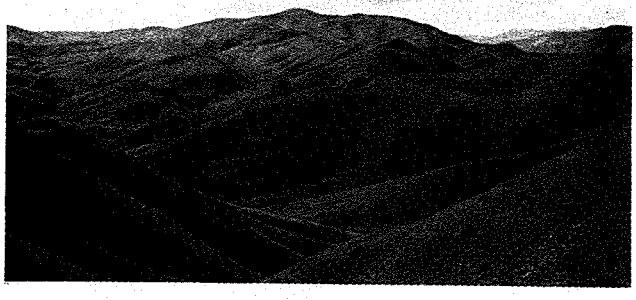
HOLLISTER

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

AND RECORD OF DECISION



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BAKERSFIELD DISTRICT

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
800 Truxtun Avenue, Room 311
Bakersfield, California 93301
Phone: (805) 861-4191
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Weekdays

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

1600
(C-019)

AUG 6 1984

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed for your information and use is the Final Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP/ROD) for BLM-administered public lands in the Hollister Planning Area of Fresno, San Benito, Monterey, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties, California, within the Bakersfield BLM District. The RMP is now in effect and will be used to guide future land use decisions within the Planning Area. A Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) of proposed grazing decisions for the Planning Area is also contained in the Appendix of the RMP.

This RMP is the culmination of two years of intensive work by the Hollister Resource Area Staff and is based on information from the Bureau of Land Management and other sources including Federal, State, and local agencies, and interested private organizations and citizens who also put considerable time and effort into this plan.

My staff and I thank you all. If you have questions or if you would like to review specific portions of the RMP, please contact the Hollister Area Manager at P.O. Box 365, Hollister, California 95024-0365, or by calling (408) 637-8183.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Rheiner, Jr.
District Manager

Enclosure

BLM CA ES 83 014 1792

RECORD OF DECISION

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE HOLLISTER PLANNING AREA
FRESNO, SAN BENITO, MONTEREY, MADERA, MERCED, STANISLAUS, SAN JOAQUIN, ALAMEDA, CONTRA COSTA, SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA, AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA

Prepared by
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield District

This document constitutes the Bureau's multiple use Resource Management Plan for 328,378 acres of public land in the Hollister Planning Area of California.

The Plan was selected after consideration of the alternatives described and analyzed in the Draft and Final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statements (RMP/EIS). The selected plan is Alternative 2 as modified in the Final RMP/EIS.

Ed Hastey
State Director, California
August 6, 1984

For further information contact:

David E. Howell
Hollister Resource Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 365
Hollister, California 95024-0365
Phone: (408) 637-8183

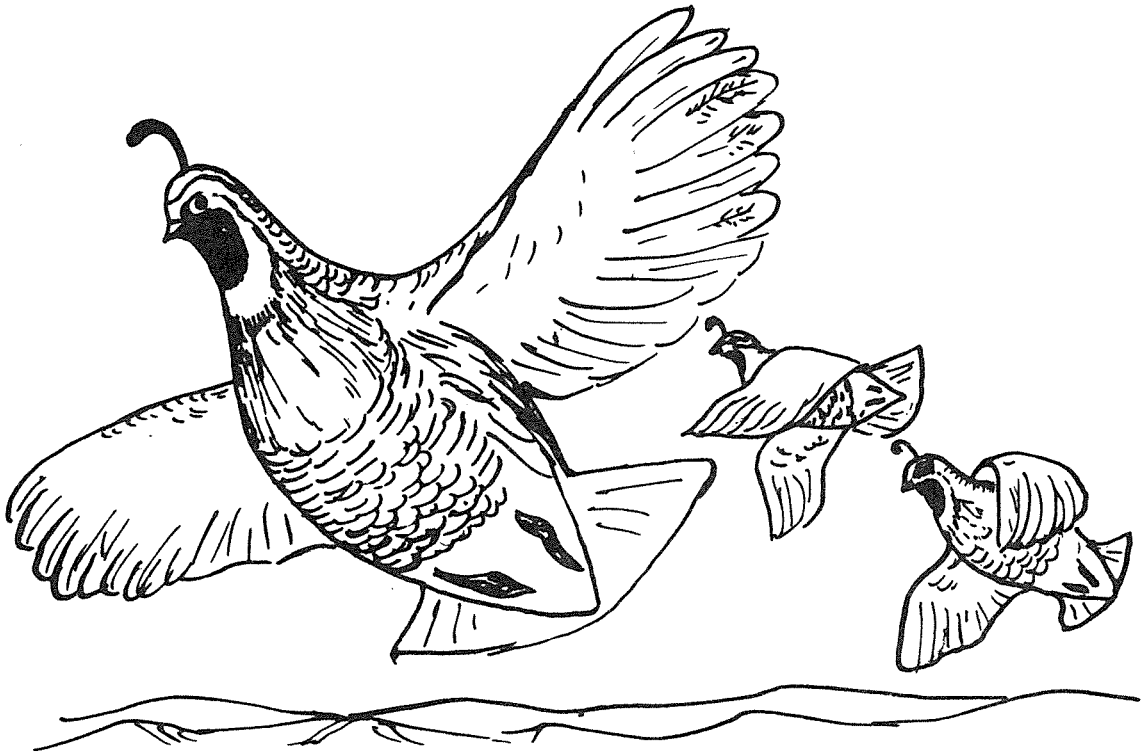


TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF MAPS

Summary

SUMMARY

Concerning Multiple-Use Resource Management on 328,378 acres of public land within the Hollister Planning Area.

For 16 Management Areas:

1. Monterey Bay
2. Gabilans/Diablo
3. Sierra de Salinas
4. Pinnacles
5. Call Mountain/Hernandez Valley
6. Panoche Hills
7. Griswold/Tumey Hills
8. Clear Creek/Condon Peak
9. Ciervo Hills/Joaquin Rocks
10. Coalinga Mineral Springs
11. Coalinga
12. Parkfield
13. Williams Hill
14. Central San Joaquin
15. Squaw Leap
16. South Bay

Dealing with 10 Issues/Resources:

A. Livestock Grazing (also see Rangeland Program Summary)

- Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.
- Establish grazing seasons of use in key areas.
- Manage grazing to provide 700 pounds of residual forage in areas of intensive management after grazing (I and larger M catgegory allotments).
- Allocate 11,801 AUM's for livestock forage in other M and C category allotments.
- Develop 9 new Allotment Management Plans for a total of 17.

B. Oil, Gas, and Minerals

- 320,629 acres would be open to mineral entry within environmental constraints.
- 7,749 acres would be withdrawn from (closed to) mineral entry to protect special resource values.
- 18,000 acres is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect significant paleontological resources.

C. Fire Management

- Prescribe burn 125,400 acres of overmature chaparral for the purposes of fuel hazard reduction, range improvement, watershed improvement and wildlife habitat improvement.

D. Recreation

- Improve recreation opportunities on 175,000 acres of public lands.
- Manage for intensive recreation use on 4 Special Recreation Management Areas.

E. Land Tenure

- Retain 313,270 acres of public land.
- Consolidate major public land holdings through exchange.
- Dispose of 15,108 acres of public land.

F. Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species

- 12,500 acres are designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect significant habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizard.
- 30,000 acres are designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect significant sensitive plant habitat (in conjunction with the ACEC listed under soil, air and water).

G. Soil, Air, and Water

- 30,000 acres are designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect important watershed values and because of asbestos-related health hazards.

H. Wildlife Habitat

- Develop 4 new Habitat Management Plans for a total of 6.

I. Visual Resources

- 1,800 acres are designated as a Class I Visual Area.
- 10,303 acres are designated as a Class II Visual Area.
- 144,866 acres are designated as a Class III Visual Area.
- 174,593 acres are designated as a Class IV Visual Area.

J. Cultural Resources

- Develop 4 new Cultural Resource Management Plans for a total of 5.

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

PLANNING PROCESS

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has developed a system of land use planning in order to manage the public lands on a sustained-yield basis for multiple-use purposes - that is, for the greatest benefit for the greatest number of people in the present and future generations, while maintaining environmental standards. The procedures under this system require that the Bureau:

1. Identify Major Issues/Management Concerns.
2. Develop Planning Criteria to guide the development of subsequent planning steps.
3. Conduct inventories and assemble additional data needs.
4. Analyze the Management Situation including current resource conditions and their ability to meet user needs.
5. Develop a range of Alternative Management Plans from production to protection.
6. Estimate the effects of each Alternative Plan.
7. Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
8. Prepare a Final Environmental Impact Statement and proposed plan.
9. Prepare a Record of Decision and selected plan.
10. Monitor the Resource Management Plan (RMP), and evaluate its continued effectiveness at least every 5 years.

Public involvement is an important part of this process, and must occur in at least five of the nine steps (issue identification, development of planning criteria, review of the draft and final environmental impact statements, and any plan amendment resulting from monitoring the plan). During the development of the Hollister Resource Management Plan data and information on resources and resource values were requested from other governmental bodies, as well as from private citizens and special interest groups. In addition, opinions on management decisions for public lands were also requested.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

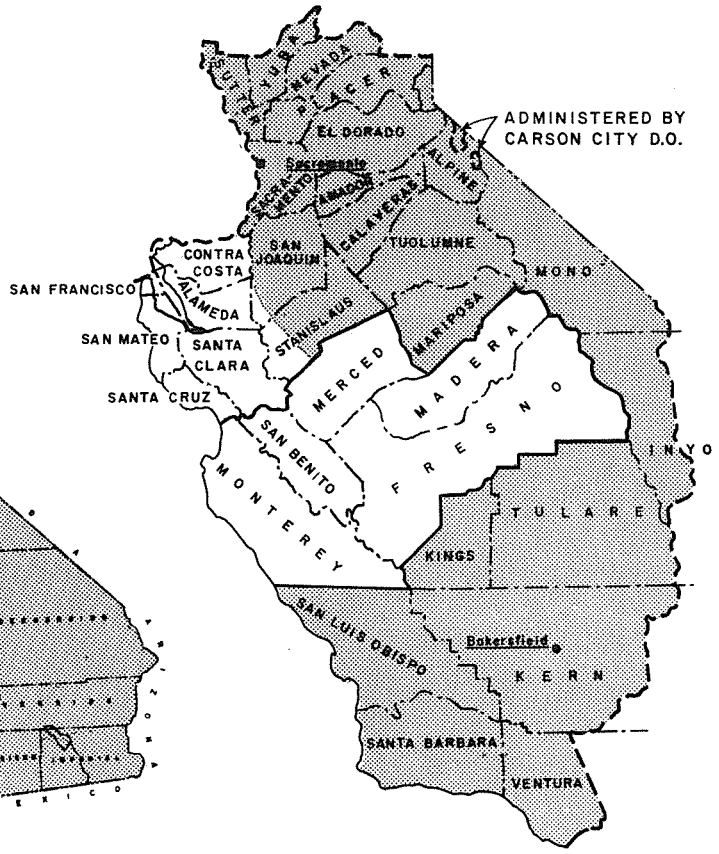
The purpose of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) is to guide future multiple-use management of public lands in the Hollister Planning Area. The objective is to maintain or improve the condition of public land resources in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The need for this document evolves from the general need to establish programs for improving public land resources. For instance, many of the chaparral areas in the Planning Area are producing forage below their potential, while wildlife habitat in annual grasslands has been degraded. These and other resource problems have established the need for a sound resource management program to improve range condition, meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production, provide and/or improve resource values through fire management, provide and improve the availability of recreation opportunities, make land tenure adjustments to meet public demands and needs, and maintain social and economic stability of dependent public land users.

HOLLISTER PLANNING AREA

General Location

CALIFORNIA and the
BAKERSFIELD DISTRICT



BAKERSFIELD DISTRICT and the
HOLLISTER PLANNING AREA

Map 1

PLAN STRUCTURE

The RMP is based on an areal approach to land use planning and decision making. That is, management decisions focus on discrete areas that can be separated on the basis of similar issues, problems, resources, or management needs. These "management areas" will, in most cases, be the geographic basis for the development or maintenance of resource activity plans. These plans will guide the management of a particular resource or combination of resources in that management area and will be oriented to "site-specific," on-the-ground management.

The RMP is basically divided into two sections. The first, covering the entire Planning Area, describes physical features, significant resources, management concerns or issues, policies, goals, and planning decisions that apply across the board to the entire Planning Area. This section also contains a brief rationale for selection of the chosen alternative. The second section covering the 16 Management Areas, provides a brief description of each Management Area (MA) and a discussion of significant resources, management concerns or issues, policies, management goals, resource management decisions and rationale specific to that MA. Each MA's specific section also includes support needs necessary to implement each decision.

INCORPORATION OF OTHER PLANS

Management decisions in the RMP reaffirm and incorporate a number of decisions from past land use plans and activity plans. These plans are on file and available for review at the Hollister Resource Area Office.

Prior land use plans in the Planning Area consist of the Fresno/San Benito Management Framework Plan (MFP) completed in 1978 and the Monterey MFP completed in 1974. The Fresno/San Benito MFP analyzed various management alternatives similar to the RMP process. It resulted in specific management decisions on a Management Area basis. The Monterey MFP was more general, done on a planning area basis. Because of the validity of the existing MFP for the Fresno/San Benito portion (approximately two-thirds of the public land in the Planning Area), major emphasis was placed on the Monterey County portion and the other areas with no prior planning.

Public lands in the Planning Area are presently being reviewed for wilderness suitability under a process separate from this RMP (Draft EIS for preliminary wilderness recommendations for Central California Study Areas, 1982). Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) under review in the Planning Area include:

Panoche Hills South, CA-040-301A	-	6,677 acres
Panoche Hills North, CA-040-301B	-	11,267 acres
Pinnacles Wilderness Contiguous, CA-040-303	-	5,838 acres

Wilderness consideration for these units is confined to the Central California Wilderness Study effort, and wilderness management decisions for these units will be consistent with those developed through the wilderness study effort.

The watershed area (2,200 acres) of the Pinnacles Wilderness Contiguous WSA (which is being studied under Section 202 of FLPMA, since the individual parcels are less than 5,000 acres in size) was recommended suitable for wilderness designation in the draft Central California EIS. The preliminary Final Wilderness EIS is undergoing administrative review and will be finalized at a later date by the Secretary of the Interior. Until Congress makes wilderness decisions on these areas, management of the Wilderness Study Areas will be constrained by the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review (December, 1979).

USE OF THE PLAN

The Hollister RMP provides policies, goals, and objectives which are developed to guide long-range as well as day-to-day land use decisions. The plan will be used to assess current authorizations and actions to insure conformance with the plan, and to establish schedules for bringing nonconforming uses into conformance.

The RMP will be used to screen actions initiated by the private sector and/or other agencies to determine whether they may be permitted. Actions not in conformance will have to be modified, or the plan amended, before they will be authorized.

The RMP, through specific decisions and identified support needs, will be the basis for the development of annual budgeting requests. On-the-ground developments, including activity plans, will be prioritized and, based on budget constraints, the implementation sequence and associated time frames will be determined.

A more detailed section on decisions and priorities for implementation is contained in Appendix 1.

AMENDMENT PROCESS

A monitoring plan will be developed which will guide the periodic evaluation of the RMP (at least every 5 years). This evaluation will determine whether planning goals are being met and the need for a plan amendment or update. Plan amendments will involve those actions which are clearly outside the scope of the plan and will require the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement depending on the extent and nature of the action. In all cases there will be full public involvement. Plan updates will be a regular and routine part of the implementation process. Appendix 1 contains a more detailed section on monitoring.

Land Use Decisions

for the Entire Planning Area

LAND USE DECISIONS FOR THE ENTIRE PLANNING AREA

LOCATION OF THE PLANNING AREA

The Hollister Planning Area (PA) is in central California and encompasses 328,378 acres of public lands (and an additional 443,806 acres of subsurface or mineral estate) in 12 counties within the Hollister and Folsom Resource Areas (see Map 1).

It is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean, Los Padres National Forest (Monterey Ranger District), and Fort Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, and on the east by the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests. The Planning Area encompasses both the Central Coast Range and Sierra Nevada foothills as well as the Salinas, Santa Clara, and San Joaquin Valleys. Also included is the Pinnacles National Monument - the only representative of the central California chaparral type in the National Park system. The Planning Area is further subdivided into 16 Management Areas (MAs) based on common features, problems, and/or management needs (see Map 2). About two-thirds of the PA consists of chaparral and oak woodland vegetation. About one-third (primarily the eastern slopes of the Diablo Range and the southern Salinas Valley) consists of annual grassland and half-shrub vegetation. The terrain is typically steep and mountainous. Elevations range from near sea level to over 5,000 feet.

RESOURCES OF THE PLANNING AREA

Livestock Grazing

Within the Planning Area there are 143 grazing leases, most of which are cattle operations. Each year 31,720 AUMs are leased for grazing on 243,782 acres of public lands.

The forage produced is primarily annual grasses and forbs that grow during the cool wet season of the year (winter-spring). Annual production has ranged from a low of 177 pounds per acre under no grazing to a high of 3,000 pounds per acre left after grazing.

Management of annual rangelands is distinctly different from management of perennial rangelands. Key management strategies are based on establishment of residual mulch levels and seasons of use where appropriate.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

The Planning Area is currently open to mineral exploration and development with the exception of 9,078 acres.

Federal oil and gas production is occurring in three locales: western Fresno County in the fields surrounding Coalinga, southern Monterey County near San Ardo and Hames Valley, and east central San Benito County in the Vallecitos area.

The only locatable mineral production occurring has been asbestos in the Clear Creek area of southern San Benito County. A total of 1,442 mining claims in

the Planning Area were on record with BLM as of February 14, 1983. Saleable mineral production of building stone occurs in the Williams Hill area of southern Monterey County.

Paleontological Resources

Within the Planning Area, the Panoche, Griswold, Tumey and Ciervo Hills contain fossil-bearing deposits of significant paleontological value. These fossils are of terrestrial and aquatic life forms from the Upper Cretaceous, Oligocene, and Miocene epochs.

Recreation

Total annual recreation use in the Planning Area is estimated at 376,000 visitor hours, with about half of this attributed to off-road vehicles (ORVs) and one-third to hunting.

In addition to hunting and ORV use, public lands supply many other types of recreation, including rockhounding, camping, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, sightseeing, birdwatching, fishing, swimming, and others.

A major concern voiced throughout the planning process is that recreation opportunities on public lands should be maintained and expanded. At the same time it is expected that the Bureau must have the ability to control unauthorized activities, including trespass onto private lands.

Within the Planning Area, recreation opportunities are also provided on the Los Padres, Sierra, and Stanislaus National Forests; Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks, and Pinnacles National Monument; Fort Hunter Liggett; Henry Coe State Park; Coalinga Mineral Springs County Park; San Antonio, Pine Flat, and San Luis Reservoirs; Millerton Lake State Park; East Bay Regional Parks; Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area; Frank Raines County Park; and numerous other federal, state, regional, local, and private facilities.

Land Tenure

The Planning Area encompasses 328,278 acres of public lands (and an additional 443,806 acres having Federal mineral interests) in 12 counties in which public land ranges from 0% (Alameda County) to 12.6% (San Benito County). The public lands are concentrated in southern San Benito, western Fresno, and central and southeastern Monterey counties. Public lands occur in a scattered pattern throughout the remainder of the Planning Area.

Substantial acreage of federal mineral interests occur in most counties with the exception of limited occurrence in San Mateo, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties.

There are 123,963 acres currently classified for multiple-use management (C&MU) in the Planning Area.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered (RTE) Species

There are nine species of RTE animals known or likely to occur in the Planning Area. The most notable are the San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizard which occur along the margins of San Joaquin Valley.

There are 45 species of sensitive plants known to occur in the Planning Area. Many are annual herbs, some are perennial herbs or shrubs.

Soil, Air, and Water

Seventeen soil associations occur on public lands in the Planning Area. Within these associations there are hundreds of soil types. Most soils on public land are divided into two general types (Central Coast Range and Sierra Nevada foothills).

Soils of the Central Coast Range support an annual grassland community on warm sites. Foothill woodland grades into chaparral on cool sites at lower elevations, and at higher elevations chaparral grades into the yellow pine forest. Soils of the Sierra Nevada foothills support an annual grassland grading into foothill woodland at the lower elevations, with chaparral grading into the yellow pine forest at the higher elevations.

Fresno, Merced, Madera and Stanislaus counties are located in the Central Valley Air Basin. Air quality is generally good above the 1,500-foot elevation. Pollutants are generated from auto emissions, industry, and agriculture occurring on the valley floor.

Monterey and San Benito counties are located in the North Central Coast Air Basin. Air quality for the counties is generally good and above 1,500 feet is very good.

Water availability and quality varies greatly within the Planning Area. Eastern Madera and Fresno counties provide good quality water from a few major perennial streams. Western Fresno, San Benito, Monterey, Merced and Stanislaus counties have very few perennial streams and springs of good quality water. Ground water information is lacking in some areas.

Springs and seeps occurring in these hills generally contain high concentrations of dissolved solids, including magnesium, sulfate, sodium, and calcium. Small reservoirs, guzzlers and elaborate water distribution systems provide water for livestock and wildlife.

Wildlife Habitat

The Planning Area contains approximately 300 species of wildlife including numerous birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Only key species and their habitats are accounted for in management actions and are given consideration in the RMP. These species include those of economic interest such as deer, wild pigs, and upland game including California quail and chukar partridge; and sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species.

The Planning Area supports portions of eight deer herds. The major deer herds on public lands are the Santa Lucia, San Benito, and Avenal herds. All are considered resident herds (nonmigratory, except for short distances).

It is estimated that current deer populations are probably half of what they could be with a continuing program of brush manipulation.

There is an estimated population of 3,000 wild pigs on public lands in the Planning Area. Hunting for pigs has become extremely popular.

The California quail can be found throughout the area on public lands from annual grasslands to the chaparral. Populations on public lands are generally highest in the Panoche Hills area. Chukar partridge are restricted for the most part to annual grassland areas on the east side of the Diablo Range (Panoche Hills area). Quail and chukar populations are subject to wide annual fluctuations, depending mainly on rainfall.

The Panoche and New Idria National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Areas (NCLWMAs) were established by Public Land Orders in the early 1960s. The major emphasis on habitat management in the Planning Area has been in these locations as well as the Squaw Leap Management Area and more recently the Laguna Mountain and Coalinga Mineral Springs areas. Habitat management in these areas is a cooperative effort involving the California Department of Fish and Game and various sportsmen's groups. Although game species are usually emphasized for management purposes, habitat diversity has been the overall goal in these areas.

Visual Resources

In general, public lands appear very similar to surrounding private lands and other lands in the region. In most of the Planning Area, the scattered public lands are a small portion of the overall landscape. Few public lands have outstanding visual quality. Areas where visual resources are particularly important are the public lands adjacent to the Pinnacles and Ventana Wilderness Areas and those highly visible from Interstate 5 and Highway 101.

Cultural Resources

In the Hollister Planning Area over 6,048 acres (1.8% of public land acreage) have been surveyed to BLM Class III Inventory standards. At least 90 archaeological sites are recorded, of which 53 are of National Register quality (33 are located in two archaeological districts).

While some sites are known to date from historic, protohistoric, and late prehistoric times, earlier periods are undoubtedly present (virtually no excavation has taken place on public lands in the Planning Area).

Site types include small and large occupation sites with midden, temporary camp sites, rock shelters, rock art/ceremonial sites, bedrock mortars, lithic scatters, and historic mining and homestead sites.

Native American Values

Native American interests throughout the Planning Area generally revolve around the protection of Indian burials and access to cemeteries.

Throughout the Planning Area, there is a notable lack of good contemporary research. In particular, data are lacking for the Costanoan, Esselen, and

Salinan groups. The Sierran groups live in association with rancherias (trust lands) and as such the perpetuation of traditional activities for the Miwok, Mono and Yokut is more apparent.

The Squaw Leap Management Area is utilized for gathering of vegetation and spiritual purposes by nearby Native American groups.

Vegetation

The western portion of the Planning Area contains valley grassland and half-shrub communities at lower elevations, and chaparral, oak woodland, and conifer communities at the higher elevations.

The valley grassland and half-shrub plant communities are located mainly in the Panoche, Griswold, Tumey, and Ciervo Hills between 600 and 2,500 feet and support annual grasses with many herbs such as filaree and fiddleneck. Common shrub species include saltbush, Mexican tea, golden bush, buckwheat, coastal sage, and some California juniper at higher elevations.

Plant communities including chaparral, foothill woodland (or oak woodland), and conifer forest dominate from 2,500 to 5,000 feet in elevation.

The chaparral has two major subtypes - chamise and mixed chaparral. Chamise chaparral is almost entirely chamise with some digger pines occurring scattered in favorable locations. Mixed chaparral contains chamise, digger pine, manzanita, buckbrush, red berry, silk-tassel, mountain mahogany, California buckeye, interior live oak, and scrub oak.

The foothill woodland or oak woodland commonly consists of open park-like stands of blue oak with an annual grass and herb understory (oak savannah).

The conifer forest occurs in only a few locations on public land. This is on San Benito Mountain and on the high ridges near Laguna Mountain (Management Areas 5 and 8).

The eastern portion of the Planning Area (the Sierran foothills) falls mainly into the foothill woodland or oak woodland type with many of the above-mentioned plant species also occurring here. Small areas of commercial timber (yellow pine forest) also occur in locations adjacent to National Forest lands.

Social and Economic

Current resource production on public lands is not significant in relation to the overall economy. A few industries and individuals are economically dependent on public lands. Thirty-six livestock operators in the Planning Area (25% of the lessees) are dependent on public lands for more than 10% of their forage production. The Picacho Store in southern San Benito County derives a substantial portion of its business from Clear Creek recreationists. Union Carbide's asbestos mine is also dependent on public lands in the Clear Creek area. One small building supply company is dependent on flagstone extracted from public land in the Williams Hill area.

Public lands will continue to be particularly significant in supplying recreational opportunities for hunters and ORV enthusiasts.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES/GOALS

The following issues and goals are addressed by this Resource Management Plan. These issues and goals incorporate legal, policy, and regulatory constraints. They have guided and will continue to guide the RMP process.

Livestock Grazing

Issue: What will be the level of range use and development?

Goal:

- Provide a sustained yield for forage to meet demand while maintaining the productivity of the land.
- Increase forage productivity on lands producing below their potential through improved management and cost efficient development.
- Provide sufficient habitat for wildlife species and give emphasis to improving key habitats.
- Protect habitat necessary to sustain populations of rare, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

Oil, Gas and Minerals

Issue: How will oil, gas, and mineral areas be managed?

Goal:

- Determine oil, gas, and mineral occurrences in the Planning Area and establish guidelines for management of these resources to meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production.

Fire Management

Issue: How will fire be managed to protect and improve resources?

Goal:

- Establish a fire management program which is cost-efficient and commensurate with threats to life, property, public safety, and resources.
- Establish guidelines for fire management in order to meet resource objectives.

Recreation

Issue: What recreation opportunities will be provided?

Goal:

- Provide recreational opportunities in response to public demands.

- Protect other resource values such as cultural resources and habitat for sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species.

- Minimize conflicts with adjacent property owners and among user groups.

Land Tenure

Issue: What will be the priorities for adjustments in land ownership to meet public demand and to support resource management goals and administrative needs?

Goal: - Establish guidelines for land ownership adjustments and special land uses to meet public needs and to facilitate management efficiency.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species

Issue: How will habitats be maintained and/or improved for sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species?

Goal: - Protect and/or improve habitat necessary to recover populations of sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Soil, Air and Water (Watershed)

Issue: How will watersheds be managed to maintain or enhance water quality, water quantity, and soil productivity?

Goal: - Increase water availability to meet resource needs.

- Maintain/enhance water quality.

- Maintain/enhance soil productivity.

Wildlife Habitat

Issue: Where, what kind, and how much habitat will be provided for wildlife species?

Goal: - Provide sufficient habitat for wildlife species and give emphasis to maintaining or improving certain key habitats.

Visual Resources

Issue: How will the visual resource be managed to protect the scenic quality of public lands?

Goal: - Maintain and/or enhance the scenic quality of the public lands.

Cultural Resources

Issue: What direction will be provided for the inventory, management, and interpretation of cultural resources?

Goal: - Ensure that cultural resources of high scientific, interpretive, or sociocultural significance are not destroyed by other land uses.

In addition to the issue-specific goals, the overall goal of the Hollister Resource Management Plan is to maximize all resource potentials with mitigation for protection of environmental quality such as water quality, archaeological resources, wildlife habitat, etc.

PLANNING AREA POLICIES

The following general policy statements and standard operating procedures apply to the entire planning area:

- Lands will be acquired or exchanged in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and other applicable federal laws and regulations to assure more efficient management of the public lands, to reduce conflicts with other public and private landowners, and to provide more consistency and logic in land use patterns within the Hollister Planning Area. Public lands identified in the future for possible sale or exchange will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If they meet specific sale or exchange regulation requirements, they may be determined suitable for sale or exchange.

- The public lands identified for potential disposal are those that have been screened and considered for disposal to promote management efficiency. All public lands within the Planning Area can be disposed of if they meet the disposal criteria of FLPMA, other federal laws and regulations, and would not jeopardize management objectives (i.e., disposal would have to be in conformance with the management objectives of the plan). Disposal proposals not in conformance would be subject to the amendment process.

- Public lands will be managed for the protection and enhancement of sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species. All known or potential habitat will be evaluated prior to implementing actions which may affect them. Consultations in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will be conducted if appropriate.

- Before implementation of surface-disturbing projects, including range developments and vegetation manipulations, cultural resources will be inventoried and evaluated, and attempts will be made to avoid adverse impacts to National Register eligible sites, when feasible. Consultation will be made with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), as necessary, to develop acceptable mitigation strategies, in accordance with the Rangeland Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement of January 14, 1980, between the BLM, the ACHP, and the National Conference of SHPOs.

Conflicts will be resolved in accordance with 36 CFR 800 and as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Native American Heritage Commission, the SHPO, and the BLM.

- Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) will be managed under the Interim Management Policy (IMP) until Congress designates wilderness areas or until nonsuitable WSAs are released.

- Visual impacts will not exceed limits imposed for the area's designated VRM class.

- The use of volunteers will be maximized for recreation visitor services and project implementation.

- Persons may camp within designated campgrounds or on undeveloped public lands not closed to camping within the Hollister Resource Area for a total period of not more than fourteen days during any three-month period. The fourteen-day limit may be reached either through a number of separate visits or through a period of continuous occupation of the public lands. Camping or occupancy longer than fourteen days is not allowed, unless authorized by law. Under special circumstances and upon request, the authorized officer may give written permission for extension to the fourteen-day limit. Camping is defined as living in tents, vans, recreational vehicles, or shelters such as cabins, huts, shacks, or lean-tos. Occupancy is defined as the taking or holding possession of a camp or residence on public land.

- Special emphasis will be placed on resolution of unauthorized uses of public lands. Increased coordination will be made with local, state and other federal law enforcement agencies.

- Construction of fences in wildlife use areas will meet BLM specifications to permit the movement of identified wildlife.

- Livestock watering developments will be available and safe for wildlife needs, as identified.

- Spring developments will generally be fenced to prevent trampling by livestock.

- All surface-disturbing activities will be controlled, planned, and designed to minimize erosion.

- Prescribed burns will be conducted to provide mosaic patterns of vegetation to protect soil, watershed and wildlife (especially mature chaparral dwellers).

- Range improvement burning will be conducted on a 10 to 20-year rotation and fuels reduction burns on a 20 to 30-year rotation. For wildlife burns, ideally 5 to 7 percent of an area (45 acres per square mile) would be burned annually over a 10-year rotation period. In reality, weather, funding, and scheduling may dictate 20 to 30 percent every three to five years.

- Consistency with state fire and air pollution laws will be maintained within Department regulations and Bureau policy. Acceptable burn days will be determined in coordination with state and local agencies.

- Consistency with County General Plans and zoning will be maintained within Department regulations and Bureau policy.

- Adjustments to grazing use levels will not be made unless monitoring indicates a need for change or a mutual agreement with the grazing lessee can be reached.

- Travel on unsurfaced roads will be restricted in wet weather to the extent possible.

- All roads not required for administrative purposes or public use should be closed and rehabilitated.

- The Bureau will file for state appropriative water rights for all existing and any new surface water facilities on which any federal funding has been expended in the development, construction, or maintenance of the water facility.

  Filing will be either solely in the name of the BLM or as a coholder with the permittee or lessee making beneficial use of the water. In addition, the Bureau will assert federal reserved water rights for the amounts and uses necessary to accomplish the purposes for which the lands have been withdrawn.

- Private individuals may appropriate unappropriated water on unreserved lands for use on or off the public lands. The appropriation must be in accordance with state laws and consistent with multiple use management of the public lands. Private individuals may also use reserved water when water is available and the proposed use is compatible with the purposes of the reservation and other multiple use management guidelines. Rights-of-way are necessary when water from any source is conveyed across public land.

- Protection or enhancement of riparian areas will be given consideration in all activity plan development.

- The BLM recognizes that public lands are an important source of the Nation's mineral and energy resources, some of which are critical and strategic. Public lands will be made available for orderly and efficient development of these resources under principles of balanced multiple use management.

In addition to the above policies, requests and/or proposals from other agencies and the private sector are to be evaluated according to the degree to which they:

- Maintain, enhance, or promote the social well-being of the individuals, families, and communities in the area; help to preserve those social, economic, and environmental elements determined important by residents of the Planning Area.

- Provide for land tenure or use actions which will allow for improved federal land management and meet national, state, and local needs.

- Meet BLM management objectives and policies of maintaining and providing sustained yield of vegetation for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses.

- Meet user demands for goods and services from public land, within constraints of multiple-use management.

- Are responsive to the resolution of public issues and management concerns.

PLANNING AREA DECISIONS

The following decisions apply to the entire Planning Area:

- All lands not identified for disposal through this land use plan are identified for retention. They will be considered on a case-by-case basis for exchange or disposal per FLPMA. Lands identified for retention are considered as unsuitable for entry under any of the agricultural land laws because of significant multiple-use values.

- The Resource Management Plan replaces the multiple use classification (C&MU) covering certain public lands in the Planning Area. A full range of land uses will be considered/evaluated on a case-by-case basis within the constraints of the plan.

- Requests for rights-of-way or construction of utility sites and related facilities outside of designated or established corridors will be considered on a case-by-case basis (this will include additional costs for appropriate mitigation).

- All mineral exploration, development, and production will be considered within environmental and multiple-use management constraints. A withdrawal will be initiated to effect locatable mineral segregations on lands specified in individual management areas. A full analysis of the impacts of such a proposal will be made subsequent to the RMP to determine if establishment of a protective withdrawal is necessary. The withdrawal would become effective concurrently upon termination of the existing C&MU mineral segregation.

- Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class 4 standards will apply to all MAs unless otherwise stated.

- Boundary posting and visitor use patrols will be initiated in recreation areas concurrent with access development and/or enhancement. BLM will cooperate with adjacent private landowners to the extent possible.

- Woodcutting permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Commercial woodcutting may be considered to meet special management needs.

- The use of check dams or other erosion control structures will be used, where practical, to decrease erosion resulting from management activities.

- Prescribed burning may increase livestock forage (base AUMs) within one to three years depending on success of the burn. Livestock use will be dependent upon yearly monitoring and residual mulch requirements, and upon available forage each year after burning. Increases in livestock use will not be granted in areas where burning for wildlife habitat improvement is the primary objective.

- Prescribed burning during the spring (April through June) will be kept to a minimum.

- Brush crushing, "high-blading," and/or fireline construction (mechanical preburn site preparation) will be performed when soil and fuel moisture levels are low enough to prevent undue surface (soil) disturbance and to maximize pretreatment objectives.

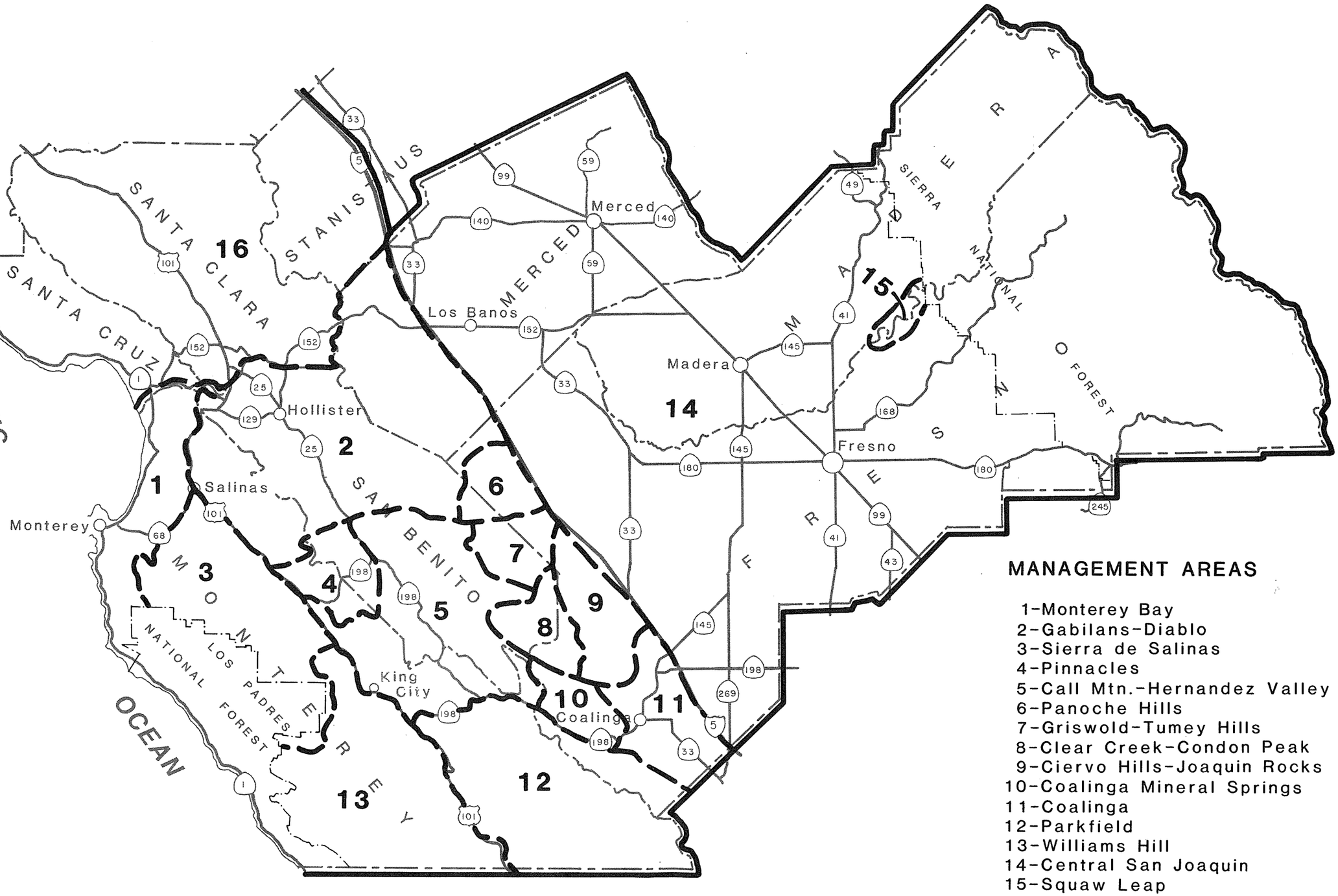
Rationale For The Selected Alternative

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) selected, which is Alternative 2 as modified, was chosen after consideration of the alternatives described and analyzed in the Draft and Final RMP/EIS.

Each alternative was evaluated with particular emphasis on the significant issues involved.

The RMP represents a commitment to continuation of present management with some modification. Therefore, the RMP reflects and reaffirms many decisions from existing plans. All decisions were developed with respect to how well they met management goals outlined on pages 10-12 and the spirit of the concept of multiple use as defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Specific policies and decisions have been made part of the plan to help achieve its stated goals.



Planning Area Boundary

Individual Management Areas

MANAGEMENT AREAS

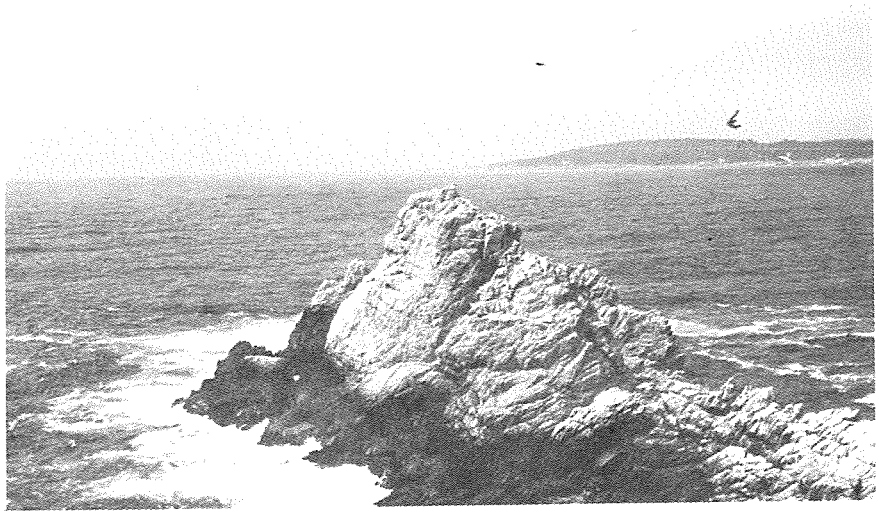
1-Monterey Bay
2-Gabilans-Diablo
3-Sierra de Salinas
4-Pinnacles
5-Call Mtn.-Hernandez Valley
6-Panoche Hills
7-Griswold-Tumey Hills
8-Clear Creek-Condon Peak
9-Ciervo Hills-Joaquin Rocks
10-Coalinga Mineral Springs
11-Coalinga
12-Parkfield
13-Williams Hill
14-Central San Joaquin
15-Squaw Leap
16-South Bay

HOLLISTER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
Map-2

Land Use Decisions

by Management Area

MONTEREY BAY



LAND USE DECISIONS BY MANAGEMENT AREA

MONTEREY BAY (MANAGEMENT AREA 1)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area (MA) is located in Monterey County, inclusive of U.S. territorial waters off its shoreline. It contains 1.6 acres of public lands (without public access) situated in agricultural lands near Castroville, and all unreserved offshore islands, rocks, and pinnacles.

The only onshore public land is surrounded by agricultural production, primarily artichokes. It lies in the rich alluvial floodplain at the mouth of the Pajaro River.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: There is currently no mineral production occurring in the MA, although there are oil and gas leases. All mining claims are on lands with Federal mining interests only.

Land Tenure: There are 1.6 acres of public land in the MA (onshore). There are no authorized uses or pending applications. All offshore lands are included in the California Islands Wildlife Sanctuary (Public Land Order 6369).

Wildlife: Offshore rocks and islands are scattered along the precipitous central coast of California. They are small (less than one acre) but provide important nesting and loafing sites for marine birds and mammals.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Maintain the special habitat values associated with the offshore rocks and islands for marine birds and mammals.

Adjust land tenure to provide increased management efficiency and reduce unauthorized use of public lands (agricultural trespass).

Rationale

Offshore rocks and islands are used by the California brown pelican (endangered), peregrine falcon (endangered), and California sea otter (threatened). Maintenance of habitat values associated with these rocks and islands is consistent with the intent of management agreements entered into with the California Department of Fish and Game.

Public lands in the MA (1.6 acres onshore) have high agricultural value and are suitable for disposal.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

1. Retain all offshore islands.

2. Maintain the protective withdrawal for the California Islands Wildlife Sanctuary.

3. Dispose of the onshore parcel (1.6 acres).

Support Needs

1. Prepare Land Report/EA and appraisal to carry out identified disposal.

2

GABILANS/DIABLO

GABILANS/DIABLO (MANAGEMENT AREA 2)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area (MA) is located within portions of northeastern Monterey, northern San Benito, southern Merced and a tiny portion of western Fresno counties. It contains 15,401 acres of scattered public lands, varying in size from 40-acre parcels to several about 1,000 to 2,000 acres in size.

The predominant features of the MA are the Gabilan Range on the west and the Diablo Range on the east. The southern end of the Santa Clara Valley lies in the middle of the MA. The highest elevation in the Gabilan Range is Fremont Peak (elevation 3,465 feet). The highest elevations in the Diablo Range are Santa Ana Peak (elevation 3,626 feet), Laveaga Peak (elevation 3,801 feet) and Ortigalita Peak (elevation 3,305 feet). Characteristic vegetation in the western portion of the MA includes dense chaparral brush fields and oak woodland areas. Along the margins of the southern Santa Clara Valley and Panoche Valley annual grasslands are the predominant vegetation. Intermediate between the annual grasslands and chaparral/oak woodlands is a band of half-shrub vegetation consisting of black sage, California sagebrush, and buckwheat. Topography is steep in the mountainous areas cut by many intermittent drainages. The San Benito River flows through the Santa Clara Valley to join with the Pajaro River in the north end of the MA. The western slopes of the Gabilans drain into the Salinas River. The eastern portions of the MA drain into the San Joaquin Valley. The western portions of the MA receive as much as 30 or 40 inches of rain per year, while the eastern portions of the MA (near Panoche Valley) receive an average of six to eight inches.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: Of the 14 grazing leases in the area (total of 1,552 AUMs), two have significant acreage that is unsuitable for grazing. Three have acreage that is potentially suitable (covered by dense chaparral vegetation).

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: Much of the public land in the Management Area is under oil and gas lease. The Management Area encompasses economic resources of limestone-dolomite and sand and gravel. Undiscovered resources include geothermal near Ortigalita Peak, oil and gas, mercury, chromite, diatomite, and antimony.

Fire Management: Fire history records show that much of the chaparral in the Management Area is over 30 old. There have been no major wildfires in the Management Area in the past 20 years.

Recreation: All of the widely scattered public lands in the Management Area lack legal public access. Hunting use from adjacent private lands amounts to about 1,000 visitor hours per year, mostly from private hunting clubs.

Land Tenure: The public lands in the Management Area are scattered throughout northwestern Monterey, northern San Benito, southwestern Merced, and western Fresno counties with the exception of an area of concentrated public lands around Ortigalita Peak. Major right-of-way grants in the Management Area include two communication sites near the town of Chular.

Soils: The soils in the Gabilan Range are primarily in the Cieneba Sheridan association. These granitic-derived soils are generally low in fertility. The rest of the Management Area is primarily the Vallecitos Graviota association. These sandstone and shale-derived soils are low in fertility.

Cultural Resources: No National Register quality sites are recorded on public lands in the Management Area. Known sites are in fair to good condition. Primary conflicts are from road construction and unauthorized collection.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Livestock grazing in the MA will be managed on a mostly custodial basis, with forage allocations considering other resource needs.

Manage fire to provide, where possible, for maintenance or protection of other resources.

Provide recreation opportunities in the area while protecting other resources and minimizing conflicts with adjacent landowners and other users.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments, to meet various management needs in the area.

Rationale

Grazing leases in the MA consist mostly of small, scattered parcels of public land with limited opportunity for management or improvement.

Chaparral areas in the MA are mostly decadent and overmature constituting a high fire hazard. Vegetation in other portions of the area (bordering Panoche Valley) is more of a desert type and is not well adapted to the use of fire. Potential recreation opportunities are generally limited to the larger parcels near Ortigalita Peak.

The present scattered land pattern provides little opportunity for efficient management.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable areas only.

2. Consider prescribed burning for range improvement on a case-by-case basis.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Consider mineral exploration and development on a case-by-case basis.

2. Allow geothermal exploration and development in the Ortigalita Peak area.

Fire Management

1. Prescribe burn for fuel hazard reduction as established in the San Benito and Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plans.

2. Prescribe burn within chaparral types for hazard reduction. Initial efforts will be concentrated on the 1,000 acres identified in the County Burn Plans.

Recreation

1. Enhance hunting opportunities in the Ortigalita Peak area through consolidation of public lands (4,000 acres) and acquisition of public access.

2. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. Dispose of parcels identified for sale (5,940 acres).

2. Effect consolidation through exchange. Specifically consolidate public lands in the Ortigalita Peak and Panoche Hills.

3. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

Support Needs

1. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.

2. Develop project specific burn plans and EAs.

3. Acquire easements on three miles of road in the Ortigalita Peak area.

4. Prepare land Reports/EAs and appraisals to carry out identified land tenure workload.

5. Develop a recreation use plan (to include boundary identification, patrols, etc.) for the Ortigalita Peak Area.

3

SIERRA DE SALINAS

SIERRA DE SALINAS (MANAGEMENT AREA 3)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located entirely within Monterey County. It contains 18,363 acres of public lands, mostly located east of the Los Padres National Forest.

Public lands are characterized by very steep rugged mountains in the Sierra de Salinas Range which parallels the Santa Lucia Range to the west. To the west is Carmel Valley and on the east lies the Salinas Valley. Public lands adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest lie along the base and lower slopes of the Santa Lucia Range in Arroyo Seco Canyon, Reliz Canyon and the north end of the Ventana Wilderness. All are characterized by dense chaparral and some small areas of blue oak savannah. Permanent water sources consist of the Arroyo Seco River and the Carmel River. The Sierra de Salinas is deeply dissected by many intermittent drainages. The highest points in the Sierra de Salinas Range are Palo Escrito Peak (elevation 4,467 feet), Paloma Peak (elevation 3,970 feet) and Twin Peaks (elevation 3,985 feet). The area lies in a zone of coastal influence. Moist, marine air from the Salinas Valley often blankets all but the upper elevations in fog during the spring and summer months. Average rainfall is 15 to 25 inches per year depending on elevation and location.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: Of the four grazing leases in the area (total of 324 AUMs), all have significant acreage (59% of the total area under lease) that is unsuitable for grazing. Fourteen percent of the lease acreage is potentially suitable (covered by dense chaparral).

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: Some oil and gas leases occur in the Management Area. Extensive geophysical exploration has recently occurred in the Arroyo Seco area. Undiscovered resources include geothermal near Paraiso Hot Springs, oil and gas, limestone-dolomite, and sand and gravel.

Fire Management: Although a fuels management program was recently initiated in the Twin Peaks area, most of the brushfields in the area are probably in excess of 50 to 75 years old. A major wildfire is almost certain to occur and because of the heavy accumulation of fuel, will be very difficult to control (the Marblecone Fire burned 177,000 acres on the adjacent Los Padres National Forest in 1977).

Recreation: The Management Area receives about 2,000 visitor hours annually mostly from hunting clubs based on adjacent private property. Only parcels adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest have legal public access; however, even there, access is difficult due to steep terrain and dense vegetation.

Land Tenure: The public land in the Management Area lies mainly in several large blocks with some isolated scattered parcels. Several parcels are directly adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest. Major right-of-way grants include a communication site near Bear Mountain on lands contiguous to the Los Padres National Forest.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species: Two extremely rare species of sensitive plants may occur on public lands in the area. These are Lasthenia leptalea and Pentachaeta exilis aeolica. Several other sensitive plants are known to occur in the MA including Eriogonum nortonii (Pinnacles buckwheat) and Malacothamnus palermi involucratus (Carmel Valley bushmallow).

Soils: The soils of the main ridge of the Sierra de Salinas are of the Cieneba-Sheridan association. These soils are moderately deep with moderate fertility. The soils on the slopes of the Arroyo Seco are of the Santa Lucia-Gazos association. These shale derived soils have moderately high erosion susceptability. Fertility is moderate.

Watershed: The Sierra De Salinas Range is an important watershed area for the Salinas Valley. Management practices on public lands can impact important agricultural values.

Wildlife Habitat: Public lands in the Management Area provide habitat for the Santa Lucia deer herd. Habitat conditions are generally poor (on public lands) due to the thick overgrown chaparral brushfields.

Cultural Resources: No National Register quality sites are recorded on public lands in this Management Area. Significant National Register quality rock art sites are expected to occur. Fire management activities could cause some impacts to such sites.

Visual Resources: Scenery on public land is common to the region. Visual resources are most important on the Sierra de Salinas mountain range (which is visible from both Highway 101 and the Ventana Wilderness Area), and on parcels adjacent to the Ventana Wilderness Area.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Livestock grazing in the MA will be managed on a mostly custodial basis with forage allocations considering other resource needs.

Oil, gas and mineral resources will be managed to meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production.

Manage fire to provide a continuing program of fuel hazard reduction and to promote long-term watershed stability. Incorporate the management goals and objectives of adjacent private landowners and affected agencies in the management of public lands in the area.

Provide for recreation opportunities while protecting other resources, and minimizing conflicts with adjacent landowners.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Provide for protection/improvement of wildlife and RTE habitat, and of watershed conditions.

Maintain scenic quality (visual resources) in the area.

Rationale

Much of the public land in the MA occurs on steep slopes with shallow soils. These areas have very limited potential for improvement as far as livestock grazing.

Large expanses of decadent chaparral constitute a high fire hazard in the area. Extremely dense brush conditions make most of the area presently unuseable for many species of wildlife, particularly deer. Several species of sensitive plants are also fire dependent. Long-term watershed stability is jeopardized by the likelihood of a large, catastrophic wildfire. The large number of private landowners in the area will necessitate their involvement and cooperation in any large-scale fire management program for the area.

The two largest parcels of public land in the MA have no legal access, limiting management opportunities to meet demands for recreation and other public use. These are the largest presently nonaccessible parcels in the Planning Area.

The western portion of the MA is visible from within the Ventana Wilderness. The eastern portion is highly visible from Highway 101.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.

2. Prescribe burn approximately 1,000 acres of chaparral as identified in the Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plan.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Consider mineral development on a case-by-case basis.

2. Allow geothermal exploration and development in potential areas.

Fire Management

1. Prescribe burn approximately 12,500 acres for fuel hazard reduction as identified in the Fresno/Monterey Burn Plan.

2. Participate in the development of a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) to address fire management needs in the area.

Recreation

1. Enhance hunting opportunities in the two larger parcels of public land in the MA through consolidation (8,000 acres) and acquisition of public access.

2. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. Dispose of parcels identified for sale (80 acres).

2. Make lands available to the Los Padres National Forest as necessary for boundary adjustments.

3. Effect consolidation of larger public land holdings in the MA.

4. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

Wildlife Habitat

1. Develop a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) with emphasis on deer and wildlife habitat improvement and protection and/or enhancement of sensitive plants.

2. Prescribe burn approximately 5,000 acres to maintain uneven-aged brushfields.

Watershed

1. Allow no surface disturbance, e.g., no road or fireline construction on slopes in excess of 50%.

2. Prescribe burn to promote long-term watershed stability (See Fire Management).

Visual Resources

1. All actions must meet VRM Class 3 standards for the area.

2. Allow communication site installation where visual impacts can be substantially reduced or mitigated.

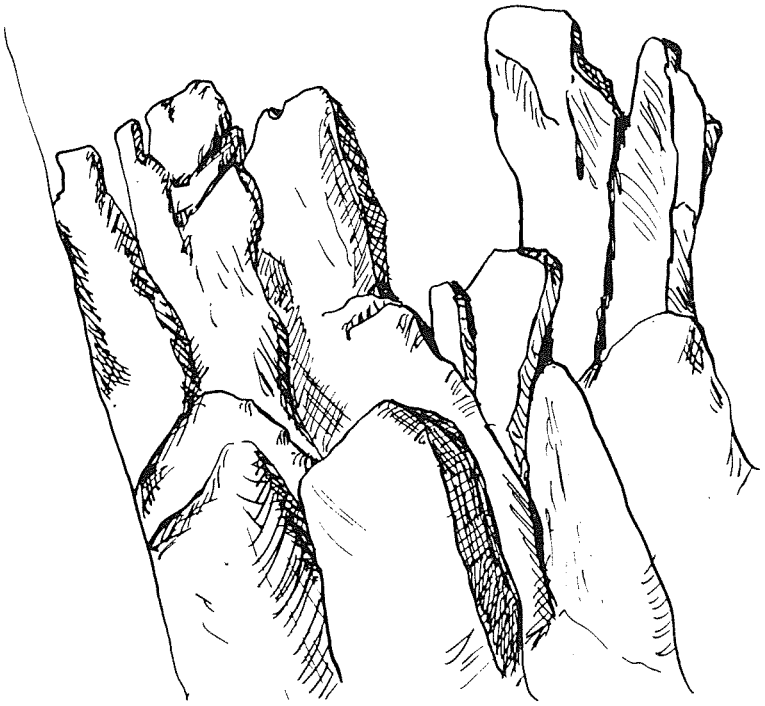
3. Limit dozer use on wildfires and prescribed burns where possible (action modification).

Support Needs

1. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.
2. Develop project-specific burn plans and EAs.
3. Develop a CRMP in cooperation with adjacent landowners, CDF, CDFG, SCS, USFS, Monterey County and other affected agencies.
4. Prepare land Reports/EAs and appraisals to carry out identified land tenure workload.
5. Acquire easements on 4.5 miles of road in the Paloma RIdge Area.
6. Prepare a recreation activity plan (to include boundary identification, patrols, facilities, etc.).
7. Develop an HMP, approximately 5 water developments, and a monitoring plan for sensitive plant species in the MA.
8. Develop fire suppression agreements with CDF.

4

PINNACLES



PINNACLES (MANAGEMENT AREA 4)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located in both Monterey and San Benito counties. It contains 13,156 acres of public lands located around Pinnacles National Monument.

The predominant features of the MA are the unique geologic formations contained within Pinnacles National Monument. Volcanic in origin, they were originally formed near Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Mountains. They have moved slowly northwest to their present location as a result of movement along the San Andreas fault. The highest elevations are North Chalone Peak (elevation 3,304 feet) and South Chalone Peak (elevation 3,269 feet). Annual average rainfall is approximately 16 inches.

Characteristic vegetation includes the chaparral and oak woodland and some areas of blue oak savannah. Topography is generally rolling to very steep. Chalone Creek is the major perennial drainage in the MA. Other major intermittent drainages in the northern and eastern portions of the MA flow via Bear Valley into Chalone Creek.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: Of the eight grazing leases in the area (a total of 791 AUMs), only one has significant land under lease that is unsuitable for grazing. Sixteen percent of the acreage under lease is potentially suitable for grazing.

Oil, Gas and Minerals: Oil and gas leases occur in the Management Area, however, there are no mining claims presently on record. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, copper, mercury, gold, silver, molybdenum, uranium, diatomite and limestone-dolomite. The area is considered sensitive to the development of mineral resources due to the proximity of lands to the Pinnacles National Monument.

Fire Management: This area has been the center of much of the controlled and prescribed burning activity in the Resource Area. In recent years the National Park Service at Pinnacles National Monument has also initiated a prescribed burning program. Most of the area adjacent to the Monument and north of La Gloria Road has been burned in a wildfire or prescribed burn in the last 10 years. The area also has a history of large wildfires due to very erratic and unpredictable winds.

Recreation: Public lands in the Management Area lack public access except for parcels adjacent to Pinnacles National Monument, a designated Wilderness Area. Access to these parcels is available only through the Monument. Hunting use by the general public is largely precluded even on these accessible parcels because National Monument regulations currently prohibit transport of firearms. Visitor use is estimated at 2,000 visitor hours per year (primarily hunting by clubs from adjacent private property). Conflicts between hunters and private landowners occur, particularly along Highway 146 and La Gloria Road, where hunters cross private land to reach nearby public lands.

Land Tenure: The public lands in the Management Area are in west central San Benito and east central Monterey counties. All lands are adjacent or in proximity to Pinnacles National Monument.

Soils: The areas north of Pinnacles are primarily of the Cieneba Sheridan and Ahwahnee Vista associations. The soils to the west and south are Cieneba Sheridan and Rough Broken Rockland association.

Cultural Resources: No National Register quality sites are recorded on public lands in this Management Area. Existing sites are in poor to fair condition. Fire management activities and unauthorized collection are primary conflicts.

Visual Resources: Visual resources are important in this Management Area because most public lands are near to and visible from Pinnacles National Monument, a designated Wilderness Area. Scenery on public land is not outstanding and is common to the region.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Most livestock grazing in the MA, with the exception of a few larger Maintain (M) category allotments, will be managed on a custodial basis. Forage allocations will consider other resource uses.

Mining activity will be constrained to protect significant resource values in the area.

Manage fire to provide for maintenance and protection of resources, specifically for fuel hazard reduction, range improvement and maintenance of natural processes in association with the existing Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and Pinnacles National Monument.

Manage public lands adjacent to Pinnacles National Monument in a way that is compatible with National Park Service wilderness management.

Cooperate with the National Park Service and adjacent landowners to enhance recreation opportunities on adjacent public lands.

Rationale

The majority of the leases in the MA consist of small parcels of public land with limited opportunity for management. The larger M category allotments have a better potential for cost-effective maintenance of forage production.

Significant visual and wilderness values associated with the WSA and the National Monument could be easily impacted by mining activity.

The area's past history of large wildfires will necessitate a continuing program of fuel hazard reduction through the use of fire to minimize the potential impacts of wildfire suppression on sensitive visual and wilderness values.

Public lands adjacent to the Monument are presently unavailable for hunting opportunities although legal public access does exist. If these lands were accessible for hunting, even on a limited basis, an opportunity could be provided to the members of the hunting public interested in a specialized type of hunting experience. The incidence of trespass across private lands to reach public lands might also be reduced.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.

2. Exclude livestock grazing from the watershed area of the Pinnacles National Monument (see proposed mineral withdrawal on Map 3).

3. Prescribe burn approximately 4,000 acres of chaparral as identified in the San Benito County Burn Plan.

4. Manage to leave 700 pounds of mulch per acre after grazing on the larger M category allotments and establish seasons of use where appropriate (November 1 to May 30).

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Withdraw 2,200 acres in the Pinnacles watershed area from locatable mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law.

2. Consider mineral development elsewhere in the MA on a case-by-case basis.

Fire Management

1. Develop a joint wilderness fire management plan to include parcels adjacent to the National Monument.

2. Prescribe burn approximately 5,000 acres for fuel hazard reduction as identified in the San Benito and Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plans.

Recreation

1. Hunting access will be considered for possible future implementation in cooperation with the NPS, private landowners, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Forestry. In the interim, develop a cooperative agreement with the NPS to enhance hiking opportunities on adjacent parcels of public lands, consistent with the Pinnacles National Monument Master Plan.

2. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. Retain all public lands adjacent to the Pinnacles National Monument.

2. Consolidate scattered, non-adjacent parcels through exchange wherever possible.

3. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

Visual Resources

1. All actions must meet VRM Class 2 standards within the watershed area, Class 3 elsewhere in the MA.

2. Permit no use of dozers within the watershed area of the Monument (see proposed mineral withdrawal, Map 3).

3. Permit no new road construction for oil and gas exploration or development within the watershed area.

Support Needs

1. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.

2. Develop project-specific burn plans and EAs.

3. Prepare mineral report, EA, and withdrawal for mineral segregation.

4. Construction and maintenance of approximately 10 miles of boundary fence along the watershed boundary by the National Park Service.

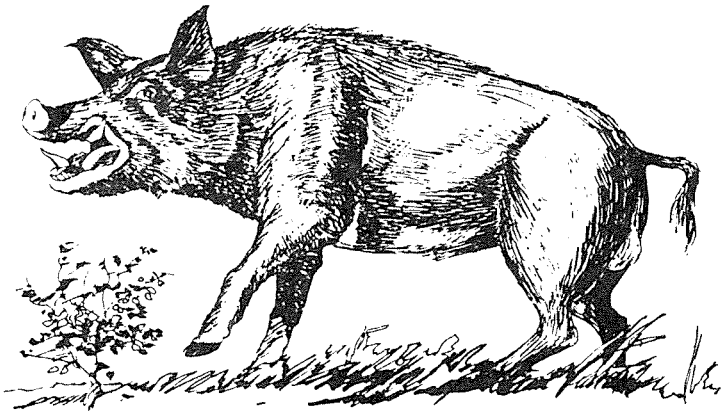
5. Develop a joint wilderness fire management plan in cooperation with NPS and CDF.

6. Develop a cooperative agreement with the NPS, CDFG, and adjacent landowners for hunting access to contiguous parcels of public land.

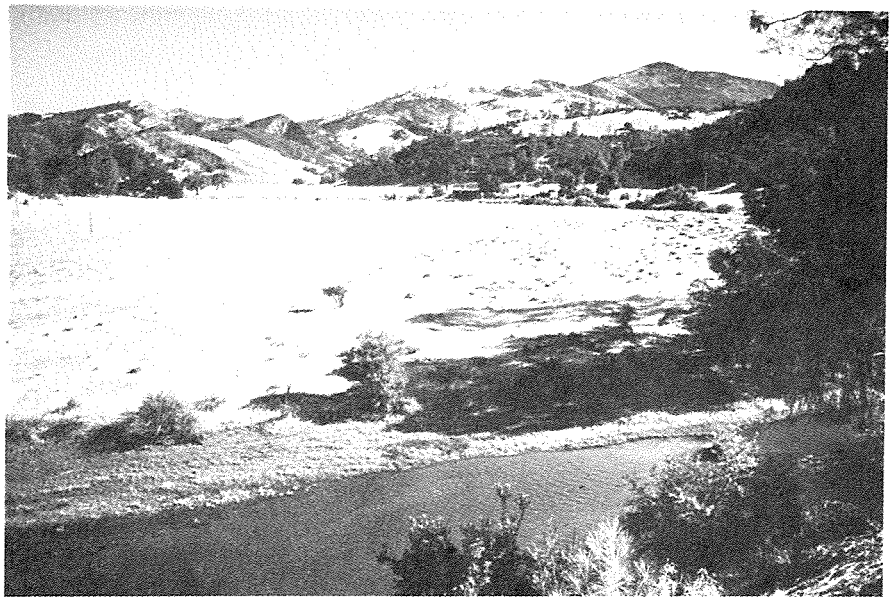
7. Develop a recreation use plan (to include boundary identification, patrols, etc.).

5

CALL MOUNTAIN/ HERNANDEZ VALLEY



WILD PIG



CALL MOUNTAIN/HERNANDEZ VALLEY (MANAGEMENT AREA 5)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area (MA) is located in San Benito and Monterey counties with the majority of the public land located in San Benito County. It contains 44,802 acres of public land with very little public access.

The predominant feature of the MA is the rugged Diablo Range which runs through the middle and eastern portions of the MA and contains most of the public lands. The Gabilan Range lies on the western edge. The highest elevations are Call Mountain (elevation 3,948 feet) and Laguna Mountain (elevation 4,512 feet). The vegetation on public lands is predominantly chaparral with some small areas of blue oak savannah. There are also small isolated stands of Coulter pine and Black oak in the Laguna Mountain area. The San Benito River flows through the middle of the MA from Hernandez Reservoir located in the southeast corner. Laguna Creek is the other major perennial stream in the MA and flows into Hernandez Reservoir. The San Andreas Fault system is the major geologic feature in the MA and accounts for the extremely steep, rugged topography. It roughly parallels the course of the San Benito River from Bitterwater Valley north into the Santa Clara Valley. There are many associated smaller, but still active, faults located throughout the MA, especially in the Hernandez Valley area. Small serpentine outcrops are also common throughout the MA, especially near Laguna Mountain.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: Of the 23 grazing leases in the area (total of 4,583 AUMs), five have acreage unsuitable for grazing (seven percent of the total area under lease). Fifty-one percent of the acreage under lease is potentially suitable for grazing (covered by dense chaparral).

Oil, Gas and Minerals: Most of the Management Area is under lease for oil and gas. There are economic resources of oil and gas (production occurring in Bitterwater Valley), and bentonite in the Vallecitos Valley. Sub-economic reserves include asbestos, mercury, chromite, and magnesite. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, coal, mercury, chromite, and gypsum. A locatable mineral segregation occurs on 280 acres of public lands along the Coalinga-Los Gatos Creek Road for the protection of potential camping site development.

Fire Management: There has been very little fire activity on public lands in the Management Area in the last 30 years except for in the Eade Ranch/Priest Valley area. A program of habitat improvement was started in the Laguna Mountain area in 1980. The rest of the Management Area (which contains the bulk of the public lands) from Hernandez Reservoir northwest to Call Mountain is ripe for a very large and potentially catastrophic wildfire. Brushfields in that area are probably in excess of 50 years of age. Due to the terrain and poor access, control would be costly and difficult.

Recreation: The area receives about 8,000 visitor hours annually primarily for deer and pig hunting. Access is available only at the Laguna Mountain area and at an area between Byles Canyon and Hernandez Reservoir. Use at Laguna Mountain doubled between 1981 and 1982 and it accounts for about 75% of the Management Area total. Hunter trespass on adjacent private lands is a problem, particularly in the Laguna Mountain area.

Though legally accessible, physical access is difficult in the area between Byles Canyon and Hernandez Reservoir due to steep terrain, dense brush, and the lack of public roads or trails.

Land Tenure: This is the second largest Management Area in terms of public land acreage. The Management Area includes public lands in southern San Benito and east central Monterey counties. With the exception of the Laguna Mountain area there are no significant acreages of accessible public lands. Major right-of-way grants include a communications site at Call Mountain.

Soils: The soils in the southeast portion in Monterey County are of the Rough Broken Rockland association and are of low fertility. Most of the Management Area is in the Sedimentary Rockland, Vallecitos, San Benito, Kettleman, Nacimiento and Igneous Rockland-Henneke associations. All soils are derived from sandstone, shale, and serpentine. Fertilities are generally low to moderate.

Watershed: Watershed values associated with Hernandez Reservoir are significant. The reservoir is a primary source for groundwater recharge in northern San Benito County. Adequate protection must be afforded to protect downstream uses of this water.

Wildlife Habitat: Public lands in the Management Area provide substantial habitat for the San Benito deer herd. Habitat conditions are generally poor due to thick over-mature chaparral brushfields. The Laguna Mountain area is considered a highly productive and important wildlife management area. Recent emphasis has been on vegetation manipulation by prescribed burning of over-mature brushfields. Significant riparian habitat exists along Laguna Creek (the major perennial stream in the area besides the San Benito River).

Cultural Resources: One potential National Register site is recorded on public lands in this Management Area and there is potential for other significant sites. Sites are in poor to good condition. Primary impacts are from road building, ORVs, and unauthorized collection.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Most livestock grazing in the MA, with the exception of the larger Improve (I) and M category allotments, will be managed on a custodial basis. Efforts will be made to maximize forage production on I and larger M category allotments within environmental constraints. Forage allocations will consider other resource uses.

Manage fire to provide a continuing program of fuel hazard reduction, range improvement, wildlife habitat improvement, and watershed improvement/ stabilization.

Provide for improved recreation opportunities while protecting other resources, and minimizing conflicts with other users and adjacent landowners.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Provide for improved habitat and watershed conditions in the area.

Rationale

Many leases in the MA consist of small scattered parcels of public land with limited opportunity for management. The I and larger M category allotments have good potential for cost-effective increases or maintenance of forage production and enhanced management.

Large expanses of decadent chaparral constitute a high fire hazard in the area. Extremely dense brush conditions make large portions of the area unuseable for livestock and many species of wildlife, particularly deer. Long-term watershed stability is jeopardized by the likelihood of a large catastrophic wildfire. The controlled use of fire is a cost-effective means of maintaining healthy, productive chaparral brushfields.

The area north of Clear Creek and east of Hernandez Reservoir is presently accessible to the public; however, topography and vegetation limit practical access. The scattered land pattern also contributes to conflicts resulting from trespass onto private property.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.

2. Prescribe burn approximately 5,000 acres of chaparral as identified in the San Benito County Burn Plan.

3. Develop AMPs for I category allotments (No. 4409, 4410, and 4411). The objective of the AMPs would be to improve livestock distribution and increase forage production.

4. Manage to leave 700 pounds of mulch per acre after grazing on I and larger M category allotments in the MA and establish seasons of use where appropriate (November 1 to May 30).

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Terminate the mineral segregation on 280 acres along the Coalinga-Los Gatos Creek Road.

2. Consider minerals exploration and development on a case-by-case basis within environmental constraints.

Fire Management

1. Prescribe burn approximately 21,000 acres of chaparral for fuel hazard reduction as identified in the San Benito County Burn Plan.

Recreation

1. Consolidate and manage the public lands in the Laguna Mountain area for hunting opportunities (foot access).

2. Enhance access to public lands for hunting and ORV opportunities in the area north of Clear Creek. Consolidate public lands and manage in conjunction with the Clear Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

3. Develop a recreation activity plan for accessible lands.

4. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

2. Consolidate public land immediately north of the Clear Creek area (Byles Canyon/Tucker Mountain area) and in the Laguna Mountain area.

3. Make lands in the Williams Mountain area available for consolidation of public lands in the Clear Creek area.

4. Call Mountain is designated for communication sites, other sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

5. Existing utility routes are designated as utility corridors.

Wildlife Habitat

1. Develop an HMP for Laguna Mountain and Byles Canyon Areas with emphasis on deer and wildlife habitat improvement. Prescribe burn to maintain uneven-aged brushfields (approximately 5,000 acres).

2. Combine development with the HMP for the Clear Creek/Condon Peak Management Area (MA No. 8) to the extent possible.

Watershed

1. Give priority to prescribed burning for objectives such as fuel reduction, and wildlife and range improvement with secondary watershed benefits.

2. Allow no road or fireline construction in the Hernandez Reservoir watershed on slopes in excess of 50%.

Support Needs

1. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.

2. Develop project-specific burn plans and EAs.

3. Develop 3 new Allotment Management Plans.

4. Construct approximately 4 miles of fence, install 5 miles of pipeline and 10 troughs and develop 4 ponds.

5. Prepare mineral report, EA and lift C&MU classification for mineral segregation.

6. Revise Clear Creek Implementation Plan as necessary to include the lands north of the Clear Creek Area (signing, posting, increased patrols, etc.). Prepare signing and posting plan for Laguna Mountain (recreation use plan).

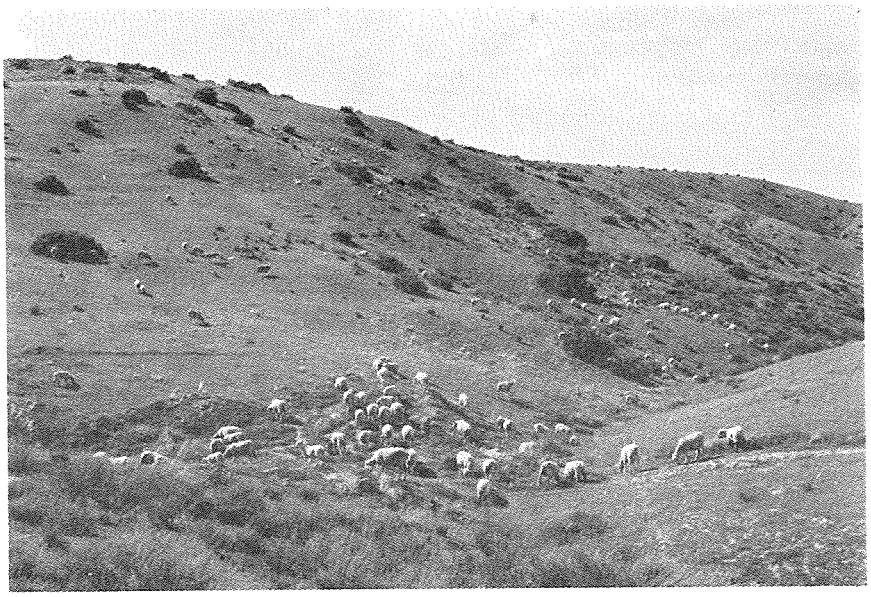
7. Prepare land Reports, EAs and appraisal to carry out identified land tenure workload.

8. Develop an HMP in conjunction with MA No. 8.

9. Develop approximately 5 water sources for wildlife.

PANOCHE HILLS

6



California Mosasaur

PANOCHE HILLS (MANAGEMENT AREA 6)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located mostly in Fresno County (including a small portion of San Benito County) and contains 26,412 acres of public lands.

The predominant features of the MA are the rugged Panoche Hills on the eastern edge of the Diablo Range and western edge of the San Joaquin Valley. The highest elevations are Panoche Mountain (elevation 2,096 feet) and Indian Mountain (elevation 2,384 feet). The vegetation is predominantly annual grassland and annual grassland/shrub. Important shrubs include ephedra or mormon tea and saltbush. Scattered California juniper are the only tree species in the MA and occur in areas of the highest rainfall. Average annual rainfall varies from four to eight inches with the highest amounts in the northern and western portions of the MA. Annual temperatures range from over 100°F in the summer to 40 to 50°F in the winter. Evapotranspiration is high and the area lies in a zone of true desert. The entire area lies in a rain shadow created by the Diablo Range to the west. Low rainfall, coupled with extremely erodable soils are the limiting factors in the MA.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: Of the nine existing grazing leases (total of 4,094 AUMs) six are managed under existing Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). Seven of the leases are for sheep and two are for steers. The Panoche Hills Management Plan (1981) recommends a general season of use from January 1 to April 30 on average years to minimize livestock browsing and trampling damage to shrubs which are important to wildlife. This timeframe coincides with the rainfall season when the annual vegetation is green, growing, and most nutritious.

Oil, Gas and Minerals: Most of the Management Area is leased for oil and gas. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, uranium, diatomite, gypsum, and limestone-dolomite. Unauthorized mining-related activities have caused conflicts with other resources, especially RTE habitat, in the past. Significant paleontological values exist, particularly on the east side of the Panoche Hills.

Fire Management: There have been numerous fires in the Management Area in the last 30 years ranging in size from small spots to large fires of over 2,000 acres, mostly related to equipment use. Wildfire easily kills nonsprouting shrubs (*Atriplex polycarpa*) important to wildlife in the area. Fire suppression activities (use of heavy equipment) may also damage sensitive resource values (cultural and RTE).

Recreation: Easements along the Panoche access road were acquired in 1965. The area receives about 10,000 visitor hours per year (70% upland game hunting; 30% sightseeing, birdwatching, picnicking). A portion of the area was heavily used by motorcycles until closure to ORV use in 1970. Some motorcycle trespass and significant demand for opening the area to ORV use still exists.

Land Tenure: Public lands in the Management Area are largely in one block and occur mostly in western Fresno County with small amounts occurring in east central San Benito County. The Management Area contains the best blocked public land in the Planning Area, almost all of which has public access. Major right-of-way grants include two communication sites, a seismograph station, and a pipeline/canal. Permits for apiary use have also been authorized. Most of the area is presently withdrawn under the Panoche National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area (NCLWMA) withdrawal (segregating the lands from entry and disposal under the agricultural land laws).

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species: Public lands in the Management Area provide habitat for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and the giant kangaroo rat (State-listed endangered). Overall, except for the "plateau area" and peripheral areas along the margin of the San Joaquin Valley, the majority of the area is marginal habitat for these species because of steep, rugged topography. Mining activities and past ORV use have impacted significant habitat especially in the "plateau area." Wildfire and associated suppression efforts could also result in habitat damage. Malathion spraying for control of the beet leafhopper and rodent poisoning activities could also have adverse impacts. Amsinckia furcata, a sensitive plant, is known to occur on shale talus in the area.

Wildlife Habitat: Much habitat improvement work for upland game (guzzlers, silt catchments, spring developments, and exclosures) has been done in this Management Area by the California Department of Fish and Game and the Fresno County Sportsmen's Club. The area has been managed under the Panoche Hills Management Plan since 1981. The plan identified several additional habitat improvements which have largely been implemented.

Soils: Soils consist of Kettlemen, Mercey, Rough Broken, Badland and Rockland associations. Fertility is low to moderate. Some of the Badland soils are naturally barren and produce severe natural erosion.

Cultural Resources: No National Register quality sites are recorded on public lands in this Management Area. Sites are in very good to destroyed condition. Primary impacts are from natural weathering and erosion.

Visual Resources: The ridgeline and east side of the area is highly visible from Interstate Highway 5. Scenery in this area is typical of the grassy hills along the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley. Two large communication sites are visible on the ridgeline but they do not dominate the landscape.

Watershed: Steep barren slopes, and extremely erodible soils make this a highly sensitive watershed area. Natural erosion rates are high. Adjacent croplands on the eastside are susceptible to flooding and sedimentation from public lands.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Most livestock grazing in the MA (I category allotments) will be managed intensively under AMPs. The emphasis will be on protection/maintenance of RTE habitat and shrubs important to wildlife.

Oil, gas, and mineral resources will be managed to meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production while protecting other resource values, particularly RTE species and paleontological values.

Fire will be managed for the protection of sensitive resource values inherent to the area.

Provide and maintain recreation opportunities in the area while protecting other resource values and uses.

Maintain/improve (emphasis on maintenance) wildlife habitat for upland game. Protect and improve habitat for RTE species.

Maintain the area's scenic quality and protect important watershed values.

Rationale

These annual grasslands provide some of the most productive grazing land in the Planning Area. Careful grazing will provide a sustained yield of forage while protecting important wildlife values.

Significant oil, gas, and mineral potential exists in the area. It is important that these resources be available for exploration and development. At the same time habitat for RTE species and unique paleontological values needs to be protected.

Shrubs important to wildlife are easily killed by fire and are slow to regenerate. Fire suppression activities can also be damaging to sensitive resource values.

Upland game hunting is considered a primary and important use of the area. Limited opportunity exists for further habitat improvement except through grazing management in some allotments.

A substantial investment has already been made by the Bureau, Department of Fish and Game, and sportsmen's groups to provide recreation opportunities and to improve wildlife habitat conditions in the area.

Sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species values are a prime consideration in all activities that occur in this area since public lands provide most of the remaining habitat available to these animals.

Visual concerns are of importance because of the proximity to Interstate 5. Watershed concerns center around the proximity to adjacent croplands.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Continue livestock grazing as outlined in existing AMPs and the Panoche Hills Management Plan with a season of use from January 1 to April 30.

2. Leave a minimum of 700 pounds of mulch per acre after the grazing season.

3. Develop an AMP for the Indian Valley allotment (No. 4341). The objective would be to manage cattle grazing to protect and/or enhance upland game shrub cover.

4. Allow no conversion of existing allotments from sheep to cattle grazing. Sheep grazing will be encouraged on all allotments to the extent possible.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Designate, as an ACEC, the area known to contain significant paleontological resources associated with the Moreno shale formation (approximately 8,000 acres).

   a. No surface disturbances will be allowed that cannot be mitigated (develop stipulations for appropriate levels of surface disturbance - oil, gas, and mining activities, etc.).

   b. Develop stipulations for scientific research and collection (in concert with individuals and institutions involved).

2. The ACEC will not preclude other land uses.

3. Allow oil, gas and mineral exploration and development within environmental constraints to protect RTE species and paleontological resources. Work closely with industry and individual operators.

Fire Management

1. Emphasize fire prevention and protection as outlined in the Panoche Hills Management Plan.

2. Limit the use of heavy equipment (dozers), where possible in sensitive areas (RTE, paleontological areas and WSAs).

Recreation

1. Continue to manage the area as a Special Recreation Management Area to provide hunting opportunities on approximately 25,000 acres of public lands.

2. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to four-wheeled vehicles on designated routes from the beginning of upland game season to April 15. Foot access will be allowed yearlong.

3. Manage all recreation uses in accordance with the Panoche Hills Management Plan.

Land Tenure

1. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

2. Acquire private inholdings via acquisition or exchange as outlined in the Panoche Hills Management Plan.

3. Issue apiary permits on a case-by-case basis.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species

1. Designate as an ACEC, significant habitat areas for sensitive plants (same as paleontological area) and RTE animals (approximately 3,000 acres in the "plateau area").

   a. Establish guidelines for surface disturbance appropriate to protect significant RTE habitat.

   b. Monitor the effects of management activities (predominantly oil, gas, mining, and grazing) on significant habitat areas.

   c. Establish appropriate levels of surface disturbance to be used in oil and gas leasing and mining plans of operation.

2. ACECs will not preclude other land uses.

Wildlife Habitat

1. Continue wildlife habitat management in accordance with the Panoche Hills Management Plan.

2. Emphasize upland game habitat maintenance and enhancement through management of other resources (e.g., grazing), water development and project maintenance.

Visual Resources

1. All activities will meet VRM Class 3 standards for the area.

2. Limit communication sites and utility rights-of-way to existing locations.

Support Needs

1. Develop one AMP for the Indian Valley Allotment.

2. Install approximately 2 miles of pipeline and 3 troughs.

3. Develop management plans for paleontological and RTE ACECs (amendment to Panoche Hills Management Plan) in conjunction with MAs No. 7, 9, and 11 (Panoche/Coalinga RTE ACEC). Federal Register notice.

4. Develop fire suppression agreements with CDF (Action modification plan).

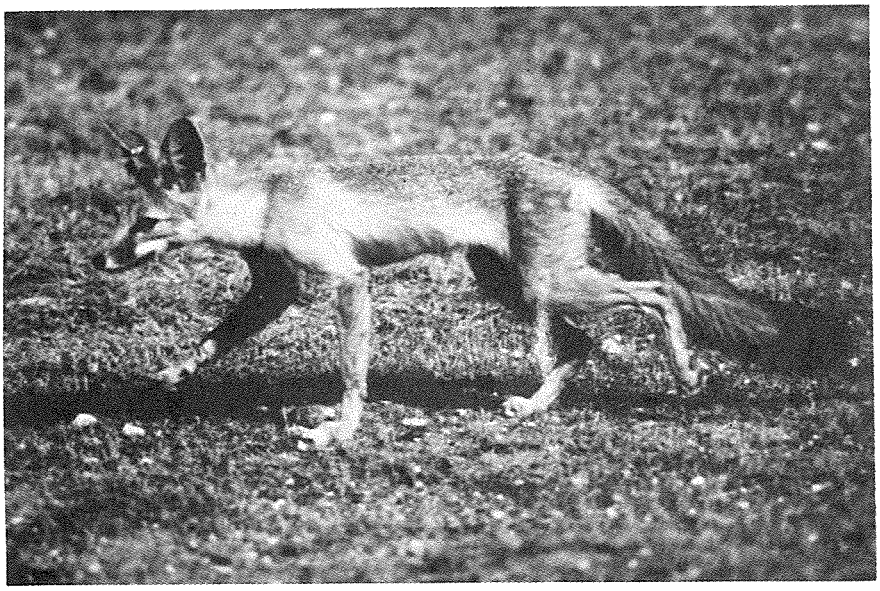
5. Revise Panoche Hills Management Plan to include signing and interpretation.

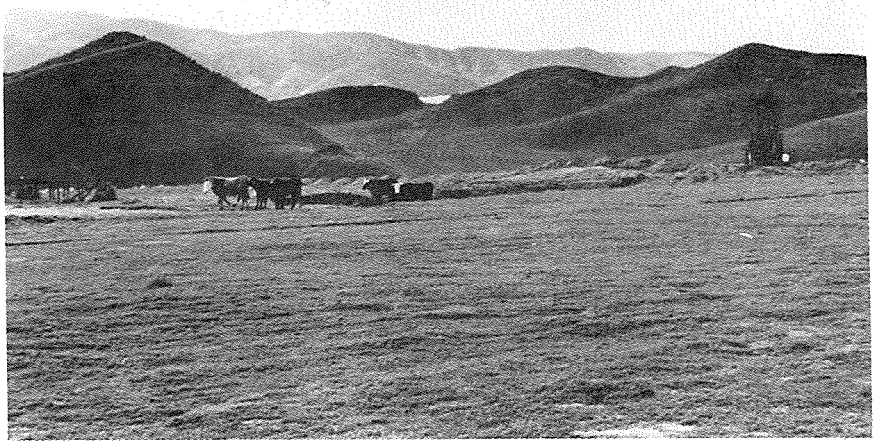
6. Prepare land Reports, EAs, and appraisals to support identified land tenure workload.

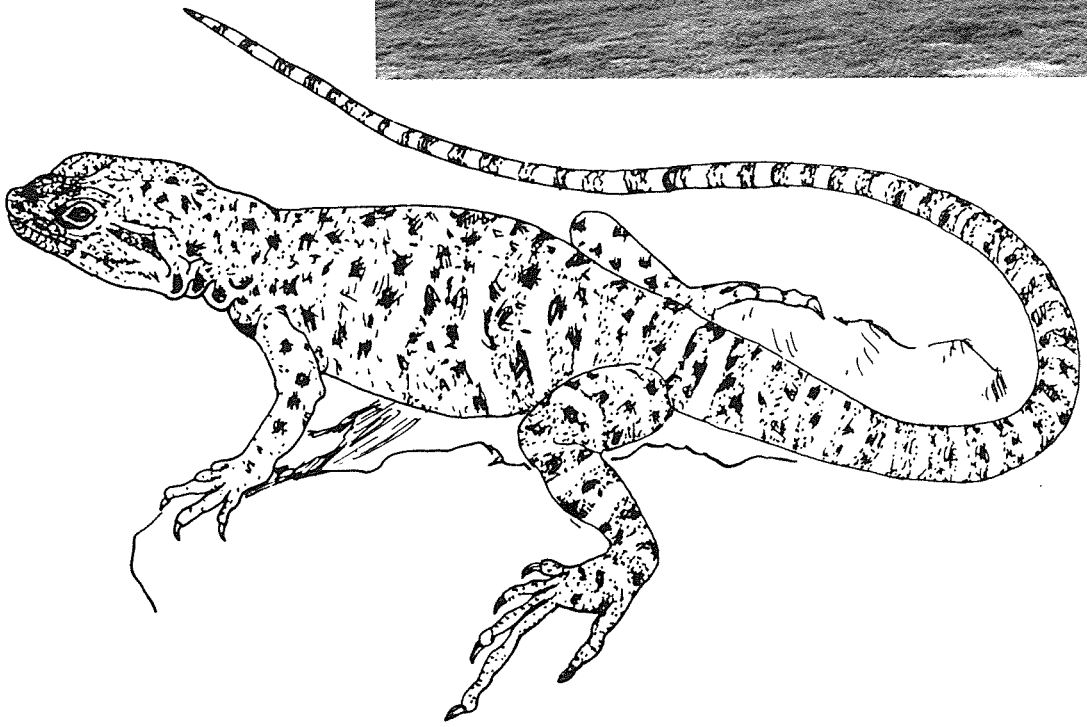
7. Conduct project maintenance as necessary.

GRISWOLD/TUMEY HILLS

7







GRISWOLD/TUMEY HILLS (MANAGEMENT AREA 7)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located in both Fresno and San Benito counties and contains 36,461 acres of public lands. The predominant features of the MA are the northwest-southeast-trending Tumey Hills and the east-west-trending Griswold Hills. The Griswold Hills are the highest of the two, reaching 3,100 feet in several places. The Tumey Hills range in elevation from 1,300 feet in the north to 2,600 feet in the south. Panoche Creek, Silver Creek, Griswold Creek, and Tumey Gulch are the major drainages in the area. All are intermittent but some portions flow almost year round. Vegetation and topography are similar to the Panoche Hills (MA No.6) but the climate has more extremes. The Tumey Hills are drier than the Panoche Hills and receive about four to six inches of annual precipitation. The Griswold Hills, being higher in elevation and further to the west, receive slightly more rainfall than the Panoche Hills (about eight to ten inches annually).

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: There are five existing leases (total of 6,126 AUMs) of which two are managed under Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). These AMPs overlap with Management Area No. 6. Trespasses and overgrazing in the mid to late 1970s depleted the shrub cover which is important for upland game nesting and rearing cover. The Panoche Hills Management Plan (which also addresses management of public lands in the Griswold, Tumey, and Ciervo Hills) recommends a general season of use from January 1 to April 30, to protect wildlife habitat values.

Oil Gas, and Minerals: Most of the Management Area is leased for oil and gas. There are economic reserves of sand and gravel and of oil and gas in the Vallecitos area. Federal oil and gas production is occurring from 600 acres in the Vallecitos Field. Federal production in 1981 was 3,394 barrels of oil or 7.0% of the field production. Identified sub-economic reserves are mercury and chromite. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, mercury, chromite, diatomite and gypsum. Significant paleontological resources occur in the Tumey Hills area.

Fire Management: Fire occurrence and problems associated with wildfire are similar to those discussed for the Panoche Hills Management Area. The Ciervo Hills fire (1979) started at the mouth of Tumey Gulch and spread south into the Ciervo Hills area burning 60,000 acres (12,000 acres of public land). The fire resulted in a 95% loss of shrub cover in the area. Due to terrain, weather conditions, and fuels (dry grass) the potential for this type of fire is high.

Recreation: This area receives about 1,000 visitor hours annually (primarily hunting for upland game, deer, and wild pig). Though much of the area is legally accessible, lack of vehicular access generally discourages public use over most of the area. ORV enthusiasts and hunters used the area extensively during the mid-1960s by driving across private lands. Conflicts with the private landowners led to the construction of fences and gates on private land to exclude public access. Improvement of public access to the area is of great concern primarily to sportsmen's groups.

Land Tenure: The public lands in the Management Area occur in southern San Benito and western Fresno counties. The Tumey Hills portion is the single largest block of public land in the Planning Area without practical public access (although legal access does exist). An unsuccessful attempt to exchange lands to remedy the situation has been made stretching over a five-year period of time. Major right-of-way grants include five for oil and natural gas pipelines. Most of the Management Area is under the Panoche National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area (NCLWMA) withdrawal (segregating the lands from entry under the agricultural land laws).

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species: Public lands in the "plateau area" in the northern Tumey Hills provide significant habitat for the endangered San Joaquin kit fox, giant kangaroo rat (State-listed endangered), and possibly the endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard. The "plateau area" is relatively undisturbed at present but could easily be impacted by oil, gas, and mining activity; fire suppression activities; and ORV use. Malathion spraying and rodent poisoning activities could also have adverse impacts in this and other areas within the MA. The remainder of the Management Area, except for small peripheral areas in the Vallecitos Valley and along the margin of the San Joaquin Valley, is rather marginal habitat for these species because of steep, rugged topography. Amsinckia furcata, a sensitive plant, is known to occur on shale talus in the area.

Wildlife Habitat: Public lands in the Management Area are considered an important habitat management area mainly for upland game. Because of the lack of access for sportsmen, this area has not seen the degree of habitat improvement activity that has occurred in the Panoche Hills Management Area. The Panoche Hills Management Plan (1981) identified the need for additional habitat improvements (mainly water development) concurrent with development of access. There is a small but viable deer population in the western portion of the Griswold Hills.

Cultural Resource: No National Register quality sites are recorded on public lands in this Management Area. Sites are in fair condition. Primary impact is from natural weathering and erosion.

Soils: Soils consist of Kettleman, Cima, Tumey, Sedimentary Rockland, Badlands, and Rough Broken associations. Fertility is low to moderate. Badland soils are generally naturally barren, resulting in severe natural erosion.

Watershed: Downstream/downslope agricultural values are important in the Panoche Valley and San Joaquin Valley.

Visual Resources: Much of the east side of this area is visible from Interstate Highway 5. Scenery is common to the area consisting primarily of grassy hills with a few scattered shrubs.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Most livestock grazing in the MA (I category allotments) will be managed intensively under AMPs. The emphasis will be on protection/maintenance of RTE habitat and shrubs important to wildlife. The other allotments will be managed on a custodial basis.

Oil, gas, and other mineral resources will be managed to meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production while protecting other resource values, particularly RTE species and paleontological values.

Manage fire for the protection of sensitive resource values inherent to the area.

Provide enhanced recreation opportunities in the area while protecting other resource values and uses.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Maintain and improve wildlife habitat for upland game. Protect and/or improve habitat for RTE species.

Maintain the area's scenic quality and protect important watershed values.

Rationale

These annual grasslands provide some of the most productive grazing land in the Planning Area. Careful grazing will provide a sustained yield of forage while protecting important wildlife values.

Significant oil, gas, and other mineral values exist in the area (including producing oil fields in Vallecitos Valley). It is important that these resources be available to exploration and development. At the same time, habitat for RTE species and unique paleontological values needs to be protected.

Shrubs important to wildlife are easily killed by fire and are slow to regenerate. Fire suppression activities can also be damaging to sensitive resource values.

Upland game hunting is to be considered a primary and important use of the area. Although legal access exists, practical (vehicular) access is nonexistent over most of the area. This situation, coupled with the presence of large private inholdings severely restricts public use of one of the largest blocks of public land in the Planning Area.

There has been a limited amount of habitat improvement work in the area. The opportunity exists to substantially improve upland game habitat concurrently with the development of access.

Sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species values are a prime consideration in all activities that occur in this area since public lands provide most of the remaining habitat available to these animals.

Visual concerns are of importance because of the proximity to Interstate 5. Watershed concerns center around the proximity to adjacent croplands.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Continue livestock grazing as outlined in the existing Silver Creek AMP and Panoche Hills Management Plan with a season of use from January 1 to April 30.

2. Leave a minimum of 700 pounds of mulch per acre after the grazing season.

3. Develop an AMP for the Fat City Allotment (No. 4411). The objective would be to manage cattle grazing to protect and/or enhance upland game shrub cover.

4. Allow no conversion of existing allotments from sheep to cattle grazing. Sheep grazing will be encouraged on all allotments to the extent possible.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Designate as an ACEC, the area known to contain significant paleontological resources associated with the Moreno Shale formation (approximately 5,000 acres).

   a. No surface disturbances will be allowed that cannot be mitigated (develop stipulations for appropriate levels of surface disturbance).

   b. Develop stipulations for scientific research and collection (in concert with individuals and institutions involved).

2. The ACEC will not preclude other land uses.

3. Allow oil, gas, and other mineral exploration and development within constraints to protect RTE species and paleontological resources. Work closely with industry and individual operators.

Fire Management

1. Emphasize fire prevention and protection as outlined in the Panoche Hills Management Plan.

2. Limit the use of heavy equipment (dozers), where possible, in sensitive areas (RTE and paleontological areas).

Recreation

1. Continue to manage the area as a Special Recreation Management Area to provide hunting opportunities on approximately 35,000 acres of public lands.

2. Improve public access (by vehicle) into the Tumey Hills, primarily for upland game hunting.

3. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to four-wheeled vehicles on designated routes from the beginning of upland game season to April 15. Foot access will be allowed yearlong.

4. Manage all recreation uses in accordance with the Panoche Hills Management Plan.

Land Tenure

1. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

2. Acquire private inholdings via acquisition or exchange as outlined in the Panoche Hills Management Plan.

3. Issue apiary permits on a case-by-case basis.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species

1. Designate as an ACEC, significant habitat areas for sensitive plants (same as paleontological area) and RTE animals (approximately 2,500 acres in the "plateau area" in northern Tumey Hills).

   a. Establish guidelines for surface disturbance appropriate to protect significant RTE habitat.

   b. Monitor the effects of management activities (predominantly oil, gas, mining, and grazing) on significant habitat areas.

   c. Establish appropriate levels of surface disturbance to be used in oil and gas leasing and mining plans of operation.

2. ACECs will not preclude other land uses.

Wildlife Habitat

1. Continue wildlife habitat management in accordance with the Panoche Hills Management Plan.

2. Emphasize upland game habitat maintenance and enhancement through management of other resources (e.g., grazing), water development, and project maintenance.

Visual Resources

1. Restrict new facilities to existing routes or established utility corridors. Consider communication sites on a case-by-case basis.

2. All activities will meet VRM Class 3 standards for the area.

Support Needs

1. Develop one AMP for the Fat City Allotment.

2. Install approximatey 5 miles of pipeline and 8 troughs.

3. Develop management plans for paleontological and RTE ACECs (amendment to Panoche Hills Management Plan) in conjunction with MAs No. 6, 9, and 11. Federal Register notice.

4. Develop fire suppression agreements with CDF (Action modification).

5. Acquire easements on 3 miles of road in the Silver Creek Area and construct 1 mile of foot trail in the Griswold Hills.

6. Revise the Panoche Hills Management Plan to include signing and interpretation.

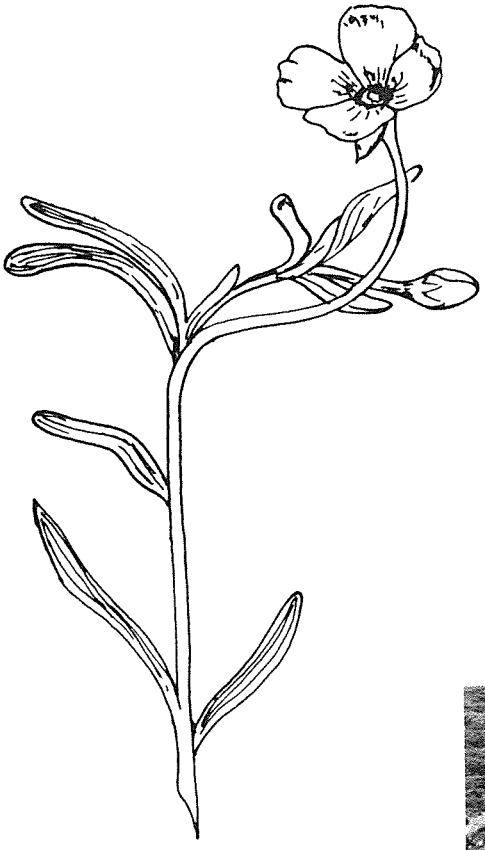
7. Prepare land Reports, EAs, and appraisals to support identified land tenure workload.

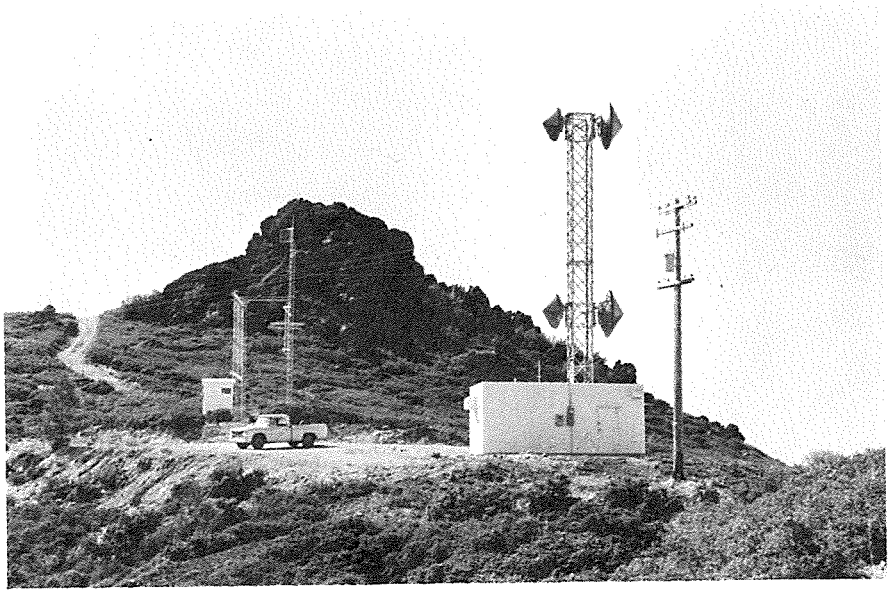
8. Develop approximately nine water sources for wildlife.

9. Conduct project maintenance as necessary.

CLEAR CREEK/CONDON PEAK

8





CLEAR CREEK/CONDON PEAK (MANAGEMENT AREA 8)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located in both Fresno and San Benito counties and contains 48,121 acres of public lands, most of which have public access. Elevations range from about 2,000 feet to over 5,000 feet. The highest peak in this portion of the Diablo Mountain Range is San Benito Mountain, elevation 5,241 feet. Steep, bare slopes are surrounded by brush-covered slopes, with occasional rock outcrops.

Weather is hot and dry in the summer and cool and wet in the winter. Precipitation, mostly in the form of rain, occurs almost entirely from November to May. Average rainfall is 17 inches per year. Summer temperatures occasionally exceed 100° F. Winter temperatures frequently fall below freezing, with occasional snow.

A unique characteristic of the area is the bald hills which are naturally barren due to the presence of serpentine derived soils. A more detailed discussion of soils and vegetation is contained in the next section.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: Two of the eight existing grazing leases (total of 2,370 AUMs) contain acreage unsuitable for grazing (a little over five percent of the leased area). Over 45% of this Management Area is unsuitable for grazing due to serpentine soils. Over 39% of the Management Area is potentially suitable. The larger operators graze yearling cattle which can utilize existing forage on steeper slopes.

Conflicts with recreation users have occurred in recent years (mainly vandalism to fences). One allotment (Upper Los Gatos Creek) is managed under an AMP.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: The Management Area is considered the most highly mineralized within the Planning Area. Oil and gas leases occur in the Management Area and approximately 70% of the mining claims within the Planning area occur here. Asbestos is considered an economic reserve. Production of asbestos is occurring from a large scale open pit on public lands. Sub-economic reserves include asbestos, mercury, chromite, magnesite, and gems. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, geothermal, and gold. The Management Area is considered important for hobby collection of minerals. Mining activity in the area has created conflicts with other resource values, primarily with recreational uses (ORV and hunting). Within the Management Area, 2,598 acres have been segregated from locatable mineral entry. One thousand four hundred and eighty-eight (1,488) acres were segregated to protect the Natural Area. One thousand thirty-one (1,031) acres were segregated in the Clear Creek Canyon for the protection of high recreational values and endangered plant habitat. Additionally, 79 acres were segregated for the protection of potential camping site development.

Fire Management: Wildfire occurrence has been generally low and most fires contained to less than 200 acres in the last 30 years. The largest fire in the last 32 years was in 1955 (Burkett Fire). It burned the lower half of Clear Creek Canyon and most of the Laguna Mountain area, consuming 9,500 acres

(3,500 acres of public land). There is a high potential for fire occurrence due to the large number of ORVs and hunters in the dry period, particularly in the nonserpentine areas. A program of prescribed burning for habitat improvement was initiated in the Condon Peak and Byles Canyon areas in 1980.

Recreation: This Management Area includes the Clear Creek Area, a 43,000-acre block of public land used intensively for recreation. This area receives about 300,000 visitor hours per year (70% ORV, 25% hunting for deer and pigs, and five percent rockhounding). Dirt bikes, four-wheeled drive, and other ORV enthusiasts enjoy riding on the Clear Creek area's characteristic barren hills. Mineral exploration over the past 30 years developed an interconnecting system of over 1,000 miles of vehicle routes through the area's dense brushfields. Most ORV staging areas and camps are in the Clear Creek Canyon and overuse in that area has been a management problem.

Off-road recreation vehicle designations were completed in 1982. These designations are reaffirmed by this RMP. Implementation of ORV designations is proceeding with priority given to protection of endangered plant habitat, archaeological sites and severely eroding areas. The implementation plan also calls for construction of stream crossings along the Clear Creek road, dust abatement, and barrier installation in limited and closed areas.

An intensive asbestos hazard awareness program has been initiated for visitors in the area. This program disseminates information on the nature of the asbestos health hazard and ways to minimize exposure (also see Air Quality). Most ORV use occurs between September and May when winter rains keep dust production down.

The best hunting areas are in the nonserpentine portions of the area (Condon Peak and Byles Canyon). Hunter camps are scattered throughout the area.

Rockhounds are drawn to the area by the presence of over 100 minerals, including jadeite, chromite, magnesite, plasma agate, melanite garnets and other semiprecious gemstones. Some, such as benitoite, are unique to the Clear Creek area.

Facilities include pit toilets and garbage dumpsters in the Clear Creek Canyon and interpretive signs in the San Benito Mountain Natural Area. Public access is available along the Clear Creek county road which runs through the area from Idria to the Coalinga Road near Hernandez Reservoir. Foot access is also available at the Fresno-San Benito county line on the Coalinga road. Two previous access routes have been closed to public use by private landowners (near Picacho Store through the Salinas Ramblers' Motorcycle Club property, and the Atlas Mine road up White Creek). Other potential access routes include the Union Carbide road and the Duckworth Canyon road.

Conflicts occur between recreationists, private landowners, ranchers, and miners, and among recreational user groups.

Land Tenure: The highest concentration of public land in the Planning Area (48,121 acres) occurs in this Management Area. The lands are located in southern San Benito and western Fresno counties with substantial acreage accessible to the public.

The Management Area has the highest number (25) of right-of-way grants in the Planning Area. The Management Area has particular value for communication site purposes, and at present five sites have been authorized at San Benito Mountain, Santa Rita Peak, and Spanish Lake, with an additional authorization of nine secondary users. Most of the Management Area is under the New Idria National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area withdrawal (segregating the lands from entry under the agricultural land laws).

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species: The Management Area supports several sensitive plant species (serpentine endemics), most notably the San Benito evening primrose (Camissonia benitensis) and rayless tidytips (Layia discoidea). Both plants are annuals and are only found in years of favorable precipitation. The evening primrose has been found in only a few locations - one in the San Benito Mountain Natural Area and several points within Clear Creek Canyon. It has been proposed for federal listing as endangered and will very likely become listed in the near future. The rayless tidytips has a somewhat more widespread distribution. Talus fritillary (Fritillaria falcata), also a sensitive plant, occurs in one location on San Benito Mountain. The habitat for these plants is extremely limited and subject to disturbance from mining and ORV use. Positive steps, such as fencing of known habitat areas, has been undertaken in the last several years as a part of the ORV implementation plan. Pentachaeta exilis aeolica may also occur on public lands in the MA. This plant is exceedingly rare and its habitat is mainly grasslands off the serpentine area.

Soils: Soils in the area are unique and of great scientific and educational value. There are two kinds of soils within the Clear Creek area: those developed from materials derived from ultramafic rock (serpentine) and those developed from materials derived from sedimentary rock. Henneke soils, found north of Condon Peak, are developed from materials derived from ultramafic rock that is high in asbestos fibers. Gaviota soils, found south of Condon peak, do not contain asbestos. Both Henneke and Gaviota soils are prone to severe erosion, primarily due to steep slope gradients. Henneke soils are low in fertility due to nutrient imbalance. Barren areas, devoid of vegetation, comprise about five percent of the area. Gaviota soils are more productive and lack these barren areas typical of the ultramafic derived soil.

Erosion on the steep unstable barren areas is severe, primarily due to geologic (natural) erosion. Soil survey maps show that present motorcycle high use areas were severely eroding in 1955, prior to the influx of ORVs.

Air Quality: The presence of airborne asbestos dust presents a serious air quality problem in the Clear Creek area.

Two studies conducted by the University of California have found that the vast majority of airborne asbestos in the Clear Creek area is generated by human activities, primarily vehicle use. Natural wind conditions have a negligible effect on dust production.

The asbestos health hazard is significant only in the portion of the area north of Condon Peak. Asbestos fibers are not present in most soils in the area south of Condon Peak.

Water Resources: Watersheds in the Management Area give rise to four perennial streams. Clear Creek and the San Benito River flow into Hernandez Reservoir and San Carlos Creek supplies water to the historic mining town of Idria. White Creek flows south and east toward Coalinga in the San Joaquin Valley.

Hernandez Reservoir is used for recharging the groundwater basin in the south Santa Clara Valley. Sediment from serpentine soils of the upper San Benito River drainage has been filling Hernandez Reservoir at double the anticipated rate since the reservoir was constructed.

Recreational vehicle use in the Clear Creek area is being blamed by concerned public and private groups as the major contributor to siltation problems in Hernandez Reservoir. The Clear Creek area comprises 10% of the San Benito River watershed above Hernandez Reservoir.

Recently, concerns have also been raised over asbestos entering the California aqueduct via the White Creek Drainage.

Wildlife Habitat: Public lands in the Management Area provide substantial habitat for the San Benito and Avenal deer herds. Habitat conditions are generally poor due to thick, overmature, chaparral brushfields. Recent habitat management efforts have focused on the nonserpentine areas because they are generally the most productive and free of ORV disturbance. The major emphasis has been on vegetation manipulation by prescribed burning of overmature chaparral brushfields. The Condon Peak area contains the most diverse and productive wildlife habitat in the Management Area and receives little ORV use. ORV use, particularly in Clear Creek Canyon, has resulted in damage to habitat, especially sensitive riparian areas. Recent efforts to protect riparian zones and vernal pools have been positive for wildlife.

The Management Area also provides habitat for a small population of mountain quail in the Santa Rita Peak-Condon Peak area. Mountain lions are known to inhabit the area as well.

Cultural Resources: There are seventeen potential National Register sites (including one archaeological district) recorded on public lands in this Management Area and more may be present. Conditions range from pristine to destroyed. Primary impacts are from mining, road building, ORVs, erosion, and unauthorized collection.

Visual Resources: Within the serpentine rock area, visual quality is high due to contrasts between the unusual barren hills and dense vegetation. A unique community of four tree species thrives, with many north slopes moderately forested. A few large reddish-brown rock outcrops protrude from some slopes dotted with sparse vegetation. Dense chaparral covers most of the Area. Most of the area is not visible from any major highways though the ridgeline along San Benito Mountain and Santa Rita Peak can be seen from Interstate 5.

Vegetation: Vegetation in the Management Area is extremely unique and of great scientific and aesthetic value. The flora of the area can be separated into two divisions:

1. Vegetation on soils derived from serpentine (ultramafic) rock north of Condon Peak; and

2. Vegetation on soils derived from sedimentary rock south of Condon Peak.

The serpentine vegetation is a complex of plant communities dependent upon high soil magnesium content and precipitation. Tree species include Coulter pine (Pinus coulteri), Jeffery pine (P. jefferyi), incense cedar (Calocedrus decurrens), and Coulter-jeffery pine hybrids. This inner coast range population of incense cedar is unique. As the magnesium content of the soil declines, shrubs with low calcium requirements appear such as leather oak (Quercus durata). As precipitation decreases incense cedar is largely replaced with digger pine (P. sabiniana). This is the only place on earth where the three pines (Jeffery, Coulter, and digger) are found together. Dunn oak (Quercus dunnii), a shrub usually found 400 miles to the south, is found in one small location. Common reed (Phragmites australis) occurs in one small location (the only known spot in the inner coast ranges).

There are several unique serpentine "vernal pools" in the area, the largest being Spanish Lake. The other three are found on the north side of Clear Creek Canyon on a small bench about mid-slope.

The 1,500-acre San Benito Mountain Natural Area was established in 1972 to protect a portion of the unique botanical community found in the area.

The flora quickly changes off the serpentine. Here the usual assemblage of mixed chaparral, chamise chaparral, and oak woodland occur. Careful livestock grazing on the upper Los Gatos Creek AMP has given rise to perhaps the healthiest stands of purple needlegrass (Stipa pulchra) on public lands in the Planning Area. This perennial grass is considered by most authorities to be the original herbaceous dominant before the advent of white man and his livestock.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Most livestock grazing in the MA, with the exception of the one I allotment (Los Gatos Creek AMP) and the larger M category allotments, will be managed on a custodial basis. Efforts will be made to maximize forage production on the I and larger M category allotments within environmental constraints.

Mineral exploration and development will be allowed within certain constraints in order to protect sensitive resource concerns which exist in the area.

Fire will be managed to provide a continuing program of fuel hazard reduction, range improvement, wildlife habitat improvement, and watershed improvement/ stabilization.

The area will be managed to provide recreation opportunities while providing for public health and safety, and minimizing conflicts with other resources, other public land users, and adjacent landowners.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Improve habitat conditions for deer and other wildlife. Protect and/or enhance sensitive plant habitat.

Stabilize and/or improve watershed conditions and reduce the threat of exposure to airborne asbestos dust in the area.

Protect significant cultural, historical, and visual resource values as well as the unique soil and vegetation (other than RTE) of the area.

Rationale

The smaller allotments in the MA consist of small scattered parcels or are portions of leases outside the MA. Much of the area is unleased due to the serpentine soils. The one I and larger M category allotments have good potential for cost-effective increases or maintenance of forage production.

The area is highly mineralized and significant mineral production has occurred in the past.

Sensitive resource values in both Clear Creek Canyon and the San Benito Mountain Natural Area could be easily impacted by mining activity. These include RTE plant habitat, critical watershed values, and significant hobby gem and mineral collecting areas.

Large expanses of decadent chaparral constitute a high fire hazard and make large areas unuseable for many species of wildlife as well as livestock. The use of fire is a cost-effective means of maintaining healthy, productive, chaparral brushfields.

The demand for recreation opportunities in this area is extremely high. A substantial amount of time, effort and fiscal commitment have gone into the development of management plans and project implementation in the area. This is the result of many years of planning and consultation with concerned agencies, groups, and individuals.

Land tenure adjustments are needed to resolve existing and potential trespass problems (resulting from private inholdings) and a lack of suitable camping areas off the serpentine area.

Known and potential habitat for sensitive plants needs to be protected and/or enhanced to prevent these species from becoming officially listed.

Critical soil, air, and watershed concerns will require special attention in order to protect human health and safety in the area. Downstream sedimentation needs to be minimized to the extent possible using the best available management practices.

Significant cultural, historical, and visual resource values as well as the unique soil and vegetative characteristics are an irreplaceable aspect of the area. They have formed the basic character of the Clear Creek area which is in itself unique. Data from cultural sites could also provide significant information on the historic and prehistoric uses of the area.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.

2. Prescribe burn to improve range conditions on approximately 1,500 acres as identified in the San Benito County Burn Plan.

3. Continue livestock grazing in the Condon Peak area under the existing Upper Los Gatos Creek AMP.

   a. A normal grazing season of November 1 to May 31 will be the preferred grazing season. Other grazing seasons will be established only if the other uses are not significantly impacted.

   b. 700 pounds per acre of mulch will be left after grazing to protect the soil from erosion and provide for other uses.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Terminate the mineral segregation on 79 acres along the San Benito River.

2. Withdraw 1,868 acres in the San Benito Mountain Natural Area (including the 380-acre Sawmill Creek extension) and 1,031 acres in the Clear Creek Canyon area from locatable mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law.

3. Allow no mineral leasing or sales within Clear Creek Canyon (same area as protective withdrawal).

4. Allow mineral exploration and development elsewhere in potential areas within the MA.

5. Designate and protect areas of significant concern for hobby gem and mineral collecting in consultation with interested parties (in conjunction with element for soil, air and water - Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC).

Fire Management

1. Prescribe burn approximately 14,000 acres for fuel hazard reduction as outlined in the San Benito and Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plans.

2. Allow the use of fire (action modification and/or prescribed burn) in the San Benito Mountain Natural Area to promote natural conditions. The use of prescribed burning will be contingent on the strict control of ORVs and in consultation with qualified botanists.

3. Areas burned by wildfire in the Natural Area will not be reseeded in order to protect endangered plant species from introduced competition.

Recreation

1. Continue to manage the area as a Special Recreation Management Area to provide semiprimitive motorized opportunities for ORV enthusiasts, hunters, and rockhounds in accordance with the Clear Creek ORV Designation and Implementation Plan.

   a. Vehicle use is limited to designated routes in Clear Creek Canyon, riparian areas, and grazing areas such as the Condon Peak area (16,000 acres).

   b. The San Benito Mountain Natural Area is closed to all vehicle use except for the county roads and "ridge route" (2,000 acres).

   c. The remainder of the area is designated as open (25,000 acres - mostly brushfields and barren areas).

2. Allow no camping within the San Benito Mountain Natural Area and extension. Camping will be allowed elsewhere in accordance with the ORV Designation and Implementation Plan.

3. Clear Creek Canyon is designated as a "no shooting" area.

4. Intensify environmental education efforts with the goal of obtaining the maximum level of voluntary compliance with ORV designations.

5. Acquire private land at the entrance to Clear Creek (or develop cooperative agreement) to provide camping and staging areas outside the serpentine area. The use of contributed funds such as "Green Sticker" monies will be emphasized.

Land Tenure

1. Acquire state lands in Sections 16 and 36 (T. 18S., R. 12 E.) and private inholdings through acquisition or land exchange. Acquisition of private inholdings has priority over acquisition of state owned sections.

2. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

Vegetation (Including Sensitive or RTE Plants)

1. Maintain the San Benito Mountain Natural Area designation and extend it (approximately 380 acres) to include the upper end of Sawmill Creek (total of 1,868 acres).

2. Manage the unique desert needlegrass community in the Condon Peak area to maintain or increase the population.

3. Give special consideration to the unique stands of big sagebrush in the San Carlos Bolsa area and protect to the extent possible.

4. Manage the conifer forests for their scenic values and unique vegetation characteristics in consultation with qualified botanists (no commercial harvest in the San Benito Mountain Natural Area).

5. Protect and manage sensitive or RTE plants and riparian zones in accordance with the existing Clear Creek ORV designation and implementation plan and the HMP to be prepared for wildlife habitat. Designate the serpentine area as an ACEC in conjunction with the element for soil, air, and water (Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC).

   a. Manage to protect and/or enhance sensitive plant populations in the area.

   b. Continue monitoring to assess impacts from ORV use, mining, and other surface-disturbing activities on sensitive or RTE plant habitat and important riparian zones.

   c. Work with qualified botanists and concerned groups to identify and prioritize areas needing further protection.

Soil, Air, and Water

1. Reduce the airborne asbestos dust hazard and minimize erosion from surface-disturbing activities as outlined in the Clear Creek ORV Designation and Implementation Plan.

   a. Stabilize the Clear Creek Road by installation of low water fords and application of a dust suppressant.

   b. Install physical barriers to prevent further vegetation destruction around camping and other high use areas.

   c. Close and stabilize severely eroding slopes (hill climb areas) in Clear Creek Canyon.

2. Prepare a watershed amendment to the ORV Designation and Implementation Plan to establish "Best Management Practices" for additional watershed enhancement/stabilization measures.

3. Designate the area of serpentine soils high in asbestos fibers and the Clear Creek watershed as the Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC (30,000 acres).

   a. Intensify the current asbestos awareness program through signing, pamphlets, and individual user contacts.

   b. Continue monitoring programs assessing sedimentation in the Clear Creek drainage from ORVs, mining, and other activities. Identify and prioritize areas requiring further protection and/or stabilization.

   c. Designate and protect representative serpentine soil research areas for their scientific and educational values.

   d. The ACEC will not alter existing ORV designations or other uses.

Cultural Resources

1. Determine National Register eligibility for the White Creek Archaeological District.

2. Develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan for the White Creek Archaeological District for protection, data retrieval, and interpretation purposes in association with the ORV designations and prescribed burning program.

3. Continue to implement protection measures as outlined in the Clear Creek ORV Designation and Implementation Plan (fencing and/or barriers).

Wildlife Habitat

1. Develop an HMP with emphasis on deer and wildlife habitat improvement and protection, or enhancement of sensitive plant habitat. Prescribe burn to maintain uneven-aged brushfields on approximately 5,000 acres. Combine HMP development with the HMP to be developed for MA No. 5.

2. Emphasize habitat improvement in the nonserpentine areas. In serpentine areas, protection and/or enhancement of riparian zones and sensitive plant habitat will be emphasized in accordance with the Clear Creek ORV Designation and Implementation Plan and Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC.

Visual Resources

1. All actions must meet the following VRM criteria:

   a. Class 1 in the San Benito Mountain Natural Area and extension.

   b. Class 3 in the Condon Peak area.

   c. Class 4 in the remainder of the area.

2. Limit communication facilities to existing sites with no expansion in the Natural Area. Existing rights-of-way which are not being used for the purpose of the grant will be revoked.

3. Utility corridors are established along existing utility rights-of-way.

Support Needs

1. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.

2. Prepare mineral Report, EAs, and withdrawal for mineral segregation (concurrent with lifting of C&MU classifications).

3. Develop project specific burn plans and EAs and modified fire suppression agreements with CDF.

4. Coordinate with mineralogical groups to locate significant gem and mineral collecting areas.

5. A full-time visitor services technician will be required for intensified public information and education programs related to the asbestos hazard and ORV designation.

6. Prepare land Reports/EAs, and appraisal to carry out identified land tenure workload.

7. Revise mineral report for extension of Natural Area.

8. A qualified temporary botanist will be required on a yearly basis for monitoring. Maximize the use of volunteers.

9. Continue implementation of ORV Grant including: fencing and/or barrier construction and maintenance as necessary (archaeological sites, RTE plant locations, riparian zones, San Benito Mtn. Natural Area).

10. Amend ORV Designation and Implementation Plan (to consider watershed Best Management Practices).

11. Revise information and education plan as necessary (signing and interpretation).

12 Determine National Register eligibility for White Creek Archaeological District (WCAD).

13. Develop a cultural Resources Management Plan for WCAD.

14. Conduct data retrieval on approximately 3 sites.

15. Develop a wildlife habitat management plan and Sikes Act agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game.

16. Conduct a survey and design of camping/staging area in association with acquisition of entrance parcel.

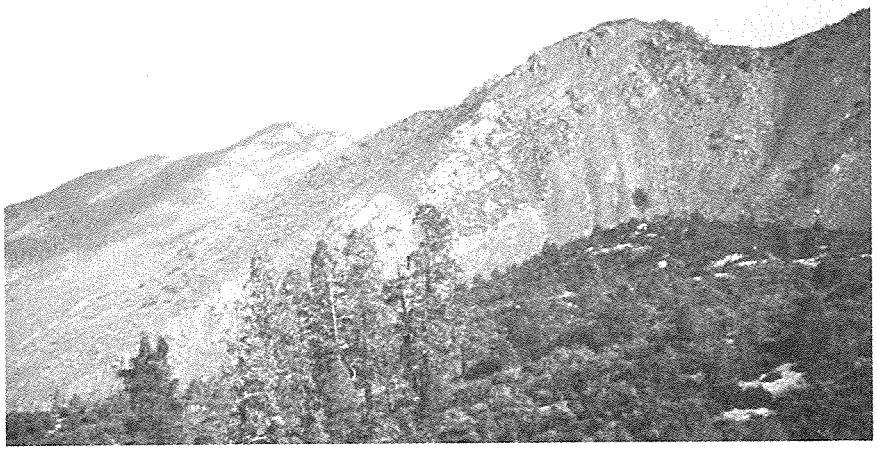
17. Continue the annual law enforcement agreement with San Benito County.

18. Prepare Federal Register notice for no shooting designtations and ACEC.

19. Develop a utility (powerline) maintenance agreement with PG&E to maintain scenic and natural values in the San Benito Mtn. Natural Area and vivinity.

CIERVO HILLS/JOAQUIN ROCKS

9



CIERVO HILLS/JOAQUIN ROCKS (MANAGEMENT AREA 9)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located entirely in Fresno County, with the exception of a small sliver of San Benito County. It contains 23,711 acres of scattered public lands.

The predominant feature of the MA is the rugged Diablo Range, culminating in Joaquin Ridge containing Wright Mountain (elevation 4,566 feet), Three Rocks or Joaquin Rocks (elevation 4,142 feet) and Black Mountain (elevation 3,641 feet). The Ciervo Hills in the northern portion of the MA are the southern most extension of the Panoche-Griswold-Tumey Hills complex. Ciervo Mountain (elevation 3,391 feet) is the highest in this range of arid foothills which forms the eastern flank of the Diablo Range. The MA lies in a zone of transition between the dry arid foothills with their characteristic annual grassland/shrub vegetation and the steep chaparral and oak-covered slopes of the higher Diablo Range.

Cantua Creek is the major drainage in the area. Although it is intermittent for most of its length, portions of it flow year-round. Average annual rainfall in the area is six to 16 inches depending on location and elevation. The topography is generally steep in the western portions of the MA, becoming of relief in and more rolling to the north, east, and south.

Joaquin Murietta, notorious bandit, used the Joaquin Rocks area as a hideout and was eventually killed in the vicinity.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: Of the six grazing leases (total of 3,570 AUMs) in the Management Area, one is under an existing AMP. This AMP is for sheep use. One lease contains acreage unsuitable for grazing as well as acreage potentially suitable for grazing. The Panoche Hills Management Plan recommends a general season of use from January 1 to April 30 for the Ciervo Hills portion of the MA.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: Most of the Management Area is leased for oil and gas. Recently the area has experienced sporadic wildcat exploration. Sub-economic reserves include asbestos, mercury, chromite, and magnesite. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, sand and gravel, and gypsum.

Fire Management: There has been little fire activity in the Joaquin Rocks portion of the area in the last 35 years. There is a high potential for a large wildfire occurrence, especially beginning as a grass fire in the Ciervo Hills or along Cantua Creek. This is one of the biggest hazards associated with development of the area for off-road vehicles.

Recreation: There is no legal public access in this Management Area. It receives about 1,000 visitor hours of use per year, mostly from private hunting clubs.

The State of California is currently considering use of "Green Sticker" funds to purchase private lands in the Martin Ranch area for use as an off-highway vehicle (OHV) park. Public lands are intermingled in the proposed OHV park boundaries which run from the southern Ciervo Hills to the Joaquin Rocks and from Interstate Highway 5 to the Clear Creek Area.

Land Tenure: The public land in the Management Area occurs in a checkerboard pattern in western Fresno County. A proposed acquisition of substantial private acreage by the State of California could be expected to influence land consolidation considerations. Most of the Joaquin Rocks portion has been withdrawn under the New Idria National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area withdrawal (segregating the lands from entry under the agricultural land laws).

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species: Public lands in areas of low relief ("plateaus" or flats in the vicinity of Ciervo Mountain such as Peppergrass Flat) provide significant habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox and giant kangaroo rat. These areas also provide some of the most suitable blunt-nosed leopard lizard habitat in the Management Area. These areas are relatively undisturbed at present but vulnerable to surface disturbance from oil, gas, and mining activity; and wildfire and associated suppression activity. Malathion spraying and rodent poisoning activities could also have adverse impacts on RTE species. Sand dune formations along Monocline Ridge also provide habitat for the San Joaquin dune beetle (Coecus gracilis), a candidate species for Federal listing. A plant species, Amsinckia furcata is also known to occur in the Ciervo Hills.

Soils: Soils are primarily of the Cima, Kettleman, Tumey, Rough Broken, Badlands, and Climara associations. Fertility is low to moderate. Vegetation is annual grasses in the Ciervo Hills and chaparral and foothill woodland in the Joaquin Rocks.

Watershed: Downstream/downslope agricultural values are important in the San Joaquin Valley. Erosion hazards are moderate to severe.

Cultural Resources

There are eight potential National Register sites (including the Ciervo Hills and Joaquin Rocks Archaeological Districts) recorded on public lands in this Management Area, and more are probably present. Conditions range from fair to poor. Primary impacts are from road building, grazing, rodents, erosion, natural weathering, and possibly ORV use.

Visual Resources: Visually this area is typical of the eastern Diablo Range, with dense chaparral-covered hills on the west, changing to oak savannah grasslands on the eastern valley side. The Joaquin Rocks are impressive outcrops that can be seen from Interstate Highway 5, as can much of the Management Area.

Vegetation: The Monocline Ridge area contains unique sand dune formations and associated vegetation that are actually disjunct desert communities. The dominant perennial herbaceous vegetation on these sites is Indian ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides) and Desert needlegrass (Stipa speciosa). From San Carlos Bolsa (in Management Area No. 8) southeast to Black Mountain there

exists a unique plant community of big sagebrush (Artemesia tridentata). This shrub is usually found in the Great Basin or Intermountain areas east of the Sierra Nevada Range. Here it occurs interspersed among the other chaparral plants common to the area.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

The one I allotment (Ciervo Hills AMP) and the larger M category allotments will be managed intensively. In chaparral areas, efforts will be made to maximize forage production within environmental constraints. In the Ciervo Hills area (annual grassland) emphasis will also be placed on management for protection/maintenance of RTE habitat and shrubs important to wildlife.

Oil, gas, and mineral resources will be managed to meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production.

Fire will be managed to protect sensitive resource values inherent to the annual grassland areas (Ciervo Hills). Fire will be managed to provide a continuing program of fuel reduction, habitat improvement, and range improvement in the chaparral areas.

Provide recreation opportunities in the area while protecting other resource values and uses. Cooperate with the State of California on the Martin Ranch OHV proposal.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Protect and improve habitat for RTE species in the area. Maintain and/or improve wildlife habitat mainly through management of other uses.

Protect significant cultural resource values that exist in the area.

Maintain the area's scenic quality, and protect important watershed values and unique plant communities that occur in the area.

Rationale

The annual grassland areas provide some of the most productive grazing land in the Planning Area. Careful grazing will provide a sustained yield of forage while protecting important wildlife values. The larger M category allotments in chaparral areas have limited potential for cost-effective increases in forage production.

Significant oil, gas, and other mineral values exist in the area. It is important that these resources be available for exploration and development. At the same time, habitat for RTE species and unique paleontological values needs to be protected.

In the annual grassland areas, shrubs important to wildlife are easily killed by fire and are slow to regenerate. Fire suppression activities can also be damaging to sensitive resource values. In chaparral areas, fire is a cost-effective means of maintaining healthy, productive brushfields.

There is a considerable demand for additional ORV opportunities especially adjacent to the Clear Creek area. The Martin Ranch proposal would provide such an opportunity, however, sensitive environmental concerns such as RTE species, soils, and cultural resources will have to be protected in the process (particularly the Ciervo Hills north of Cantua Creek).

Land tenure adjustments are needed in order to consolidate public lands in the MA adjacent to the Clear Creek and Silver Creek (Griswold/Tumey Hills MA) areas. This will be especially important if the Martin Ranch proposal materializes.

Sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species values are a prime consideration in all activities that occur in this area since public lands provide most of the remaining habitat available to these animals.

Significant cultural resources exist in the Cantua Creek-Ciervo Mountain area and in the vicinity of Joaquin Rocks. These resources will need special attention in all surface-disturbing activities, especially ORV related. Data from these sites could provide significant information on prehistoric uses of the area.

Visual concerns are of importance because of the proximity to Interstate 5. Watershed concerns center around the proximity to adjacent croplands. Unique plant communities occur in the area that are normally found in areas far to the south. These have scientific and educational value.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.

2. Continue livestock grazing as outlined in the Ciervo Hills AMP and Panoche Hills Management Plan with a season of use from January 1 to April 30 (Ciervo Hills portion of MA). Develop an AMP for the Martin allotments (4374 and 4414).

3. Leave a minimum of 700 pounds of mulch per acre after the grazing season (AMPs and larger M category allotments).

4. Allow no conversion of existing allotments from sheep to cattle grazing. Sheep grazing will be encouraged on all allotments to the extent possible.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Designate as an ACEC, the area known to contain significant paleontological resources associated with the Moreno Shale formation (approximately 5,000 acres).

   a. No surface disturbances will be allowed that cannot be mitigated (develop stipulations of appropriate levels for surface disturbance).

   b. Develop stipulations for scientific research and collection (in concert with individuals and institutions involved).

2. The ACEC will not preclude other land uses.

3. Allow oil, gas, and mineral exploration and development within constraints to protect RTE species and paleontological resources. Work closely with industry and individual operators.

Fire Management

1. Emphasize fire prevention and protection as outlined in the Panoche Hills Management Plan.

2. Limit the use of heavy equipment (dozers), where possible in sensitive areas (RTE and paleontological areas).

3. Prescribe burn in chaparral areas for fuels reduction as outlined in the Fresno-Monterey Burn Plan (approximately 1,000 acres).

Recreation

1. Manage the Ciervo Hills in conjunction with the Panoche Hills SRMA (in accordance with the Panoche Hills Management Plan) to provide hunting opportunities.

2. Manage the Joaquin Rocks area in conjunction with the Clear Creek SRMA to provide hunting, hiking, and camping opportunities.

3. Work with the State, Southern Pacific Railroad, and Standard Oil Company to effect a land exchange in the Ciervo Hills and Joaquin Rocks areas in conjunction with the Martin Ranch OHV proposal. Enter into a cooperative agreement with the State for management subsequent to the exchange.

4. Acquire and protect the Joaquin Rocks for their historical significance (contingent upon State acquisition).

5. Vehicle use in the Ciervo Hills portion of the MA outside the OHV area is limited to four-wheeled vehicles on designated routes. All vehicle use in the remainder of the MA is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

2. Acquire private inholdings via acquisition or exchange.

3. Issue apiary permits on a case-by-case basis.

Cultural Resources

1. Determine National Register eligibility for the Ciervo Hills/Joaquin Rocks Archaeological Districts.

2. Develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan for the two Archaeological Districts for protection, interpretation, and data retrieval purposes.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species

1. Designate as an ACEC, significant habitat areas for sensitive plants (same as paleontological area) and RTE animals (approximately 3,000 acres).

   a. Establish guidelines for surface disturbance appropriate to protect significant RTE habitat.

   b. Monitor the effects of management activities (predominantly oil, gas, mining, and grazing) on significant habitat areas.

   c. Establish appropriate levels of surface disturbance to be used in oil and gas leasing and mining plans of operation.

2. ACECs will not preclude other land uses.

3. Give special consideration to the sand dunes and desert disjunct communities in the vicinity of Ciervo Mountain and Monocline Ridge and protect to the extent possible.

Visual Resources

1. Restrict new facilities to existing routes or established corridors. Consider communication sites on a case-by-case basis.

2. All activities will meet VRM Class 3 standards for the area.

Support Needs

1. Develop two new AMPs, install 14 miles of pipeline and construct 6 new reservoirs.

2. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.

3. Develop management plans for paleontological and RTE ACECs in conjunction with MAs No. 6, 7, and 11 (amendment to Panoche Hills Management Plan). Federal Register notice.

4. Develop fire suppression agreements with CDF (action modification).

5. Acquire easements on 5 miles of road to Black Mountain and 2 miles of foot trail from Black Mountain to Joaquin Rocks. Construct foot trail and primitive campsites at Joaquin Rocks.

6. Revise Clear Creek Implementation Plan and Panoche Hills Management Plan as necessary to include lands in the MA (signing, posting, increased patrols, etc.).

7. Prepare land Reports, EAs, and appraisals to support identified land tenure workload.

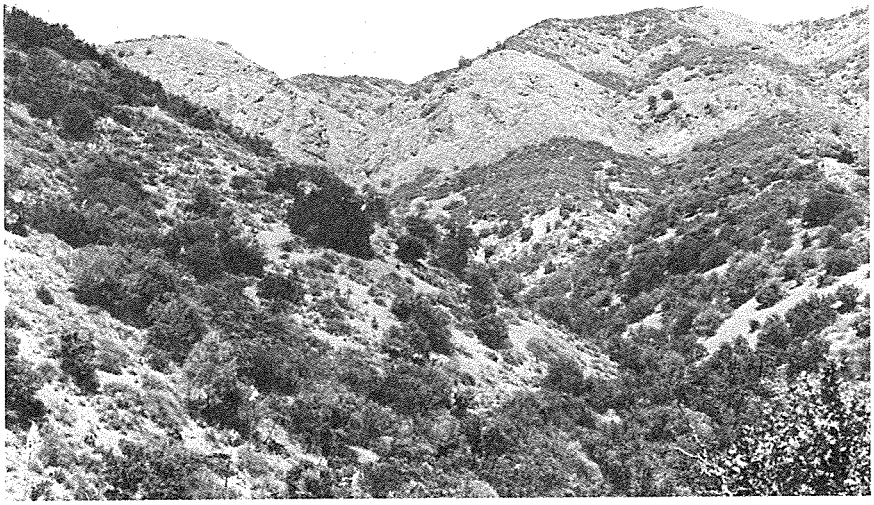
8. Develop a cultural Resources Management Plan and fence at approximately 3 sites.

9. Determine National Register eligibility for the two Archaeological Districts.

10. Conduct data retrieval on approximately 4 sites.

COALINGA MINERAL SPRINGS

10



COALINGA MINERAL SPRINGS (MANAGEMENT AREA 10)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located entirely within Fresno County, and contains about 20,725 acres of public lands in several large blocks.

The predominant feature of the MA is Juniper Ridge culminating in Sherman Peak (elevation 3,857 feet) and Kreyenhagen Peak (elevation 3,561 feet) and also Bald Mountain - Center Peak (elevation 4,541 feet) along the Monterey County line (the main crest of the Diablo Range). Hot Springs Valley, at Coalinga Mineral Springs County Park, is about 2,000 feet above sea level. The topography of the MA is typical of the inner-central coast range with steep, rugged canyons, sandstone cliffs, and escarpments. Warthan Canyon, along Highway 198, is very impressive in that respect.

Vegetation is typical of the area with both mixed chaparral and chamise chaparral predominating, depending on aspect and elevation. There are areas of oak savannah and oak woodland, particularly in canyon bottoms and north slopes. The eastern edge of the MA intergrades with the valley grassland community. Here there is a zone of half-shrub vegetation intermediate between the valley grassland and chaparral. There are no known species of sensitive or RTE plants in the MA. Yucca (or Spanish bayonet) and California juniper are also common and contribute to the scenic quality of the area.

Although there are no perennial streams in the area, Warthan Creek does drain a considerable area and flows along portions of its length year-round. There are also numerous springs in the area. Coalinga Mineral Springs themselves are hot springs and at one time were popular for their medicinal properties.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: One of the 13 grazing leases (total of 2,538 AUMs) in the Management Area is completely unsuitable for grazing. About 45% of the acreage under lease is potentially suitable for grazing.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: Most of the Management Area is leased for oil and gas. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, coal, geothermal, mineral water, manganese, and limestone-dolomite.

Fire Management: There has been little fire activity in the Management Area except north of Sherman Peak and Juniper Ridge (the north end of the Management Area). There were four large prescribed burns there in the early 1970s. The potential for a large wildfire is high due to the prevailing winds, topography, and grassland/brush zone on the eastern side of the area. A program of prescribed burning for habitat improvement was initiated in the area in 1982.

Recreation: This Management Area receives about 4,000 visitor hours annually (40% deer and pig hunting, 10% upland game hunting, and 50% hiking). Most use originates from the Coalinga Mineral Springs Park which is administered by Fresno County. Camping facilities with flush toilets and running water are provided by the county. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) acquired the parklands and a cooperative agreement was signed in 1967 by BLM, CDFG and Fresno County to enhance access for hunting and other recreation.

CDFG has also acquired access to the Curry Mountain area from Highway 198. BLM constructed a two and one-half mile hiking and equestrian trail from Coalinga Mineral Springs to Kreyenhagen Peak in 1980. This trail has been designated as a National Recreation Trail by the Secretary of the Interior.

Though most of the area has legal public access, the entire area lacks vehicular access.

Land Tenure: The public land in the Management Area occurs in western Fresno County and is well blocked, most with public access. Although no sites have been authorized, the area is considered to have potential for communication site purposes. Such uses could create conflicts with visual resources. At present the major right-of-way is a road/firebreak (Juniper Ridge Trail).

Soils: Soils consist primarily of the Rough Broken and Rockland associations. Altamont, Cima, and Climara associations occur on the more gentle slopes.

Wildlife Habitat: Public lands in the area have become important for wildlife management purposes. They provide substantial habitat for the Avenal deer herd. The habitat is very diverse; however, chaparral brushfields in the area are overmature.

Cultural Resources: Two potential National Register sites are recorded on public lands in this Management Area and more may be present. Conditions range from fair to poor. Primary impacts are from road construction, grazing, unauthorized collection, and vandalism.

Visual Resources: Scenery in this area is common to much of the Diablo Range with landscape and vegetation varied in interesting patterns. The area is visible from Highway 198, Coalinga - Los Gatos Creek Road, Highway 33, and as distant background from Highway 5.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Most livestock grazing in the MA, with the exception of the larger I and M category allotments, will be managed on a custodial basis. Efforts will be made to maximize forage production on I and larger M category allotments within environmental constraints.

Fire will be managed to provide a continuing program of fuel hazard reduction, watershed improvement, range improvement, and wildlife habitat improvement.

Provide/maintain recreation opportunities in the area while protecting other resource values and uses.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Provide for improved habitat conditions and protection of visual resources in the area.

COALINGA MINERAL SPRINGS (MANAGEMENT AREA 10)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located entirely within Fresno County, and contains about 20,725 acres of public lands in several large blocks.

The predominant feature of the MA is Juniper Ridge culminating in Sherman Peak (elevation 3,857 feet) and Kreyenhagen Peak (elevation 3,561 feet) and also Bald Mountain - Center Peak (elevation 4,541 feet) along the Monterey County line (the main crest of the Diablo Range). Hot Springs Valley, at Coalinga Mineral Springs County Park, is about 2,000 feet above sea level. The topography of the MA is typical of the inner-central coast range with steep, rugged canyons, sandstone cliffs, and escarpments. Warthan Canyon, along Highway 198, is very impressive in that respect.

Vegetation is typical of the area with both mixed chaparral and chamise chaparral predominating, depending on aspect and elevation. There are areas of oak savannah and oak woodland, particularly in canyon bottoms and north slopes. The eastern edge of the MA intergrades with the valley grassland community. Here there is a zone of half-shrub vegetation intermediate between the valley grassland and chaparral. There are no known species of sensitive or RTE plants in the MA. Yucca (or Spanish bayonet) and California juniper are also common and contribute to the scenic quality of the area.

Although there are no perennial streams in the area, Warthan Creek does drain a considerable area and flows along portions of its length year-round. There are also numerous springs in the area. Coalinga Mineral Springs themselves are hot springs and at one time were popular for their medicinal properties.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: One of the 13 grazing leases (total of 2,538 AUMs) in the Management Area is completely unsuitable for grazing. About 45% of the acreage under lease is potentially suitable for grazing.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: Most of the Management Area is leased for oil and gas. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, coal, geothermal, mineral water, manganese, and limestone-dolomite.

Fire Management: There has been little fire activity in the Management Area except north of Sherman Peak and Juniper Ridge (the north end of the Management Area). There were four large prescribed burns there in the early 1970s. The potential for a large wildfire is high due to the prevailing winds, topography, and grassland/brush zone on the eastern side of the area. A program of prescribed burning for habitat improvement was initiated in the area in 1982.

Recreation: This Management Area receives about 4,000 visitor hours annually (40% deer and pig hunting, 10% upland game hunting, and 50% hiking). Most use originates from the Coalinga Mineral Springs Park which is administered by Fresno County. Camping facilities with flush toilets and running water are provided by the county. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) acquired the parklands and a cooperative agreement was signed in 1967 by BLM, CDFG and Fresno County to enhance access for hunting and other recreation.

CDFG has also acquired access to the Curry Mountain area from Highway 198. BLM constructed a two and one-half mile hiking and equestrian trail from Coalinga Mineral Springs to Kreyenhagen Peak in 1980. This trail has been designated as a National Recreation Trail by the Secretary of the Interior.

Though most of the area has legal public access, the entire area lacks vehicular access.

Land Tenure: The public land in the Management Area occurs in western Fresno County and is well blocked, most with public access. Although no sites have been authorized, the area is considered to have potential for communication site purposes. Such uses could create conflicts with visual resources. At present the major right-of-way is a road/firebreak (Juniper Ridge Trail).

Soils: Soils consist primarily of the Rough Broken and Rockland associations. Altamont, Cima, and Climara associations occur on the more gentle slopes.

Wildlife Habitat: Public lands in the area have become important for wildlife management purposes. They provide substantial habitat for the Avenal deer herd. The habitat is very diverse; however, chaparral brushfields in the area are overmature.

Cultural Resources: Two potential National Register sites are recorded on public lands in this Management Area and more may be present. Conditions range from fair to poor. Primary impacts are from road construction, grazing, unauthorized collection, and vandalism.

Visual Resources: Scenery in this area is common to much of the Diablo Range with landscape and vegetation varied in interesting patterns. The area is visible from Highway 198, Coalinga - Los Gatos Creek Road, Highway 33, and as distant background from Highway 5.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Most livestock grazing in the MA, with the exception of the larger I and M category allotments, will be managed on a custodial basis. Efforts will be made to maximize forage production on I and larger M category allotments within environmental constraints.

Fire will be managed to provide a continuing program of fuel hazard reduction, watershed improvement, range improvement, and wildlife habitat improvement.

Provide/maintain recreation opportunities in the area while protecting other resource values and uses.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Provide for improved habitat conditions and protection of visual resources in the area.

Rationale

Many leases in the MA consist of small, scattered parcels of public land with limited opportunity for management. The I and larger M category allotments have good potential for cost-effective increases or maintenance of forage production and enhanced management.

Large expanses of decadent chaparral constitute a high fire hazard in the area. Extremely dense brush conditions make large portions of the area unuseable for livestock and many species of wildlife, particularly deer. The use of fire is a cost effective means of maintaining healthy, productive chaparral brushfields.

Large private inholdings in the area limit public access to portions of the area and also contribute to trespass onto private property. A substantial investment has already been made by the Fresno County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Bureau to provide recreation opportunities in the area. Recreation is considered a primary and important use of public lands in the area.

The Juniper Ridge portion of the area is visible from Interstate 5 and Highway 198. Other portions of the area are also visible from Highway 198.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.

2. Prescribe burn approximately 5,900 acres of chaparral as identified in the Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plan.

3. Develop AMPs for I category allotments (No. 4344, 4380, and 4412). The objective of the AMPs would be to improve livestock distribution and increase forage production.

4. Manage to leave 700 pounds of mulch per acre after grazing on I and larger M category allotments.

5. Establish a grazing season of use where appropriate (November 1 to May 30).

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Consider mineral exploration and development on a case-by-case basis.

Fire Management

1. Prescribe burn approximately 2,500 acres for fuels reduction in accordance with the Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plan.

Recreation

1. Manage the area as a Special Recreation Management Area to provide hunting and hiking opportunities (specifically, extend the existing trail to form a 10-mile loop system).

2. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to designated routes.

3. Designate and develop primitive camping areas in accordance with the existing Recreation Management Plan.

Land Tenure

1. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

2. Consolidate larger parcels (e.g., Curry Mountain and lands adjacent to Coalinga Mineral Springs County Park) through acquisition or exchange.

Wildlife Habitat

1. Develop an HMP with emphasis on deer and wildlife habitat improvement. Prescribe burn to maintain uneven-aged brushfields (approximately 5,000 acres).

Visual Resources

1. All activities will meet VRM Class 3 standards for the area.

2. Permit no communication sites on Juniper Ridge.

3. Consider utility rights-of-way on a case-by-case basis (no designated corridors).

Support Needs

1. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.

2. Develop 3 Allotment Management Plans.

3. Construct approximately 12 ponds, develop 10 springs and install troughs. An undetermined amount of fencing may also be needed.

4. Develop project-specific burn plans and EAs.

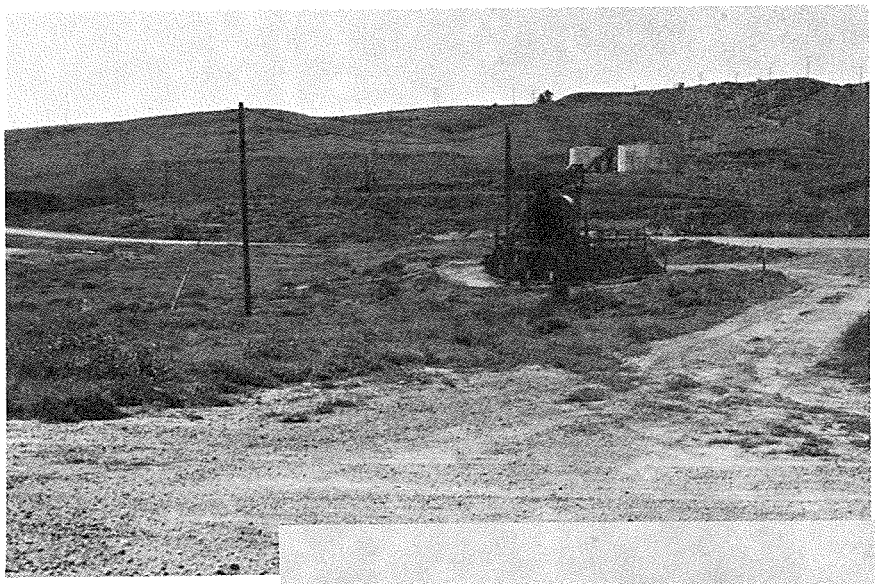
5. Develop approximately 8 miles of foot trail and acquire one mile of easement.

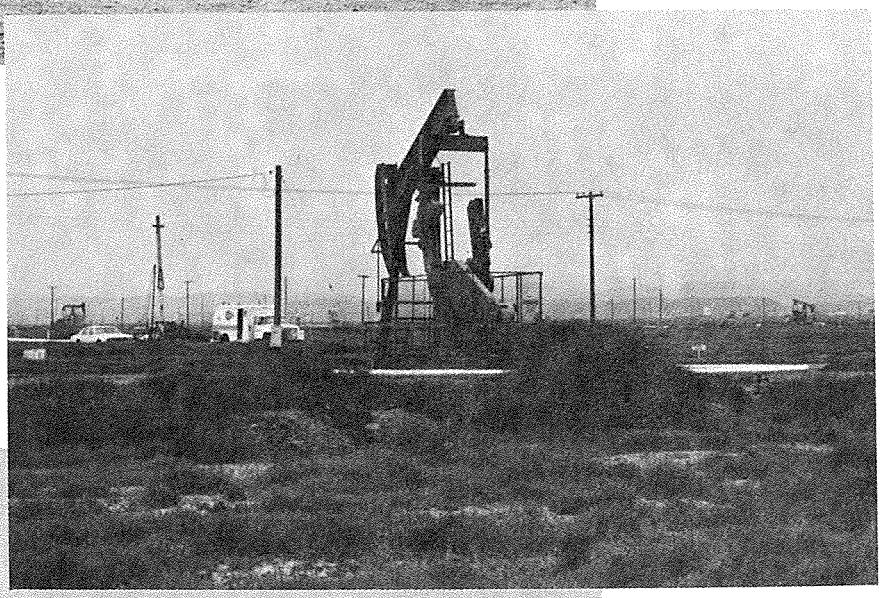
6. Prepare land Reports, EAs, and appraisals to support identified land tenure workload.

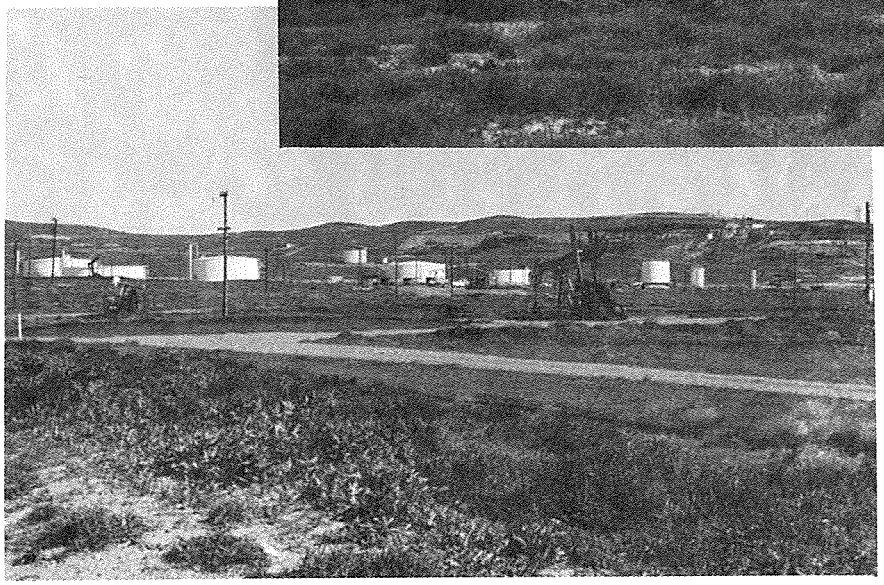
7. Develop an HMP and 5 water sources for wildlife.

COALINGA

11







COALINGA (MANAGEMENT AREA 11)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located entirely in Fresno County and contains 8,904 acres of public lands.

The predominant feature of the MA is the low, rolling foothills and valley grassland which border the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley. The Kettleman Hills, Kreyenhagen Hills, Alcalde Hills, and Anticline Ridge are the predominant landmarks. Elevations range from about 500 feet at the lowest point to about 2,600 feet at the highest. The area lies within the rain shadow of the Diablo Range to the west and is consequently very arid. Average annual precipitation is about six to nine inches. The MA area contains the terminus of several large ephemeral drainages - Jacalitos Creek, Warthan Creek, and Los Gatos Creek. The rolling topography of the foothills is dissected by many smaller, intermittent drainages. The vegetation of the MA is characteristic of the valley grassland complex consisting of a variety of annual grasses and herbaceous forbs. Common shrubs include saltbush (Atriplex spp.) and in the higher elevations of the Kreyenhagen and Jacalitos Hills a few scattered California Juniper.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: The seven existing grazing leases (total of 1,380 AUMs) are managed custodially. These leases are primarily on annual grassland, are all suitable for grazing, and all but one have yearlong grazing seasons.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: The Management Area encompasses the most significant federal production of oil and gas in the Planning Area. Oil and gas leasing occurs extensively in the area. Federal production of oil and gas is occurring within the following fields (all designated KGS):

> Coalinga (340 acres), East Coalinga Extension (96 acres), Coalinga Nose (2,796 acres), Jacalitos (640 acres), and Kettleman North Dome (21,447 acres), the latter not all within the Planning Area.

The 1981 federal production was 3,952,270 barrels of oil, however, this figure includes some unitized production and production from outside the Planning Area (Kings County). Bureau of Land Management records show no mining claims in the area. In addition to oil and gas, economic reserves of sand and gravel occur. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, coal, gypsum and limestone-dolomite.

Land Tenure: The public land in the Management Area is in a scattered pattern on the outskirts of the city of Coalinga, in and about the extensively developed oil and gas fields. Major rights-of-way include eight oil and gas pipelines.

Recreation: This area receives about 1,000 visitor hours annually (50% quail and rabbit hunting, 50% ORV use). Except for a few small parcels north of Coalinga, public access is lacking. ORV use occurs in the Kettleman Hills in conjunction with use on adjacent private lands.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species: Scattered public lands in the Management Area provide perhaps the most significant habitat in the Planning Area for the blunt-nosed leopard lizard and San Joaquin kit fox. Important areas are in the Kettleman Hills (designated critical habitat for the leopard lizard), the lower Anticline Ridge area, and lower Jacalitos Canyon. All locations are vulnerable to surface disturbance from ORVs, oil and gas activity and agricultural development under the Desert Land Entry Act. Malathion spraying and rodent poisoning activities could also have adverse impacts on RTE species.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

All livestock grazing will be managed on a custodial basis with emphasis on monitoring and protection of significant RTE habitat.

Oil, gas, and mineral resources will be managed to meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production.

Protect and/or improve habitat for RTE species in the area.

Rationale

Grazing leases in the MA consist of small, scattered parcels with limited opportunity for management.

The area contains significant oil and gas resources, including the largest producing oil fields in the Planning Area. It is important that these valuable resources be available for exploration and development.

Sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species are a prime consideration in all activities that occur in this area. Public lands, although scattered, provide some of the most significant habitat remaining within the Planning Area.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Manage livestock grazing on a custodial basis.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Encourage oil, gas, and minerals exploration and development with emphasis on protection of RTE habitat.

Recreation

1. Manage recreation use on a custodial basis.

2. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

2. Effect land tenure adjustments through exchange as appropriate to achieve management goals.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species:

1. Designate as an ACEC, significant habitat areas for RTE animals (approximately 4,000 acres).

   a. Establish guidelines for surface disturbance appropriate to protect significant RTE habitat.

   b. Monitor the effects of management activities (predominantly oil, gas, mining, and grazing) on significant habitat areas.

   c. Establish appropriate levels of surface disturbance to be used in oil and gas leasing and mining plans of operation.

2. ACECs will not preclude other land uses.

Support Needs

1. Develop a management plan for the RTE ACEC in conjunction with MAs No. 6, 7, and 9 (amendment to Panoche Hills Management Plan).

PARKFIELD

12

PARKFIELD (MANAGEMENT AREA 12)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located in both Fresno and Monterey counties and contains 33,157 acres of public lands.

The predominant feature of the MA is the rugged backbone of the Diablo Range which forms the Monterey/Fresno county line. The highest elevations are Castle Mountain (elevation 4,343 feet) and Smith Mountain (elevation 3,947 feet). The Cholame Hills are a lower, more rolling range of foothills on the east side of the Salinas Valley and east of the main Diablo Range. The highest elevations are Stockdale Mountain (elevation 2,593 feet) and Powell Mountain (elevation 2,210 feet). The lowest elevations are along the Salinas River at 500 feet. The MA is characterized by mostly steep, rugged topography and dense brush-covered hills. Chamise chaparral and oak brush are the most common vegetation on public lands, with small areas of oak savannah. The eastern and western portions of the MA intergrade with the valley grassland types. Precipitation is highest along the crest of the Diablo Range (18 inches) and tapers off to about eight inches on the east side and 10 inches in the Salinas Valley. There are many major intermittent drainages especially in the Monterey County portion of the MA (Cholame Creek, Slack Canyon, Indian Valley, Sargent Canyon, Vineyard Canyon, Powell Canyon and Pancho Rico Valley to name a few).

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: Of the 24 grazing leases (total of 2,218 AUMs) all or most of eight leases are unsuitable for grazing. About 34% is unsuitable for grazing, and over 24% is covered with dense chaparral (potentially suitable). Only one lease has a season of use. Most of the leases are rated custodial.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: Most of the Management Area is leased for oil and gas. The area has experienced recent wildcat exploration activity. Portions of the San Ardo Field are within the area (no federal production). Economic reserves of oil and gas occur. Sub-economic reserves of mercury are present. Undiscovered resources include oil, gas, and coal.

Fire Management: Fire history records indicate a few large wildfires and limited controlled/prescribed burn activity (until recently) in the past 30 years. Most brushfields are 30 to 40 years old or older. Fire starts have been concentrated in the northwestern portion of the Management Area near the Salinas Valley (grassland areas). The potential for large wildfire is high due to fuel conditions (grass/brush mix) and strong summer winds.

Recreation: This area receives about 2,000 visitor hours annually, mainly for deer and pig hunting. Most of the lands lack legal public access, except for Stockdale Mountain and a few smaller parcels near Vinyard Canyon, Parkfield Grade, and Hog Canyon. Conflicts are occurring between recreationists and adjacent property owners (primarily around Stockdale Mountain) due to lack of properly defined boundaries.

Land Tenure: The public lands in the Management Area occur in western Fresno and southern Monterey counties. The lands are in a mixed pattern of scattered and concentrated blocks. The Stockdale Mountain area has the most significant acreage of accessible public lands. Major rights-of-way include two communication sites at Table Mountain, a communication site at Charley Mountain, and a fire lookout at Smith Mountain.

Soils: Soils in the area consist of Rough Broken, Rockland, Climara-Mountara-Henneke, Altamont, Misholm, and Los Osos-Misholm associations. Fertility ranges from moderately low to moderately high.

Wildlife Habitat: The Stockdale Mountain area is regarded as an important wildlife management area. Chaparral brushfields in the area are overmature. The area supports a very viable wild pig population.

Cultural Resources: There are two potential National Register sites recorded on public lands in this Management Area (Mine Mountain Area) and there is definite potential for others to be located. Condition ranges from somewhat to greatly disturbed. Primary impacts are from mining, road construction, and grazing.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

All livestock grazing, with the exception of several larger M category allotments, will be managed on a custodial basis. Forage allocations will consider other resource needs.

Oil, gas, and mineral resources will be managed to meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production while protecting other resource values.

Fire will be managed to provide a continuing program of fuel hazard reduction, watershed improvement, range improvement, and habitat improvement.

Provide/maintain recreational opportunities in the area while protecting other resources, and minimizing conflicts with other users and adjacent landowners.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Provide for improved habitat conditions in key wildlife areas.

Protect significant cultural resources that exist in the area.

Rationale

Most grazing leases in the MA consist of small, scattered parcels of public land with limited opportunity for management. Several larger M category allotments have good potential for cost-effective increases or maintenance of forage production and enhanced management.

The area contains significant oil and gas resources, including large producing oil fields around San Ardo. It is important that these valuable resources be available for exploration and development.

Large expanses of decadent chaparral constitute a high fire hazard in the area. Extremely dense brush conditions make large portions of the area unuseable for livestock and many species of wildlife, particularly deer. The use of fire is a cost-effective means of maintaining healthy, productive chaparral brushfields.

Recreation opportunities in the area are limited, occurring on a few small parcels. Significant problems associated with trespass onto private property need resolving.

The present scattered land pattern provides very little opportunity for efficient management.

Significant cultural resources in the vicinity of Mine Mountain need to be protected from indiscriminate collection and surface-disturbing activities. Data from these sites could provide significant information on prehistoric uses of the area.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.

2. Prescribe burn approximately 4,000 acres of chaparral as identified in the Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plan.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Allow exploration and development.

Fire Management

1. Prescribe burn for fuels reduction in accordance with the Fresno/Monterey Burn Plan (approximately 10,000 acres).

Recreation

1. Manage the Stockdale Mountain area for hunting opportunities (foot access).

2. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. Dispose of parcels identified for sale (4,366 acres).

2. Consolidate where possible through exchange or acquisition.

3. Communication sites will be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

4. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

Wildlife Habitat

1. Prescribe burn approximately 2,000 acres in accordance with the Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plan. The objective will be to maintain uneven-aged brushfieds.

Cultural Resources

1. Determine National Register eligibility for sites in the Mine Mountain Area.

2. Prepare a Cultural Resources Management Plan for site stabilization and data retrieval in the Mine Mountain area.

Support Needs

1. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.

2. Develop project-specific burn plans and EAs.

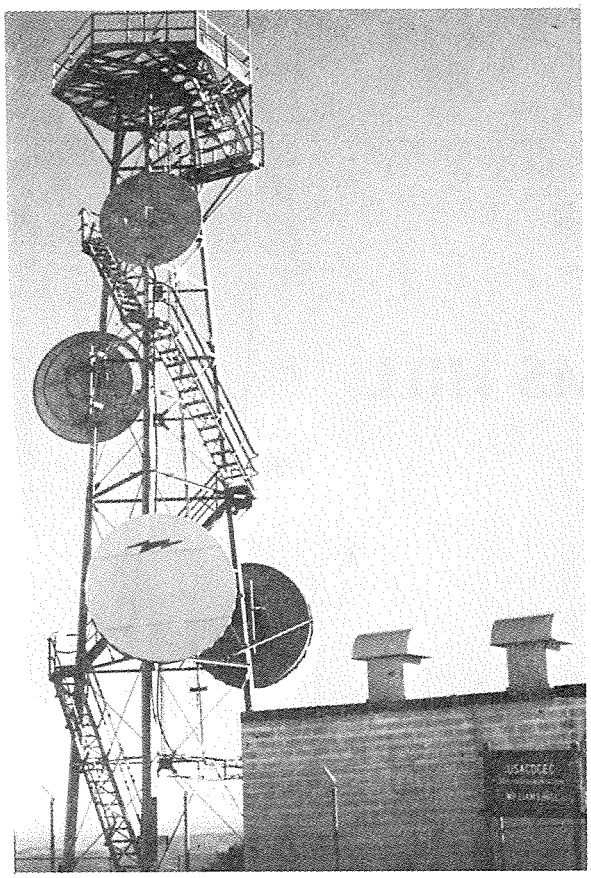
3. Develop signing and posting plan for boundary identifaction (recreation use plan).

4. Prepare land Reports, EAs, and appraisals to support identified land tenure workload.

5. Determine National Register eligibility and develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan.

6. Conduct data retrieval at approximately 1-2 sites.

WILLIAMS HILL



WILLIAMS HILL (MANAGEMENT AREA 13)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located in Monterey County and contains 18,479 acres of public land.

The predominant feature of the MA is the Santa Lucia Range west of the Salinas Valley containing Williams Hill (elevation 2,780 feet). The lowest elevations are along the Salinas River at 500 feet and also in the Jolon/San Antonio Valleys at about 900 feet. The public lands in the MA are characterized by steep, rugged topography and dense brush-covered hills. Chamise and mixed chaparral or oakbrush are the most common plant communities. A community of Monterey knobcone pine also occurs naturally in the Williams Hill area. Annual precipitation is about 12 to 30 inches in the MA, depending on location.

The San Antonio River is a perennial tributary to the Salinas river and flows through the southern portion of the MA. Its origins are in the Los Padres NF. It is dammed near Bradley to form the San Antonio reservoir, an important recreation area. There are numerous intermittent drainages in the MA as well.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: Of the 10 grazing leases (total of 411 AUMs) six have a substantial portion rated unsuitable for grazing. About 51% of the Management Area is rated unsuitable. About 34% is considered potentially suitable and only 15% suitable.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: Most of the Management Area is leased for oil and gas. Federal production of oil and gas is occurring on nine acres within the San Ardo Field. The 1981 Federal production was 13,180 barrels. A recent discovery of oil and gas was made in Hames Valley. The undefined field at present includes 360 federal acres. Production figures are not available at this time. BLM records show no mining claims in the area. A duration of product contract is in effect for building stone near Williams Hill. Reserves are estimated at 370,000 tons. Production has averaged 200 tons per year. A recent appraisal (1983) set the contract value at $2.93 per ton. Building stone, and oil and gas have been identified as economic reserves in the Management Area. Sub-economic reserves include asbestos, diatomite, and sand and gravel. Undiscovered resources are oil and gas.

Fire Management: Wildfire occurrence has been quite high in the area. There were several large fires in the 1950s and early 1960s. The Yost Fire (1978) near Williams Hill burned about 1,600 acres (600 acres of public land). Another fire in 1979 near Quinado Canyon burned about 1,000 acres. Very little public land has been involved in controlled or prescribed burning. Much of the chaparral is over 30 years of age and the potential is high for another major wildfire.

Recreation: This area receives about 2,000 visitor hours annually (90% for deer and pig hunting and 10% for ORV use). The 6,000-acre block of public land near Williams Hill has public access from the Lockwood-San Ardo road at the Westside Fuelbreak. Hunting opportunities are poor to fair due to steep topography and dense brush. Some motorcycle use occurs along Westside Fuelbreak. Conflicts occasionally occur with adjacent landowners.

Land Tenure: The public lands in the Management Area occur in southern Monterey County in a mixed pattern of scattered and concentrated blocks. The block of land encompassing Williams Hill itself comprises the only significant accessible acreage. The area has the second highest number of right-of-way grants (12) in the Planning Area including four communication sites at Williams Hill.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species: The Management Area contains a high number of sensitive plant species with the possiblity of occurrence on public lands. The only species verified on public lands at present is Malacothamnus palmeri involucratus.

Soils: Soils in this area are predominantly of the Santa Lucia-Gazos association. Gaviota association is also present. Fertility is low to moderate.

Wildlife Habitat: Public lands in the Williams Hill area are regarded as an important wildlife management area for the Santa Lucia deer herd. Chaparral brushfields in the area are overmature.

Visual Resources: Scenery in this area is typical of most of the region and scenic quality is not high. Ridges and east slopes are, however, visible as background from Highway 101.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

All livestock grazing in the area will be managed on a custodial basis. Forage allocations will consider other resource uses.

Oil, gas, and mineral resources will be managed to meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production while protecting other resource values.

Fire will be managed to provide a continuing program of fuel hazard reduction, watershed improvement, range improvement and habitat improvement.

Provide/maintain recreational opportunities in the area while protecting other resources, and minimizing conflicts with other users and adjacent landowners.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Provide for protection/improvement of wildlife and RTE habitat conditions.

Maintain scenic quality (visual resources) in the area.

Rationale

Most grazing leases in the MA consist of small, scattered parcels of public land with limited opportunity for management because of steep slopes and shallow soils.

The area contains significant oil and gas resources, including large producing oil fields around San Ardo. It is important that these valuable resources be available for exploration and development.

Large expanses of decadent chaparral constitute a high fire hazard in the area. Extremely dense brush conditions make large portions of the area unuseable for livestock and many species of wildlife, particularly deer. Several species of sensitive plants are also fire dependent. The use of fire is a cost-effective means of maintaining healthy, productive chaparral brushfields.

Recreation opportunities in the area are limited, occurring on a few small parcels. Problems associated with trespass onto private property need resolving.

The present scattered land pattern provides very little opportunity for efficient management. Much of the area is highly visible from Highway 101.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.

2. Prescribe burn approximately 1,000 acres of chaparral in accordance with the Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plan.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Continue to work with military to encourage oil and gas and mineral development.

2. Allow exploration and development elsewhere in the MA within environmental constraints.

Fire Management

1. Prescribe burn approximately 11,000 acres of chaparral for fuel hazard reduction in accordance with the Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plan.

Recreation

1. Manage to provide hunting and limited ORV opportunities in the Williams Hill area.

2. Vehicle use in the MA is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. Dispose of parcels identified for sale (405 acres).

2. Effect consolidation of lands through exchange in the Williams Hill area.

3. Allow communication sites on a case-by-case basis.

4. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the mangement objectives for the management area.

Wildlife Habitat

1. Develop an HMP with emphasis on deer and wildlife habitat improvement and protection and/or enhancement of sensitive plants.

2. Prescribe burn approximately 3,000 acres to maintain uneven-aged brushfields.

Support Needs

1. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.

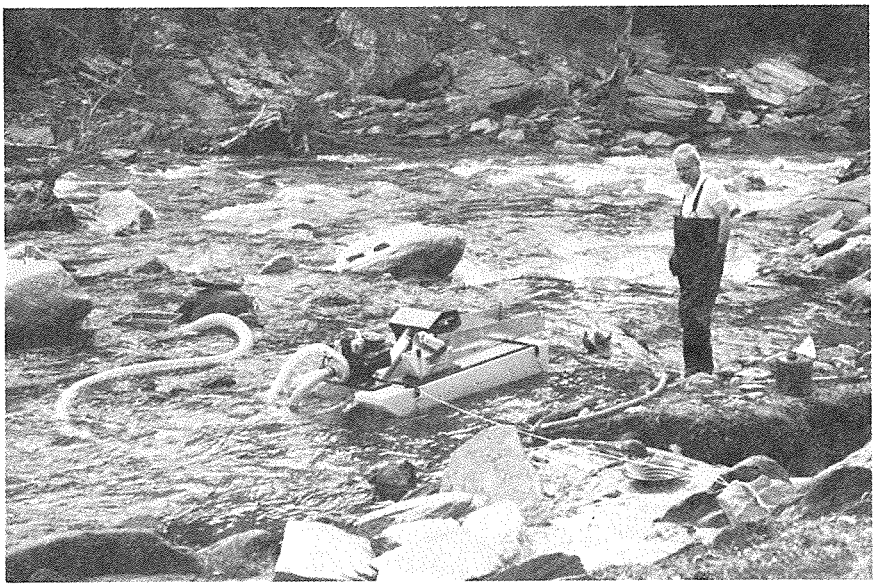
2. Develop project-specific burn plans and EAs.

3. Develop signing and posting plan for boundary identification (recreation use plan).

4. Prepare land Reports, EAs, and appraisals to support identified land tenure workload.

5. Develop an HMP, 5 water sources for wildlife, and a monitoring plan for sensitive plants.

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN



CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN (MANAGEMENT AREA 14)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located in the eastern half of the Planning Area and includes all public lands east of Interstate 5 in Fresno, Madera, and Merced counties (excluding the Squaw Leap Management Area). It contains 3,819 acres of public lands.

The MA contains a wide variety of climate, topography, and vegetation. The San Joaquin Valley portion is, for the most part, under agriculture. Remnants of valley grassland and marsh remain here and there. The relief is mostly flat and elevations range from near sea level to several hundred feet. The foothills of the San Joaquin Valley begin in the valley grassland on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley and progress upward through oak savannah, chaparral, and foothill woodland (oak and digger pine) vegetation. The eastern boundary of the MA conforms more or less to the transition between the chaparral/foothill woodland and timber (ponderosa pine) types. The highest elevations within the MA are about 3,600 feet, the average is probably 1,500 to 2,000 feet. Soils in the MA are mostly granitic in origin. Major rivers include the San Joaquin, Kings, and Fresno Rivers. Average annual precipitation ranges from five to ten inches in the western San Joaquin Valley, to about 20 to 25 inches in the eastern portion of the MA.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: This area was included in the Sierra Grazing Environmental Impact Statement which addressed the livestock grazing issue for the Management Area. There are five grazing leases (total 122 AUMs), all on suitable rated acres. All leases are custodial. One lease has an established season of use.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: Oil and gas leasing is largely limited to the west side of the Management Area. The area has the second highest occurrence of mining claims in the Planning Area. Sand and gravel has been identified as an economic reserve. Tungsten has been identified as a sub-economic reserve. Undiscovered resources include oil and gas, copper, gold, silver, chromite, and magnesite. Public lands along the rivers provide recreational gold mining (panning) opportunities.

Recreation: This area receives about 5,000 visitor hours annually (picnicking, swimming, camping, fishing, and hunting). Most use occurs on two parcels; on the Fresno River west of Oakhurst and on the Kings River near Piedra. Local people are probably the main users in these areas. Resource impacts are occurring due to uncontrolled use (littering, damage to vegetation, vandalism, etc). There are a few other accessible parcels adjacent to National Forest lands. These parcels receive little use because they lack river access. Numerous recreation opportunities are available on other lands in the area including the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests, Shaver Lake, Pine Flat Reservoir, Millerton Lake, and various Fresno County Parks.

Land Tenure: The public lands in the Management Area occur almost exclusively in the Sierra Nevada foothills region of eastern Fresno and Madera counties, with two parcels occurring in the Central Valley proper. Major rights-of-way include four railroad lines crossing scattered public land parcels.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species: There are a high number of sensitive plant species that occur in the Management Area. None are known to presently occur on public lands and many are known to be associated with vernal pools in the San Joaquin Valley.

Cultural Resources: One potential National Register site is recorded on public lands in the Management Area (Fresno River site) and more undoubtedly are present. Conditions range from very good to poor. Primary impacts are from grazing activities, mining, road construction, and unauthorized collection. One site is photo-monitered periodically.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

All livestock grazing in the MA will be managed on a custodial basis. Forage allocations will consider other resource uses.

Oil, gas, and mineral resources will be managed to meet the demand for increased energy and mineral production while protecting other resource values.

Provide/maintain recreational opportunities in the area while protecting other resources, and minimizing conflicts with other users and adjacent landowners.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Protect significant cultural resources that exist in the area.

Rationale

All leases in the MA consist of small, scattered parcels of public land with limited opportunity for management.

The area is highly mineralized (containing the second largest number of claims in the Planning Area).

Recreation opportunities in the area are limited, occurring on several small parcels along the major rivers or adjacent to National Forest lands. Although they are small, these parcels provide opportunities for public land users. Problems with resource damage and littering need to be resolved.

The present scattered land pattern provides very little opportunity for efficient management. Significant cultural resources at the Fresno River site need to be protected from indiscriminate collection and surface-disturbing activities. Data from this site could provide significant information on prehistoric uses of the area.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Grazing will be managed on a custodial basis.

Minerals

1. Allow mineral leasing, exploration and development on a case-by-case basis.

Recreation

1. Manage recreation use on a custodial basis.

2. Vehicle use is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. Dispose of lands identified for sale (1,917 acres).

2. Make lands available to the National Forests as necessary for boundary adjustments.

3. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

Cultural Resources

1. Determine National Register eligibility for the Fresno River site.

2. Develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan for protection and data retrieval at the Fresno River site.

Support Needs

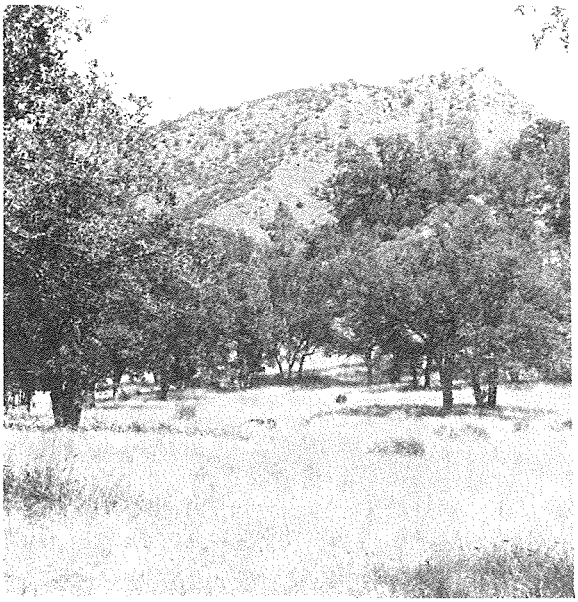
1. Use local volunteer(s) or resident caretaker(s) to provide patrol and clean-up in accessible areas such as the Fresno River and Piedra parcels.

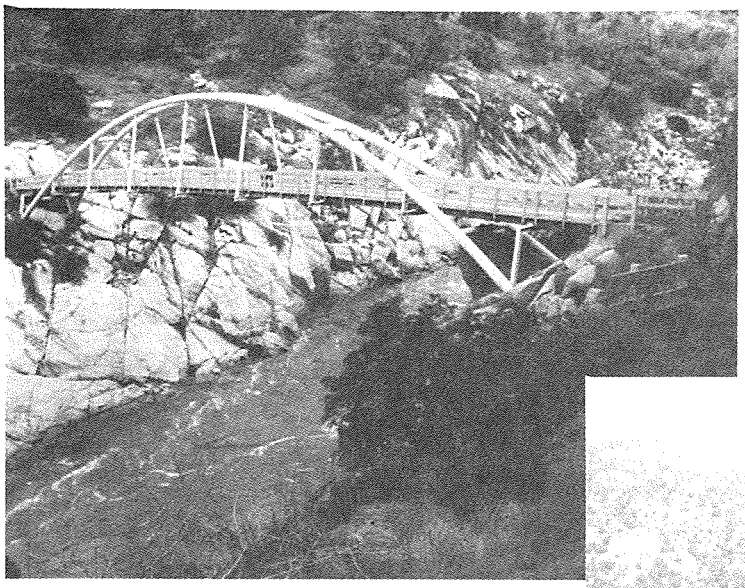
2. Prepare land Reports, EAs, and appraisals to support identified land tenure workload.

3. Determine National Register eligibility and develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan.

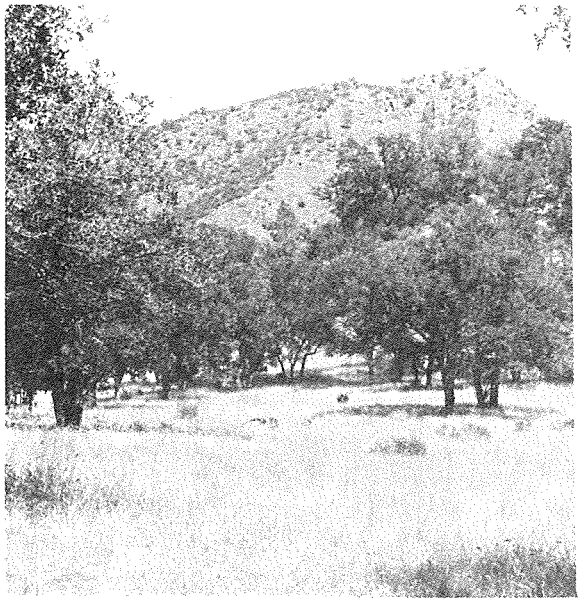
4. Conduct data retrieval and fencing at one site.

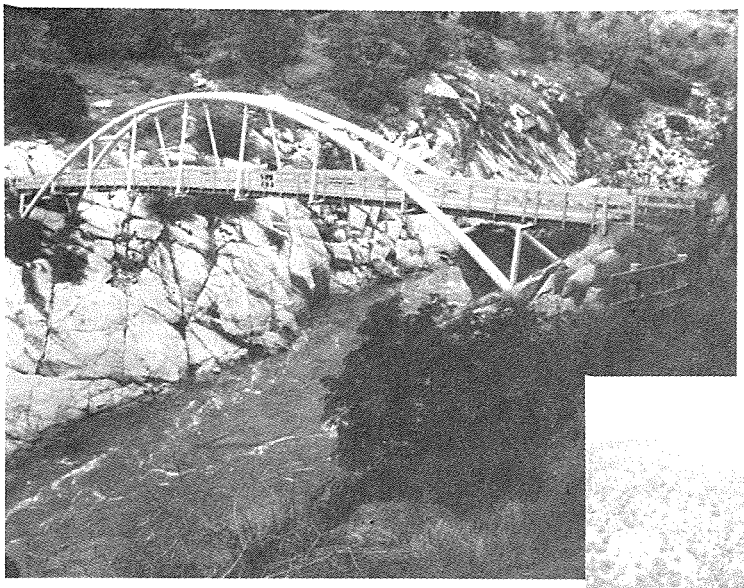
SQUAW LEAP

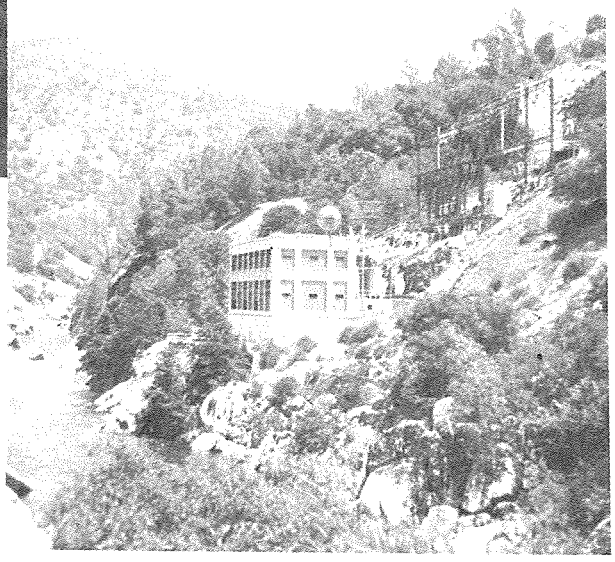




SQUAW LEAP







SQUAW LEAP (MANAGEMENT AREA No. 15)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located in both Fresno and Madera counties and includes those public lands in and along the San Joaquin River drainage from Millerton Lake to the forest boundary. The MA contains about 4,760 acres of public lands, most of which are fairly well blocked.

The predominant feature of the MA is the San Joaquin River canyon and Squaw Leap itself (elevation 2,370). The river canyon is about 1,500 feet deep on the average with steep vertical cliffs in places. The lowest elevation at the head of Millerton Lake is about 500 feet and the highest elevation at Rock Mountain is 2,878 feet. The rim of the canyon is capped with basalt, from volcanic origin, forming the characteristic tablelands and buttes (Kennedy Table and Squaw Leap) which parallel the river canyon. The lower portions of the canyon are comprised of exposed granite bedrock where the river has cut down through the volcanic rock. The vegetation is characteristic oak or foothill woodland type consisting of blue oak savannah, digger pine, and live oak. Average annual rainfall is about 15 to 20 inches. There are many small springs and seeps throughout the area.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: This area was also included in the Sierra Grazing EIS which addressed the livestock grazing issue for the Management Area. There are four grazing leases in the area (total of 985 AUMs). Each has a separate management agreement setting numbers, class of livestock, and season of use. About 34% of the acreage leased is considered unsuitable and 66% considered suitable.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: There are no oil and gas leases within the Management Area. Over 600,000 tons of fragmented granite have been deposited in a spoils area from construction activities (tunneling) at the Kerckhoff 2 Hydroelectric Project. A 1981 appraisal established value of the material at $0.12 per ton. At present, large scale disposal does not appear economically feasible. Limited quantities have been disposed of under Free Use Permit. Fragmented granite is considered a sub-economic reserve. Undiscovered resources include tungsten and gold. Segregation of 6,100 acres from locatable mineral entry, including 2,600 acres of Federal mineral interest only, was effected for the protection of significant recreation and wildlife values.

Fire Management: The area lies in a zone of extreme fire hazard during the summer period. The grass/brush combination plus the steep, narrow river canyon creates conditions for fast-spreading, moderately intense fires. The Temperance Flat Fire (1982) started on Millerton Lake from an unattended barbecue. Strong, up-canyon winds quickly spread the fire upstream through the Squaw Leap Area, covering almost 8,000 acres in two days. The wildfire probably served to reduce large fuels for a period of 10 to 15 years. Even so, due to the luxuriant grass growth each year, the area will remain susceptible to smaller, fast-moving, but less intense fires on a yearly basis.

Recreation: The area receives about 36,000 visitor hours of use yearly (hiking, quail hunting, picnicking, fishing, and camping). Swimming in the river is hazardous because of the fluctuating river levels resulting from powerhouse operations.

A special recreation permit has been issued annually to the Civil War Skirmish Association for reenacting historic battle scenes.

Facilities include an eleven-mile hiking trail, one vault toilet, one trash can, a map sign, and interpretive materials (nature guide and pamphlet). The Secretary of the Interior designated the hiking trail as a National Recreation Trail in 1981. A six-unit campground funded by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is scheduled for construction in 1984. PG&E will also provide a parking area and river trail beginning at the switchyard area at the end of the paved road. A trail has been proposed from Millerton Lake to the Sierra National Forest that would involve the State, USFS, Fresno County, and numerous private property owners along the route. Use of the Squaw Leap area is expected to increase now that the Kerckhoff 2 project is complete.

The primitive recreation experience available on the Madera County side has been somewhat degraded by vehicle use and by the highly visible Kerckhoff 2 spoils disposal area (that portion of the area was designated as a roadless area in the Squaw Leap Management Plan).

Trespass problems in the area include off-road vehicle use on the trail and illegal woodcutting. The distance of the area from the Hollister Resource Area office (about three and one-half hours driving time) makes effective management difficult.

Land Tenure: In addition to BLM-administered public lands, there is substantial acreage in several large tracts under jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation (some of which is administered by BLM under cooperative agreement) via withdrawal. The withdrawal is pending review and may or may not result in restoration of the withdrawn lands to public domain. The public lands are generally well blocked and the Management Area contains the most significant, accessible, BLM-administered public land acreage in the Sierra Nevada foothill region of the Planning Area. A major hydroelectric project, Kerckhoff 2, was completed in 1983. Six other rights-of-way have been authorized throughout the Management Area. Withdrawals for power project, powersite reserve, and reservoir site also occur in the area.

Soils: Soils consist primarily of Ahwahnee-Auberry, Ahwahnee-Vista, and Coarsegold associations. Fertility is low to moderate.

Wildlife: The area has been managed under the Squaw Leap Management Plan since 1970. It is considered an important wildlife management area for deer and upland game. Numerous habitat improvements and developments including brush clearing, seedings, spring developments, ponds, and fenced exclosures have been constructed and maintained for wildlife in the area. Wildlife habitat conditions are probably near optimum as a result of these developments and the recent Temperance Flat fire (1982). The Kerckhoff 2 Hydroelectric Project resulted in a small permanent loss of habitat which has been mitigated through additional habitat improvement and development work (Kerckhoff 2 Wildlife Habitat Plan, 1981). Of greater concern at present is the impact(s) of the project on the American shad and striped bass fishery in the San

Joaquin River above Millerton Lake. This is the only known landlocked population of either species in the State. PG&E has agreed to cooperate in fish studies to determine the effects of the project on the fishery resources and possible methods to mitigate or compensate for anticipated effects. PG&E has agreed to mitigate or compensate all fisheries impacts that are reasonable or feasible, including provision of sufficient instream flows necessary to sustain fish populations (Kerckhoff 2 Fishery Agreement, 1981).

Cultural Resources: This Management Area is a National Register Archaeological District (22 sites) "in an environmental context unique to Federal land tenure in California."

More cultural sites will likely be found here. Condition ranges from pristine to destroyed. Primary impacts are from fire management, road building, project construction, grazing, and unauthorized collection. Native American gathering areas and spiritual places are located in this MA.

Visual Resources: Generally scenery in the area is typical of the region. Scenic quality is highest in the San Joaquin River gorge which is visible from most of the Squaw Leap National Recreation Trail. A popular viewing spot is the foot bridge spanning the gorge.

Visual quality has been somewhat degraded by two PG&E power projects, particularly the Kerckhoff 2 spoils area which consists of approximately 600,000 tons of fragmented granite covering 12 acres.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Livestock grazing in the area will be managed intensively under existing management agreements. Emphasis will be placed on protection of wildlife and recreation values.

Mining activity will be constrained to protect significant resource values and capital investments in the area.

Fire will be managed to protect significant resource values and capital investments in the area.

Provide/maintain recreational opportunities in the area while protecting other resources, and minimizing conflicts with other users and adjacent landowners.

Protect/maintain wildlife habitat conditions in the area.

Protect significant cultural and visual resorces associated with the area.

Rationale

This area produces abundant forage for livestock grazing. Grazing is a tool to reduce accumulations of fine fuel which culd lead to another large wildfire.

The large number of recreation, wildlife, and grazing-related facilities in the area as well as PG&E's hydroelectric facilities, underground lines, etc., represent a substantial capital investment in the area. These need special protection from potential surface disturbances related to mining or fire suppression activities.

Recreation is considered a primary and important use of the Squaw Leap area. A substantial investment has already been made by the Bureau, Department of Fish and Game, and the Fresno County Sportsmen's Club to provide recreation opportunities and improve wildlife habitat conditions in the area.

Significant cultural resources in the area need to be protected from indiscriminate collection and surface-disturbing activities. Data from these sites could provide significant information on prehistoric uses of the area.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Continue livestock grazing as outlined in existing allotment management agreements (normal season of use from November 1 to April 30).

2. Manage grazing to leave 700 pounds per acre after grazing.

Minerals

1. Terminate the mineral segregation on 3,450 acres in the Squaw Leap area.

2. Withdraw 2,650 acres in the Squaw Leap area from locatable mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law.

3. Consider large scale disposal of tunnel material only to meet special management needs (e.g., as an aid to stabilization).

4. Allow controlled small scale disposals on a case-by-case basis as an aid to stabilization.

Fire Management

1. Allow prescribed burning on a case-by-case basis for improvement of livestock forage and fuels reduction in accordance with the Fresno/Monterey County Burn Plan.

2. Develop a Fire Management Plan with emphasis on fire prevention and action modification in cooperation with the State Department of Forestry.

Recreation

1. Continue to manage the area as a Special Recreation Management Area to provide hunting, hiking, horseback riding, camping, fishing, and picnicking opportunities.

2. Cooperate with other agencies in the construction of the San Joaquin River Trail from Millerton Lake to the Sierra National Forest.

3. Vehicle use is limited to designated routes (vehicle use on Madera County side further restricted to administrative use and special project maintenance).

Land Tenure

1. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

2. Consolidate through acquisition or exchange where possible.

Cultural Resources

1. Determine National Register eligibility for the Squaw Leap Archaeological District (SLAD).

2. Develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan for the SLAD for the purpose of protection, stabilization, data retrieval, and interpretation.

Wildlife Habitat and Fisheries

1. Continue wildlife habitat management in accordance with the Squaw Leap Habitat Management Plan. Emphasis will be on project maintenance and evaluation (including mitigation projects associated with the Habitat Plan for the Kerckhoff 2 Project).

2. Work with the Department of Fish and Game and PG&E to ensure a sufficient instream flow to sustain the San Joaquin River fishery resource.

Visual Resources

1. All actions must conform with VRM Class 3 standards for the area.

Support Needs

1. Prepare mineral report, EA and withdrawal for mineral segregation (followed by lifting of C&MU classifications).

2. Develop a fire management plan and suppression agreements with CDF.

3. Participate in easement acquisition and construction of 6 miles of trail.

4. Use local volunteer(s) or resident caretaker(s) to provide visitor services (patrol and cleanup).

5. Revise Squaw Leap Management Plan to include signing, interpretation, and facility development.

6. Determine National Register eligibility and Cultural Resource Management Plan.

7. Conduct data retrieval at one site, and fence approximately 3 sites.

8. Develop a utility (powerline) maintenance agreement with PG&E on the Madera County side to maintain the roadless area integrity.

SOUTH BAY

SOUTH BAY (MANAGEMENT AREA 16)

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

The Management Area is located in Stanislaus, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties west of Interstate 5. It contains approximately 12,683 acres of public lands (mostly in Santa Clara and Stanislaus counties). Most of the public lands are adjacent to Henry Coe State Park and Frank Raines County Park (Stanislaus County).

The predominant features of the MA are the rugged Diablo and Gabilan Ranges. Most of the public lands are located in the Diablo Range. Mt. Hamilton (elevation 4,213 feet) is the highest point in Santa Clara County. Red Mountain (elevation 3,654 feet) in Stanislaus County, is one of the highest elevations on public lands. The climate and precipitation are extremely variable with the coastal portions of the Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties receiving in excess of 50 inches per year while portions of the inner coast (Diablo) range receive as little as 10 inches per year. As a consequence, vegetation is also extremely varied ranging from the towering redwood forests of Santa Cruz County to the chaparral and annual grasslands of the Santa Clara Valley and Diablo Range. The higher portions of the Diablo Range also contain stands of ponderosa and coulter pine as well as black oak. The predominant vegetation of the Diablo Range is chaparral, blue oak savannah, and the oak/woodland types. There are many springs and intermittent drainages throughout the area. There are several perennial stream systems which also drain the area (the Pajaro River and Coyote Creek). The headwaters of Coyote Creek are mostly on public lands north of Henry Coe State Park.

MAJOR ISSUES - SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Livestock Grazing: There are 13 leases in the Management Area (total of 695 AUMs). There are large areas of potentially suitable (50%) and unsuitable (29%) acreage under lease. All leases are yearlong and most are rated custodial.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals: Oil and gas leasing occurs in the Management Area. Sub-economic reserves include mercury, chromite, and antimony. Undiscovered resources include oil, gas, and magnesite.

Fire Management: Although detailed fire history records are lacking, much of the chaparral in the Management Area is overmature (30+ years old). There have been a number of controlled and prescribed burns conducted in the area in past years, although primarily on private lands.

Recreation: This Management Area receives about 1,000 visitor hours of use annually, primarily for deer and pig hunting from groups based on adjacent private lands. Lack of access for most of the public lands prevents public use. Approximately 3,000 acres adjacent to Henry Coe State Park on the north have foot access through the park.

Land Tenure: The Management Area encompasses, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties, and portions of two others, San Joaquin and Stanislaus. Lands are scattered widely throughout the Management

Area with the only significant concentrations occurring in eastern Santa Clara and western Stanislaus counties near Frank Raines County Park. There are currently no authorized rights-of-way or applications pending on the public lands.

Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species: There are a high number of sensitive plant species that occur in the Management Area. None are presently known to occur on public lands; however, the potential is unknown (but likely to be quite high for some species known to occur on similar habitat nearby).

Soils: Soils consist of Vallecitos, Graviota, Climara-Montara-Henneke, and Rockland associations. Fertility is generally low.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

All livestock grazing will be managed on a custodial basis. Forage allocations will consider other resource needs.

Manage fire to provide, wherever possible, for maintenance or protection of other resources.

Provide/maintain recreation opportunities in the area while protecting other resources and minimizing conflicts with adjacent landowners and other users.

Provide for increased management efficiency through land tenure adjustments to meet various management needs in the area.

Manage public lands adjacent to Henry Coe State Park in a manner that is compatible with the park's management.

Rationale

Most leases in the MA consist of small, scattered parcels of public land with limited opportunity for management.

Expanses of decadent chaparral constitute a high fire hazard in the area. Extremely dense brush conditions make large portions of the area unuseable for livestock and many species of wildlife, particularly deer. The use of fire is a cost-effective means of maintaining healthy, productive chaparral brushfields.

Recreation opportunities in the area are generally limited, but significant potential exists in the Coe Park and Red Mountain areas.

The present scattered land pattern provides very little opportunity for efficient management.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Livestock Grazing

1. Allocate livestock forage on suitable and potentially suitable areas only.

2. Consider prescribed burning for range improvement on a case-by-case basis.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals

1. Consider exploration and development on a case-by-case basis within environmental constraints.

Fire Management

1. Consider prescribed burning for fuels reduction purposes on a case-by-case basis.

Recreation

1. Manage to provide hunting and hiking opportunities in conjunction with Henry Coe State Park. Develop a cooperative agreement with the park.

2. Vehicle use is limited to designated routes.

Land Tenure

1. Consolidate public lands in proximity to Henry Coe State Park.

2. Retain public lands in the Red Mountain area or make them available to the State or County as necessary.

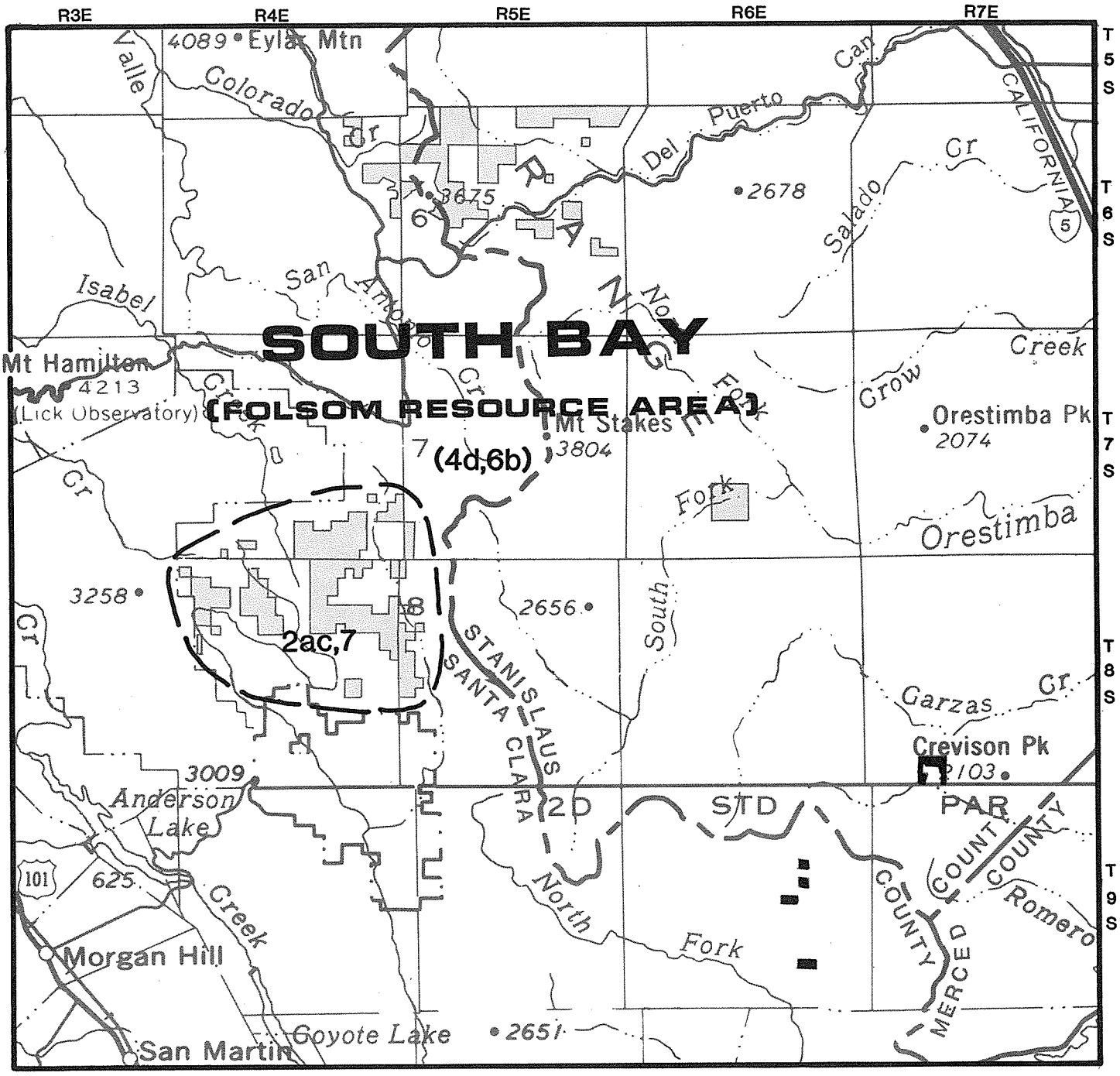
3. Dispose of other lands in the MA (2,400 acres).

4. No lands will be made available for disposal that will compromise the management objectives for the management area.

Support Needs

1. Develop agreements with grazing lessees for suitability adjustments.

2. Prepare land Reports, EAs, and appraisals to support identified land tenure workload.



LEGEND

Scale 1:250,000

SHEET-C

Public Land

Lands identified for disposal

Areas with additional categories within the Management Areas

NOTE:
Management emphasis categories applicable to an entire Management Area are shown in parenthesis.

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS CATEGORIES

2. RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES
   a. Hunting
   c. Hiking

4. VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES
   d. Class 4

6. LIVESTOCK GRAZING
   b. Custodial management areas

7. CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC LANDS

HOLLISTER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

LAND USE ALLOCATIONS

Map 4

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION

MONITORING PROGRAM

Implementation of the RMP decisions would require establishing a monitoring program to ensure that resource management actions and practices achieve multiple resource management objectives.

Basically, this would mean continuing, with greater emphasis, present monitoring components such as (but not limited to) the following:

1. Range Condition and Trend - Annual range studies based on the Mediterranean Annual Ecosystem (photo trend plots) and residual mulch monitoring on all AMPs or other allotments being managed for mulch.

2. Upland Game Habitat Surveys - Annual Fish and Game counts, shrub (saltbush) condition and trend transects in annual grassland areas (Panoche HMP).

3. RTE Plants and Animals - Monitor populations of RTE plants and animals in critical habitat areas (such as ACECs or HMPs).

4. Deer Habitat - Joint surveys of key deer range (pellet group counts, browse transects, etc.) with the California Department of Fish and Game (HMP areas).

5. Cultural Resources - Photo plots and visual data would continue to be recorded for those sites primarily with National Register potential, good accessibility, and being impacted or with the potential to be impacted by ORVs, mining, or grazing (mainly in CRMP areas).

6. Soil and Water Quality - Monitoring to determine sedimentation rates and erosion in the Clear Creek Recreation Area would be initiated and/or continued per the ACEC and watershed BMPs.

7. Riparian Areas - Selected meadow or spring areas would be monitored to determine impacts from livestock grazing and other uses in those areas where obvious impacts are occurring.

8. Prescribed Burns - Pre- and post-burn vegetation, soil erosion (erosion pins), and wildlife studies would be continued on all prescribed burns for a period of 2 to 3 years and periodically after that. Emphasis would be on photo plots and other visual monitoring methods.

9. ORV Designations - The annual photo monitoring system would continue as defined in the ORV designation implementation plan for the Clear Creek area.

A separate, more detailed monitoring plan will be developed to guide the monitoring and evaluation process. The above criteria will be used as general guidelines in the formulation of that plan. The plan will outline specific

elements such as plant or animal species that will be monitored; how, when, and where (by management area). The plan will also provide the basic guidance for activity plan monitoring sections and in many cases will reference sections in existing plans.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

Decisions and necessary support needs have been prioritized for implementation based on the relative importance of the issue(s) addressed. The 10 major issues/resources considered for planning purposes were assigned a priority A, B, or C for implementation purposes as follows:

Priority A –	Recreation, Land Tenure, and Soil, Air, and Water (Clear Creek)
Priority B –	Wildlife Habitat, RTEs, Minerals and Fire Management
Priority C –	Livestock Grazing, Cultural Resources, and Visual Resources

This prioritization does not mean that one issue (or group of issues) is more important than another issue. Rather, priority A issues are where major problems or conflicts are occurring that management concern and funding should be focused on for resolution. It does not mean that decisions addressing priority A issues will necessarily be implemented first, however, they will be given priority in annual budgeting requests.

A detailed matrix of decisions and support needs by management area and fiscal year of proposed implementation will be developed and available for review at the Hollister Resource Area office.

APPENDIX 2

RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This initial Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) contains the proposed grazing decisions for the Planning Area as they affect individual operations. All affected operators will be consulted on these proposed decisions and management objectives as they pertain to each affected allotment. Consultations will include mutual field inspections to determine the validity of information used in the proposed decision. Following the consultation stage, an RPS update will be issued, reflecting modification or verification of proposed decisions. Then, final grazing decisions will be issued or mutual management agreements reached.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

A significant change in policy affecting future management of public rangelands has been recently adopted by the Bureau of Land Management.

The core of this policy is a new approach called selective management. Selective management is based on the concept that (1) an allotment's resource characteristics, management needs, and potential for improvement can be identified; and (2) the timing and intensity of the management actions should be varied according to an allotment's identified needs and potential. Potential for improvement is the capacity of an allotment to produce a positive return on public investments within a reasonable time period. Positive return can be viewed in terms of increased resource production or resolution of serious resource use conflicts.

Selective Management

Three selective management categories have been developed by the Bureau to facilitate the selective management approach. These categories and their management objectives are as follows:

Category	Management Objectives
MAINTAIN	Maintain current satisfactory condition.
IMPROVE	Improve current unsatisfactory condition.
CUSTODIAL	Manage custodially, while protecting existing resource values.

The following criteria were selected for the Hollister RMP/EIS area, although allotments within a category do not have to meet all the criteria to be managed according to the category objective:

Maintain Category Criteria

* Present range condition is satisfactory.
* Allotments have moderate or high resource production potential, and are producing near their potential (or trend is moving in that direction).
* No serious resource use conflicts/controversy exist.

* Opportunities may exist for positive economic return from public investments.
* Present management appears satisfactory.

Improve Category Criteria

* Present range condition is unsatisfactory.

* Allotments have moderate to high production potential and are producing at low to moderate levels.
* Serious resource conflicts/controversy exists.
* Opportunities exist for positive economic return from public investments.
* Present management appears satisfactory.

Custodial Category Criteria

* Present range condition is satisfactory.
* Allotments have low production potential and are producing near their potential.
* Serious resource conflicts/controversy do not exist.
* Opportunities for positive economic return on public investment do not exist or are constrained by technological or economic factors.
* Present management appears satisfactory or in need of only minor changes.

Hollister Resource Area personnel have conducted allotment analyses to match the current resource situation within an allotment with the appropriate category criteria. This initial categorization is subject to change as new information becomes available during the monitoring and planning/EIS process or as the condition of an allotment changes.

Table 1 provides specific information by selective management category for each grazing lease. This Table also identifies proposed range improvement projects by allotment. Statistics are summarized by management category at the end of Table 1.

Management Strategy

Livestock forage will be managed primarily for annual grasses and forbs. Lands suitable for livestock grazing will be leased to qualified operators. On the larger M and all I category allotments, regardless of the AUM figures shown in Table 1, the allotments will be managed for residual mulch. These allotments will be monitored and when the desired residual mulch level of 700 pounds per acres is attained, the livestock will be removed. All other allotments will be authorized by animal unit months (AUMs) of forage that is estimated to be available on an "average" year.

Applications for lands presently not leased for grazing will be rated on the following suitability criteria.

1. Unsuitable

    a. Soil depth less than 18 inches to bedrock.
    b. Percent slope on annual grasslands more than 100 percent.
    c. Percent slope on brushlands (chaparral) more than 60 percent.

2. Potentially Suitable

    a. Soil depth more than 18 inches to bedrock.
    b. Percent slope on brushlands less than 60 percent.
    c. Species composition less than 20 percent grasses and forbs (more than 80 percent brush).

3. Suitable

    a. Soil depth more than 18 inches to bedrock.
    b. Percent slope on annual grasslands or brushfields less than 60 percent (suitable for all livestock).
    c. Percent slope on annual grassland 60 to 100 percent suitable for sheep and Mexican steers.
    d. Species composition greater than 20 percent grasses and forbs (less than 80 percent brush).

Unsuitable lands will not be leased. Suitable and potentially suitable lands will be leased to qualified applicants when forage becomes available.

Existing leases containing unsuitable and potentially suitable lands will be jointly inspected with the grazing operator to determine if the initial suitability rating is correct. By mutual agreement unsuitable land can be removed from the lease or if an integral part thereof, all AUMs will be cancelled therefrom.

On potentially suitable lands, no AUMs will be attributed to these areas until they are available. The operator will be informed of BLM's cooperative range improvement program. Most of the potentially suitable lands can be improved through prescribed burning of dense chaparral.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

A. Mutual Agreements

The changes between present management and the preferred alternatives can be implemented either through mutual agreement or through decision issued by the District Manager. The agreement or decision would become effective on October 1 of the upcoming year and will contain:

1. The facts which form the basis for the change.

2. The proposed change (i.e., preference adjustment, season of use, etc.).

3. The pertinent regulations which govern such change contained in title 43 Code of Federal Regulations.

4. The effective date of such change.

The implementation through mutual agreement or decision will take several months due to the number of allotments involved.

B. Decisions

When mutual agreements are not possible to implement needed management, a proposed decision will be issued to each affected permittee and other affected parties.

A 15-day period is provided after receipt of the proposed decision to protest the decision to the District Manager, If no protest is received within this time frame, the proposed decision becomes the final decision without further notice. If a protest is received, the points of the protest are considered, after which time a final decision is issued by the District Manager.

A period of 30 days after receipt of the final decision is provided for filing an appeal with the District Manager for the purpose of a hearing before an administrative law judge.

C. Future Adjustments

All future management changes will be verified by ongoing monitoring studies. This should promote a more flexible working relationship with the grazing operators than the Bureau has had in the past. This flexibility is a two-way street, however. Public land managers need to acknowledge when additional forage is available for livestock use and allow for this use. Grazing operators need to acknowledge when monitoring studies provide capacity and accept the needed change. This kind of cooperation will insure multiple use and sustained yield of the public land for many years to come.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE GRAZING PROGRAM AND RANGE PROJECTS - TABLE 1

* Reconstruction

Allotment Number and Name		Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Class of Livestock	Initial Preference (AUM)	Eventual Preference or Mulch	Existing AMP or Planned	Season of Use	PROPOSED RANGE PROJECTS						
									Pipeline (mi.)	Troughs (no.)	Springs (no.)	Pump & Tank (no.)	Res. (no.)	Fence (mi.)	Burn (ac.)
4322	Elgorriaga	I	9,210	S	1,166	Mulch	Existing	1/1-4/30	14, 23*	11					
4329	Etcheverry	I	2,730	S	407	Mulch	Existing	1/1-4/30							
4341	Ferguson	I	3,020	S,Y	625	Mulch	Planned	1/1-4/30	2	3					
4344	No Lease	I	1,982	C	161	Mulch[3/]	Planned	12/1-5/31		4	4				1,713
4374	Martin	I	4,040	Y	389	Mulch[2/]	Planned	3/1-6/15					6		
4375	Sagardia	I	7,779	S	1,016	Mulch	Existing	1/1-4/30							
4379	Neubauer	I	4,660	Y	1,051	Mulch[2/]	Existing	1/1-5/31	5*	13					
4380	Squire	I	4,638	C	451	Mulch[3/]	Planned	12/1-5/31		3	3		8		2,880
4385	Talbott	I	2,720	S	308	Mulch	Existing	1/1-4/30							
4386	Talbott	I	5,635	S	508	Mulch	Existing	1/1-4/30							
4404	Urrutia	I	3,187	S	700	Mulch	Existing	1/1-4/15							
4409	Eade	I	7,328	Y	1,645	Mulch	Planned	1/1-4/30	3	6				4	689
4410	Marks	I	5,797	Y	468	Mulch[2/]	Planned	12/1-4/30	2	4			4		200
4411	Fat City	I	11,004	Y	1,924	Mulch	Planned	1/1-4/30	5	8		1			399
4412	Freitas	I	5,483	Y	1,014	Mulch	Planned	12/1-4/30		3			4		
4414	Martin	I	7,135	Y	1,804	Mulch	Planned	12/1-3/20					4		
4426	Silver Creek	I	22,083	Y	4,588	Mulch	Existing	1/1-4/30	12	11					
4301	Akers	M	2,416	C	304	326[3/]		YL							120
4302	Ferguson	M	947	S	139	Mulch		1/1-4/30							

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE GRAZING PROGRAM AND RANGE PROJECTS - TABLE 1

* Reconstruction

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Class of Livestock	Initial Preference (AUM)	Eventual Preference or Mulch	Existing AMP or Planned	Season of Use	PROPOSED RANGE PROJECTS					
								Pipeline (mi.)	Troughs (no.)	Springs (no.)	Pump & Tank (no.)	Res. (no.)	Fence (mi.)	Burn (ac.)
4303 Tait	M	1,001	C	156	Mulch[3/]		9/15-3/15							
4305 Perry	M	907	C	102	66		YL							
4308 Birdwell	M	4,162	C	333	Mulch		12/1-5/31							
4312 Burnett	M	1,623	C	140	183[3/]		YL							
4313 Butts	M	2,574	C	397	Mulch[3/]		YL							
4320 Eade	M	3,131	C	201	279[3/]		YL							2,400
4325 El Tejon	M	2,844	C	284	185		YL							
4328 Ford	M	857	C	225	Mulch[3/]		12/1-5/31							
4330 Folks	M	845	C	79	36[2/]		YL							640
4332 Frusetta	M	1,480	C	149	169[3/]		YL							
4333 Frusetta	M	3,160	C	294	412[3/]		YL							
4334 Gates	M	1,471	C	50	233[3/]		YL							
4336 Gianolini	M	2,435	C	67	67[3/]		YL							60
4338 Grigory	M	3,155	C	263	265		YL							
4349 La Macchia	M	1,520	C	52	147		YL							1,140
4351 Agco	M	2,746	C	305	126[3/]		YL							
4353 McCullough	M	520	C	139	0[1/]		YL							
4356 Izoco	M	1,791	S	358	Mulch		YL							
4359 Nunez	M	3,348	C	155	250[3/]		12/1-5/31							360

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE GRAZING PROGRAM AND RANGE PROJECTS - TABLE 1

* Reconstruction

Allotment Number and Name		Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Class of Livestock	Initial Preference (AUM)	Eventual Preference or Mulch	Existing AMP or Planned	Season of Use	PROPOSED RANGE PROJECTS						
									Pipeline (mi.)	Troughs (no.)	Springs (no.)	Pump & Tank (no.)	Res. (no.)	Fence (mi.)	Burn (ac.)
4360	Recalde	M	1,397	C	94	Mulch		12/1-5/31							
4363	Peterson	M	1,017	C	84	84		YL							
4378	Sonne	M	1,469	C	70	145[3/]		YL							680
4383	Grant	M	1,497	C	145	145		YL							
4384	Sullivan	M	2,000	C	147	125[2/]		YL							211
4390	Diamond T	M	1,494	C	83	63[3/]		YL							
4391	Topping	M	971	C	270	Mulch[3/]		12/-5/31							
4392	Tracy	M	1,740	C	131	81[3/]		YL							
4395	Van Alen	M	1,331	C	323	Mulch[3/]		12/1-5/31							
4396	Varian	M	1,319	C	147	138[1/]		YL							350
4398	Fat City	M	3,082	C	158	Mulch		12/1-5/31							
4401	White Creek	M	1,920	C	126	320		1/1-6/30							
4407	Yparraquirre	M	782	C	54	Mulch		YL							
4408	Taylor	M	4,647	C	432	432		YL							
4413	Beene	M	2,747	C	308	308		YL							
4419	Sepulveda	M	880	H	78	51[2/]		YL							200
4422	Hansen Farms	M	1,560	C	80	166[3/]		12/17-6/30							
4430	Willow Creek Ranch	M	4,772	C	556	Mulch[2/]		12/1-5/31							

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE GRAZING PROGRAM AND RANGE PROJECTS - TABLE 1

* Reconstruction

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Class of Livestock	Initial Preference (AUM)	Eventual Preference or Mulch	Existing AMP or Planned	Season of Use	PROPOSED RANGE PROJECTS						
								Pipeline (mi.)	Troughs (no.)	Springs (no.)	Pump & Tank (no.)	Res. (no.)	Fence (mi.)	Burn (ac.)
4431 Ardans	M	1,386	S	176	Mulch		1/1-4/30							
4435 Boekenoogan	M	1,625	C	40	122 3/		YL							720
4445 Waters	M	1,401	C	58	141		YL							
4454 Carney	M	741	C	159	Mulch		YL							
4152 Mingoia	M	1,598	C	208	166 2/		YL							
4175 Stonier	M	544	C	52	13 3/		YL							
4176 Stonier	M	2,170	C	103	27 2/		YL							
4304 Aubura	C	112	C	12	0 1/		YL							
4306 Aurignac	C	46	C	9	5 2/		YL							
4307 Cal-West	C	897	C	62	8 2/		YL							
4311 Baker	C	92	C	21	0 1/		YL							
4314 Thomason	C	1,080	C	40	40		YL							
4315 Conway	C	40	C	8	0 1/		YL							
4316 Den Hartog	C	2,103	C	135	135 1/		YL							
4317 Pires	C	563	C	104	104		YL							
4318 Dolley	C	411	C	11	0 2/		YL							75
4321 Elam	C	120	C	17	17		YL							
4326 Emery	C	1,090	C	56	0 2/		YL							480
4327 Errea Bros.	C	724	C	81	20 2/		YL							

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE GRAZING PROGRAM AND RANGE PROJECTS - TABLE 1

* Reconstruction

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Class of Livestock	Initial Preference (AUM)	Eventual Preference or Mulch	Existing AMP or Planned	Season of Use	PROPOSED RANGE PROJECTS					
								Pipeline (mi.)	Troughs (no.)	Springs (no.)	Pump & Tank (no.)	Res. (no.)	Fence (mi.)	Burn (ac.)
4331 Freeman	C	243	C	35	0 2/		YL							
4335 Lopez	C	400	C	69	69		12/1-5/31							
4337 Nickel S	C	196	C	11	0 1/		YL							
4340 Harris	C	760	Y	286	286		1/1-5/31							
4342 White	C	750	C	124	124 1/		YL							
4343 Houghton Bros.	C	360	C	18	0 0/		YL							480
4345 Mouren	C	2,031	S	187	187		YL							
4347 Johnson	C	770	C	40	19 1/		YL							
4348 Mattos	C	222	C	33	24 1/		YL							
4350 Lasgoity	C	901	C	118	118		YL							
4354 Luchetti	C	408	C	80	0 2/		YL							
4355 Melendy Ranch	C	632	C	100	100		YL							
4362 Patterson	C	598	C	65	44		YL							
4364 Pfyffer	C	905	C	35	35		YL							
4365 Pivetti	C	240	C	9	9		YL							
4367 Rail Cattle Co.	C	319	C	25	0 2/		YL							319
4368 Rambo	C	560	C	38	24 1/		YL							
4369 Red Rock	C	580	C	18	10 2/		YL							
4370 Gould	C	320	C	38	14 1/		YL							

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE GRAZING PROGRAM AND RANGE PROJECTS - TABLE 1

* Reconstruction

Allotment Number and Name		Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Class of Livestock	Initial Preference (AUM)	Eventual Preference or Mulch	Existing AMP or Planned	Season of Use	PROPOSED RANGE PROJECTS						
									Pipeline (mi.)	Troughs (no.)	Springs (no.)	Pump & Tank (no.)	Res. (no.)	Fence (mi.)	Burn (ac.)
4371	Lockhart	C	280	C	43	43		YL							
4372	Lockhart	C	600	C	32	32		YL							
4373	Roth	C	1,963	C	72	20[2/]		YL							
4376	Schmidt	C	80	C	8	8		YL							
4377	Eade	C	960	C	87	8[2/]		YL							
4381	Palm	C	1,320	C	51	57[3/]		YL							320
4382	Strohn	C	320	C	83	83		YL							416
4388	McCormack	C	840	C	84	84		YL							
4389	Thomason	C	842	C	73	73		YL							
4393	Tully	C	720	C	93	100[3/]		YL							
4394	Eade	C	160	C	13	27		YL							
4397	Verasconi	C	400	C	8	38		YL							400
4402	Wolfenberger	C	1,666	C	159	113[1/]		YL							
4403	Von Flue	C	463	C	15	0[1/]		YL							
4405	Zubeldia	C	906	S	204	204		1/1-3/31							160
4406	Zwang	C	1,168	C	117	117		YL							Kings Co.
4415	Johnson	C	80	H	8	8		11/1-5/31							
4417	Woods	C	565	C	15	0[1/]		YL							
4418	Akers	C	409	C	40	40		YL							

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE GRAZING PROGRAM AND RANGE PROJECTS - TABLE 1

* Reconstruction

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Class of Livestock	Initial Preference (AUM)	Eventual Preference or Mulch	Existing AMP or Planned	Season of Use	PROPOSED RANGE PROJECTS					
								Pipeline (mi.)	Troughs (no.)	Springs (no.)	Pump & Tank (no.)	Res. (no.)	Fence (mi.)	Burn (ac.)
4420 Uchytil	C	396	C	33	33		YL							
4421 Whitney	C	200	C	28	14[2/]		12/15-6/30							
4424 El Tejon	C	400	C	70	44		YL							
4425 Van Dyke	C	160	C	7	0[1/]		YL							
4429 Boynton	C	765	C	84	94[3/]		YL							
4432 Boynton	C	280	C	12	12		YL							
4433 Mueller	C	2,171	C	70	70		1/1-6/1							
4436 Rancho de Caza	C	40	C	5	0[2/]		YL							
4437 De Rosa	C	40	C	5	0[2/]		YL							
4438 Foskett	C	1,144	C	19	19[2/]		YL							120
4439 Plank	C	400	C	12	0[2/]		YL							
4440 Almendarez	C	99	C	10	0[1/]		YL							
4441 Cole	C	480	C	80	80		YL							
4443 Brown	C	40	C	7	7		YL							
4444 Claus	C	770	C	154	100		YL							
4447 Cal-West	C	243	C	30	30		YL							
4448 Hope	C	2,058	C	281	40[2/]		12/1-6/30							
4449 Gould	C	841	C	95	25		YL							
4452 Brown	C	380	C	38	0[1/]		YL							

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE GRAZING PROGRAM AND RANGE PROJECTS - TABLE 1

* Reconstruction

Allotment Number and Name	Selective Management Category	Public Land Acres	Class of Livestock	Initial Preference (AUM)	Eventual Preference or Mulch	Existing AMP or Planned	Season of Use	PROPOSED RANGE PROJECTS						
								Pipeline (mi.)	Troughs (no.)	Springs (no.)	Pump & Tank (no.)	Res. (no.)	Fence (mi.)	Burn (ac.)
4453 Costa	C	883	C	89	58		YL							
4103 Arnerich	C	81	C	17	14 2/		YL							
4113 Crawford	C	250	C	35	12 2/		YL							
4117 Draghi	C	160	C	8	7 2/		YL							
4143 Lawrence	C	390	C	39	0 2/		YL							
4148 McNaughton	C	448	C	45	13 2/		YL							
4166 Romero	C	233	C	41	0 1/		YL							
4172 Stadtler	C	777	C	60	0 2/		YL							
4191 Boeger	C	222	C	17	13 2/		YL							
4209 Zawada	C	160	C	16	0 2/		YL							
4151 Miller	C	640	C	54	0 1/		YL							
Total I	17	108,413		18,413	Mulch			43	63	10	1	26	4	5,881
Total M	46	86,023		8,274	8,669									6,881
Total C	80	47,438		4,551	3,132									2,770*

*Includes 160 acres in Kings County

1/ All or portion of lands will be disposed of by public sale.

2/ Initial evaluation shows lands unsuitable for grazing. Adjustments in preference will be made following on-site consultation with operator.

3/ Adjustments in preference will be made following consultation with operators on results of monitoring studies or through mutual agreement.

Glossary

GLOSSARY

ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
AMS	Analysis of Management Situation
AUM	Animal Unit Month
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
C	Custodial
C&MU	Classification and Multiple Use
CDF	California Department of Forestry
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRMP	Cultural Resource Management Plan or Coordinated Resource Management Plan
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
I	Improve
IMP	Interim Management Plan (and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review)
KGS	Known Geologic Structure
M	Maintain
MA	Management Area
MFP	Management Framework Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCLWMA	National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area

NR	National Register (of Historic Places)
NPS	National Park Service
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
PA	Planning Area
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
ROD	Record of Decision
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RPS	Rangeland Program Summary
RTE	Rare, Threatened, or Endangered
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

TERMS

ACTION MODIFICATION: A modification of fire suppression tactics; for example, to limit use of mechanized equipment or use of wildfire to accomplish pre-determined fuels management objectives. Not to be confused with a "let burn" policy.

ACTIVITY PLAN: A detailed action plan for a particular resource or combination of resources prepared subsequent to the land use plan. The activity plan details how to accomplish the stated objectives of the land use plan for a particular area, allotment, etc., by the use of a site-specific projects and analysis.

ALLOTMENT: An area of land where one or more operators graze their livestock. It contains public lands and can include parcels of private or state-owned lands. The number of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of several pastures or be only one pasture.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN: A livestock grazing management plan dealing with a specific unit of rangeland, and 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, the range improvements needed, and the grazing system.

ANIMAL UNIT: The equivalent of one mature (1,000 lb.) cow or 5 sheep based upon average daily forage consumption of 26 lbs. dry matter per day.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH: (1) The amount of feed or forage required by an animal unit for one month (i.e., 800 lbs/month). (2) Tenure of one animal unit for a period of one month.

ANNUALS: Plants produced from seed which complete their life cycle in one growing season.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT: A series of individual sites which occur in proximity and form a culturally related unit. One type of National Register Entry.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Sites, areas, structures, objects, or other evidence of prehistoric or historic human activities.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE: Geographic locale containing structures, artifacts, material remains, and/or other evidence(s) of past human activity.

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: An Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is an area within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) 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 property from natural hazards.

BEDROCK MORTAR: Exposed rock or stone which exhibits grinding depressions formed by the milling of acorns and other foodstuffs by Indians.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE: A practice or combination of practices determined by the State and/or area-wide planning agencies, after problem assessment, examination of alternative practices, and appropriate public participation, to be the most effective, practicable means of preventing or reducing pollution generated by non-point sources to a level compatible with water quality standards.

BROWSE: The tender shoots, twigs, and leaves of trees and shrubs often used as food by deer, livestock, and other animals; or to feed on or eat browse.

CAMP SITE: Area utilized by one or more tasks, which also shows evidence of occupation by the presence of housepits, midden deposits, and/or hearths.

CARRYING CAPACITY: The maximum stocking rate possible without damaging vegetation or related resources. Carrying capacity may vary from year to year on the same area due to fluctuating forage production caused primarily by differing amounts of precipitation.

CLASS I CULTURAL INVENTORY: An inventory of the existing literature and a profile of the current data-base for cultural resources, frequently utilized to guide field inventories.

CLASS II CULTURAL INVENTORY: A sample-oriented field inventory which is representative of the range of cultural resources within a finite study area.

CLASS III CULTURAL INVENTORY: An intensive field inventory designed to locate and record, from surface and exposed profile, all cultural resources within a specified area.

CONTROLLED BURNING: The precursor to prescribed burning, controlled burning has been planned and carried out by ranchers under permit from the California Department of Forestry since 1945.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Fragile and nonrenewable elements of human culture including archaeological remains (areas, structures, objects or evidences of prehistoric or historic human activities) and socio-cultural values traditionally held by ethnic groups (sacred places, traditionally utilized naturally-occurring raw materials, etc.).

CUSTODIAL MANAGEMENT: The opposite of active or intensive management.

DATA RETRIEVAL: The planned professional recovery of archaeological data to mitigate impacts or for research. Excavation, surface collection, and technical drawings are examples of data retrieval.

DEPENDENCY: The amount of forage provided by public lands, expressed as a percentage of herd's total forage requirements for one complete year. The forage requirement is based on the ranch's total herd.

ECOTONE: The transition zone between two plant communities. Usually this zone embodies some of the features of two communities but has a characteristic structure of its own. It is usually a belt rather than a sharp line.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

EQUESTRIAN: Pertaining to the use of horses.

FORAGE: All browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals.

FORB: Non-woody herbacious plants neither grass nor resembling grass.

GRAZING LEASE: A document authorizing use of the public lands for the purpose of grazing livestock.

GUZZLER: A wildlife water catchment and storage device utilizing a concrete or steel apron to catch rainfall and a buried tank (usually fiberglass) to store it. Guzzlers usually store about 900-1,000 gallons of water, when full. They are accessible, at ground level to small wildlife, by means of a ramp leading into the tank.

HABITAT: The natural environment of plant or animal.

HISTORIC: Refers to period wherein non-native cultural activities took place, based primarily upon European roots, having no origin in traditional Native American culture(s)

HISTORIC MINING SITE: Evidences of mining activities which pre-date the 1930's, usually consisting of ore deposits, prospects, processing facilities, residences, and support facilities.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY: The Bureau's management policy for lands under wilderness review in a manner that maintains the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness (referred to as the Non-impairment Standard).

LITHIC: A stone or rock that may be either abraded into the proper form for use as a tool or shaped by knocking pieces (flakes) off. A cluster of flakes is called a "lithic scatter".

MIDDEN: Dark-colored soil deposits formed from organic residues remaining from Indian campsites, frequently containing artifactual, faunal and floral constituents of high scientific value.

MONITORING: Specific studies which evaluate the effectiveness of actions taken toward achieving management objectives.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP): A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects, significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBLE: Status conferred upon a cultural resource when it is deemed qualified for the NRHP, following formal documentation and consultation.

NATIONAL REGISTER POTENTIAL: Status of a cultural resource which is deemed qualified for the NRHP, prior to formal documentation and consultation; managed as if it were actually listed.

PETROGLYPH: A figure, design, or indentation carved, abraded, or packed onto a rock.

PLANT COMMUNITY: A regional element of the vegetation characterized by the presence of certain dominant species. A vegetation type may consist of one to several communities.

PREHISTORIC: Refers to period wherein Native American cultural activities took place which were not yet influenced by contact with historic non-native culture(s).

PRESCRIBED BURNING: The application of fire to wildland fuels under such conditions of weather, fuels, and topography that specific objectives are accomplished safely.

PRIMITIVE RECREATION: Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

PROTO-HISTORIC: Refers to period wherein Native American cultural activities took place which were influenced by contact with historic non-native culture(s).

PUBLIC LAND: Land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

QUARRY SITES: Places where minerals occur which were a source of raw material for prehistoric/historic peoples.

RANGE CONDITION: The current condition of the range compared to its potential (in this case annual production of grazeable forage).

RANGE DEVELOPMENT: Any structure or excavation that facilitates management of range or livestock.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT: Any activity or program on or relating to rangelands which is designated to improve production of forage, change vegetation composition, control patterns of use, provide water, stabilize soil and water conditions, and provide habitat for livestock, wild free-roaming horses and burros, and wildlife. The term includes but is not limited to structures, treatment projects, and use of mechanical means to accomplish the desired result.

RANGE TREND: The direction of change in range condition.

RESIDUAL FORAGE: The amount of dry plant material measured in pounds per acre left on the ground from the previous years' growth.

RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANT: A right attached to the land for use by another party, (i.e., utility lines, road, etc.)

RIPARIAN: Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally used to refer to the plants of all types that grow rooted in the watertable of streams, ponds and springs.

ROCK ART/CEREMONIAL SITES: Petroglyphs or pictographs, some of which were probably expressions of Native American ceremonial activities.

ROCKSHELTER: Naturally-formed recess in a rock formation which provided shelter to prehistoric occupants.

SEASON OF USE: That period of time, as designated in planning documents, within which livestock grazing can be authorized.

SENSITIVE PLANTS: Those plants which require management consideration under current BLM policy.

SEGREGATION: Refers to the status of lands and what laws (mineral or land disposal) may be excluded from applying to the lands.

SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS: Recreation Management Areas where congressionally recognized recreation values exist or where significant public recreation issues or management concerns occur. Special or more intensive types of management are typically needed. Detailed recreation planning is required in these areas and greater managerial investment (e.g. facilities, supervision, etc.) is likely. There may be none to several of these areas within a resource area. The size of these management units is typically over 1,000 acres, but exceptions can occur for smaller sites (e.g. very large campground units, trail segments, historic sites, etc.).

SPECIES COMPOSITION: A measure of the percentage of a given area that each plant occupies in relation to others on a given site.

STATIC: Pertaining to or characterized by a fixed or unchanging condition.

SUSTAINED YIELD: The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use. This term is most commonly associated with forest management and the provisions of an undiminished or "even flow" average annual production of wood fiber over decades. It is also applicable to the management of all renewable resources including forage, wildlife, water, recreation or any value that can be managed for renewal and sustained productivity. It is dependent on the application of multiple use management in a way that assumes the maintenance of the land's productivity.

TEMPORARY CAMP: Area utilized seasonally or for short-term activity, with evidence of occupation in addition to primary task(s). Usually smaller than "camp" sites, with less midden depth and extent, fewer tasks evident, with a less diverse natural resource base available.

THREATENED SPECIES: Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

TUNNEL SPOIL: Material deposited at a disposal site, produced from excavating a tunnel.

UNNECESSARY OR UNDUE DEGRADATION: Impacts greater than those that would normally be expected from an activity being accomplished in compliance with current standards and regulations and based on sound practices, including use of the best reasonably available technology.

UTILIZATION: The amount of vegetation or foliage removed from a plant by grazing or browsing animals. Usually expressed as a percent of the plants total annual weight.

VEGETATION TYPE: A grouping of similar vegetation based on structure, a product of the complex of climatic factors effective in a region.

VISITOR HOURS: Unit of measure for recreation use; one hour spent on public land by one recreationist.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM): The planning, design and implementation of management objectives to provide acceptable levels of visual impacts for all BLM resource management activities.

WATERSHED: The area drained by a river or stream system.

WILDCAT DRILLING: Drilling of a well (oil) in an area of unknown potential; outside existing fields.

WILDERNESS AREA: (1) An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. (2) An area formally designated as part of the State of California's Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS INVENTORY: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, which will be referred to as wilderness study areas (WSAs). See Wilderness Inventory Handbook, dated September 27, 1978.

WILDERNESS NONSUITABILITY: 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 met without designation of the WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, permitting uses which might not necessarily be compatible with wilderness values.

WILDERNESS REPORTING: The process of preparing the report of each wilderness study area and submitting that report to the President and Congress through the Department of Interior.

WILDERNESS REVIEW PROGRAM: The term used to cover the entire process of each wilderness inventory, study and reporting for the wilderness resource, culminating in recommendations submitted through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each Wilderness Study Area for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS STUDY: The process of analyzing and planning wilderness preservation opportunities along with other resource opportunities within the Bureau's planning system.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA): Roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more and roadless islands of public lands identified as having wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

WILDERNESS SUITABILITY: A management recommendation is based on the application of wilderness suitability criteria, that the best use of the resources comprising a Wilderness Study Area would be designation of a WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

WITHDRAWAL: A formalized action restricting specified lands from operation or disposal under specified laws, either mineral laws or land disposal laws, or both. Can also be used to transfer jurisdiction of lands to another Federal agency.

WOODLAND TYPE: Areas with at least a ten percent canopy cover of woody plants, primarily oak and pine. Woodlands usually provide herbaceous forage in the understory for livestock grazing.

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
800 Truxtun Ave., Room 302
Bakersfield, CA 93301

U.S.MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INT. 415

TO: