



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Red Rock/Sloan Field Office

Finding of No Significant Impact & Decision Record

DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2022-0001-EA

Calico Basin Recreation Area Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

PREPARING OFFICE
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Bureau of Land Management
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Finding of No Significant Impact

BACKGROUND

Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2022-0001-EA analyzed the no action alternative and the proposed action. The proposed action, as described in the EA, also includes a recreation area management plan (RAMP).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon a review of DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2022-0001-EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

The environmental effects are not significant (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1501.3(b)) and do not exceed those effects as described in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA) Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (ROD) signed in 2005 ([RRCNCA RMP/ROD 2005](#)). Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement to further analyze possible impacts is not required pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

AFFECTED AREA

The 5,190-acre Calico Basin planning area is in the northern portion of the 201,617-acre congressionally designated RRCNCA. The Calico Basin planning area consists of Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered lands (4,980 acres) and private lands (210 acres). Approximately 1,660 acres in the northwest portion of the Calico Basin planning area are within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness. The Calico Basin planning area is surrounded by BLM-administered lands. Inholdings within the Calico Basin planning area consist of approximately 40 private residential homes, 80 residents, and various county, state, and private land use authorizations. All these authorizations hold rights-of-way (ROWs) from the BLM and serve the private residents.

The RRCNCA, which includes Calico Basin, is experiencing a rapidly growing demand for outdoor recreation. The RRCNCA is the most visited national conservation area in the United States, with over 3.5 million visitors in 2020. Visitation in the RRCNCA is projected to exceed 4 million visitors by 2022 and 5 million by 2024. In 2019, approximately 700,000 people visited the Calico Basin. By 2024, the BLM expects visitation to the Calico Basin to reach 1 million people. Demand for recreation at the Calico Basin and other areas in the RRCNCA is largely the result of population growth in nearby Las Vegas.

DEGREES OF THE EFFECTS OF THE ACTION

Both short- and long-term effects: Short-term effects anticipated under the proposed action include continuance of any ongoing impacts related to climbing. This is because there is no proposed change to current management of climbing, bouldering, and slack lining until a separate climbing management plan is developed and implemented for the RRCNCA.

Short-term effects on cultural and natural resources, including springs and their associated riparian areas, would be minimized through monitoring trail conditions, restoring undesignated trails, preventing

new user-created trails, and installing educational signage. These effects would also be minimized in the long term with the future construction of a fee booth on Calico Basin Road, which is proposed as an implementation-phase activity, and the resultant availability of funds specifically for the Calico Basin to use for additional law enforcement and monitoring. Implementing a timed entry reservation system, which is proposed as an implementation-phase activity, would also have a long-term effect on cultural, paleontological, visual, water, and biological resources (including sensitive species); soils; Native American concerns; and recreation by reducing overall visitation numbers to minimize impacts. The BLM also anticipates minimizing similar long-term effects with implementation of signage and educational opportunities for the public.

Clark County relinquishing its ROWs in Calico Basin and having secondary roads be privately maintained could have a short- and long-term effect on the Calico Basin residents who may be low-income populations; this will depend on Clark County's timing for this process.

The BLM's ability to control visitation numbers with the future implementation of a reservation system would have a long-term effect on recreation by contributing to a safer, more sustainable, and enjoyable recreation experience for visitors. This would occur through minimization of recreational user conflicts and the reduced potential for the current increased visitor use to degrade the natural and cultural resources that contribute positively to the physical and social recreation setting. Any change in the fee structure from implementing a reservation system would require a presentation to the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee and a request for a recommendation of approval before going to the BLM state director for concurrence and final approval prior to implementing. Reducing visitation under the proposed action, Clark County relinquishing its ROWs to the BLM on the primary access roads into the Calico Basin, and having secondary roads be privately maintained would also be long-term effects that would reduce conflicts between Calico Basin residents and visitors who are parking.

Both beneficial and adverse effects:

Designating specific trails for particular uses and preventing new user-created trails under the proposed action would have a beneficial effect on cultural, paleontological, visual, water, and biological resources (including sensitive species); soils; Native American concerns; and recreation. Similarly, there would be a beneficial effect from establishing signage and educational opportunities (with input from tribes) for the public regarding appropriate uses of trails and other resources. Trail designations, education, and signage under the proposed action would also have a beneficial impact by reducing the potential for user conflicts on trails.

Improving trail access points under the proposed action, particularly at Red Spring, Kraft Mountain, Gene's Trailhead, and Brownstown Trailhead, and including educational signage at these locations, would have a beneficial effect on the desired visitor recreation setting and experiences. These also would reduce vandalism or illegal uses.

The proposed action's reduction in visitation from the reservation system and the opportunities to fund monitoring, education, signage, and law enforcement specific to Calico Basin from the amenity fees would have a beneficial effect on the cultural, ecological, and scientific resource values for which the BLM manages the RRCNCA. There would also be beneficial effects on biological, cultural, paleontological, visual, and water resources; soils; and Native American concerns.

The BLM's ability to control visitation numbers with the reservation system under the proposed action would have a beneficial impact on recreation by contributing to a safer, more sustainable, and enjoyable recreation experience for visitors. This would occur through minimization of recreational user conflicts and a reduced potential for the current increased visitor use to degrade the natural and cultural resources that contribute positively to the physical and social recreation setting. Any change in the fee structure from implementing a reservation system would require a presentation to the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee and a request for a recommendation of approval before going to the BLM state director for concurrence and final approval prior to implementing.

The reduction in visitation under the proposed action, Clark County relinquishing its ROWs to the BLM on the primary access roads into the Calico Basin, and having secondary roads be privately maintained would also have a beneficial effect by reducing conflicts between Calico Basin residents and visitors who are parking.

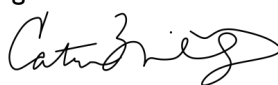
Under the proposed action, implementing a reservation system and limiting the number of reservations to the amount of available parking in the Calico Basin could have an adverse effect on some visitors. For example, they may not be able to obtain a reservation on short notice or at peak times, such as holidays. Therefore, they would not be able to enter the Calico Basin to access desired recreation areas via the main parking locations. Further, there could be an adverse effect for visitors, including low-income populations, from increases in the direct costs for a Calico Basin visitor to use formal parking areas, other than Red Spring. This is due to the construction of a fee booth on Calico Basin Road proposed as an implementation-phase activity. Additionally, Clark County relinquishing its ROWs in Calico Basin and having secondary roads be privately maintained could have an adverse effect on the Calico Basin residents who may be low-income populations. However, only 5 percent of the families in census tract 58.23, which includes the Calico Basin, live below the poverty level.

Under the proposed action, the facilities at the Red Spring Picnic Area (parking lot and picnic areas) would remain open, with the potential for adverse effects on the Red Spring's riparian area and the sensitive species that depend on this spring. The BLM's ability to control visitation numbers with the reservation system under the proposed action, however, would minimize these potential adverse effects on Red Spring (and other springs) and the resources that depend on these riparian areas.

Effects on public health and safety: The Calico Basin RAMP/EA proposes to restrict trail use to pedestrian and equestrian use, close and restore undesignated social trails, and prevent new user-created trails, which would ensure recreation use occurs on trails that are maintained to BLM standards with appropriate safety considerations for the users. Implementing a timed entry system would limit visitor density, and establishment of a fee management program would contribute to a greater law enforcement presence and ranger patrols. This would limit the types of crimes commonly experienced in the Calico Basin. The timed entry system would further contribute to safer travel conditions on roadways in the Calico Basin because the number of vehicles on the roadways would be appropriate for the roadways' design capacity.

The process for entry and exit at parking facilities during peak or off-peak hours indicates that the impacts on public health and safety, as compared with current conditions, would be limited by allowing use and egress from parking facilities in non-peak hours. Further increases in traffic safety would also result from the establishment of clearly designated, approved parking locations on the major access road. None of these impacts on public health and safety would be significant.

Effects that would violate federal, state, tribal, or local laws protecting the environment. Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial: The action would not violate federal, state, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the Calico Basin RAMP/EA. The proposed action is consistent with the RRCNCA RMP. The proposed action meets the requirements of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other applicable laws, as listed in Section 1.5 of the RAMP/EA. The effects from the proposed action on the quality of the natural and human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. Controversy in this context refers to cases where there is a substantial dispute as to the effects, rather than opposition to its adoption. There is no known credible scientific controversy over the proposed action's impacts. The proposed action's effects are expected to be generally consistent with those found in comparable projects in the same or similar locale or setting.

Reviewed by:	SUSAN FARKAS <small>Digitally signed by SUSAN FARKAS Date: 2022.05.23 16:54:16 -0700'</small>	_____
	Susan Farkas Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Date
Approved by:	 <small>Digitally signed by CATRINA WILLIAMS Date: 2022.05.25 09:47:56 -07'00'</small>	_____
	Catrina Williams, Field Manager Red Rock/Sloan Field Office	Date

Decision Record

SELECTED ACTION

It is my decision to authorize the proposed action described in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Calico Basin RAMP/EA (DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2022-0001-EA), hereafter referred to as the Selected Action. Under the Selected Action, the BLM will continue to manage recreation in the Calico Basin planning area consistent with the RRCNCA RMP, but with the additional direction from the Calico Basin RAMP/EA that is specific to the recreation opportunities and resource considerations in the Calico Basin planning area.

The Selected Action will include management that reflects the current efforts, modifies certain approaches, and identifies some future implementation-phase undertakings. These future undertakings will require separate analyses under NEPA to be completed. The Selected Action's decisions for recreational uses, experiences, and settings will guide the BLM's management of specific uses in the Calico Basin planning area with a consideration of how those uses influence and are influenced by the area's natural resources and the characteristics of the management emphasis areas identified in the [2005 RRCNCA RMP](#).

Under the Selected Action, the BLM will continue its current management in the following ways:

- Allow the following recreation uses in the Calico Basin planning area:
 - Hiking
 - Climbing (including roped climbing and bouldering)
 - Horseback riding (on designated trails)
 - General day use at Red Spring Boardwalk and Picnic Area (consistent with the same hours at the RRCNCA Scenic Drive) and day use at all developed recreation sites
- Evaluate the current prohibition on mountain bike use on trails in Calico Basin and consider allowing mountain bike use on certain trails within the non-core area of Calico Basin (see Attachment A), while continuing to prohibit the following uses in the Calico Basin:
 - Camping
 - Off-highway vehicle use
 - Shooting
- Issue special recreation permits (SRPs) and recreation use permits, and maintain the current level of designated approved commercial, competitive, and organized group use of sites within the core area of the RRCNCA, which includes the Calico Basin.
- Issue film/photography permits and maintain the current level of designated approved film/photography permits in the core area of the RRCNCA.
- Do not evaluate or authorize the construction of any new trails.
- Do not allow motorized and mechanized use of trails, including in the Las Vegas Valley off-highway closure area, near Brownstone Canyon in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness to maintain the character of the wilderness.
- At the Red Spring Boardwalk, only allow pedestrian use.

- Maintain current trail designations, but evaluate trail designations and adjust them as needed to reflect resource needs and visitation preferences.
- Continue management of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness area to preserve its wilderness character.
- Work with the following groups to further shared goals, including:
 - The Calico Basin working group to identify common goals and management strategies for shared concerns or resources
 - Partner groups, such as the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition, Southern Nevada Mountain Bikers Association, Bristlecone Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of America, and Nevada All-State Trail Riders
 - Partner groups to develop education and outreach programs to help educate visitors (including climbers, hikers, and horseback riders), manage impacts, and preserve natural resources
 - Clark County, which is in the process of relinquishing county ROWs back to the BLM for the primary access in the Calico Basin and for access to private roads accessing private inholdings; pursue a memorandum of agreement with Clark County to provide road maintenance support when needed.
- Continue primary access using Calico Basin Road, Calico Drive, Assisi Canyon Avenue, and Sandstone Drive.
- Maintain the existing primary access roads with the maintenance programs of the RRCNCA and southern Nevada BLM, and evaluate speed control, signage, and other mechanisms on these roadways to provide a safe transportation environment.

Under the Selected Action, the BLM will change its current management in the following ways. It will:

- Develop a tiered programmatic NEPA analysis to address potential resource protection or mitigation needs that may arise within the Calico Basin, such as basic route restoration, fencing, habitat restoration, and weed treatment.
- Prioritize avoidance of sensitive resources with any future trail designation or creation.
- Develop a staffing plan as part of the RRCNCA Business Plan revision to provide adequate staffing for monitoring and management of resources, as described in the RAMP/EA.
- Improve management of SRPs and film and photography compliance, and identify and resolve conflicts between permit holders, unauthorized commercial and group use, and RRCNCA values.
- Develop annual coordinated trail maintenance plans.
- Use the SRP process to review applications from state-certified schools to use the recreation site(s) for education-related activities, and determine whether a letter of authorization or SRP will be necessary, or whether any fees will be assessed.
- Install interpretive materials at key locations for education and impact reduction, with particular emphasis where impacts are occurring, such as in riparian areas.
- Apply day-use hours to developed recreation sites.
- Allow parking in designated parking areas only and prohibit public parking on private property.

- Develop a map of designated parking areas in the Calico Basin, including the current parking areas and where vehicles parking along Calico Basin Road, Calico Drive, Assisi Canyon Avenue, and Sandstone Drive must park on the shoulder side of the white line.
- Increase or decrease parking capacity in the Calico Basin planning area in certain areas to achieve resource objectives, subject to monitoring results.

Further, with the proposed action the BLM will pursue future implementation-phase undertakings, such as the following:

- As part of a separate climbing management plan, inventory trails that provide access to popular climbing areas and routes in the RRCNCA, and work to designate an appropriate travel network that supports access to climbing areas.
- Within the wilderness portions of the designated trail system, consider placing trail marking signs alongside the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail, and support placing trail marking signs with a detailed minimum requirement decision guide.
- Following implementation of a fee collection process, regulate visitation numbers with a reservation system based on environmental conditions, recreation uses, and facilities/infrastructure, such as parking capacity in the lots and designated ROWs in the Calico Basin. Any change in the fee structure from implementing a fee collection system would require a presentation to the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee and a request for a recommendation of approval before going to the BLM state director for concurrence and final approval prior to implementation.
- Implement a site-specific fee for the Calico Basin to address specific maintenance, operational, or capital improvement needs; also, modify the standard amenity fee for the Calico Basin in the 2018 RRCNCA Business Plan so that it encompasses all developed recreation areas in the Calico Basin, including Red Spring and Kraft Mountain, and parking on roads within the recreation areas.
- Allow the proposed amenity fees to complement those for the Scenic Drive whereby with a receipt from the Calico Basin, visitors would also be able to access the Scenic Drive and vice versa.
- Construct a fee system with gates on Calico Basin Road, at developed recreation sites, and at parking areas to collect day-use fees from visitors in automobiles and from walk-up or bike-in visitors; also, construct a turnaround area at a safe distance before the fee booth area for visitors who do not wish to pay an amenity fee.
- Reinvest revenue generated at the Calico Basin back into the planning area through increased resource protection, law enforcement patrols, additional programming, increased signage, and renovated facilities.
- Coordinate with organizations, such as the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association, to identify trails in the non-core area of Calico Basin (see Attachment A) for potential designation as open to mountain bike use.

Attachment A provides a map of the BLM's designated trails and infrastructure for the Selected Action.

LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

The Selected Action is consistent with the management direction in Appendix A of the ROD signed on April 20, 2005, for the RRCNCA RMP ([RRCNCA RMP/ROD 2005](#)). The RRCNCA RMP provides management guidance for biodiversity, recreation, commercial uses, cultural resources and Native American concerns, air quality, and vegetation. The primary direction for the [RRCNCA RMP/ROD 2005](#) is to conserve, protect, and enhance the RRCNCA's natural resources. Environmental safeguards adopted in the [RRCNCA RMP/ROD 2005](#) are designed to provide recreation opportunities that allow the public to enjoy and appreciate Red Rock Canyon's unique natural setting. The Selected Action conforms with specific sections of the RRCNCA RMP related to recreation, trails, routes, reclamation, and other activities, including:

- 1A.3 Areas where raptors, in particular, Peregrine falcons, are suspected to be nesting will be monitored to confirm nesting status. If nesting is confirmed, recreational uses, primarily rock climbing on canyon cliffs, will be monitored and evaluated to determine if use restrictions are needed ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 11).
- 1D.2 Devise signing/visitor outreach program to publicize Red Rock's significant biological quality and value ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 14):
- 1E.1 Camouflage and close trail spurs and braids (Oak Creek, First Creek, Pine Creek, Lost Creek, Red Spring, Bootleg, Rainbow, Mormon Green #1, Wheeler Camp Spring, and Mud Spring #1; [2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 14).
- 3.1 Protect threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species listed by Federal or State agencies by continuing to inventory NCA lands to more accurately determine the locations and population densities ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 15).
- 3.3 Restore plant productivity on disturbed areas ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 15).
- 3.3a Rehabilitate, reclaim or revegetate with native species, areas subjected to surface disturbing activities and closed roads, where feasible ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 15).
- 4A.2 Expand the public education program of "Leave No Trace" recreation ethics and land stewardship ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 16).
- 4B1.1 Manage rock climbing in partnership with the "Climber's Liaison Council" (CLC) as specified through a cooperative agreement ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 16).
- 4B2.1 The BLM is engaged in long-term monitoring of various RRCNCA plants and animals. If raptor nest sites are found, climbing restrictions may be imposed during critical nesting periods. Should any T&E species become an issue, appropriate mitigation actions will be taken ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 16).
- 4B2.2 Alteration of the rock surfaces by gluing, chipping or chiseling is not allowed ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 16).
- 4B3.1 The following policies are designed to provide visitors the opportunity to enlist professional climbing instruction/guiding in RRCNCA and allow continued access for commercial climbing interests. At the same time, limits are set to avoid overcrowding of climbing locations ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p.17).
 - I. All commercial guiding (guiding for pay) requires a Special Recreation Permit issued by the Bureau of Land Management.

2. The number of commercial (outfitter and guide) rock climbing permits, authorizing full time year-round use, will be limited to no more than five at any one time. In addition, "guest permits" will be available to allow limited use to commercial operations who wish to offer Red Rock Canyon as an option to clients. The guest permit allows limited visitation within a calendar year and has no guaranteed consecutive year renewal.
- 4C.1 The entire NCA is closed to target shooting. There is no legal discharge of firearms, except in the act of hunting in accordance with regulations set by the State of Nevada, as discussed below ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 19).
 - 4D1.1 No new trail development is allowed without BLM concurrence. All trails developed in this manner will be restored to nature upon discovery ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 19).
 - 4D1.2 Monitor the existing designated trails in the Scenic Drive vicinity south to First Creek. Implement mitigative measures as needed to avoid excessive impacts ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 19).
 - 4D1.4 Provide a trail in Calico Basin to access Kraft Rocks and Gateway Canyon, while alleviating visitor traffic problems in the Calico Basin Community ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 19).
 - 4D1.5 New trail proposals must be at least 1/4 mile from springs and riparian areas, unless specifically designed to interpret those resources. Where feasible, realign existing trails to avoid springs and riparian areas ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 19).
 - 4D2.1 Mountain bikes are allowed on designated trails only ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 19).
 - 4D3.1 In the area from La Madre Mountain south to Cottonwood Pass 3 miles south of SR 160, and from the Spring Mountains escarpment to the eastern boundary of the NCA (the area contained in the original NCA designation), equestrian use is limited to designated trails (no cross country riding; [2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 20).
 - 4D4.1 Hiking is allowed on all designated trails in the NCA, although hikers should be aware that the Cottonwood system was primarily designated to accommodate mountain bike and equestrian needs (2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP p. 21).
 - 4E1.1 OHV use in the NCA is restricted to designated roads (2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP p. 21).
 - 5A.1 Commercial uses have grown steadily in the last five years. In order to avoid establishing use patterns that might be detrimental to RRCNCA, and to give a benchmark for analysis, initial allocations of commercial permits will be established as listed below. As monitoring results are evaluated, the number of permits could increase or decrease in the future ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 23).
 - 5A.2 New types of commercial uses proposed will be evaluated to determine if they are appropriate and consistent with RRCNCA management guidelines ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 24).
 - 5B.1 Film permits, including still photography and video, are considered "lands actions". Land use authorizations are processed on a case-by-case basis as proposals are received. The authorization process involves analysis of potential impacts to the environment that could result from the proposed action. An Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact

Statement, if appropriate, is prepared and resource protection stipulations are developed prior to the approval of such uses ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 24).

- 6A.7 Locate trails and human activities away from cultural and paleontological sites, so that physical damage does not occur ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 24).
- 6B.1 Solicit Native American comments on proposed actions which may have an impact on cultural resources or Native American values. Provide partnership opportunities for Native Americans to express their interest in RRCNCA ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 24).
- 6B.3 Locate trails and human activities to avoid impacting cultural sites ([2005 ROD for the RRCNCA RMP](#) p. 24).

MITIGATION MEASURES

In addition to the measures identified in Section 3.1 of the Calico Basin RAMP/EA, the BLM will adopt the following monitoring and minimization or mitigation measures to protect resources under the Selected Action:

Measures from the RRCNCA RMP applicable to the Selected Action

- Conduct an ongoing program of population monitoring for threatened and endangered species, candidate species, and other special status species.
- Collect further information or data for sites, trails, and destinations where more information on visitor use patterns, levels, and behaviors could further inform thresholds. Use this information to refine thresholds before taking actions to manage visitor use levels more directly.
- Implement seasonal or temporary restrictions in specific areas or other mitigation if impacts from recreation use are documented.
- Monitor future recreation use impacts on biological resources.
- Monitor commercial uses and evaluate permit totals as necessary.
- Enhance partnerships using volunteers to conduct photo monitoring and patrolling of sites to monitor recreation use.
- Monitor the existing designated trails and implement mitigation measures, as needed, to avoid excessive impacts.
- Monitor the wilderness character per the La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Measures specific to the RAMP and Selected Action

- Measures to monitor potential impacts under the Selected Action.
 - Following implementation of the Selected Action, the BLM interdisciplinary team will develop specific metrics and methods to monitor the following resources or activities:
 - Rock writings and other cultural and paleontological resources
 - Riparian communities associated with springs
 - Appropriate trail use and conditions and sustainable trail routing and design
 - Trail conditions to protect their integrity
 - Vegetation cover and soil conditions at Red Spring, Ash Spring, and other riparian areas
 - Trail conditions where there is equestrian use to identify any ongoing impacts

- Routes to popular climbing, bouldering, and other areas; also consider trail access needs to popular recreation areas
- Unauthorized mountain bike use
- Creation of unauthorized roads, trails, or access points
- Vegetation cover and soil stability near climbing routes or boulder problems
- Creation of multiple points of entry to the Calico Basin at this plan's implementation
- Effectiveness of management activities in minimizing visitor impacts
- Effectiveness of signage and other site information to encourage appropriate user behavior
- Damage to cultural and recreation sites
- Occurrence of destruction or removal of natural resources and the rate of the impact
- Impacts on private inholdings
- Public safety concerns, as well as emergency service responses or search and rescue operations
- Areas of high use near sensitive resources to determine the potential need for additional barriers or management actions in areas where resource impacts can be significant when pedestrian traffic is not limited to existing trails or boardwalks
- Visitor use associated with new suburban development in the Summerlin area, including changes in natural and cultural resource conditions in the Brownstone Canyon area and other areas interfacing private lands east of the planning area
- Measures to minimize or mitigate potential impacts under the Selected Action:
 - Develop any measures to minimize or mitigate potential impacts on cultural resources in coordination and consultation with tribes and the State Historic Preservation Officer.
 - Restore areas with native plant materials that are appropriate for use within the Calico Basin.
 - Restore burned areas or degraded habitats to improve wildlife habitat and visitor enjoyment of the Calico Basin.
 - Prioritize avoidance of sensitive resources with trail designation or creation.
 - Increase BLM ranger presence to address visitor health and safety, resource protection and use, and user conflicts by closing areas to camping, target shooting, and other inappropriate uses.
 - Define and protect the intended use of the trails and maintain designated trails to BLM trail standards.
 - Designate, maintain, and improve Gene's Trailhead, Calico Spring Trailhead, and Brownstone Trailhead, while ensuring the trail alignments do not impact endemic species' habitat or riparian areas, and, if necessary, reroute trails to avoid these impacts.
 - Review inventoried trails (undesignated social trails) for sustainability and utility within the Calico Basin trail network.
 - Close and restore undesignated social trails; prioritize restoration of trails through sensitive species' habitat or historic properties.

- Assess the need for reroutes, maintenance, or other trail reconstruction work needed to ensure sustainable use of authorized trails.
- Prevent new user-created trails using signs, barriers, and other infrastructure.
- Enforce visitor use of designated trails, and consider projects to protect the sensitive areas around the boardwalk at Red Spring.
- Consider future restrictions on off-trail use to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources.
- Consider seasonal or temporary closures following weather events to reduce trail impacts from visitor use.
- Improve public safety through efficient use of BLM law enforcement in coordination with Clark County and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police.
- Ensure there continues to be dedicated BLM ranger staff for the Calico Basin planning area.
- Prohibit recreational motorized and mechanized access in the Las Vegas Valley off-highway closure area near Brownstone Canyon Wilderness, to maintain the character of the wilderness.
- Encourage positive visitor behavior through interpretive signage and visitor information, such as trail courtesy and etiquette or Leave No Trace™ techniques, at parking areas, trailheads, and other activity locations.
- Educate visitors about the allowed recreational uses of trails.
- Provide interpretation opportunities that are focused on the unique resources that exist at the Calico Basin and within the RRCNCA.
- Continue BLM staff and partner outreach to educational institutions and work with these institutions for environmental education.
- Develop an environmental education plan for schools to use when they are at the recreation site.
- Encourage SRP operators to provide their clients with educational materials and information regarding the need to protect natural and cultural resources in the Calico Basin and to maintain wilderness character in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.
- Install interpretive materials at key locations for education and impact reduction, with an emphasis where impacts are occurring, such as in riparian areas or in endemic species habitat.
- Work with partner groups, Clark County, tribes, and the Calico Basin working group to help manage impacts and to develop education and outreach programs to help educate visitors and preserve the natural and cultural resources.
- Additional future implementation-phase activities identified in the Selected Action that would minimize or mitigate impacts include:
 - Develop a climbing management plan for the RRCNCA to define a comprehensive approach to how climbing and access to climbing will be managed in the RRCNCA, including an inventory of trails.
 - Develop a trail sign plan and provide signs on designated trails that clearly communicate trail information and appropriate trail uses, and encourage users to stay on designated trails.

- Within the wilderness portions of the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail, place trail marking signs supported with the completed detailed minimum requirement decision guide.
- Evaluate the use of an online reservation system to allow the BLM to control the number of visitors within the Calico Basin with a service that is easy for both the staff and visitors, with the number of vehicles allowed into the Calico Basin based on the capacity of designated parking at Red Spring, Kraft Mountain, and the areas designated for parking along the four BLM roads providing access to the Calico Basin.
- Implement a site-specific fee for the Calico Basin to address specific maintenance, operational, or capital improvement needs; this would include modifying the standard amenity fee (16 United States Code 6802(f)) so that it includes all developed recreation areas within the Calico Basin, including Red Spring and Kraft Mountain, and designated parking on roads within the recreation areas.
- Construct a fee system with gates on Calico Basin Road, at developed recreation sites, and at parking areas to collect day-use fees from visitors in automobiles and from walk-up or bike-in visitors; also, construct a turnaround area at a safe distance before the fee booth area for visitors who do not wish to pay an amenity fee.
- Make necessary administrative changes to the RRCNCA Business Plan to clarify that the Red Spring area identified in the business plan includes all portions of the Calico Basin planning area, and ensure fees would be designated for the Calico Basin, to the extent possible.
- Develop a staffing plan as part of the RRCNCA Business Plan revision to provide adequate staffing for monitoring and management of resources.
- Following implementation of a fee collection process, regulate visitation numbers with a reservation system based on environmental conditions, recreation uses, and facilities/infrastructure, such as parking capacity in the lots and designated ROWs in the Calico Basin.

DECISION RATIONALE

As explained in the Finding of No Significant Impact, the Selected Action’s impacts have been analyzed in the RAMP/EA and determined not to result in significant impacts on the quality of the human environment—individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area—under NEPA.

The Calico Basin management plan and EA, signed in 2003, no longer provide adequate guidance to address the resource impacts and operational issues now facing the BLM’s management for the Calico Basin. Current recreation management actions in the Calico Basin are taking place without a detailed, long-term comprehensive plan in place. The purpose of developing a RAMP for the Calico Basin is to provide coordinated management and identification of necessary facilities and infrastructure to support targeted day-use recreational activities in the area, specifically rock climbing, bouldering, hiking, horseback riding, casual nature viewing, and picnicking or group events, while protecting the scenic, biological, and cultural resources in the area. Providing focused management for these recreation opportunities would reduce impacts on natural and cultural resources while facilitating more desirable recreational experiences and settings for this popular outdoor recreation destination near Las Vegas.

There is a need to provide management systems and recreational infrastructure that will enable the BLM to manage current and anticipated future levels of recreational use in this area, while avoiding,

minimizing, or mitigating the potential for recreational user conflicts, resource impacts, and undesirable conditions for the residents of the Calico Basin community and other stakeholders.

I have chosen not to select the no action alternative because it will not meet the purpose of and need for the project. Under the no action alternative, the numbers of recreational users will continue to increase without the ability to limit visitation within the Calico Basin planning area. This continued growth in visitation under the no action alternative would result in more impacts from recreation and less protection of the natural and cultural resources that the BLM is obligated to manage in the RRCNCA and Calico Basin planning area. Further, the no action alternative would not resolve the conflicts between recreationists and residents in the Calico Basin.

I chose the Selected Action because it meets the purpose of and need for the project and provided for resource protection in the RRCNCA while allowing for continued managed recreation in the Calico Basin planning area. The Selected Action also balances resource protection, potential user conflicts, and conditions for residents of the inholdings at the Calico Basin. The implementation-phase undertakings to institute a reservation system, amenities fee program, and modification to the RRCNCA Business Plan will also control visitation numbers. These undertakings will thereby reduce impacts on cultural and natural resources while also allowing for a funding source dedicated to the Calico Basin and increased law enforcement and resource monitoring.

Based on the information in the RAMP/EA and consultation with my staff, I have decided to approve the Selected Action (as described in Chapters 2 and 3 of the RAMP/EA), as it was found this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and was determined to result in no significant impacts.

APPEAL

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4 and BLM Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision being appealed is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to the regulations at 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision, to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

STANDARDS FOR OBTAINING A STAY

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- 1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- 2) The likelihood of the appellant’s success on the merits;
- 3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and
- 4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL



Digitally signed by CATRINA
WILLIAMS

Date: 2022.05.25 09:50:16 -07'00'

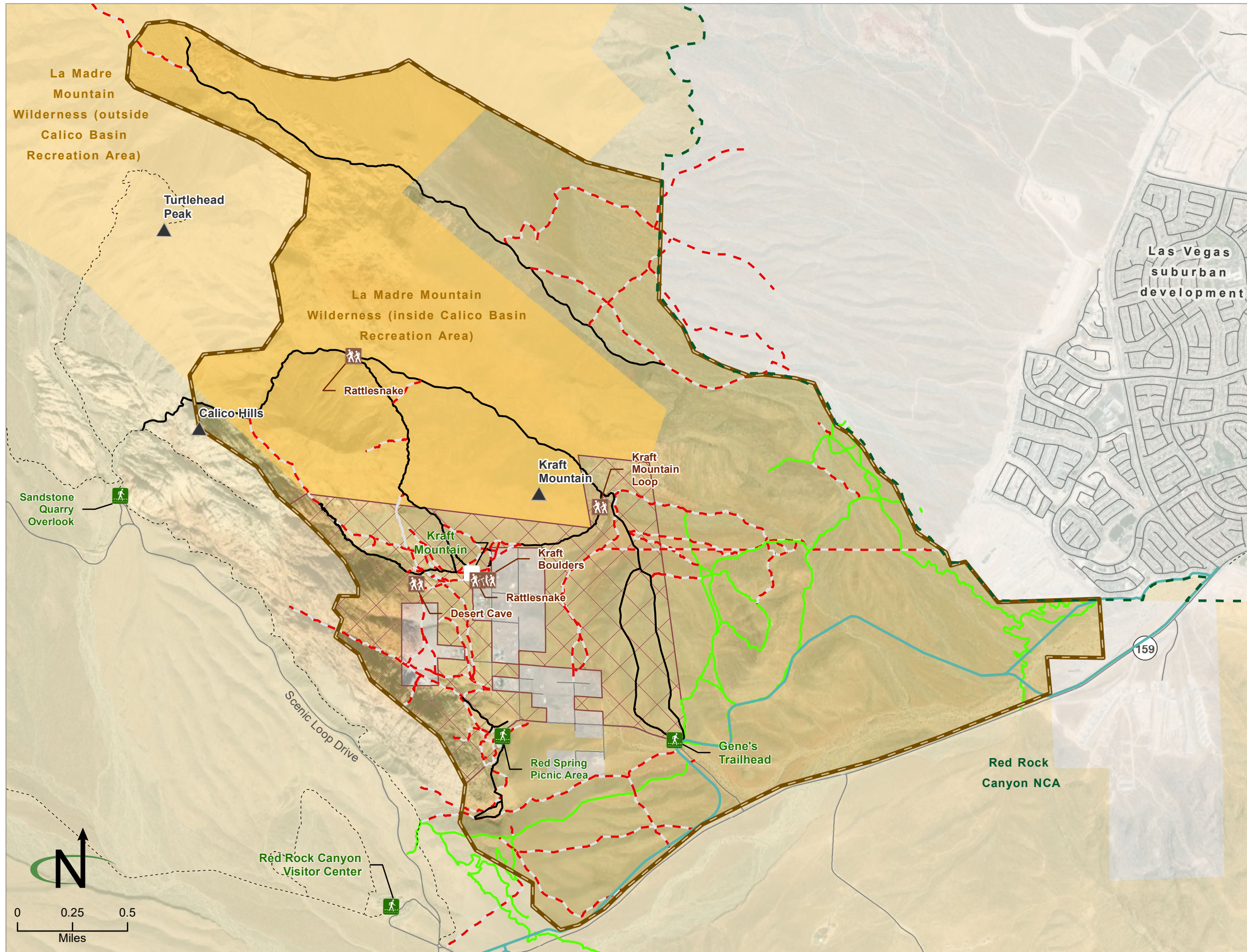
Catrina Williams, Field Manager
Red Rock/Sloan Field Office

Date

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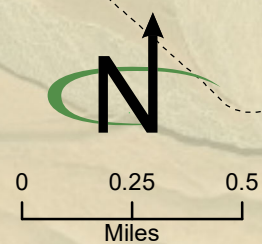
Attachment A

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Trail Designations and Infrastructure in the Calico Basin RAMP

- Existing BLM trail designated for pedestrian and equestrian use
- Inventoried user-created trail for future implementation-phase consideration as a BLM trail designated for pedestrian and equestrian use
- Proposed Legacy Trail
- Inventoried user-created trail for future implementation-phase consideration as a BLM trail designated for pedestrian, equestrian, and mountain bike use
- Trailhead
- BLM facility
- BLM trail outside of the Calico Basin
- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- Clark County road
- National Conservation Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private



Source: BLM GIS 2021, Field inventory by EMPSI November 7 and 8, 2020, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District Office, NHD GIS 2021, NWI GIS 2021 April 04, 2022, CalicoBasinRAMP_FONSI_DesignatedTrails.mxd
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