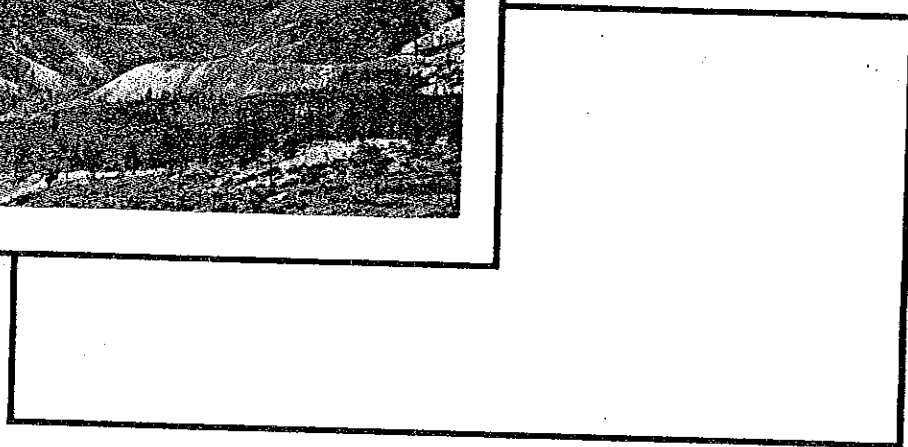
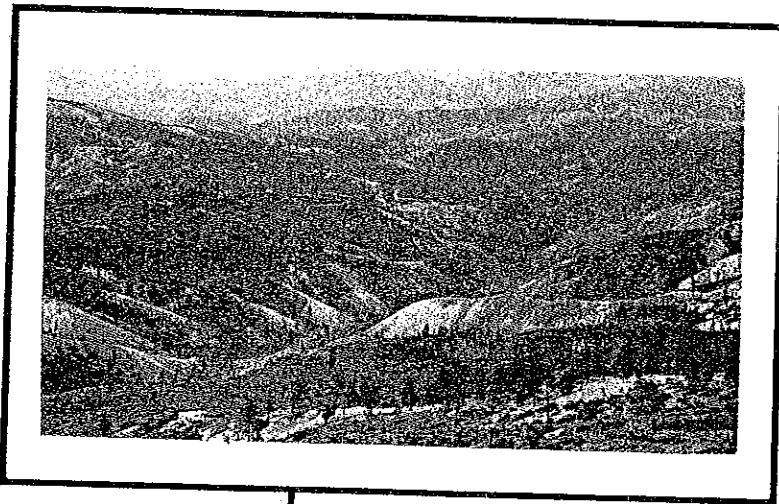


CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN and Decision Record



United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield District



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

P.O. Box 365

Hollister, California 95024-0365

Phone: (408) 637-8183

IN REPLY 1792
REFERTO: C-019.3

JUN 2 1986

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed for your information and use is the Clear Creek Management Plan and Decision Record. The plan is now in effect and will guide future management activities on approximately 50,000 acres of public land in the Clear Creek Management Area and portions of two adjoining management areas.

This Management Plan is the culmination of over four years of intensive work by the Hollister Resource Area staff and concerned public land user groups. Much of this plan evolved from the ORV designation process which was completed in 1981 and continued through 1985 with the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee composed of 18 individuals representing a variety of agencies and interests. Three Technical Review Teams, comprised of various committee members, provided specific recommendations for development of this plan.

My staff and I thank you all for your interest and input thus far. We will continue to work with the Ad Hoc Committee and all interested or affected groups and individuals to insure that your interests are represented as the plan is being implemented.

Sincerely,

David E. Howell
Area Manager

DECISION RECORD

Decision

To apply the management actions as described on pages 1-16 in order to implement specific land use goals and decisions for the Clear Creek Management Plan (RMP) of 1984. This decision adopts Alternative 1 of the Draft Clear Creek Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) of July 12, 1985, as well as those portions of Alternative 3 that are carried forward from pre-existing activity plans covering the Management Area (see pages 3-4).

Planned actions to manage cultural resources include: site protection, data retrieval at three sites, and limited in-house testing at four sites.

Planned actions to improve wildlife habitat include: installation of 15 guzzlers, protection of nine riparian areas, and prescribed burning of about 10,000 acres of chaparral brushfields.

Planned actions to manage recreation use include: development of camping and staging facilities off the hazardous asbestos area (at the entrance to Clear Creek and the Jade Mill area), development of a comprehensive signing program, increased visitor services (including a delegated law enforcement ranger), development of an administrative site in the Jade Mill area, development of six staging areas and associated trail system in Clear Creek Canyon in order to implement the limited ORV designation, acquisition of approximately 27,000 acres of private in-holdings through exchange or purchase, acquisition and designation of the Joaquin Rocks as an Outstanding Natural Area (an Area of Critical Environmental Concern), and development of cooperative management agreements with user groups for project development and maintenance.

Planned actions to reduce asbestos exposure include: a vehicle washing facility, signing, brochures, and news releases, increased visitor services, vehicle closure of asbestos mine areas, a proposed protective withdrawal of Clear Creek Canyon from mining activity (locatable mineral entry), and development of camping/staging areas located off the hazardous asbestos area.

Planned actions to reduce erosion and sedimentation include: stabilization and rehabilitation of severely eroding trails, hill climbs and barren areas in Clear Creek Canyon, installation of four silt catchment basins, maintenance of roads and trails in the area and a proposed protective withdrawal of Clear Creek Canyon from locatable mineral entry.

Planned actions to enhance rare, threatened or endangered plant habitat include: an ecological study of the San Benito evening primrose, rehabilitation and seeding of two potential habitat areas, development of camping/staging areas off the serpentine area, and a proposed protective withdrawal of Clear Creek Canyon and the San Benito Mountain Natural Area from locatable mineral entry.

Planned actions to manage hobby gem and mineral resources include: a proposed protective withdrawal of Clear Creek Canyon from locatable mineral entry and a proposed site-specific withdrawal for other known collecting areas outside Clear Creek Canyon (1-2 acres at each locale).

Planned actions to manage unique soil study areas include: identification, protection, and study of discrete plots in cooperation with the academic community.

Alternatives Considered

1. Proposed Action (Alternative 1) - this alternative addresses specific management actions at an activity plan level to deal with the eight central issues listed on page 1. This alternative includes actions not addressed by the present management alternative in order to implement specific goals and decisions outlined in the RMP.
2. Alternate Action (Alternative 2) - this alternative addresses all actions outlined in Alternative 1 plus additional actions that would translate to more intensive management of recreation and watershed activities.
3. Present Management - No Action (Alternative 3) - this alternative addresses only portions of the issues listed on page 1 as defined by pre-existing activity plans. It would not fully implement the goals and decisions outlined in the RMP.

Decision Rationale:

The Management Plan is a combination of Alternative 1 and Alternative 3. This combination of specific management actions fully satisfies the management goals for the area as outlined in the Hollister RMP (see pages 1-3), as well as the objectives outlined for the eight central issues in the activity plan.

This decision takes into consideration the impacts described and mitigation recommended in the Draft Clear Creek Management Plan and EA, as well as the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Hollister RMP.

A prime consideration in this decision is the input and recommendations provided by the Clear Creek Ad Hoc Committee and three Technical Review Teams (TRTs) which studied the area between February and April of 1985.

Although not every specific recommendation was incorporated by BLM into the plan, the input provided by the Ad Hoc Committee and TRTs provided the framework for the plan and the basis for this decision. The Ad Hoc Committee consisted of the following individuals:

Ed Dunkley	California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
Ed Tobin	American Motorcyclist Association
Don Johnson	California Off-Road Vehicle Association
John Burnett	California Division of Mines and Geology
Howard Harris	California Mining Association
Jim Ewell	California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
George Thomas	San Benito County Water Conservation and Flood Control District
Bill Wildman	University of California, Davis, Cooperative Extension (Soils)
Dan Marquis	Soil Conservation Service
Jim Griffin	University of California, Hastings Reservation (California Native Plant Society)
Jim Bartel	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Sacramento Endangered Species Office)
Steve Johnson	The Nature Conservancy
Hank Doddridge	Sportsmen's Council of Central California
Don Pine	California Dept. of Fish and Game
Dick Gilbert	California Dept. of Forestry
Larry Helm	California Dept. of Parks & Recreation
John Eade	Rancher and private landowner
Rocky Lydon	San Benito County Board of Supervisors

Also considered in this decision were 76 comment letters received during the comment period ending November 20, 1985 in response to the Draft Plan and EA. See Appendix 12 for comments and responses.

The Draft Plan and EA lists five proposed mitigating measures (pages 54-56) designed to further reduce potential impacts of the proposed actions. The management plan has a number of mitigating measures which were built into individual planned actions at the outset. The following five specific mitigating measures listed will be applied as the plan is implemented:

1. Plan construction activities to take place when soil moisture conditions will minimize dust production and erosion and maximize any required compaction. Use water to wet down construction areas, if necessary.
2. Any construction activities (e.g., sediment basins, rock armoring, etc.) that take place in the stream channel should occur during low water periods.
3. New ORV trails will be designed and constructed using guidelines contained in the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) publication, "A Guide to Off-Road Motorcycle Trail Design and Construction."
4. Install vehicle barriers to protect soils and vegetation (or other sensitive resources) where it becomes necessary.
5. Explore the potential for a private vendor to provide firewood in main camping areas to reduce the incidence of tree and brush cutting.

Conclusion

Based on the environmental analysis cited above, I conclude that this action will result in no significant impacts to the human environment and, therefore, an EIS is not necessary.

Recommended by:

David S. Howard
Area Manager, Hollister Resource Area

3/11/86
Date

Approved by:

Robert D. Kleiner, Jr.
District Manager, Bakersfield District

3/19/86
Date

Table of Contents

	Page
Decision Record	i
Table of Contents	vi
List of Maps	v
 MANAGEMENT PLAN	 1
Introduction	1
Objectives	4
Constraints	6
Planned Actions	8
Implementation	15
Funding and Maintenance	15
Monitoring (Evaluation/Revision)	15
Approvals	16
 Appendices	
1. Summary of Resource Management Plan Decisions	17
2. Planned Cultural Resource (Site Management) Projects	22
3. Planned Wildlife Habitat Improvement Projects	24
4. Planned Recreation Facilities and Developments	27
4A. Signs	28
5. Planned Asbestos Hazard Reduction Projects	30
6. Planned Watershed Improvement Stabilization Projects	31
7. Planned Rare, Threatened or Endangered Plant Habitat Improvement Projects	33
8. Implementation Cost Summary	36
9. Rock Gabion Dam Design	37

Appendices, continued

Page

10. Monitoring Strategies	38
11. Modified Suppression Plan for the San Benito Mountain Natural Area	42
12. Comments/Responses	45

List of Maps

<u>Map</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. General Location	Facing Page 1
2A. Proposed Land Tenure Adjustments (large map)	Packet inside back cover
2B. Planned Actions (Alt. 1) (large map)	Packet inside back cover
2C. Planned Actions (Alt. 1) (Clear Creek Canyon inset)	Following Page 77
2D. Oak Flat Site Development	Following Page 77
2E. Jade Mill Site Development	Following Page 77
2F. Jade Mill Site Development (Intensive Use)	Following Page 77

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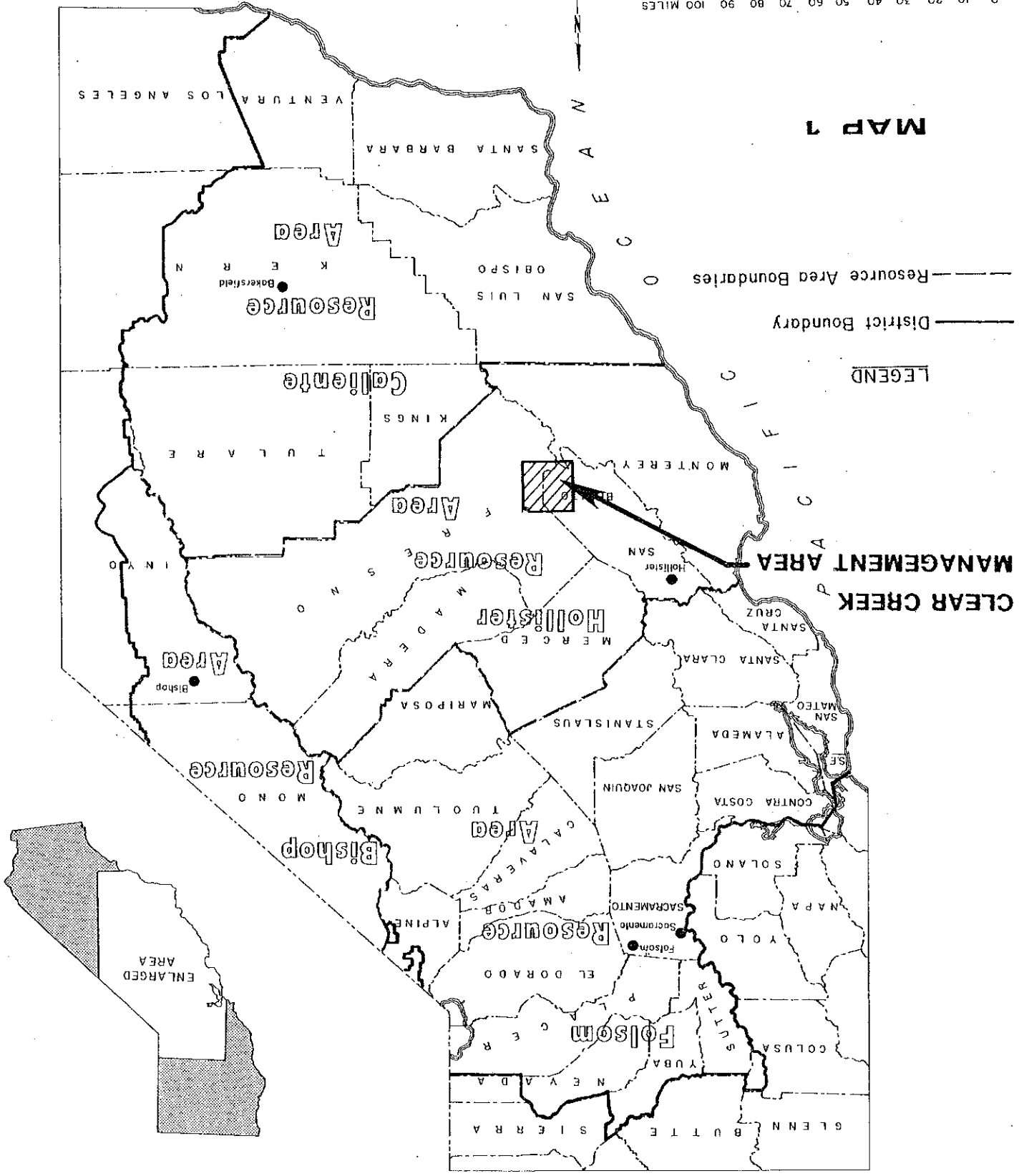
CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by:

Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield District
Hollister Resource Area
P.O. Box 365
Hollister, CA 95024-0365
(408) 637-8183

January 15, 1986

Bakersfield District GENERAL LOCATION OF THE CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA



MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Need

The Clear Creek Management Plan is a multiple-use plan using the coordinated resource management planning concept. Rather than prepare separate activity plans (such as a Habitat Management Plan, Cultural Resources Management Plan, Watershed Management Plan, etc.), this plan addresses all activities within the 50,350-acre Clear Creek/Condon Peak Management Area (MA) as well as portions of the Joaquin Rocks and Call Mountain/Hernandez Valley Management Areas. This document is a combined management plan and environmental assessment outlining alternative means to achieve specific goals and decisions for the MA as set forth in the Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP) prepared in 1984.

It specifically addresses on-the-ground management needs and actions for the Clear Creek Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), designated on August 6, 1984 when the RMP became final. The plan addresses the following issues (the last five of which are related to the ACEC):

1. Cultural Resources
2. Wildlife Habitat
3. Recreation
4. Asbestos Hazard
5. Watershed Concerns
6. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered (RTE) Plant Habitat
7. Hobby Gem and Minerals
8. Unique Soils

Applicable management goals and rationale for the MA (from the Hollister RMP) are shown in the following section. They serve to focus on the management complexity of the area and the need for special management attention as recognized by the ACEC designation.

Management Goals:

Encourage mineral exploration and development to meet local, regional, and national needs in balance with other resource values.

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

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

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.

Large expanses of decadent chaparral constitute a high fire hazard and make large areas unusable 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 area is highly mineralized and significant mineral production has occurred in the past. A moderate to high potential for mineral occurrence currently exists as well as a high interest in mineral development. Critical and strategic minerals such as chromite exist in the area. Sensitive resource values in both Clear Creek Canyon and the San Benito Mountain Natural Area can be easily impacted by mining activity. These include RTE plant habitat, critical watershed values, and significant hobby gem and mineral collecting areas. Critical and strategic mineral development can also be impacted by protection of other sensitive resource values.

Rationale:

Manage recreation in the area to provide for public health and safety, minimizing conflicts with other resources and 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 of the area.

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 vegetation 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.

A summary of applicable resource management decisions for the MA from the Hollister RMP are contained in Appendix 1.

Relationship to Existing Activity Plans

Off-road vehicle (ORV) use designations were completed for the area in 1982 (Clear Creek ORV Designation Environmental Assessment (EA) and Implementation Plan). These designations were reaffirmed in the RMP and are carried forward with slight modification in this plan. A "Green Sticker" OHV Cooperative Project Agreement (Clear Creek I) was initiated with the State of California in 1983 for the purposes of implementing the ORV Designation and Implementation Plan. Project implementation has proceeded in 1985 with priority given to improving the Clear Creek Road and protecting RTE plant habitat and severely eroding hill climb areas. The project is essentially implemented.

This management plan addresses additional actions to enhance management opportunities and reduce resource conflicts or damages. It specifically addresses and analyzes the Clear Creek II Project for acquisition and development of the entrance parcel per the RMP. Funding for the project has been approved and a project agreement has been initiated. Possible actions related to development of the adjacent Martin Ranch State OHV Park are also considered. A third project application (Clear Creek III) has been approved and a project agreement will be initiated in 1986.

Watershed Guidance (Best Management Practices) for the Clear Creek Area was prepared in 1984 (specific RMP decision). The Watershed Guidance outlined possible management practices that could be utilized to control erosion and reduce sedimentation in the area. These included the OHV Grant measures (Clear Creek Road improvements, vehicle barriers) and additional actions that are evaluated on a site-specific basis as a part of this plan.

The San Benito County and Fresno/Monterey County Prescribed Burn Plans (1980 and 1984, respectively) outlined prescribed burning for range improvement, fuels reduction, watershed enhancement, and wildlife habitat improvement within the MA. These plans were also reaffirmed by the RMP. An active program of prescribed burning has been taking place since 1980 in the Condon Peak area. Some burning has also been done in the Byles Canyon area. This plan addresses additional prescribed burning opportunities related mainly to acquired lands. It specifically addresses modified fire suppression in the San Benito Mountain Natural Area.

The New Idria National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area was established in 1963 by Public Land Order 2460. A Wildlife Management Plan was prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and partially implemented. The San Benito Deer Herd Plan (covering the San Benito County portion of the MA) was completed by CDFG in 1984. The Avenal Herd Plan (Fresno County portion) was recently completed. This plan addresses habitat management actions (consistent with these deer herd plans) that will be implemented under Sikes Act Authority with CDFG.

OBJECTIVES

Management Area-wide (Non-ACEC)

1. Cultural Resources
 - a. Determine appropriate measures for protection, data retrieval, and interpretation compatible with other uses.
 - b. Provide for research to expand the knowledge and understanding of past cultures in the area.
2. Wildlife Habitat
 - a. Manage habitat to improve conditions for deer, upland game and other wildlife. Develop sources of food, water, and cover where these are limiting factors.
3. Recreation
 - a. Maximize compliance with management decisions (ORV use designations, etc.), provide for user needs and visitor safety, and minimize conflicts with adjacent landowners.

- b. Develop additional facilities and management strategies to minimize asbestos hazards and resource conflicts.
- c. Develop compatible management strategies with the proposed Martin Ranch State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

1. Asbestos Hazard

- a. Do not encourage public use within the ACEC, however ensure that visitors have an improved awareness of the health hazard and ways to minimize personal exposure.

- b. Minimize exposure particularly in main use areas (camping areas, main roads).

- c. Minimize exposure related to authorized actions (events, mining plans, etc.).

- d. Minimize exposure related to the asbestos mine areas.

- e. Minimize off-site exposure related to transport of mud, dust, and dirt on vehicles.

2. Watershed Concerns

- a. Limit sediment production from roads, trails, and disturbed areas (hill climbs, mining areas).

- b. Limit vegetation and stream channel disturbance and associated sediment production.

- c. Minimize direct mass movement of soil into stream channels (from steep slopes and mining areas).

3. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Plant Habitat

- a. Determine minimum or optimum population size necessary to sustain RTE plant species

- b. Manage habitat to protect or enhance these species.

- c. Manage the unique plant community in the San Benito Mountain Natural Area for its natural and scenic value.

4. Hobby Gem and Minerals

- a. Determine strategies to minimize conflicts with locatable mineral claimants and surface disturbing actions.

- This section lists constraints on planned actions listed in the following section. They do not constrain other actions outside the scope of the management plan.
- CONSTRAINTS (from the RMP)
- a. Protect/manage representative soil research areas for their scientific and educational values.
5. Unique Soil Areas
 - a. Livestock grazing will continue in the area under the existing Upper Los Gatos Creek Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and other grazing leases.
 2. Communications sites and utility rights-of-way within the MA are recognized as valid and existing authorizations.
 3. Valid mining claims have prior existing rights as provided by the mining laws. Surface disturbance on mining claims is regulated by surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809).
 4. 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.
 5. 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.
 6. All surface-disturbing actions must meet the following Visual Resource Management (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.

PLANNED ACTIONS

Planned actions are a combination of Alternatives 1 and 3 (Proposed Action and Present Management) as shown in Chapter 2 of the Draft Plan and Environmental Analysis.

Management Area-Wide (Non-ACEC)

1. Cultural Resources

- a. Protect archaeological sites in the White Creek Archaeological District by maintaining the existing road closure (in lower White Creek Canyon) until such time as these sites are sufficiently evaluated.
- b. Initiate data retrieval (excavation) at three sites (see Appendix 2).
- c. Work with research institutions to the extent possible on data retrieval actions.
- d. Use fences or barriers where necessary to protect sites from human-caused or other disturbances.

2. Wildlife Habitat

- a. Install 15 guzzlers to provide water for deer, wild pigs, quail, and other wildlife (see Map 2B and Appendix 3).
- b. Fence portions of eight meadows in the Condon Peak area to preclude livestock grazing and vehicle use (one acre or less at each site). See Map 2B and Appendix 3.
- c. Install rock barriers at Spanish Lake to protect a portion of the unique serpentine "vernal pool" vegetation from camping and vehicle use (see Map 2B and Appendix 3).
- d. Develop the Agua Buena spring site for the enhancement of wildlife habitat (see Map 2B and Appendix 3).
- e. Continue and/or implement a rotational program of prescribed burning in the Condon Peak, Byles Canyon, San Carlos Bolsa, Sampson Peak and Goat Mountain areas (see Map 2B and Appendix 3). Burn approximately seven percent per year (average) in scattered spots and patches.

3. Recreation

- a. Acquire and develop 160 acres of private land (Clear Creek II OHV Grant) at the entrance to Clear Creek Canyon for use as an ORV camping, staging, and trail riding area (see Maps 2C and 2D and Appendix 4). A nearby San Benito evening primrose site will be closed to camping and protected by vehicle barriers. Riparian areas and oak trees will be protected to the extent possible using barriers. Gravel and/or a dust suppressant will be applied to graded and leveled parking area surfaces to reduce erosion, soil disturbance, and dust generation. Maintain a fuelbreak around the area.

Provide an information kiosk near the main entrance (see Map 2C and Appendix 4). The kiosk would be located to encourage visitors to stop and view information provided. The kiosk would contain a map and information concerning:

- Asbestos health hazards (effects and ways to minimize exposure)
- ORV use designations
- Fire prevention
- Regulations
- Natural resources of the area
- Emergency assistance
- BLM Hollister Resource Area phone number and address

Other agency/user groups' endorsement of management strategies (also indicating that facilities have been provided using Green Sticker funds) will be incorporated into signing.

- b. Develop the lower Jade Mill area as a non-ORV camping area (see Map 2C and Appendix 4). Oak trees will be protected to the extent possible using barriers. Gravel and/or a dust suppressant will be applied to graded and leveled parking area surfaces. Maintain a fuelbreak around the area.

Develop the upper Jade Mill area as an administrative site and ORV camping/staging area (see Maps 2C and 2E and Appendix 4). The exact location is dependent on resolution of the existing millsite trespass. Development would consist of grading, leveling, barriers and fuelbreak as above. The area has the potential for more intensive development. Future development would consider a phased implementation to expand the capacity of the ORV camping/staging area to accommodate up to 300 vehicles on heavy use weekends or for special events (see Map 2F).

Provide facilities for resident caretaker(s) and visitor services specialist(s) at the administrative site:

- BLM base radio station
 - Telephone (available for emergency or public use)
 - CB shortwave base with emergency channel
 - Heliport
 - Emergency first aid facilities with hospital bed
- c. Develop a trail system leading from camping/staging areas to back country trails (see Map 2C and Appendix 4). Each trail will be named and/or numbered and keyed to the Clear Creek map.
- d. Provide a bulletin board at each camping/staging area with a summary of information contained in the entrance kiosk (also a location map indicating "You are here"). Each camp will be identified by name. Other agency/user groups' endorsement of management strategies (also indicating that facilities have been provided using Green Sticker funds) will be incorporated into signing.
- e. Provide directional signs at all major road junctions such as Spanish Lake and Sawmill Creek (see Map 2B and Appendix 4). Make signs as vandal proof/resistant as possible (e.g., metal).
- f. Post public/private land boundaries where trespass is a problem (see Map 2B and Appendix 4). Use brightly colored orange "carsonite" posts.
- g. Acquire, through exchange or purchase, state lands and private inholdings in the Byles Canyon/Tucker Mountain, San Carlos Bolsa, and Joaquin Rocks areas, as well as the remainder of the management area. Concentrate on exchanges involving Fat City Cattle Co., Southern Pacific Land Co., and the state and/or Phillip Martin Ranch. Specifically, acquire the Spanish Flat area near Mexican Reservoir (see Map 2A).
- h. Develop vehicular (four-wheel drive) access from North Hill into the San Carlos Bolsa area. Install two gates to control seasonal access and trespass onto private land (see Map 2B and Appendix 4).
- i. Make minor modifications to existing vehicle use designations as a result of land tenure adjustments and to protect significant riparian and RTE plant and wildlife habitat (see Map 2B).
- j. Develop a half-mile hiking trail to the Joaquin Rocks and a small, primitive campsite nearby (e.g., three tables). Subsequent to acquisition, 160 acres

surrounding the Joaquin Rocks should be designated as an Outstanding Natural Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). In the interim (prior to designation which will require an RMP amendment), the area will be managed for its scenic and historical value with emphasis on providing hiking, hunting, and primitive camping opportunities. The boundary of the proposed Natural Area will be protected by vehicle barriers where necessary (see Map 2B and Appendix 4).

- k. Develop Cooperative Management Agreements with user groups to develop trail systems (adopt-a-trail), other project work, and volunteer patrols to the extent possible.
- l. Provide a delegated law enforcement ranger (minimum two days per week) and at least two full-time visitor services specialists in the management area. Enter into a cooperative agreement with the state to provide back country patrols from the Martin Ranch SVRA (in areas of the Clear Creek Management Area that are adjacent to the Martin Ranch SVRA). Maintain the cooperative law enforcement agreement with San Benito County. Maintain or intensify fire prevention patrols. Increase warden patrols by CDFG to the extent possible.
- m. Install "Open," "Limited," and "Closed" area signs to clarify zones of vehicle use.
- n. Maintain the information bulletin boards at the Mexican Reservoir Junction (see Map 2B).

Upgrade interpretive signs at barrier locations.

Continue providing interpretive map/pamphlet (Clear Creek Management Area map).

Maintain existing directional signs at certain major road junctions (see Map 2B).

- o. Identify mining related and other public hazards during regular patrols and eliminate or mitigate as soon as possible.
- p. Identify and resolve mining related trespasses with priority given to those cases where conflicts are occurring with visitor use and safety.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

1. Asbestos Hazard

- a. Provide a vehicle washing facility (wash rack) at the main entrance to Clear Creek (see Map 2C and Appendix 5).
- b. Signing - see Recreation a., d., Management Area-wide section. Also, provide asbestos hazard pamphlet/brochure to Central California motorcycle shops, sporting goods stores, etc. Issue news releases highlighting the area's asbestos hazard at least twice annually. Provide asbestos warning signs at all roads and trails entering the serpentine area.
- c. Do not allow organized events between June 1 and September 30.
- d. Camping - see Recreation a., b., Management Area-wide section.
- e. Provide additional visitor services staff to provide increased awareness through personal contact (see Recreation l., Management Area-wide section).
- f. Work with Cal Idria Corp. to develop a rehabilitation plan, including posting of a bond to assure that the plan is implemented. Work through San Benito County to request development of the plan as required under the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). The existing plan of operation does not include rehabilitation requirements.
- g. Designate the asbestos mine areas as closed to off-road vehicle use on the Clear Creek Management Area map (see Map 2B). Access for mining operations would be granted under 3809 plans of operation.
- h. Post boundaries of asbestos mining areas as closed to off-road vehicle use--especially where trails lead to or through these areas. The main road through the Atlas Mine site should be posted on both sides of the road to restrict off-road travel.
- i. Continue providing information on the asbestos hazard by distributing the Clear Creek Management Area map and other hand-out materials.
- j. Dust suppressant - see Recreation m., n., Management Area-wide section. The initial application will be evaluated for continued use on an annual or semi-annual basis.

- k. Seek a protective withdrawal for Clear Creek Canyon and the San Benito Mountain Natural Area from mining activity (locatable mineral entry). At present, a petition is being prepared for filing of a protective withdrawal (including a full mineral report and environmental analysis). Although it is considered crucial to management of the ACEC, the criteria for evaluating withdrawal requests is stringent and there is no guarantee of approval (see Map 2B).
 - l. Defer any intensive study or rehabilitation efforts on the abandoned asbestos mine areas until other agency task force studies (EPA et al.) are completed in order to avoid duplicative or conflicting efforts. Coordinate with these agencies to extent possible.
 - m. Cooperate with the University of California Experiment Station to establish small-scale soil/plant study plots to investigate plant adaptability and nutritional requirements for rehabilitation purposes.
2. Watershed Concerns
- a. Install additional vehicle barriers to close three hill climbs that lead directly into Clear Creek (see Map 2C and Appendix 6).
 - b. Re-route one badly gullied and eroded trail that leads directly into Clear Creek (see Map 2C and Appendix 6). The rerouted trail will be located on the contour with reduced grade and erosion control structures.
 - c. Stabilize/rehabilitate severely eroding trails, hill climbs, and naturally barren areas in Clear Creek Canyon (see Map 2C and Appendix 6). Stabilization methods include building rock walls at the toe of slopes leading directly into Clear Creek (rock armoring), contour trenching, terracing, gully plugs, and water diversions. Material for rock walls will come from Clear Creek Canyon to the extent possible, however no excavation will be allowed in the stream channel itself.
 - d. Construct four silt catchments (one earth dam and three rock gabion structures) in Clear Creek Canyon (see Map 2C and Appendices 6 and 9). Disposal site(s) for trapped material will be identified and evaluated during the project planning stage.
 - e. Initiate a regular planned maintenance program for major roads and trails in the Clear Creek Management Area (e.g., waterbar construction and outsloping). See Appendix 6.

- f. Protective withdrawal - same as Asbestos Hazard k. (see Map 2B).
 - g. Clear Creek Road and severely eroding hill climbs - see Recreation n., o., Management Area-wide section.
3. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Plant Habitat
- a. Rehabilitate (by ripping and/or pitting) two potential habitat areas in Clear Creek Canyon for the San Benito evening primrose (see Map 2C and Appendix 7). Seed would be collected from nearby populations and broadcast seeded over these areas (approximately one-half acre each) subsequent to seedbed preparation.
 - b. Initiate an ecological study of the San Benito evening primrose to determine habitat requirements. Include the rehabilitated areas (from a. above) in the study (see Appendix 7).
 - c. Implement a modified fire suppression agreement with CDF for the San Benito Mountain Natural Area (see Appendix 11).
 - d. Protective withdrawal - same as Asbestos Hazard k. (see Map 2B).
 - e. Monitor known populations and potential habitat on a yearly basis. Protect new populations as they are discovered.
4. Hobby Gem and Minerals
- a. Protective withdrawal - same as Asbestos Hazard k. (see Map 2B).
 - b. Seek a site-specific protective withdrawal for other known collecting areas outside Clear Creek Canyon from locatable mineral entry (approximately 1-2 acres in the vicinity of each locale). See Map 2B for the general locations of these areas. Withdrawal would be on a case-by-case basis and subject to valid and existing claims. A separate mineral report and environmental analysis will be prepared for the withdrawal application.
 - c. Encourage mineral collecting groups to develop cooperative agreements with mining claimants to allow for management of co-existing gem or minerals by BLM or collecting groups.

5. Unique Soils

- a. Identify and protect discrete soil plots. (the aggregated total of these plots would not exceed a total of 50 acres maximum) in areas bordering the San Benito Mountain Natural Area, in the "Bald Hills," and at a lower elevation in Clear Creek Canyon near the Jade Mill (see Map 2B). Discrete plots within these areas and the San Benito Mountain Natural Area will be identified and studied by scientists from the academic community.

IMPLEMENTATION

Appendices 2 through 9 contain descriptions of projects, priorities for implementation, units, cost estimates, etc., as they relate to the planned actions. Costs shown are 1985 costs. All proposals are subject to further analysis on a project specific basis to determine feasibility, design criteria, etc.

FUNDING AND MAINTENANCE

Funding for project proposals will come from a variety of sources. In some cases, funding will be provided through direct appropriation as a part of the normal budget (Annual Work Plan) process. County fine monies, California Environmental License Plate funds and other sources will be utilized to the extent possible for wildlife projects. "Green Sticker" funds for recreation projects will be utilized to the extent possible, including operations and maintenance. Other funding sources, such as State Grants for watershed improvements projects will also be explored.

The California Department of Fish and Game and sportsmen's groups will be relied on heavily for wildlife project maintenance. ORV and other recreation user groups will be relied on to provide support for project maintenance as well as implementation.

MONITORING (Evaluation/Revision)

This plan may be modified if data from monitoring or information from other sources reveals a need for change. All planned actions are subject to review by the Area Manager. Modification or revision of the wildlife habitat management portions of this plan will be agreed upon by the Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Fish and Game. Appendix 10 contains monitoring strategies for this management plan.

APPROVALS:

David S. Howell
Area Manager, Hollister Resource Area

3/11/86
Date

Robert D. Flemer Jr.
District Manager, Bakersfield District

3/19/86
Date

Bruce Hunter
Regional Manager, Dept. of Fish
and Game, Region 3

3/3/86
Date

Henry D. Stokes
Regional Manager, Dept. of Fish
and Game, Region 4

3/10/86
Date

APPENDIX 1

Summary of RMP Decisions

Clear Creek/Condon Peak Management Area:

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. Seven hundred 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 minerals 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 semi-primitive 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. 18 S., 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.

Call Mountain/Hernandez Valley Management Area

The following decisions for this management area with specific reference to the Clear Creek Management Area were:

Recreation

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).

Land Tenure

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

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 to the extent possible.

Ciervo Hills/Joaquin Rocks Management Area

The following decisions for this management area with specific reference to the Clear Creek MA were:

Recreation and Land Tenure

1. Manage the Joaquin Rocks area in conjunction with the Clear Creek SRMA to provide hunting, hiking, and camping opportunities.
2. 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 SVRA proposal. Enter into a cooperative agreement with the state for management subsequent to the exchange.
3. Acquire and protect the Joaquin Rocks for their scenic and historical significance.

APPENDIX 2

Planned Cultural Resource
(Site Management) Projects

<u>Site</u>	<u>FY/ Priority</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>
--	Annually	Inventory of high sensitivity areas (500 acres)	.25 WM
Fre-1343, FS-116, FS-117 FS-118	1986	In-house testing for site depth and extent (Presence/absence)	.25 WM
Fre-1333	1986	Excavation of entire deposit within rock-shelter, as well as backdirt and midden in front of shelter	\$15,000
Fre-1331	1987	Test excavation to determine site depth and extent. Five 1 x 1 meter test units.	10,000
Fre-1340	1988	Test excavation to determine site depth and extent. Five 1 x 1 meter units.	10,000
TOTAL			\$35,000

Due to the low level of inventory previously conducted in the management area, it is felt that additional survey is important to enhance the data base and identify significant sites in need of active management. A minimum of 500 acres of inventory per year is suggested, primarily in high sensitivity areas. As sites are recorded, they will be monitored annually to detect changes in site integrity. If adverse impacts occur, measures will be taken to curb such effects. These measures may include protective signs, fence or barrier construction, detailed recordation and/or data recovery.

Fences or barriers will be used at sites having potential for preservation in place. Although not generally effective in curbing vandalism or pothunting, barriers or fences may be quite

successful in reducing damage from off-road vehicles or cattle grazing. Three sites (Fre-1331, Fre-1333, Fre-1340) have been selected for data recovery based upon management needs, as well as their ability to address important research questions. The proposed development of vehicular access along White Creek makes these excavations viable from a management perspective, and all three sites hold excellent potential as subjects for research. Although some minor testing (presence/absence) will be done in-house, excavation will generally be conducted under contract or cooperative agreement. A short description of each site follows:

Fre-1331: An open campsite consisting of a large midden deposit containing chert flakes, fire-affected rock, shell and bone. A projectile point and a steatite bead were collected from the surface. This site, which appears to have some depth, has been impacted primarily from pothunters and cattle grazing.

Fre-1333: This site consists of a rockshelter containing a substantial midden deposit with numerous artifacts. Although this site has been heavily impacted by pothunters, much of the deposit still remains. Cultural material noted includes a high density of chert flakes, burned bone, several tools, shell (some abalone) and fire-affected rock. Several bedrock mortars are located at the shelter entrance.

Fre-1340: An open campsite with several bedrock mortars, midden, lithics and a possible housepit. This site has been somewhat impacted by road construction and pothunting (backdirt pile noted on site).

These sites exhibit varying degrees of damage as a result of vandalism and pothunting. Due to the current lack of knowledge regarding regional prehistory, as well as the ongoing adverse effects, it is felt that excavation is an appropriate treatment of these resources. Section 106 compliance procedures will be initiated upon funding of these projects.

APPENDIX 3

Planned Wildlife Habitat Improvement Projects

<u>Name/Map Project No.</u>	<u>Fy/ Priority</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
WL-1	1986	Meadow exclosure ¹	1/2 acre	\$ 500
WL-2	1986	Meadow exclosure	20' x 100'	150
WL-3	1987	Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal. ⁴	4,000
WL-4	1986	Meadow exclosure ³	1/4 acre	1,500
		Meadow exclosure	1/4 acre	250
		Meadow exclosure	1/4 acre	250
		Meadow exclosure	1/4 acre	250
		Meadow exclosure ¹	1/4 acre	750
		Meadow exclosure	1/4 acre	250
		Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Vehicle barrier(rock) ⁷	500 ft.	1,500
		Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Quail guzzler ²	990 gal. ⁵	3,000
		Quail guzzler ²	990 gal.	3,000
		Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Deer/quail guzzler ²	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Deer/quail guzzler	2,100 gal.	4,000
		Quail guzzler ²	990 gal.	3,000
		Quail guzzler ²	990 gal.	3,000
		Spring development ⁴	1 ⁶	500
		Meadow exclosure	1/2 acre	500
Condon Peak Burn	1986+	Prescribed Burn	4,000 acres	6,000 ⁸
Byles Canyon Burn	1986+	"	3,000 acres	5,000
Goat Mountain Burn	1987+	"	1,500 acres	4,000

<u>Name/Map Project No.</u>	<u>FY/ Priority</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
San Carlos Bolsa Burn	1988+	Prescribed Burn	1,000 acres	\$ 4,000
Sampson Peak Burn	1989+	"	1,000 acres	4,000
		TOTAL		\$85,400

- 1 Pipe water from spring source to trough outside fence for cattle.
- 2 Includes small protective fence around guzzler unit. Also includes exterior drinking ramp with big-game units to facilitate wild pig use and use by other wildlife.
- 3 A meadow complex near an old homestead--pipe water to small trough outside fence (at meadow with an existing dilapidated hog-wire enclosure). Meadow enclosures only at two other sites (one is just north of road to east of homestead and consists of a dug-out sump, the other is just below homestead and below or down canyon several hundred feet from first site).
- 4 Requires 17 inches of rainfall annually to fill the unit.
- 5 Requires 9 inches of rainfall annually to fill the unit.

Note: All big-game units are located in the 16-18 inch zone of average annual precipitation. All smaller units are located in the 10-14 inch zone of average annual precipitation.

- 6 The site would be used as a camping area with some of the water piped downhill about 200 feet to another small basin (to provide water away from the use area). Remove the old fence around the pond and periodically burn the tules.
- 7 Dump truck and backhoe using rock in general area.
- 8 Costs shown for prescribed burn projects are yearly or recurring costs through the life of the project (for helitorch operation and/or mechanical pre-treatment of brush). Project life would be 5-10 years.

APPENDIX 4

Planned Recreation Facilities and Developments

<u>Name/Map Project No.</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Oak Flat	1987	Acquisition and camp/ staging area develop- ment	1	327,000
R-1	1987	Kiosk	1	2,000
Oak Flat trails (MC-1)	1987	Motorcycle trails	1.5 miles	3,000
San Carlos Bolsa trail	1987	4-WD trail	.5 miles	1,000
Upper Jade Mill/R-2	1988	Staging area	1	27,000
Upper Jade Mill	1989+	Maintenance	1	1,500/yr.
Lower Jade Mill/R-3	1988	Non ORV camp	1	19,000
Lower Jade Mill	1988	Maintenance	1	1,000/yr.
Administrative site	1988	Trailer and Butler building	1	77,500
Administrative site	1989+	Maintenance	1	3,000/yr.
Asbestos mines	1986	Post mining areas closed	3	3,000
1st staging area trail (MC-2)	1988	Motorcycle trail	.5 miles	1,000
5th staging area trail (MC-3)	1988	Motorcycle trail	.5 miles	1,000
3rd staging area trails (MC-4)	1989	Motorcycle trail	.5 miles	1,000
R-4 to R-9	1986 to 1988	Signs (install bulletin boards first)	12	6,000
R-10	1988	Directional signs	1	500
R-11, R-12	1987	Traffic control signs	2	1,000

<u>Name/Map Project No.</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
R-13 to R-18	1989	Directional signs	6	\$ 6,000
R-19	1987	Directional and informational signs	2	500
R-20 to R-27, R-38	1987	Natural Area informa- tional signs	8	4,000
R-39 - R-51	1986+	Gates	13	1,300
Clear Creek Canyon Limited Area signs	1986	Post roads and trails		1,000
R-28 to R-34	1989	Informational and directional signs	8	3,500
R-36	1989	Directional/info. sign	1	500
R-37	1986	Directional/info. sign	1	500
R-35	1990	Signs and campground	1	2,500
Joaquin Rocks trail	1990	Hiking trail	.5 miles	1,000
		TOTAL		\$505,000

Note: Most of these proposals are predicated on the assumption that contributed funding will be acquired for operations and maintenance, including a full-time visitor services staff.

APPENDIX 4A

Signs

<u>Map Project No.</u>	<u>Sign Descriptions</u>
R-1	Kiosk at Oak Flat campground, with campground name, entering Clear Creek MA sign, regulations, map, etc. See text (may be more than one sign).
R-2	Bulletin board and camp/staging area name (more than one sign) - upper Jade Mill.
R-3	Bulletin board and camp/staging area name (more than one sign) - lower Jade Mill.
R-4	Bulletin board and camping/staging area name (more than one sign) - Staging Area #1.
R-5	" - Staging Area #2
R-6	" - Staging Area #3
R-7	" - Staging Area #4
R-8	" - Staging Area #5
R-9	" - Staging Area #6
R-10	Direction to Oak Flat, Jade Mill, Bald Hills
R-11	"Go Slow/Keep to Right"
R-12	"
R-13	Direction to Picacho Ridge, San Benito Mountain
R-14	Direction to camping/staging areas, Picacho Inn
R-15	Directional sign to camping/staging areas and Sawmill Creek
R-16	" "
R-17	Asbestos sign moved to this location
R-18	Directional signs redesigned for one post

<u>Map Project No.</u>	<u>Sign Descriptions</u>
R-19	Directional sign to San Carlos Bolsa/bulletin board (2 signs).
R-20	Directional sign to San Benito Mountain (away from McCullough Hill)
R-21	" "
R-22	Directional sign to San Benito Mountain/Clear Creek
R-23	San Benito Mountain Natural Area closed to vehicle use, left of road; right of road open to vehicle use.
R-24	San Benito Mountain Natural Area - All vehicles stay on main road next ____ miles.
R-25	San Benito Mountain Natural Area - same as R-24
R-26	Same as R-24
R-27	"San Benito Mountain"
R-28	Directional sign to Clear Creek, San Benito Mountain Natural Area, Spanish Lake
R-29	Directional sign to Condon Peak area
R-30	" "
R-31	" "
R-32	" "
R-33	" "
R-34	Directional sign to Idria, San Benito Mountain Natural Area, Clear Creek, bulletin board (2 signs).
R-35	Bulletin board/Joaquin Rocks campground (2 signs)
R-36	Directional sign to Idria, Clear Creek
R-37	Bulletin board/Condon Peak access signs
R-38	San Benito Mountain Natural Area - Vehicles stay on road

APPENDIX 5

Planned Asbestos Hazard Reduction Projects

<u>Name/Map Project No.</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Vehicle washing facility	1988	Asbestos hazard reduction	1	\$39,000
Vehicle washing facility	1989+	Maintenance	1	2,000/yr.
			TOTAL	\$41,000

APPENDIX 6

Planned Watershed Improvement
and Stabilization Projects

<u>Name/Map Project No.</u>	<u>FY/ Priority</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Coat Mt. Road W-1	1986	Reconstructed jeep road w/drainage structures	1/3 mile	\$ 5,000 ¹
	1986	Vehicle barriers	100 ft.	400
	1986	Rock armoring	150 ft.	4,500
Eroded Hill Climb W-2	1986	Water diversion	1 project	500
	1986	Gully plugs	5	300
Plymouth Rock Dam W-3	1988	Rock gabion dam (20 ft.)	1	80,000 ²
Bald Hills Dam W-4	1988	Earth or rock gabion dam (20 ft.)	1	80,000 ³
Rerouted Trail W-5	1988	Water bars and/or barriers	1 project	300
Old Dam W-6	1989	Rock gabion dam (10 ft.)	1	25,000 ⁴
Recent Slump W-7	1989	Rock armoring	250 ft.	3,800
Deachman's Camp W-8	1987	Rock armoring	100 ft.	1,500
Earth Dam W-9	1990	Earth detention dam (20 ft.)	1	20,000 ⁵
Cut Trees Camp W-10	1987	Barriers	100 ft.	700
Staging Area 5 W-11	1987	Barriers	300 ft.	2,000
	1987	Old road stabili- zation	1/8 mile	500
Mud Hole Hill Climb W-12	1987	Barriers	100 ft.	700
1st and 2nd Stream Crossings W-13	1987	Rock armoring	150 ft.	2,300
Narrows W-14	1989	Rock armoring	150 ft.	3,000
Closed Hill Climb W-15	1989	Rock armoring	50 ft.	800
Old Dam - D.S. W-16	1989	Rock armoring	60 ft.	1,200

Appendix 6, continued

<u>Name/Map Project No.</u>	<u>FY/ Priority</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
3rd Stream Crossing-L	W-17 1990	Rock armoring	75 ft.	1,100
3rd Stream Crossing-U	W-18 1990	Rock armoring	100 ft.	2,000
Small Slide W-19	1990	Rock armoring	150 ft.	2,200
Old Dam-U.S. W-20	1990	Rock armoring	150 ft.	2,000
Upper Deadman's Camp	W-21 1991	Rock armoring	50 ft.	700
Cabe Site W-22	1991	Rock armoring	150 ft.	6,000
Road Embankment W-23	1991	Rock armoring	150 ft.	6,000
Scheduled Road and Trail Maintenance	Yearly	Waterbarring, outsloping, etc.	150 ft.	5,000 ⁶
Gauging Stations	1987	In-stream, USGS	2	14,000 ⁷
			TOTAL	\$271,500

1 Operations & Maintenance (O&M) - \$175

2 O&M - \$3,200

3 O&M - \$3,200

4 O&M - \$1,600

5 O&M - \$2,800

6 Since this is a recurring cost it is more properly an O&M cost.

7 Installation cost only, assuming they are monitored by BLM staff. USGS would charge an additional \$14,000 per unit per year for sedimentation and flow monitoring/reporting.

APPENDIX 7

Planned RTE Habitat Improvement Projects

<u>Name/Map Project No.</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Monitoring	Annually	--	1	0.5 WM
RTE-1	1987	Site rehabilitation ¹	1/2 acre	\$ 500
RTE-2	1987	Site rehabilitation ¹	1/2 acre	500
Ecological study of the San Benito evening primrose	1987+	Contract (see next page)	1	<u>15,000</u>
		TOTAL		\$16,000

¹ Ripping/pitting using rented equipment (e.g., hand-operated pitter or heavy rototiller), heavy equipment (e.g., dozer with ripper tooth) may also have to be used.

APPENDIX 7, continued

Contract Proposal for Study of the San Benito Evening Primrose

I. Establishment and growth.

- A. Investigate seed dormancy and viability.
- B. Investigate optimum conditions and tolerance ranges for germination and growth.
 - 1. Compacted/impacted soils versus loose alluvium.
 - 2. Soil constituent levels of trace elements and compounds.
 - 3. Temperature, moisture, irradiance levels.

II. Intraspecific and interspecific competition.

- A. Investigate optimum densities of Camissonia for germination, growth, and continued survival.
- B. Evaluate competitive ability of Camissonia benitensis versus associate and successional plant species observed in the field (current monitoring program addresses this issue).
- C. Evaluate effect of animals (see below).

III. Reproduction

- A. Investigate pollination vectors and inter-population genetic exchange.
- B. Investigate factors affecting seed production.
- C. Investigate factors affecting seed dispersal.

IV. Causes of mortality

- A. Investigate plant/animal interactions.
- B. Investigate plant/plant interactions.
- C. Investigate environmental factors and tolerances.

APPENDIX 7, continued

- V. Protective measures and recovery efforts
 - A. Investigate habitat rehabilitation/improvement practices.
 - B. Investigate possibility of artificial establishment of new populations.
 - C. Expand public information program on botanical resources within the management area.

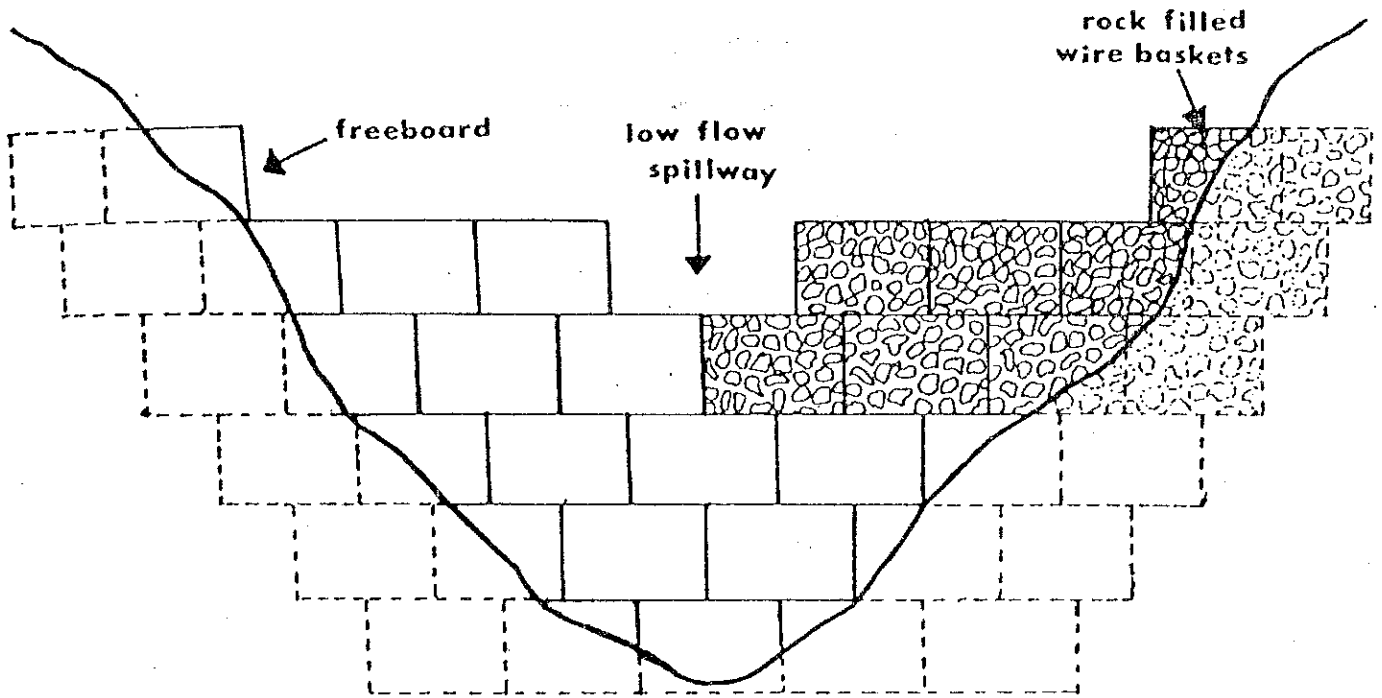
APPENDIX 8

Implementation Cost Summary

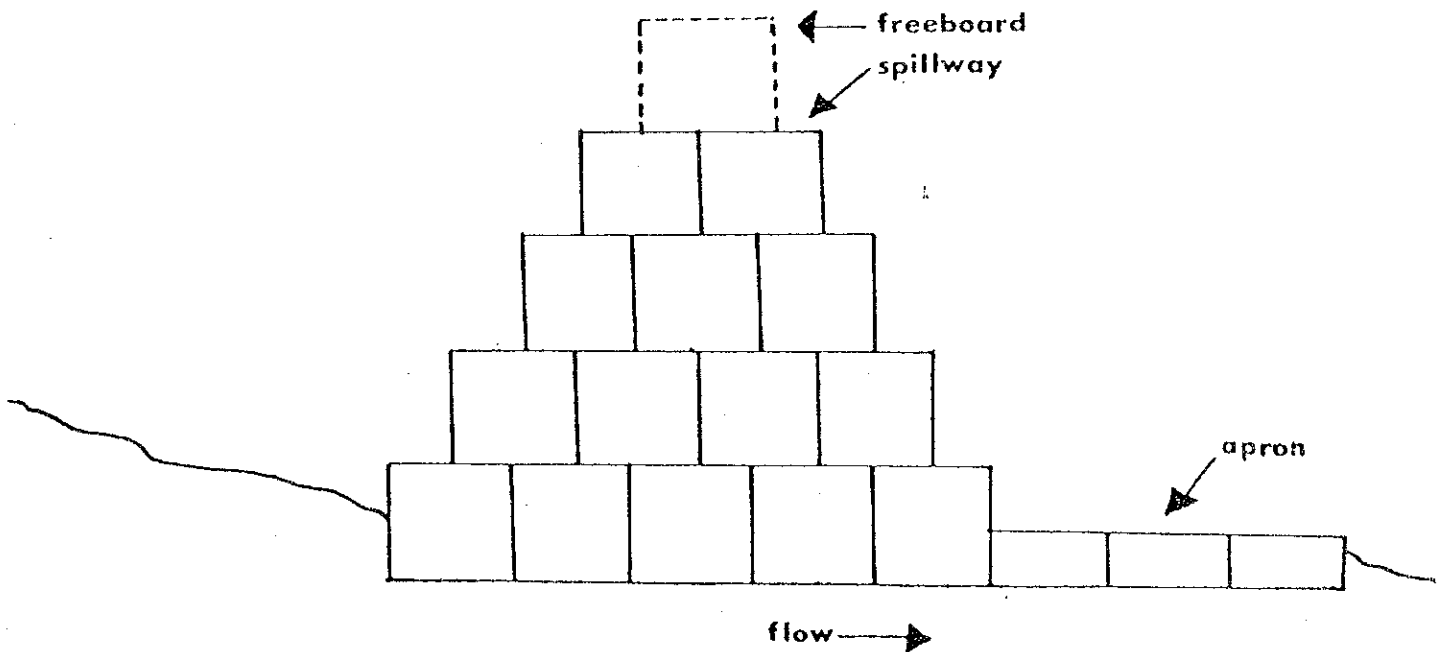
<u>Issue/Resource</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Asbestos Hazard	\$ 41,000
2. Watershed	271,500
3. Rare, Threatened or Endangered Plant Habitat	166,000
4. Hobby Gem and Minerals	--
5. Unique Soils	--
6. Cultural Resources	35,000
7. Wildlife Habitat	84,900
8. Recreation	<u>505,000</u>
TOTALS	\$1,139,400

APPENDIX - 9

ROCK GABION DAM DESIGN



DAM SECTION ACROSS THE GULLY



DAM CROSS SECTION AT SPILLWAY

APPENDIX 10

Monitoring Strategies

<u>Issue/Concern</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Technique(s)</u>	<u>Unit(s)</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>BLM Work Month(s)</u> ¹
1. Asbestos Hazard	a. Awareness	Evaluate effectiveness of awareness program and voluntary compliance with precautionary measures through individual contact (document in patrol logs) and oral/written questionnaire.	Visitor contacts, percent compliance.	Contacts on continuing basis with visitor service patrols, questionnaire every 2-3 years.	1.0
	b. Dust suppressant	Establish several photo points and monitor visually.	Visual estimate of dust production.	Photo points at least once during dry season, visually on on-going basis as part of patrols.	0.25
	c. Washing facilities	Vehicle counts to determine usage.	Number of vehicles.	Each patrol.	--
2. Watershed	a. Riparian zones	Photo plot/direct observation.	Stability, condition and trend.	Annually	0.5
	b. Soil erosion in ORV use areas	Erosion pin and Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) transects, photo plots.	Condition and trend, soil loss (tons/acre/year).	Annually	0.5

¹ Average work month cost is approximately \$3,000.

<u>Issue/Concern</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Technique(s)</u>	<u>Unit(s)</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>BLM Work Month(s)</u>
2. Watershed (cont.)	c. Vegetation response, soil erosion in prescribed burn areas	Same as above.	Same as above.	Annually for first two years, every five years thereafter until return.	0.25
	d. Water quality and sedimentation	Gauging stations (2) - one on Clear Creek and one on San Benito River, water "grab" samples.	Sediment yield	After peak flows read gauging stations, grab samples during patrols (high-use weekends, events).	1.0
3. Rare, Threatened or Endangered Plant Habitat	a. Serpentine endemics: - San Benito evening prim-rose - Rayless layia - Talus fri-tillary	Direct observation of known and potential habitat, and rehabilitated areas, photo plots for for the San Benito evening primrose.	Number (relative abundance), habitat conditions.	Annually during flowering period (inspect sites for vandalism as part of routine patrols).	1.0
	b. Serpentine conifer forest (San Benito Mtn. Natural Area)	Direct observation, photo index (repeat historical photos).	Condition, trend	Every five years	0.25
4. Hobby Gem and Minerals	a. Collection Areas	Document conflicts with mining claimants, direct observation, photos, user contacts.	Site conditions, impacts	Annually inspect several localities and contact users	0.25

APPENDIX 10, continued

<u>Issue/Concern</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Technique(s)</u>	<u>Unit(s)</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>BLM Work Month(s)</u>
5. Unique Soils	a. Study areas	Direct observations, photo plots.	Site condition and trend	Annually with academic community	0.25
6. Cultural Resources	a. Site damage due to weathering and erosion.	Photo plots, direct observation	Site conditions, impacts	Annually	0.25
	b. Site damage due to human-caused impacts.	Photo plots, direct observation	Site conditions, impacts	Annually	0.25
7. Wildlife Habitat	a. Deer population trends, distribution, and harvest	CDFG herd composition counts, sex and age ratios, spot kill data, check stations.	Numbers	Annually by CDFG	--
	b. Habitat condition and trend	Direct observation of browse utilization, deer pellet group counts, other wildlife use on prescribed burn areas, photo plots.	Degree of use on new browse, relative abundance of pellet groups, other wildlife use.	Annually	0.25
8. Recreation	a. ORV use	Aerial photos, photo plots, patrol logs and incident report data.	Visitor hours based on vehicle counts, road and trail use.	Aerial photos every five years, photo plots annually, patrols 1-2 per weekend.	2.0
	b. Trail use	Visual monitoring of degree of use, impacts, need for repair, safety hazards.	Condition, hazards	Twice a year (minimum)	.25

<u>Issue/Concern</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Technique(s)</u>	<u>Unit(s)</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>BLM Work Month(s)</u>
Recreation (cont.)	c. Barriers	Visually check for condition, vandalism; effectiveness	Condition	On-going as part of regular patrols and maintenance inspections.	--
	d. General Recreation Use	Patrol log and incident report data, note vandalism, trespass, resource damage (obtain vehicle count in serpentine vs. non-serpentine areas to detect changes in use patterns after camping/staging area development).	Visitor hours based on vehicle counts.	Patrols 1-2 per weekend	1.0

APPENDIX 11

Modified Fire Suppression Plan for the San Benito Mountain Natural Area

A. Physical Description

The area is located within the Clear Creek Management Area approximately 60 miles southeast of Hollister in San Benito County, California. San Benito Mountain (elevation 5,241) lies roughly in the middle of the 1,880-acre Natural Area which was established in 1972 in recognition of its outstanding natural and scenic values and in order to protect the most representative example of the area's unique serpentine endemic vegetation. Nowhere else on earth does the Jeffrey pine, Coulter pine and digger pine occur in the same location. Incense cedar, another conifer, also grows in the Natural Area as well as chaparral shrub species such as leather oak and manzanita characteristic of the serpentine soils.

B. Fire History

Fire occurrence for the Natural Area is low. There have been no recorded fires in the last 35 years (since 1950), however fire scars are obvious on the older trees and brush. It is presumable that lightning has been and will continue to be an occasional causal factor. Man-caused factors due to high recreational use of the area (mainly off-road vehicles) will be the dominant cause of fires. Fuel types range from NFDRS Fuel Model U or NFFL Model 9 for heavy conifer stands with little or no understory and NFDRS Fuel Model F or NFFL Model 6 for the more open stands interspersed with chaparral shrubs. Fire intensity and rate of spread are both moderate to high for Model F/Model 6 fuels whereas spread rates are low to moderate and intensities low to high for Model U/Model 9 fuels.

C. Objective

This plan will serve as an appendix to the Clear Creek Management Plan and to implement a specific land use decision contained in the Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP) of 1984. It will guide the management of fires occurring in or threatening the Natural Area.

D. Policy

This plan does not advocate a "let burn policy" on the part of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It only changes the degree of intensity with which BLM mandates containment of wildfires, the intention being to avoid spending funds to suppress a fire that presents no threat to life or property or which may be a part of the natural ecosystem. All actions will be carried out in a manner that least impairs the natural values of the area and which results in the least environmental damage.

E. Suppression Action

When a fire is confirmed to be in or threatening the Natural Area, the Hollister Resource Area Manager will be notified immediately by the California Department of Forestry (CDF) Emergency Command Center (ECC). An Environmental Specialist from the area staff will be assigned to the fire to advise the Incident Commander (IC) on fire fighting activities and rehabilitation needs. Initial attack will be made by ground pumpers, handcrews, and aircraft (if available). Retardant may be used in initial attack and as reinforcement, as deemed necessary by the IC. The use of fugitive marker dye in retardant would be preferable to reduce visual impacts.

Heavy equipment (cats/tractors) will not be used in the Natural Area, except to prevent loss of human life or high-value property. High-value property is defined as structural improvements such as the communication sites on San Benito Mountain.

Fires that escape the initial attack phase or first burning period will be reinforced as necessary (at the discretion of the IC) with additional handcrews, engines and aircraft. Minimizing burned acreage will not be the primary consideration in project fire strategy. Indirect attack utilizing natural and existing man-made barriers is preferred.

F. Rehabilitation

All firelines constructed on slopes of 25 percent or more will be rehabilitated to prevent erosion. Rehabilitation measures may include waterbarring and backfilling. Rehabilitation requirements will be determined and supervised by the Environmental Specialist.

There will be no re-seeding or planting of non-native or exotic species.

Prepared by:

Scott R. Florence

Resource Management Specialist,
Hollister Resource Area

6-21-85

Date

Approved By:

David G. Howell

BLM Hollister Resource Area Manager

6-24-85

Date

Sam [unclear]

CDF Ranger in Charge, San Benito -
Monterey Ranger Unit

6-24-85
Date

APPENDIX 12

Comments/Responses

Letter No. 1: James R. Stringham
6391 E. Printer Udell
Tuscon, AZ 85710

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. Developing recreational facilities where there is an asbestos hazard seems absurd.
- R. A stated objective of the management plan is to not encourage public use of the area, but to provide information to visitors so they may take precautions to limit their exposure. Another objective is to minimize exposure in main use areas, such as campgrounds. The decision to leave the area open for public use was made in 1981 and reaffirmed in the Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP) of 1984. The rationale for this decision was based on informed individual choice. The area was first signed and information provided on the asbestos hazard in 1977.

The Clear Creek Management Plan outlines management actions to further reduce asbestos exposure through development of camping areas off the serpentine area and increased awareness (signing, visitor services patrols).

- C. The wisest course of action would be to encourage mineral exploration and block recreation to the extent possible in Clear Creek Canyon.
- R. The proposed protective withdrawal is based on concerns related to endangered plant habitat, water quality, air quality, and hobby gem and mineral interests. The withdrawal is not justifiable on the basis of recreational values alone. Clear Creek Canyon and the San Benito Mountain Natural Area comprise about 3,000 acres or six percent of the management area, the remainder of which would be open to mining.

Letter No. 2: Jeff Rickard
980 Kiely Blvd., #218
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. Concerned about ORV trespass onto private lands.
- R. The plan provides for boundary posting in problem areas. We will work with all affected landowners to that end, within our capabilities. The plan also provides for a law enforcement ranger and continuation of the law enforcement agreement with San Benito County.
- C. Seems illogical to promote recreation use in an area known to contain asbestos.
- R. See response to letter No. 1.

Letter No. 3: Louis Des Jardins
Route 2, Box 589A
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. Feels that many of the proposals are excellent but would like more facilities and services.
- R. The management plan is an attempt to balance user needs with management goals and resource protection. The area is not a State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) nor an area devoted entirely to ORV use. It is our policy to not encourage use of the area because of the asbestos hazard. Camping/staging facilities are designed to offer present users an alternative to camping on the hazardous asbestos area, thereby reducing personal exposure. The vehicle wash facility would reduce off-site transport of mud and dirt, thus reducing off-site exposure. Further facility development would only encourage more people to use the area.
- C. More riding areas need to be made available and more of the back areas need to be opened up.
- R. A major goal of the plan is the development of signing and trail systems to encourage use of back-country areas (where there are approximately 25,000 acres open to vehicle use)

Letter No. 3 (continued)

and reduce the tremendous concentration of use in Clear Creek Canyon. The plan also addresses joint management opportunities associated with the proposed Martin Ranch SVRA to the east.

Letter No. 4: California Regional Water
Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
1102 A Laurel Lane
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. How will sanitary facilities be operated and maintained?
- R. These are vault toilets which would be pumped as needed and the waste hauled to an approved disposal site under BLM contract.
- C. Concerned about location of sediment catchments.
- R. There was an error on Map 2C omitting the fourth sediment catchment location which has been corrected.
- Sediment catchment location was based on the presence of barren soil areas which were considered major sediment contributors. There are no such areas in the vicinity of the Alpine Mine. None of the four mines are active and the areas are largely stabilized.
- C. The wash facility may concentrate asbestos particulates at the facility site or in adjoining surface waters. How will this be mitigated?
- R. This will be considered during the project planning phase. We are considering an evaporation basin as the most practical means.
- C. Suggested incorporating additional features of Alternative regarding sediment catchments and vehicle barriers.
- R. After further evaluation, we still come to the conclusion that these structures would not be cost-effective for the additional benefits to be derived.

Letter No. 5: Hoby Pihl
1117 Central Avenue
San Jose, CA 95128

Comment: Opposed to adding developed camping, administrative headquarters, car wash facilities, additional patrols, and the trend toward more regulation.

Response: The BLM has no plans to develop the area as intensively as a State Vehicular Recreation Area. Primitive facilities presently exist in the Clear Creek Canyon, a relatively small portion of the entire management area. These consist of six staging areas with vault, toilets and garbage dumpsters. New facility development would be restricted to the Clear Creek entrance area for which Green Sticker funding has already been approved by the State OHV Commission (Clear Creek II Project - see page 3 of the management plan).

Camping/staging area developments in the vicinity of the Clear Creek entrance would also be primitive facilities, designed to provide space for vehicle parking and camping off the hazardous asbestos area. Minimal facilities would be provided for sanitation and garbage (vault toilets and dumpsters).

A major goal of the plan is to reduce the high concentration of visitor use in Clear Creek Canyon where environmental conflicts have resulted from over-use of a relatively small area. Serious conflicts exist with endangered plant habitat and water quality and erosion along the stream corridor. Severe restrictions could result from failure to resolve these issues and concerns. Planned actions to resolve these conflicts include signing and development of trails leading from existing and planned camping and staging areas in order to disperse use into the back-country areas where there are fewer environmental conflicts and far less need for regulation. This approach relies on the voluntary cooperation of users rather than simply installing more and more barriers to preclude use. Opportunities for an unconstrained ORV experience would still be available in the areas outside of Clear Creek Canyon and the San Benito Mountain Natural Area. Approximately 25,000 acres would remain open to ORV use with basically no restrictions. This is unchanged from the ORV designation for the area that was established in 1981. Camping would also remain basically unrestricted outside of Clear Creek Canyon and the San Benito Mountain Natural Area.

Letter No. 5 (continued)

The administrative site proposed in the plan would provide headquarters for a visitor services staff for which Green Sticker funding has already been approved by the State OHV Commission (Clear Creek III Project - see page 3 of the management plan). This staff would provide visitor assistance, emergency services, and help coordinate volunteer projects such as trail construction in the area.

The need for increased patrols and regulation stems from increasing public use of the area and the resulting impacts. Incidences of trespass onto private land, vandalism to signs and facilities and resource damage such as tree cutting and vehicle use in closed areas have increased along with the increase in visitor use.

Representatives from AMA, CORVA, and the California Association of 4WD Clubs assisted the Bureau in the formulation of the management plan by serving on the Ad Hoc Committee for the area. We did not conceive these plans on our own without user input. We are hopeful that many of the projects can be implemented and maintained on a cooperative basis through volunteer efforts by clubs and individuals such as yourself that are interested in the area.

Letter No. 6: Gary Steed
240 Stapp Road
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Comment: Please leave Clear Creek alone as it is a place where we can enjoy a small illusion of freedom from signs, rangers, campgrounds, and cities.

Response: See response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 9: Anna Steed
240 Stapp Road
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 10: Peter Millett
San Jose, CA.

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 11: Paul Geller
Santa Clara, CA.

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 12: W.H. Lee
Los Altos, CA.

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 7: Calidria Asbestos
KCAC, Inc.
P.O. Box K
King City, CA 93930

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. Support the proposed action as stated (Alternatives 1 and 3). Opposed to item 3.a. under Alternative 2 which would allow for public use of the Union Carbide Road.
- R. No response necessary.
- C. Concerned about repeated use of the term "asbestos hazard" and was not aware of any health problems related to asbestos exposures in the area.
- R. The asbestos hazard from serpentine soils in the area is documented in Murchio, 1978 and Popendorf, 1979. Copies of these reports have been furnished to KCAC, Inc. under separate cover.

Letter No. 8: Al Wigger
10650 E. Estates Drive
Cupertino, CA 95014

Comment: Concerned about opening up areas near New Idria and preserving the natural environment.

Response: The management plan attempts to balance recreation demand with resource protection. As the plan is implemented, we will work with concerned groups and individuals to see that user resource needs and protection goals are met through cooperation and continued monitoring, including adequate patrols of the area.

Letter No. 13: James Riehl
2712 Westage Drive
Madera, CA 93637

Comment: Concern over development of the New Idria area as an ORV park.

Response: The Clear Creek area is not an "ORV park." We also assume you were referring to the area east of New Idria (San Carlos Bolsa). We do not intend to develop that area nor any area within the management area as an ORV park. Also see the response to letter No. 8.

Letter No. 14: Kip Webb
2447 Tuckahoe Terrace
Watsonville, CA 95076

Comment: Favors Alternative No. 3.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 15: Robert Bowers
4425 Porter Gulch Road
Aptos, CA 95003

Comment: Favors Alternative No. 3.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 16: Scott Gray
4484 Cortez Drive
Soquel, CA 95073

Comment: Favors Alternative No. 3.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 17: Ralph G. Towle
51 Dot's Circle
Hollister, CA 95023

Comment: Concerned about asbestos contamination of downstream water supplies in the Hollister area.

Response: Samples taken in conjunction with BLM asbestos studies in the winter of 1978, where Highway 25 crosses the San Benito River, did not detect asbestos particles in the water. The management plan addresses specific actions to improve water quality in the Clear Creek area by reducing erosion and sedimentation.

Letter No. 18: Mike Van Lienden
1210 Trout Gulch Road
Aptos, CA 95003

Comment: Favors Alternative No. 3.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 19: California Dept. of Fish and Game
Region 3
P.O. Box 47
Yountville, CA 94599

Comment: Support the proposed plan, and compliment staff on a job well done. Continue to recommend 1,000 pounds per acre of residual mulch rather than 700 to better provide cover for wildlife and soil protection.

Response: The residual mulch criteria was established in the Hollister Resource Management Plan. This was not reassessed in the activity plan. It may be considered when the RMP is amended.

Letter No. 20: Mark Ward
14791 Road 28
Madera, CA 93638

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. Opposed to proposed four-wheel drive road from North Hill to San Carlos Bolsa.
- R. We share many of your concerns related to possible impacts to soils, vegetation, and other resources. We propose a modification to allow for a system of gates to restrict public access at your property boundary and also near North Hill to control seasonal access. We plan to work with you and other concerned individuals and groups during the project planning stage to assure that user needs and resource protection goals are met.
- C. Post "No Off Road Vehicles" signs along eastern flank of San Carlos Bolsa and North Hill.
- R. We would post zones of vehicle use as appropriate, including posting of closed roads, trails, and areas.
- C. Extend the limited (B) zone to the south.
- R. The portion of the area within the open (A) designation has been so designated since 1981. We feel the proposed boundary would effectively protect the most environmentally sensitive portion of the area. We would continue with monitoring of the area to determine the need for future revision.
- C. Extend the San Benito Mountain Natural Area south of San Carlos peak and easterly past the serpentine/sedimentary contact.
- R. Present boundaries are considered the most manageable. We are not reassessing the boundaries with this document since it is a specific decision in the Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP). It may be considered in future RMP amendments.
- C. Delete the New Idria Mine (Mexican Flat) mineralized zone from the management plan.
- R. Acquisition of this property would not affect the mineral rights associated with the property. Recreation use would not preclude further exploration and/or development of this area.

Letter No. 21: Mark Ward
14791 Road 28
Madera, CA 93638

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. Close the San Carlos Bolsa area to motorcycles.
- R. As you are aware, most motorcyclists prefer the bare serpentine areas in Clear Creek. Our experience with the Condon Peak area (directly adjacent to Clear Creek on the south and very similar with respect to soil, vegetation, and topography) bears this out. That area receives very little motorcycle use and there has never been any damage attributable to motorcyclists.
- C. Install a gate near New Idria Reservoir.
- R. See the response to letter No. 20.
- C. Close the area to public vehicular access during the wet season and during periods of extreme fire hazard.
- R. See the response to letter No. 20.
- C. Designate the entire San Carlos Bolsa areas as "B" (vehicle use limited to designated routes).
- R. See the response to letter No. 20.

Letter No. 22: Phillip Ward
1833 N. Channing
Fresno, CA 93705

Comment: Disapproves of the proposal for San Carlos Bolsa.

Response: See the responses to letter Nos. 13, 20, and 21.

Letter No. 23: Santa Cruz Ridgerunners Motorcycle Club

Comment: Favor Alternative No. 3 because it best serves our recreational needs and costs less. Also feel it adequately provides for visitor services and resource protection.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 24: Jack (last name illegible)

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 25: Rainer Neumann
275 Fairview Avenue
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Comment: Favors Alternative No. 3.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 26: Edd Haymond
SK Cycles
421 Queens Lane
San Jose, CA 95112

Comment: Same as letter No. 6. Also disputes the visitor use figures stated for the Clear Creek area.

Response: Visitor use for 1984 was 420,000 visitor hours which is equivalent to 35,000 visitor days (a visitor day is defined as being 12 hours long). Visitor use data is based on vehicle counts (direct observation and traffic counters). These figures include motorcyclists, four-wheelers, hunters, sightseers, and

Letter No. 26 (continued)

rockhounds. Visitor use statistics represent an estimate of total use rather than the total number of visitors. Thirty-five hundred (3,500) people visiting the area ten times a year would equal 420,000 visitor hours (35,000 visitor days). These statistics are used to assess the area's use and project future trends. Also see the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 27: Name illegible

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 28: David Ow
6418 Forehand Court
Aptos, CA 95003

Comment: Favors Alternative No. 3.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 29: Robert Sangalli
419 Redwood Avenue
San Bruno, CA 94066

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 30: Joseph Abrams

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 31: William (last name illegible)

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 32: Rodney and Jody Smith

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 33: Donald Steed
10314-B El Prado
Cupertino, CA 95014

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 34: William Grossi
114 Engracia Drive
Watsonville, CA 95076

Comment: Favors Alternative No. 3.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 35: Frank Monez
Santa Clara Valley Gem
and Mineral Society
407 Bluefield Drive
San Jose, CA 95136

Comment: Supports the proposed action and commends staff and Ad Hoc Committee on a job well done.

Response: Thank you.

Letter No. 36: The Resources Agency of California
Resources Bldg.
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Major comments (C)/responses (R) are as follows (the first five are additional comments from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board):

- C. ORV use partly contributes to sedimentation of Hernandez Reservoir. The report should discuss the rate at which ORV use shortens the reservoir's life and how ORV use could continue without impacting water quality.
- R. Based on available information, natural erosion is far greater than that caused by ORVs. Planned actions are designed to mitigate both. It is impossible to determine how much is ORV caused vs. natural.

Letter No. 36 (continued):

- C. How will proposed erosion control measures offset increased erosion resulting from increased ORV use?
- R. We do not anticipate an increase in ORV use due to implementation of the plan. Planned actions are designed to reduce erosion from both man-caused and natural sources.
- C. BLM should implement all erosion control measures under Alternative 1 and 2.
- R. See the response to letter No. 4.
- C. Why is the Clear Creek watershed needed for ORV activity when other nearby areas have less critical water quality impacts from ORV use.
- R. This is an existing Resource Management Plan (RMP) decision based on ORV designations completed in 1981. It was not reassessed in this activity plan.
- C. The upper San Benito River watershed should be recognized as an important resource that should be protected.
- R. This is recognized in the planned actions--rehabilitation plan for the KCAC (Calidria) mine and limited ORV designation for the upper San Benito River stream corridor.
- C. The Department of Conservation disagrees with the assumption that chrysotile asbestos is as hazardous as other forms of asbestos. The Department feels that the carcinogenic properties of chrysotile are much less certain and need to be fully evaluated.
- R. We agree that a full evaluation is needed but a decision change is not warranted until the weight of scientific evidence and a general consensus by the science and health community indicates otherwise.

Letter No. 37: The Resources Agency of California
Resources Bldg.
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

- C. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) had no specific comments at this time but would like to be kept informed.
- R. No response necessary.

Letter No. 38: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lloyd 500 Bldg., Suite 1692
500 NE Multnomah Street
Portland, OR 97232

Comment: It is our biological opinion that implementation of the Draft Clear Creek Management Plan is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the San Benito evening primrose, a threatened species.

Response: We will adopt each of the three conservation recommendations contained in the biological opinion.

Letter No. 39: Larry Bourdeau
250 McGaffigan Mill Road
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Comment: Concerned that a portion of the proposed Hobby Gem and Mineral Protective Withdrawal overlaps their mining claim.

Response: The proposed site-specific protective withdrawal for hobby gem and mineral collecting areas would be subject to valid and existing rights. Each area would also be subject to a full mineral report and thorough review process prior to approval.

Letter No. 40: Larry Bourdeau
Pacific Museum Consultants
250 McGaffigan Mill Road
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Comment: Supports the proposed plan for cultural resources. Suggests including provisions to protect and preserve important historic cultural resources along with that which is planned for prehistoric sites in the management area.

Response: Many of the substantial and intact mining-related features in the area (New Idria and associated structures) are located on private land. The integrity of mines and mining-related structures on public land in the management area is generally quite low and in many cases present a safety hazard to the public.

We have considered developing a self-guided tour of the historic resources of the area. The tour might consist of designated stops along a route described in a printed brochure. Such a project would ideally be initiated and supported by volunteer efforts.

While no specific protection plan has been developed for historic resources in the area, it is BLM's responsibility to evaluate these resources prior to any surface disturbing activity as outlined in 36 CFR 800. Therefore, management and protection of these sites and structures will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Letter No. 41: Bob Houston
1450 Oakland Road #221
San Jose, CA 95112

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 42: Steve Frelind
USN, Moffett Field, CA.

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 43: Edd Haymond
SK Cycles
421 Queens Lane
San Jose, CA 95112

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 44: Jim Baile
7341 Birkdale
Newark, CA 94560

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 45: Name illegible

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response for letter No. 5.

Letter No. 46: Mike Bancroft

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response for letter No. 5.

Letter No. 47: Herman Oberg

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response for letter No. 5.

Letter No. 48: James Ward

Comment: Opposed to proposed opening of San Carlos Bolsa for ORV use.

Response: See the responses for letter Nos. 13, 20, and 21.

Letter No. 49: David and Nancy Carlisle
P.O. Box 2
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Comment: Opposed to opening up San Carlos Bolsa to ORVs.

Response: See the responses for letter Nos. 13, 20, and 21.

Letter No. 50: Harry Koue
362 Danube Drive
Aptos, CA 95003

Comment: Favors Alternative No. 3.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 51: Norbert Neumann

Comment: Favors Alternative No. 3.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 52: Stephen Hay

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 53: Lance Smith

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 54: Name illegible

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 55: Howard Harris
Vic Edmundson
Hollister Gem and Lapidary Club

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. Concerned about damage to collecting sites from bulldozing and blasting.
- R. The proposed protective withdrawals and cooperative agreements would preclude these actions within specific areas where hobby gem and mineral values exist. Mining plans of operations are also required for any actions involving the use of heavy equipment or blasting within the 33,000 acre Clear Creek serpentine ACEC. Specific areas would be identified for avoidance, if possible, through the plan of operations process.
- C. Believe that the assessment of commercial mineral potential in the Clear Creek area is too high.
- R. This assessment is based on available literature and BLM geologists.
- C. Support land exchanges, acquisition and development of access, better camping and staging areas.
- R. No response necessary.
- C. Support planned erosion control projects, but expressed doubts about feasibility of silt catchments.
- R. Feasibility will be further assessed during project planning stages with input from all concerned.
- C. Support continuing the San Benito Mountain Natural Area designation, but suggest modifying the boundaries or reducing its size to enhance manageability.

Letter No. 55 (continued):

- R. Barriers, signing, and patrol will address most management concerns. The size and configuration of the area was a decision that was carried forward in the Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP) and was not reassessed in the activity plan. It could be considered in future RMP amendments.
- C. Support planned actions related to prescribed burning.
- R. No response necessary.
- C. Support the asbestos awareness program.
- R. No response necessary.
- C. Township and section corners need to be marked.
- R. As an action separate from the management plan, we have already programmed for a complete cadastral survey and remonumentation of most of the Clear Creek area with emphasis on T. 18 S., R. 11 E., and T. 18 S., R. 12 E.

Letter No. 56: John (last name illegible)

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

Letter No. 57: Wendell Plowman
Land Use Committee, Central District
California Assoc. of 4WD Clubs, Inc.

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. Support Alternative No. 1 with several modifications.
- R. No response necessary.

Letter No. 57 (continued):

- C. Immediate access is needed via White Creek, Duckworth Canyon, Pine Canyon, and Union Carbide Road.
- R. Public access was considered under Alternative 2 via these routes, but is not included in the final plan. This does not preclude the opportunity if at some point in the future we have both a willing seller of an easement across private land and the ability to adequately control public use and mitigate environmental impacts. A long-range goal would be to provide improved "eastern" access into the management area via one of these routes but not all three.

Letter No. 58: Lee Scazighini
Star Route 3, Box 98
Coalinga, CA 93210

Major comments (C)/responses (R):

- C. Strongly opposes public access along the Union Carbide Road through their property.
- R. See the response to letter No. 57.
- C. Motorcycle trespass and poaching are problems we have to deal with on a regular basis.
- R. See the response to letter No. 2.

Letter No. 59: L. E. Marshall

Comment: Same as letter No. 6.

Response: See the response to letter No. 5.

ATLAS ASBESTOS MINE SITE (Holister Resource Area - California)

Description and brief history of site

The Atlas Asbestos Mine site ("the site") covers 435 acres (all but ten acres are on public lands) near Coalinga, California. The mine operated from 1963 to 1979 to produce asbestos material for industrial use. The site was listed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1984.

Potentially responsible parties

The identified, viable potentially responsible parties (PRPs) are Atlas Asbestos Company and Vinnell Mining and Minerals Corporation (A&V). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) have also been identified as PRPs by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A&V contends that BLM is responsible for at least one-third of the remediation costs based on its ownership and on its alleged control of the mine site. A&V has proposed entering into a judicial consent decree with BLM that would be enforceable by the court, not EPA.

Enforcement history

In 1991, EPA notified BLM that as a PRP at the site, it was required to enter into a CERCLA Section 120 Consent Decree. BLM would not agree to a CERCLA Section 120 Consent Decree with EPA due to concerns that BLM could be held liable for cleanup of the entire site and that EPA would pursue BLM for reimbursement of past costs associated with the site. EPA was not willing to modify the CERCLA Section 120 Consent Decree it has with A&V because it wanted to hold A&V fully liable for remediation of the site.

Status of cleanup process

Cleanup at the site has not begun. BLM has reached a tentative settlement agreement in the A&V lawsuit. The terms and conditions of the proposed settlement agreement are that BLM would agree to: 1) perform a five-year revegetation study at the site and if feasible, implement a revegetation program; 2) maintain the portion of White Creek Road which crosses the site to minimize airborne releases of asbestos; 3) construct and maintain fencing around the site; 4) conduct routine patrolling and monitoring of the site; and 5) contribute \$25,000 per year toward operation and maintenance costs at the site. These terms and conditions are consistent with EPA's Record of Decision. The Court ordered a stay in the lawsuit until September 21, 1992 in order to finalize a settlement. If no agreement is in place by this date, it is likely litigation will resume (note: this is the latest information available on this lawsuit).

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Mr. John C. Wise
Deputy Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Re: Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site


Dear John:

I have seriously considered your August 24, 1993, letter responding to BLM's summary of its past and prospective costs at the Atlas Mine Superfund Site as it relates to EPA's payment demand for past costs. I cannot accept your compromise offer of 75% of the \$1.1 million.

We strongly believe the costs BLM has incurred to date at the site (\$800,000) and the costs we will accrue (\$2,000,000) evidence the dedication and sincerity of BLM to remediate the site and protect human health and safety. BLM maintains its original position as stated in my August 2, 1993, letter.

I encourage you to reconsider EPA's stated intention of elevating this matter for resolution based on the consideration of the equities involved in this special case. I would like to add, however, our inability to resolve this issue will not impact any current or future coordination efforts by BLM with the EPA.

Sincerely,



Ed Hastey
State Director

cc: Director WO 100, Room 5660, MIB

bc: AD WO 700, Room 5617, MIB
WO 750, Room 407, LS
DH, Bakersfield
AM, Hollister
T. Berger, Reg Sol.