

**PREPARATION PLAN ANALYSIS
FOR THE
CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Field Code Changed

**HOLLISTER FIELD OFFICE
March 2007**

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**PREPARATION PLAN ANALYSIS
FOR THE
CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

RECOMMENDED BY: _____
Rick Cooper
Field Office Manager
Hollister Field Office

DATE _____

APPROVED BY: _____
Mike Pool
California State Director

DATE _____

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Comment [11]: Sections don't match with sections in text – they need to be consistent.

Appendix A-Current Planning Base

Figure 1

**PREPARATION PLAN ANALYSIS
FOR THE
CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

A. Introduction and Background

Introduction

The Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) is located in central California in the southern portion of San Benito County and the western portion of Fresno County as shown on Map 1-1. It encompasses approximately 75,000 acres of public land managed by the Hollister Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Management areas are typically larger units of public lands that have a degree of similarity with regard to resource characteristics and planning issues. This area has been used extensively for ~~Off-Highway~~ ~~V~~ehicle (OHV) recreation for many years. A variety of other recreation activities also occur within the CCMA including, hunting, rock-hounding, wildlife watching, and hiking.

Within the CCMA boundary is the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) covering about 31,000 acres. Its 1984 designation was based on the health concerns associated with the naturally occurring asbestos within the serpentine soils and because of the unique vegetation and forest types associated with serpentine soil. The boundaries of the ACEC were defined by mapping of asbestos soils derived from the New Idria serpentine formation. This ACEC is sometimes referred to as the Hazardous Asbestos Area (HAA). Human disturbance to the soils and plants in the serpentine ACEC is a special management concern; because throughout the ACEC; soil formation tends to be slow and the topsoil shallow. Plant regeneration is also slow, and accelerated erosion from human activities has ~~negativ~~~~adversely~~ impacted soil and vegetative resources over the years. Minimizing soil erosion and minimizing the damage to vegetation is a management priority.

Within the Serpentine ACEC is the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area (SBMRNA), which is approximately 4,082 acres in size. This area was originally established as an Outstanding Natural Area in 1972, with an area of about 1,880 acres. RNAs are designated for the protection of public lands having natural characteristics that are unusual or that are of scientific or other interest. The SBMRNA was designated because of the unique vegetative communities associated with the serpentine soils. Its primary purpose is to provide research and educational opportunities while maintaining and protecting a unique assemblage of vegetation in as natural condition as possible.

The Clear Creek Management Area is shown on ~~Map 1-~~ ~~+~~ along with the area of the Serpentine ACEC and the SBMRNA. The acreages of these areas are shown in ~~Table 1-~~ ~~+~~, with a breakdown of BLM, other agencies and private land ownership in the planning area.

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Comment [12]: You don't have more than one chapter, so should just be "Map 1" and "Table 1."

Table 1-1. Land Ownership in the Planning Area

Ownership	Clear Creek Management Area (acres)	Percent of CCMA	Serpentine ACEC (acres)	San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area (acres)
BLM	63,197	83.3	30,968	4,147
Private	10,668	14.1		
State	1,964	2.6		
Total	75,829	100.0	30,968	4,147^a

^a Includes the San Benito Mountain Wilderness Study Area (1,488 acres).

The Clear Creek Management Area has a long history of ~~use and land use planning~~. The geologic nature of the area (with many minerals including nickel, mercury, chromium, copper, magnisite and naturally occurring asbestos in serpentine soils) lead to intense scrutiny of the area.

Comment [13]: All BLM lands have a history of land use planning.

Comment [14]: Scrutiny by whom?

B. Planning History

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The Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP), adopted in 1984, provides management guidance for the Clear Creek area. The 1984 RMP outlined management goals and resource management decisions, and established the 30,000 acre Clear Creek Serpentine ~~Area of Critical Environmental Concern~~ within the CCMA. The Hollister RMP also called for the preparation of watershed management guidelines (Best Management Practices) to control erosion and reduce sediment transport. In 1986, a more detailed activity plan was prepared for the CCMA to incorporate these “Best Management Practices” into a complex ecosystem comprised of sensitive and unique plant communities, a highly erosion-prone watershed, and unique serpentine soils containing naturally-occurring asbestos. In 1995, an amendment to the Hollister RMP was prepared for the Clear Creek Management Area, in which six alternatives for management were analyzed. The purpose and need for the 1995 CCMA RMP Amendment was based upon new information that became available on the asbestos-related health risks and rare plant species. Alternatives ranged from continuing the existing management with the majority of routes and areas open to OHV use, to ~~OHV closure with vehicles limiteding OHVs~~ to a small network of roads.

Comment [15]: This wasn't clear if OHV area closures were also analyzed – your text sounds like “limited” not “closed” to OHVs.

In January 2006, the BLM approved a Record of Decision (ROD) for another CCMA RMP ~~a~~ amendment to implement decisions from the 1995 CCMA RMP ~~a~~ amendment and its associated ROD (1999). In particular, the 1999 ROD designated the CCMA a “Limited Use Area” for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, which required that vehicle travel be restricted to a designated route system. An additional purpose of the 2006 CCMA RMP ~~a~~ amendment was to ~~incorporate address management of aquired lands acquired within made through previous land tenure adjustments into~~ the CCMA, specifically for the purposes of route designations. These lands are located primarily in the northeast portion of the CCMA.

Comment [16]: How can you have an amendment to implement decisions from an amendment? The original ROD should have been adequate. I'm not clear on what you mean here.

C. Purpose and Need for the Clear Creek Management Area RMP

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The Hollister RMP was updated in 2006 to establish goals, objectives, and management actions for BLM public lands that address current issues, knowledge, and conditions. However, the CCMA was not addressed in that document, primarily due to the unique serpentine soils in the area and the related human health concerns over naturally occurring asbestos in those soils.

Comment [17]: Explain this more – it doesn't sound like a good reason not to have addressed CCMA in your other RMP.

The Record of Decision for Clear Creek Management Area RMP Amendment and Route Designation (2006) discussed the available studies at the time of publication on naturally occurring asbestos in the CCMA. At the same time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was conducting an asbestos exposure evaluation study in the Clear Creek Management Area. The study was designed to provide further information on the exposure levels from various types of activities in the CCMA. Initial results from the EPA study indicated that an environmental impact statement would be necessary to consider the new information and a range of management options for the CCMA.

Accordingly, BLM agreed to work with EPA and the public to appropriately respond to the new information upon completion of the EPA human health risk study. If the information is significantly different than the 1992 risk assessment, BLM agreed to expeditiously initiate a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process to consider the new information and potential management responses at the CCMA in light of any new findings. BLM and EPA agreed that this subsequent NEPA review process would address general public access and recreation at the CCMA and analyze a full range of alternatives, and BLM would involve the public in any additional NEPA analysis and in considering any management changes to the CCMA.

Comment [18]: Public involvement is something you have to do anyway as part of your NEPA process – it's not discretionary.

Comment [19]: Where is Figure 1?

Current management direction for 75,000 acre Clear Creek Management Area (Figure 1) is contained in the 1984 Hollister Resource Management Plan (1984) and subsequent amendments (Appendix A). These plans and its amendments, while providing a broad overview of goals, objectives, and needs associated with public lands, lack detailed direction and are generally outdated. Social, political, and environmental changes, coupled with significant population growth not anticipated in the plan and amendments, have presented some complex management issues, which will benefit from an updated "stand alone" RMP resource management plan. The current CCMA plan amendments do not address present program guidance, laws, regulations and policies developed since their conception. Development of a new CCMA RMP would enhance management by addressing planning needs discussed in the Hollister Field Office Land Use Plan Evaluation (2002) as well as concerns about the health risk from exposure to naturally occurring asbestos as agreed upon by BLM and the Environmental Protection Agency. A new stand alone RMP for CCMA will also provide the opportunity for public involvement in a new era of land use planning to address these complex and controversial issues.

D. Purpose for the CCMA Pre-Plan

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This Pre-Plan provides a general blueprint for completion of the ~~Resource-Management-Plan~~ and requisite NEPA analysis for ~~public~~ those lands ~~administered by within the Hollister Field Office~~ ~~CCMA~~. ~~It is our intention that~~ This Pre-Plan and the preparation strategy it displays, ~~will~~ be dynamic such that ~~it~~ we can ~~be~~ readily adapted to unforeseen circumstances and fluctuating funding levels. The purpose of this pre-plan is to:

- Identify the ~~expected areas of public-anticipated planning~~ issues and ~~the~~ preliminary planning criteria;
- Identify the data needs for meaningful and defensible planning decisions;
- Identify a completion schedule, budget and staffing needs;
- Establish and identify the public participation process and coordination responsibilities.

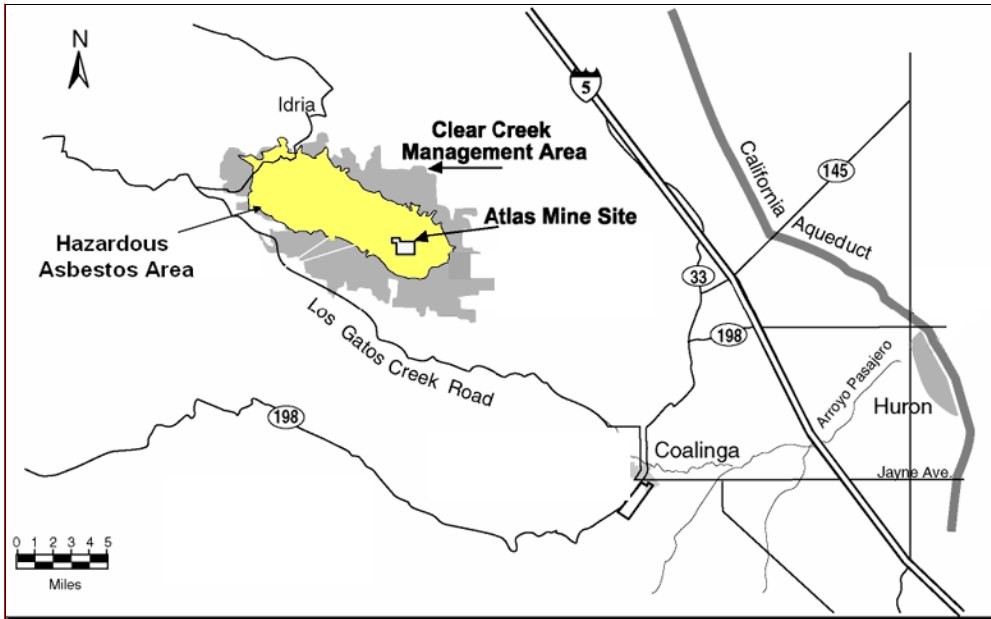
~~The purpose of~~ This planning effort ~~will~~ conforming with current ~~Bureau of Land Management~~ policy which is derived from Federal statute and regulation. These legal and regulatory mandates direct the BLM ~~in the following Land Use Planning guidance to:~~

- Provide on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resource and other values. This inventory shall be kept current so as to reflect changes in conditions and to identify new and emerging resource and other values (FLPMA, Sec.201 (a))
- Use ~~an~~ interdisciplinary process for evaluating resource information that considers physical, cultural, and biological resources in conjunction with social and economic factors to decide appropriate public land uses.
- Ensure opportunities for participation, by Indian tribes, State and local governments, other Federal agencies, and the public in a way that coordinates land use inventory, planning, and management activities with these other jurisdictional entities. Such participation will help ensure that land use plans for public lands are consistent with Federal law (FLPMA. Sec. 202 (c)(9)), and that policies of approved Indian tribal land resource management programs are considered (FLPMA, Sec. 202 (b)).
- Use collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approaches, to the extent possible, to encourage consistency in planning across different land ownerships and jurisdictions.
- Provide to the public a documented record of land allocations and permissible resource uses and constraints.
- Provide a framework to guide subsequent implementation decisions.

Given this direction and purpose; there is a clear and compelling need for comprehensive assessment, evaluation and updating of current land use decisions on public lands in Clear Creek

Management Area. This planning effort, in order to fulfill the stated purpose, is designed to provide an updated baseline inventory and assessment, a forum for enhanced public collaboration and involvement, and comprehensive analysis and decision records on the incorporated public lands.

Comment [I10]: This isn't a "purpose of the pre-plan" (or a purpose of planning) – it's more "regulatory requirements."



Comment [111]: Need a title for this map/figure (is this supposed to be Figure 1?).

EB. Anticipated Planning Issues

A Planning Issue is identified as a “matter of controversy or dispute over resource management activities or land use that is well defined or topically discrete and entails alternatives between which to choose.” Management concerns are topics or points of dispute that involve a resource management activity or land use. While some concerns overlap issues, a management concern is generally more important to an individual or a few individuals, as opposed to a planning issue, which has more widespread point of conflict. However, certain resource values (e.g., cultural resources) will still play pivotal roles in developing alternatives and reaching decisions regarding the major issues.

Comment [112]: Explain why.

The issues and management concerns presented below are preliminary and based on the best information known to date. Preparation of this RMP will afford many opportunities for collaboration with local, State, Federal and Tribal governments and land management agencies, public interest groups, and public land users. As a result, these issues and concerns may need to be modified and perfected to reflect public comments and concerns raised during formal scoping. This definition suggests that one or more entities are interested in a resource on public lands, that each entity may have different values for the resource, and that there are different ways in which to resolve the competing interests or demand.

Comment [113]: This text came from the Caliente Pre-Plan.

These preliminary issues have been surfaced internally by BLM personnel and represent our

~~expectations to date as to what conflicts or problems exist with current management.~~

Issue 1: What measures are necessary to address impacts to public safety and human health from naturally occurring asbestos?

Extraction of a variety of mineral materials has occurred on public lands in the area. Most of these activities are no longer active and contribute to watershed and potential human health impacts. Some analytical planning questions that are related to this issue are:

- Does the EPA Human Health Study (2006) present significantly different health risk data (i.e., exposure rates) from the 1992 Human Health Risk Assessment?
- How do the results of the EPA study influence BLM goals, objectives, and alternative development?

Issue 2: What measures are necessary to address impacts to resources and human health from past mining activities?

- What types of monitoring are necessary to assess impacts from abandoned mining activities?
- How will restoration and mitigation contribute to improving watershed conditions and reducing human health risks and hazards?

Issue 3: What areas, if any, should be designated and managed as special management areas?

Areas with special resource values on public lands include free-flowing rivers and streams; unique vegetation types; habitats for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; cultural resources; and unique geologic resources. Possible ~~designations for Special Management~~ of special management include ~~Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs);~~ traditional cultural properties; and pre-historic and historic properties and trails eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Possible questions relating to this issue include:

- Which areas should be identified or designated asto receive special management ~~areas~~?
- Which designations are most appropriate?
- Is management of existing ACEC^s effective and appropriate?
- Should boundaries or management of existing special ~~management areas~~ designations be changed?

Issue 4: How should upland ecosystems be managed to achieve desired conditions?

Vegetation has numerous values, both consumptive and non-consumptive, including wildlife

habitat, forage for livestock, and watershed protection. Ecosystem management objectives described in the Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health for Livestock Grazing Management must be achieved. There is concern that resource use may be affecting the natural function and health of upland plant communities, soil productivity, and cultural resource site stability. Management objectives are needed for upland vegetation which will determine grazing use, treatment methods, and other activities to sustain the resource and uses which depend on it.

Possible questions relating to this issue include:

- What is the current health, ecologic status and trend of the various ecosystems and plant communities, including those lands subject to invasive species and noxious weeds?
- How will ~~we restore and maintain~~ healthy native plant communities be restored and/or maintained?
- What is the appropriate mix of consumptive and non-consumptive uses ~~for~~while maintaining healthy, functioning ecosystems?
- How will public lands be managed to improve and maintain water quality, watershed functions, and promote hydrologic recovery?
- How will public lands be managed to maintain or improve soil productivity, and site stability?
- What is the current status and condition of habitat needed to support guilds or suites of species, including threatened and endangered and ~~special status sensitive~~ species, neotropical birds, and species disjunct from their population center or at the edge of their range?

Issue 5: How should riparian areas and wetlands be managed to achieve the desired conditions?

Riparian and wetland vegetation provides the foundation for many resource uses on public lands, including habitat for wildlife and endemic vegetative communities, forage for domestic animals and recreational activities. Healthy riparian areas stabilize the soil, prevent erosion and improve water quality, and act as a repository, releasing water throughout the year. There is a concern that resource uses may be affecting the natural function and health of riparian areas and wetlands. Management objectives are needed for riparian areas. The objectives would determine levels of uses which would be compatible, while sustaining the resource and uses which depend upon them. Possible questions relating to this issue include:

- What is the current health and trend of riparian/wetland plant communities?
- What is the current status of riparian systems relative to habitat quality for fish, wildlife, plants and invertebrates? What is the population status of these dependent species?
- ~~How will lands be managed to maintain or improve soil productivity, and soil and cultural resource site stability?~~
- How are BMP's contributing ~~to~~in achieving desired water quality and proper functioning conditions?

Comment [114]: What does this have to do with riparian?

- What is the current condition of water quality and quantity and what is needed to meet BLM standards and to promote hydrologic recovery including:
 - * Meeting State numeric, narrative, and non-degradation standards
 - * Meeting needs of aquatic assemblage of native species
 - * Meeting needs of other beneficial uses

Issue 6: How will wildland and prescribed fire be managed to achieve the goals of the Federal Wildland Fire Policy?

- What is the fire history in the area, and its effect and anticipated fire trends?
- What is the role of fire in upland and riparian ecosystems and how should fire planning, including urban interface considerations, and the National Fire Plan be incorporated into the RMP?

Comment [I15]: Effect on what?

Issue 7: How should recreational access (motorized and non-motorized) be managed on public lands?

Currently, public lands in the area are generally accessible by motorized vehicles to agency personnel for resource management, to commercial enterprise for use or extraction of public resources, and to the general public for recreation and enjoyment of public lands. There is a need to balance access to public lands with resource management and human health and safety.

Possible questions relating to this issue include:

- Are there areas where visitor use or season of use is in conflict with public health standards? If so, should these areas (or specific routes) be closed or their use limited for motorized and/or non-motorized recreation? Where are the existing roads and ways or other travel routes? What is their condition?
- Where is acquisition of legal access necessary to promote resource management and public use?
- Are there needs to reroute or construct routes to facilitate resource management and public use?

Issue 8: How should the public lands be managed to sustain the traditional practices of Native American cultures?

Native American groups with traditional homelands in the planning area want continued access for social, spiritual and traditional uses.

- How should public lands be managed to meet the needs of tribal-sufficiency and traditions?

Issue 9: How should the public lands be managed to meet the needs of local and regional communities?

The BLM-administered lands ~~within~~ the area are ~~located within comprised of~~ San Benito and western Fresno counties. The communities which are associated with public lands in this area depend heavily on these public land resources for the economic and social benefits they provide.

- What economic and social benefits to local and regional communities are derived from the public lands managed by the BLM?
- How important are these benefits to local and regional economies?
- How can community planning groups contribute to regional management strategies?

Issue 10: What lands are available for disposal or are of interest for acquisition by the BLM?

Scattered tracts of public lands are present throughout the area, often complicating management or limiting access or opportunity for enjoyment by the public. Opportunity exists to increase public benefits by disposing of some public lands through sale or exchange, or to acquire offered lands in areas which would enhance public enjoyment and facilitate resource management. ~~Management of Acquired~~ lands acquired through previous land tenure adjustments needs to be incorporated into the ~~Resource Management Plan~~.

Possible questions relating to this issue:

- What public lands are not central to the BLM's mission to maintain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for use and enjoyment of present and future generations and could therefore be available for disposal?
- If the opportunity should arise, which lands ~~could~~ BLM be interested in making be available for disposal to increase benefits to the public, enhance public enjoyment and facilitate future resource management?
- What criteria will guide lands disposal and acquisitions?

Issue 11: What lands and resources have potential for energy development and how will those be managed?

- What criteria will guide development of energy resources to ensure this development is compatible with other resources and resource uses?
- Is management related to existing utility corridors compatible with resource objectives?
- Will additional utility corridors be established and if so, what will be the criteria for locating and managing those corridors?

- What lands will be available for ~~site of occupancy type special uses energy-related rights-of-way~~ such as communication and utility facility sites? What criteria or parameters will guide approval or denial of ~~decisions on proponent submittals~~ such right-of-way proposals?

Issue 12: How will recreation opportunities be managed?

With the rapid population growth of urban areas within the area of influence of Central and Southern California, including the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Coast, the demand for recreation opportunities has increased substantially in recent years. In addition, a significant shift in the demographics of these urban areas, as well as in some of the more rural small communities, has noticeably changed the types of recreation experience traditionally sought on these public lands. Possible planning questions related to this issue are:

- What is the current extent and nature of demand for recreational opportunities in the ~~analysis area~~ CCMA?
- What recreation opportunities are currently provided over the planning area, and what resource or use conflicts may exist?
- What management decisions are necessary to meet the changing demands for recreation on public lands, or to prevent resource damage from uncontrolled recreation activity?

FC. Preliminary Planning Criteria

BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-2) require ~~the development~~ preparation of planning criteria to guide ~~development~~ preparation of all ~~RMP~~ resource management plans. Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules that guide and direct the development of the plan and determine how the planning team approaches the development of alternatives ~~and ultimately, selection of a Preferred Alternative~~. They ensure that plans are tailored to the identified issues and ensure that unnecessary data collection and analysis are avoided. Planning criteria are based on standards prescribed by applicable laws and regulations, agency guidance, the result of consultation and coordination with the public, other Federal, state and local agencies and governmental entities, and Native American Indian tribes, and analysis of information pertinent to the planning area.

~~The following preliminary criteria were developed and will be reviewed by the public during scoping. These criteria will be included in the Notice of Intent (published in the Federal Register). After public comment analysis, the planning criteria will be approved and distributed to all interested parties collaborating in the planning process. Preliminary planning criterions are as follows:~~

1. ~~The Resource Management Plans~~ will be developed in compliance with ~~with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), all other applicable laws, regulations, executive orders, and BLM supplemental program guidance, BLM planning regulations.~~

Comment [116]: Planning criteria could feasibly be revised throughout the planning process.

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~~2. -The planning process will include an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) standards. An EIS will be developed in compliance with NEPA.~~

~~23.~~ Economic and social baselines and consequences will be developed in coordination with local and county governments.

~~34.~~ Initiate government to government consultation, including tribal interests.

~~45.~~ Consider the extent to which the revised plan reduces airborne asbestos emissions and minimizes asbestos exposure and addresses public health impact of the Hazardous Asbestos Area. (Ref; EPA Atlas Superfund Site ROD, Appendix 2, pg. 14)

~~56.~~ Consider the extent to which the revised plan reduces accelerated erosion and offsite transport of asbestos fibers on vehicles and clothes due to OHV use. (Ref; EPA Atlas Superfund Site ROD, Appendix 2, pg. 14)

~~67.~~ All new data collected will have information about the data (metadata) stored in a data base. All metadata will meet the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards.

~~78. The RMP/EIS will incorporate by reference the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.~~

~~9. The plan will result in determinations as required by special program and resource specific guidance detailed in Appendix C of the BLM's Planning Handbook (H-1601-1).~~

~~10. Decisions in the plan will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies as long as the decision are in conformance with legal mandates on management of public lands. Incorporate Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines~~

~~8. Implementation activities and schedules that are considered shall be cost effective and reasonable, relative to recent budgeting levels. 11. Resource allocations must be reasonable and achievable within available technological and budgetary constraints.~~

~~GD.~~ **Data and GIS Needs**

There are significant data and GIS needs that are required to address the resource and use issues that are discussed previously in this pre-plan. In many cases, existing resource information exists that is adequate to address the anticipated planning issues, however, much of this information needs to be updated, compiled and put into digital format for use in the ~~analysis and~~ planning ~~phases~~ process. Acquired lands need inventories for ~~special status (Threatened, & Endangered, and sensitive) species and sensitive species~~ to compile data for GIS analysis. Data and GIS needs include: mapping and updated ownership; updating mineral claims, leases,

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and valid existing uses; vegetation mapping and interpretation, and special status ~~plants/animals~~ species surveys.

EH. Plan Format and Process

The primary product of this ~~planning process~~ exercise will be a stand-alone document called the CCMA Resource Management Plan (RMP). BLM's standard planning process will be followed, adhering to the direction contained within BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook. The format and outline for the plan will come from the BLM NEPA and management guidance and manuals. All legal and policy requirements will be met in the plan and the process regarding public notices, required elements, distribution of draft and final documents, and specific laws; the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines (CEQ) will be met. The draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be published with the Draft and final versions of the plan.

The RMP/EIS documents will follow standard formats required under NEPA. A range of alternatives, including the No-Action Alternative, will be developed to respond to the issues identified during scoping. Each alternative will provide different solutions to the issues and concerns. The objective in the alternative formulation will be to develop realistic solutions that each represent a complete plan. Likely alternatives will include; 1) *No Action Alternative*; 2) *Enhanced Protection and Conservation Alternative*, which will maximize the enhancement and protection of the Area's natural, cultural and scenic values; 3) *Preferred Alternative*, which will fall within the range of alternative 1 and 2.

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Internal review periods of two weeks will be provided to the California State Office (SO) Review Team and Washington Office (WO) Planning Division upon completion of the alternatives, prior to finalizing the draft RMP/EIS and Proposed RMP/FEIS, and before the ROD/Approved RMP is approved by the State Director. The SO reviews will occur prior to the WO reviews. The Team Leader will be responsible for coordinating the document and ensuring that the time lines for completion are met.

Public comments will be analyzed during scoping and alternative development. All comments will be considered by the BLM for preparation of the draft RMP/EIS. Public comments will be analyzed after a 90-day review period for the draft RMP/EIS. All comments will be considered by the BLM for preparation of the proposed RMP/final EIS.

An administrative record will be maintained during the development of the plan and located in the Hollister FO, Bakersfield, CA. The record will be compiled consistent with Department of Justice guidance on administrative records and Office of the Solicitor guidance on privileged documents. All documents will be indexed following approved filing structures.

Public comments will be analyzed after a 90-day review period for the Draft plan and EIS. All comments will be considered by the agencies before the final plan and EA, and Record of Decision is published.

~~A range of alternatives, including a No Action alternative, will be developed to respond to the issues identified at the outset of the process. Each alternative will provide different solutions to the issues and concerns brought out. The objective in the alternative formulation will be to develop realistic solutions that can be implemented and represent a complete plan. Few sub-alternatives are expected.~~

~~Likely alternatives will include; 1) No Action Alternative; 2) Enhanced Protection and Conservation Alternative, which will maximize the enhancement and protection of the Area's natural, cultural and scenic values; 3) Preferred Alternative, which will fall within the range of alternative 1 and 2. The Team Leader will be responsible for coordinating the document and ensuring that the time lines for completion are met.~~

II. Plan Preparation Schedule

~~The Clear Creek Management Area RMP will be initiated in FY 2007 and will result in a Proposed RMP/FEIS being distributed in FY 2009, with a ROD/Approved Plan scheduled for release in FY 2009. The proposed preparation schedule for the RMP is shown below. This schedule includes timeframes related to WO/DOI review and approval. Note: This schedule includes timeframes related to WO/DOI review and approval. These timeframes must be met in order to complete the project on the schedule below.~~

Comment [117]: These dates will have to be revised since I was so tardy in getting this back to you.

Preparation Plans	03/2007
Analyze the Management Situation	03/2007- 06/2007
Prepare and Publish Notice of Intent in Federal Register	06/2007
Conduct Public Scoping, Meetings Briefings, Public Comment	06/2007- 09/2007
Alternative Development	10/2007- 01/2008
Draft Plan (Preliminary) and EIS Preparation	02/2008- 05/2008
Issue Draft RMP and EIS	06/2008
Public comment period, briefings, meetings	06/2008- 09/2008

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Comment [118]: Allow 8 weeks for the NOI (as well as your NOAs) to run through the process to be approved for publishing.

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Comment [119]: Is 3 mos. Enough?

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Analyze Public Comments,
Prepare Proposed RMP & Final EIS

~~10/2008-~~
~~01/2009~~

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Issue Proposed RMP/Final EIS

~~01/2009~~
~~02/2009~~

Comment [120]: Is 3 months enough?

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Protest Period and Governors Consistency Review

~~02/2009-~~
~~03/2009~~

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Resolve Protest and Prepare Record of Decision

~~03/2009-~~
~~06/2009~~

Issue Record of Decision/~~Approved RMP (Plans Approval)~~

~~06/2009~~
~~07/2009~~

Comment [121]: I think you need to also add
"Development of BA" and "Consultation with
USFWS" and "Consultation with Tribes" to the
schedule.

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JG. PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS

A number of individuals will form the Core Team and Interdisciplinary Team for ~~developing~~~~preparing~~ and/or reviewing the ~~RMP/EIS~~~~plan~~. Other staff will act on an ad-hoc basis to support ~~preparation~~~~development~~ and review efforts.

Management Team

The management team is responsible for overall direction and completion of the ~~RMP~~~~plans~~. This includes assuring availability of the Core and ID Team members for completion of ~~the~~ ~~RMP~~~~plans~~; reviewing and approving progress in completing the ~~D~~raft RMP/EIS, ~~final~~~~Proposed~~ RMP/~~Final~~ EIS, and ROD/~~Approved~~ RMP; fully participating in all public involvement and collaborative activities; and ensuring the integrity of the process and subsequent management direction is maintained. Given the parameters described above, it is expected that each of the management team members will be called upon to spend an average of 30 days dedicated to various aspects of the planning process in ~~2007~~.

Comment [122]: Make it clear what will be done
in-house and what will be done via contract.

Hollister Field Office Manager	Rick Cooper
Hollister Assistant Field Manager	George Hill
State Office Representative	Eli Ilano (or successor)

Project Manager and Core Team

The Project Manager is responsible to the Field Office Manager that comprises the BLM's administrative coverage for the analysis area. The Project manager is responsible for day-to-day guidance for development of the ~~resource management plans~~~~RMP~~, coordinating schedules of staff in all phases of the planning effort, working with Core Team Leads and public to facilitate public involvement, and ensuring the ~~RMP~~~~plans~~ and ~~the over arching associated~~ EIS are

prepared within the technical and procedural quality standards provided by the ~~BLM'sureau~~ Planning ~~System-policy~~ and applicable laws and regulations. It is anticipated that through 2008 and 2009 that the Project Manager and GIS and Database Manager will expend 120 days on the RMP effort. Further, core team members should plan on spending an average of approximately 60 days each.

The Core Team is responsible for coordinating with the Core Team Leads, in preparation of all phases of the process and all sections of the analytical and guiding documents, assuring consistency throughout the ~~plans~~ RMP development, and fully participating in all public involvement and collaborative efforts. Project Manager and Core Team members include.

Project Manager	George Hill
GIS and Database Manager	Eric Wergeland
Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Sky Murphy
Outdoor Recreation Planner	David Moore

Interdisciplinary Team

The Interdisciplinary Team is responsible for assisting the Core Team in preparing the necessary sections of the ~~plans~~RMP including: preparing specific sections of ~~both the EIS/RMP and the plans~~; and coordinating data deliverables for GIS analysis and reviewing for technical adequacy. ID Team members should plan on approximately 30-80 days.

Comment [I23]: Total for the whole planning process, or per FY?

Fish and Wildlife	Jason Lowe
Rangeland Management and Forestry	Bruce Cotterill
Botany, noxious weeds	Ryan O'Dell
Lands and Realty	Dan Byrne
Wilderness, WSR, Visual Resources	Lesly Smith
Recreation	Lesly Smith
Transportation Planning, OHV	David Moore
Cultural	Erik Zaborsky
Air, Water, Soil,	
Minerals, HAZMAT	Timothy Moore
Fire Management	Mario Marquez
Social/Economic,	
& Environmental Justice	Sky Murphy

~~KH~~. Estimated Budget

ITEM	FY07 (\$)	FY08 (\$)	FY09 (\$)
Salaries/Labor			

Project Manager	\$25,000	\$55,000	\$25,000
GIS Manager	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$5,000
Public Affairs	\$30,000	\$30,000	---
Core Team (5)	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$25,000
ID Team (15)	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$50,000
Seasonals	---	---	---
Total Salaries/Labor	\$150,000	\$245,000	\$105,000
Contracts			
Plan Preparation	\$125,000	\$200,000	\$125,000
Veg. Map		\$50,000	
Cult (Class II)	---	---	---
Total Contracts	\$125,000	\$250,000	\$125,000
Procurement			
Misc.	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Draft Pub.		\$30,000	
Final Pub.			\$30,000
Total Procurement	\$10,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Vehicle Costs	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Travel	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Training	---	---	---
Total Budget	\$300,000	\$550,000	\$250,000

Comment [124]: Talk about contracting in your previous section.

II. Public Participation and Collaboration Plan

Situation:

The BLM's Hollister Field office is currently revising its land use plan [for the Clear Creek Management Area](#).

Communication Objectives:

- Inform and involve local communities, resource users and key constituents in the land use planning process.
- Keep internal audiences, including BLM field office, and state office staffs informed of, and involved in, the process.
- Keep federal, state and local elected officials informed and involved.
- Inform and involve area tribes in the planning effort.

Comment [125]: Specifically mention cooperators.

Key Messages:

These messages should be incorporated into the communication products developed as part of the planning process:

Development of a land use plans is a public process. The BLM encourages involvement by everyone interested.

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There is a need to develop a new land use plans because the current RMP for the CCMA planning is outdated, in some cases about 20 years old.

The land use plans, and the associated environmental analyses, completed under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, are the foundation for the on the ground decisions about how the public lands are managed. It is critical that the CCMA land use plan be current.

The analysis and land management use plans will address a number of issues which have been generated internal to the BLM to guide us in future scoping. These are identified in Section BC. It is recognized that additional planning issues may be identified during scoping.

Communication Tools:

- Personal briefings
 - Elected officials
 - User groups

- News releases
 - Announce public meetings
 - Announce comment periods and deadlines
- Tours
 - Elected officials
 - Resource Advisory Council
- Fact sheets
 - Broad audiences
 - Key constituents
- Planning summary
 - Broad audiences
 - Internal audiences

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Action Plan:

1. Develop Mailing List

Lead: PEC/Core Team Leads
Date:

2. Develop Key Constituent Contact List

Lead: PEC/Core Team Leads
Date:

3. Develop Fact Sheet

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator
Date:

4. Brief Resource Advisory Council

Lead: Field Manager
Date: Each meeting through the process

5. Briefings for County Supervisors and Commissioners

Lead: FM/AFM/Core Team Leads
Date:

6. Personal initial briefings with Congressional staffs (Herger, Doolittle and Gibbons)

Lead: FM/AFM
Date:

7. Direct mail to key constituents and mailing list – public scoping meetings

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator
Date:

8. News release announcing public scoping meetings

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator
Date:

9. Publish first planning update (summarize issues developed at scoping meetings)

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator
Date: 30 days after scoping meetings

10. Personal briefings for elected officials and key constituents (status of process)

Lead: FM/AFM

Date: On-going

11. Publish planning update on the status of the plans development, anticipated completion date.

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator

Date: key junctures throughout process

12. Briefings for key constituents and elected officials on status, anticipated completion date

Lead: FM/AFM

Key junctures throughout process

13. Brief elected officials and key constituents on release of draft plans RMP/EIS.

Lead: FM/AFM

Date: at release of draft plans

14. Send draft plans RMP/EIS with cover letter detailing comment period to mailing list

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator

Date: at release of draft plans RMP/EIS

15. News release announcing availability of draft plans RMP/EIS and comment period

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator

Date: at release of draft plans RMP/EIS

16. Publish planning update on status of comment review, plan revisions, planning process

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator

Date: at conclusion of comment analysis

17. Develop fact sheet, briefing materials summarizing the final plans Proposed RMP/Final EIS

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator

Date: at release

18. Brief elected officials and key constituents on pending release of final plans Proposed RMP/Final EIS

Lead: FM/AFM

Date: at release

19. Mail Proposed RMP/Final EIS final plans to mailing list with cover letter explaining administrative protest procedures

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator

Date: at release

20. News release announcing availability of final plan Proposed RMP/Final EIS, administrative protest procedures

Lead: PEC/CCMA Coordinator

Date: at final release

21. Thank you's to key constituents who played key roles

Lead: HFO

Date: at final release

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Comment [126]: What about:
- Consultation with USFWS
- Consultation with Tribes
- Governor's consistency review?

APPENDIX A Land Use Planning Base for Central California

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, PLANNING AMENDMENTS, SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT AND ACTIVITY LEVEL PLANNING	
1984	Hollister Resource Management Plan and Grazing Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.
1986	Clear Creek Management Plan and Record of Decision
1988	California Vegetative Management Final EIS
1993	Hollister Oil and Gas RMP Amendment and EIS
1995	Clear Creek Management Area Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final EIS
1998	Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for California and Northwestern Nevada
1999	Clear Creek Management Plan Amendment and Record of Decision
2003	Clear Creek Management Plan Amendment and Record of Decision
U.S.F.&W.S.CONULTATIONS AND BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS	
1985	Pesticide Permit for the Use of Malathion to Control Curly-top Virus in Fresno, Kings, Kern, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus and Ventura counties, California (1-1-95-F-141).
1985	Draft Clear Creek Management Plan (1-1-85-F-67)
1986	Final Clear Creek Management Plan RMP Amendment (1-8-96F-20)
1991	San Joaquin Valley Interim Grazing Program (1-92-F-11)
1992	San Joaquin Valley Final Grazing Program (1-92-F-5)
1997	Clear Creek Management Area Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final EIS and Proposed Administrative Site Development Plan (1-8-96-F-20)
1998	Draft Recovery Plan for the San Benito Evening -primrose (<i>Camissonia benitensis</i>)
1998	Recovery Plan for the Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California
2000	Recovery Plan for the California Red-Legged Frog (<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>)
2001	Renewal of Pesticide Permit for the Use of Malathion to Control Curly-top Virus in Fresno, Kings, Kern, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus and Ventura counties, California (1-1-00-F-0212).
2006	Biological Assessment for the Hollister Field Office RMP and initiation of Consultation

Comment [127]: Should this be "2006" (that's what page 6 says)?