Water Act, Section 208, and subsequently, will be used to avoid degradation and to comply with Executive Order 12088.	Areas designated in this class will be managed to minimize degradation of the water resources. Best management practices, developed by the Bureau during the planning process outlined in the Clean Water Act, Section 208, and subsequently, will be used to avoid degradation and to comply with Executive Order 12088.	Areas designated in this class will be managed to minimize degradation of water resources. Best management practices, developed by the Bureau during the planning process outlined in the Clean Water Act, Section 208, and subsequently, will be used to keep impacts on water quality minimal and to comply with Executive Order 12088.
4. CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Archaeological and paleontological values will be preserved and protected. Procedures described in 36 CFR 800 will be observed where applicable. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the BLM, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and for cultural resources the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to protect cultural resource values.			
5. NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES	Native American cultural and religious values will be preserved where relevant and protected where applicable. Native American group(s) shall be consulted. Memorandums of Agreement and Understanding have been signed between BLM and the Native American Heritage Commission pertaining to Native American concerns and cultural resources.			
6. ELECTRICAL GENERATION FACILITIES	Electrical generation plants are not allowed.	Electrical generation plants may be allowed (see wind/solar/geothermal, below).	All types of electrical generation plants may be allowed in accordance with State, Federal, and local laws.	
	Existing facilities may be maintained and upgraded or improved in accordance with special-use permits or by amendments to rights-of-way.			
Nuclear and Fossil Fuel Powerplants	Not allowed.		May be allowed in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws.	
Wind/Solar Powerplants	Not allowed.		May be allowed after NEPA requirements shall be met	
Geothermal Powerplants	Not allowed.		May be allowed pursuant to licenses issued under 43 CFR Section 3250, et seq. NEPA requirements will be met.	
7. TRANSMISSION FACILITIES	New transmission facilities for electricity, gas, water, and telecommunications are not allowed and new licenses or rights-of-way for these purposes will not be granted, except as provided for in the Wilderness Act of 1964 — 16 USC 1133(d)(4), or as may be specified by Congress.	"New gas, electric, and water transmission facilities and cables (coaxial or fiber optic) for interstate communications may be allowed only within designated corridors (see Energy Production and Utility Corridors Element). NEPA requirements will be met."		
	Existing facilities may be maintained subject to Wilderness Management Plan.	Existing facilities within designated corridors may be maintained and upgraded or improved in accordance with existing right-of-way grants or by amendments to right-of-way grants. Existing facilities outside designated corridors may only be maintained but not upgraded or improved.		
Distribution Facilities	New licenses or rights-of-way for distribution facilities to serve private properties will not be granted. Existing facilities may be maintained or improved but not expanded.	Existing facilities may be maintained and upgraded or improved in accordance with existing right-of-way grants.		
		New distribution systems may be allowed and will be placed underground where feasible except where this would have a more detrimental effect on the environment than surface alignment. In addition, new distribution facilities shall be placed within existing rights-of-way where they are reasonably available.	New distribution facilities may be allowed and shall be placed within existing rights-of-way where they are reasonably available. NEPA requirements will be met.	

	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS C Controlled Use (Wilderness Management)	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS L Limited Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS M Moderate Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS I Intensive Use
<b>8. COMMUNICATION SITES</b>	New communication sites are not allowed unless required for protection of wilderness values or visitors.	New sites may be allowed. NEPA requirements will be met. A 30-day public comment period is required for environmental assessments for long distance line-of-sight communication systems of three or more sites.		
	Maintenance and operation of existing sites and facilities may be allowed subject to Wilderness Management Plan.	Existing facilities may be maintained and utilized in accordance with right-of-way grants and applicable regulations.		
<b>9. FIRE MANAGEMENT</b>	Fire suppression measures will be taken in accordance with specific wilderness fire management plans to be followed by the authorized officer, and may include use of motorized vehicles, aircraft, and fire retardant chemicals.	Fire suppression measures will be taken in accordance with specific fire management plans subject to such conditions as the authorized officer deems necessary, such as use of motorized vehicles, aircraft, and fire retardant chemicals.		
<b>10. VEGETATION Harvesting (Native Plant)</b>  Harvesting by Mechanical Equipment  Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species, State and Federal  Sensitive Plant Species (Including candidates for listing by FWS; FWS Species of Concern; Species on List 2, CNPS, 1980)  Unusual Plant Assemblages (UPAs)  Vegetation Manipulation 1. Mechanical Control  2. Chemical Control  3. Exclosures  4. Prescribed Burning	Removal of vegetation, non-commercial, may be allowed by permit only after an EA or EIS is prepared and after development of necessary stipulations.	Removal of vegetation, commercial or non-commercial, may be allowed by permit only after NEPA requirements have been met and after development of necessary stipulations.		
	Not allowed.	Harvesting by mechanical equipment may be allowed by permit only.		
	All state and federally listed species will be fully protected. Actions which may jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed species will require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.			
	Identified sensitive species will be given protection in management decisions consistent with wilderness values and BLM policies.	Identified species will be given protection in management decisions consistent with BLM policies.		
	Identified UPAs will be given protection in management decisions consistent with wilderness values and BLM policies.	Identified UPAs will be considered when conducting all site-specific environmental impact analyses to minimize impact. See also Wetland/Riparian Areas guidelines.		
	Mechanical control will not be allowed.		Mechanical control may be allowed, but only after consideration of possible impacts.	
	Aerial broadcast application of chemical controls will not be allowed.			
	Spot application will not be allowed.	Noxious weed eradication may be allowed after site-specific planning. Types and uses of pesticides, in particular herbicides, must conform to Federal, State, and local regulations (see Vegetation Element).	Spot applications will be allowed after site-specific planning. Types and uses of pesticides, in particular herbicides, must conform to Federal, State, and local regulations (see Vegetation Element).	
	Exclosures will not be allowed.		Exclosures may be allowed.	
	Prescribed burning will not be allowed.	Prescribed burning may be allowed after development of a site-specific management plan.		
<b>11. LAND-TENURE ADJUSTMENT</b>	Lands will be acquired, disposed of, or exchanged in accordance with FLPMA and other applicable Federal laws and regulations, to ensure more efficient management of the public lands and to reduce conflicts with other public and private landowners to provide more consistency and logic in desert-wide land-use patterns.			

	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS C Controlled Use (Wilderness Management)	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS L Limited Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS M Moderate Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS I Intensive Use	
12. LIVESTOCK GRAZING	Grazing will be allowed subject to limitations to preserve wilderness characteristics and the protection of sensitive resources, except that existing grazing will only be subject to the protection of sensitive resources.	Grazing will be allowed subject to the protection of sensitive resources.			
	<p>Major support facilities, such as permanent corrals, loading chutes, and significant water development, will not be allowed except for existing facilities pursuant to valid existing leases, licenses, and permits. Maintenance of such facilities will be controlled to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of wilderness values.</p> <p>Manipulation of vegetation by chemical or mechanical means will not be allowed.</p>	<p>Support facilities such as corrals, loading chutes, water developments, and other facilities, permanent or temporary, may be allowed consistent with protection of sensitive resources.</p> <p>Manipulation of vegetation by chemical or mechanical means will not be allowed, except for site-specific needs. (See Vegetation Element.)</p>	<p>Support facilities such as corrals, loading chutes, water developments, and other facilities, permanent or temporary, will be allowed.</p> <p>Manipulation of vegetation by chemical or mechanical means may be allowed and may be designed, developed, and managed for intensive livestock use.</p>		
13. MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT	<p>These guidelines summarize the kinds of management likely to be used in these areas after formal designation of wilderness by Congress.</p> <p>Congressional enactment of wilderness will prescribe mining rules and possible cutoff dates for mineral entry. The information below indicates the possible restriction after enactment.</p> <p>The following summarizes possible significant provisions of the Wilderness Act as it applies to mineral exploration and development after Congress officially designates the areas as wilderness. (For more detailed information, see the G-E-M Element or the Wilderness Act of Sept. 3, 1964).</p> <p><b>Minerals Prospecting and Exploration</b> Prospecting and exploration for the purpose of gathering information about mineral resources are allowed, provided such activities are carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment.</p> <p><b>Mineral Development</b> All designated wilderness areas may be withdrawn from mineral entry at some time subsequent to Congressional designation. Following withdrawal, no new <i>mining claims</i> may be located, and no new permits, leases, or material sales contracts may be issued subject to deadlines established by Congress.</p> <p>Valid existing mining operations may continue pursuant to submission and approval of operational plans which will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of wilderness qualities.</p>	<p><b>Leasable Minerals</b> Except as provided in Appendix 5.4, 516 DM 6, NEPA procedures titled "Categorical Exclusions," prior to approving any lease, notice, or application that was filed pursuant to 43 CFR 3045, 3100, 3200, 3500, and S.O. 3087, as amended, an EA will be prepared on the proposed action. Mitigation and reclamation measures will be required to protect and rehabilitate sensitive scenic, ecological, wildlife, vegetative, and cultural values</p> <p><b>Locatable Minerals</b> Location of mining claims is nondiscretionary. Operations on mining claims are subject to the 43 CFR 3809 Regulations and applicable State and local law. NEPA requirements will be met. BLM will review plans of operations for potential impacts on sensitive resources identified on lands in this class. Mitigation, subject to technical and economic feasibility, will be required.</p> <p><b>Saleable Minerals</b> Except as provided in Appendix 5.4, 516 DM 6, NEPA procedures titled "Categorical Exclusions," new material sales locations, including sand and gravel sites, will require an EA.</p>			
			Continued use of existing areas of sand and gravel extractions is allowed subject to BLM permits, as specified in 43 CFR 3600.		
14. MOTORIZED-VEHICLE ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION	<p>MotORIZED-vehicle use is generally not allowed unless provided for in individual wilderness legislation and management plans or if necessary to serve valid existing rights, and for emergency use for public safety, or protection of wilderness values.</p>	<p>New roads and ways may be developed under right-of-way grants or pursuant to regulations or approved plans of operation.</p> <p>MotORIZED vehicle use will be allowed on existing routes of travel until designation of routes is accomplished.</p> <p>Routes will be examined and a determination made whether the route will be open, closed or limited based on criteria in 43 CFR 8342.1.</p>	<p>MotORIZED vehicle use will be allowed on "existing" routes of travel unless closed or limited by the authorized officer. New routes may be allowed upon approval of the authorized officer.</p>	<p>Same as Class M. In addition, the vehicle open areas are available for unrestricted vehicle access except where private land, ACECs and active mining areas are enclosed (see Recreation Element).</p>	
		Vehicle use on some significant dunes and dry lakebeds is allowed (see Motorized Vehicle Access Element).			
		Periodic or seasonal closures or limitations of routes of travel may be required.			
		Access will be provided for mineral exploration and development.			
	Compliance with Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 as applied to motorized-vehicle access will be assured.				

	<b>MULTIPLE-USE CLASS C Controlled Use (Wilderness Management)</b>	<b>MULTIPLE-USE CLASS L Limited Use</b>	<b>MULTIPLE-USE CLASS M Moderate Use</b>	<b>MULTIPLE-USE CLASS I Intensive Use</b>
<b>Railroads</b>	No new railroads and trams will be allowed. Existing railroads and trams may be operated and maintained subject to non-impairment of wilderness values.	Railroads and trams may be allowed to serve authorized uses if no other viable alternative is possible.	Railroads and trams may be allowed.	
<b>Aircraft</b>	Aircraft facilities are not allowed.	Temporary landing strips may be allowed by permit.	Airports and landing strips may be allowed by lease subject to conformance with county or regional airport plans and FAA and DOD approval.	
<b>15. RECREATION</b>	<p>This class is suitable for non-mechanical types of recreational experience which generally involve low to very low user densities. Recreational opportunities provided include, but are not limited to, the following characteristic activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>backpacking</li> <li>primitive, unimproved site camping</li> <li>hiking</li> <li>horseback riding</li> <li>nature study and observation</li> <li>photography and painting</li> <li>rockclimbing</li> <li>spelunking</li> <li>hunting</li> <li>rockhounding</li> </ul>	<p>This class is suitable for recreation which generally involves low to moderate user densities. Recreation opportunities include those permitted in Class C plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—land-sailing on dry lakes</li> <li>—non-competitive vehicle touring and events only on "approved" routes of travel.</li> </ul> <p>All organized vehicle events, competitive or not, require a permit specifying the conditions of use, these conditions will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—approved routes</li> <li>—no pitting, start, finish, or spectator areas.</li> </ul>	<p>This class is suitable for a wide range of recreation activities which may involve moderate to high user densities. Recreational opportunities include those permitted in Class L. Competitive motorized vehicle events are limited to "existing" routes of travel and must be approved by the authorized officer. Pit, start, and finish areas must be designated by the authorized officer. All competitive events and organized events having 50 or more vehicles require permits.</p>	<p>This class is suitable for recreation activities which generally involve high user densities. A wide array of recreational opportunities will be found in this class. Off-road-vehicle play will be allowed where approved in open areas.</p> <p>Uses permitted are the same as Class M; in addition, motorized-vehicle play is allowed in areas designated "open". All aspects of competitive events will be permitted except where specific mitigations are stipulated by the authorized officer.</p>
	Permanent or temporary facilities for resource protection and public health and safety may be allowed at the discretion of the authorized officer or in accordance with approved Wilderness Management Plans.	Permanent or temporary facilities for resource protection and public health and safety are allowed.		
	Trails are open for non-vehicular use and new trails for non-motorized access may be allowed.			
<b>16. WASTE DISPOSAL</b>	Waste disposal sites will not be allowed in this class.	<p>Hazardous waste disposal sites will not be allowed.</p> <p>New non-hazardous waste disposal sites will not be allowed.</p>	"Public lands managed by BLM may not be used for waste disposal (either hazardous or non-hazardous). Where locations suitable for disposal are found on BLM-managed lands, consideration will be given to transfer of such sites through sale or exchange to other ownership for this use."	
<b>17. WILDLIFE SPECIES AND HABITAT</b>	All State and federally listed species and their critical habitat will be fully protected. Actions which may affect or jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed species will require formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.			
<b>Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species (both State and Federal)</b>				
<b>Sensitive Species</b>	Identified sensitive species will be given protection in management decisions consistent with wilderness values and BLM policies.	Identified species will be given protection in management decisions consistent with BLM policies.		
<b>Predator and Pest Control</b>	Predator and pest control will not be allowed except to alleviate public health hazards or to protect endangered species.	Control of depredating wildlife and pests will be allowed in accordance with existing State and Federal laws.		
<b>Habitat Manipulation</b>	Projects to improve wildlife habitat may be allowed subject to environmental assessment.	Same as Classes C and L, except that chemical and mechanical vegetation manipulation may be allowed.		
<b>Reintroduction or Introduction of Established Exotic Species</b>	Reintroduction of native species is allowed.	Reintroduction or introduction of native species or established exotic species is allowed.		
<b>18. WETLAND/ RIPARIAN AREAS</b>	Wetland/riparian areas will be considered in all proposed land-use actions. Steps will be taken to provide that these unique characteristics and ecological requirements are managed in accordance with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands ( 2 CFR 26951), legislative and Secretarial direction, and BLM Manual 6740, "Wetland-Riparian Area Protection and Management" (10/1/79), as outlined in the Vegetation Element.			
<b>19. WILD HORSES AND BURROS</b>	Populations of wild and free-roaming horses and burros will be maintained in accordance with the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 but will be subject to controls to protect sensitive resources as provided for in management plans for wilderness areas. (See Wild Horse and Burro Element.)	Populations of wild and free-roaming horses and burros will be maintained in healthy, stable herds, in accordance with the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 but will be subject to controls to protect sensitive resources. (See Wild Horse and Burro Element.)		

## APPENDIX D

### ACEC PLAN SUMMARIES

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All or part of six acres of critical environmental concerns are in the East Mojave National Scenic Area. The following list is a summary of the planned actions discussed in each of the ACEC's completed management plans. The ACEC boundaries are shown on Map A, and resources are summarized in Part I, under "Location and Setting."

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#### CLARK MOUNTAIN

Plan Approved 1986

- Eliminate or substantially reduce the planning area's burro population.
- \* Improve availability of water sources for wildlife.
- \* Insure adequate wildlife waters through appropriate action with the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Locate and map sensitive botanical resources within the ACEC.
- Control wood cutting/collecting.
- Provide for interpretation of important sites and resources in the planning area.
- Inspect casual recreation use sites and take steps to minimize resource damage.
- Adjust boundaries of the ACEC, to include additional cultural resource sites and sensitive plant habitat.
- Recommend vehicle routes of travel for open, closed or limited designation.
- Recommend a "limited" fire suppression plan.
- Nominate Ivanpah townsite and Mining District to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Withdraw an 800-acre botanically sensitive area from mineral entry.
- Acquire four private or state owned sections of land within the ACEC.

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#### DINOSAUR TRACKWAY

Plan Approved 1982

- Discourage access and unsupervised use of the area.
  - Develop measures to regulate mining or quarrying to protect known tracks and ensure salvage or preservation of newly discovered paleontological finds.
  - Map trackway locations and make molds of all exposed tracks.
- 

\*Actions to be implemented under Sikes Act Authority.



- Recommend routes of travel for open, closed, or limited designation.
- Develop and implement a "limited" fire suppression plan.
- Minimize resource damage from causal recreation use.
- Mitigate adverse effects to archaeological sites through a combination of use relocation and data recovery.
- \* Improve natural and manmade water sources for wildlife use.
- \* Install a big game guzzler (for bighorn) in the Castle Peaks area.
- \* Sign water sources closed to camping.
- Remove or limit encroachment of burros in the ACEC.
- Control wood cutting/collecting.
- Conduct inventories and studies of sensitive plant species and communities within the ACEC.
- Improve the visual quality of selected sites.
- \* Conduct an aerial census of bighorn sheep, deer, and burros in the New York Mountains.
- Insure adequate wildlife waters through appropriate action with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).
- Acquire two private land parcels in Caruthers Canyon through purchase or exchange.
- Initiate procedures to withdraw sensitive wildlife/botanical habitat in Caruthers Canyon from mineral entry.

\*Indicates Habitat Management Plan actions to be implemented under Sikes Act Authority.

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- Survey, document and monitor the rock art at Piute Creek.
  - Stabilize, rehabilitate and reconstruct the old outpost ruins.
  - Barricade vehicular access to ruins and just beyond camping/picnic area.
  - Expand Piute Pass National Register District.
  - Increase Bureau personnel present and ranger patrol.
  - Salvage and test archaeological deposits as required.
  - Develop interpretive and educational facilities (informational board and interpretive guide).
  - Initiate (and continue if necessary) a tamarisk eradication program.
  - Plant cottonwoods in riparian zone.
  - Protect riparian zone from livestock use with a restrictive fence and provide water (for livestock) downstream.
  - Conduct a herpetofaunal survey once per year.
  - Approve for use the road entering Piute Creek from the east.
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ROCK SPRING

Plan Approved 1981

- Photograph, sketch and map petroglyphs.
  - Nominate to the National Register of Historic Places.
  - Collect surface artifacts and retain in a central study collection.
  - Barricade access route to the bench/fort area.
  - Withdraw from mineral entry the sensitive areas of the ACEC.
  - Increase frequency of patrol.
  - Make available a brochure to inform visitors of the ACEC's resources and why they should be preserved.
  - Install an interpretive sign on the site.
  - Install trash receptacles.
  - Repair and modify existing water catchments.
  - Sign the area a "no shooting" safety zone.
  - Consider piping water from spring to minimize visitor-wildlife conflicts.
  - Institute an annual monitoring program.
  - Monitor bank erosion, and stabilize if necessary.
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SODA SPRINGS

Plan Approved 1984

- Establish target user allocations of 14,000 user days for formal education.
  - Establish target user allocations of 10,000 user days for public use.
  - Establish an interpretive center to include displays, maps, brochures, and publications that tell the story of Soda Springs and surrounding area.
  - Provide guided tours of the immediate Soda Springs area.
  - Conduct a water study to determine the water regime and capacity for recharge of the water table in relation to projected use.
-

## APPENDIX E

### ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Ten of the eleven allotments in the Scenic Area have Allotment Management Plans (AMPs); the remaining allotment should have an AMP by 1989. An AMP is an agreement between the BLM and the lessee, which describes how the grazing objectives and prescriptions of the EIS and Rangeland Program Summary will be implemented. The AMPs also prescribe actions intended to reduce conflicts between grazing and the other key resources, including wildlife, soils, cultural resources, vegetation, and recreation. Multiple resource objectives are detailed as are the methods used to measure progress toward those objectives.

The average size of these allotments is 156,000 acres, with 70% of this falling within the Scenic Area. Approximately one cow per square mile is authorized on these leases. Typical resource concerns in this region include the possibility of competition between cattle and bighorn sheep, deer, wild burros and desert tortoises, and the potential for impacts to cultural artifacts, soils, and vegetation. A summary of the Kessler Springs AMP is provided below in order to illustrate how these items are addressed.

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#### Kessler Springs AMP Summary

Kessler Springs includes 232,347 acres of public land. Approximately 209,000 acres of this is in the Scenic Area.

The authorized use for this lease is 8,016 AUMs (Animal Unit Months - the amount of feed necessary to support one cow and a calf for 1 month); 688 cattle are allowed on a perennial basis; additional cattle may be authorized if sufficient ephemeral forage is present. 462 AUMs were allocated for burros by the Desert Plan, and 169 AUMs were allocated for bighorn sheep and deer.

The range condition on this allotment is "good," with a stable to upward trend.

The objectives of the AMP include the following: a) increase forage production; b) increase the composition of desirable plant species; c) increase the calf crop, steer weights, and grazing capacity; d) increase our knowledge of the resident bighorn sheep herd; e) maintain or enhance areas of highly crucial desert tortoise habitat.

The grazing system consists of a four-pasture deferred rotation system. Season of use is based on elevation, lower elevation pastures are used in the winter and spring, and the higher elevation pastures used in the summer and fall.

Existing range improvements in this allotment include 26 water developments, 10 fences, and 11 miscellaneous projects. Improvements proposed in the AMP include the development of two new water sources and the reconstruction of two others.

A variety of studies are in place to monitor both short- and long-term effects of grazing. These include actual use, climatic, trend, and utilization studies. These are currently all read at least once a year.

When it is determined that grazing management actions are not reaching their objectives, the AMP (and the grazing actions) may be modified.

Additional Actions:

- Make all new water sources available to wildlife.
- Establish a program to monitor the effects of grazing on bighorn sheep in the Mid Hills.
- Use an interdisciplinary team to determine turnout dates for ephemeral cattle in highly crucial tortoise habitat.
- Class III cultural resource inventories will precede approval of any new range improvements.
- A four-year study of the effects of cattle grazing upon cultural artifacts and features will be implemented.
- Sensitive plants and UPAs will be monitored to determine if they are being impacted by livestock.

# APPENDIX F

## VRM CLASS OBJECTIVES

Class I Objective. The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention. The landscape should appear to be unaltered by man.

Class II Objective. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer and should blend into the existing landscape. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III Objective. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. This less restrictive class allows for a larger scale development or activity which is an obvious and distinctive feature separate from the existing landscape. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class IV Objective. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high, which would greatly alter the existing environment. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

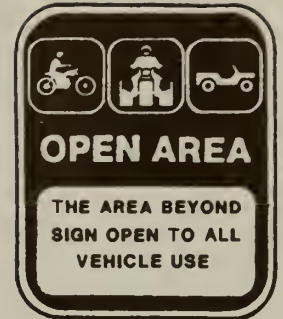
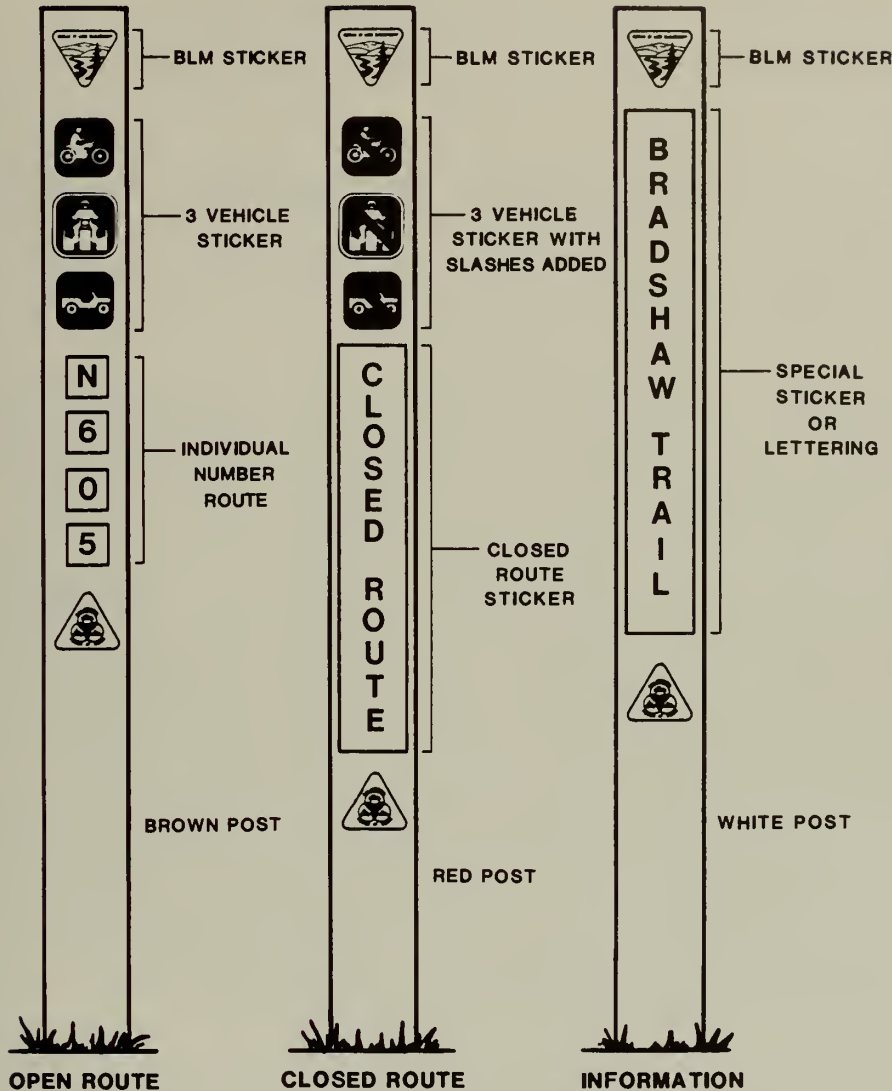
## APPENDIX G

### ROUTE DESIGNATION CRITERIA

The evaluation of routes of travel is based upon criteria established for the designation of areas and trails as specified in Chapter 43 of the Federal Code of Regulations, subpart 8342.1 (43 CFR 8342.1). This regulation states the following criteria:

- (a) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.
- (b) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.
- (c) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.
- (d) Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Areas and trails shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect the natural, aesthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.





TO MARK BOUNDARY AND ENTRANCE TO ALL OPEN AREAS



TO MARK BOUNDARIES AND ENTRANCES TO CLASS L AND M



TO MARK BOUNDARIES OF AREAS DESIGNATED AS CLOSED



LIMITED ROUTE SIGN



HAZARD WARNING

# APPENDIX I

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREA NONIMPAIRMENT CRITERIA

Activities will be considered nonimpairing if the BLM determines that they meet each of the following criteria:

- (a) It is temporary. This means that the use or activity may continue until the time when it must be terminated in order to meet the reclamation requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) below. A temporary use that creates no new surface disturbance may continue unless Congress designates the area as wilderness, so long as it can easily and immediately be terminated at that time, if necessary, to manage of the area as wilderness.
- (b) Any temporary impacts caused by the activity must, at a minimum, be capable of being reclaimed to a condition of being substantially unnoticeable in the wilderness study area (or inventory unit) as a whole by the time the Secretary of the Interior is scheduled to send his recommendations on that area to the President, and the operator will be required to reclaim the impacts to that standard by that date. If the wilderness study is postponed, the reclamation deadline will be extended accordingly. If the wilderness study is accelerated, the reclamation deadline will not be changed. A full schedule of wilderness studies will be developed by the Department upon completion of the intensive wilderness inventory. In the meantime, in areas not yet scheduled for wilderness study, the reclamation will be scheduled for completion within four years after approval of the activity. (Obviously, if and when the Interim Management Policy ceases to apply to an inventory unit dropped from wilderness review following a final wilderness inventory decision of the BLM State Director, the reclamation deadline previously specified will cease to apply.) The Secretary's schedule for transmitting his recommendations to the President will not be changed as a result of any unexpected inability to complete the reclamation by the specified date, and such inability will not constrain the Secretary's recommendation with respect to the area's suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

The reclamation will, to the extent practicable, be done while the activity is in progress. Reclamation will include the complete recontouring of all cuts and fills to blend with the natural topography, the replacement of topsoil, and the restoration of plant cover at least to the point where natural succession is occurring. Plant cover will be restored by means of reseeding or replanting, using species previously occurring in the area. If necessary, irrigation will be required. The reclamation will be complete, and the impacts will be substantially unnoticeable in the area as a whole, by the time the Secretary is scheduled to send his recommendations to the President. ("Substantially unnoticeable" is defined in Appendix F.)

- (c) When the activity is terminated, and after any needed reclamation is complete, the area's wilderness values must not have been degraded so far, compared with the area's values for other purposes, as to significantly constrain the Secretary's recommendation with respect to the area's suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness. The wilderness

values to be considered are those mentioned in section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, including naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation, and ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

These criteria are excerpted from the "Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review" (USDI, BLM: 1979).

# APPENDIX J

## APPENDIX J - GLOSSARY

**ACCESS EASEMENT:** Legal permission granted by the owner of a property to another entity, to enter or cross the property for specified purposes.

**ALLOTMENT:** An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consist of BLM lands but many also include state-owned and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures.

**ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP):** A livestock grazing management plan for a specific allotment based on multiple-use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources – watershed, vegetation and wildlife. An AMP establishes the seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted on the range and the rangeland developments needed.

**AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1978:** A Federal law which resolves that it shall be the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for the American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiian the inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religions, including but not limited to access to religious sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rites. Federal agencies are directed to evaluate their policies and procedures to determine if changes are needed to ensure that such rights and freedoms are not disrupted by agency practices. The act, a specific expression of First Amendment guarantees of religious freedom.

**ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM):** The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for one month.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT OF 1979:** A Federal law which provides felony-level penalties for the unauthorized excavation, removal, damage, alteration, defacement, sale, purchase, exchange, transportation, receipt, or offering of any archaeological resource, more than 100 years of age, found on public land or Indian land. No distinction is made regarding National Register eligibility. Definitions, permit requirements, and criminal and civil penalties are established, among other provisions, to correct legal gaps and deficiencies. It is implemented by uniform regulations at 43 CFR Part 7. The act further provides for exemption from the Freedom of Information Act, the disclosure of the nature and location of archaeological resources.

**AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC):** An area of public land that requires special management attention in order to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. An ACEC can be further identified by its primary values, i.e., the Ash Valley Research Natural Area/an ACEC or the Eureka Dunes NNL/an ACEC.

**ARCHAEOLOGY:** The branch of anthropology engaged in the theory and practice of recovering, analyzing, interpreting, and explaining evidence of the human prehistoric and historic past.

**ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV):** Any motorized off-highway vehicle 50 inches or less in width, having a dry weight of 600 pounds or less, traveling on three or more low-pressure tires, designed for operator use only with no passengers, and having a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control.

**AUGMENTATION:** A transplant of wildlife species into an existing wildlife use area with the purpose of supplementing the current population.

**CARRYING CAPACITY:** (1) Ecology/wildlife management – The number (or weight) of organisms of a given species and quality that can survive in a given ecosystem (without causing deterioration of that ecosystem) through the least favorable environmental conditions that occur within a stated interval of time. (2) Recreation management – The level and type(s) of recreational use that a natural or developed area can sustain without deterioration of the quality of the recreation experience or the resource.

**CHERRYSTEM:** Fingerlike intrusions into a wilderness study area which are not themselves part of the WSA (i.e., an access road).

**CLASSIFICATION and MULTIPLE USE ACT of 1964:** Provided a system for classifying which public lands were to be disposed of under applicable public land laws and which were to be retained for interim multiple use management (this act expired in 1970). The act was to be "consistent with and supplemental to the Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934," and its purposes were declared to be "supplemental to the purposes for which public lands have been designated, acquired, withdrawn, reserved, held, or administered."

**COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (CMA):** A formal written agreement between the BLM and other party or parties which establishes objectives, responsibilities and performance standards of the cooperating parties in managing and using public lands for projects associated with recreation livestock grazing, wildlife management, and other appropriate needs.

**CRITICAL HABITAT:** Any or all habitat element(s), the loss of which, would appreciably decrease the likelihood of the survival and recovery of an officially listed species. It may represent any portion of the present habitat of an officially listed species and may include additional areas for population expansion. The official determination of critical habitat is the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and takes appropriate Federal Register notification and action.

**CRUCIAL HABITAT:** Habitat on which a species depends for survival; there are no alternative ranges or habitats available. May also be called "key range or habitat."

**CULTURAL PROPERTY:** The location of past human activity, occupation, or use, identifiable through field inventory (survey), historical documentation, or oral evidence; includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places, and may include definite sites or places of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups, whether or not represented by physical remains.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:** A term used to refer both to a record of cultural resources known to occur within a defined geographic area, and to the methods used in developing the record. Depending on intended applications for the data, inventories may be based on (a) syntheses of previously indirect sources; (b) systematic examinations of the land surface and natural exposures of the subsurface for indications of past human activity as represented by artificial modifications of the land and/or the presence of artifacts; and (c) the use of interviews and related means of locating and describing previously unrecorded or incompletely documented cultural resources, including those which may not be identifiable through physical examination.

**DAY-USE FACILITY:** A recreational development where overnight parking or camping is not allowed.

**DESERT PAVEMENT:** A nearly flat desert soil surface consisting of a thin layer of pebbles covered with dark-brown varnish or iron and manganese oxides.

**DESERT PLAN:** The California Desert Conservation Area Plan, completed in 1980. This Congressionally mandated document provides long-range, general guidance for management of all BLM-administered public lands in the California Desert.

**DISPERSED RECREATION USE:** Areas where dispersed recreation occurs and when visitors have the freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA):** A concise public document for which a Federal agency is responsible. An EA serves (1) to briefly provide enough evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impacts; (2) to aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act when no EIS is needed; and (3) to facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is needed.

**EASEMENT:** An interest granted by deed or created by will, deed or prescription that is held by one person or land owned by another and that entitles its holder to a specific limited use or enjoyment (as the right to cross the land or to have a view continue unobstructed over it).

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT):** A person trained and State-certified to provide emergency care at the scene of an accident or illness.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** An animal or plant species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (as defined in The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982). This is the definition used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The State of California and the California Native Plant Society define the term slightly differently.

**EPHEMERAL RANGE:** Range consisting primarily of annual plants which varies in production annually according to fluctuation of precipitation and temperature.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS):** An analytical document that portrays potential impacts on the human environment of a particular course of action and its possible alternatives. An EIS is developed for use by decisionmakers to weigh the environmental consequences of a potential decision.

**FAIR MARKET VALUE:** The amount in cash, or in terms reasonably equivalent to cash, for which in all probability a product or property would be sold or leased by a knowledgeable owner willing but not obligated to sell or lease to a knowledgeable purchaser who desires but is not obligated to buy or lease.

**FEDERAL LANDS:** All land in the United States owned by the Federal Government, regardless of how acquired or what agency administers it. Federal lands do not include Indian reservations and other tribal lands.

**FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA):** The Congressional Act that directed BLM to manage the public lands according to the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield. Section 601 of the act established the California Desert Conservation Area and called for development of the Desert Plan. Section 603 called for BLM to review roadless areas for potential inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and mandated interim management protection of wilderness study areas.

**GRANDFATHERED USE:** A mineral, grazing or right-of-way use that was on the land on the date that the Federal Land Policy and Management Act was approved (FLPMA; October 21, 1976). Under BLM's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM, 1979), grandfathered uses may continue on lands under wilderness review in the same manner and degree as on the date of FLPMA's approval, even if such uses impair wilderness suitability. These uses, however, must be regulated to ensure that they do not unnecessarily degrade these lands.

**HABITAT:** The place where an animal or plant normally lives, often characterized by a dominant plant and co-dominant form (pinyon juniper habitat).

**HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN (HMP):** A plan developed for a specific wildlife habitat area that requires special management attention.

**HERD MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN (HMAP):** An activity plan which addresses the management of wild horses or burros and their habitat on one or more herd management areas.

**INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR LANDS UNDER WILDERNESS REVIEW (IMP):** A BLM document that prescribes guidelines for the management of Wilderness Study Areas until Congress decides whether or not to designate these areas as wilderness.

**INTERPRETATION:** An educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objectives, by first hand experience and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information.

**KNOWN GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE:** A geologic structure in which an accumulation of oil and gas has been discovered by drilling and that has been determined to be productive.

**LEASABLE MINERALS:** Minerals whose extraction from Federal land requires a lease and the payment of royalties. Leasable minerals include coal, oil and gas, oil shale and tar sands; geothermal steam; potash; phosphate; sodium; and all other minerals that may be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

**LIMITED SUPPRESSION:** A fire-fighting strategy that is less than full suppression, is based on a land-use decision, and is used where controlling a fire is extremely difficult or where resource values do not warrant the expense normally associated with full suppression.

**LIVESTOCK LESSEE:** One who holds a lease to graze on Federal, State, or certain privately owned lands.

**LOCATABLE MINERALS:** Gold, silver, lead, and other minerals recognized by the standard authorities and found in enough quantity and of high enough quality to justify their location under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended.

**MINERAL POTENTIAL:**

High Mineral Potential: The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, the reported mineral occurrences, and the known mines or deposits indicate high favorability for accumulation of mineral resources.

Moderate Mineral Potential: The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, and the reported mineral occurrences indicated moderate favorability for accumulation of mineral resources.

Low Mineral Potential: The geologic environment and the inferred geologic processes indicate low favorability for accumulation of mineral resources.

**MITIGATION:** The lessening of an adverse effect by avoiding or applying appropriate protection measures (e.g., the recovery of cultural resource data, off-site compensation of diminished habitat, environmental reclamation).

**MITIGATION MEASURES:** Methods or procedures undertaken for the purpose of avoiding or reducing potential impacts of an action.

**MULTIPLE-USE:** The management of public lands and their various resource values so that they are used in the combination that will best meet present and future public needs.

**MULTIPLE-USE CLASSES:** A classification system developed as part of the Desert Plan, with guidelines describing the types of land uses and resource management techniques appropriate to each class. Most lands in the California Desert Conservation Area have been assigned to one of the four multiple-use classes: Class C, L, M, or I. Small acreages, notably those proposed for sales or withdrawal to other agencies, remain unclassified.

CLASS C (Controlled Use): The most restrictive of the four Desert Plan multiple-use classes, assigned only to wilderness study areas that have been preliminarily recommended as suitable for wilderness designation by Congress.

CLASS L (Limited Use): Provides for low intensity, carefully controlled use. Usually assigned to areas of particularly sensitive or important natural or cultural resources. Facilities that provide for resource protection may be constructed in this class.



**CLASS M (Moderate Use):** Intended to provide a balance between resource protection and use. Recreation facility developments may be constructed in this class.

**CLASS I (Intensive):** Areas where concentrated use of land and resources is intended. Includes areas set aside for intensive off-highway vehicle recreation. This class is suitable for development of facilities for intensive recreation use.

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) OF 1969:** A law enacted on January 1, 1970, that established a national policy to maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans. It established the Council on Environmental Quality for coordinating environmental matters at the Federal level and to serve as advisor to the President on such matters. The law made all Federal actions and proposals which could have significant impact on the environment subject to review by Federal, State and local environmental authorities.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK:** Historic sites and structures found nationally significant by the Secretary of the Interior are eligible for designation. Upon the owner's agreement to adhere to accepted preservation precepts, this designation is recognized by the award of a bronze plaque and certificate. The State of California administers a similar program.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA) OF 1966:** A Federal law which expands the National Register of Historic places, and establishes the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Officers, and a preservation grants-in-aid program. Section 106 directs all Federal agencies to take into account effects of their undertakings (actions and authorizations) on properties included in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and section 110 sets inventory, nomination, protection, and preservation responsibilities for federally owned cultural properties. Section 106 of the act is implemented by regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR Part 800.

**NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS (NNL):** A program administered by the National Park Service, and encourages the preservation of nationally significant properties regardless of government or private ownership.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP):** A list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. Expanded as authorized by Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and Section 101 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV):** A general term referring to all types of vehicles capable of operation off maintained roads, including motorcycles, ATVs, dune buggies, and four-wheel drive vehicles.

## OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS:

Open - Designated area and trails where OHVs may be operated (subject to operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in BLM Manuals 8341 and 8343).

Limited - Designated areas and trails where the use of OHVs is subject to restrictions, such as limiting the number of types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions); limiting use to existing roads and trails or limiting use to designated roads and trails. Combinations of restrictions are possible, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year.

Closed - Designated areas and trails where the use of OHVs is permanently or temporarily prohibited. Emergency use of vehicles is allowed.

**OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREAS (ONA):** Natural areas established to identify scenic values and areas of natural wonder.

**PETROGLYPH:** A design or motif abraded, incised or pecked into a rock.

**PERENNIAL GRAZING:** Yearlong livestock use.

**PERENNIAL PLANT:** One with a life cycle of three or more years.

**PICTOGRAPH:** A design or motif painted on a rock surface.

**PLACER DEPOSIT:** An alluvial or glacial deposit, as of sand or gravel, containing particles of gold or other valuable minerals.

**PUBLIC LAND:** Any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except (1) lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf; and (2) lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

**PUBLIC LAND ORDER (PLO):** An order effecting, modifying, or revoking a withdrawal or reservation which has been issued by the Secretary pursuant to his delegations of authority.

**PUBLIC WATER RESERVE:** Pursuant to and under the authority of Sec. 10 of the Act of December 29, 1916, and in aid of pending legislation, the President issued the Executive Order of April 17, 1926. This reserved for public use every vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved smallest legal subdivision which contains a spring or waterhole. If the lands are unsurveyed, the reservation covers all lands within one-quarter mile of the spring or waterhole.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Part of BLM's planning system that provides the opportunity for citizens as individuals or groups to express local, regional, and national perspectives and concerns in the rulemaking, decisionmaking, inventory, and planning processes for public lands. This includes public meetings, hearings or advisory boards or panels that may review resource management proposals and offer suggestions or criticisms for the various alternatives considered.

**RANGE (RANGELAND):** Land dominated by vegetation that can be grazed or browsed and whose husbandry is provided routinely through grazing management instead of renovations or cultural treatment (Range Term Glossary Committee, 1974).

**RANGE CONDITION:** The present state of vegetation of a range site in relation to the climax plant community of that site. Range condition is basically an ecological rating of the plant community.

**RANGE CONDITION TREND:** Direction of change, whether stable, toward (upward) or away (downward) from the site's potential.

**RANGE IMPROVEMENT:** A structure, development, or treatment use to rehabilitate, protect, or improve the public lands to enhance the range resource.

**RANGELAND MONITORING PROGRAM:** A program designed to measure changes in plant composition, ground cover, animal populations, and climatic conditions on the public rangeland. Vegetation studies are used to monitor changes in rangeland condition and determine the reason for any changes that are occurring. The vegetation studies consist of actual use, utilization trend, and climatic conditions.

**RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT (R & PP):** This act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to lease or convey public lands for recreational and public purposes specified conditions to states or their political subdivisions and to nonprofit corporations and associations.

**RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY:** Those outdoor recreational activities which offer satisfaction in a particular physical, social, and management setting in the EIS area. These activities are primarily hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, boating, and camping.

**RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA):** A natural area established and maintained for research and education, which may include a) typical or unusual plant or animal types, associations, or other biotic phenomena or b) characteristic or outstanding geologic, soil, or aquatic features or processes. The public may be excluded or restricted from such areas to protect studies.

**RESOURCE AREA:** The smallest administrative subdivision of a BLM district.

**RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION:** Recreation relating to the natural features of the land.

**RIGHT-OF-WAY:** Public lands authorized to be used or occupied pursuant to a right-of-way grant.

**RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANT:** Authorizing the use of a right-of-way over, upon, under, or through public lands for construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project.

**RIPARIAN AREA:** A specialized form of wetland with characteristic vegetation restricted to areas along or adjacent to rivers and streams, also periodically, flooded lake and reservoir shore areas, as well as lakes with stable water levels.

**ROAD:** A vehicle route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continued use.

**ROUTE:** A "route of travel" has a minimum width of two feet, showing significant surface evidence of prior vehicle use, or, for washes, a history of prior use. A road is, for wilderness review purposes, a route which has been mechanically maintained.

**SALABLE MINERALS:** Minerals such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumicite, and clay that may be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

**SCENIC QUALITY:** The degree of harmony, contrast, and variety within a landscape (used in visual resources management).

**SCHOOL SECTION:** A section of land (640 acres) granted to the State for the support of the public schools, Sections 16 and 36 of each township in Southern California.

**SEASONAL:** An employee who works for only part of the year, but who works full time (40 hours per week) during the period of employment.

**SIKES ACT - (Public Law 93-452):** An Act passed to expand the authority for carrying out conservation and rehabilitation programs on public lands. Provides for the development of comprehensive plans for conservation and rehabilitation programs by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the state agencies. It also provides for entering into cooperative agreements between the Secretary of the Interior and state agencies for the management of wildlife habitat on public lands.

**SOLITUDE:** The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation or a lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place as used in describing wilderness opportunities.

**THREATENED SPECIES:** An animal or plant species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range (as defined in the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982). This is the definition used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The State of California and the California Native Plant Society define the term slightly differently.

**UNAUTHORIZED USE:** The use of public lands without proper authority, resulting either from a willful or negligent act.

**UNUSUAL PLANT ASSEMBLAGES:** "Those stands of vegetation within the CDCA which can be recognized as extraordinary due to one or more factors, which are unusual age, unusual size, unusually high cover or density, or disjunction from main centers of distribution."

**VALID CLAIM:** A mineral or ore body of sufficient size and quantity to justify an ordinarily prudent man in the expenditure of his labor and means in an effort to develop a paying mine.

**VEGETATIVE TYPE:** A plant community dominated or apparently dominated by one or more species which give it a characteristic appearance or aspect. Examples include sagebrush, creosotebush, mesquite, shortgrass, tallgrass, etc. Usually a subdivision of a grazing region.

**VISUAL RESOURCE:** The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g. land, water, vegetation, structures, and other features).

**VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM):** The systematic means to identify visual values, establish objectives which provide the standards for managing those values, and evaluate the visual impacts of proposed projects to ensure that the objectives are met. All lands in EMNSA have been inventoried and designated with VRM class objectives which set levels of acceptable visual change.

**WATER QUALITY:** The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water with respect to its suitability for a particular use.

**WATERSHED:** A total area of land above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at that point.

**WAYS:** Vehicle routes established and maintained solely by the passage of motor vehicles.

**WILDERNESS:** An area formally designated by Congress as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:** Identified by Congress in the 1964 Wilderness Act: size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values such as geological, archaeological, historical, ecological, scenic, or other features. It is required that the area possess at least 5,000 acres of contiguous public land or be of a size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; be substantially natural or generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man being substantially unnoticeable; and have either outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

**WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA):** A roadless area of public lands which BLM has determined possesses the wilderness qualities described in the Wilderness Act of 1964. WSAs were established in order to study the suitability of the areas for possible designation as wilderness by Congress. Through the IMP, BLM protects each WSA's wilderness qualities until Congress decides whether or not the WSA will be designated as wilderness.

**WILDERNESS NONSUITABILITY:** A management recommendation, based on the application of wilderness suitability criteria, that the best use of resources comprising a Wilderness Study Area would be met without designation of the WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, permitting uses which might not necessarily be comparable with wilderness values.

**WILDERNESS SUITABILITY:** A management recommendation, based on the application of wilderness suitability criteria, that the best use of the resources comprising a Wilderness Study Area would be designation of the WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

**WITHDRAWAL:** An action that restricts the use of public lands and segregates the lands from the operation of all or some of the public land or mineral laws.

## ACRONYMS

ACEC:	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AMP:	Allotment Management Plan
ATV:	All-Terrain Vehicle
AUM:	Animal Unit Month
BLM:	Bureau of Land Management
CDCA:	California Desert Conservation Area
CFR:	Code of Federal Regulations
C & MU:	Classification and Multiple Use
DAC:	District Advisory Council
EIS:	Environmental Impact Statement
EMNSA:	East Mojave National Scenic Area
FLPMA:	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
FWS:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GEM:	Geology, Energy and Mineral Report
HMAP:	Herd Management Area Plan
HMP:	Habitat Management Plan
IMP:	Interim Management Policy
MTP:	Master Title Plat
MUC:	Multiple Use Class
NEPA:	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI:	Notice of Intent
ORV:	Off-Road Vehicle
POO:	Plan of Operation
RAMP:	Recreation Area Management Plan
RMP:	Resource Management Plan
USDI:	U.S. Department of the Interior
VRM:	Visual Resource Management
WSA:	Wilderness Study Area



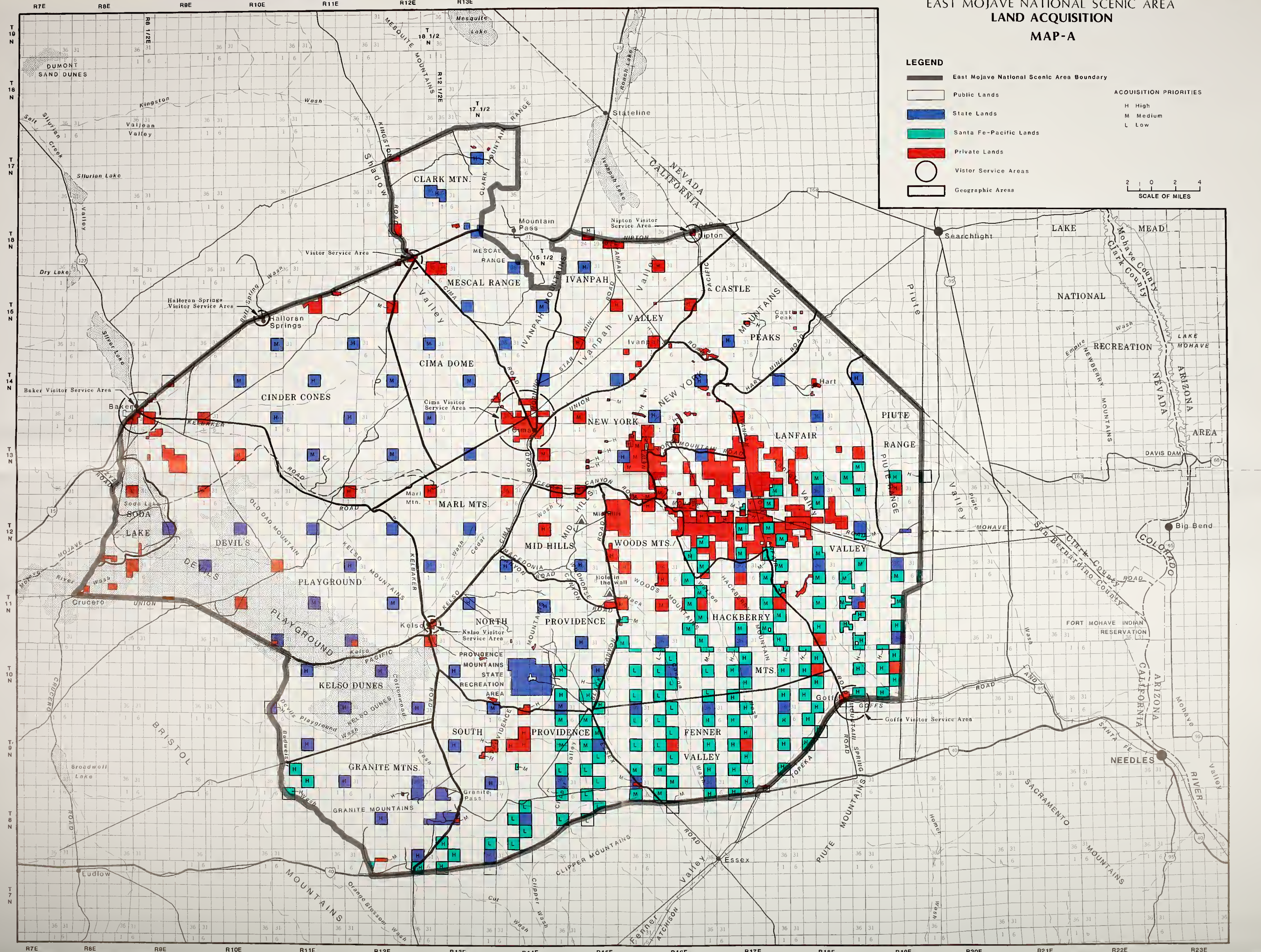








# EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA LAND ACQUISITION MAP-A



**LEGEND**

- East Mojave National Scenic Area Boundary
- Public Lands
- State Lands
- Santa Fe-Pacific Lands
- Private Lands
- Visitor Service Areas
- Geographic Areas

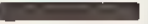



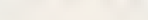
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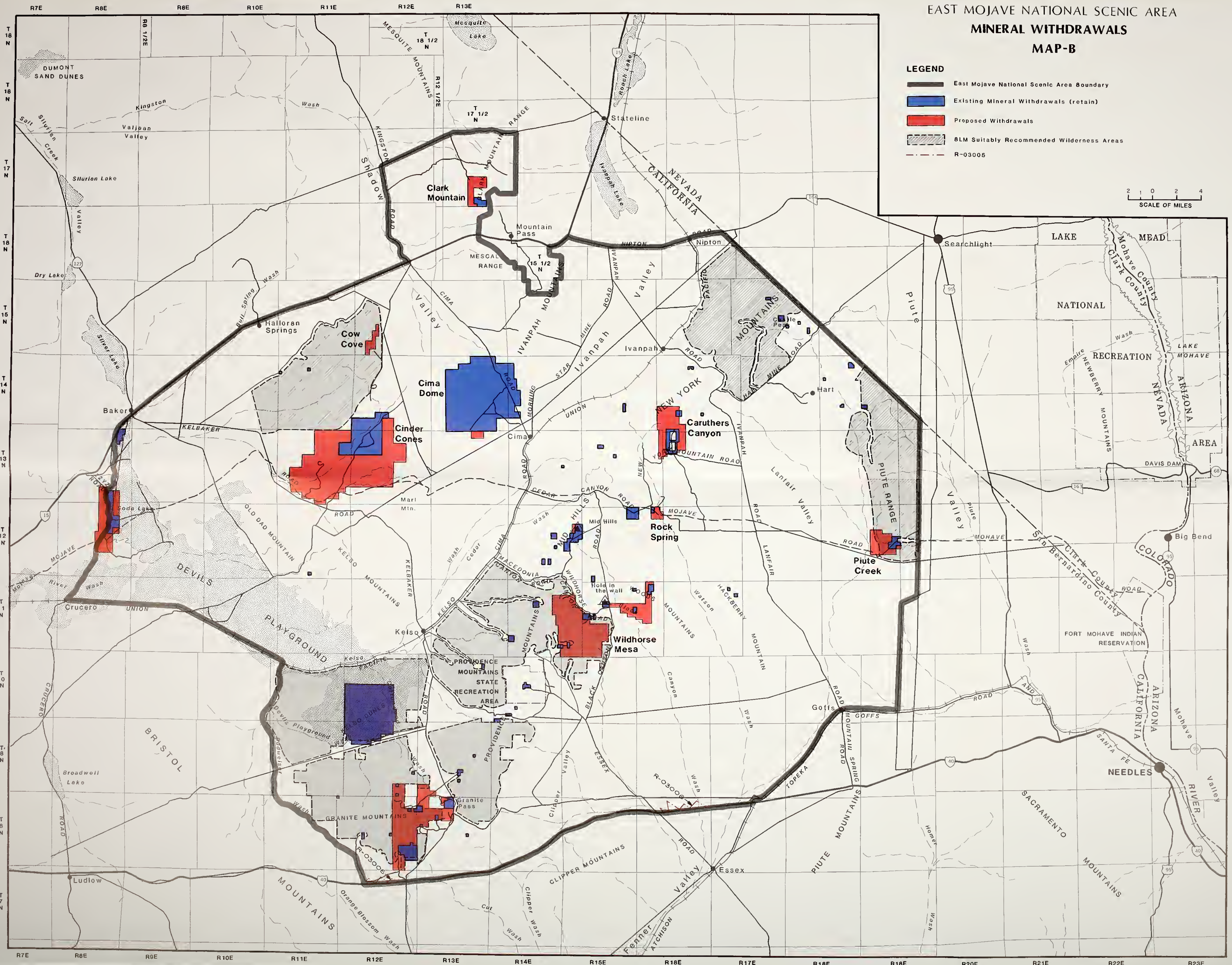
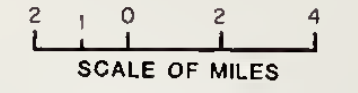
- H High
- M Medium
- L Low

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SCALE OF MILES

EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA  
**MINERAL WITHDRAWALS**  
**MAP-B**

**LEGEND**

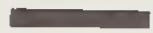









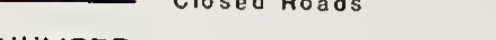
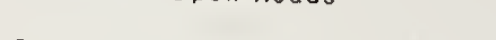

-  East Mojave National Scenic Area Boundary
-  Existing Mineral Withdrawals (retain)
-  Proposed Withdrawals
-  BLM Suitably Recommended Wilderness Areas
-  R-03006

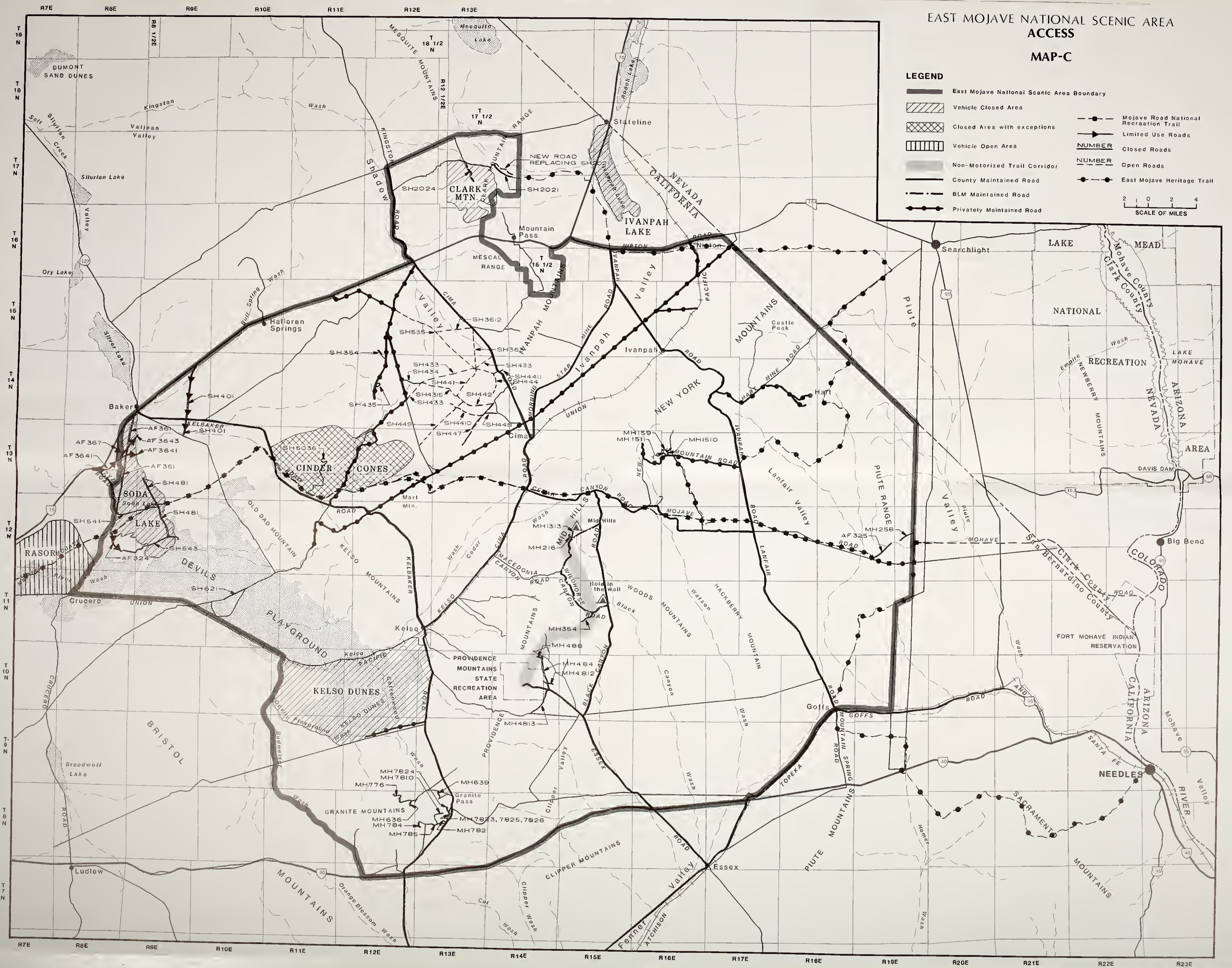
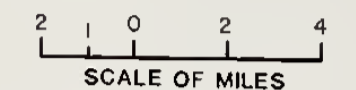


EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA  
ACCESS

MAP-C

LEGEND

-  East Mojave National Scenic Area Boundary
-  Vehicle Closed Area
-  Closed Area with exceptions
-  Vehicle Open Area
-  Non-Motorized Trail Corridor
-  County Maintained Road
-  BLM Maintained Road
-  Privately Maintained Road
-  Mojave Road National Recreation Trail
-  Limited Use Roads
-  Closed Roads
-  Open Roads
-  East Mojave Heritage Trail



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
NEEDLES RESOURCE AREA  
P. O. BOX 888  
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

# SPECIAL FOURTH CLASS

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