



Calico Basin Recreation Area Management Plan and Final Environmental Assessment

N-101278



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Calico Basin CFR	Calico Basin Recreation Area Code of Federal Regulations
EA	environmental assessment
EIS	environmental impact statement
EO	executive order
FLREA FO	Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 field office
GIS	geographic information system
IDT	interdisciplinary team
MEA MRDG	management emphasis area minimum requirement decision guide
NCA NDOW NEPA NHPA NLCS NRHP	national conservation area Nevada Department of Wildlife National Environmental Policy Act National Historic Preservation Act National Landscape Conservation System National Register of Historic Places
OHV OPLMA	off-highway vehicle Omnibus Public Land Management Act
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification
RAMP RIS RMP ROD ROW RRCNCA RRHMA	recreation area management plan Regional Infrastructure Services resource management plan record of decision right-of-way Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Red Rock Herd Management Area
SRP	special recreation permit
TCP	traditional cultural property
US USFWS	United States US Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	visual resource management

Chapter I

Introduction and Background

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Chapter I. Introduction and Background

I.1 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Red Rock/Sloan Field Office (FO) is preparing this recreation area management plan (RAMP) concurrently with an environmental assessment (EA) to guide the agency's overall management of recreation in the Calico Basin, which is in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA). The RRCNCA is a few miles west of Las Vegas and is known as the premier outdoor recreation area in the vicinity. The combined EA and RAMP includes the following chapters:

- Chapter 1 identifies the project background, context, early planning, and issues for consideration.
- Chapter 2 is the first half of the Calico Basin RAMP and provides goals, strategies, and decisions for management of Calico Basin.
- Chapter 3 is the second half of the Calico RAMP and describes the monitoring, enforcement, and adaptive management associated with implementation.
- Chapter 4 describes the affected environment and analyzes the environmental consequences.
- Chapter 5 documents the BLM's consultation and coordination relative to the RAMP/EA.

I.2 BACKGROUND AND PLANNING AREA

The Calico Basin planning area occupies approximately 5,190 acres within the 201,617-acre RRCNCA. The area consists of BLM-administered lands (4,980 acres) and private lands (210 acres). Approximately 1,660 acres in the northwest portion of the Calico Basin are within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness (see **Figure 1**). The Calico Basin is accessible from State Route 159 via Calico Basin Road. Typical recreation includes, but is not limited to, hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, picnicking, viewing of archaeological and cultural sites, and photography. The Red Spring Boardwalk provides a small platform for events and educational outings. This area is popular for group events, particularly wedding ceremonies, which increased more than 200 percent from 2019 to 2020.

The Calico Basin is surrounded by BLM-administered lands and is part of the congressionally designated RRCNCA. Inholdings within the Calico Basin consist of approximately 40 private residential homes, 80 residents, and various county, state, and private land use authorizations; all of these authorizations hold rights-of-way (ROWs) from the BLM and serve the private residents (see **Figure 2**). The area is home to several rare and protected species of plants and animals, including alkali mariposa lily (*Calochortus striatus*), white bear poppy (*Arctomecon merriamii*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Gila monster (*Heloderma suspectum*), and Spring Mountains springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis deaconi*). Cultural resources and sites include petroglyphs, roasting pits, and historic homesteads.

The RRCNCA, including the Calico Basin, is experiencing a rapidly growing demand for outdoor recreation. The RRCNCA is the most visited national conservation area in the nation, 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 (BLM 2021b). Demand for recreation at

the Calico Basin and other areas in the RRCNCA is largely the result of population growth in nearby Las Vegas (CLV 2021).

I.3 PURPOSE AND NEED

The BLM's RRCNCA resource management plan (RMP) identifies the Calico Basin as an area with unique recreation opportunities, experiences, and settings. Recreation use in the Calico Basin has increased by 30–35 percent in the past decade, with current use at 700,000 visitors annually. With the expanding population in Las Vegas, increasing trends in tourism and visitation to the RRCNCA, and the Calico Basin's proximity to metropolitan Las Vegas, the Calico Basin is expected to continue to see significant increases in visitation (CLV 2021).

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 Red Rock Canyon 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 within 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.4 DECISIONS TO BE MADE

The BLM Red Rock/Sloan FO manager would make the decision whether to adopt an alternative or whether to modify the action based on the environmental analysis and any other factors identified during public review of this RAMP/EA. The decision-maker would make the decision based on the analysis of the issues and how well the alternatives respond to the project's purpose and need.

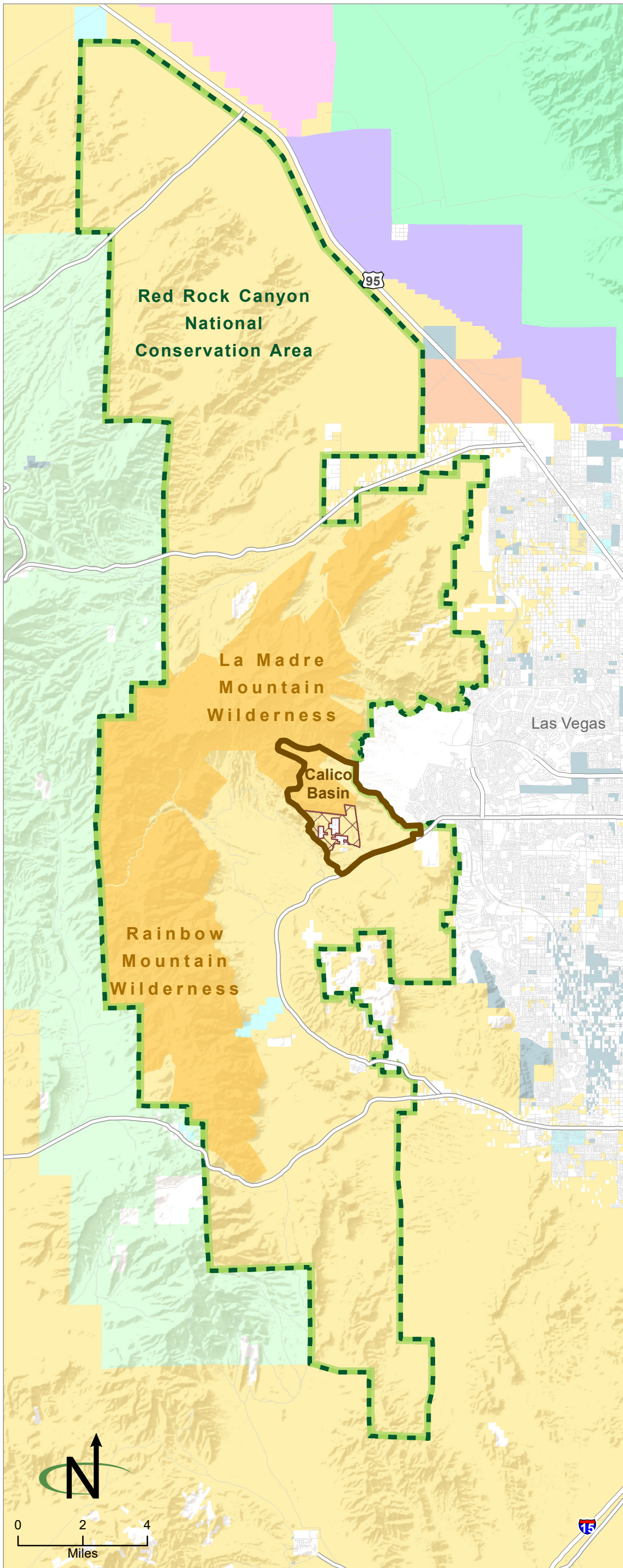
I.4.1 Decision Factors

When considering an alternative, the decision-maker would consider how the alternatives meet the purpose of and need for the project. Additionally, the decision-maker would:

- Consider how the alternatives contribute to the economics of the regional area and the BLM Red Rock/Sloan FO; and
- Decide whether the analysis reveals a likelihood of significant adverse effects from the selected alternative that cannot be mitigated and if an environmental impact statement (EIS) would be needed.



**Figure 1
Calico Basin Plan Area and
Red Rock Canyon National
Conservation Area**



- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- National Conservation Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- BLM wilderness
- Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Private
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Department of Defense
- Nevada State
- Local Government
- Bureau of Reclamation



Source: BLM GIS 2021
 U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management,
 Southern Nevada District Office
 April 04, 2022, CalicoBasinRAMP_Intro_NCA.mxd
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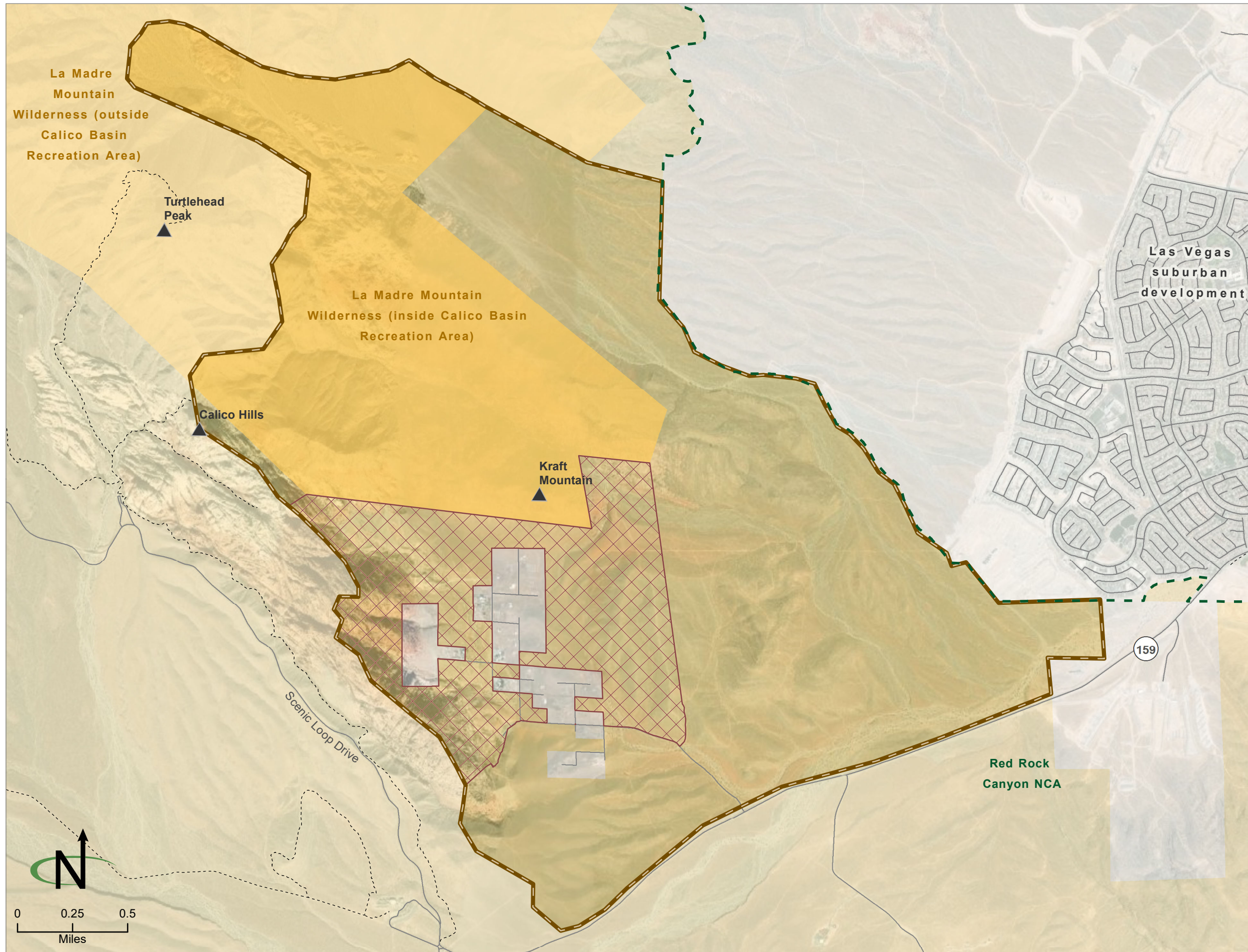
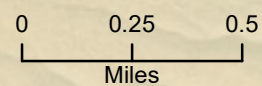


Figure 2
Calico Basin Plan Area

- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- BLM trail
- Clark County road
- Wilderness
- 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
 April 04, 2022, CalicoBasinRAMP_Intro.mxd
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I.5 RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER PLANS

I.5.1 Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan

The proposed RAMP/EA is consistent with the management direction in Appendix A of the record of decision (ROD) and approved RMP (April 20, 2005) for the entire RRCNCA; it also conforms to the regulations or guidance listed below. The goals and objectives for the RRCNCA are described in detail below.

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 RMP is to conserve, protect, and enhance the RRCNCA's natural resources. Environmental safeguards adopted in the RMP are designed to provide recreation opportunities, allowing the public to enjoy and appreciate Red Rock Canyon's unique natural setting. The RRCNCA RMP provides guidance to specific portions of the Calico Basin planning area. The original core Calico Basin area described in the RRCNCA RMP (hereafter referred to as the Calico Basin core area) includes specific management from the RRCNCA RMP, while the remainder of the Calico Basin planning area (hereafter referred to as the non-core area of Calico Basin) only includes relevant general management for the entire RRCNCA.

I.5.2 Other Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Plans

In preparing this RAMP/EA, the BLM evaluated the proposed management relative to the following relevant laws, regulations, policies, and plans as they apply to the proposed RAMP.

Laws and Regulations

American Religious Freedom Act—This act protects the rights of Native Americans to exercise their traditional religions by ensuring access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rites.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979—This act protects archaeological resources and sites on federally administered lands. It imposes criminal and civil penalties for removing archaeological items from federal lands without a permit.

Clean Air Act of 1990—This act provides the framework for national, state, and local efforts to protect air quality.

Clean Water Act of 1987—This act establishes objectives to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's water.

Endangered Species Act of 1973—This act directs federal agencies to ensure their actions do not jeopardize threatened and endangered species.

Executive Order (EO) 13175—This EO establishes regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have tribal implications, and it strengthens the United States (US) government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976—This act provides the basic policy guidance for the BLM's management of public lands.

Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act—This act authorizes the BLM to charge standard amenity fees in areas or circumstances where a certain level of visitor service is available, and enhanced amenity fees for specialized facilities and services, such as for group activities. The BLM retains the fees primarily for on-site improvements.

Federal Noxious Weed Act (Public Law 93-629, November 28, 1990)—This act provides for the management of undesirable plants on federal lands.

Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978—This act authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to establish, conduct, and assist with national training programs for state fish and wildlife law enforcement personnel. It also authorizes funding for research and development of new or improved methods to support fish and wildlife law enforcement.

Migratory Bird Act of 1918—This act implements the convention for the protection of migratory birds between the US and Great Britain (acting on behalf of Canada). The statute makes it unlawful without a waiver to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, or sell birds listed as migratory birds.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969—This act requires the preparation of EAs or EISs for federal actions. These documents describe the environmental effects of these actions and determine whether the actions have a significant effect on the human environment.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) 1966, as amended—This act provides for the management, protection, and enhancement of historic properties (that is, those districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places), as well as consultation procedures with the local State Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, tribes, consulting parties, and the public.

Secretarial Order 3376 on Electronic Bicycles (e-bikes)—On August 29, 2019, the Secretary of the Interior issued Secretarial Order 3376, which states, “This Order is intended to increase recreational opportunities for all Americans, especially those with physical limitations, and to encourage the enjoyment of lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior (Department). This Order simplifies and unifies regulation of electric bicycles (e-bikes) on Federal lands managed by the Department and decreases regulatory burden.”

Wilderness Act of 1964—This act preserves and protect certain lands “in their natural condition” and thus “secure for present and future generations the benefits of wilderness.” It recognizes the value of preserving “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002—This act establishes wilderness areas, promotes conservation, improves public land, and provides for high-quality development in Clark County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

Policies

BLM Handbook H-2930-1 (Recreation Permit and Fee Administration)—This handbook provides policy and guidance for administering key elements of the BLM Recreation Fee Program,

including special recreation permits (SRPs) and recreation use permits; the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program; and recreational commercial services.

BLM Manual 6220 (National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations)—This manual provides guidance for BLM management of public lands that are components of the BLM’s National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) and that have been designated by Congress or the President as national monuments, national conservation areas, and similar designations. The NLCS was established in order to “conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations.”

BLM Manual 6340 (Management of Designated Wilderness Area)—This manual provides guidance for BLM management of BLM-administered lands that have been designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The BLM’s objectives for implementing the policy are to manage BLM wilderness areas to preserve wilderness character, while providing for recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historic uses, and to manage permitted uses under Sections 4c and 4d of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

BLM Manual 6840 (Special Status Species)—This manual provides policy and guidance for the conservation of BLM special status species and the ecosystems upon which they depend on BLM-administered lands. The manual defines BLM special status species as (1) species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and (2) species requiring special management consideration to promote their conservation and to reduce the likelihood and need for future listing under the Endangered Species Act; these species are designated as BLM sensitive species by the state director.

BLM Manual 8320 (Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services)—This manual provides policy, direction, and guidance for planning for recreation resources as part of the land use planning process required under BLM Manual 1601 (Land Use Planning). The BLM’s recreation planning process is an outcome-focused management approach that stresses the management of recreation settings to provide opportunities that allow visitors and local communities to achieve a desired set of individual, social, economic, and environmental benefits. Planning for recreation resources focuses on fulfilling the BLM’s mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. While the Calico Basin RAMP does not apply an outcome-focused management approach, it incorporates many of the recreation planning concepts from this manual.

BLM Handbook H-8320-I (Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services)—This handbook aids in the planning and management of recreation and visitor services on public lands and adjacent waters. This handbook provides planning guidance at the land use plan and implementation level, and also supports the policies in BLM Manual 8320 (Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services). While the Calico Basin RAMP does not apply an outcome-focused management approach, it incorporates many of the recreation planning concepts from this handbook.

Plans

Clark County Comprehensive Master Plan—This plan is the long-term, general policy plan for the physical development of unincorporated Clark County, satisfying the requirements of Nevada Revised

Statutes 278.160. The plan is a living document, and its elements are updated according to the planning process.

La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Management Plan—This plan provides specific, updated, and consistent management direction for the La Madre Mountain and Rainbow Mountain Wildernesses, which are situated on federal public lands managed by the US Forest Service and the BLM.

I.6 EARLY PLANNING AND INFORMATION GATHERING

The BLM completed a variety of early planning and information gathering—both internal and external—for the Calico Basin RAMP/EA. This included a meeting with the BLM interdisciplinary team (IDT) on November 18, 2020, wherein the IDT was briefed on the proposed action, purpose and need, and overall goals for the RAMP/EA. Based on this meeting, the BLM IDT developed preliminary issues of concern and relevant data needs that helped inform the RAMP/EA and public outreach. The BLM completed public outreach as part of the early planning and information gathering comment period that ran from February 23 to March 25, 2021. The BLM conducted this public comment period to identify issues to be addressed and to help determine the appropriate scope of the NEPA analyses.

During the public comment period, the BLM published a project website (<https://www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/calicobasinramp>) to provide project context for the public. The BLM also held two virtual meetings with stakeholders on March 8 and 9, and conducted a virtual meeting with the public on March 11, 2021. During these meetings, the BLM presented an overview of the proposed RAMP/EA and requested input. To summarize the comments received during the 30-day comment period, the BLM developed a comment report (BLM 2021a) for the public with early planning and information gathering. This report is available at the project website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016281/510>. The comment report identified preliminary issues that the BLM used to help formulate a reasonable range of alternatives and the scope of analyses for the EA, which are discussed below in **Section I.6.1**.

I.6.1 Preliminary Issues Identified during Early Planning

Topic 1—Recreation Use

- The BLM should determine if mountain biking should be allowed in the planning area. If so, on which trails should it be allowed?
- The BLM needs to determine how the RAMP will manage climbing. Will there be designated climbing areas?
- The BLM should determine if the plan will identify additional recreation infrastructure.

Topic 2—Fees and Administration

- The BLM needs to determine whether it will implement a fee collection system and controlled entry for visitor use in the Calico Basin via a defined fee area and the installation of a fee booth.
- The BLM should consider transferring the road ROWs providing access to key BLM recreation sites in the planning area from Clark County to the BLM. If those ROWs are transferred, how will the BLM manage them?

- The BLM should conduct in-depth tribal consultation given the fee area/controlled access to be put into place. Through consultation, establish whether the tribes will/do use any areas within the RAMP for purposes outlined in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.
- The BLM should not charge an entrance fee or require a reservation to access Calico Basin.

Topic 3—Biological Resources

- The BLM should analyze some potential minor adjustments to the Red Spring area, as it has springsnail, a BLM sensitive species. Adjustments would address soil compaction and sedimentation from visitors trampling on the sides of the spring.
- The BLM should attempt to increase plant diversity in the Red Spring riparian area by continuing treatments to Russian olive and other invasive plants.
- The BLM should include management to respond to newly listed or petitioned federal or state endangered species, particularly a newly described species of sunflower known from Calico Spring.
- The BLM should determine impacts from increased recreation on the following sensitive plant species in the planning area: Spring Mountain milkvetch (*Astragalus remotus*), white bear poppy, big root blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium radicans*), pinto beardtongue (*Penstemon bicolor*), and alkali mariposa lily.
- The BLM should address the impacts of increased recreation on the spread of invasive and noxious weeds, primarily red brome and Sahara mustard, in the planning area.

Topic 4—Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- The area has an incredibly significant and dense collection of pre-contact and historic sites. These sites are in constant threat of being adversely impacted by current and future unfettered access by the public. How will the RAMP better manage, preserve, and protect the sites?
- There are known paleontological resources in the planning area. How will the plan ensure the protection of these resources?

Topic 5—Soils and Hydrology, Including Riparian Areas

- The BLM should pay special attention to several springs and riparian areas in the planning area, particularly Red Spring, Ash Spring, and Calico Spring, as well as any unknown or unnamed springs.
- Ash Spring has a network of social trails¹ crisscrossing through the spring and wash. These trails are affecting the riparian vegetation in places. The BLM should reroute or consolidate trails in this area to potentially help address those impacts.

Topic 6—Wilderness Areas

- The RAMP also will need to comply with the Wilderness Act of 1964. This is because the La Madre Mountain Wilderness is within the Calico Basin planning area. It appears a mountain bike was illegally ridden inside of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness. This is a prohibited wilderness use inside of wilderness. This demonstrates how the BLM needs to address management of this area in the RAMP.

¹ Undesignated trails created by foot traffic and subsequent soil erosion.

- The BLM should not recommend retaining the mountain bike trails that are leading to the Brownstone Canyon portion of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness. The trails in that area come all the way to the wilderness boundary; retaining them makes it difficult for the BLM to adhere to its congressional mandate of preserving wilderness character.
- The BLM should address access to the Brownstone Canyon. It appears the land is private property up to the Calico Basin planning area boundary.
- The BLM has a wilderness management handbook (Manual 6340 [BLM 2012])) and must follow the law outlined in the Wilderness Act.
- The BLM needs to determine whether this RAMP will address climbing bolts in wilderness.

I.7 INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM AND REFINED RAMP/EA ISSUES

Following the early planning and information gathering process, the BLM IDT conducted an internal process to identify management considerations and potential goals or strategies for the RAMP. This process resulted in a further refinement of the preliminary issues for the RAMP/EA that synthesized input from the public, stakeholders, and the IDT. The BLM is using the three issues below to structure the proposed RAMP (**Section 2.1**) and focus the analyses of environmental consequences in **Section 3.3**.

- **Issue 1: Recreational uses, experiences, and setting.** What recreation uses should be allowed within the Calico Basin and how should the BLM manage those uses?
- **Issue 2: Fees, administration, and infrastructure.** How would a reservation system for visitor use help the BLM manage increasing visitation to the Calico Basin, and how would a fee collection system contribute to infrastructure or facilities management and enforcement in the Calico Basin?
- **Issue 3: Consistency with the management considerations in the RRCNCA.** How will the proposed recreation management in the RAMP/EA conserve, protect, and enhance the natural, cultural, social, and other resource conditions in the Calico Basin portion of the RRCNCA?

I.8 DRAFT RAMP/EA PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The BLM published the draft RAMP/EA on November 8, 2021. The public had 30 days to comment on the draft RAMP/EA in a period officially ending on December 9, 2021. The BLM provided opportunities for written comments by email and via the online comment form on the project website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016281/510>. The BLM received a total of 1,423 comment letter submissions; of these, 1,262 were unique comments. The remaining submissions were form letters or letters with form letter text and no other substantive content. In addition to form letters, a Change.org petition was created for mountain bike trails in the Calico Basin. This petition received 2,266 signatures.

Further, the BLM held a virtual public meeting on November 18, 2021. Of the 161 attendees at the meeting, 28 provided verbal comments. Of all written and verbal comments, 665 were considered substantive. The summary of comments on the draft RAMP/EA and the BLM responses are provided in Appendix C.

I.9 CHANGES BETWEEN THE DRAFT AND FINAL RAMP/EA

The BLM received a variety of comments from the public on the draft RAMP/EA, as summarized above and detailed in Appendix C. In response to these comments and after consideration of the public input, the BLM revised the draft RAMP/EA to clarify certain details and decisions or to add more information to the **Affected Environment** and **Environmental Effects** sections. A brief summary of these changes completed by the BLM between the draft and final RAMP/EA is provided below.

- Chapter 1
 - Added more information on the projected population in Las Vegas
 - Clarified that the 2005 RRCNCA RMP provides management guidance for specific portions of the Calico Basin planning area; these portions are thereafter referred to as the Calico Basin core area—the other portions of the Calico Basin planning area are referred to as the non-core area
 - Added information on the 30-day public comment period for the draft RAMP/EA, including details on attendance at the virtual public meeting
 - Added a section summarizing the changes from the draft to final RAMP/EA
- Chapter 2
 - Further clarified the guidance from the 2005 RRCNCA RMP for the Calico Basin core area
 - Added **Recreation Use Strategy 3** and refined **Recreation Use Decision 2**, noting that the BLM would coordinate with organizations, such as the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association, to identify trails in the non-core area of Calico Basin to evaluate them for potential designation as open to mountain bike use
 - Refined and clarified Trails and Access strategies related to undesignated social trails and to work with Summerlin
 - Added to **Trails and Access Decision 2** to clarify that mechanized use of certain trails may be appropriate for the non-core area of Calico Basin and that Red Spring Boardwalk would remain pedestrian access only
 - Added to **Safety Strategy 4** that there would continue to be a dedicated BLM ranger staff for the Calico Basin planning area
 - Clarified in the **Fees, Administration, and Infrastructure** and **Fee Management** sections that the day-use site at Calico Basin in the RRCNCA Business Plan would be modified to propose a standard amenity fee be charged (16 USC 6802(f)) for the entire developed recreation area within the Calico Basin, including Red Spring, Kraft Mountain, and designated parking on roads within the recreation area
 - Added **Visitation Management Decision 2** that daytime hours apply to developed recreation sites
 - Refined the **Partnerships** section to provide more details on partners and how to work with them
 - Augmented Roads and Parking decisions to add more detail on road safety and parking capacity
 - Added more detail about the Calico Basin core area to the **Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis** section

- Chapter 3
 - Added more detail about the Mojave Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)
 - Added more detail about monitoring visitor use associated with residential development and visitor demographic data
- Chapter 4
 - Added more detail on the core area and non-core area of Calico Basin in the **Affected Environment** section, including **Table 4-3**, which provides information on the user-created trails the BLM may evaluate for potential designation
 - Added more detail about wildlife in the **Affected Environment** section, including data on a newly discovered and undescribed scorpion species in the *Paruroctonus* genus of the Vaejovidae family that lives in sandy areas along riparian drainages in the Calico Basin planning area and additional information about the Mojave Desert tortoise and banded Gila monster
 - Added more detail on the core area and non-core area of Calico Basin, wildlife, and the process and timing for entry and exit at parking facilities (described in more detail in Appendix B) in the **Environmental Effects** section
 - Refined the discussion of reasonably foreseeable effects in a stand-alone portion of the in the **Environmental Effects** section
- Chapter 6
 - Added more references for trails and population growth
- Chapter 7
 - Added more definitions for terms related to the core area and trails
- Appendixes
 - Added Appendix B, which provides the allowable uses and timing for access under the proposed action at the future entrance station, formal parking facilities, designated parking on BLM roads, and other trail access at Calico Basin
 - Added Appendix C, which provides the comments received from the public during the 30-day comment period on the draft RAMP/EA and the BLM responses to the comments

Chapter 2

Recreation Area Management Plan

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Chapter 2. Recreation Area Management Plan

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Calico Basin RAMP (**Chapters 2 and 3** of this RAMP/EA) identifies the goals, strategies, and decisions for the BLM's management of recreation in the Calico Basin, and identifies processes for monitoring, enforcement, and adaptive management. The BLM prepared this RAMP as directed by the RRCNCA RMP, and to establish management direction that is specific to the Calico Basin. This specific direction will assist the BLM to implement the overarching directives in the RRCNCA and prioritize resources to manage recreation while conserving, protecting, and enhancing the area's natural and cultural resources.

While the plan identifies potential implementation-level projects, such as adding signage to trailheads or modifying existing facilities (see **Figure 3**), it does not analyze these projects in detail. Most future implementation-level projects would require separate analyses under NEPA. Further information on the priorities for implementation-phase projects is provided below in **Section 2.5**.

2.2 BLM RECREATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

2.2.1 RRCNCA RMP

The 2005 RRCNCA RMP guides the BLM's management of the Calico Basin and the broader RRCNCA. The RMP's primary direction for the RRCNCA is to conserve and protect the natural resources of the national conservation area (NCA). The RMP also identifies the need to provide recreation opportunities, so the public can enjoy and appreciate the RRCNCA's unique natural setting. While the RRCNCA RMP identifies some specific management for the Calico Basin core area, such as "provide a trail in Calico Basin to access Kraft Rocks and Gateway Canyon, while alleviating visitor traffic problems in the Calico Basin Community," it does not provide specific goals or strategies for managing recreation in the Calico Basin. Further, the RRCNCA RMP does not provide specific management for the non-core area of Calico Basin except for the land classifications described below.

The ROD for the RRCNCA RMP states "Management Emphasis Areas were incorporated that assigned a land classification value, which in the future, determines what actions/changes are appropriate and in which areas of the NCA they may occur" (BLM 2005). The RRCNCA was divided into the management emphasis areas (MEAs) described below and in **Table 2-1** as a planning tool for establishing desired conditions for proposed and future actions (see the management emphasis map on page 26 in the RRCNCA RMP [BLM 2005]).

The RRCNCA RMP identifies the standards for desired future conditions and notes that proposed management actions that are not consistent with these standards will not be permitted (BLM 2005). The BLM, therefore, evaluates proposed actions for consistency with the RRCNCA RMP's desired future conditions for resources and the standards for the MEA in which the actions are proposed. In this manner, the RRCNCA RMP guides future recreation actions.

Table 2-1. Management Emphasis Areas in the Calico Basin

RRCNCA RMP MEA	Examples in the RRCNCA and Calico Basin
Roaded Developed	<i>RRCNCA</i> : Scenic Drive, Visitor Center, and the parking locations and facilities near those areas <i>Calico Basin</i> : Calico Basin Road, Calico Drive, Assisi Drive, Sandstone Drive, and the parking lots and facilities at Red Spring and Kraft Mountain
Roaded Natural	<i>RRCNCA</i> : Areas south of Little Red Rocks to Brownstone Basin, east of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness, north of State Route 159, and east of the Calico Basin
Nonmotorized	<i>Calico Basin</i> : Areas north of the Calico Basin and south of Brownstone Basin
Primitive	<i>RRCNCA</i> : Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Area <i>Calico Basin</i> : La Madre Mountain Wilderness

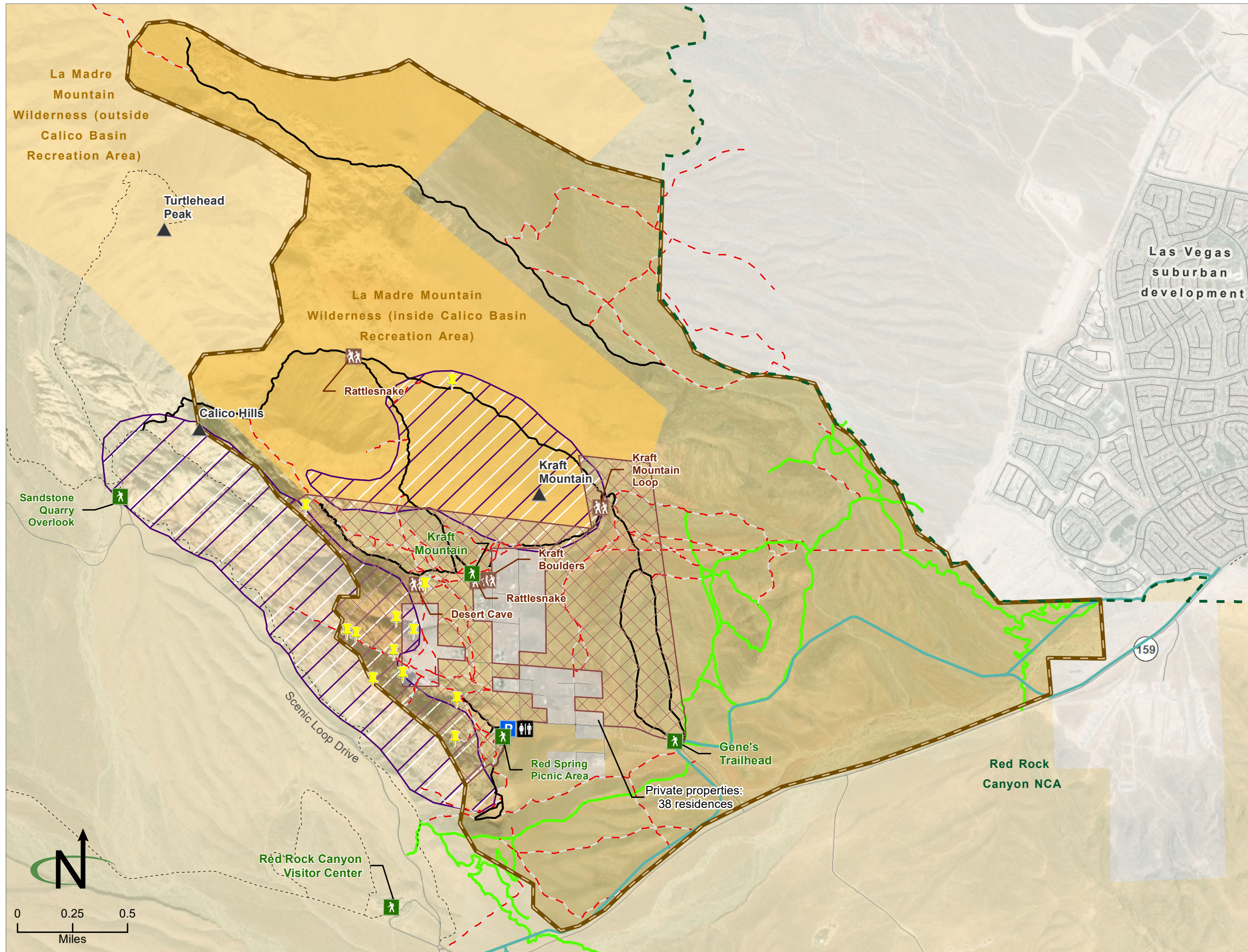
Sources: BLM 2005, 2011

MEAs also guide the nature and type of any future monitoring and associated adaptive management needed to implement the proposed RAMP. The BLM would implement adaptive management strategies in response to monitoring results and consistent with the MEA. The BLM's proposed monitoring and adaptive management approach for the Calico Basin RAMP is in **Chapter 4**.

2.2.2 BLM National Recreation Planning Policy

In developing the Calico Basin RAMP, the BLM also incorporated concepts from BLM Manual 8320, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services (BLM 2011), and BLM Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services (BLM 2014a). These national-level policy documents guide the BLM's recreation planning process, particularly when the agency identifies recreation management areas through the resource management planning process. When developing RMP-level management or a RAMP for a specific recreation management area, the manual and handbook direct the BLM to incorporate management that considers the beneficial outcomes gained from engaging in recreation experiences. This outcome-focused management approach relies on an understanding of the desired experiences and opportunities of those visiting the area. It also considers the physical, social, and managerial settings within which visitors recreate.

For the Calico Basin RAMP, the BLM considered the recreation settings as described in the MEAs, the need to provide recreation opportunities and experiences focused on the Calico Basin's unique physical setting, and the BLM's ability to protect and enhance the area's natural resources. The RMP does not specifically identify the Calico Basin as a recreation management area. As a result, this RAMP/EA does not discuss recreational setting characteristics or outcome-focused management; instead, it uses the terms and characteristics described in the RRCNCA RMP.



**Figure 3
Recreation Sites**

- Scenic overlook
- Parking area
- Toilet
- Trailhead
- BLM facility
- Inventoried trail
- Existing BLM designated trail
- Proposed Legacy Trail
- Potential authorized mountain bike route
- BLM trail outside of the Calico Basin
- Concentrated climber use
- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- Clark County road
- Wilderness
- 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_AE_RecPoints.mxd
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2.3 PROPOSED CALICO BASIN RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The proposed Calico Basin RAMP's purpose is to be a planning document that guides how the BLM manages recreation on BLM-administered lands in the Calico Basin, consistent with the values of the RRCNCA. The Calico Basin planning area includes the approximately 5,190 acres used as a popular rock climbing, hiking, and equestrian use destination within the larger RRCNCA west of Las Vegas, Nevada (see **Section 1.1**, Background and Planning Area, for more detail). The RAMP includes a combination of broad direction and specific strategies to inform the future implementation of BLM recreation facilities, programs, and enforcement. Proposed management in the RAMP is in response to the increased current and anticipated growing demand for recreation opportunities and experiences in the Calico Basin and the need to manage that demand to avoid affecting the unique natural resources in the Calico Basin and RRCNCA.

The RAMP also reflects issues raised by the public, Calico Basin residents, and other key stakeholders during the public information gathering phase (see **Section 1.7**). Proposed plan direction would allow the BLM to meet the needs of present and expected future visitor demand while maintaining and enhancing the natural resource values that contribute to the area's unique recreation setting. The BLM has prepared this RAMP based on national and state BLM direction and policy, existing conditions, resource issues, and a thorough consideration of public input received during the early information gathering process.

The RAMP consists of a mission, guiding principles, goals, strategies, and decisions. The BLM recognizes that achieving the mission, goals, strategies, and decisions of the RAMP would require continued coordination with the public and key stakeholders. Plan monitoring would inform the need for any future plan updates and associated adaptive management. The RAMP's mission provides a broad vision for management. Guiding principles provide direction for consistency with the values of the RRCNCA. Goals explain the aspirations for desired conditions toward which the BLM would like to move. Strategies define the methods the BLM would use to achieve those goals. Decisions reflect the specific, detailed management the BLM would employ to achieve the RAMP's mission and goals. The degree to which these specific management decisions are carried out depends on priorities, available personnel, funding levels, and completion of further environmental analyses and decision-making, as appropriate.

There are specific projects identified in the goals or strategies that the BLM would evaluate as subsequent implementation-level actions. The BLM would analyze these projects under a separate NEPA process and apply the NHPA and other relevant federal regulations, including public notice and opportunities for comment, as appropriate.

2.3.1 The BLM's Mission for the Calico Basin

The BLM's mission for the Calico Basin is to provide an increasing number of visitors of diverse interests and abilities with sustainable, safe access to unique nonmotorized recreation opportunities and experiences on BLM-administered lands, while protecting and enhancing the area's natural and cultural resources and respecting the interests of private inholdings.

2.3.2 Guiding Principles

Guiding principles provide overarching direction for the BLM in implementing the Calico Basin's mission consistent with the values of the RRCNCA. The BLM will consider the fundamental principles outlined in the RRCNCA RMP—protection of resources and values—in managing visitor use by aligning visitor activities, services, and experiences with the Calico Basin's purpose to determine visitor opportunities

for safe use, experience, and enjoyment (BLM 2005). The following principles will guide the BLM's visitor use management in the Calico Basin:

1. **Resource Protection**—Protect ecologic, scenic, cultural, and other natural resources, including threatened and endangered species; wilderness; and recreation resources for present and future generations.
2. **Recreation Opportunities**—Provide safe, sustainable, and accessible opportunities in the Calico Basin for locals and visitors.
3. **Economic Sustainability**—Manage recreation and visitor use in a manner that sustains the maintenance and operations of the Calico Basin while contributing to the economic growth of Clark County and the Las Vegas metropolitan area.

2.3.3 Management Goals, Strategies, and Decisions

Goals provide high-level direction for managing and administering visitor use and infrastructure in the Calico Basin. They reflect the guiding principles of the RRCNCA RMP, but they are more focused on the management issues and concerns at the Calico Basin (BLM 2005). Goals are aspirational in nature and describe the general conditions toward which the BLM intends to allocate resources during implementation. Strategies are more detailed steps the BLM proposes in order to implement the goals. Decisions are specific actions the BLM would take to achieve the goals and strategies. Goals, strategies, and decisions align with the guiding principles and achieve the mission for the Calico Basin.

The BLM is proposing recreation area management goals, strategies, and decisions in two general categories. This management direction is guided by the need to conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources. The two categories are:

- Recreational uses, experiences, and settings
- Fees, administration, and infrastructure

Management for recreational uses, experiences, and settings is focused on visitor experiences and incorporates themes from the outcome-focused management approach in BLM Handbook H-8320-1, Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services (BLM 2014a). It considers the MEA characteristics that contribute to positive recreation outcomes, visitor safety, and natural resource protection. Management related to fees, administration, and infrastructure is geared toward site utilization, administration, accessibility, and safety.

RECREATIONAL USES, EXPERIENCES, AND SETTINGS

The following goals, strategies, and decisions for recreational uses, experiences, and settings guide the BLM's management of specific uses in the Calico Basin with a consideration of how those uses influence and are influenced by the area's natural resources and MEA characteristics.

Goal 1.1 (Resource Protection)

Emphasize the protection of resources, including threatened and endangered species and wilderness character, and the area's highly valued scenic viewing opportunities that attract the highest percentage of visitors to the RRCNCA, while improving the quality and diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences in the Calico Basin.

The Calico Basin is home to a diversity of natural and cultural resources; these, along with the visual qualities of the area and remarkable geologic formations (see **Figure 4**), attract high visitation. There are ongoing impacts on natural and cultural resources (for example, disturbance of vegetation through the proliferation of social trails and off-trail hiking, bouldering and climbing, the introduction of nonnative species, and littering) and the potential for future visitor use to continue this trend. Recreation use in Calico Basin will be balanced through the following strategies and decisions to protect resources.



Figure 4. The Calico Basin is known for its visual resource values.

Resource Protection Strategy 1

With adaptive management, prioritize rapid solutions to resource impacts from visitor use or other stressors.

Resource Protection Strategy 2

Restore areas with native plant materials that are appropriate for use within the Calico Basin.

Resource Protection Strategy 3

Restore burned areas or degraded habitats to improve wildlife habitat and visitor enjoyment of the Calico Basin.

Resource Protection Strategy 4

Consider acquiring undeveloped inholdings and edge-holdings within the NCA through exchange, donation, purchase, or transfer.

Resource Protection Decision 1

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.

Resource Protection Decision 2

With trail designation or creation, prioritize avoidance of sensitive resources.

Resource Protection Decision 3

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.

Goal 1.2 (Recreation Use)

Facilitate visitor participation in uses that are compatible with the overarching mission for the Calico Basin. Also, work with recreational user groups to minimize conflicts between recreational user groups and potential impacts from recreation on natural and cultural resources by minimizing, mitigating, or prohibiting noncompatible recreational activities in certain areas or at certain times.

Compatible recreational uses in the Calico Basin core area can include nonmechanized uses, such as hiking, rock climbing and bouldering (see **Figure 5**), slacklining, horseback riding, picnicking, and photography. The BLM also is going to evaluate mountain bike use in the non-core area. The following strategies and decisions are intended to further these opportunities while protecting and enhancing the area's natural resources.

Recreation Use Strategy 1

Address visitor health and safety, resource protection and use, and user conflicts by closing areas to camping, target shooting, and other uses, and by increasing BLM ranger presence.

Recreation Use Strategy 2

Maintain current management of climbing, bouldering, and slacklining in the Calico Basin, per the RRCNCA RMP and according to subsequent climbing management plan direction.

Recreation Use Strategy 3

Coordinate with organizations, such as the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association, to identify trails in the non-core area of Calico Basin (see **Figure 7**) for potential designation as open to mountain bike use.

Recreation Use Decision 1

Continue managing the Calico Basin core area for the following recreation uses:

- Hiking
- Climbing (including roped climbing and bouldering)
- Horseback riding (on designated trails)
- Slacklining (slacklines cannot cross designated trails, roads, or walkways; they cannot be left unattended; and they must be removed at sunset)
- General day use at Red Spring Boardwalk and Picnic Area. This use will be managed consistent with the same hours at the RRCNCA Scenic Drive, which are as follows:



Figure 5. Climbing and bouldering opportunity in the Calico Basin.

November to February	6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
March	6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
April to September	6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
October	6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Use Decision 2

Evaluate the current prohibition on mountain bike use on trails in the non-core area of Calico Basin and consider allowing mountain bike use on certain trails within the non-core area of Calico Basin (see **Figure 7**). Continue, however, to prohibit the following uses everywhere within Calico Basin:

- Camping
- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- Shooting

Recreation Use Decision 3

Develop a climbing management plan for the RRCNCA. This plan would include a comprehensive approach to how climbing and access to climbing will be managed in the RRCNCA. Individual decisions will be deferred in the RAMP and developed in the climbing management plan for future application in the Calico Basin.

Goal 1.3 (SRPs and Film/Photography Permits)

Provide opportunities for commercial and noncommercial group events and filming that are compatible with the area's natural resources.

The BLM issues SRPs and recreation use permits (for example, filming, weddings, or other activities) per the relevant BLM criteria at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2930 and policy in BLM Manual 2930 (Recreation Permits and Fees; BLM 2007) and BLM Handbook H-2930-1 (Recreation Permit Administration; BLM 2014b). SRPs are authorizations that allow for commercial, competitive, and group recreational uses of the public lands. They are issued to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors.

The BLM usually issues noncommercial group permits and SRPs in high-use areas or where recreation use requires special BLM management. It also issues SRPs as a mechanism to provide fair market value to the United States for the recreational use of public lands. The BLM may deny applications for a SRP based on many factors, including nonconformance with land use plans or designations; a moratorium on permits issued as part of a planning process; state licensing requirements; the results of an environmental analysis; other resource values, including the environment and endangered species or antiquities; an allocation system; public health and safety concerns; the applicant's past performance, including previous convictions for violating federal or state laws or regulations concerning the conservation or protection of natural resources; or the inability of the managing office to issue, manage, and monitor the proposed use. If the FO is unable to fulfill or complete all the necessary steps of issuing and managing a SRP authorization, the BLM will not issue a SRP.

Authorization for commercial, competitive, or group activities is an integral part of the management of the Calico Basin. These activities not only provide revenue that is used to manage the Calico Basin, they also provide the public with services that enhance the enjoyment of the area. Such activities may include

guided hikes and climbs, family events, weddings, filming and photography, poker runs, yoga tours, artistic events and activities, foot races, scooter tours, and other activities.

The BLM processes film/photography permits per the relevant criteria at 43 CFR 2920. The BLM reviews and adjudicates land use applications, such as film permits, on a case-by-case basis as proposals are received. The review process involves an analysis of potential impacts on the environment that could result from the proposed action. An EA or an EIS, if appropriate, is prepared and reviewed by an interdisciplinary team so that appropriate resource protection stipulations and terms and conditions are developed prior to the approval of such uses. The BLM does not issue film/photography permits in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness at Calico Basin.

SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Strategy 1

Consider the setting of the recreation site when evaluating SRP applications. Other factors that may determine whether an SRP is issued include recreation conflicts in the proposed area of operations, the diversity of services provided to the public, the number of similar services already offered, and whether the public land area available is sufficient to accommodate the proposed use.

SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Strategy 2

Allow commercial services in wilderness only to the extent necessary for activities that are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes. The issuance of SRPs in wilderness would be subject to a separate analyses under NEPA analysis and a minimum requirement analysis framework.

SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Decision 1

Continue the current process for issuing SRPs and recreation use permits in the non-wilderness areas of Calico Basin.

SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Decision 2

Continue to manage to the current level of designated approved commercial, competitive, and organized group use of sites within the core area of the RRCNCA,² which includes the Calico Basin. Refer to the subsequent analysis regarding SRPs in the core area for the latest guidance. See **Appendix A** for current levels of use.

SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Decision 3

Improve management of SRPs and film and photography compliance. Identify and resolve conflicts between permit holders, unauthorized commercial and group use, and RRCNCA values.

SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Decision 4

Continue the current process for issuing film and photography permits.³

² The core area of the RRCNCA that the BLM manages for SRPs is defined as the system of trails and roads (Scenic Drive, Red Spring, and the Calico Basin core area) and facilities (Dedication Overlook, Scenic Drive Exit, Old Oak Creek, First Creek, and Moenkopi Road) along State Route 159. The core area also includes the La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness for some, but not all, approved SRP activities.

³ The BLM issues film permits through the Lands and Realty Program in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Decision 5

Continue to manage to the current level of designated approved film permits in the core area of the RRCNCA.

Goal 1.4 (Trails and Access)

Maintain a designated trail system that protects natural resources and provides nonmotorized access to diverse recreation opportunities in the Calico Basin.

Trails are the primary means of access within the Calico Basin. The following strategies and decisions are intended to enhance trail-based recreation opportunities while protecting and enhancing the area's natural resources through strategies that keep visitors on designated trails (see **Figure 6**).

Trails and Access Strategy 1

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.

Trails and Access Strategy 2

Define and protect the intended use of the trails and maintain designated trails to BLM trail standards.

Trails and Access Strategy 3

Maintain and improve existing trail access points at Red Spring Boardwalk and Picnic Area and Kraft Mountain. 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; if necessary, reroute trails to avoid these impacts.

Trails and Access Strategy 4

Review inventoried trails (undesigned social trails) for sustainability and utility within the Calico Basin trail network. Close and restore undesigned social trails that are incompatible with the recreation and resource protection values of Calico Basin; prioritize restoration of trails through sensitive species' habitat or historic properties. Adopt inventoried trails where compatible with resource protection values and based on public need. Assess the need for reroutes, maintenance, or other trail reconstruction work needed to ensure sustainable use of authorized trails.

Trails and Access Strategy 5

Prevent new user-created trails using signs, barriers, and other infrastructure. At the Red Spring Boardwalk, enforce visitor use of designated trails, and consider projects to protect the sensitive areas around the boardwalk.

Trails and Access Strategy 6

Consider future restrictions on off-trail use to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources.



Figure 6. Gene's Trail, a designated hiking trail in the Calico Basin

Trails and Access Strategy 7

Ensure any proposed new trails provide important linkages to the Calico Basin and Summerlin or Little Red Rocks, while also being built to BLM trail design standards and emphasizing cultural and natural resource protection.

Trails and Access Strategy 8

Work with neighboring landowners, such as Howard Hughes and Summerlin, in areas of new development to ensure all public access to the Calico Basin is from authorized locations. Continue working with Summerlin on a new trailhead that will provide public access from the east to the Brownstone Canyon and Calico Basin planning area.

Trails and Access Strategy 9

Continue to work with volunteers, organizations, and BLM staff to maintain the trail network.

Trails and Access Strategy 10

Consider seasonal or temporary closures following weather events to reduce trail impacts from visitor use.

Trails and Access Strategy 11

Partner with equestrian groups for trail maintenance or to fund any equestrian-related construction projects.

Trails and Access Strategy 12

Consider maintenance costs, benefits, impacts, and other concerns (for example, not designating new trails through locally endemic species' habitats) when evaluating the need for a new trail.

Trails and Access Decision 1

Do not evaluate or authorize the construction of any new trails with this RAMP. New trail proposals may be evaluated later as the need arises.

Trails and Access Decision 2

Design all trails in the Calico Basin for pedestrian uses. See **Figure 7** and **Table 4-2** for trails designated for equestrian use. Do not allow motorized use of trails. Mechanized use of certain trails may be appropriate for the non-core area of Calico Basin. Red Spring Boardwalk would continue to be managed for pedestrian access only.

Trails and Access Decision 3

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.

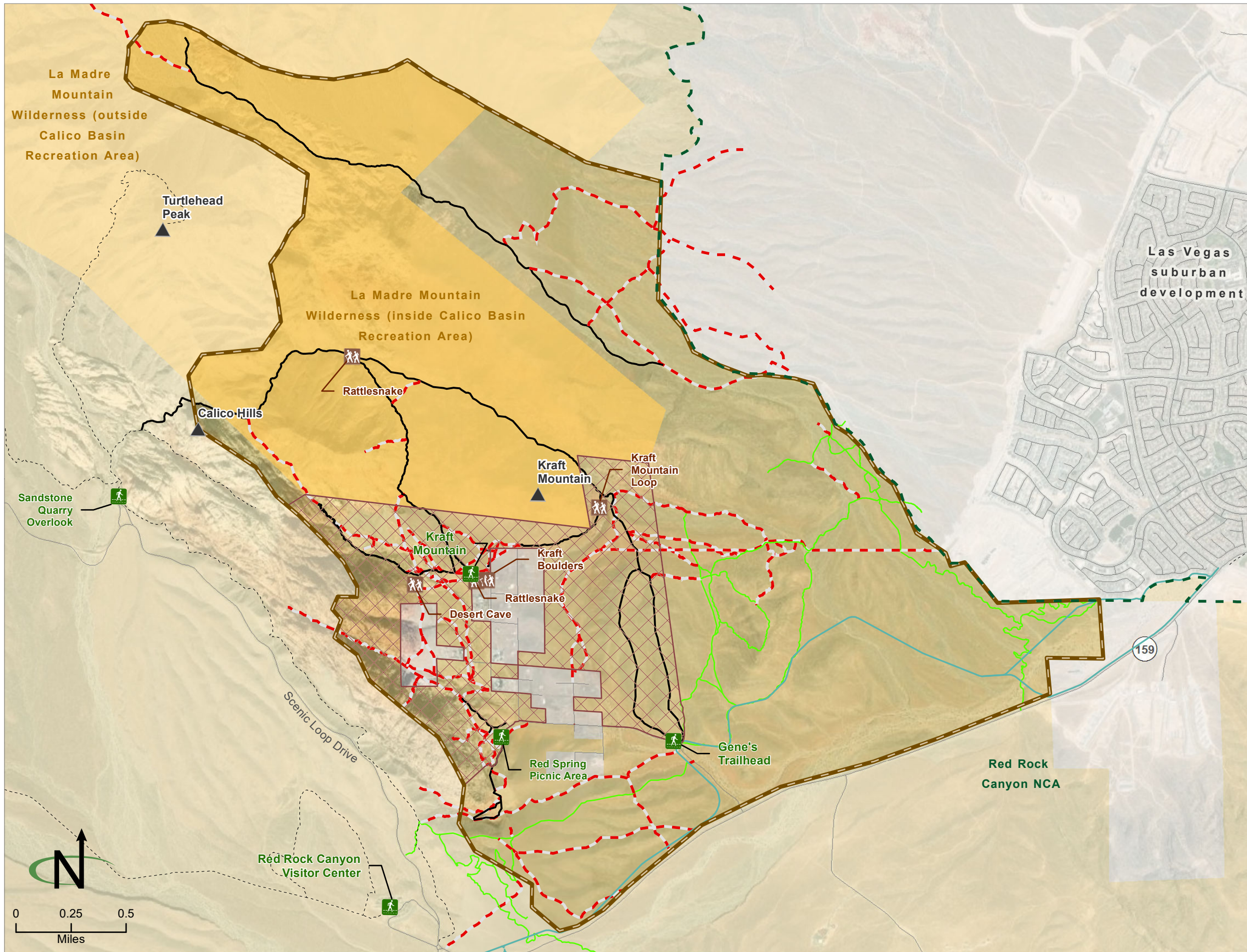
Trails and Access Decision 4

Continue current trail designations as shown in **Figure 7**, including trails open to equestrian use. Evaluate trail designations and adjust them as needed to reflect resource needs and visitation preferences.

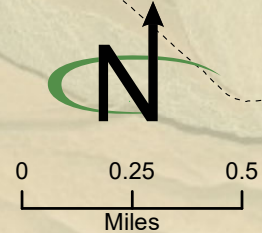


**Figure 7
Designated Trails in the Calico Basin**

- - - Inventoried trail
- Existing BLM designated trail
- Proposed Legacy Trail
- Potential authorized mountain bike route
- 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_AE_DesignatedTrails.mxd
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Trails and Access Decision 5

Develop annual coordinated trail maintenance plans.

Goal 1.5 (Safety)

Provide enjoyable and safe experiences for visitors while recognizing there are limitations on the capability of the RRCNCA and its staff, volunteers, partners, and contractors to eliminate all hazards.

Throughout the peak season (October through May), at the Calico Basin there are numerous law enforcement issues, such as vehicle break-ins, assisting the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department with service calls to residents, unauthorized commercial use, resource violations (littering, natural feature destruction, garbage dumping, etc.), and search and rescue. Typically, October and November, Christmas to January 1, and March to May attract extremely large crowds to the Calico Basin. The following safety strategies address these issues:

Safety Strategy 1

Strive to protect human life and provide for injury-free visits. The recreational activities of some visitors may pose a personal risk to participants, which the BLM cannot totally control. RRCNCA visitors must assume a substantial degree of responsibility for their own safety when visiting areas that are managed and maintained as natural, cultural, or recreational environments.

Safety Strategy 2

Prioritize saving human life over all other management actions.

Safety Strategy 3

Ensure public safety, protect federal land resources, and continue to create an environment to promote the health and safety of visitors, staff, and nearby residents by working with local, state, and federal agencies. These are the BLM's primary responsibilities.

Safety Strategy 4

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.

Goal 1.6 (Wilderness)

Maintain or enhance the MEA characteristics, including the primitive recreation setting and wilderness character of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.

In 1964, Congress established the National Wilderness Preservation System through the Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577; 16 US Code 1131–1136). This law was created to “... assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States.” Wilderness designation is intended to preserve and protect certain lands in their natural state. Only Congress, with presidential approval, may designate lands as wilderness. The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines wilderness character, the uses of wilderness, and the activities prohibited within its boundaries.

The Calico Basin’s proximity to the La Madre Mountain Wilderness requires the BLM to carefully manage the recreation, natural, and cultural resources, and corresponding resource values (such as scenic values) within the planning area to reduce potential impacts on these areas and in a manner consistent with the existing La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Management Plan. For example, the wilderness management plan indicates that visitor-worn hiking paths will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may either be designated, rerouted, or restored.

Wilderness Strategy 1

Continue to manage the La Madre Mountain Wilderness by upholding the existing La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Wilderness Decision 1

Per the *Federal Register* notice published November 30, 1998 (Volume 63, Number 229), continue the prohibition on recreational motorized and mechanized access 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.

Wilderness Decision 2

Within the wilderness portions of the designated trail system, place trail marking signs alongside the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail. This is one of three designated trails that exists within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness (the others are Rattlesnake and Brownstone Trails). Placement of the trail marking signs in the wilderness portion the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail is supported with the completed detailed minimum requirement decision guide (MRDG) found in **Appendix D** (BLM 2022).⁴

⁴ The MRDG is the tool that wilderness-managing agencies have used to conduct a minimum requirements analysis, as required by legislation, to determine whether a prohibited use is necessary in wilderness and, if so, what the minimum amount of prohibited use would be. For example, a MRDG was the first step toward making a decision about installing signs (prohibited uses and installations), followed by a minimum requirements analysis; then a further NEPA analysis would be necessary for the BLM to be able to authorize the installation of signs in the wilderness. The MRDG, however, has been changed to a minimum requirement analysis framework for future efforts.

Wilderness Decision 3

Continue management of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness area to preserve its wilderness character. Examples include adequately marking the wilderness boundary, restoring impacts from social trails, robust interpretation outside the wilderness, increasing staff patrol and monitoring, and enhancing the opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Goal 1.7 (Education)

Expand visitor understanding and appreciation of the Calico Basin by providing diverse educational and interpretive opportunities.

Education Strategy 1

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.

Education Strategy 2

Educate visitors about the allowed recreational uses of trails and trail use ethics—ideally through a means that would educate the visitors prior to their use of the trails. For example, this could include trailhead kiosks or materials available at parking locations.

Education Strategy 3

Provide interpretation opportunities that are focused on the unique resources that exist at the Calico Basin and within the RRCNCA.

Education Strategy 4

Engage BLM staff, volunteers, and partners from multiple disciplines when developing interpretation materials.

Education Strategy 5

Continue to work with partners, such as Friends of Red Rock Canyon, Get Outdoors Nevada, Southern Nevada Conservancy, Desert Tortoise Council, and other organizations, to develop, coordinate, and facilitate quality educational programming, interpretation, and media to utilize the unique environmental education components, management, and conservation of the Calico Basin.

Education Strategy 6

Continue BLM staff and partner outreach to educational institutions and work with these institutions for environmental education.

Education Strategy 7

Develop an environmental education plan for schools to use when they are at the recreation site.



Figure 8. Interpretive signage at Red Spring

Education Strategy 8

Continue to 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.

Education Decision 1

Use the SRP process to review applications from state-certified schools to use the recreation site(s) for education-related activities. Determine if a letter of authorization or SRP will be necessary, or if any fees will be assessed.

Education Decision 2

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.

FEES, ADMINISTRATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In the Calico Basin, there is a need to provide site utilization management, fee collections, accessibility, safety, availability of amenities, and site-specific environmental education and interpretation programs in a managed natural environment, to provide for high-quality recreation experiences while enhancing or protecting resources. The authority to collect and retain recreation fees is specified in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004. Through this RAMP, the BLM seeks to provide the management framework to enhance the existing fee structure established at the Calico Basin in the 2018 RRCNCA Business Plan (BLM 2018). Any change in the fee structure would require a presentation to the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee and request for a recommendation of approval before going to the BLM state director for concurrence and final approval prior to implementing.

The BLM is working to update the 2018 RRCNCA Business Plan to clarify that the day-use site at Calico Basin where a standard amenity fee can be charged (16 USC 6802(f)) includes developed recreation areas within the Calico Basin, including Red Spring, Kraft Mountain, Gene's Trail, and designated parking on roads within the recreation area. **Table 2-2** contains the current and proposed fee structure for the RRCNCA.

Goal 2.1 (Visitation Management)

Ensure the number of visitors to the Calico Basin is within the area's capacity to sustain the level of visitation while protecting and enhancing natural resource conditions and the associated recreation setting.

Visitation Management Strategy 1

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. The number of vehicles allowed into the Calico Basin would be informed by 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. The RRCNCA Business Plan will be modified using the same process described above to include the use of a reservation system similar to that used on the Scenic Drive.

Table 2-2. Current and Proposed RRCNCA Amenity Fees

Amenity Type†	Fiscal Year 2018 Approved Fees	Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Fees
Scenic Drive Daily Fees*		
Vehicle	\$15.00	\$20.00
Bicyclist	\$5.00	\$8.00
Pedestrian	\$5.00	No change
Motorcycle	\$10.00	\$15.00
Commercial Tour Vehicle**	\$5.00***	No change
Red Rock Annual Support Pass	\$30.00	\$60.00
Other Areas		
Red Spring (New)*	\$15.00****	\$20.00
Campground Daily Fee	\$20.00	\$25.00
Campground—Walk-in Site	\$10.00	\$12.00
Campground Group Rate	\$60.00	\$80.00
Day-use Picnic Area	\$40.00	No change

Source: BLM 2018 (RRCNCA Business Plan with slight modifications)

† This table does not include a potential reservation fee which would be assessed at a later time. It is unknown at this time if a reservation fee would be required.

* A receipt for either the Scenic Drive or the Red Spring area can be used to access the other.

** Ride share users are charged the same per person rate as a commercial tour vehicle.

*** Per person plus entry

**** Fee structure follows the Scenic Drive's structure for "other vehicles"

Visitation Management Strategy 2

Update the Calico Basin visitor use carrying capacity using indicators and thresholds for natural resource impacts.

Visitation Management Strategy 3

Work with the planning and implementation efforts for the proposed Legacy Trail to provide guidance on how future Legacy Trail use can be coordinated to minimize impacts on the resources at Calico Basin and to address future multiuse access to Calico Basin from the Legacy Trail.

Visitation Management Decision 1

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 the parking capacity in the lots and designated ROWs in the Calico Basin.

Visitation Management Decision 2

Apply day-use hours to developed recreation sites (discourage nighttime use; see **Appendix B** for a discussion of proposed timing and uses at facilities under the RAMP/EA).

Goal 2.2 (Fee Management)

Achieve the RRCNCA's mission of conserving, protecting, enhancing, and managing the area's natural and recreational resources by ensuring that 100 percent of fee receipts go toward the recreation facilities, services, and programs that affect visitors and natural resource values, such as maintenance and enhancement projects, interpretation and signage, and direct costs related to the site where the fee is collected. Fees collected at the Calico Basin would supplement allocated recreation funds to maintain and operate the recreation site, or to design and install any recreation amenities.⁵

Fee Management Strategy 1

Make necessary administrative changes to the RRCNCA Business Plan to clarify that the Red Spring/Calico Basin area identified in the business plan includes the developed recreation areas within the Calico Basin planning area, including Red Spring, Kraft Mountain, and designated parking on roads within the recreation area. Ensure fees would be designated for use in the entire Calico Basin planning area, to the extent possible (the current business plan does not specify where collected fees would be used in the RRCNCA). 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.

Fee Management Strategy 2

Emphasize maintenance and operations over new capital improvements when using any potential collected fees.

Fee Management Decision 1

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 (see **Table 2-2**) so that it encompasses all developed recreation areas within the Calico Basin, including Red Spring, Kraft Mountain, and designated parking on roads within the planning area.

The proposed amenity fees would complement those for the Scenic Drive; with a receipt from the Calico Basin, visitors would also be able to access the Scenic Drive and vice versa. However, visitor management tools like the Scenic Drive Reservation System may be used in the future and will require visitors to know what tools have been implemented before they arrive. Revenue generated at this site would be reinvested into the area through increased resource protection, law enforcement patrols, additional programming, increased signage, and renovated facilities.

⁵ No more than an average of 15 percent of the total revenue collected may be used for administration, overhead, and indirect costs related to fee collection (BLM H-2930-1, Chapter 2, III Expenditures [BLM 2014a]). The 2018 RRCNCA Business Plan proposed standard and expanded amenity fees for Red Spring Picnic Area and Boardwalk (16 USC 6802(f)). The BLM used the information from the business plan to determine fees and revenue projections for the Scenic Drive and Red Spring Picnic Area and Boardwalk.

Fee Management Decision 2

Construct a fee system with gates on Calico Basin Road, and gates at developed recreation sites and parking areas to collect day-use fees from visitors in automobiles and from walk-up or bike-in visitors. Additionally, construct a turnaround area at a safe distance before the fee booth area for visitors who do not wish to pay an amenity fee.

Goal 2.3 (Partnerships)

Work with partner organizations, such as the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, Get Outdoors Nevada, the Southern Nevada Conservancy, the Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition, the Bristlecone Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of America, and the Southern Nevada Mountain Bikers Association, on access issues and to provide educational programming.

Partnership Strategy 1

Continue to seek partnerships with nonprofits, other agencies, and school districts to improve management and the delivery of information on the recreation area.

Partnership Decision 1

Continue working with the Calico Basin working group—an informal working group of residents within the Calico Basin community—to identify common goals and management strategies for shared concerns or resources.

Partnership Decision 2

Continue working with partner groups, such as the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, the Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition, the Southern Nevada Mountain Bikers Association, the Bristlecone Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of America, and Nevada All-State Trail Riders, that are focused on access and issues specific to their recreational activities.

Partnership Decision 3

Continue working with partner groups to develop education and outreach programs to help educate visitors, including climbers, hikers, and horseback riders; manage impacts; and preserve natural resources.

Goal 2.4 (Facilities)

Prioritize the maintenance of existing facilities and infrastructure. In the future, as funding allows and subject to feasibility study results and subsequent NEPA analyses, construct new facilities and infrastructure to protect natural resources, manage visitor use, and improve recreation experiences.

Facility Strategy 1

Consider the cost of operating and maintaining proposed facilities and upgrades as the primary consideration when evaluating funding that comes available for new facilities or other improvements. Also, consider other factors such as:

- The benefits of reducing adverse effects on resources and the natural environment
- Maintaining or improving public safety

- Complying with the management for the area

Facility Strategy 2

Consider providing parking, toilets, informational and interpretive displays, and other facilities at all Calico Basin trailheads.

Facility Strategy 3

Pursue grants and partnerships⁶ to augment funding for facilities planning, operations, maintenance, and development.

Facility Strategy 4

Design and construct a visitor entrance station adjacent to Calico Basin Road near Red Spring (or at Gene's Trail) to provide recreation information and to collect site fees (see **Fee Management Decision 2**).

Facility Strategy 5

Base potential future facilities and infrastructure improvements on current needs and available funding. This could include the following:

- Adding restrooms at Kraft Mountain, Brownstone Canyon, and Gene's Trailheads
- Adding more large group picnic shelters at Red Spring at a distance adequate to separate the use by large parties from the other use in the smaller picnic shelters

This RAMP does not evaluate or authorize the construction of any new facilities or infrastructure projects.

Goal 2.5 (Roads and Parking)

Manage BLM-administered roads and parking areas in the Calico Basin to provide safe and reliable access to recreation sites, with an emphasis on conserving, protecting, and restoring the ecological, cultural, and recreational resource values and minimizing conflicts between recreational users and Calico Basin residents.

Roadways in the Calico Basin provide access to both private inholdings and the BLM-administered Red Spring Picnic Area, Calico Spring, and the Kraft Mountain parking area. Concurrent with developing this RAMP, the BLM worked closely with Clark County to coordinate the relinquishment of county ownership of the roadway segments identified below. The BLM assumed ownership and maintenance responsibilities for these segments:

- Calico Basin Road (1.20 miles)
- Calico Drive (0.12 miles)
- Assisi Canyon Avenue (0.12 miles)
- Sandstone Drive (0.51 miles)

⁶ For example, the Friends of Red Rock Canyon secured a grant from Clark County to fund the preparation of the Cottonwood Valley RAMP/EA.

Remaining roadways in the Calico Basin providing access to private inholdings will be privately owned and maintained.

Roads and Parking Strategy 1

Consider maintenance costs, benefits, impacts, and other concerns when evaluating the need for a new road.

Roads and Parking Strategy 2

Evaluate opportunities for a new bike lane along Calico Basin Road that would connect the new Legacy Trail on State Route 159 (see **Figure 7**) with recreation sites in the Calico Basin.

Roads and Parking Strategy 3

Base potential future parking area improvements on current needs and available funding; this could include the following:

- Widening the Kraft Mountain parking lot by a minimum of 10 feet on each side or more to allow the current capacity of vehicles to safely pull in and out of the parking lot. The parking lot should be asphalted to improve the safety and the sustainability of the facility.
- Developing a more sustainable parking area at Calico Spring and Brownstone Canyon trailheads. Build both trailheads to discourage and stop motorized access past the entrance to the trailheads. Calico Spring is a popular trailhead, but until infrastructure is developed, parking at the intersection of Assisi Canyon Avenue and Sandstone Drive will continue to be prohibited.
- Creating a parking lot for equestrian use with possible amenities such as a corral, hitch post, mounting ramp, and restroom.
- Adding new parking areas or parking area improvements.

Roads and Parking Decision 1

Continue to work with Clark County and private landowners 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.

Roads and Parking Decision 2

Continue primary access using Calico Basin Road, Calico Drive, Assisi Canyon Avenue, and Sandstone Drive. Maintain the existing primary access roads with the RRCNCA and the southern Nevada BLM maintenance program. Evaluate speed control, signage, and other mechanisms on these roadways to provide a safe transportation environment.

Roads and Parking Decision 3

Allow parking in designated parking areas. The BLM will develop a map of designated parking areas in the Calico Basin in coordination with Clark County and private landowners. Vehicles parking along Calico Basin Road, Calico Drive, Assisi Canyon Avenue, and Sandstone Drive must park on the shoulder side of the white line. Subject to monitoring results, the BLM may increase or decrease parking capacity in the Calico Basin planning area to achieve resource objectives.

Roads and Parking Decision 4

Work with Calico Basin residents as they prohibit public parking on their private roads and property.

2.4 ALTERNATIVES

The BLM conducted an early information gathering process (see **Section 1.6**), which included public and stakeholder meetings and a 30-day public comment period, to help identify issues associated with this planning effort (see **Section 1.7**). These issues frame the analysis of potential environmental effects associated with the proposed RAMP and aid in the BLM's decision-making process. The alternatives analyzed in this EA are the proposed action alternative and a no action alternative. The proposed action is the proposed RAMP, as described in **Section 2.3**. The no action alternative would reflect a continuation of existing management without a RAMP.

2.4.1 Proposed Action (Calico Basin RAMP)

Under the proposed action, the BLM would adopt the Calico Basin RAMP with the management direction in **Section 2.3.3**.

2.4.2 No Action

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would not adopt the Calico Basin RAMP and would continue to manage the Calico Basin according to the overarching direction in the RRCNCA RMP.

2.4.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

During the early information gathering period for this RAMP/EA, the BLM considered several alternatives, but determined not to carry them forward for detailed analysis in this document. Alternatives considered, but eliminated from detailed analysis, are the following:

- **Including fully completed implementation plans, such as a climbing management plan or trail maintenance plan, with the RAMP.** The RAMP is an overarching plan for managing the Calico Basin; it directs future implementation (see **Section 2.5** for more details on implementation-phase undertakings).
- **Opening the Calico Basin core area to mechanized use.** The Calico Basin core area is not suitable for motorized or mechanized use. Mountain biking is not compatible with the core area's sensitive natural resources. It would also conflict with the area's pedestrian and equestrian uses. While not an alternative considered in this RAMP/EA, the BLM is working with the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association to consider mountain bike use from Summerlin between Gene's Trail and Highway 159 into the southern portion of the planning area. Gene's Trail will not be open for mountain biking.
- **Not implementing a reservation system.** Without implementing a reservation system, visitation to the Calico Basin would reach levels that the natural systems, resources, facilities, and trails could not support. A reservation system would allow the BLM to manage visitor use to protect the area's natural resources, minimize user conflicts, and maintain the relevant MEA characteristics.
- **Not adding a fee system.** If the BLM did not implement a system to collect fees for entry to the Calico Basin and ensure those fees would specifically benefit the Calico Basin, there would be insufficient funding to implement the monitoring and protection of resources necessary to maintain the relevant MEA characteristics, given the visitation levels anticipated in the future. In

addition, Red Spring is already a fee area (established in 2018); the BLM is just implementing this decision. Because it is a fee area, the BLM is required to use Recreation.gov to provide services, such as for fee collection. This same system is currently being used for the Scenic Drive.

Using the same approach for Calico Basin would allow the BLM to provide a consistent system to collect fees that can be used at both the Scenic Drive and Calico Basin within the RRCNCA. Implementing the reservation system was a management decision made by the BLM to give visitors a more positive experience by decreasing gridlock, parking issues, and long lines for public services. In addition, the reservation system would allow the BLM to maintain a safer environment and help ensure the protection of resources. The BLM decision to use the timed entry and reservation system was determined using the following information and guidance from BLM headquarters:

The Regional Infrastructure Services (RIS) is a group of federal agencies that includes the BLM. The RIS signed a memorandum of understanding for the purpose of shared agency cooperation and responsibilities to cover shared system services, management, and operation of the RIS program, including the management of a web-based resource system (Recreation.gov) for the public that could offer a single point of access to information and reservations for federal recreation opportunities. Booz Allen Hamilton is a nongovernmental entity under contract with the RIS. This firm has developed and currently maintains Recreation.gov to obtain fee collections, process fees, and provide recreation services, such as reservation systems for the participating members of the RIS group. Any change in the fee structure from implementing a fee and reservation system would require a modification in the RRCNCA Business Plan's language, 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 such systems.

The BLM staff at the RRCNCA collects standard amenity fees for the daily use of Scenic Drive and expanded amenity fees for the daily use of the RRCNCA campground. In addition, the BLM sells daily reservations and day passes to the RRCNCA, annual passes to the RRCNCA, and "America the Beautiful" annual and lifetime passes. Daily passes are also available for sale in person at the BLM Red Rock Scenic Area fee booth and Southern Nevada District Office public room, and online through Recreation.gov. One hundred percent of the amenity fees collected are invested back into the area.

The RIS group complies with the Fee Management Agreement portion of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (FLREA) to collect, process, and run visitor recreation services and provide recreation opportunities across the nation, including the RRCNCA.

One hundred percent of the service fees that the public pays online for using the Recreation.gov online system transfers to Booz Allen Hamilton as a commission. The BLM does not receive any of these monies as amenity fees.

The BLM uses direction provided by an instruction memorandum (Instruction Memorandum 2022-010) that provides policy for providing online information about recreation opportunities using electronic commerce technologies for recreation services and verifying fee site information. More specifically, the instruction memorandum states that all BLM field offices wishing to provide public reservation services will use Recreation.gov, except where currently under a contract or agreement or via another directive. As contracts and agreements expire or require modification, offices shall convert contract reservation services to Recreation.gov. Exceptions to this policy require approval by the assistant director for the National

Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships after coordinating with the BLM program manager for Recreation.gov.

- **Creating a new access road to the Calico Basin.** The BLM is working with Clark County to ensure there is controlled public access via the existing roadway network to BLM-administered lands in the Calico Basin and access to private inholdings. The BLM considered the need for an additional access road to the Calico Basin, but determined through initial study that it was not feasible.

2.5 IMPLEMENTATION-PHASE PROJECTS

As described in **Section 2.1**, the Calico Basin RAMP provides high-level guidance on recreation and suggestions on potential implementation-phase projects, while acknowledging additional NEPA analyses would be required for these undertakings. Management identified in the RAMP focuses on resource protection and consistency with the mission of the RRCNCA. Similarly, the BLM will prioritize those implementation-phase undertakings that also focus on resource protection, such as signage and education. Examples of implementation-phase projects described in the RAMP/EA include the reservation system to limit the number of visitors per day, proposed fees and changes to the RRCNCA Business Plan, and evaluation of mountain bike use in the non-core area of Calico Basin. **Figure 9**, below, illustrates the relationship of the RAMP with subsequent implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management.

Figure 9. Planning and Implementation



¹ CX refers to a categorical exclusion, which is a type of NEPA compliance

Chapter 3

Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management

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Chapter 3. Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management

3.1 MONITORING

Monitoring requirements discussed below generally apply only to the proposed action, which comprises the second half of the RAMP. Chapter 2 comprises the first half of the RAMP. The RRCNCA RMP monitoring requirements discussed in **Section 3.1.1**, however, would also apply to the no action alternative.

3.1.1 RRCNCA Monitoring Requirements

The RRCNCA RMP identifies several actions and programs that include monitoring, such as wildlife, ecosystem management, commercial uses, and wild horses and burros. The BLM also regularly monitors wilderness areas for wilderness character. Monitoring is integral to all actions and programs in the RMP to measure the effectiveness of actions implemented or to record the impacts on the natural resources. While specific details are not provided, the RMP considers the key resources for the RRCNCA (biodiversity, air quality, vegetation, recreation, commercial use, and cultural resources) as appropriate for monitoring to record impacts and to seek to reverse or mitigate those impacts.

Whenever monitoring shows impacts that are considered significant or that surpass the limits of acceptable change, the RMP suggests mitigation be taken to reverse the situation. This could include a reduction in or elimination of the action or situation causing the impact. The RMP provides flexibility in how the monitoring is implemented; however, some monitoring details are provided, as shown below:

- The BLM will conduct an ongoing program of population monitoring for threatened and endangered species (Mojave Desert tortoise [*Gopherus agassizii*]), candidate species (blue diamond cholla [*Cylindropuntia multigeniculata*]), and other special status species (alkali mariposa lily, Mojave milkvetch [*Astragalus mohavensis* var. *hemigyus*], peregrine falcon [*Falco peregrinus*], and Spring Mountains springsnail).
- Recreational activities can spread weeds and impact sensitive plants, animals, and cultural resources. If impacts from recreational use are documented during general monitoring, seasonal or temporary restrictions in specific areas or other mitigation may be implemented to reduce user impacts on resources.
- The BLM will collect further information or data for sites, trails, and destinations where more information on visitor use patterns, activities, levels, and behaviors could further inform thresholds. This information will be used to refine thresholds before taking actions to manage visitor use levels more directly.
- The BLM will monitor cumulative recreation use impacts on biological resources.
- The BLM will monitor commercial use and evaluate permit totals as necessary.
- The BLM will enhance partnerships using volunteers to patrol sites and monitor recreational use.
- The BLM will monitor the existing designated trails and implement mitigation measures, as needed, to avoid excessive impacts.

- The BLM will monitor wilderness character per the La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

The programs listed above have monitoring systems developed or in place; others would need to have monitoring techniques developed and tested to determine how to best evaluate conditions and implementation results. Issues specific to the Calico Basin that may require developing specific monitoring protocols include:

- Rock writings and other cultural and paleontological resources
- Riparian communities associated with springs
- Appropriate trail use and conditions

Monitoring practices will be developed by selecting indicators that are used to track trends in resource and experiential conditions. Established thresholds will be used to clearly define when conditions are becoming unacceptable for the selected indicators, thus alerting managers that a change in management action(s) is required. Management action in response to monitoring will be implemented as necessary (see **Section 3.3.2**, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment).

3.1.2 Additional Proposed Monitoring

In addition to the monitoring requirements in the RRCNCA RMP, the BLM is proposing the following additional monitoring measures to understand progress toward meeting the goals and strategies in the RAMP and to inform subsequent adaptive management (see **Section 4.3**, below). The BLM will implement these monitoring measures through increased ranger and resource staff presence in the Calico Basin planning area:

- Monitor trail conditions to protect their integrity.
- Monitor vegetation cover and soil conditions at Red Spring, Ash Spring, and other riparian areas.
- Monitor trail conditions where there is equestrian use to identify any ongoing impacts (see **Section 2.3.3** for additional detail).
- Monitor routes to popular climbing, bouldering, and other areas and consider trail access needs to popular recreation areas.
- Monitor unauthorized mountain bike use.
- Monitor the creation of unauthorized roads, trails, or access points.
- Monitor vegetation cover and soil stability near climbing routes or boulder problems.
- Monitor for the creation of multiple points of entry to the Calico Basin at this plan's implementation.
- Monitor effectiveness of management activities in minimizing visitor impacts.
- Monitor if signage and other site information provide effective guidance to encourage appropriate user behavior.
- Monitor if cultural and recreation sites are vandalized or damaged.
- Monitor and track where destruction or removal of natural resources is occurring and at what rate.
- Monitor for impacts on private inholdings to demonstrate trends.

- Monitor for public safety concerns, as well as emergency service responses or search and rescue operations.
- Monitor 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. For example, photographers that repeatedly encourage people to leave the Red Spring Boardwalk for a better picture could have their SRPs revoked.
- Monitor 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.
- Monitor and update visitor demographic data for the RRCNCA, so it is more current and specific to the Calico Basin planning area.

As described above, additional monitoring efforts should not be limited to BLM staff and managers. The BLM should implement strategies to work with partners and the public to also monitor certain activities. For example, the BLM should provide an easy process for visitors to report unauthorized trail use or a way to educate partner organizations, so they can recognize poor trail conditions and report these issues to BLM staff. With this information, Red Rock Canyon managers will work to set standards that define the conditions sought for the wide range of recreation opportunities, identify management actions desired to achieve these conditions, and adjust management accordingly. The BLM should also consider using a variety of technological approaches, such as game cameras and drones.

3.1.3 Data Collection and Management

Existing Data

The RRCNCA RMP (BLM 2005) provides summary data on visitation to the RRCNCA compiled from a survey completed in 1992. The demographic results are described in detail in **Section 4.2.7**, Public Health and Safety and **Section 4.2.8**, Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics. Key takeaways on the visitor demographics include:

- 40 percent of visitors were 25–44 years of age
- 46 percent completed some college
- 44 percent work full-time
- 35 percent make from \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually
- Slightly over 2 percent had some type of impairment, with half involving mobility and the other half having hearing, visual, or mental impairment
- 55 percent of visitors were from Nevada, with most residing in Clark County; 45 percent of visitors were from outside of Nevada

These data are nearly 30 years old, and it is likely the demographics of local visitors to the RRCNCA have shifted in ways similar to the changes in Clark County since 1992 (see **Section 4.2.7**, Public Health and Safety and **Section 4.2.8**, Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice). Visitation numbers have also changed, as described in **Section 4.2.1**, Recreation. There were 1,022,207 visitors to the RRCNCA in 2012 and 3,218,149 visitors in 2020; this is a 215 percent increase.

The Calico Basin, however, saw visitation increase over the same period by 25,970 percent from 2,828 in 2012 to 737,251 in 2020. Many people in the early information gathering process for this project attributed that growth in Calico Basin visitation to people using the area as an easy overflow for those who are unable to access the Scenic Drive. The RRCNCA capacity assessment for the Scenic Drive also noted that “visitation at the Calico Basin Road noticeably increases when the Loop closes” (Kooistra et al. 2019). Several developments may be key factors in the asymmetry of growth between the overall RRCNCA and the Calico Basin, including:

- The fees associated with use of the Scenic Drive
- Implementation of the reservation system and timed entry for the Scenic Drive
- The increasing popularity of bouldering in the climbing community and the ease of access for bouldering at Kraft Boulders, when compared with the bouldering elsewhere in the RRCNCA
- Potential methodological issues with the Calico Basin visitation data for 2012
- The population growth in Las Vegas, which has increased 14.35 percent since the 2010 census

Proposed Data Collection and Management

The BLM proposes the following additional data management measures to inform future management:

- Focus on tracking and gaining a better understanding on visitation, fee collection, and fee compliance in data management protocols.
- Develop data collection procedures to include best management practices and strategies for improving data quality while emphasizing improvements to fee collection and staffing efficiencies.
- Install magnetic traffic counters on roads and infrared counters on trails.

3.2 LAW ENFORCEMENT ROLE

The BLM will continue to maintain its current law enforcement processes, including a contract with Clark County for additional law enforcement services. Most of the crime response in the Calico Basin near the homes and parking, however, is handled by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police (see **Table 4-6** in **Section 4.2.7**, Public Health and Safety). As described above in **Section 2.2.3**, Goals, if a fee system is implemented at the Calico Basin, that revenue would be reinvested and used at the Calico Basin with increased law enforcement and patrols, additional programming, increased signage, and renovated facilities.

Law enforcement and patrols fill a key role in responding to emergencies and developing situations as needed; however, Kooistra et al. (2019) also noted there is public support for an increased presence of BLM law enforcement, officials, and designated volunteers across the RRCNCA. That increased presence could improve visitor experiences and may mitigate negative or unsafe behaviors (for example, theft and graffiti). These behaviors are among the most common crimes reported in the Calico Basin (see **Table 4-6** in **Section 4.2.7**, Public Health and Safety).

3.3 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The adaptive management proposed in this RAMP/EA framework is divided into four major elements:

- i. Build the foundation with the broad management in the RRCNCA RMP (BLM 2005);
- ii. Define specific visitor use management direction for the Calico Basin in the RAMP/EA;

- iii. Identify adaptive monitoring and management strategies; and
- iv. Implement, monitor, evaluate, and adjust.

These elements provide increasingly detailed management direction from the RRCNCA RMP (BLM 2005) to the in-field monitoring and mitigation to move resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA (see **Figure 10** and **Figure 11**). Further, this process of adaptive management is intended to be flexible, iterative, and adaptable while including the application of relevant laws and regulations, agency guidance, and public involvement. This process is modeled on the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council’s Visitor Use Management Framework. This council consists of six federal agencies: the BLM, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and US Army Corps of Engineers (IVUMC 2016).

Figure 10. Adaptive Management Framework

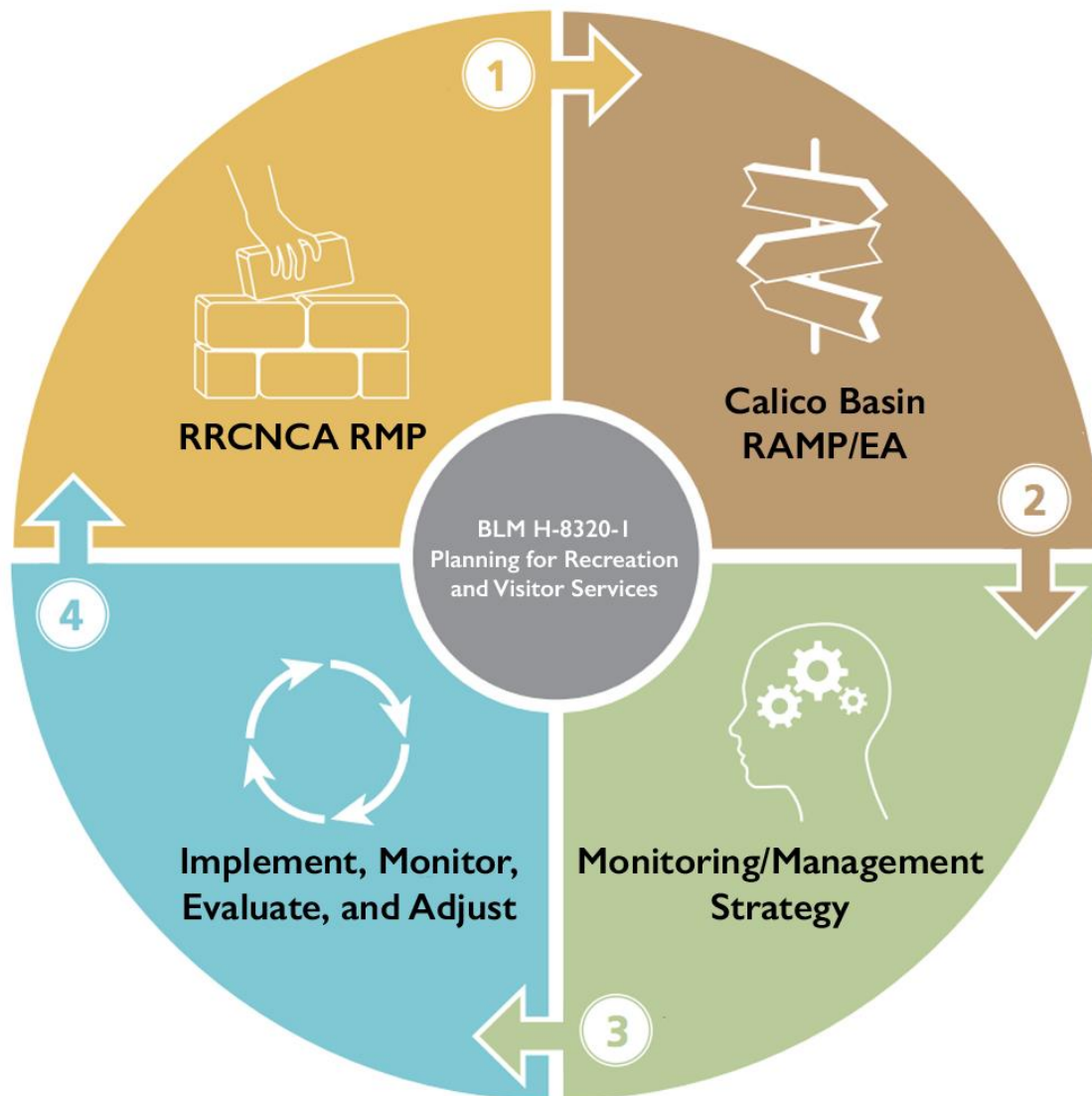
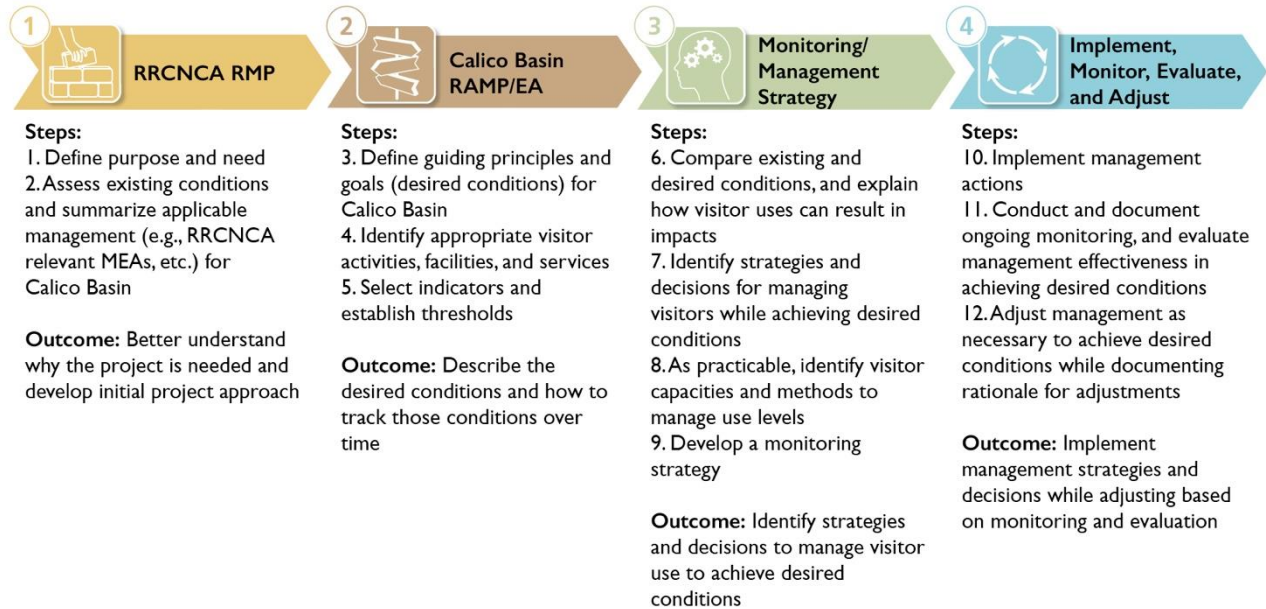


Figure 11. Components of Adaptive Management

Each of the steps described in **Figure 11** are considered in this RAMP/EA as follows:

- The project purpose and need, along with the three project issues, are defined respectively in **Section 1.3**, Purpose and Need and **Section 1.7**, Interdisciplinary Team and Refined RAMP Issues.
- Existing conditions are described in **Section 4.2**, Affected Environment. Applicable laws, regulations, guidance, and management are provided in **Section 1.5**, Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, and Other Plans; **Section 2.2**, BLM Recreation Management Framework; and **Table 2-1**, Management Emphasis Areas in the Calico Basin.
- Guiding principles and goals are described in **Section 2.3.2**, Guiding Principles and **Section 2.3.3**, Management Goals, Strategies, and Decisions.
- Appropriate uses and facilities are included in **Section 2.3.3**, Management Goals, Strategies, and Decisions.
- Indicators are described in detail below in **Section 3.3.1**, Management Indicators.
- Existing and desired conditions are compared in **Section 3.3.2**, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment.
- Strategies for managing visitors while achieving desired conditions are compared in **Section 3.3.2**, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment.
- Visitor capacities are discussed in **Access Decision 3**; methods to manage use levels are described in **Section 3.3.2**, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment.
- Ongoing and proposed monitoring efforts are summarized above in **Sections 3.1.1**, RRCNCA Monitoring Requirements and **3.1.2**, Additional Proposed Monitoring, while the plan for monitoring and mitigation is considered in **Section 3.3.2**, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment.

- Implementing management actions is discussed below in **Section 3.3.2**, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment.
- Step II is discussed below in **Section 3.3.2**, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment.
- Adjusting management, as necessary, is discussed below in **Section 3.3.2**, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment.

3.3.1 Management Indicators

Each management indicator below corresponds to the issues and topics discussed in **Section 2.3.3**, Management Goals, Strategies, and Decisions. If the indicators are related to management proposed under the RAMP/EA, these indicators are also described under the relevant resource categories in **Section 4.3**, Environmental Effects. Certain management indicators, however, are also included for future implementation-phase projects, such as a site-specific fee or reservation system, which will require separate NEPA analyses and are therefore not analyzed in **Section 4.3**, Environmental Effects.

Recreational Uses, Experiences, and Settings

- Resource protection
 - Indicator: Programmatic NEPA analyses adequate for efficient tiered undertakings such as resource protection or mitigation
 - Indicator: Funding for staff to monitor and manage resources
 - Indicator: Incidence of graffiti or other vandalism
- Visitor safety
 - Indicator: Frequency of emergency service response
- General recreational uses
 - Indicator: Incidence of inappropriate use of the Calico Basin (for example, camping, motorized or unauthorized mechanized use, shooting, unauthorized events, or vendors without permits)
 - Indicator: Requests or reports from the public and other partners for maintenance, enhancement, outreach or cleanup projects
- Rock climbing, bouldering, and slack lining⁷
 - Indicator: Trail conditions with the potential for secondary erosion
 - Indicator: Vegetation cover near rock climbs or boulder problems
- Trail uses
 - Indicator: Inappropriate trail use in the Calico Basin (that is, any use other than pedestrians or equestrians within the core area)
 - Indicator: Width, erosion, and braiding of trails

⁷ Other management and indicators for rock climbing will be developed in a climbing management plan for the RRCNCA for future application in the Calico Basin.

- Access
 - Indicator: Incidence of user-created, unauthorized trails
 - Indicator: Trail conditions with the potential for secondary erosion, such as those that would follow high-intensity rain
- Partnerships
 - Indicator: Incidence of coordination with partners, such as cooperative projects and periodic meetings
- Education and interpretation
 - Indicator: Incidence of educational events such as school visits
 - Indicator: Amount of new or updated interpretive materials and signage at key locations for education and impact reduction
- SRPs
 - Indicator: Conformance with the number or frequency for SRPs considered in the BLM's Programmatic EA for Special Recreation Permits (BLM 2010) and described in **Table 4-3**, SRP Management in the RRCNCA Core Area.

Fees, Administration, and Infrastructure

- Fee management and administration
 - Indicator: Amount of funding adequate for increased law enforcement, additional programming, and increased signage
 - Indicator: The number of daily visitors to the area
- Facilities and infrastructure
 - Indicator: Amount of funding that is adequate for facilities maintenance, improvements, or new facilities
 - Indicator: Number and types of facilities and infrastructure in the Calico Basin
- Roads and parking
 - Indicator: Incidence of inappropriate uses of roads, such as parking in roads not designated for that purpose
 - Indicator: Incidence of inappropriate uses of parking lots, such as overnight camping or double parking
 - Indicator: Available parking capacity in the Calico Basin relative to the number of visitors

3.3.2 Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adjustment

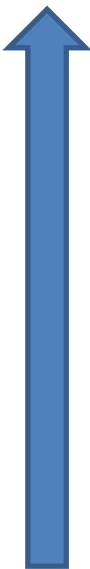
Adaptive management will allow the BLM to consider how its management actions are implemented and how to adjust management based on the results of monitoring. The management proposed for implementation under this RAMP/EA is described in the decisions discussed in **Section 2.3.3**, Management Goals, Strategies, and Decisions. Some of these decisions would be in immediate effect following issuance of the RAMP/EA, such as continuing to only allow equestrian and pedestrian use on trails in the Calico Basin. Other decisions are for implementation-phase projects that will require additional NEPA and other analyses, such as installing a fee management process and fee collection station on Calico Basin Road or installation of additional signage and educational material at trailheads and other locations.

While the implementation-phase projects would require additional NEPA and other analyses, once those efforts had been completed, the BLM managers using this RAMP/EA would follow the same adaptive management process for their decisions. This adaptive management process includes steps 10–12 of Element 4, described above in **Figure II**, Components of Adaptive Management. What happens in the final element and steps of adaptive management are as follows:

- Implement management actions
 - Prepare for implementing a decision by ensuring BLM staff is equipped to make this change and that the required resources are available.
 - Implement the management and inform BLM staff, relevant partners, and members of the public of the new management.
 - Ensure adequate staff are available on-site to gauge reactions from visitors and respond to any questions or concerns.
- Conduct and document ongoing monitoring, and evaluate the effectiveness of management actions in achieving desired conditions.
 - Conduct monitoring (per **Section 3.1**, Monitoring) with BLM staff using consistent indicators, such as those described in **Section 3.3.1**, Management Indicators.
 - Ensure consistency and the ability to track change over time by documenting monitoring and the impact indicators.
 - When appropriate, empower partners and the public to also monitor the same indicators and create a process to document their results.
 - Following an adequate period to observe and monitor changes resulting from management actions, evaluate the effectiveness of the changes and determine if the management is moving that resource or setting toward the goals for the Calico Basin (see **Section 2.3.3**, Management Goals, Strategies, and Decisions) and the appropriate MEA characteristics (**Table 3-1**) for a given area.
- Adjust management to achieve desired conditions and document why management is being changed.
 - If indicators show there are impacts and there is movement away from desired conditions, analyze the potential cause(s).
 - Consider how to adjust management and work with BLM staff to ensure the change(s) for a particular resource would not affect another resource.
 - Change the management strategy with the following documentation to demonstrate rationale for the modification:
 - Summary of the original action and its implementation (step 10)
 - Summary of monitoring data and analyses suggesting the need for an adjustment (step 11)
 - Reasoning for the selection of the new actions, including the supporting analysis and evidence
 - Demonstrations of what will change, how it will change, and the resources needed to make the change

Table 3-1. MEAs Development Spectrum

MEA	Description
Developed	1. There is substantial modification of the natural environment.
	2. There is intensified motorized use, and parking is available.
	3. The human interaction level is moderate to high.
	4. On-site controls are obvious, and facilities are widely available.
	5. Law enforcement is moderately visible.
Roaded Developed	6. Recreational activities rely on and are consistent with the natural environment.
	7. These areas may include paved roads and buildings, but the design should blend with the natural environment.
	8. The human interaction level is moderate to high in more developed portions and low to moderate elsewhere.
Roaded Natural	9. On-site controls, facilities, and law enforcement are noticeable.
	10. Developments are limited to improved access and those consistent with the natural environment.
	11. The recreational experience is based on the natural setting.
	12. These areas may include roads, trails, and camping areas (new improvements for resource protection only).
	13. The human interaction level is low to moderate; it is more often on the low side.
Nonmotorized	14. On-site controls are present but subtle.
	15. Roaded natural includes areas with existing dirt roads.
	16. Area(s) may not necessarily be remote and access may be easy, but the human interaction level would be low.
	17. Opportunities provided could include trails for mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking.
	18. Existing roads are closed and converted to trails; motorized use is prohibited.
Primitive	19. Off-site controls are preferred.
	20. Facilities are avoided, but they may be provided for resource protection or user safety.
	a. More risk is assumed and self-reliance is necessary.
	21. Remote areas are not on primary travel routes or easily accessed.
	22. Access is by hiking and horseback; no mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are allowed.
	23. Human interaction is rare to low, and evidence of other users is minimal.
24. No on-site controls or facilities are provided except those required for resource protection.	



Development

Source: BLM RRCNCA approved RMP and ROD (BLM 2005)

- Explanations of how the changed management will move this resource toward improved, desired conditions.
- Change management, including any required NEPA documentation or analysis. Return to step 10 and repeat as necessary.

Adaptive Management Scenarios

Below are two hypothetical scenarios describing how the BLM would conduct adaptive management in accordance with this RAMP and by implementing selected proposed management direction in Section 2.3.3, Management Goals, Strategies, and Decisions.

Adaptive Management Example 1: Trail Use Decision 1

Step 10. Continue pedestrian and equestrian activities as the only approved trail uses in the Calico Basin.

- Continue trail management with horseback riding and hiking being the only approved trails uses (Trail Use Decision 1).
- Inform the staff, partners, and the public that horseback riding and hiking will continue to be the acceptable trail uses in the Calico Basin and ensure staff are ready to respond to feedback from mountain biking and OHV communities or other members of the public.

Step 11. Conduct monitoring and evaluate the effectiveness of limiting trail use at the Calico Basin to just horseback riders and hikers.

- Use ongoing trail use monitoring, which should already have been occurring, to establish baseline conditions. Include consistent impact indicators and evidence of any unapproved uses in the monitoring records by BLM staff (or partners and the public).
- Following an adequate period to observe and monitor changes, consider if unauthorized trail use is continuing and causing the conditions away from the relevant goals, desired conditions, and appropriate characteristics for given MEAs (see Section 2.3.3, Management Goals, Strategies, and Decisions and **Table 3-1**). An example would be evidence of ongoing mountain bike use on any trails in the Calico Basin, particularly within wilderness.

Step 12. Adjust management to achieve desired conditions and explain the change.

- If there is movement away from desired conditions despite the continued trail use regulation, consider why and how the BLM could adjust management, such as adding more signage at trailheads or hardening entry points to move toward desired conditions. Also, consider how these changes could affect other resources and uses.
- If necessary, adjust management or visitation regulations with adequate documentation (including any required NEPA documentation or analyses) as described above under the adaptive process in step 14.
- Repeat, as necessary, following this process.

Example 2: Fee Management Decisions 1–3

Step 10. Implement a site-specific fee for the Calico Basin.

- Implement a site-specific fee for the Calico Basin to address specific maintenance, operational, or capital improvement needs; install a fee station; and regulate visitation numbers based on environmental conditions, recreation uses, and facilities/infrastructure (**Fee Management Decisions 1–3**). Note that the construction of a fee station is an implementation-phase project that would require additional NEPA analyses.
- Inform the staff, partners, and the public of the fee implementation and ensure staff is ready to respond to feedback.

Step 11. Conduct monitoring and evaluate the effectiveness of the site-specific fee at the Calico Basin.

- Use monitoring, which should already have been occurring across multiple resources prior to implementation of **Fee Management Decisions 1–3**, to establish baseline conditions with the

extensive visitation before regulating visitation numbers. Include consistent impact indicators in the monitoring records by BLM staff (or partners and the public).

- Following an adequate period to observe and monitor changes resulting from visitation regulations—for example, 1 year may be required to allow vegetation to regrow or soils to stabilize—consider if reducing the number of visitors at the Calico Basin has moved resource conditions toward the relevant goals, desired conditions, and appropriate characteristics for given MEAs (see **Section 2.3.3**, Management Goals, Strategies, and Decisions and the appropriate MEA [**Table 3-1**]).

Step 12. Adjust management to achieve desired conditions and explain the change.

- If there is movement away from desired conditions despite the regulation of visitation numbers, consider why and how the BLM could adjust management or visitation further to move toward desired conditions. Also, consider how these changes could affect other resources and uses.
- If necessary, adjust management or visitation regulations with adequate documentation (including any required NEPA documentation or analyses) as described above under the adaptive process in step 14.
- Repeat, as necessary, following this process.

Chapter 4

Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

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Chapter 4. Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the affected environment, which is the existing or baseline conditions relevant to each resource or resource use. Following the affected environment is a description of the environmental effects relative to each issue. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations under 40 CFR 1500 and the BLM NEPA handbook require the BLM to identify significant issues for analysis and focus only on those issues. The BLM NEPA handbook defines an issue as “a point of disagreement, debate, or dispute with a proposed action based on some anticipated environmental effect” (BLM 2008, page 40). In addition, an issue “has a cause and effect relationship with the proposed action and alternatives; is within the scope of analysis; has not be [sic] decided by law, regulation, or previous decision; and is amenable to scientific analysis rather than conjecture” (BLM 2008, page 40).

4.2 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

4.2.1 Recreation

Recreation Activities and Visitation

The RRCNCA provides a variety of recreation opportunities for visitors and is the most visited NCA in the nation, with over 3.5 million visitors in 2020. Visitation in the RRCNCA is projected to break 4 million visitors in 2022 and 5 million by 2024 (BLM 2021b). Located 17 miles west of Las Vegas, the Calico Basin within the RRCNCA is a premier outdoor recreation destination in the area. Typical recreation in the Calico Basin includes hiking, rock climbing, bouldering, horseback riding, picnicking, viewing of archaeological and cultural sites, photography, and mountain biking. Visitation has increased dramatically in the Calico Basin over recent years due to the increasing popularity of the site, the lack of entrance fees, the close proximity to a growing Las Vegas population, and increases in participation and interest in outdoor activities (**Table 4-1**). Peak visitation is from October to April; visitation is less during the summer months when temperatures frequently exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Some of the busiest times of the year in the Calico Basin are during the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas.⁸

The Calico Basin is a premier destination for rock climbing and bouldering, and the RRCNCA is considered one of the best places in the world to climb. There are 32 designated climbing crags and 550 acres of concentrated climbing use in the RRCNCA (see **Figure 3**). Several popular rock climbing and bouldering sites, such as Kraft Boulders, are accessible from both the Red Spring and Kraft Mountain parking areas. Other predominant recreational uses in the Calico Basin include hiking and horseback riding on trails and sightseeing along the Red Spring Boardwalk and at Calico Hills.

⁸ Joshua Travers, BLM Red Rock/Sloan Assistant FO Manager and recreation subject matter expert, personal communication on May 14, 2021, with Peter Gower from EMPSi.

Table 4-I. Visitation Trends

Year	Visitation in the Calico Basin (people)	Visitation in the RRCNCA (people)
2012	2,828	1,022,207
2013	5,560	1,016,802
2014	13,124	1,753,250
2015	241,012	1,203,089
2016	116,658	1,324,009
2017	137,272	2,218,286
2018	708,613	3,119,029
2019	383,857*	3,563,596
2020	737,251**	3,218,149***

Source: BLM RMIS 2021

*The 2019 government shutdown influenced visitation to the Calico Basin because the Red Spring parking area and facilities were closed during the 30-day shutdown.

**The BLM closed the RRCNCA, including the Calico Basin, for 90 days because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

***The BLM was unable to collect visitor use data for approximately 60 days because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the Red Spring Picnic Area, there is a platform for events and educational outings, including film and photography, commercial climbing and hiking, and wedding ceremonies. The BLM issues SRPs for these events. During non-summer months, there are typically three to six weddings per day; weddings increased more than 200 percent from 2019 to 2020, even given the COVID-19 pandemic.⁹

The Red Spring area is part of the fee area for the RRCNCA. The business plan refers to the Calico Basin as the Red Spring area. The BLM has the authority to charge standard and expanded amenity fees pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Public Law 108-447). Although Calico Basin is within the fee area, the BLM has not implemented fee collection to date (BLM 2018).

Approximately 1,660 acres in the northwest portion of the Calico Basin are within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness (see **Section 4.2.2**, Conservation Lands). Recreation in the wilderness area is mostly the same as that taking place in the non-wilderness areas in the Calico Basin; the exceptions are there are no developed facilities and commercial filming; also, other activities are prohibited in the wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and BLM Manual 6340 (Management of Designated Wilderness Area). Group sizes in the wilderness area are notably smaller than elsewhere in the Calico Basin, especially compared with Red Spring and Kraft Mountain.

Camping, target shooting, hunting, and OHV use are restricted in the Calico Basin. Mountain biking is restricted in the core area of Calico Basin and occurs on unsanctioned trails in other parts of the planning area. The BLM has witnessed visitors illegally camping at the climbing areas or in their vehicles in the parking lots.

Access

Motorized access to BLM-administered lands and private inholdings in the Calico Basin is via Calico Basin Road. In the Calico Basin, a small road network provides access to public lands and private

⁹ Joshua Travers, BLM Red Rock/Sloan Assistant FO Manager and recreation subject matter expert, personal communication on May 14, 2021, with Peter Gower from EMPSi.

inholdings. Before 2021, Clark County operated and maintained all the roads that were vacated to the county by private owners as well as ROWs authorized by the BLM to Clark County for operations, maintenance and drainage within the Calico Basin. The BLM and Clark County recently negotiated the relinquishment of approximately 2 miles of road ROWs associated with Calico Basin Road, Calico Drive, Assisi Canyon Avenue, and Sandstone Drive. Per the terms of the agreement, the BLM will reassume the operations and maintenance responsibilities for these roads. Clark County will vacate the road ROWs on private land back to the private landowners who will assume operations and maintenance responsibilities for these private roads in the Calico Basin.

Nonmotorized and nonmechanized trails in the Calico Basin connect with private inholdings in the Calico Basin and with communities, such as Summerlin, east of the Calico Basin. The Legacy Trail will also provide pedestrian and bicycle access via a dedicated pathway along State Route 159 from the Las Vegas metropolitan area to Calico Basin Road. The section of the Legacy Trail connecting Summerlin to the Red Rock fee station is in the late planning stages with a planned completion date in 2023. Cyclists currently ride along the narrow shoulders of State Route 159 and Calico Basin Road.

Facilities

The two primary facilities in the Calico Basin planning area are the Kraft Mountain Trailhead and parking area and the Red Spring Picnic Area. The parking area at the Kraft Mountain Trailhead has a gravel surface with approximately 80 spots; it is located adjacent to a private inholding and accessible via Sandstone Drive. On busy days, there can be over 100 vehicles in the parking lot with vehicles overflowing onto the adjacent street network. The Kraft Mountain Trailhead provides trail access to the Kraft Rocks for rock climbing, and to the Rattlesnake Trail, Desert Cave Trail, and Kraft Mountain Loop Trail for hiking (see **Figure 3**). There are no restrooms, picnic areas, or other facilities at the Kraft Mountain Trailhead.



Figure 12. Red Spring Picnic Area

The Red Spring Picnic Area is the most developed recreation site in the Calico Basin. It is accessible via Calico Basin Road and has a paved parking lot with approximately 125 spots. The site includes five small picnic areas under shade structures (see **Figure 12**), one group picnic area with a pavilion shade structure, interpretive signs, a bike rack, animal-proof waste receptacles, two restroom facilities, and a raised wooden boardwalk (see **Figure 13**). The group picnic area is frequently reserved for special events, such as weddings. The Red Spring site also provides access to many miles of trails, including the 1-mile Red Spring Boardwalk loop.

Trails

The Calico Basin has approximately 38 miles of designated trails for hiking, running, accessing climbing crags, horseback riding, and nature viewing and photography. Although the area is closed to mountain bike use, trail observations indicate mountain biking does occur, especially in the non-core area of Calico Basin on trails connecting the Calico Basin



Figure 13. Red Spring Boardwalk

with nearby residential areas. During a trail inventory conducted in November 2020, approximately 23 miles of the trails exhibited evidence of use by mountain bikers (see **Table 4-2**). Trails in the Calico Basin are designed for hiking or equestrian use. Unauthorized mountain biking conflicts with other nonmechanized recreational uses. Motorized use is not allowed on trails in the Calico Basin.

In addition to the trailheads at Kraft Mountain and Red Spring, Gene's Trailhead is another popular access point for trail-based recreation. The trailhead is an unpaved parking area pull-off on the side of Calico Basin Road (see **Figure 3** and **Figure 8**). This trailhead parking area is not maintained by the BLM, but it provides access for a variety of BLM-managed trails and trailheads in the southern portion of the Calico Basin.

Table 4-2. Miles of Designated Trails in the Calico Basin

Designated Trails	Miles
Ash Spring	0.66
Brownstone Canyon	2.88
Calico Basin Trail	0.22
Calico Overlook	0.68
CB Middle	0.97
Gene's Trail	1.31
Kraft Mountain Loop Trail	2.14
Rattlesnake	1.50
Total	10.36

Source: BLM 2020

Table 4-3. Miles of Inventoried Trails in the Calico Basin to Be Evaluated for Potential Designation

Inventoried Trails	Miles
Bad Bunny	1.06
Bernie Mac	0.38
Boardwalk	0.46
Calico Causeway	0.03
Calico Inner Circle	1.12
Calico Overlook	0.17
David Flowie	0.79
East Calico	1.35
Into the Sun	1.58
Jump Up	0.19
Kraft Mountain Loop Trail	0.56
Santeria	1.14
Santeria East	0.16
Sneaky Pete	0.07
Steve Wander	0.59
Total	9.65

Source: BLM 2020

Special Recreation Permits

The BLM manages SRPs programmatically within the Calico Basin for both commercial and organized group activities and events (BLM 2010). The Calico Basin is within the core area that the BLM manages

in the RRCNCA for SRPs (BLM 2010). The core area is defined as the system of trails and roads, including the Scenic Drive; Red Spring; the Calico Basin area; and facilities along State Route 159, including the Dedication Overlook, Scenic Drive Exit, Old Oak Creek, First Creek, and Moenkopi Road. The core area also includes the La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness for some, but not all, approved SRP activities.

Table 4-4 summarizes the SRP management outlined in the programmatic EA for commercial guide and special event services, including the types of SRPs that could be issued and the maximum number based on historical use of the conservation area (BLM 2010). Additional details are provided in the BLM's programmatic EA for SRPs (BLM 2010).

Table 4-4. SRP Management in the RRCNCA as It Applies to the Calico Basin

SRP Type*	Number of Permits	Number of Tours/Events	Maximum Participation
<i>Ongoing Commercial SRPs</i>			
• Rock climbing—"Guest" (limited to two 5-day or one 10-day period per year)	8 per day	2 per area	12 persons per tour
Rock climbing—Full-time	5 per day	2 per area	12 persons per tour
Hiking guided tours	5 per day	2 per day	12 hikers per tour
• Equestrian—Full-time	3 per day	8 per day	40 riders per tour
Equestrian—Guest permits (Scenic Drive exit)	1 per month	1 per month	40 riders per tour
Yoga/fitness groups	2 per day	1 per day	12 participants per event
• Weddings (State Route 159 Overlook, Red Spring Boardwalk, and Sandstone Quarry)	2 full-time	5 per day	50 or less per event depending on location
Artistic	2 per day	1 per day	12 participants per event
<i>Competitive Event SRPs</i>			
• Foot races	5 per year	N/A	500 individuals
• Rock climbing	1 per year	N/A	1,000 individuals participating or spectating
• Poker runs	5 per year	N/A	50 individuals
• Dual sport—Rocky Gap	2 per year	N/A	50 individuals
• Equestrian—Rocky Gap	1 per year	N/A	50 individuals
<i>Noncompetitive Event SRPs</i>			
• Foot—Trails and unpaved roads	2 per year	N/A	300 individuals
• Hiking—Organized groups not educational	10 per year	N/A	50 individuals per group, divided into sections of 15 with 20-minute spacing between sections
• Mountain climbing—Organized groups/educational	5 per year	N/A	10 days per permit total, 50 individuals per permit
• Equestrian	5 per year	N/A	50 individuals

SRP Type*	Number of Permits	Number of Tours/Events	Maximum Participation
• Group use picnic—Other (Willow Spring, Red Rock Canyon Overlook, and off-season campground)	24 per year	N/A	50 individuals
• Group use picnic—Red Spring	300 per year	N/A	50 individuals
• Vehicle—Educational	50 per year	N/A	75 individuals
• Wedding	12 per month	N/A	50 individuals

Source: BLM 2010

*Note that **Table 4-4** only includes those SRPs that are applicable to the Calico Basin. Appendix A includes a list of all SRPs in the core area of the entire RRCNCA.

4.2.2 Conservation Lands

NCA

Section 2002 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (OPLMA) of 2009 withdraws the RRCNCA from the multiple-use and sustained-yield directive for management of public lands. Under the OPLMA, the RRCNCA is managed for conservation of cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations, through the establishment of the NLCS.

Wilderness

Approximately 1,660 acres in the northwest portion of the Calico Basin are within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness (see **Figure 14**). The La Madre Mountain Wilderness was designated as wilderness by the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002. While this wilderness area is jointly managed by the US Forest Service and the BLM in certain parts of its range, the acres within the Calico Basin are administered solely by the BLM. The La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Management Plan (BLM and Forest Service 2013) summarizes the qualities of wilderness character within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.

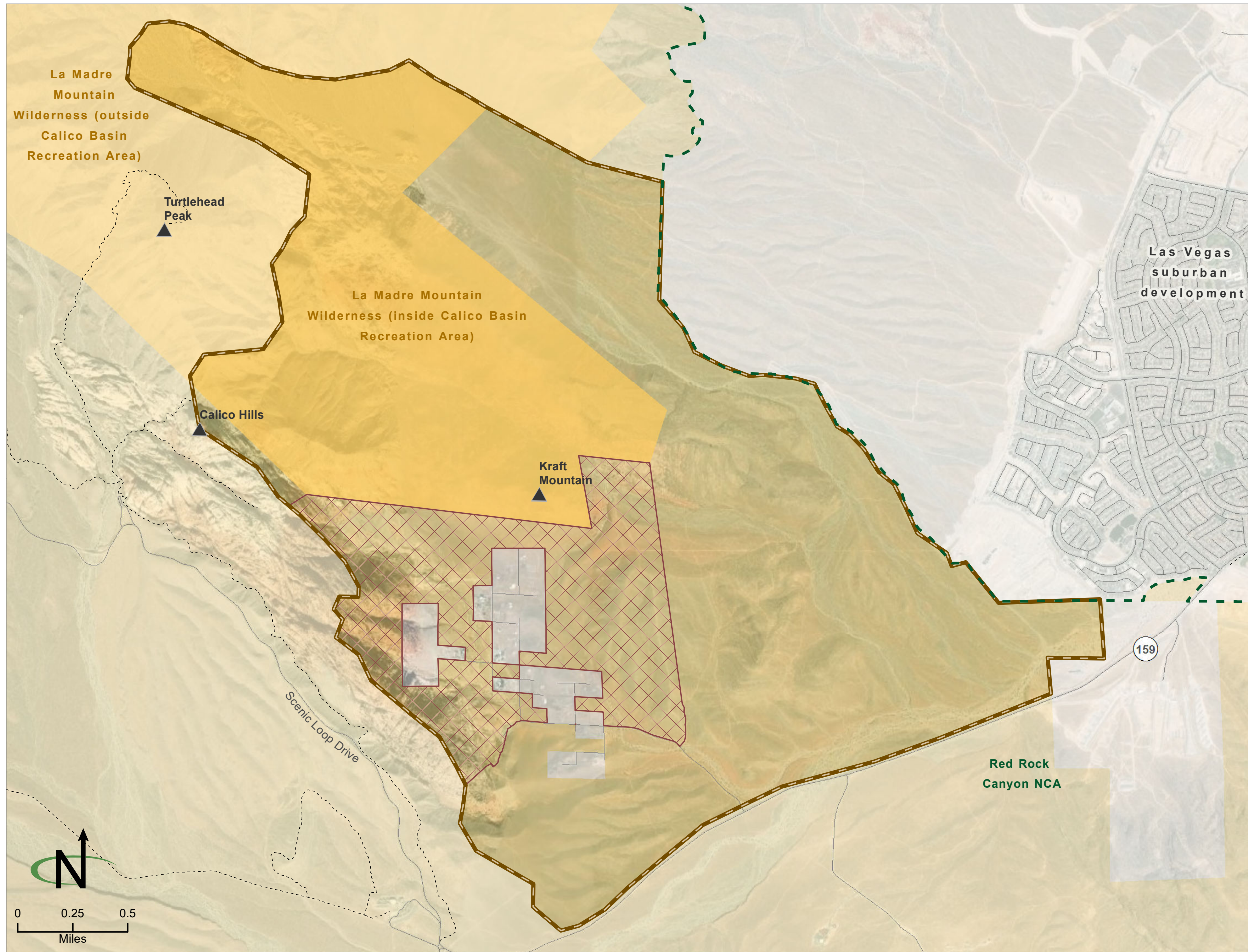
The wilderness is highly scenic and offers excellent views of classic basin and range formations, including the Keystone Thrust formation above Brownstone Basin, where older limestone has been pushed over younger sandstone. There are pre-contact sites throughout the area, including rock writing (pictographs and petroglyphs), agave roasting pits, and rock shelters. Within the wilderness, Brownstone Canyon is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP; Forest Service 2021).

Wild Horses and Burros

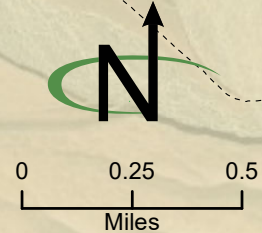
The BLM maintains a wild horse and burro program, which protects wild horses and burros on 26.9 million acres of public lands across 10 western states as part of its mission to administer public lands for a variety of uses; however, these lands are not considered conservation lands, such as the NCA or wilderness. The wild horse and burro program's goal is to manage healthy wild horses and burros on healthy public rangelands. The RRCNCA includes the Red Rock Herd Management Area (RRHMA), which is managed by the BLM. There are 970 acres of the RRHMA located in the Calico Basin, and more acres of the RRHMA are to the south, west, and north. During the hot months of the year, the wild



**Figure 14
Wilderness**



- Wilderness
- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- BLM trail
- Clark County road
- National Conservation Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private



Source: BLM GIS 2021. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District Office April 04, 2022, CalicoBasinRAMP_AE_Wilderness.mxd
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burros occupy areas characterized by ravines, which supply shade, while the wild horses tend to occupy the open country. During the cooler season, wild horses and burros use all the RRHMA (BLM 2021c).

4.2.3 Cultural Resources

The readily available water at Red Spring, Calico Spring, and Ash Spring made the area attractive to Indigenous groups who occupied the area as early as 13,000 years before present. The archaeological record of the Calico Basin provides evidence of use and intermittent occupancy by the Patayan, Ancestral Puebloan, and Southern Paiute people. Pre-contact sites, features, and artifacts found in the Calico Basin include rock writing panels, rock shelters, roasting pits, burned bone, milling sites, lithic scatters, and ceramics (Myhrer 1991).

Southern Paiute peoples already resided in and around the Calico Basin in the 1700s when Europeans first arrived in southern Nevada (BLM 2005). Of note is the Brownstone Canyon District, which is listed on the NRHP and located in the northern portion of the Calico Basin. Its resources include extensive rock writing, roasting pits, and historic Civilian Conservation Corps water projects (Myhrer 1991).

4.2.4 Biological Resources

Vegetation, Invasive Species, and Noxious Weeds

General Vegetation

Vegetation types on BLM-administered lands within the Calico Basin are characterized mostly by Mojave Mid-Elevation Mixed Desert Scrub (2,520 acres), Sonora-Mojave Creosote Bush-White Bursage Desert Scrub (1,390 acres), and North American Warm Desert Bedrock Cliff and Outcrop (880 acres). Vegetation varies with the topography, soil type, and elevation. These vegetation communities are illustrated in **Figure 15** and summarized below in **Table 4-5**.

The Mid-Elevation Mixed Desert Scrub ecological system is a transition zone found above the lower-elevation Creosote Bush Scrub system and below the montane woodlands system. In the Calico Basin, the Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) and Mojave yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) are among the notable species in the Mid-Elevation Mixed Desert Scrub ecological system. Other species include banana yucca (*Yucca baccata*) and the century plant (*Agave americana*).

Table 4-5. Vegetation Types on BLM-Administered Lands in the Calico Basin

Vegetation Type	Acres
Mojave Mid-Elevation Mixed Desert Scrub	2,520
Sonora-Mojave Creosote Bush-White Bursage Desert Scrub	1,390
North American Warm Desert Bedrock Cliff and Outcrop	880
Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe	170
North American Warm Desert Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland	10
Sonora-Mojave Mixed Salt Desert Scrub	10
Total	4,980

Source: BLM GIS 2021

The Sonora-Mojave Creosote Bush-White Bursage Desert Scrub ecological system is characterized by a moderately dense layer (less than 50 percent cover) comprised of shrubs and cacti, including creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), silver cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*), and hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*).

The Calico Basin has three springs—Red Spring, Calico Spring, and Ash Spring—characterized by riparian vegetation types. Riparian areas are the transition zones between permanently saturated wetlands and dry uplands. Of the three springs in the Calico Basin, Ash Spring has average vegetation diversity. Calico Spring has comparatively high biodiversity compared with Ash Spring, and the white bear poppy is found on the slopes surrounding the spring. There is also an aquatic lichen (*Dermatocarpon luridum*) that has been found in Calico Spring; this lichen has not been recorded anywhere else in Nevada. Red Spring is characterized by both wet and saline meadows, and the alkali mariposa lily thrives in the alkaline soils of this area (see **Special Status Species**, below, for more details about the white bear poppy, alkali mariposa lily, and other sensitive plant species in the planning area).

A newly described plant species in the *Helianthus* genus of the Asteraceae family grows in alkaline outcrops along two riparian drainages in the Calico Basin planning area; these drainages are fed by Calico Spring and an unnamed spring (Draper and Esque 2021). Little is known about this species at this time.

Invasive and Noxious Weeds

Invasive and noxious weeds in the planning area include Russian olive (*Salsola tragus*), red brome (*Schismus barbatus*), Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), salt cedar/tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.), Russian thistle (*Salsola* spp.), species of grasses (*Schismus* spp.), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and species of flowering plants in the *Erodium* genus (*Erodium* spp.). There is the potential for other invasive mustards, including London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*), to be present in the planning area; however, this has not been confirmed. In the larger RRCNCA, puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*) and Malta starthistle (*Centaurea melitensis*) are known to exist; small wild populations of elephant grass (*Arundo donax*) also exist in the RRCNCA and developed areas adjacent to the Calico Basin.

Most species exist in disturbed and high-traffic areas such as roads, trails, trailheads, campgrounds, group areas, and parking lots. The invasive annual grasses, such as red brome, cheatgrass, and *Erodium* species, are more widespread and ubiquitous and not necessarily associated with a specific disturbance, other than wildfire. Tamarisk and Russian olive are typically associated with riparian areas or adjacent to riparian areas. No weed surveys have been completed in the planning area. Weed management in the planning area is guided by the RRCNCA RMP and ROD (BLM 2005) as well as the Las Vegas Field Office Noxious Weed Plan (BLM 2006a).

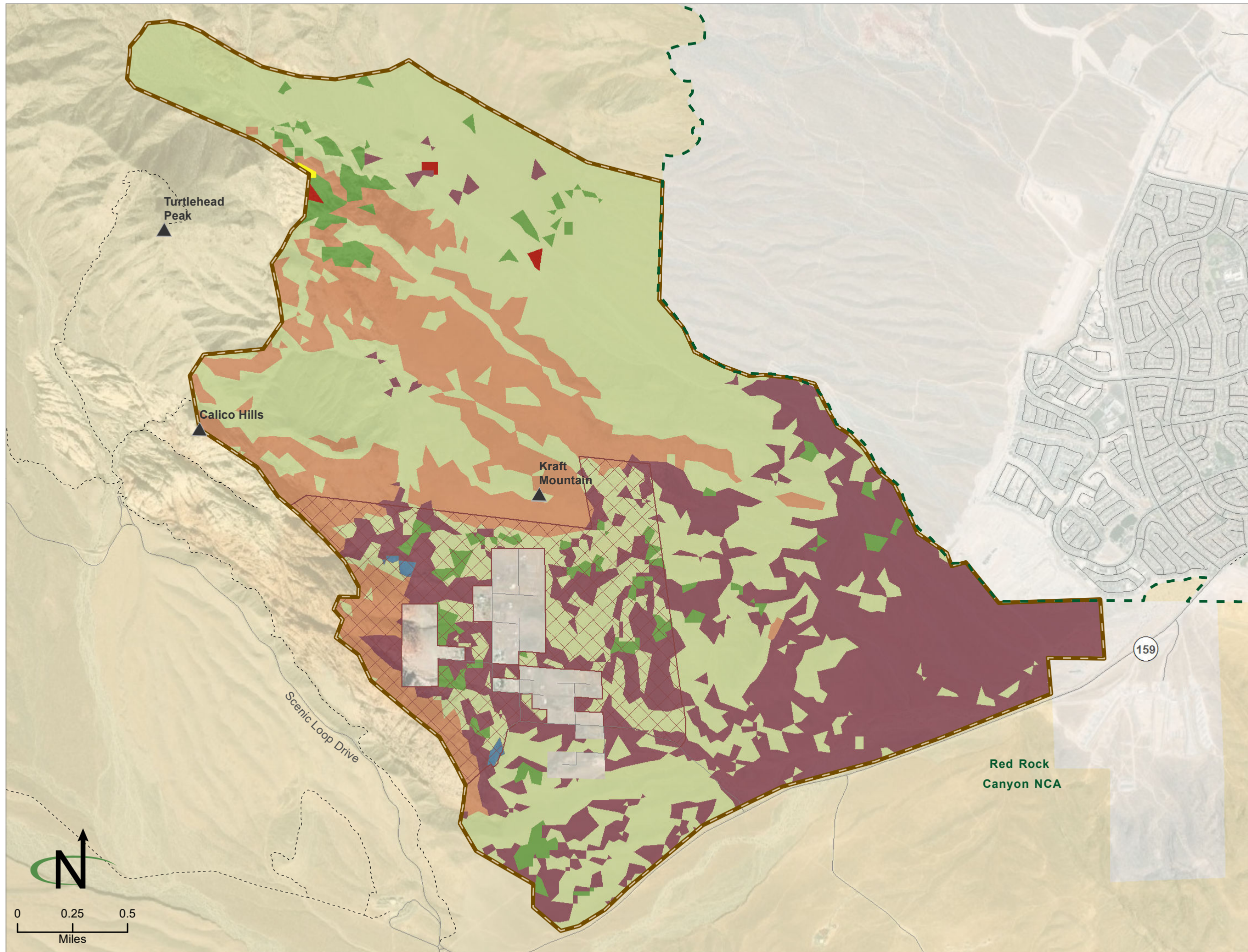
Wildlife

The Calico Basin is within the habitat range for bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), where they are often observed. Other common mammal wildlife species known to exist in the Calico Basin are the coyote (*Canis latrans*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), and kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) (BLM 2003).



**Figure 15
Vegetation Types**

- North American Warm Desert Playa
- Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe
- North American Warm Desert Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland
- Sonora-Mojave Mixed Salt Desert Scrub
- Mojave Mid-Elevation Mixed Desert Scrub
- North American Warm Desert Bedrock Cliff and Outcrop
- Sonora-Mojave Creosotebush-White Bursage Desert Scrub
- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- BLM trail
- 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
 April 04, 2022, CalicoBasinRAMP_AE_VegTypes.mxd
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Common reptilian wildlife expected to exist within the planning area include the western whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris*), zebra-tail lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), long-nose leopard lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*), Great Basin collard lizard (*Crotaphytus insularis bicinctores*), red coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum piceus*), gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), and speckled rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchelli*).

Common avifauna in the planning area include the black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*), black-tailed gnatcatcher (*Polioptila nigriceps*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), and red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) (BLM 2003).

A newly discovered and undescribed scorpion species in the *Paruroctonus* genus of the Vaejovidae family lives in sandy areas along riparian drainages in the Calico Basin planning area and farther south toward Pine Creek in Red Rock Canyon. The drainage in Calico Basin is fed by Calico Spring and Red Spring. Little more is known about this species' distribution of ecology at this time.

Migratory Birds

Migratory bird species commonly known to exist in the planning area are Bendire's thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*), black-chinned sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*), Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*), Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), rufous hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), and rufous-winged sparrow (*Aimophila carpalis*) (USFWS 2021).

Special Status Species

The USFWS's Information, Planning, and Conservation, queried on April 12, 2021, identified three federally endangered species and one federally threatened species to have the potential to exist within the planning area. The three federally endangered species are the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Yuma Ridgway's rail (*Rallus obsoletus yumanensis*), and Pahrump poolfish (*Empetrichthys latos*); the federally threatened species is the desert tortoise. There are no federally threatened or endangered plant species in the Calico Basin. No critical habitats were identified (USFWS 2021).

The Mojave Desert tortoise is the only federally listed species that resides within Calico Basin. Pahrump poolfish have been introduced into Lake Harriet at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, which is outside the planning area and owned and managed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). The Yuma Ridgway's rail and southwestern willow flycatcher are possible incidental species in Calico Basin with no known breeding habitat.

The Mojave Desert tortoise inhabits a variety of habitats, from flats and slopes dominated by Creosote Bush Scrub at lower elevations to rocky slopes in blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*) and juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) woodland transition zones at higher elevations (NNHP 2020). Within Nevada, it is found at elevations between 650 to 4,770 feet. It spends most of its time in its burrows, and it eats a wide variety of herbaceous vegetation, especially grasses and the flowers of annual plants. It also is known to eat woody perennials, cacti, and nonnative species, such as red brome (*Bromus rubens*) and red-stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*). The Mojave Desert tortoise has a sizable and permanent population within the Calico Basin and is frequently encountered by biologists, the public, and contractors working on other projects in the Calico Basin. Nearly the entire Calico Basin is considered tortoise habitat, and visitors should expect to encounter the species throughout the area (**Figure 16**). NDOW biologists

have found and tracked over 30 Mojave Desert tortoises within the Calico Basin, and incidentally observed many more, including within very popular climbing and hiking areas.

Many BLM Nevada sensitive species have the potential to exist in the Calico Basin (**Table 4-6**). Some unique species to note include the Spring Mountains springsnail, banded Gila monster, alkali mariposa lily, and white bear poppy. The Spring Mountains springsnail is a rare species. It is endemic to only seven springs in the Spring Mountains of Nevada, including Red Spring in the Calico Basin, which is the type locality for this species.

The banded Gila monster inhabits desert scrub, semi-desert grassland, and woodland communities along mountain foothills in extreme southwestern Utah, southern Nevada and adjacent southeastern California south through southern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and much of Sonora to Sinaloa, Mexico (NatureServe 2020). Common habitat components include rock crevices, boulders, burrows, and packrat middens used for shelter, typically at elevations above 1,280 feet (NNHP 2020). This species eats bird and reptile eggs and juvenile mammals, including cottontail rabbits and rodents. It is most active from late April through June. Because most of its time is spent in burrows, this species is infrequently seen, and population information may be incomplete. The banded Gila monster occurs in the Calico Basin, but it is unlikely to be seen because of its secretive nature. The NDOW has been studying the Calico Basin's Gila monster for several years and has found and radio tagged over a dozen individuals in the Calico Basin. Many of these individuals occur and live within the Calico Basin's most populated climbing and bouldering areas.

The alkali mariposa lily thrives in the alkaline soils of the Red Spring area. The species is extremely rare in both Nevada and California, and the population in Red Spring is the largest population found in Clark County (BLM 2003). The alkali mariposa lily's habitat in Red Spring is currently stable within the fenced area and almost denuded out of the fenced area. Suitable habitat for the alkali mariposa lily outside the fenced area has been subject to grazing by burros and heavy recreational traffic from hikers and picnickers.

The white bear poppy is a perennial plant found in flat desert scrub and Mojave Desert scrub habitats. It prefers shallow gravelly soil, rocky slopes, and less often valley bottoms. The white bear poppy has been found on the banks of Calico Spring (BLM 2003).

Forestry—Cacti and Yucca

In Nevada, all cacti and yucca plants are protected under 2009 Nevada Code, Title 47—Forest Products and Flora, Chapter 5270: Protection and Preservation of Timbered Lands, Trees and Flora, Protection of Christmas Trees, Cacti and Yucca (State of Nevada 2019).

No surveys for cacti or yucca species have been conducted in the planning area. However, species likely to be present include silver cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*), diamond cholla (*Cylindropuntia ramosissima*), cottontop cactus (*Echinocactus polycephalus*), Engelmann's hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*), desert pincushion (*Escobaria chlorantha*), desert barrel cactus (*Ferocactus cylindraceus*), matted cholla (*Grusonia parishii*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), and plains prickly pear (*Opuntia polyacantha*).

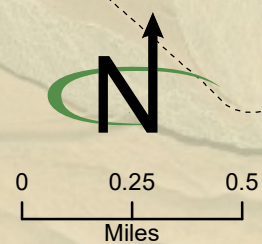
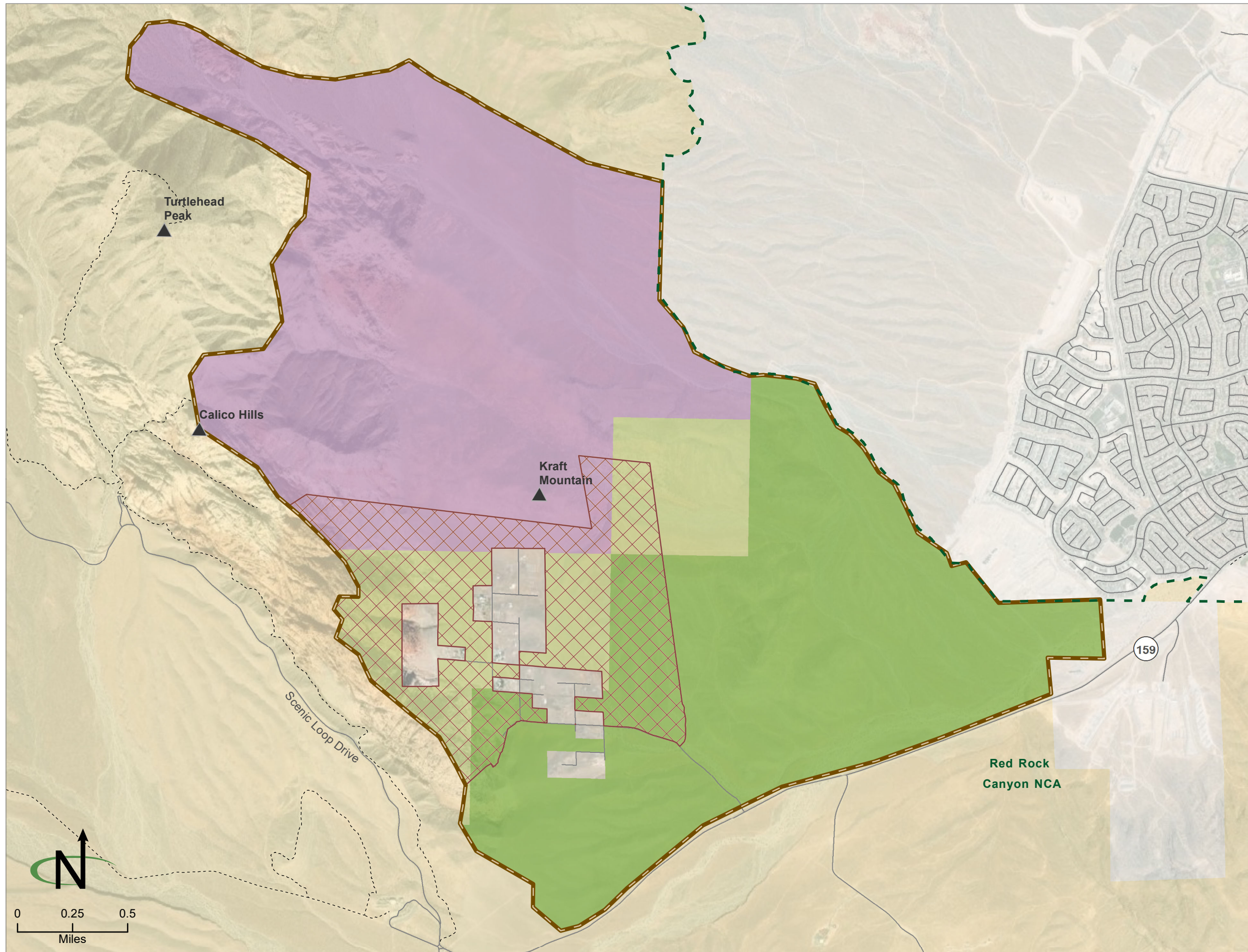


Figure 16
Desert Tortoise Habitat

Desert tortoise habitat model
Values below 0.6 not considered suitable

- 0 - 0.6 - low
- 0.6 - 0.8
- 0.8 - 0.9
- 0.9 - 1.0 - high (none)

- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- BLM trail
- 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
April 04, 2022, CalicoBasinRAMP_AE_DesertTortoise.mxd
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Table 4-6. Special Status Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status¹
<i>Birds</i>		
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	S
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	S, SB
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	S, EB
Prairie falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	S
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	S
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	S
Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	S, SB
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	S, SB
Lewis's woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	S
Pinyon jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	S
Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	S
Crissal thrasher	<i>Toxostoma crissale</i>	S
Bendire's thrasher	<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	S
LeConte's thrasher	<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	S
Sage thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	S, SB
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E, S, EB
Brewer's sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	S, SB
Yuma Ridgway's rail	<i>Rallus obsoletus yumanensis</i>	E, S, EB
<i>Invertebrates</i>		
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	C
Spring Mountains springsnail	<i>Pyrgulopsis deaconi</i>	S
<i>Mammals</i>		
Desert bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>	S
Canyon bat	<i>Parastrellus hesperus</i>	S
Mexican free-tailed bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	S, PM
Big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	S
California myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>	S
Western small-footed myotis	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	S
Fringed myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	S, PM
Hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	S
Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	S, PM
<i>Fish</i>		
Pahrump poolfish	<i>Empetrichthys latos</i>	E, S, EF
<i>Reptiles</i>		
Banded Gila monster	<i>Heloderma suspectum cinctum</i>	S, PR
Desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	T, S, TR
Desert collared lizard	<i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i>	S
Desert iguana	<i>Dipsosaurus dorsalis</i>	S
Long-nosed leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	S
Desert horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma platyrhinos</i>	S
Common chuckwalla	<i>Sauromalus ater</i>	S
Glossy snake	<i>Arizona elegans</i>	S
Regal ringneck snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus regalis</i>	S
<i>Plants</i>		
Mojave thistle	<i>Cirsium mohavense</i>	S
Pinto beardtongue	<i>Penstemon bicolor</i>	S
White bear poppy	<i>Arctomecon merriamii</i>	S
Big root blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium radicum</i>	S
Alkali mariposa lily	<i>Calochortus striatus</i>	S

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ¹
Spring Mountain milkvetch	<i>Astragalus remotus</i>	S

Source: BLM 2017. See source for habitat requirements.

¹ Status Key:

- E: USFWS endangered
- T: USFWS threatened
- C: USFWS candidate
- S: BLM Nevada sensitive species
- SB: NDOW sensitive bird
- EB: NDOW endangered bird
- PM: NDOW protected mammal
- PR: NDOW protected reptile
- TR: NDOW threatened reptile
- EF: NDOW endangered fish

4.2.5 Native American Concerns

The Calico Basin is a region traditionally used by the Nuwu, or Southern Paiute peoples, with significance to their culture that extends to the present (UNLV 2021). It is unknown if there are traditional cultural properties (TCPs) or sacred sites in the Calico Basin, but there are areas of traditional cultural practice. The BLM follows multiple regulations and guidelines when considering these types of resources and uses, including the NHPA (for example, Section 101(d) of the NHPA requires that federal agencies consult with Native American tribes who historically occupied the area of an undertaking or who may attach significance to resources in the region); the American Indian Religious Freedom Act; and EO 13007, Indian Sacred Sites.

The BLM has reached out to many federally recognized tribes in the region. On March 26, 2021, the BLM mailed letters dated March 25, 2021, to the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Owens Valley Paiute Benton Reservation, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Hopi Tribe, and Timbisha Shoshone to invite them to pursue tribal consultation in the development of the Calico Basin RAMP/EA. The BLM completed government-to-government tribal consultation meetings with the Moapa Band of Paiutes (March 3, 2021, and April 7, 2021) and Las Vegas Paiute Tribe (February 19, 2021). The BLM completed tribal outreach meetings with the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Missions Indians on July 14, 2021; August 17, 2021; November 10, 2021; December 8, 2021; and February 9, 2022.

Specific comments and concerns were shared with the BLM. The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Missions Indians expressed concerns regarding potential visual impacts on areas of tribal interest; the tribe requested to be included in the visual impact assessment to recommend key observation point locations to analyze areas of tribal interest in the Calico Basin. Furthermore, the tribe recommended a noninvasive approach to any habitat restoration without ground disturbance and has asked about the policies regarding collecting permits in the area. The Moapa Band of Paiutes requested that NCA fees be waived for tribal members and that updated interpretive kiosks reflect culturally sensitive language. The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Missions Indians and Moapa Band of Paiutes both requested to review any new interpretive kiosks.

As part of the Section 106 process of the NHPA and pursuant to regulations under NEPA and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the BLM currently maintains ongoing consultation with the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe

regarding the Calico Basin RAMP/EA. It should be noted that the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah is generally interested, but has stated that it will defer to the local tribes of Moapa Band of Paiutes and Las Vegas Paiute Tribe for any decisions.

4.2.6 Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources (fossils) found in the decision area consist of remains or traces of plants and animals that existed during the 600-million-year geological history of southern Nevada. Fossils are unique, nonrenewable resources that provide clues to the history of life on earth; as such, they are considered to have scientific value. A minimal amount of paleontological research has been conducted in this region.

Most fossils recorded in the RRCNCA are from the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras. The fossil record representing these eras include brachiopods, gastropods, crinoids, corals, sponges, and petrified wood. The BLM uses the Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system to assess the relative paleontological resource sensitivity of geological units that may be affected by implementation-level actions in the planning area. The sandstone escarpments of the planning area are classified as PFYC 4 and PFYC 3, meaning the area is very likely to contain significant fossils of both vertebrates and invertebrates. Within the washes of the planning area, the PFYC falls to a Class I or is unknown at this time; the likelihood of finding scientifically significant fossils is unlikely. The PFYC system is a helpful planning tool for determining the probability of fossils; however, it is not an adequate replacement for on-the-ground paleontological surveys, inventories, and requirements under the Paleontological Resource Preservation Act.

4.2.7 Public Health and Safety

Public health and safety management is intended to protect the public on BLM-administered lands, to comply with applicable federal and state laws, to prevent waste contamination, and to minimize physical hazards due to any BLM-authorized actions, recreation, or illegal activities on public lands. Maintaining a safe environment encompasses various resources that are discussed in detail under relevant sections in this RAMP/EA, such as recreation (see **Section 4.2.1**), water quality (see **Section 4.2.11**), and roads (see **Section 4.2.12**).

During the early information gathering outreach, the public expressed concerns about:

- the BLM having a greater law enforcement and ranger presence in the Calico Basin to reduce the incidence of drug use and illegal activities;
- better cellular service and ranger dispatch in case of an emergency;
- surveillance cameras at parking lots to reduce crime;
- improved ingress and egress for the public and residents in emergencies;
- ensuring proper traffic flow and adequate parking to reduce accidents, as current access to the Calico Basin is unsafe during peak traffic volume;
- reducing human and canine waste to improve conditions; and
- the Calico Basin roads washing out during periods of high rainfall, causing flash floods and unsafe driving conditions.

These concerns cover the range of issues for public health and safety that are not addressed elsewhere in the RAMP/EA for specific activities such as rock climbing and equestrian use (see **Section 4.2.1**, Recreation). The information presented in **Table 4-7**, below, provides details on the reported crimes in the Calico Basin for February through July 2021.

Table 4-7. Recent Reported Crime in the Calico Basin

Description of Crime Incidents in the Calico Basin*	Incident Number	Location	Responding Agency	Date/ Time
406V—Auto Burglary	LLV210200006336	1200 Block Sandstone Dr.	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police	2/2/21 12:59 p.m.
406V—Auto Burglary	LLV210200093729	14000 Block Calico Basin Rd.	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police	2/21/21 4:23 p.m.
416B—Other Disturbance	LLV210300036283	1900 Block Moreno Rd.	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police	3/8/21 2:45 p.m.
406V—Auto Burglary	LLV210300069990	14000 Block Calico Basin Rd.	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police	3/15/21 3:02 p.m.
406V—Auto Burglary	LLV210400126327	Calico Dr./Heyer Way	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police	4/28/21 2:35 p.m.
441—Malicious Destruction of Property	LLV210500087482	1800 Block Sandstone Dr.	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police	5/19/21 9:53 a.m.
415—Assault/Battery	LLV210600007574	1400 Block Sandstone Dr.	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police	6/2/21 4:18 p.m.
406V—Auto Burglary	LLV210600077916	1200 Block Sandstone Dr.	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police	6/17/21 2:41 p.m.

Source: Crime Mapping 2021

*Data are from February 1 to July 30, 2021

4.2.8 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

Socioeconomics

Data on population demographics, income, and poverty status were collected for the State of Nevada, Clark County, and census tract 58.23, where the Calico Basin is located (**Table 4-8**). Census tract 58.23 is a large area covering more than just the Calico Basin; therefore, it may not be representative of the demographics specific to the Calico Basin. Clark County, including the greater Las Vegas metropolitan area, has been one of the nation's fastest growing areas in recent decades. From the 2010 census to 2019, the population of Clark County grew by an estimated 16.2 percent (USCB 2021).

Table 4-8. Regional Calico Basin Demographics

Demographics	Nevada	Clark County, Nevada	Census Tract 58.23, Clark County, Nevada
Population	2,972,382	2,182,004	8,177
Race (population)			
White alone	1,949,707	1,312,652	5,883
<i>Hispanic or Latino, percent</i>	29.2%	31.6%	Not available*
<i>White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent</i>	48.2%	41.7%	Not available*
Black or African American alone	271,005	255,174	88
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	38,026	18,693	0
Asian alone	242,267	212,385	1,448
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	20,022	16,407	11
Some other race alone	304,947	249,921	360
Two or more races	146,408	116,772	387
Median annual income (dollars)	\$60,365	\$59,340	\$142,140
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level (population)	384,690	295,030	398
Male:	177,291	135,402	145
Under 18 years	63,871	50,946	0
18 to 24 years	18,435	12,754	29
25 to 34 years	21,366	16,490	22
35 to 44 years	17,851	13,876	6
45 to 54 years	17,626	13,621	27
55 to 64 years	20,725	15,255	48
65 to 74 years	11,142	7,959	0
75 years and over	6,275	4,501	13
Female:	207,399	159,628	253
Under 18 years	58,059	45,883	96
18 to 24 years	23,418	16,624	30
25 to 34 years	33,218	26,218	19
35 to 44 years	26,497	21,717	40
45 to 54 years	22,015	16,994	13
55 to 64 years	21,181	15,880	30
65 to 74 years	13,448	9,541	13
75 years and over	9,563	6,771	12

Sources: American Community Survey 2019a, 2019b, 2019c

*The detailed data are not available for census tract 58.23 in the 2019 American Community Survey.

Detailed information on Calico Basin residents cannot be determined from census tract data. Clark County staff estimates there are 40 residences within the Calico Basin occupied by 70 adults and 5 to 10 children.¹⁰

¹⁰ Meggan Holzer, Clark County community liaison, personal communication with William Penner from EMPSi, in 2021.

The RRCNCA RMP provides summary data on demographics of visitors to the RRCNCA compiled from a survey completed in 1992 (BLM 2005). The survey indicated that 55 percent of visitors were male and 45 percent were female; 40 percent were 25 to 44 years of age and 25 percent were 45 to 64 years of age. Age groups 11 and younger, 12 to 14, and 65 and older each represented approximately 10 percent of survey respondents. Of all survey respondents, 87 percent were white, 8 percent were Hispanic, and the remainder were other minorities. The most visitors (35 percent) indicated an average annual household income of \$25,000 to \$50,000. Those earning less than \$10,000, \$10,000 to \$24,000, \$50,000 to \$75,000, and more than \$75,000 each respectively represented 10 percent of all survey respondents. The median household income in Clark County in the 2015–2019 period was \$59,340 (US Census 2020).

Of all visitors surveyed in 1992, 14 percent had a bachelor's degree or equivalent, 46 percent had some college, 26 percent had a high school diploma, and 14 percent did not receive a high school diploma. This is nearly the same as the 2019 census data for Clark County, which indicate 86 percent of people 25 and older have a high school degree or higher (US Census 2020). Visitors that work full-time accounted for 44 percent of respondents in 1992; 16 percent were retired; others were not employed, were students, were self-employed, or worked part time. Slightly over 2 percent had some type of impairment; half of those involved mobility and the other half had a hearing, visual, or mental impairment. Approximately 55 percent of visitors were from Nevada, with most residing in Clark County; 45 percent were from outside of Nevada.

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice populations consist of individuals and families with incomes below the national poverty level and people who self-identify as belonging to one or more ethnic or racial minority group. Impacts on these populations from proposed federal actions would normally be the same as those considered for the entire population of a planning area. If, however, some impacts would have an adverse and disproportionate impact on identified environmental justice populations, then environmental justice impacts would be assessed. EO 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, requires federal agencies to identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

Minority Populations

Minorities are defined as individuals who identify as one or more of the following population groups:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black, not of Hispanic/Latino origin
- Hispanic/Latino of any race

Table 4-8 provides details from 2019 on what portions of the population in census tract 58.23 are minorities. Based on the best available data, which do not include information on the population in census tract 58.23 who identified as White and identified as Hispanic or Latino, the minority population is 28 percent. In comparison, Nevada had a minority population of 54 percent (including those who identified as belonging to two or more races). In Clark County, approximately 56 percent of the

population identifies as a minority. There are no data to determine whether Calico Basin residents have a predominately minority population.

Low-Income Populations

Low-income populations are defined by the US Census Bureau as persons living below the poverty level, based on a total income of \$12,490 for an individual and \$25,750 for a family of four for 2019 data. However, the BLM, Council on Environmental Quality, and Environmental Protection Agency guidance do not provide a quantitative threshold¹¹ for determining whether a population should be considered low income. For this analysis, the percentage of persons in poverty in census tract 58.23 is compared with that of the state. As described in **Table 4-8**, Nevada in 2019 included 13 percent of its population living below the poverty level; census tract 58.23 had only 5 percent of its population under the poverty level. Further, the median family income in Nevada was \$60,365. In census tract 58.23, the median family income was more than double that with \$142,140.

4.2.9 Soils

Soils in the planning area range from loamy to sandy textures. This means they are mostly silt and sand particles and few clay particles. Most soils have high percentages of rock fragments, which means they are very porous and drain water easily. The climate of the Calico Basin and surrounding RRCNCA is arid with extreme heat, low and infrequent precipitation, and evaporation rates that exceed precipitation rates (BLM 2005). This climate does not allow permanently moist soils. Some saline soils are present near riparian areas, which provide alkaline conditions for endemic and rare riparian vegetation (see **Section 4.2.4**, Biological Resources).

Designated Trails

Trails that are near riparian areas in the area are the most susceptible to soil erosion. Within the decision area, 4,390 acres contain soils within 0.25 miles of trails. Soil orders include calcium- and calcium carbonate-rich Aridisols, Entisols, and Mollisols that have dry soil moisture regimes and are poorly developed (USDA GIS 2021). The Natural Resources Conservation Service defines these soil orders in its *Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 12th edition* (NRCS 2014):

- Aridisols are characterized by a surface horizon that is not well-developed and is low in organic matter. Water deficiency is a major limiting characteristic of these soils.
- Entisols are very young soils with little to no subsurface soil development. In general, these soils exist in settings where erosion or deposition happens at rates faster than needed for soil formation.
- Mollisols have a dark-colored surface horizon and are relatively high in organic matter.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service uses a soil erosion hazard rating to estimate the hazard of soil loss from roads and trails. It is based on soil erosion factor K (a measure of soil erosion susceptibility to water), slope, and the content of rock fragments. A rating of slight indicates that little or no erosion is likely; moderate indicates that some erosion is likely and that simple erosion-control measures are needed; severe indicates that significant erosion is expected, and intensive erosion-control

¹¹ A limit on the percentage of persons in poverty

measure are needed (NRCS 2021). **Table 4-9** and **Figure 17** show erosion hazard ratings for soils near trails in the Calico Basin.

Table 4-9. Erosion Hazard Ratings near Trails

Erosion Hazard Rating	Acres within 0.25 Miles of Trails	Percentage of Planning Area¹
Slight	1,410	27.1
Moderate	1,510	29.0
Severe	410	7.9
Not Rated	1,060	20.4
Total	4,390	84.4

Sources: BLM GIS 2021; USDA GIS 2021

¹ The planning area is approximately 5,190 acres

Compacted soils can also contribute to erosion hazard by reducing water infiltration (NRCS 2001). Compaction occurs when force is applied to the surface of a soil that pushes soil particles together and decreases the available space for air and water in the soil (NRCS 2001).

Another indicator for soil erosion susceptibility is the slope (or gradient) of the landscape. The higher percent slope, or the steeper the gradient, the more susceptible soils are to erosion, especially to water erosion. Most soils (54.7 percent) are on gentle to rolling slopes (0–20 percent), but about 36.2 percent of soils in the decision area are on very steep slopes (greater than 80 percent; see **Table 4-10**).

Table 4-10. Slope Percent Intervals near Trails

Slope Percent Interval	Acres within 0.25 Miles of Trails	Percentage of Decision Area
0%–20%	2,400	54.7
21%–40%	360	8.2
41%–60%	50	1.1
61%–80%	0	0
Greater than 80%	1,590	36.2
Total	4,390	100

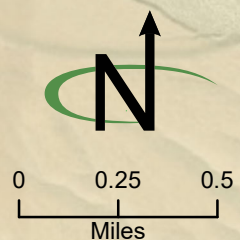
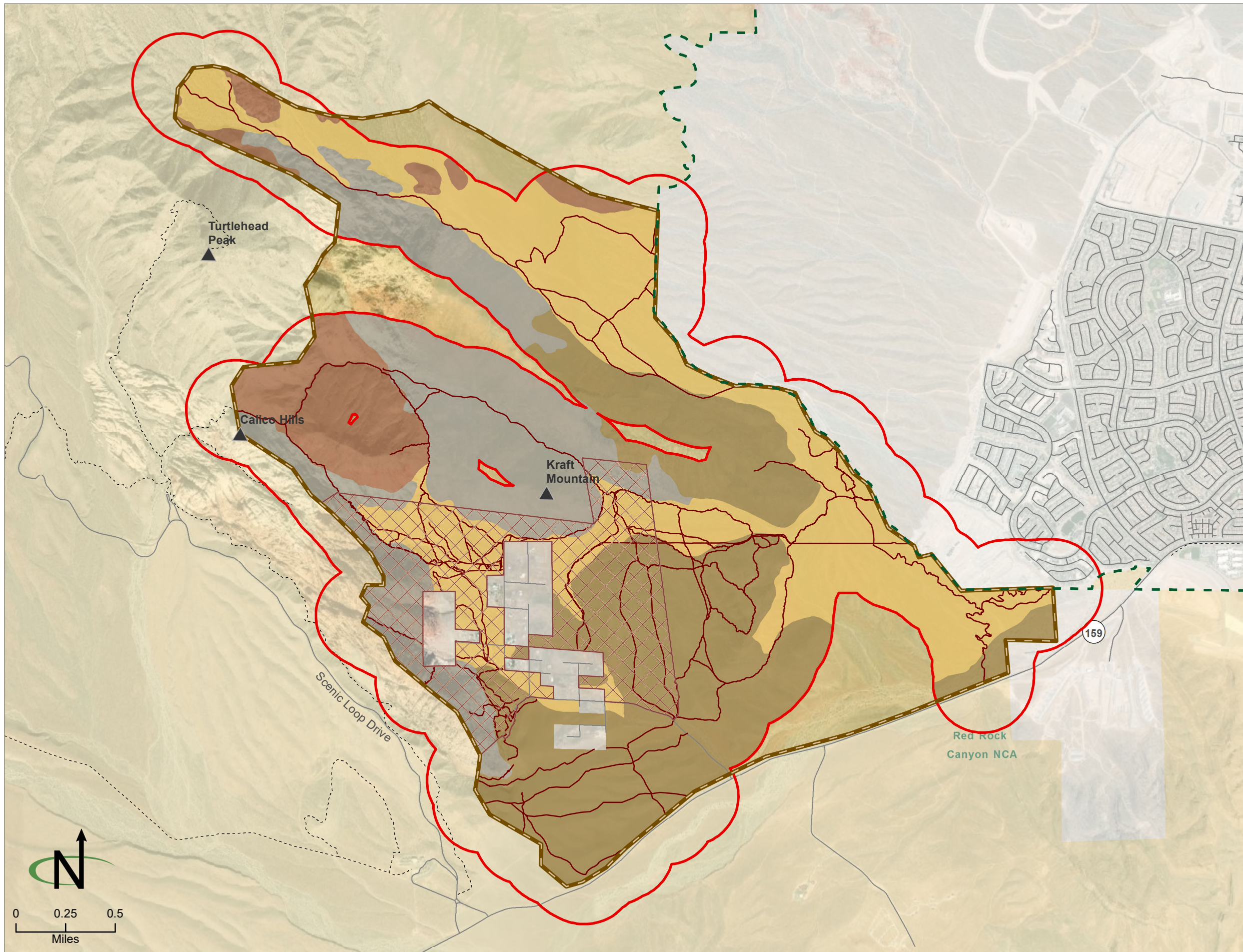
Sources: BLM GIS 2021; USDA GIS 2021

Wind erodibility is greatest for sandy soils and for soils with minimal rock fragments. These soils correspond with wind erodibility groups 1 through 5. Most soils in the decision area are in wind erodibility groups 6 and 8, which have low susceptibility to wind erosion.



**Figure 17
Soil Erosion Hazard**

- Erosion hazard rating
- Severe
 - Moderate
 - Slight
 - Not rated
- Inventoried trail
- 1/4 mile buffer of trails
- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- BLM trail
- 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
 April 04, 2022, CalicoBasinRAMP_AE_SoilErosionHazard.mxd
 No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

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Table 4-1 I. Wind Erodibility Groups for Soils near Trails

Wind Erodibility Group	Erosion Susceptibility	Acres within 0.25 Miles of Trails	Percentage of Decision Area
1	High	0	0
2	High	60	1.4
3	Moderate	0	0
4	Moderate	0	0
5	Moderate	50	1.1
6	Low	2,280	52.0
7	Low	50	1.1
8	Low	1,420	32.3
No Data ¹	N/A	530	12.1
Total	N/A	4,390	100

Sources: BLM GIS 2021; USDA GIS 2021

¹ Rock outcrop that is not rated as a wind erodibility group.

Climbing Areas

Rocks and soils in climbing areas and near the associated social trails are also susceptible to erosion. Affected soils near social trails have similar impacts as those near designated trails; however, social trails are often not maintained and can negatively affect soils in riparian areas that are more sensitive to erosion. Rock types in the Calico Basin are predominantly sandstone and limestone. The oldest rocks, limestones and dolomites, are found at the highest elevations of the basin due to fault displacement (BLM 2005). Several caves are present in these rocks. Recent deposits are made up of alluvial gravel and cemented sedimentary rocks (BLM 2005).

Climbing mostly affects vegetation abundance on cliff faces (Adams and Zaniewski 2012; Clark and Hessel 2015). Erosion can happen on cliff faces where there is loose gravel or sand. Climbing equipment such as ropes, which can cut into rocks from the weight and friction of climbers, and bolts, which are drilled into rocks for protection, can permanently damage rock faces.

4.2.10 Visual Resources

The Calico Basin consists of 5,190 acres (4,980 acres are BLM-administered surface lands and 210 acres are private inholdings) within the 201,617-acre RRCNCA. The BLM's responsibility to manage scenic resources on public lands is established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which states "... public lands will be managed in a manner which will protect the quality of the scenic (visual) values of these lands."

The characteristic landscape within the Calico Basin is determined by the relationships between four basic elements: color, form, line, and texture. The dominant colors in the area are the browns, tans, oranges, reds, and grays of soils and rocks, along with the greens and browns of vegetation. The Calico Basin consists of jagged, mountainous terrain and steep canyon topography, along with rolling hills and broad, flat valleys. The rolling hills and valleys form gently, undulating horizontal lines, while the mountainous terrain and steep canyons create stark, vertical lines across the landscape. Horizontal lines are also distinct in the changes in soil and rock layers along the canyon walls and mountainous terrain.

Texture results from the different vegetation types and erosion patterns. The texture of the terrain is rough and rocky, while the texture of the vegetation is coarse and patchy, mainly consisting of low shrubs and bushes scattered across the landscape. Roads and trails within the Calico Basin consist of horizontal lines and introduce artificial, smooth textures to the natural environment due to clearance of vegetation.

The Calico Basin also has several cultural modifications due to the development of private inholdings and several BLM-managed facilities, which cause varying degrees of contrast with the natural environment. Structures introduce gray and white colors to the visual character of the landscape, along with straight lines, rectangular forms, and artificial textures that interrupt the landscape's natural topography. Residences and headlights from passenger vehicles are the primary light sources in the Calico Basin.

The portion of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness within the Calico Basin is designated as visual resource management (VRM) Class I (see **Figure 18**). The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention (BLM 1984; BLM 1986).

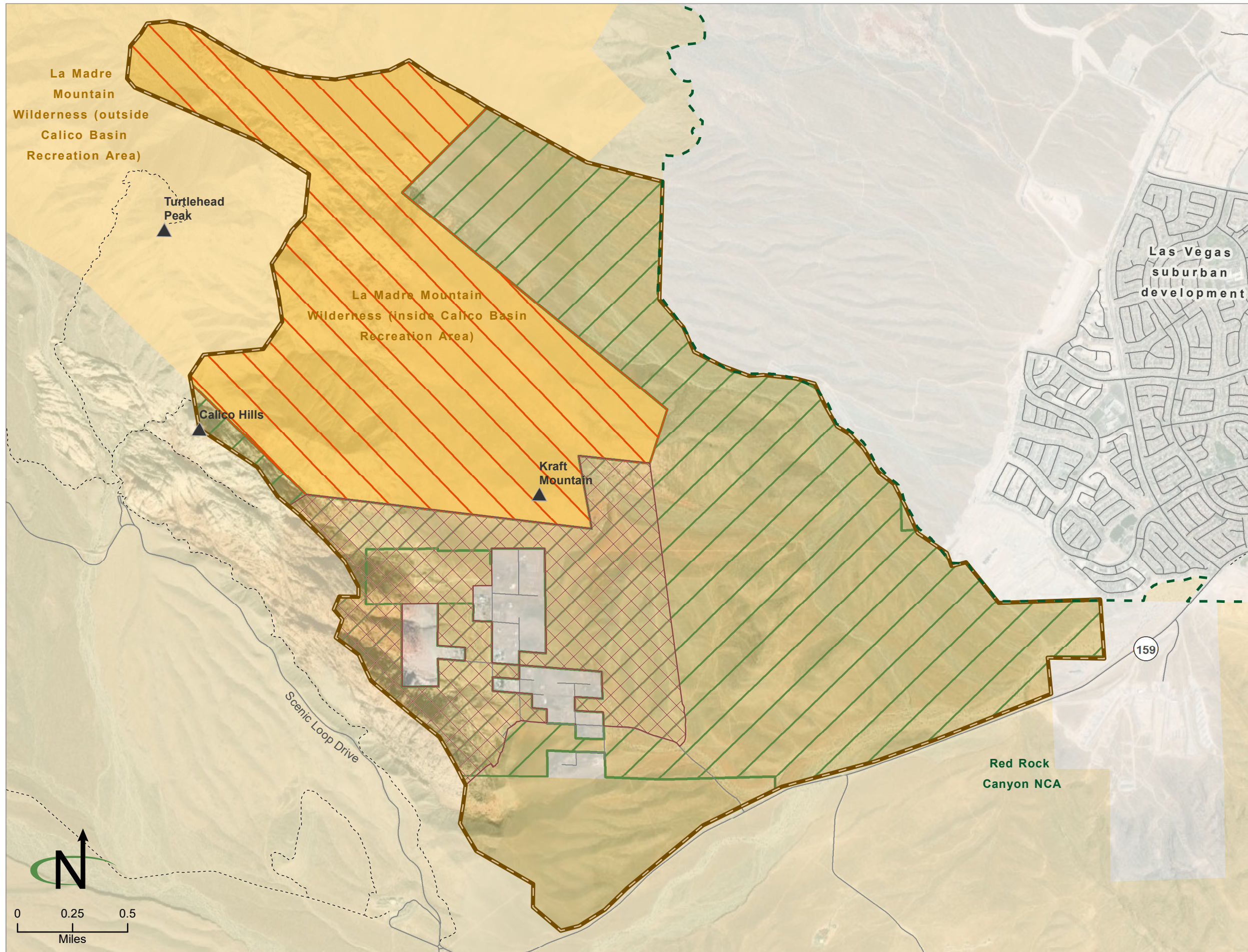
The remaining BLM-administered lands in the Calico Basin (3,300 acres) are designated VRM Class II (see **Figure 18**). The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but they should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape (BLM 1984; BLM 1986).

Residents and visitors are the primary viewers throughout the Calico Basin. These viewer groups typically view the area from roads and trails inside and outside the recreation area. The mixed landownership pattern limits the BLM's ability to manage the area as a contiguous viewshed.



**Figure 18
Visual Resource Management**

- VRM Class I
- VRM Class II
- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- Wilderness
- BLM trail
- 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
 April 04, 2022, CalicoBasinRAMP_AE_Visual_VRM.mxd
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4.2.11 Water Resources

Wetlands

The BLM classifies wetlands as being inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration necessary to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted to saturated soil conditions. There are approximately 108 acres of wetlands in the Calico Basin; approximately 26 acres are of the freshwater pond type and approximately 82 acres are of the riverine type (BLM GIS 2021; USFWS GIS 2021). Their locations within the Calico Basin are shown in **Figure 19**.

Streams and Springs

The BLM defines riparian areas as a form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and dry upland areas. There are 82 acres of these areas within the Calico Basin. These areas exhibit vegetation or physical features that demonstrate the influence of permanent surface or subsurface water common to lands adjacent to perennially or intermittently flowing springs or streams (BLM 2005). There are approximately 35.8 miles of streams within the Calico Basin; approximately 2.1 miles are intermittent streams and approximately 33.7 miles are ephemeral streams (BLM GIS 2021; USGS 2021). The intermittent streams are the likely source for springs, which are often the only source of available water in the arid desert environment of the Calico Basin. These riparian areas attract and sustain higher concentrations of life than comparable lands that are without persistent surface waters (BLM 2005).

There are six notable springs in the Calico Basin: Red Spring, Ash Spring, Calico Spring, Tinaja Spring, and two springs associated with two Civilian Conservation Corps dams (BLM GIS 2021; USGS GIS 2021). **Figure 19** shows the locations of springs and streams within the Calico Basin.

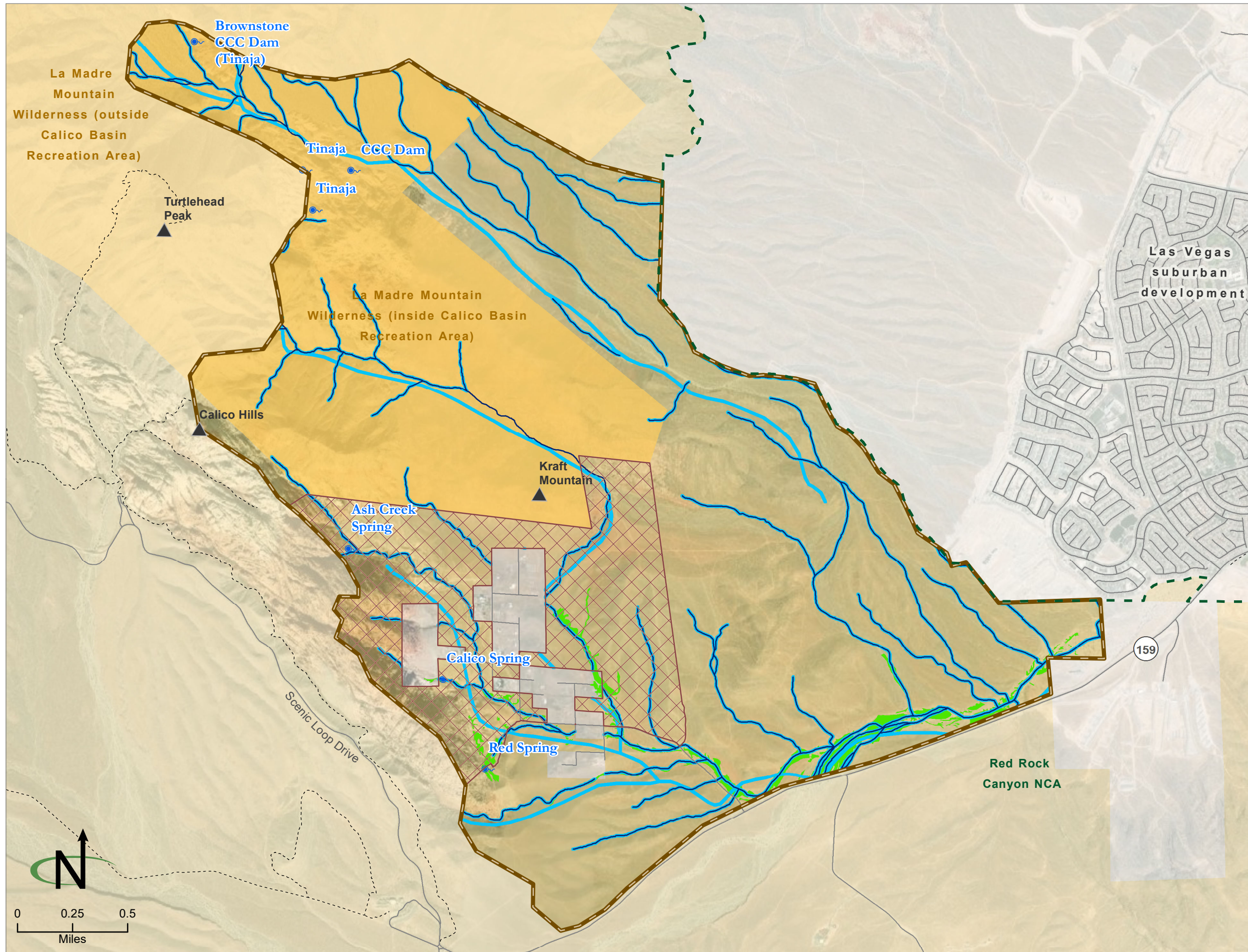
Since the 1970s, Red Spring has been used as a picnic area and recreation area. A road that leads from Calico Basin Road terminates at the Red Spring source. The road and picnic area (and the associated parking) cut through portions of the wet and saline meadows of this riparian area (BLM 2003). Red Spring has saline soils that provide essential alkalinity for the alkali mariposa lily (see **Section 4.2.4**, Biological Resources).

Ash Spring is small, and it can be dry during droughts (BLM 2003). Burros use portions of the spring as a water source (BLM 2003). There are no designated trails near the spring and riparian area, but there are many social trails. These trails are popular hiking and running trails and access trails to rock climbing areas (BLM 2003).

Calico Spring is a small spring that is adjacent to a popular parking area and hiking trail. An endemic aquatic lichen and white bear poppy have been found within the spring's riparian area (BLM 2003). In addition, an endemic species that only grows in the Calico Basin has been found near this spring (see **Section 4.2.4**, Biological Resources).

The Tinaja Spring and the two springs associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps dams are in the northern portion of the Calico Basin in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness. There is one other associated spring, but it is just outside the planning area (see **Figure 19**). Like the other three, these springs are considered unique riparian habitat that is affected by trails within and surrounding its riparian area.

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**Figure 19
Hydrologic Resources**

- Spring
- Stream
- Wetland
- Riparian
- Calico Basin
- Calico Basin core area
- BLM trail
- Clark County road
- Wilderness
- 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_AE_Hydro.mxd
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4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The issues identified during the early information gathering process (see **Section 1.7**) and carried forward for analysis include those elements of the proposed RAMP that would cause or have the potential to cause significant environmental effects. This chapter provides an analysis of the environmental effects relevant to each of the three issue categories identified during the early information gathering period.

4.3.1 Issue 1: What recreation uses should be allowed within the Calico Basin and how should the BLM manage those uses?

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, the recreation management described in **Section 2.3.3** would influence the recreation experience and setting. Impacts on recreation related to Issue 1 are described below.

Recreation

Under the proposed action, the BLM would continue to manage recreation in the Calico Basin consistent with the RRCNCA RMP, but with the additional direction from the RAMP that is specific to the recreation opportunities and resource considerations in the Calico Basin. The proposed action emphasizes the protection of resources while improving the quality of outdoor pedestrian, equestrian, climbing, and specially permitted recreation opportunities and experiences in the Calico Basin; minimizing environmental damage and conflict between recreational user groups; and providing enjoyable and safe visitor experiences.

As a way to balance natural resource protection and recreation use, the proposed action would define allowed trail uses. This would continue to provide opportunities for pedestrian-based and equestrian use on designated trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 2**). There would be no opportunities for legal motorized or mechanized trail-based recreation opportunities in the Calico Basin core area; however, the BLM would evaluate the potential for designating trails as open to mountain bike use in the non-core area of the Calico Basin. Implementing a climbing management plan in the future (see **Recreation Use Decision 3**) would better define climbing routes and access points.

Providing additional educational and interpretive opportunities, including through the development of a trail signage plan (**Education Strategy 1**), would improve the communication of important trail safety and resource protection information to visitors. Signage, education, and other information would convey appropriate trail uses to visitors at parking areas, trailheads, and other activity locations, which would reduce the potential for user conflicts on trails. The proposed action would also authorize the development of annual coordinated trail maintenance plans (see **Trails and Access Decision 5**), which would maintain and improve trail conditions and contribute to positive outcomes for trail users. Efficient use of BLM staff and law enforcement would enforce recreation management decisions, which would improve public safety, reduce conflicts, and contribute to positive visitor experiences and outcomes.

Improving trail access points, particularly at Red Spring, Kraft Mountain, Gene's Trailhead, and Brownstown Trailhead (**Trails and Access Strategy 3**), would contribute to improved visitor experiences. This is because visitors would have a more defined point of access with applicable information and interpretive information. Closing and restoring undesignated social trails and preventing new social trails (**Trails and Access Strategies 4 and 5**) would improve the soil, vegetation, and visual resources conditions that contribute to the characteristics of the MEAs and positive recreation

outcomes. Directing visitors to existing designated trails and any new trails developed in the future would ensure visitors use trails that are designed to accommodate the desired use. Implementing the RAMP, including the monitoring and adaptive management strategies in **Section 3.1** and **3.3**, would ensure the trail network is maintained and supports the intended trail-based uses in the Calico Basin.

The anticipated increased fiscal capacity resulting from the proposed fee structure would contribute to the BLM's ability to enforce designated trail use in the Calico Basin. This would minimize conflicts from unauthorized recreational use and improve the overall recreation experience for hikers, climbers, equestrian users, and other authorized uses in the Calico Basin.

Increasing educational opportunities for recreational users, including school-age visitors (see **Education Strategy 6**), via interpretive signage and visitor information would improve visitors' with an understanding of the factors that contribute to the desired recreation setting and positive recreation experiences. This enhanced understanding through educational and interpretive opportunities would lead to positive visitor behavior in the Calico Basin. These management actions would improve the overall visitor experience by reducing incidents of vandalism or illegal use that degrades the recreation setting and detracts from the desired experience. There would be fewer user conflicts and improved compatibility of recreation uses with the area's natural and cultural resources.

Under the proposed action, there would be opportunities for specially permitted recreational activities, including commercial, competitive, and organized events and other group activities. The BLM would evaluate SRP requests on a case-by-case basis in accordance with BLM Manual 2390, the RRCNCA RMP, and the proposed RAMP. Specifically, implementing **SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Decision 3** would reduce the potential for conflicts between SRP holders and other users; it also would avoid the potential for unauthorized commercial and group activities to detract from the overall desired experience and setting of other users.

No Action

Recreation

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would continue managing recreation uses in the Calico Basin consistent with the RRCNCA RMP. Without a RAMP specific to the Calico Basin, the BLM would not have adequate planning-level direction to implement the necessary projects and programs to ensure the desired recreation settings and experiences are achieved. Increasing visitor use would result in new social trails, continued unauthorized uses, user conflicts, and resource damage that would degrade the recreation setting. Over time, this trend could necessitate temporary or permanent closures of trails or areas to recreation use to achieve the area's top guiding principle of protecting ecological, cultural, and scenic resources. This would decrease or eliminate opportunities for some or all recreation uses.

The BLM would not implement a monitoring and adaptive management program under the no action alternative. While data would be collected where possible to inform future management, the BLM would implement adaptive management on a case-by-case basis to respond to high-priority needs.

4.3.2 Issue 2: How would a reservation system for visitor use help the BLM manage increasing visitation to the Calico Basin, and how would a fee collection system contribute to infrastructure or facilities management and enforcement in the Calico Basin?

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, the recreation management described in **Section 2.3.3** for fees, administration, and facilities would influence the extent of visitation in the Calico Basin. Impacts on recreation related to Issue 2 are described below.

Recreation

As described in **Section 4.2.1**, Recreation, common recreational activities in the Calico Basin include hiking, bouldering, roped climbing, horseback riding, picnicking, viewing of archaeological and cultural sites, and photography. These activities occur in a setting with limited management controls, especially in areas outside the Red Spring Picnic Area and Kraft Mountain Trailhead. There has been a rapid increase in the number of visitors to the Calico Basin to participate in these activities (see **Table 4-1**). The nature and types of impacts of this increasing visitation on other resources are described in **Section 4.3.3**.

Expanding the reservation system (**Visitation Management Strategy I**) currently in place for other parts of the RRCNCA to the Calico Basin would enable the BLM to control the number of visitors entering the Calico Basin. Limiting the number of visitors in the Calico Basin at one time would contribute to a safer, more sustainable, and enjoyable recreation experience for visitors. This is because limiting the number of visitors would minimize recreational user conflicts and reduce the potential for rapidly increasing visitor use to degrade the natural and cultural resources that contribute positively to the physical and social recreation setting. It would enable the BLM to achieve the characteristics needed to be consistent with the RRCNCA RMP MEAs, as identified in **Table 2-1** and **Table 3-1**.

Implementing a reservation system and limiting the number of reservations to the amount of available parking in the Calico Basin (**Visitation Management Decision I**) would limit the days and times when visitors could enter the Calico Basin to participate in a particular activity. During periods of peak visitation, some visitors would not be able to obtain a reservation and would not be able to enter the Calico Basin. Compared with current management, visitors would have less flexibility to enter the Calico Basin on short notice and there would be fewer opportunities, especially on holidays and weekends, to access desired recreation areas. Overall, compared with current management, the management would shift to a more controlled setting.

Implementing a site-specific fee for the Calico Basin (**Fee Management Decision I**) would directly fund recreation facility maintenance and improvements, new facilities, services, programs, and other amenities that would implement the other goals and strategies in the RAMP. Fees would also be used to fund the efficient use of BLM law enforcement, which would provide increased public safety in the Calico Basin compared with the no action alternative. Implementing the RAMP would result in management systems and recreational infrastructure that would allow the BLM to accommodate current and anticipated demand for recreational use in the Calico Basin, while protecting natural resources and contributing to the area's economic sustainability.

Compared with current management, the direct cost for a visitor to the Calico Basin to recreate in an area other than Red Spring would increase. This is because implementing a proposed fee booth on Calico Basin Road (**Fee Management Decision 2**) would result in a mandatory fee collection for all public (non-resident) visitors to the Calico Basin, regardless of their destination in the recreation area. A fee booth would also more effectively collect fees for Red Spring Picnic Area visitors, compared with the current fee collection system for that site, which allows visitors to pay by placing money in an envelope and depositing it in a pay collection vault.

Implementing the RAMP would focus on maintaining existing facilities and infrastructure (**Facility Strategy 1**). A sustainable funding source through the fee program would also contribute to the implementation of other RAMP strategies, such as parking improvements, toilets, information and interpretive displays (**Facility Strategy 2**), a visitor entrance station (**Facility Strategy 4**), and other improvements (**Facility Strategy 5**) designed to achieve the mission for the Calico Basin.

No Action

Recreation

Under the no action alternative, the RRCNCA fee system would only apply to the Red Spring Picnic Area, there would be no fee collection booth, and there would be no reservation system for the Calico Basin. Without a RAMP, the BLM would not have adequate planning-level direction to implement a comprehensive recreation management strategy to address rapidly growing visitor use in the Calico Basin. Continuing current management would lead to increasingly severe overcrowding on access roads, trails, climbing routes, and recreation sites in the Calico Basin. The BLM would be unable to maintain the desired social settings in most areas; this is because overcrowding and resource degradation would lead to a steady and potentially irreversible decline in the area's characteristics for the relevant MEAs.

Without a fee management structure specific to the Calico Basin, the BLM would need to rely on other funding mechanisms to implement maintenance and improvement projects. Combined with increasing visitation, deferred maintenance on facilities and infrastructure could necessitate the temporary or permanent closure of areas. This would further exacerbate overcrowding in areas that remain open.

4.3.3 Issue 3: How will the proposed recreation management in the RAMP/EA conserve, protect, and enhance the natural, cultural, social, and other resource conditions in the Calico Basin portion of the RRCNCA?

Proposed Action

Resource protection is the BLM's foremost guiding principle for managing the Calico Basin (see **Section 2.3.3**). Under the proposed action, the recreation management described in **Section 2.3.3** would impact other resources the BLM manages in the Calico Basin. These impacts are described below.

Conservation Lands

NCA

Due to the unique nature of the natural and cultural resources in the Calico Basin, its proximity to developed areas, and the expected increase in visitation rates, there is a need to effectively manage the natural and cultural resources on conservation lands in the Calico Basin, specifically within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness. In general, outcomes of the proposed action would result in recreation use that occurs concurrently with, but not at the expense of, the natural and cultural resource objects and values

being protected and enhanced in the NCA. The proposed recreation management would help the BLM to accommodate current and anticipated future levels of recreational use in the area while avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating the potential for recreational user conflicts, resource impacts, and undesirable conditions on conservation lands in the planning area.

Wilderness

Compared with current management, the proposed recreation management would minimize the potential for visitor use to impact the natural and undeveloped character of the La Madre Mountain Wilderness. Strategies and decisions would maintain opportunities for unconfined recreation in a primitive recreation setting. **Wilderness Decision 2** is to install eight trail marking signs along the wilderness portions of the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail (see approved MRDG in Appendix D), which would negatively impact the undeveloped quality of wilderness character with these new wilderness developments. These signs, however, will ensure visitors are aware of the designated trail's layout and thereby reduce impacts on the natural quality of wilderness character, mainly soil compaction, denuding of vegetation, and the proliferation of additional social trail creation. Additionally, clearly identifying the designated trail may reduce the need for search and rescue operations in the area, which may enhance the opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Implementing a reservation system (see **Visitation Management Decisions I**) would limit peak visitor use in the Calico Basin, thereby maintaining appropriate visitation levels to the wilderness area. This would result in the protection of the natural and cultural resources in this area while still lessening the number of other visitors in the area and increasing the opportunities for solitude. However, implementing the reservation system would create new confinement in the wilderness. Similarly, considering the setting of the recreation site when evaluating SRPs (**SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Strategy I**) would maintain wilderness character by ensuring commercial services are consistent with the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Additionally, compared with current management, the proposed recreation management activities would allow the BLM to better facilitate implementation of monitoring programs, which would help protect and preserve wilderness character in the long term. Additionally, implementing educational programs would foster visitors' appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural resources—as well as the recreational opportunities—in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.

Wild Horse and Burro Program

The outcomes of implementing the RAMP, as described for the La Madre Mountain Wilderness, would also apply to the RRHMA. Proposed recreation use and fee management strategies would reduce the potential for recreation use to conflict with wild horses and burros. This is because recreation use would be confined to designated areas, visitors would be informed of the management considerations in the recreation area, and the timed entry and reservation system would limit the number of visitors that could encounter wild horses and burros.

Overall, compared with the no action alternative, the proposed recreation management would help reduce the potential for rapidly increasing visitor use to degrade the resource values that the BLM manages per the NCA designation, Wilderness Act, and RRHMA designation. Therefore, the proposed recreation management would effectively comply with the intent of the OPLMA in establishing the NLCS and the RRCNCA by managing for the conservation of cultural, ecological, and scientific values.

Cultural Resources

Due to the Calico Basin's proximity to developed areas and the expected increase in visitation rates, there is a need to effectively preserve and protect cultural resources in the Calico Basin portion of the RRCNCA to avoid potential adverse, local impacts on important cultural and historic properties. Implementing the management direction in the proposed RAMP would allow the BLM to control visitor access, which, compared with the no action alternative, would reduce the potential for rapidly increasing visitor use to degrade cultural resources. Adverse local impacts on cultural resources include vandalism, inadvertent damage, and unauthorized collection of artifacts or other cultural resources. Because cultural resources are nonrenewable resources, most effects on cultural resources are permanent or long term, although there can be some short-term effects on the setting or access.

The potential for these adverse effects on cultural resources increases when there is an increase in population, when there is a change in recreation that alters the visual or audible character of the setting, or when recreation is concentrated in sensitive areas (Nyaupane et al. 2006; Pinter and Kwas 2005). With the expanding population in southern Nevada, increasing trends in tourism and visitation to the RRCNCA, and the Calico Basin's proximity to Las Vegas, the proposed timed entry and reservation system (**Visitation Management Strategy 1 and Decision 1**) would help the BLM accommodate current and anticipated demand for recreation use in this area while avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating the potential for adverse impacts on cultural resources. Clarifying allowed uses (**Recreation Use Decision 1**) and ensuring appropriate enforcement (see **Section 3.2**) would avoid the inadvertent damage to cultural resources from unauthorized uses. Providing more educational and interpretive opportunities for visitors (**Education Strategies 1–8**) would help foster greater understanding, preservation ethics, and appreciation of cultural resources, which would minimize vandalism and unauthorized collection of cultural resources.

No foreseeable adverse effects on cultural resources are expected due to actions proposed in the RAMP/EA. The BLM would comply with NHPA Section 106 requirements for implementation-phase undertakings contemplated in the RAMP/EA.

Biological Resources

Designating specific trails for particular uses (see **Trails and Access Strategy 2 and Decision 4**), clarifying allowed uses (**Recreation Use Decision 1**), and managing visitor volume in the Calico Basin via a reservation system (**Visitation Management Strategy 1 and Decision 1**) would help avoid user conflicts, limit the overall user density on designated trails, and reduce the potential for new social trails. Implementing these management strategies and decisions would decrease impacts on wildlife and birds by decreasing the potential for human interaction and harassment. It would also decrease the potential for trampling or removal of vegetation and assist in minimizing the likelihood of noxious or invasive weeds being introduced to new areas. Prioritizing avoidance of sensitive resources when designating or creating new trails (**Resource Protection Decision 2**) would further avoid disturbance and habitat degradation.

Most plant and animal species are not located on rock faces that are used for rock climbing activities; therefore, impacts from rock climbing, such as vegetation trampling or nest removal, are not anticipated for most species. Ongoing rock climbing has the potential to disturb bat roosting areas and nesting raptors. Some of the Calico Basin's most sensitive wildlife, such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and banded Gila monster, occur in some of the most heavily trafficked areas for climbing. Developing a

climbing management plan (**Recreation Use Decision 3**) would comprehensively evaluate climbing activities in the Calico Basin, including impacts on bats, raptors, and other natural resources. This would minimize future impacts.

Social trails leading to and within climbing areas have the highest potential to impact biological resources. Implementing the RAMP would cause access routes to climbing areas to be clearly marked (**Trail Use Strategy 2** and **Trail Use Decision 2**), and non-designated access routes would be blocked and reclaimed (**Access Strategies 4** and **5**). This would minimize the potential for new impacts on biological resources.

Resource protection, trails and access, and education strategies and decisions would protect and enhance sensitive species' habitats, including those at Red Spring. Specifically, preventing new user-created trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 5**) would avoid trampling of species' habitats and closing and restoring undesignated social trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 4**) would reduce the potential for future disturbance compared with existing conditions. Implementing monitoring (see **Section 3.1**) and adaptive management (see **Section 3.3** and **Resource Protection Strategy 1**) would identify potential impacts on sensitive species and inform new or modified management strategies to protect the species.

Implementing a timed entry and reservation system for the Calico Basin (**Visitation Management Strategy 1 and Decision 1**) would limit visitor use and access to this area to manageable levels. Combined with other management strategies that clarify and enforce allowed visitor uses, improve education, and improve funding for new programs and projects, the fee management program would help minimize the potential for human interaction with wildlife and trampling of vegetation.

Designating parking areas along roadways (**Roads and Parking Decision 3**) and improving existing parking areas (**Facility Strategies 2** and **5**) would decrease impacts on biological resources, specifically vegetation. Constant crushing of plants by car tires and the introduction of nonnative or invasive plants can change the species composition along access roads, which may expand into the surrounding landscape. The BLM would continue to monitor and treat areas currently infested with noxious or invasive weeds in accordance with the RRCNCA RMP and ROD (BLM 2005) as well as the Las Vegas Field Office Noxious Weed Plan (BLM 2006a). Additional monitoring described in **Chapter 3** would inform the need for any adaptive management to address potential impacts from recreation use.

Providing educational opportunities for visitors and local recreationists (**Education Strategies 1–8**) would educate users on the importance of staying on designated trails and picking up litter. These strategies would inform visitors about the consequences of harassing wildlife or trampling sensitive vegetation and soils. Better-informed visitors would be less likely to impact biological resources in the Calico Basin.

Native American Concerns

The proposed RAMP would allow the BLM to control visitor access (**Visitation Management Strategy 1**). Compared with current management, this would reduce the potential for a rapidly growing number of visitors to degrade resources potentially important to Indigenous communities with ties to the planning area. Protecting cultural resources and vegetation communities that can have special significance in Native American cultures by effectively managing the surging visitation numbers in the

Calico Basin under management actions proposed in the RAMP would be beneficial for preserving areas and resources important to affected tribes. Implementing the RAMP, combined with the monitoring and enforcement described in **Sections 3.1** and **3.2**, would help avoid impacts from erosion, effects on the setting of historic properties, vandalism, and unauthorized collection of cultural resources. Avoiding these impacts would protect sensitive Native American resources, sites, and uses.

To respectfully consider the potential visual impacts on areas of tribal significance, the BLM would include potentially affected tribes in any visual assessment of proposed structures to be implemented in these areas. Furthermore, several tribes with cultural affiliation to the region have discussed management opportunities during BLM consultation, including educational and interpretive opportunities for subsequent implementation-level projects outlined in the RAMP/EA. Implementing these recommendations would result in expanded interpretive opportunities and protections of Native American resources.

Paleontological Resources

Adverse, local impacts on paleontological resources could include inadvertent damage and unauthorized collection of fossils. Because paleontological resources are nonrenewable resources, adverse impacts on them are generally permanent or long term. The proposed timed entry and reservation system (**Visitation Management Strategy 1 and Decision 1**) would help the BLM accommodate current and anticipated demand for recreation use in this area while avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating the potential for adverse impacts on paleontological resources. Emphasizing and providing educational and interpretive experiences (**Education Strategies 1–8**) would foster greater understanding, preservation ethics, and appreciation of paleontological resources. These strategies would educate users on the importance of staying on designated trails to avoid inadvertently damaging paleontological resources.

No foreseeable adverse impacts on paleontological resources are expected from implementing the proposed management strategies and decisions in the RAMP. Paleontological resource consideration, surveys, and analyses would continue to be a prerequisite for implementing projects, plans, and programs in the RAMP. If the necessary mitigation cannot be accomplished, the corresponding proposed implementation-level action would not take place (BLM 2005).

Public Health and Safety

Clarifying in the RAMP that trail use is restricted to pedestrian and equestrian use (**Trails and Access Decision 2**), closing and restoring undesignated social trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 4**), and preventing new user-created trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 5**) 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 (**Visitation Management Strategy 1 and Decision 1**) that would limit visitor density, and establishing a fee management program that would contribute to a greater law enforcement presence and ranger patrols (**Fee Management Strategies 1 and 2 and Decision 1**) would limit the types of crimes commonly experienced in the Calico Basin (see **Table 4-6**, Recently Reported Crime in the Calico Basin). The timed entry system would contribute to safer travel conditions on roadways in the Calico Basin; this is 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, outlined in Appendix B, indicates that the impacts on public health and safety 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 roads (**Roads and Parking Decision 3**).

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

Closing and restoring user-created trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 4**), maintaining existing trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 3**), limiting the number of visitors to the area at one time (**Visitation Management Decision 1**), and enhancing educational signage at trailheads or other key locations (**Education Decision 2**) would minimize the potential for impacts on the Calico Basin homeowners and promote responsible recreation near the existing residential neighborhood. Enhanced signage and coordination with neighboring landowners (**Trails and Access Strategy 8**) would also help avoid impacts on area residents from visitors using trails that access the Calico Basin from Summerlin or other neighborhoods. Enhancing trail connectivity and expanding bicycle infrastructure on Calico Basin Road (**Trails and Access Strategy 7** and **Roads and Parking Strategy 2**) would also provide multimodal access to recreation opportunities, including for those without access to a vehicle. **Roads and Parking Decisions 3** and **4** would avoid impacts from visitors parking on private property. Consideration of the residential setting in the issuance of SRPs (**SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Strategy 1**) would also minimize the potential for large group events to disturb Calico Basin residents and nearby neighborhoods.

Compared with current management, local residents would encounter fewer conflicts with visitors. The decision for Clark County to relinquish its ROWs to the BLM on the primary access roads into the Calico Basin and having the secondary roads be privately maintained (**Roads and Parking Decision 1**) would maintain access for local residents, while avoiding conflicts with visitors parking in front of their homes.

The proposed fee management strategies and decisions, including the fee collection, reservation system, and cap on the number of visitors in the Calico Basin at one time, would limit the number of people able to enter the Calico Basin on a daily basis. The Calico Basin is within the RRCNCA fee area. The fee collection system, which would require visitors to pay the fee, could make it difficult for lower-income populations to afford access to the area. This could cause a disproportionate impact on lower-income populations. The BLM's RRCNCA Business Plan (BLM 2018) analyzes the social and economic impacts of the RRCNCA fee program on various visitor groups, including members of minority populations, people living in poverty, and families living in poverty who have children under 18 years of age living at home. The business plan estimates that approximately 17 percent of all visitors to the RRCNCA are members of one of these groups and could be disproportionately impacted (BLM 2018).

Requiring the mandatory collection of fees per the adopted RRCNCA fee program would not result in a change to visitor spending. For the majority of visitors, the payment of an amenity fee would not deter visitation to the area (BLM 2018). Also, there are no data to suggest that a fee collection system implemented for the Scenic Drive in the RRCNCA has affected visitor spending. Similarly, the collection system for the Scenic Drive has not impacted the ability of commercial operators to successfully provide specially permitted recreation opportunities in the RRCNCA.

Private road maintenance could impact those 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. This percentage is significantly lower than it is for Nevada or other portions of Clark County. Further, the population in census tract 58.23 appears to have fewer minorities as compared with Clark County or Nevada, although the lack of available census data on those self-identifying as both Hispanic and White makes exact conclusions difficult. In summary, it appears that the proposed action would not have a disproportionate impact on environmental justice populations.

Soils

Clarifying in the RAMP that trail use is restricted to pedestrian and equestrian use (**Trails and Access Decision 2**), closing and restoring undesignated social trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 4**), and preventing new user-created trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 5**) would limit the potential for future soil erosion from recreation users. In addition, the consideration of seasonal or temporary closures following weather events (**Trails and Access Strategy 10**) would prevent soil compaction and subsequent water erosion from runoff, especially for soils with moderate or severe erosion hazard ratings and for soils on slopes greater than 20 percent.

Under the proposed action, climbing would still have the potential to degrade rock faces and cause sediment or rock erosion, particularly when climbing too soon after rain, which can damage the rock and associated climbing routes. Unconsolidated landings under bouldering routes can cause increased erosion. Closing undesignated social trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 4**) would prevent future soil erosion. Creating a designated system for climbing access under a future climbing plan (**Climbing Decision 1**) would discourage undesignated uses and enable the BLM to maintain and minimize erosion near developed trails.

The proposed timed entry system (**Visitation Management Decision 1**) would limit visitor use to manageable levels. Implementing **Fee Management Decision 1** would allow the BLM to fund trail maintenance and increase enforcement of appropriate trail use; this would avoid excessive and inappropriate uses that contribute to trail erosion. Implementing trail maintenance strategies (**Trails and Access Strategies 9, 11, and 12**) and conducting ongoing monitoring and adaptive management would further ensure that trail conditions could sustain the associated use.

Implementing **Education Strategies 1–8** and **Decisions 1 and 2** would communicate trail information and appropriate trail uses. Informed visitors would be more likely to respect trail infrastructure and avoid behavior that contributes to soil erosion along trails.

Visual Resources

Implementing the RAMP would provide the BLM with the necessary planning-level direction to accommodate current and anticipated future recreation demand while avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating the potential for undesirable changes to visual resources in the planning area. Specifically, implementing a timed entry and reservation system for the Calico Basin (**Visitation Management Strategy 1 and Decision 1**) would provide the BLM with a mechanism to manage the number of people recreating in the Calico Basin at one time. A sustainable recreating population would be unlikely to create new social trails that detract from the visual integrity of the area. Accordingly, the implementation of such a system would be consistent with the guiding principle of protecting scenic resources for present and future

generations. Similarly, considering the setting of the recreation site when evaluating SRPs (**SRPs and Film/Photography Permits Strategy 1**) would avoid the potential for resource degradation from large group events. This would help protect and preserve visual resource values.

The degree to which a management activity affects the visual quality of a landscape depends on the visual contrast created between a project and the landscape. Installing a fee collection booth (**Visitation Management Decision 2**), visitor entrance station (**Facility Strategy 4**), and other facilities and infrastructure (**Facility Strategy 5**) could modify landscape forms, lines, and patterns as viewed from certain locations in the Calico Basin. Vegetation could be removed to accommodate the proposed improvements. While there are already unnatural lines and forms in the Calico Basin, namely roadways, fence lines, and other human-made structures, new or expanded structures could be visually distinct from the existing landscape.

The location and extent of these impacts would be evaluated as part of any future project. Any project would need to conform to the VRM Class II objective to retain the existing character of the landscape (BLM Manual 8400 [BLM 1984] and BLM Handbook H-8431 [BLM 1986]). The BLM could consider strategies such as the use of earth tone colors, textured and anti-reflective materials, and vegetation screening to mitigate any effects on visual resources. These strategies would also be considered during future, implementation-level NEPA analyses.

Water Resources

Under the proposed action, preventing new user-created trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 5**), restricting use or closing trails where there are resource damage concerns (**Trails and Access Strategy 10**), monitoring trail conditions (**Section 3.1.2**), and restoring undesignated trails (**Trails and Access Strategy 4**) would minimize further damage to wetlands, streams, and springs and their associated riparian areas. The anticipated benefits of the proposed management strategies would be more pronounced at Calico Spring and Ash Spring, where social trails are the main cause of riparian disturbance. Implementing the RAMP would also minimize disturbance to the endemic species found at Calico Spring.

The facilities at the Red Spring Picnic Area, including a road that terminates at Red Spring, a parking lot, and picnic areas that have existed since the 1970s, would remain under the proposed action. They would continue the risk for disturbance to the riparian area near Red Spring, including saline soils and the mariposa lilies that depend on these soils.

The proposed timed entry system (**Visitation Management Decision 1**) would limit visitor use to manageable levels. Implementing **Fee Management Decision 1** would allow the BLM to fund trail maintenance and increase enforcement of appropriate trail use; this would avoid excessive and inappropriate uses that disturb riparian areas near wetlands, springs, and streams and contribute to trail erosion. Implementing trail maintenance strategies (**Trails and Access Strategies 9, 11, and 12**) and conducting ongoing monitoring and adaptive management would further ensure that trail conditions could sustain the associated use without adverse effects on water resources.

Red Spring is the only spring located near a parking lot. Changes to parking facilities under the proposed action would not affect other springs in the Calico Basin. Implementing **Education Strategies 1–8** and **Decisions 1** and **2** would communicate trail information, such as appropriate trail uses, and the

importance of riparian areas for the biodiversity of the Calico Basin. This information would help prevent misuse of trails and disturbance to sensitive riparian areas near wetlands, springs, and streams.

No Action

Conservation Lands

NCA

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would continue managing recreation uses in the Calico Basin consistent with the RRCNCA RMP. Visitation would result in ongoing resource degradation, such as soil erosion from new social trails, trampling of vegetation, and irreparable damage to sensitive riparian areas. These changes would alter the scenic characteristics and associated recreation setting that contribute to the NCA values. Without a RAMP specific to the Calico Basin, the BLM would not have adequate planning-level direction to implement the necessary projects and programs to address these anticipated impacts and avoid adverse and potentially irreversible impacts on natural resources from increasing recreation use.

Wilderness

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would continue managing the La Madre Mountain Wilderness according to the La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Management Plan (BLM and Forest Service 2013). Allowed recreation uses would be consistent with the wilderness plan. Rapidly increasing visitation would jeopardize the wilderness character in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness. Specifically, steadily increasing visitor density would diminish opportunities for solitude and potentially impact the natural quality of wilderness character. While the area would remain undeveloped, by not placing eight trail marking signs, the proliferation of social trails and its impact on the natural quality of wilderness character would remain.

Wild Horses and Burros

Continuing to manage recreation use in the Calico Basin without more specific management direction would result in the potential for a rapidly growing number of visitors to encounter wild horses and burros in the Calico Basin. The presence of visitors on trails and noise from recreation at developed sites could disturb the animals. A growing number of visitors would also increase the potential for animals to be displaced from portions of the RRHMA.

Cultural Resources

Management under the no action alternative would lead to continued unrestricted and rapidly increasing visitor access and use in the planning area. Although all applicable federal and local laws are in place and would continue to be enforced to protect the various natural and cultural resources found within the Calico Basin portion of the RRCNCA, there would be an increased likelihood for adverse impacts on historic properties or other cultural resources. These impacts include vandalism, inadvertent damage, and unauthorized collection of artifacts or other cultural resources.

Under the no action alternative, as visitation and recreational uses in the Calico Basin increase, the impacts on resources on or around trails would also increase with the potential for reduced vegetation cover and the resultant erosion that could impact sensitive cultural resources and plant species that may have tribal use. Trails in poor condition can cause users to create alternate routes, further exacerbating the impacts from trail use on resources potentially important to affected tribes.

The potential for impacts on cultural resources increases when there is an increase in population, when there is a change in recreation that alters the visual or audible character of the setting, or when recreation is concentrated in sensitive areas (Nyaupane et al. 2006; Pinter and Kwas 2005). With the expanding population in Las Vegas, increasing trends in tourism and visitation to the RRCNCA, and the Calico Basin's proximity to Las Vegas, the potential for adverse impacts on cultural resources in the Calico Basin under the no action alternative would increase over time. Most impacts on cultural resources would be permanent or long term, although there could be some short-term effects on the setting or access.

Biological Resources

Under the no action alternative, impacts on biological resources would continue at the current—or an accelerated—rate as visitation rates increase. More visitors would increase the potential for widespread impacts on biological resources. Users would continue creating new social trails, which would damage or destroy vegetation, including in riparian areas.

The springs found within the Calico Basin are unique ecosystems that support life within and for external use by birds, insects, and other animals that rely on springs as their water supply. Without increased recreation management actions, degradation of natural springs and impacts on dependent plant and animal species would continue under the no action alternative. Visitors would not be properly educated on the fragile nature of the springs and may trample sensitive vegetation or pollute the water.

Recreation uses would continue to alter vegetation along access routes and trails. Unauthorized use off designated trails would increase the chance for spreading invasive or nonnative weeds.

Impacts on biological resources from parking in non-designated areas would continue. This is because there would not be enough parking to accommodate the number of visitors, especially during peak visitation periods. Continuous illegal parking on unpaved areas adjacent to roadways and parking areas would cause irreparable damage to vegetation. As native vegetation degrades, noxious or invasive weeds may alter species composition and outcompete native vegetation. Illegal parking would also disturb wildlife habitat.

Under the no action alternative, there would not be specific direction for the BLM to consider the recreation setting when issuing SRPs. Large group and commercial events could disrupt wildlife and damage vegetation.

Under the no action alternative, current education and outreach efforts may not reach the increasing amount of visitors to the extent that is needed to help protect biological resources. There would be more visitors entering the Calico Basin who are not informed about the impacts recreation use can have on biological resources.

Native American Concerns

Under current management, the recent exponential increase in visitation and specifically the increase in the use of trails represent a significant potential for visitors to purposefully or inadvertently damage or destroy areas that are potentially important or significant to tribes with ties to the Calico Basin. There would be the potential for reduced vegetation cover and the resultant erosion that could impact sensitive cultural resources and plant species that may have tribal use. Heavy trail use would degrade

trail surfaces and lead users to create alternate routes, further exacerbating the impacts from trail use on resources potentially important to affected tribes. Some resources important to the region's Indigenous communities are nonrenewable; impacts would be mostly permanent or long term, although there also could be some short-term effects on the setting or access.

Paleontological Resources

Under a continuation of current management, all applicable federal and local laws would be in place and would continue to be enforced to protect paleontological resources found within the Calico Basin portion of the RRCNCA. BLM policy is to manage paleontological resources for scientific, educational, and recreational values and to protect these resources from adverse impacts. Paleontological resource surveys, the use of PFYC maps, and site-specific review would continue to be prerequisites to the implementation of project plans. However, with the projected increase in recreation demand and visitation to the Calico Basin, there would be the potential for adverse impacts on paleontological resources, including inadvertent damage and unlawful or unauthorized collection of fossils or other paleontological resources. The potential for adverse impacts on paleontological resources would increase over time concurrent with increasing visitation to the Calico Basin. Paleontological resources are considered fragile and nonrenewable; direct impacts would be permanent.

Public Health and Safety

Under the no action alternative, the Calico Basin would continue to experience high visitation rates, traffic, and recreation use, including unauthorized activities such as riding mountain bikes on trails in the recreation area. The Calico Basin would also continue to function as the primary overflow location for the Scenic Drive when reservations are not available and visitor use is capped. These high visitation levels and recreational activities would likely continue or exacerbate the crime trends in the Calico Basin. With the extensive visitation, recreational users would also experience impacts on their safety from increased traffic in a relatively small area, and residents would continue to experience challenges in egress and ingress for emergencies.

Impacts could also grow if visitation increases continue at the current rates. Funding for law enforcement and ranger patrols would continue to be drawn from the overall RRCNCA funds, which could limit the availability of enforcement of best practices and public health and safety guidelines for Calico Basin visitors.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

Under the no action alternative, there would be the potential for new and expanded user-created trails and limited maintenance capacity for existing trails. The placement of new educational signage at trailheads or other key locations, which could potentially reduce impacts on the Calico Basin homeowners and promote responsible recreation near this residential neighborhood, would be done as funding allows. The growing number of users on the trails would affect trail conditions; this would potentially lead to secondary erosion increasing the likelihood of downstream flooding in nearby neighborhoods. There would not be specific management direction for improving connectivity with Summerlin or other neighborhoods that do not rely on the vehicular access via Calico Basin Road.

Unrestricted visitation at the Calico Basin under the no action alternative would serve as a way to accommodate nonlocal and local visitors who may not be familiar with the reservation system on the Scenic Drive, thereby affording an opportunity for short-term recreation on an impromptu basis.

Parking would be available on all the roads in the Calico Basin, which would continue to be maintained by the county and therefore considered public and open to visitor parking. This amount of parking could allow for more of the increased visitation.

The BLM would continue to manage the Calico Basin as part of the RRCNCA fee area. There would be a required payment for day use at the Red Spring Picnic Area. However, the BLM would not construct a fee collection station or implement another system to collect fees for all visitors. Disadvantaged populations would experience disproportionate impacts from visitor fees at Red Spring, but would have no additional impacts for use elsewhere in the Calico Basin.

In census tract 58.23, which includes the Calico Basin, 5 percent of the families live below the poverty level; this would continue to be a significantly lower percentage than those for Nevada or other portions of Clark County. Further, the population in census tract 58.23 would have fewer minorities as compared with Clark County or Nevada, although the lack of available census data on those self-identifying as both Hispanic and White makes exact conclusions difficult. It, therefore, appears the no action alternative would not have a disproportionate impact on environmental justice populations.

Soils

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would not close undesignated trails; these areas, which are not maintained like designated trails, would continue to be at risk for soil erosion. There would not be any specific management directing the BLM to implement educational or interpretive strategies to help avoid inappropriate uses of trails and the creation of undesignated trails. This would increase the risk for erosion for soils with moderate and severe erosion hazard ratings and for soils on slopes greater than 20 percent.

Climbing impacts would be the same as described under the proposed action. However, undesignated social trail use would likely continue under the no action alternative because it would not include a strategy to develop a trail system for climbing access. In addition, current surface disturbance from undesignated social trails would not be closed or restored; these areas would likely experience continued soil erosion.

Increasing pedestrian and equestrian traffic would compact and displace soils and increase their erosion hazard. In addition, increased visitor use could limit the BLM's ability to maintain and restore trails efficiently. If disturbance exceeds restoration efforts, the erosion hazard would increase.

Visual Resources

Under the no action alternative, the BLM would continue managing recreation uses in the Calico Basin consistent with the RRCNCA RMP, which provides management direction per the VRM Class I and II areas, as applicable. However, without a RAMP specific to the Calico Basin, the BLM would not have area-specific planning-level direction to implement the necessary projects and programs to avoid incremental changes to the visual landscape. Over time, rapidly increasing visitation would perpetuate the creation of social trails. Depending on the observer's location, these trails could detract from the area's visual character.

Water Resources

The extent and intensity of disturbance from pedestrian and equestrian use would likely increase under the no action alternative. Eroded soils from trails that are transported as sediment could enter wetlands or riparian areas and negatively impact their endemic and rare vegetation. In addition, pedestrian and equestrian traffic on new user-created social trails could cross wetlands and riparian areas. Visitors on these trails would compact soils and trample vegetation.

Impacts on Red Spring would be the same as described under the proposed action.

Impacts on springs and their riparian areas would be exacerbated by increased visitor use, which would continue under the no action alternative. Similar to soils management, this could reduce the BLM's ability to efficiently and effectively minimize disturbance to riparian areas in the Calico Basin and their associated endemic and rare vegetation.

4.3.4 Reasonably Foreseeable Effects

Reasonably foreseeable effects, described as cumulative impacts in the BLM NEPA handbook (2008), are effects on the environment from the incremental impact of the action, when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time (40 CFR 1508.7).

The reasonably foreseeable analysis area for the project comprises an approximate 2-mile diameter around the Calico Basin planning area. Based on agency records, spatial data, and an IDT discussion, the BLM has identified the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions that have affected or may affect the resources in the reasonably foreseeable analysis area to varying degrees (see **Table 4-12**).

Table 4-12. Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Action	Description	Area Affected
Past Projects		
Turtlehead Peak Trail Maintenance	The EA has been completed for maintenance and repair of the Turtlehead Peak Trail in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.	Turtlehead Peak Trail in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness of the RRCNCA
Red Spring Boardwalk Replacement Construction Project at RRCNCA	The EA was completed for boardwalk replacement at Red Spring.	1.5 acres near Red Spring in the RRCNCA
Harris Springs RAMP	The BLM has a RAMP for the Harris Springs Recreation Area within the RRCNCA.	8,660 acres in the RRCNCA
Present Projects		
Calico Basin RAMP	The BLM is proposing a RAMP for the Calico Basin within the RRCNCA.	5,190 acres in the RRCNCA
Foreseeable Future Projects		
Summerlin West housing development	Expansion of the residential area into an additional 5,000 acres with the Braided Washes, Upper Brownstone Valley, Little Red Rocks, La Madre Peaks, and Grand Parks subdivisions	Summerlin residential areas

Action	Description	Area Affected
Red Rock Climbing Management Plan	The BLM plans to manage climbing access and use across the entire RRCNCA.	RRCNCA
Red Rock Legacy Trail Project	Construction of the multiuse nonmechanized BLM Legacy Trail along State Route 159 from Summerlin to State Route 160	RRCNCA
City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan	This planning document, signed by the Las Vegas City Council on July 21, 2021, designates new zoning districts to guide future decisions about the physical development of Las Vegas.	City of Las Vegas municipal boundary

Issue 1: What recreation uses should the BLM allow within the Calico Basin and how should the BLM manage those uses?

Under the proposed action, the BLM would continue to manage recreation in the Calico Basin consistent with the RRCNCA RMP, but with the additional direction from the RAMP/EA that is specific to the recreation opportunities and resource considerations in the Calico Basin. The proposed action emphasizes the protection of resources while improving the quality of outdoor pedestrian, equestrian, and climbing opportunities and experiences in the Calico Basin. The BLM is proposing to also minimize environmental damage and conflict between recreational user groups while providing enjoyable and safe visitor experiences.

The proposed action would define allowed recreational trail uses and would continue to provide opportunities for pedestrian-based and equestrian use on designated trails in the Calico Basin core area. The BLM would also evaluate the potential for designating trails as open to mountain bike use in the non-core area of the Calico Basin. The proposed action also provides for implementation of a future climbing management plan.

Providing additional educational, interpretive, and signage opportunities under the proposed action would improve the appropriate recreational uses in Calico Basin and reduce resource impacts. As compared with the no action alternative, the BLM would improve trail access points and close and restore undesignated social trails while preventing new social trails under the proposed action. This would also result in beneficial impacts on the soil, vegetation, and visual resources conditions that contribute to the characteristics of the MEAs and positive recreation outcomes.

The anticipated increased fiscal capacity resulting from the proposed fee structure would contribute to the BLM's ability to enforce appropriate recreation and trail use in the Calico Basin and improve the overall recreation experience for hikers, climbers, equestrian users, and other authorized uses in the Calico Basin.

The BLM anticipates that the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the planning area's vicinity, such as potential housing developments in Summerlin and the construction of the proposed Legacy Trail (see **Table 4-11**), would not combine with the impacts from the Calico Basin RAMP/EA alternatives to result in reasonably foreseeable adverse effects.

Issue 2: How would a reservation system for visitor use help the BLM manage increasing visitation to the Calico Basin, and how would a fee collection system contribute to infrastructure or facilities management and enforcement in the Calico Basin?

Implementing a reservation system and limiting the number of reservations to the amount of available parking in the Calico Basin under the proposed action would allow the BLM to control the number of visitors entering the Calico Basin. This would contribute to a safer, more sustainable, and enjoyable recreation experience for visitors, as compared with the no action alternative. Further, the reservation system in the proposed action would enable the BLM to achieve the characteristics needed to be consistent with the RRCNCA RMP's MEAs. However, the proposed action would limit the days and times when visitors could enter the Calico Basin to participate in an activity, when compared with the no action alternative. Management would shift to a more controlled setting with less flexibility to enter the Calico Basin on short notice and fewer opportunities to access desired recreation areas, especially on holidays and weekends.

The proposed action includes implementation of a standard amenity fee at the Calico Basin day-use sites (including the developed recreation facilities at Red Spring and Kraft Mountain, and the designated parking on roads within the recreation area). The proposed action also includes a proposed change to the RRCNCA Business Plan to ensure amenity fees collected at Calico Basin are used in the Calico Basin planning area. This future revenue under the proposed action would directly fund recreation facility maintenance and improvements, new facilities, services, programs, improved law enforcement, and other amenities that would implement the other goals and strategies in the RAMP, while also protecting natural resources and contributing to the area's economic sustainability.

When added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions near the Calico Basin RAMP/EA planning area (see **Table 4-1 I**), the proposed action would not result in reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts on recreation.

Issue 3: How would the proposed recreation management in the RAMP/EA conserve, protect, and enhance the natural, cultural, social, and other resource conditions in the Calico Basin portion of the RRCNCA?

The proposed action would have minimal impacts and disturbance potential for conservation lands (including the La Madre Mountain Wilderness); cultural, biological, visual, water, soil, and paleontological resources; Native American concerns; public health and safety; and socioeconomics and environmental justice. This is because, when compared with the no action alternative, the proposed action would help reduce excessive visitor use and the resultant potential to impact these resources with the implementation of a reservation and fee system. Further components of the proposed action that would reduce these impacts, when compared with the no action alternative, include clarifying allowed trail uses, ensuring appropriate enforcement, preventing new user-created trails, and implementing monitoring and adaptive management. The proposed action would decrease the potential for human interaction and harassment of wildlife (including burros and wild horses) and would improve habitat, soil, water, and vegetation with the proposed trail monitoring.

Providing more educational and interpretive opportunities for visitors under the proposed action would provide expanded interpretive opportunities and protections for Native American resources as well as cultural and biological resources. Further, when compared with the no action alternative, the proposed action would reduce conflicts between visitors and Calico Basin residents. This would be due to the

combination of having Clark County relinquish its ROWs to the BLM on the primary access roads into the Calico Basin and having the secondary roads be privately maintained, and thereafter allowing parking only in designated parking areas and prohibiting public parking on private property.

The BLM anticipates that the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the planning area's vicinity, such as potential housing developments in Summerlin and the construction of the proposed Legacy Trail (see **Table 4-11**), would not combine with the impacts from the Calico Basin RAMP/EA alternatives to result in reasonably foreseeable adverse effects. In particular, the emphasis on appropriate trail use and education would minimize reasonably foreseeable impacts from nearby residents in Summerlin West accessing Calico Basin from future trailheads and locations in the non-core area of Calico Basin or those accessing Calico Basin from the Legacy Trail.

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Chapter 5

Consultation and Coordination

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Chapter 5. Consultation and Coordination

5.1 TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During the NEPA process for this RAMP/EA, the BLM formally and informally consulted and coordinated with other federal agencies, state and local governments, Native American tribes, and the interested public. The agency did this to ensure its compliance, in both the spirit and intent, with 40 CFR 1501.7, 1502.19, and 1503. In addition to the public information gathering process, the BLM implemented collaborative outreach and a public involvement process that included inviting agencies to be cooperative partners for the EA planning process. A cooperating agency is any federal, state, or local government agency or Native American tribe that enters into formal agreement with the lead federal agency to help develop an environmental analysis.

5.1.1 Government-to-Government Consultation

The federal government works on a government-to-government basis with Native American tribes because they are recognized as separate governments. This relationship was formally recognized on November 6, 2000, with EO 13175 (65 *Federal Register* 67249). As a matter of practice, the BLM coordinates with all tribal governments, associated Native communities, Native organizations, and tribal individuals whose interests might be directly and substantially affected by activities on public lands.

In addition, Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consult with Native American tribes for undertakings on tribal lands and for historic properties of significance to the tribes that may be affected by an undertaking (36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)). BLM Manual 1780, Tribal Relations, and BLM Handbook H-1780-I, Improving and Sustaining BLM-Tribal Relations, provide guidance for Native American consultations. EO 13175 stipulates that during the NEPA process, federal agencies must consult tribes identified as being directly and substantially affected.

The BLM notified several tribes of the proposed action on March 25, 2021, with an emailed copy of a signed letter in advance of physical documents that were mailed on March 26, 2021. Letters were sent to the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Owens Valley Paiute Benton Reservation, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Hopi Tribe, and Timbisha Shoshone.

The BLM followed up on the letters with emails on June 8 and 9, 2021, that included electronic copies of the letter and project descriptions. Tribes were also previously emailed on March 3 and March 11, 2021, with information about public meetings for the Calico Basin and Cottonwood Valley RAMPs. The Moapa Band of Paiutes, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and Timbisha Shoshone have responded by phone, email, tribal consultation meetings, or even one in-person site visit. The remaining tribes have not provided responses yet. The BLM continues to consult with tribes who may be interested in this area.

Government-to-government tribal consultation meetings were completed with the Moapa Band of Paiutes (March 3 and April 7, 2021) and Las Vegas Paiute Tribe (February 19, 2021). The BLM hosted a field visit with the Moapa Band of Paiutes on March 2, 2021, at the Red Rock Visitor Center to tour Calico Basin and other areas within the RRCNCA. The BLM completed tribal outreach meetings with

the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Missions Indians on July 14, August 17, November 10, and December 8, 2021, and February 9, 2022.

Specific comments and concerns were shared with the BLM. The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Missions Indians expressed concerns regarding potential visual impacts on areas of tribal interest; the tribe requested to be included in the visual impact assessment to recommend key observation point locations to analyze areas of tribal interest in the Calico Basin. Furthermore, the tribe recommended a noninvasive approach to any habitat restoration without ground disturbance and asked about the policies regarding collecting permits in the area. The Moapa Band of Paiutes requested that NCA fees be waived for tribal members and that updated interpretive kiosks reflect culturally sensitive language. The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Missions Indians and Moapa Band of Paiutes both requested to review any new interpretive kiosks.

5.1.2 Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer

In accordance with the requirements of the BLM State Protocol with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, consultation is not required at this time. This is because the proposed action is defined as “under-threshold” (BLM 2014c). All future actions shall be reviewed per the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA and the BLM State Protocol to determine consultation requirements.

5.1.3 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agencies are any federal, state, or local government agency or Native American tribe that enters into a formal agreement with the lead federal agency to help develop an environmental analysis. Cooperating agencies and tribes work with the BLM, sharing knowledge and resources, to achieve desired outcomes for public lands and communities within statutory and regulatory frameworks. Clark County agreed to participate as a cooperating agency for this NEPA process.

5.1.4 Other Stakeholders

Calico Basin Community

The BLM communicates regularly with the Calico Basin community to discuss issues related to recreation and public land management in the Calico Basin. As part of the early information-gathering period in March 2021, the BLM held a virtual meeting with Calico Basin residents to introduce the RAMP concept and obtain feedback from the community members. The BLM intends to continue similar coordination during the implementation of proposed management in this RAMP.

Rock Climbers

The BLM recognizes the importance of the Calico Basin and broader Red Rock Canyon for their unique rock climbing opportunities. The BLM coordinates regularly with organizations such as the Southern Nevada Climbing Coalition and the Access Fund on land management issues related to rock climbing. During the early information-gathering period in March 2021, the BLM hosted a virtual meeting to gather input from stakeholders concerned about rock climbing opportunities in the Calico Basin. The BLM intends to continue similar coordination during the development of a climbing management plan for Red Rock Canyon and the implementation of other proposed management in this RAMP.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

The Friends of Red Rock Canyon is a nonprofit organization with the mission of preserving, protecting, and enriching the RRCNCA. The BLM regularly partners with the Friends of Red Rock Canyon on volunteer stewardship events, educational programs, and other initiatives to implement the goals of the RRCNCA RMP. Ongoing coordination and partnerships with the Friends of Red Rock and other nonprofit stakeholders will be an important component of implementing the goals and strategies in this RAMP.

5.2 LIST OF PREPARERS

This RAMP/EA was prepared by an IDT of staff from the BLM and Environmental Management and Planning Solutions Inc. The following is a list of people who prepared or contributed to the development of this RAMP/EA.

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Chapter 6

References

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Chapter 7

Glossary

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Chapter 7. Glossary

Calico Basin core area—The original Calico Basin core area described in the 2005 RRCNCA RMP that includes specific guidance and management in the RMP. This area is shown in all maps in this RAMP/EA and consists of a location bounded by Kraft Mountain to the north, Calico Basin Road to the south, the ridgeline above Red Spring to the west, and Gene’s Trailhead as the farthest east point.

Cultural resources—Per BLM Manual 8100, definite locations of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence; these include archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and may include definite locations (sites or places) of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social or cultural groups.

Designated trail—Linear feature formally recognized, designated, and approved as part of the BLM’s transportation or recreation system. Trails can be designated for range of specific uses, such as motor vehicles, equestrian activities, biking, and hiking, or they can be limited to specific nonmotorized activities, such as equestrian activities, biking, and hiking.

Informal trail—Linear feature or transportation linear feature that represents the broadest category of physical disturbance (planned and unplanned) on BLM-administered land. Transportation-related linear features include engineered roads and trails, as well as user-defined, user-created, non-engineered roads and trails created due to the public use of BLM-administered land. Linear features may include roads and trails identified for closure to certain activities or removal, as well as those that make up the BLM’s defined transportation system.

Non-core area of Calico Basin—The portion of the Calico Basin RAMP/EA planning area that only includes relevant general management for the entire RRCNCA in the 2005 RRCNCA RMP. This area is shown in all maps in this RAMP/EA and consists of any portion of the Calico Basin planning area not shown in the Calico Basin core area.

Nuwu—The name that the Southern Paiute use to identify themselves from their own Uto-Aztecan dialect.

Off-highway vehicle—Per BLM Technical Note 422, Roads and Trails Terminology, any motorized vehicle capable of—or designated for—travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense. These vehicles are often referred to as off-road vehicles.

Paleontological resources—Any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in the earth’s crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth (Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, Section 6301, 16 US Code 470aaa-1).

Potential Fossil Yield Classification—The PFYC system allows the BLM employees to make initial assessments of paleontological resources in order to plan for multiple uses of public lands, consider disposal or acquisition of lands, analyze potential effects of a proposed action under the NEPA, or conduct other BLM resource-related activities. The PFYC system can also highlight the areas for paleontological research efforts or predict illegal collecting. The system provides a consistent and streamlined approach to determine whether a potential action may affect paleontological resources on public lands.

Potential trail—Trail defined in a management document with the BLM indicating it would like to build a trail, either as part of that management document or as part of a future implementation-phase undertaking. An example of a potential trail is the one that may eventually be constructed because of the ongoing collaboration between the BLM and Summerlin (see **Trails and Access Strategy 8**).

Pre-contact resources—Any material remains, structures, and items used or modified by people before Euro-Americans established a presence in the region.

Proposed trail—Trail defined in a management document with the BLM indicating its intention to build a trail, either as part of that management document or as part of a future implementation-phase undertaking (for example, the BLM is proposing to build the Legacy Trail along State Route 159 in the RRCNCA).

Routes—Per BLM Technical Note 422, Roads and Trails Terminology, a group or set of roads, trails, and primitive roads that represents less than 100 percent of the BLM transportation system. Generically, components of the transportation system are described as routes.

Traditional cultural property—A property that is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP based on its associations with the cultural practices, traditions, beliefs, lifeways, arts, crafts, or social institutions of a living community, as defined in National Park Service *Bulletin 38* (Parker and King 1998). TCPs are rooted in a traditional community's history and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. The cultural practices or beliefs that give a TCP its significance are, in many cases, still observed at the time a TCP is considered for inclusion in the NRHP. Because of this, it is sometimes perceived that the practices or beliefs themselves, not the property, make up the TCP. While the beliefs or practices associated with a TCP are of central importance, the NRHP does not include intangible resources. The TCP must be a physical property or place—that is, a district, site, building, structure, or object.

Appendix A

Approved Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Use

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Appendix A. Approved Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Use

The following tables show all the approved commercial ongoing SRPs, competitive SRPs, and organized group use of developed facilities and climbing areas in the core area of the RRCNCA. The BLM approved the SRPs and uses in Environmental Assessment: DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2010-0014-EA (BLM 2010). The core area of the RRCNCA is defined as the system of trails and roads (Scenic Drive, Red Spring, and the Calico Basin area) and facilities (Dedication Overlook, Scenic Drive Exit, Old Oak Creek, First Creek, and Moenkopi Road) along State Route 159. The core area also includes the La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness for some, but not all, approved SRP activities. **Table 4-3** provides information only on those activities applicable in Calico Basin.

Table A-1. Commercial Ongoing SRPs*

Recreation Opportunities*	Number of Permits Proposed Annually	Number of Tours Allowed per Day	Maximum Number per Tour
4 X 4 (OHV) guided tours	4	2 per SRP	5 vehicles
Artistic groups	2	1	12 participants
Bus tours (commercial groups)	Not described	No limit	Undefined
Camping—Commercial use of group camp	2 per day	2 group sites; limit 14 days two times per year	Up to 50 participants, depending on the site
Dual sport (not speed events)—Rocky Gap	2	50	N/A
Equestrian—Full-time	3	8	40 participants
Hiking guided tours	5	2	12 participants
Hunting	Not defined (contingent upon NDOW and BLM allowances)	1	Only allowed in areas above 5,000 feet with Las Vegas FO authorized permit
Motorcycle/scooter tours	4	2	20 participants
Mountain bike/road bike guided tours—Full-time	4	2	12 participants
Mountain bike/road bike events	2	1	100 participants on the Scenic Drive at one time
Rock climbing—Full-time	5	2 per area	12 participants
Rock climbing—guest permits	8	2 per area	12 participants
Weddings	10 full-time	5	50 participants or less, depending on location
Yoga/fitness groups	2	1	12

* **Note:** Ongoing commercial SRPs are issued annually, with renewals granted up to 5 years pending the successful completion of annual compliance inspections.

Table A-2. Competitive SRPs

Recreational Opportunities	Number of Permits Proposed Annually	Maximum Number of Participants Allowed per Event
Competitive rock climbing	1	Limit of 1,000 participants/spectators per site/event
Equestrian—Rocky Gap	1	50
Foot race/walk events—using the Scenic Drive	5	2,000
Foot race/walk events—using trails and non-paved roads	2	300
Poker run/events—using the Scenic Drive	5	50

Table A-3. Organized Group Use of Developed Facilities and Climbing Areas

Recreational Opportunities	Number of Permits Proposed Annually	Maximum Number of Participants Allowed per Event
Group camping and off-season use of campgrounds	20	20
Guest climbing permits education/group	4	50 with only 12 per area per day
Noncommercial wedding permits	100	50 person and 10 vehicles
Red Spring group picnic area	200	50
Willow Spring and 159 Overlook picnic areas	100	50
Visitor center and amphitheater—during normal operating hours	50	300 (subject to room/facility limits)
Visitor center and amphitheater—during nonoperating hours	20	1,000 (subject to site, exclusive use, and possible cost reimbursement fees)
Developed parking areas	50	Depends on the available parking and disturbed area at each trailhead. No more than 50 percent of parking or public space would be impacted.

Appendix B

Potential Management for Implementation of a
Reservation and Fee System at Calico Basin

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Appendix B. Potential Management for Implementation of a Reservation and Fee System at Calico Basin

The following table provides an example of how the proposed management associated with the future implementation of a reservation and fee system could work for visitors to the Calico Basin. The specific details of the reservation and fee system would be addressed in a future implementation-phase undertaking subject to a separate NEPA review process with additional opportunities for public comments.

Table B-I. Potential Management for Implementation of a Reservation and Fee System at Calico Basin

Location	6:00 to 8:00 A.M.	8:00 A.M. to Closing (peak hours)*	Closing to 6:00 A.M.
Entrance station**	A BLM staff member would be present at the entrance station kiosk to collect amenities fees, but no reservation would be necessary.	A BLM staff member would be present at the entrance station kiosk to check for reservations and to accept payment.	No BLM staff would be present at the entrance station kiosk. No reservation would be necessary.
Formal parking facilities***	Formal parking facilities would be open, and gates would be open. Payment for using the formal parking and facilities would be at the entrance station kiosk.	Formal parking facilities would be open, and gates would be open. Payment for using the formal parking and facilities would be at the entrance station kiosk.	Formal parking facilities would be closed. Gates would open to allow egress for any visitors that parked in the parking lot earlier in the day.
Other parking along BLM access roads#	Parking would be allowed along designated portions of BLM access roads.	Parking would be allowed along designated portions of BLM access roads.	Parking would be allowed along designated portions of BLM access roads.
Other trail access###	Access would be allowed for approved uses for specific trails, such as hiking and equestrian activities, or bike use on the proposed Legacy Trail.	Access would be allowed for approved uses for specific trails, such as hiking and equestrian activities, or bike use on the proposed Legacy Trail.	Access would be allowed for approved uses for specific trails, such as hiking and equestrian activities, or bike use on the proposed Legacy Trail.

*Open and closing times vary based on seasons. These periods reflect when certain facilities are open to public use. This is an example of what the hours would be based on the current hours used for the Scenic Drive. The operational plan may include different hours.

**The proposed entrance station would include gates; however, these gates would not be closed during non-peak hours to exclude the public.

***Formal parking facilities include Red Spring parking lot, Kraft Mountain parking lot, and Gene's Trail parking lot. Note that at project implementation, the BLM will update the RRCNCA Business Plan to clarify that the fee program and facilities apply to the Kraft Mountain and Gene's Trail parking lots. The BLM will update those facilities to be consistent with the requirements of Section 6802 of the Recreation Fee Authority of the FLREA. Per BLM requirements for the Recreation Fee Program, the agency only charges fees for facilities that meet certain standards outlined in the FLREA; the BLM does not charge for access to lands it manages.

#Designated parking along Calico Basin Road, Calico Drive, Assisi Drive, and Sandstone Drive

###Other trail access includes access to Calico Basin from proposed future trails, such as the Legacy Trail (see **Figure 7**); potential trails that may constructed, such as the ongoing collaboration between the BLM and Summerlin (see **Trails and Access Strategy 8**); or existing informal trail access from nearby private lands (see inventoried trails and trails to be evaluated for potential mountain bike use in the non-core area of Calico Basin shown in **Figure 7**).

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Appendix C

Public Comments and BLM Response

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Appendix C. Public Comments and BLM Response

This appendix presents comments that the BLM received on the Draft Calico Basin Recreation Area Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft RAMP/EA). It also includes a description of the public comment process, how all comments were considered, and responses to all substantive comments.

C.1 DRAFT EA COMMENT PROCESS

NEPA requires that all substantive comments received before a decision is reached must be considered to the extent feasible and that agencies must respond to all substantive written comments submitted during the public comment period for an EA (40 CFR 1503.4). Comments must be in writing, including paper or electronic format or a court reporter's transcript taken at a formal public meeting or hearing. To merit a written response, they also must be substantive and timely.

Although the BLM diligently considered each comment letter, the comment analysis process involved determining whether a comment was substantive or non-substantive. In performing this analysis, the BLM relied on Section 6.9.2, Comments, in the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1 to determine what constituted a substantive comment.

A substantive comment does one or more of the following:

- Questions, with a reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information or analysis in the EA
- Presents reasonable alternatives other than those in the draft EA that meet the purpose of and need for the proposed action and that address significant issues
- Questions, with a reasonable basis, the merits of an alternative or alternatives
- Causes changes in or revisions to the proposed action
- Questions, with a reasonable basis, the adequacy of the planning process itself

Additionally, the BLM's NEPA handbook identifies the following types of substantive comments:

- Comments on the Adequacy of the Analysis—Comments that express a professional disagreement with the conclusions of the analysis or that assert that the analysis is inadequate are considered substantive; they may or may not lead to changes in the final EA. Interpretations of analyses should be based on professional expertise. Where there is disagreement within a professional discipline, a careful review of the various interpretations is warranted. In some cases, public comments may necessitate a reevaluation of analytical conclusions. If, after reevaluation, the BLM Authorized Officer responsible for preparing the EA does not think that a change is warranted, the BLM response should provide the rationale for that conclusion.
- Comments that Identify New Impacts, Alternatives, or Mitigation Measures—Public comments on a draft EA that identify impacts, alternatives, or mitigation measures that were not addressed in the draft are considered substantive. This type of comment requires the BLM Authorized Officer to determine whether the comment warrants further consideration; if so, he or she

must determine if the new impacts, new alternatives, or new mitigation measures should be analyzed in the final EA, in a supplement to the draft EA, or in a completely revised and recirculated draft EA.

- **Disagreements with Significance Determinations**—Comments that directly or indirectly question, with a reasonable basis, determinations on the significance or severity of impacts are considered substantive. A reevaluation of these determinations may be warranted and may lead to changes in the final EA. If, after reevaluation, the BLM Authorized Officer does not think a change is warranted, the BLM’s response should provide the rationale for that conclusion.

Comments on the Draft RAMP/EA that failed to meet the above descriptions were considered non-substantive.

The BLM published the Draft RAMP/EA on November 8, 2021, with a 30-day comment period that ended on December 9, 2021. The BLM received written comments by email and via the online comment form on the project website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016281>.

The BLM recognizes that commenters invested considerable time and effort to submit comments on the Draft RAMP/EA. The agency developed a comment analysis method to ensure all comments were considered, as directed by NEPA regulations. This systematic process ensured all substantive comments were tracked and considered.

On receipt, each comment letter was assigned an identification number and logged into a database that allowed the BLM to organize, categorize, and respond. The BLM coded substantive comments from each letter to appropriate categories, based on content, and the link to the commenter was retained. The categories generally follow the sections presented in the Draft RAMP/EA, though some related to the planning process or editorial concerns.

The BLM received a total of 1,423 comment letter submissions; of these, 1,262 comments were unique comments. A total of 665 substantive comments were coded from the unique letter submissions. The remaining submissions were form letters or letters with form letter text and no other substantive content. In addition to form letters, a Change.org petition was created for mountain bike trails in the Calico Basin, which received 2,266 signatures.

While the BLM reviewed and considered all comments, none were counted as votes. The NEPA public comment period is neither an election nor does it result in a representative sampling of the population; therefore, public comments are not appropriate to be used as a democratic decision-making tool or as a scientific sampling mechanism.

Comments that recommended additional studies, data, or scientific literature to be incorporated into the analysis were reviewed by subject matter experts; new information and citations were incorporated into the Final RAMP/EA, as appropriate. Comments citing editorial changes to the document were reviewed and incorporated. The Final RAMP/EA has been technically edited and revised to fix typos, missing references, and acronyms and to provide other clarifications as needed.

Table C-1 summarizes the distribution of comments by issue category. Comment summaries are outlined further in **Section C.2**; these summaries are based on the substantive comments included in **Table C-2**.

**Table C-1
Comments by Issue Category**

Issue Category	Number of Individual Comments	Percentage of Total
NEPA		
Public outreach	16	2.4
Cooperating agency relationships	2	<1*
Purpose and need	4	<1
Range of alternatives	7	<1
Best available information and baseline data	2	<1
GIS data and analysis	1	<1
Direct and indirect impacts	16	2.4
Cumulative impacts	1	<1
Recreation Area Management Plan	3	<1
Goals and strategies	1	<1
Resource protection	15	2.3
Recreation use	78	11.7
Special recreation permits	3	<1
Trails and access	27	4.1
Safety	4	<1
Wilderness	4	<1
Education	39	5.9
Visitation management	80	12.0
Fee management	63	9.5
Partnerships	75	11.3
Facilities	9	1.3
Roads and parking	19	2.9
Monitoring, enforcement, and adaptive management	47	7.1
Other Laws	1	<1
Resources and Resource Uses		
Recreation	0	0
Access	58	8.7
Trails	5	<1
Special recreation permits	1	<1
Cultural resources	3	<1
Biological resources	1	<1
Vegetation	1	<1
Special status species	6	<1
Native American concerns	1	<1
Public health and safety	10	1.5
Socioeconomics and environmental justice	56	8.4
Soils	3	<1
Visual resources	1	<1
Request for Document or Information	2	<1
Total	665	100

* < = less than

C.2 COMMENT SUMMARIES

C.2.1 NEPA

Public Outreach

- The public comment period was not well-advertised, or it was advertised too late; some commenters were not aware that the public scoping period occurred. In addition, the virtual public meeting should have allowed more time for the public to provide comments.

BLM Response: The BLM RRCNCA staff advertised the comment period and meetings consistent with all Southern Nevada District Office BLM public comment periods and used the distribution list for partners.

- The BLM should coordinate with interested parties throughout the planning process for insight and data development and during development of the climbing management plan.

BLM Response: The BLM is coordinating with interested parties. The climbing management plan is outside the scope of this RAMP/EA; however, the BLM will be coordinating with interested parties in developing the climbing management plan.

Purpose and Need

- The purpose and need are inconsistent with the established precedent of wilderness and recreational land usage in other notable areas. The priority of access to public lands by the public is prioritized over undesirable conditions for the residents of neighboring communities.

BLM Response: This is a national conservation area, not a national recreation area. As described in the RAMP/EA, the focus of management is on natural resource protection. The plan's purpose, as noted in the RAMP/EA is "to provide coordinated management and identification of necessary facilities and infrastructure to support targeted day-use recreational activities within 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." Proposed management (a reservation system) seeks to balance public use and access with resource protection and conditions for Calico Basin residents.

- The Draft RAMP/EA does not explain how increased visitation substantiates the need for a new plan or how the 2003 Calico Basin Management Plan EA no longer provides adequate management for the area.

BLM Response: The purpose and need in the Draft RAMP/EA states, "With the expanding population in Las Vegas, increasing trends in tourism and visitation to the RRCNCA, and the Calico Basin's proximity to metropolitan Las Vegas, the Calico Basin is expected to continue to see significant increases in visitation (CLV 2021). 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 Red Rock Canyon 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" (p. 1-5). Table 4-1. Visitation Trends, demonstrates the significant increase in visitation at the Calico Basin of nearly 206 percent in the last 5 years.

Changing demands and the types of uses of BLM-administered lands, and the conditions of resources are just a few of the top reasons why the BLM is updating the management from the 2003 EA, which included visitation numbers in the thousands rather than the hundreds of thousands that currently visit the area. Current management actions in the Calico Basin are therefore taking place without a detailed, long-term comprehensive plan appropriate to existing conditions and levels of use.

Range of Alternatives

- The BLM does not provide a sufficient range of alternatives or substantive justifications for the eliminated alternatives. Commenters suggested an alternative that includes the educational and trail management goals currently proposed in the RAMP/EA but does not include a reservation or fee system.

BLM Response: The impacts of not implementing a fee or reservation system are addressed in the No Action Alternative. The BLM is proposing to add amenities to the Calico Basin area that would help alleviate parking pressure, trash accumulation, and facilitate a better overall visitor experience. The fee system proposed in the EA is an extension of the decision established in 2018 that designated Red Spring as a fee area and is proposed for the other areas of Calico Basin to support additional recreation infrastructure and visitor amenities.

Implementing a reservation system may help the BLM provide a more positive visitor experience by decreasing gridlock, parking issues, and long lines for public services. In addition, a reservation system would allow the BLM to maintain a safer environment and ensure the protection of resources. However, prior to implementing any fee or reservation system, the proposal would undergo further NEPA analysis and public comment. Any fee or reservation system would also be presented to the Recreation Advisory Council (RAC) for consideration.

- One commenter noted that the referenced Section 2.5.4 in the Draft RAMP/EA is not included in the document.

BLM Response: The BLM changed the reference to the correct section—Section 2.5, Implementation-phase Projects.

Best Available Information and Baseline Data

- The BLM should consider the best available information for desert restoration best management practices (see letter I90) for Recreation Protection Strategy 2 and Strategy 3.

BLM Response: The BLM has noted the comment. No changes were made to the RAMP/EA.

- Section 4.2.5 does not include an analysis of the status, current management, or new management under the proposed action for desert tortoise. The Final RAMP/EA should include this baseline information in addition to desert tortoise concentration areas, resource conflicts, and proposed remedies for those conflicts.

BLM Response: The comment was noted and considered. No changes were made to the RAMP/EA.

GIS Data and Analysis

- The Final RAMP/EA should include a map showing suitable and occupied habitats of the desert tortoise within the Calico Basin. The map should include locations of existing and future kiosks that will be used to educate visitors about tortoise protection measures and their habitat occurrence, in consideration of Goal I.4.

BLM Response: Actual locations of new infrastructure are unknown at this time, as these efforts would be considered implementation-phase undertakings and subject to separate NEPA analyses (see Section 2.5, Implementation-phase Projects). The NEPA process for these site-specific, implementation-phase projects would evaluate impacts of new infrastructure on the desert tortoise and other sensitive species that exist in the area. The BLM added a new map in the Final RAMP/EA showing suitable habitat.

Direct and Indirect Impacts

- The BLM should include an analysis of potential impacts on areas near the Calico Basin, such as First Creek Canyon, from visitor restrictions.

BLM Response: The BLM would complete a subsequent analysis prior to implementing any infrastructure projects at the Calico Basin. This analysis would include a discussion of direct and indirect impacts resulting from specific management decisions.

Cumulative Impacts

- The RAMP/EA does not include a section for cumulative impacts.

BLM Response: The BLM has included an analysis of cumulative effects in the Final RAMP/EA.

C.2.2 Recreation Area Management Plan

- The BLM should limit the scope of the RAMP/EA to the Calico Basin proper, from Gene's Trail to Calico Hills, and Gateway Canyon to State Route 159, and discuss areas outside these areas under a different RAMP/EA process. This is because these areas do not have the same level of use.

BLM Response: The RAMP/EA considers the entire Calico Basin planning area shown in Figure 2, which includes areas with varying levels of use. The BLM, however, could differentiate in potential uses and conditions between different areas. This is because the BLM is working with the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association to consider adopting social trails in the southeastern portion of the planning area (outside the Calico Basin core area where the heaviest visitation occurs; see Figure 7) for mountain bike use. The decision regarding mountain bike use is based on the RMP and with an understanding of the large increase in visitation. Further, as described in Section 3.3, the BLM will employ adaptive management to monitor, evaluate, and manage resource conditions on an ongoing basis in the Calico Basin core area and outlying portions of Calico Basin to minimize impacts on the RRCNCA's natural (and cultural) resources, while moving resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA.

- Table 2-1 should include the Kraft Mountain parking lot because it provides the most important access to the "Calico Basin's unique and physical setting" and has more visitors than the developed Red Spring Picnic Area.

BLM Response: Table 2-1 was revised to include Kraft Mountain.

- On page 2-6, Principle 1 should be replaced with the following, "Resource Protection—Protect ecologic, scenic, cultural, other natural resources, including threatened and endangered species; wilderness; and recreation resources for present and future generations."

BLM Response: Principle 1 was revised to include "including threatened and endangered species."

Goals and Strategies

- The desert tortoise should be included in the pertinent goals and strategies under Section 2.3.3.

BLM Response: The BLM added "including threatened and endangered species" to Goal 1.1.

Resource Protection

- The BLM should work with community partners and nonprofits to promote education and resource protection. The RAMP/EA could include a new resource protection strategy that encourages community outreach and education. Specifically, a management action could be to “develop education and outreach programs in collaboration with local partners to help educate visitors (including climbers, hikers, and horseback riders), manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.”

BLM Response: The BLM added Partnership Decision 3, which states the BLM will “Continue working with partner groups to develop education and outreach programs to help educate visitors, including climbers, hikers, and horseback riders; manage impacts; and preserve natural resources.”

- The BLM should include additional management actions to protect riparian areas and sensitive species at Red Spring, including barriers, enforcement, education, and signage.

BLM Response: As described in Section 3.3, the BLM will employ adaptive management to monitor, evaluate, and manage resource conditions on an ongoing basis at Red Spring to minimize impacts on the RRCNCA’s natural (and cultural) resources, while moving resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA.

- The BLM should provide more ranger presence to enforce resource protection goals and to mitigate impacts from recreation use.

BLM Response: The BLM has increased the number of rangers to 13 (up from 2) with a full-time ranger dedicated to the Calico Basin. The BLM revised Recreation Use Strategy 1 and Section 3.1.2 to clarify an increase in ranger presence for monitoring visitor and resource conditions.

- The BLM should consider additional management supported by recent studies that promotes resource protection; these studies indicate that trail design, location, and maintenance are more effective at avoiding resource impacts compared with limiting the number of visitors.

BLM Response: Please see the BLM’s response above to the comment regarding the range of alternatives.

- The BLM should explain how acquiring inholdings would lead to resource protection as proposed by Resource Protection Strategy 4.

BLM Response: The acquisition of land is an important tool to support the BLM’s goal of “Preserving Natural and Cultural Heritage Resources.” Most BLM land acquisitions are within or adjacent to congressionally or administratively designated “special management areas.” Acquiring land and access to land are a critical tool in improving recreation opportunities for visitors and support the BLM’s goal of “Providing Opportunities for Environmentally Responsible Recreation.”

Recreation Use

- The BLM should allow for early entry and late exit under Recreation Use Decision 1, or the BLM should remove the decision from the RAMP/EA. Visitation to the Calico Basin commonly occurs outside the proposed time restrictions, especially for climbing and bouldering uses, and

overcrowding during nighttime hours and during summertime is not an issue. Overcrowding could become an issue if climbing hours are restricted. In addition, the proposed time restrictions occur mostly during the daytime and may be dangerous for users during summertime.

BLM Response: The BLM added Appendix B to the RAMP/EA, which provides details on the timing and use of various facilities, such as the potential future entrance gate kiosk, parking facilities, and on-street parking. The appendix also includes information on early entry and late exit possibilities.

- The BLM should reconsider restricting mountain biking as an allowable use under the RAMP/EA because the demand has increased since the current RAMP/EA was published. If user conflicts are a concern, then the BLM should designate hiker and equestrian trails separately from mountain biking trails or limit usage based on the class. The BLM could work with mountain biking groups to find acceptable locations for mountain biking trails and to promote user education.

BLM Response: Section 2.4.3 in the RAMP/EA was changed to the following, “While not an alternative considered in this RAMP/EA, the BLM is working with the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association to consider mountain bike use from Summerlin between Gene’s Trail and State Route 159 into the southern portion of the planning area. Gene’s Trail will not be open for mountain biking.”

- The Draft RAMP/EA does not provide evidence for how equestrian use would result in less impacts on soils, vegetation, and trails compared with mountain biking. Also, it is not clear why equestrian use is allowed but mountain biking is not.

BLM Response: There is a history of equestrian use in this area, and the BLM’s intent is to preserve this interest. Equestrian use is limited to designated trails; cross-country use is not allowed. The BLM is going to consider mountain bike use in the southern portion of the planning area. The decision on mountain bike and equestrian use in the Calico Basin is in the RMP. The RMP emphasizes hiking and equestrian use for this area; separating mountain bike and equestrian use in the core use area would minimize the potential for conflicts between these uses. The BLM hopes to avoid these conflicts.

- The BLM should prioritize recreation opportunities using mitigation strategies rather than closures to avoid prioritizing one group of users over another.

BLM Response: See the mountain bike/equestrian responses above.

- Recreation Use Decision 3 seems to contradict Recreation Use Decision 2, which states that current management of climbing, bouldering, and slack lining would be maintained according to the RRCNCA RMP.

BLM Response: The BLM will continue to manage climbing consistent with the RMP until a climbing management plan is developed.

- The climbing management plan should include an analysis of climbing effects on cliff-nesting raptors.

BLM Response: The development of a climbing management plan is discussed in **Recreation Use Decision 3** in section 2.3.3 in the RAMP/EA. The RAMP/EA also discusses potential impacts on cliff-dwelling wildlife. The climbing management plan's content is outside the scope of this RAMP/EA.

Special Recreation Permits

- The BLM should clarify the difference in the irregularities between the Draft RAMP/EA and Appendix A, specifically around permitted recreational uses such as OHV, mountain biking, and camping.

BLM Response: The BLM revised Table 4-3, SRP Management in the RRCNCA as It Applies to the Calico Basin, to only describe those SRPs that are applicable to the Calico Basin. Further, the BLM clarified that Appendix A applies to all the approved ongoing commercial SRPs, competitive SRPs, and organized group use of developed facilities and climbing areas in the core area of the RRCNCA. The appendix also provides the definition of the RRCNCA core area.

- The BLM should offer separate permits in the Scenic Route area for hikers and climbers.

BLM Response: This issue is outside the scope of the Calico Basin RAMP/EA document.

- In consideration of Goal 1.3, the BLM should distribute a brochure to all SRP holders to inform them of the desert tortoise's occurrence and close areas with large tortoise populations for SRP activities that involve large crowds.

BLM Response: This is already a requirement for SRPs.

Trails and Access

- The BLM should develop natural-looking trail marking signs. These signs should include information on sensitive biological species. The signs should be placed along the Kraft Loop Trail and Brownstone Trailhead and should explain the difference between inventory and BLM-designated trails.

BLM Response: The BLM will develop a sign plan that will be consistent with BLM sign standards per Education Decision 2. Installing these interpretive signs would be an implementation-phase undertaking and subject to a separate NEPA process (see Section 2.5 for more detail on these undertakings).

- The BLM should not reduce the amount of hiking trails in the Calico Basin because fewer trails could result in overcrowding and more damage to resources. However, access should be restricted at the Brownstone Trailhead to protect cultural resources.

BLM Response: This RAMP/EA is not proposing to close any hiking trails. The BLM will be assessing trails for sustainability standards (slope, soil conditions, and visitor use) and resource values (see Chapter 3). Further, as described in the revised Trails and Access Strategy 8, the BLM is working with the Summerlin developer on a new trailhead that will provide access from the east to the Brownstone Canyon area.

- The BLM should create new trails based on current and future visitor numbers and implement seasonal or temporary closures of trails for resource protection. Furthermore, the BLM should create a trail management plan with 5-year goals to better manage current and future trails.

BLM Response: The BLM will develop a sign plan that will be consistent with BLM sign standards per Education Decision 2. Installing these interpretive signs would be an implementation-phase undertaking and subject to a separate NEPA process (see Section 2.5 for more detail on these undertakings). As described in Section 3.3, the BLM will employ adaptive management to monitor, evaluate, and manage trail conditions on an ongoing basis to minimize impacts on the RRCNCA's cultural and natural resources, while moving resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA.

- The BLM should adopt a multiuser trail management strategy to accommodate mountain bike use; the BLM also should designate the Summerlin west area and "cowboy" trails for mountain bike use.

BLM Response: The BLM is going to consider mountain bike use in the southern portion of the planning area. The decision on mountain bike and equestrian use in the Calico Basin is in the RMP.

- The Final RAMP/EA should differentiate inventoried versus BLM-designated trails. Will inventoried trails be open for all allowable users?

BLM Response: The BLM revised the RAMP/EA to clarify that inventoried trails are user-created trails that do not yet have an official designation. The BLM will consider restoring and rerouting certain trails for resource protection purposes (see **Resource Protection Decision I** in the RAMP/EA).

- The BLM should coordinate with interested parties, such as the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association and the Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition, to inventory trails.

BLM Response: The BLM is coordinating with these groups.

Safety

- The BLM should clarify how the RAMP/EA will improve safety and how visitors will be better protected, considering safety has not necessarily improved with similar restricted visitor use in the RRCNCA.

BLM Response: The BLM revised Safety Strategy 4 to clarify that there will be a dedicated ranger presence in the Calico Basin planning area. Resource Protection Decision 3 also provides more detail on the BLM's plans for ensuring safety.

- The BLM should consult with organizations, such as the Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition, to obtain volunteers to monitor and improve visitors' experiences and safety.

BLM Response: The BLM is and will continue coordinating with organizations, including the Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition.

- There is a need for updated cell reception towers to provide visitors with cell phone service in case of emergencies.

BLM Response: The BLM is working on a separate project that will bring cell service to the State Route 159 corridor, which is intended to improve cell reception in the Calico Basin planning area and Scenic Drive.

- The Final RAMP/EA should include the following decisions:
 - Safety Decision 1: Construct a bike trail from the planned Legacy Bike Trail at Gene’s Trail trailhead to Red Spring, parallel to but separate from Calico Basin Road. Calico Basin Road is narrow, and mixing bikes and cars on this road is a significant safety hazard.
 - Safety Decision 2: Add speed humps and speed limit signs on Sandstone Drive. This is a road segment with very high-speed traffic, even though the speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Potential options are speed humps in the vicinity of Little Springs Road and Sage Place.
 - Safety Decision 3: Remove the cattle guard at the intersection of Calico Basin Road and State Route 159. This is no longer needed, and it is a safety hazard. The entire intersection needs to be reengineered to accommodate traffic exiting the Calico Basin.

BLM Response: See Roads and Parking Strategy 2 regarding a proposed bike lane along Calico Basin Road. See the revision to Roads and Parking Decision 2 regarding traffic control. The cattle guard is in place to keep wild horses and burros off State Route 159.

Wilderness

- The BLM should sustainably place climbing bolts in wilderness areas and develop new routes and route maintenance plans. Climbing bolts should only be allowed if they are installed without the use of motorized tools, as per the BLM wilderness management handbook.

BLM Response: Regulation of climbing bolts is outside the scope of the RAMP/EA. The BLM will prepare a separate climbing management plan as an implementation-phase project that will address this issue.

Education

- The BLM should allocate additional resources for better education on trail use and maintenance, bathroom services, climbing rules and access, recreation use, and improved maps and trail signage that show the difference between climbing and hiking areas. Some commenters suggested that the BLM should prioritize education programs over, and before implementation of, visitor restrictions.

BLM Response: At implementation of the RAMP/EA, the BLM will develop a sign and trails maintenance plan. See Goal 1.7 and associated strategies and decisions related to education.

- The BLM should increase the number of park rangers and resource stewards in the Calico Basin to educate visitors, enforce existing regulations, manage proper parking enforcement, and better manage access to the area.

BLM Response: The BLM recently added park ranger staff and a dedicated presence to the Calico Basin planning area.

- The BLM should work with organizations to develop a social media campaign to educate visitors on how to better protect the resources in the Calico Basin.

BLM Response: The BLM works with partner organizations (such as Friends of Red Rock Canyon, the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association, and the Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition) on education and outreach campaigns, including through social media.

- The BLM should provide brochures to educate visitors about resource protection.

BLM Response: The BLM and partners provide a variety of brochures and information about resource protection and the RRCNCA.

Visitation Management

- The proposed reservation system could result in an unfair barrier to access for people who do not have access to a computer, internet, or credit card. A call-in reservation system and in-person reservations could address these concerns.

BLM Response: Recreation.gov offers a toll-free phone line for people without internet access to make reservations. The proposed entrance station kiosk will also assist with making in-person reservations (as is currently being implemented at the Scenic Drive).

- The reservation system would prevent opportunities for impromptu visitation and limit opportunities. It would disproportionately affect those who can only visit during a certain time of day, such as during the evening. The BLM should study the outcomes of similar systems implemented in other areas before implementing it at the Calico Basin.

BLM Response: The BLM added Appendix B to the RAMP/EA, which provides details on the timing and use of various facilities, such as the potential future entrance gate kiosk, parking facilities, and on-street parking. The appendix also includes information on early entry and late exit possibilities and clarifies the outcomes of the visitation and fee management decisions.

- The BLM should evaluate whether basing the reservation system on parking capacity is appropriate. Any reservation system should be based on actual carrying capacity. There could be alternative approaches, such as enforcing parking limits, requiring paid parking, shuttled entry, implementing the reservation system only during peak periods, and implementing phased fee and reservation systems. The BLM should consider other entry systems, such one or more self-serve kiosks rather than a gate. If the BLM implements the gate, there should be the opportunity to enter early and exit late similar to the Scenic Drive. The BLM should also consider an option for pedestrian entry.

BLM Response: See the response immediately above for more information on non-peak entry and exit. The BLM recognizes the need to take the capacity study a step further to understand overall capacity, including resource values. This will help inform future management decisions, facilities needs (such as more parking), and potential changes to the reservation system.

- Implementing a reservation system could result in new impacts elsewhere in the RRCNCA. The BLM should evaluate these potential impacts before implementing the reservation system.

BLM Response: The BLM is developing RAMPs/EAs for other areas in the RRCNCA. These RAMPs/EAs consider the dynamics of visitor growth and recreation demand. The BLM is developing other projects to sustain any visitor displacement that would occur. Further, the BLM added a new narrative in the introduction regarding the BLM's development of multiple RAMPs/EAs in the RRCNCA.

- The BLM should explore options for more legal parking outside the Calico Basin.

BLM Response: The BLM is planning to improve all trailheads and parking areas along State Route 159.

- The BLM should provide other entry opportunities for those who visit the area regularly, such as an annual pass, or more entry opportunities for those who volunteer or take an educational course. Commenters also asked if annual passes (such as the national parks pass) could be used for entry.

BLM Response: The BLM will accept annual passes as is already the case for the Scenic Drive. Volunteers already earn an annual pass for a certain number of service hours.

- The Calico Basin residents would unfairly benefit from the proposed visitation management strategies while nonresidents would be inconvenienced or restricted.

BLM Response: The BLM added Appendix B to the RAMP/EA, which provides details on the timing and use of various facilities, such as the potential future entrance gate kiosk, parking facilities, and on-street parking. The appendix also includes information on early entry and late exit possibilities and how those relate to the proposed fee and reservation system.

Fee Management

- Fee collection for Kraft Mountain cannot be implemented until the 2018 RRCNCA Business Plan is amended to list the area as authorized for fee collection. Further, Section 6802 of the Recreation Fee Authority of the FLREA places restrictions on when recreation and amenities can be charged on federal land.

BLM Response: After implementation of the RAMP/EA, the BLM will update the RRCNCA Business Plan to clarify the fee program and facilities that would be developed at the Kraft Mountain parking area (see Fee Management Strategy 1). Section 1.5.2 has also been revised to include consistency with the FLREA.

- The BLM should lower the proposed fee for all visitors. However, if the fee is implemented, the BLM should require different visitor restrictions for locals, such as:
 - Lower fees or no fees
 - No reservation requirement
 - A reduced yearly pass

BLM Response: The BLM would follow the RRCNCA Business Plan.

- The proposed implementation of fees as a management strategy does not preserve fair and equitable access to public lands. The BLM should allow free early entrance and late exit and

allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee. The BLM also should reduce the fee or provide free entrance for low-income families.

BLM Response: The BLM added Appendix B to the RAMP/EA, which provides details on the timing and use of various facilities, such as the potential future entrance gate kiosk, parking facilities, and on-street parking. The appendix also includes information on early entry and late exit possibilities, including any relevant amenities fees, and clarifies the outcomes of the visitation and fee management decisions.

- The BLM should manage parking in lieu of implementing a gate and fee. The BLM could use parking capacity as a limiter, enforcement of parking fines for illegal parking, and surveillance to ensure the security of vehicles parked in the lot. Several commenters suggested charging for peak hour or weekend parking, specifically at Kraft Mountain.

BLM Response: Parking congestion happens at many different locations within the Calico Basin, including popular trailheads and popular access points created by visitor use. The use has and continues to impact visitor safety, the visitor experience, resources, emergency response times, and BLM operations. The BLM has and will continue to manage parking within the Calico Basin area, but at the current and expected volume, the BLM has entered a new management era requiring a holistic approach, where the BLM is considering operational changes, adjusting capacity limits during peak visitation hours, and adding capital investments and services to minimize unintended consequences.

- The money generated from new fees should be returned to recreational infrastructure, visitor education, and basic visitor amenities. Revenue generated from this fee should not go to a private organization, as this would create an impression that the federal agency is monetizing public lands.

BLM Response: Amenity fees would stay within the Calico Basin (see Fee Management Strategy I).

- The BLM should allow free admittance to visitors with an “America the Beautiful” annual pass or a similar annual pass.

BLM Response: The BLM would allow free admittance for visitors with an “America the Beautiful” annual pass.

Partnerships

- Access Fund, Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition, American Alpine Club, and other organizations and individuals, including the great Las Vegas climbing community, express a willingness to assist the BLM in finding solutions to fund and facilitate climber stewardship programs, which are already in place at other popular climbing areas across the country, as well as to assist in public outreach and education. These BLM partners are willing to help fundraise and volunteer in managing climbing access in the Calico Basin. Furthermore, they request further coordination with the BLM in planning this project and ample time to respond to draft planning.

BLM Response: The BLM is in communication with the listed partners and having conversations regarding this type of support.

- Groups, including the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association and Save Red Rock, may be able to assist in finding environmentally friendly locations for trails and with outreach and public education.

BLM Response: The BLM is in communication with the listed partners and having conversations regarding this type of support.

- The Final RAMP/EA should list Friends of Red Rock Canyon as a partner in Chapter 3.

BLM Response: The BLM added Friends of Red Rock Canyon as a partner to Education Strategy 5, Goal 2.3, and Partnership Decision 2. The BLM also included this organization as a stakeholder in Section 5.1.4.

- The Desert Tortoise Council is willing to be identified as a partner working on Goal 1.7 in providing visitor understanding and appreciation of the Calico Basin through diverse educational and interpretive opportunities.

BLM Response: The BLM will reach out to the Desert Tortoise Council regarding a potential partnership for RRCNCA.

Facilities

- The BLM should place new infrastructure that includes dog waste bins, drinking water, sanitation stations, restrooms, expanded parking lots, and adequate trash disposal. Commenters specifically requested a new restroom facility on the eastern flank of Kraft Mountain and continual maintenance of existing restrooms.

BLM Response: At implementation, the BLM will evaluate all locations for needed infrastructure improvements, which includes the listed suggestions.

- The BLM should clarify why fees are being charged for Kraft Mountain and its facilities; otherwise, the BLM might violate Section 6902 of the FLREA.

BLM Response: The BLM is proposing to augment facilities at Kraft Mountain (see Facility Strategy 5). Fees would be collected for these new facilities.

Roads and Parking

- The Kraft Mountain parking area should be widened, lengthened, and resurfaced to improve safety, ensure better access to facilities, and accommodate visitors.

BLM Response: See Roads and Parking Strategy 3, which proposes potential widening and resurfacing of the Kraft Mountain parking area as a future implementation-phase project.

- The BLM should consider that an entry station would cause traffic backups onto State Route 159 and the bike lane. If entry restriction is needed, the BLM should consider strategies similar to the Lake Mead model or the Zion National Park shuttle model.

BLM Response: At implementation, the BLM will produce a design that would allow appropriate queuing to avoid backing up traffic on State Route 159. The BLM appreciates suggestions for alternative

entry systems. The BLM does not have sufficient parking outside the Calico Basin to support a shuttle system. The BLM may consider these options during future planning.

- The BLM should revise Roads and Parking Decision 3 to say that when the BLM restricts parking to achieve resource objectives, the BLM will increase parking capacity at other appropriate locations.

BLM Response: The BLM revised Roads and Parking Decision 3 to clarify that parking capacity could be increased or decreased to achieve resource objectives.

- The BLM should remove Roads and Parking Decision 4. This is because management of private property is not the BLM's responsibility, and management would provide private benefits to a select few at the public's expense.

BLM Response: The BLM law enforcement works in partnership with Clark County and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police in managing the Calico Basin planning area to enforce parking.

- The BLM should add the following Roads and Parking Decision: "The BLM will increase parking capacity where appropriate to provide sustainable access for the growing population."

BLM Response: The BLM revised Roads and Parking Decision 3 to clarify that parking capacity could be increased or decreased to achieve resource objectives.

- Under Goal 2.5, the BLM should clarify speed limits associated with all existing roads in the Final RAMP/EA. For those roads accommodating traffic through tortoise habitats, the BLM should institute 15 mile per hour speed limits, and the BLM should post tortoise-crossing signs at strategic locations to protect the species.

BLM Response: The BLM will continue to maintain the roads and associated speed limits. The BLM could assess where and how many speed limit signs are in the area.

- The BLM should include the following improvements in the RAMP/EA for roads and parking:
 - Improve parking near Kraft Boulders and consider making the parking a loop; that way, people would not have to turn around.
 - Designate Calico Basin Road as a two-way road.
 - Include a bike lane on Calico Basin Road.
 - Widen, pave, and add parking spaces for the Kraft Mountain parking lot.
 - Develop a parking lot on the south side of Assisi Canyon at the Calico Spring Trailhead.
 - Add signing for shoulder parking so that visitors know where parking is and is not allowed.
 - For new parking lots, incorporate technology that can indicate whether a parking space is empty or occupied.

BLM Response: See the response above for the first four bullet points. The Calico Spring Trailhead is on a blind corner and would be an unsafe location for a new parking area. At implementation, the BLM will develop a parking plan for all roads leading into the Calico Basin planning area.

- The BLM should increase parking options and parking enforcement and improve roads before instituting fees and reservations.

BLM Response: Before increasing parking, there is a need to further understand the impacts of visitation on natural resources through an updated capacity study. This will determine whether the area's natural resources could support additional visitation (parking capacity) without further impairment. In addition, the BLM has learned that adding new parking lots in popular areas like Calico Basin sometimes can produce counterintuitive impacts—even more impacts on both the resources and visitor experience. It is important the BLM continue to obtain feasibility studies and a better understanding of the demand of recreation and how visitors will continue to use the area(s) as the BLM implements new operational procedures in management of the area. The BLM would consider the need for additional parking through adaptive management practices as the RAMP/EA is implemented.

Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management

- The BLM should increase the number of park rangers present in the Calico Basin, especially during peak visitation. This would be a more moderate approach that would allow management of a heavily used area without limiting access. Enforcement is needed for picking up after dogs, leash laws, going off trail, and car break-ins. Introducing fines for these would add a potential revenue source.

BLM Response: The BLM has and would continue to assess the need for additional staff to monitor and manage the Calico Basin planning area. See the new appendix for clarification on access under the proposed action.

- The Draft RAMP/EA singles out and limits access to some user groups based on outdated data. There are many new organized groups that were not present in 2005 that can now offer some assistance in meeting resource protection goals. The adaptive management process should include ongoing and consistent coordination with all the public user groups and use of current data.

BLM Response: The BLM added new monitoring requirement in Section 3.1 to address the need for updated visitor demographics specific to the Calico Basin and to clarify the need for better data regarding activity types.

- The RAMP/EA should include more adaptive management that responds to the needs of the time. For example, it is unknown if the increased visitor use from the COVID-19 pandemic will be permanent. The BLM could start by implementing less restrictive management, such as parking restrictions, more education programs, and an increased ranger presence, and then determine if a reservation or fee entry system is still necessary.

BLM Response: The BLM is proposing to implement parking restrictions, education programs, and an increased ranger presence.

- The Draft RAMP/EA does not provide data indicating that “Demand for recreation at the Calico Basin and other areas in the RRCNCA is largely the result of population growth in nearby Las Vegas.” Absent any such data, it seems far more likely that the spike in demand for recreation in the Calico Basin is a result of the BLM's decision to impose reservation requirements and entry

costs on the Scenic Drive. The BLM should provide data to support this assertion, or remove it from the Final RAMP/EA.

BLM Response: Before the scenic loop reservation system, visitation was increasing 20-23 percent annually. Although tourism to southern Nevada decreased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, visitation continues to increase throughout the RRCNCA. Post-pandemic visitation is projected to set record visitation numbers in 2022 and beyond in both the RRCNCA and the Calico Basin. Proposed monitoring to update visitor demographic data would assist in the understanding of visitor destinations.

- On page 3-1 where specific candidate species and special status species are listed, the desert tortoise should be identified as an example of the threatened species to be monitored, and the first bullet should be modified to include the following wording: “The BLM will conduct an ongoing program of population monitoring for threatened and endangered species (Mojave desert tortoise [*Gopherus agassizii*]), candidate species (blue diamond cholla [*Cylindropuntia multigeniculata*]), and other special status species (Charleston Mountain angelica [*Angelica scabrida*], alkali mariposa lily, Mojave milkvetch [*Astragalus mohavensis* var. *hemigyris*], peregrine falcon [*Falco peregrinus*] and Spring Mountains springsnail).” Additional bullets and specified approaches are also needed to codify the BLM’s intent to manage for tortoises and adequately monitor tortoise populations in the Calico Basin.

BLM Response: The BLM noted the comment and considered it. No changes were made to the RAMP/EA.

- The BLM should review the Colorado Plateau recreation report (see letter 136). It contains relevant information and recommendations that apply in the Mojave Desert and Great Basin ecosystems that would be useful for monitoring and adaptive management considerations.

BLM Response: The BLM noted this comment. No changes were made to the RAMP/EA.

C.2.3 Other Laws

- The BLM should comply with Nevada Revised Statutes 533 and 534 and Nevada Administrative Code 534 for management actions related to water resources.

BLM Response: These were added to Chapter I under relevant laws and regulations.

C.2.4 Resources and Resource Uses

Recreation

Access

- Recreation users who cannot visit the Calico Basin during the proposed hours of operation, such as working people, and those who cannot afford the entrance fees would essentially lose access to the area. The Draft RAMP/EA does not highlight the importance of spontaneous access.

BLM Response: The BLM added Appendix B to the RAMP/EA, which provides details on the timing and use of various facilities, such as the potential future entrance gate kiosk, parking facilities, and on-street parking. The appendix also includes information on early entry and late exit possibilities.

- Recreation access should be prioritized over undesirable conditions for the Calico Basin residents. When the public land users are forced to leave before the hours of operation end, would residents be able to access the area at any time? This concern was not adequately addressed in the virtual public meeting.

BLM Response: The BLM added Appendix B to the RAMP/EA, which provides details on the timing and use of various facilities, such as the potential future entrance gate kiosk, parking facilities, and on-street parking. The appendix also includes information on early entry and late exit possibilities. As described in Section 3.3, the BLM will employ adaptive management to monitor, evaluate, and manage on-trail and off-trail conditions on an ongoing basis to minimize impacts on the RRCNCA's cultural and natural resources, while moving resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA.

- In cases where access for climbing, bouldering, and slack lining uses would be restricted by closing social trails, the BLM should coordinate with climbing groups to find solutions for mitigating the impacts associated with social trails before restricting access.

BLM Response: The BLM is in the early stages of inventorying for a climbing management plan. The BLM continues to work with the Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition, Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association, and Back Country Horsemen looking at social trails.

- Restricting the hours of operation may squeeze the number of visitors into a shorter window; this could result in crowding on popular trails and the potential creation of more social trails.

BLM Response: The BLM added Appendix B to the RAMP/EA, which provides details on the timing and use of various facilities, such as the potential future entrance gate kiosk, parking facilities, and on-street parking. The appendix also includes information on early entry and late exit possibilities. As described in Section 3.3, the BLM will employ adaptive management to monitor, evaluate, and manage on-trail and off-trail conditions on an ongoing basis to minimize impacts on the RRCNCA's cultural and natural resources, while moving resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA.

- For potential mountain biking uses, the existing trails in the Calico Basin would provide these users proximity to neighborhoods and trail connections that avoid State Route 159 and the associated public safety risks involved with biker and motorist encounters.

BLM Response: The BLM is working with the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association to consider adopting social trails in the southeastern portion of the planning area (outside the Calico Basin core area where the heaviest visitation occurs; see Figure 7) for mountain bike use.

Trails

- The BLM should allow mountain biking on the far eastern and southern borders of the Calico Basin because this can be done without affecting other trail user groups. Compared with other mountain biking trails in the Las Vegas area, the trails are ideal for beginners and are therefore critical to young riders and riders new to the sport.

BLM Response: The BLM is working with the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association to consider adopting social trails in the southeastern portion of the planning area (outside the Calico Basin core area where the heaviest visitation occurs; see Figure 7) for mountain bike use.

- The BLM should consider studies such as Cessford 1995 that show that mountain bikes have less environmental impact on trails than equestrians and heavily loaded hikers.

BLM Response: The decision regarding mountain bike use is based on the RMP and with an understanding of the large increase in visitation. The BLM is working with the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association to consider adopting social trails in the southeastern portion of the planning area (outside the Calico Basin core area where the heaviest visitation occurs; see Figure 7) for mountain bike use.

- Limiting recreation uses, such as mountain biking, would encourage off-trail use in other natural areas, or the formation of new trails, which would impact the environment more than permitting additional uses of trails that have already been established.

BLM Response: As described in Section 3.3, the BLM will employ adaptive management to monitor, evaluate, and manage on-trail and off-trail conditions on an ongoing basis to minimize impacts on the RRCNCA's cultural and natural resources, while moving resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA. There is a range of proposed management that addresses trail designations; for example, Trails and Access Decision 4 notes that trail designations would be evaluated and adjusted as necessary to reflect resource needs.

- The Final RAMP/EA should note that closing the Calico Basin to mountain bikers also removes access to volunteer labor or trail upkeep experiences provided by the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association and other mountain bike volunteer groups.

BLM Response: As the BLM considers trails in the southeast portion of the planning area for mountain bike use, the BLM would work with organizations like the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association for volunteer trail maintenance opportunities.

Special Recreation Permits

- Table 4-3 on pages 4-5 and 4-6 does not specify the list of permissible activities in the RAMP/EA. The Final RAMP/EA should include a table in Chapter 4 that lists only those activities that are allowed within the Calico Basin planning area.

BLM Response: The BLM revised Table 4-3 to only show those SRPs relevant to the Calico Basin. Appendix A still provides the entire list of SRPs for the core area of the RRCNCA.

Cultural Resources

- There is concern from commenters regarding the natural and cultural resources in Brownstone Canyon. Due to the influx of housing and access to the area, the Final RAMP/EA should analyze how cultural resources will be affected in Brownstone Canyon and include mitigation measures to keep these resources intact.

BLM Response: Section 3.1.2 in the RAMP/EA describes monitoring requirements, including for cultural resources. The Final RAMP/EA includes an additional monitoring bullet in Section 3.1.2 addressing the need for additional monitoring in areas interfacing private lands east of the planning area, including the Brownstone Canyon area.

Biological Resources

Vegetation

- The Final RAMP/EA should include how the BLM will limit off-trail walking with increased visitor use over time.

BLM Response: As described in Section 3.3, the BLM will employ adaptive management to monitor, evaluate, and manage on-trail and off-trail conditions on an ongoing basis to minimize impacts on the RRCNCA's cultural and natural resources, while moving resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA.

Special Status Species

- The Final RAMP/EA should include information about endangered species in Table 4-5, specifically for the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). This information includes:
 - Occurrence status
 - Distribution (with maps)
 - Threats
 - Protection under current management
 - Foreseeable protection under future management, including ways to adapt with climate change

The BLM should also include information on how it plans to manage each species.

BLM Response: The BLM noted the comment and considered it. No changes were made to the RAMP/EA.

Native American Concerns

- How has the BLM engaged tribal governments during this process and how is the BLM prioritizing their concerns?

BLM Response: The BLM notified several tribes of the proposed action on March 25, 2021, with an emailed copy of a signed letter in advance of physical documents that were mailed on March 26, 2021. The BLM followed up on the letters with emails on June 8 and 9, 2021, that included electronic copies of the letter and project descriptions. Tribes were also previously emailed on March 3 and March 11, 2021, with information about public meetings for the Calico Basin and Cottonwood Valley RAMPs/EAs. The Moapa Band of Paiutes, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and Timbisha Shoshone have responded by phone, email, tribal consultation meetings, or even one in-person site visit.

Public Health and Safety

- The BLM should consider how limiting hours and fees could create unnecessary traffic and rushing, which could lead to accidents. These daytime hours can also cause people to be out during the hottest parts of the day, leading to injury.

BLM Response: The BLM added Appendix B to the RAMP/EA, which provides details on the timing and use of various facilities, such as the potential future entrance gate kiosk, parking facilities, and on-

street parking. The appendix also includes information on early entry and late exit possibilities. As described in Section 3.3, the BLM will employ adaptive management to monitor, evaluate, and manage on-trail and off-trail conditions on an ongoing basis to minimize impacts on the RRCNCA's cultural and natural resources, while moving resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA. Further, Section 4.3 has been revised to include Appendix B as it relates to public health and safety.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

- The BLM should include information on how it plans to account for the low-income, local, Native American, and other vulnerable communities when implementing a fee to use the park and daytime hours. The consequences of these fees could include:
 - Local community members having less education about the environment and therefore less desire to protect it
 - Unequal access to the park
 - Health consequences in the local community from reduced access to a usually free recreation area

BLM Response: Please reference the RRCNCA Business Plan for a specific analysis related to the potential impacts of fees on disadvantaged populations. Any proposal for a new fee or new fee increase would receive state and national-level BLM review for potential socioeconomic impacts.

- The BLM should consider the financial consequences of restricting visitors to the Calico Basin in the context of Las Vegas tourism.

BLM Response: Socioeconomic impacts would be disclosed in the revised business plan and subsequent NEPA analysis prior to implementing any infrastructure improvements at the Calico Basin.

- The Draft EA should include data about the community outside the Calico Basin and census tract 58.23 to get an entire picture of whom these fees could impact. The analysis should also consider who uses the land on a regular basis; that should determine applicable fees and regulations.

BLM Response: The RAMP/EA acknowledges the limitations of using census tract 58.23. The RAMP/EA also supplements the census tract data with demographic data for Clark County.

Soils

- The Draft RAMP/EA does not include information on why mountain bikers are prohibited. The BLM should consider that studies, such as Pickering et al. 2010, have shown mountain bikers have less of an impact on soil in comparison with both hikers and equestrians.

BLM Response: The decision regarding mountain bike use is based on the RMP and with an understanding of the large increase in visitation. The BLM is working with the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association to consider adopting social trails in the southeastern portion of the planning area (outside the Calico Basin core area where the heaviest visitation occurs; see Figure 7) for mountain bike use.

- The Draft RAMP/EA should also include stronger regulations on the equestrian community for their impact on the soil, and a plan to reduce this impact.

BLM Response: As described in Section 3.3, the BLM will employ adaptive management to monitor, evaluate, and manage on-trail conditions for equestrians (and other trail users) on an ongoing basis to minimize impacts on the RRCNCA's cultural and natural resources, while moving resources toward the desired characteristics of the relevant MEA.

Visual Resources

- The Final RAMP/EA should include a consideration of the impact that fee booths can have on the visitor experience.

BLM Response: More NEPA analyses would need to be completed prior to implementing any of the proposed infrastructure projects at the Calico Basin. If the BLM moves forward with a fee booth, the impacts on the visitor experience would be disclosed during that phase of analysis.

C.3 VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION

In addition to the concerns in the comment summaries listed above, the following subjects were discussed between the BLM and public participants during the question-and-answer session of the virtual public meetings:¹

- Will there be any studies with a comparative analysis of the damage to native plants, soils, and water; erosion; and impacts on natural resources by wild horses and burros compared with human impacts?
- What are the long-term plans to reduce erosion, especially around the bouldering areas, and how will the BLM manage and monitor this while allowing bouldering?
- Have emergency personnel ever been unable to complete rescue operations due to overcrowding in the Calico Basin?
- How does the climbing management plan and its timing relate to the RAMP/EA? What will the plan include?
- What would be the process and next steps for the BLM to implement reservations and fees? Will there be additional public input opportunities before they are implemented?
- Participants noted that there is no connecting access to the designated Brownstone Canyon Trail. Also, Trails and Access Decision I in the RAMP/EA specifically states no new trails or access are being considered. Does the BLM intend to address this complete loss of access?

C.4 HOW TO READ THIS SECTION

The BLM assigned a letter number to every unique communication received during the Draft RAMP/EA public comment period. **Table C-2** contains all substantive comments; the table is organized by the comment category. Commenter names and applicable organizations or agencies are provided for those submitting letters who did not request their information to be withheld.

¹ Full transcripts of the virtual public meetings are available from the BLM on request.

**Table C-2
Substantive Public Comments**

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
1.	Foley	Pete		Public outreach	Finally please hold a well advertised meeting where sufficient time is given for everyone to have their say. Calico is sometimes crowded because a lot of people love it. These are public lands, we really need a robust public debate about this issue. The BLM 'public debate' was poorly advertised, and gave only very, very limited opportunity for public comment, all of which was negative
2.	Jordan	Jorge	SNCC	Public outreach	Visitation numbers stated in the presentation were inconsistent with those numbers stated in the RAMP. Section 1.3 of the RAMP states 30-35% growth in the last decade, and 2019 visitation was 383,857 according to Table 4-1 of the RAMP. The presentation stated 700,000 in 2019, and much different growth numbers.
3.	Swain	Todd		Public outreach	In addition to getting public input, the BLM (and all other land managers) should partner with local organizations before implementing poorly thought-out actions like the blanket timed entry scheme on the loop road.
4.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Public outreach	As the user group that is singularly impacted by this plan, we wish to collaborate with the BLM as early and often as possible on creating the best possible management strategies for both the sustainability of the NCA and climbing access. Please keep both SNCC and Access Fund informed as the CMP process progresses.
5.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Public outreach	As the user group that is singularly impacted by this plan, we wish to collaborate with the BLM as early and often as possible on creating the best possible management strategies for both the sustainability of the NCA and climbing access. Please keep both SNCC and Access Fund informed as the CMP process progresses.
6.	Harrison	Lisa		Public outreach	I hope in the future that there's more opportunities for public surveys and the sharing of whatever survey data might come, as well as more input opportunities on this plan and future plans from the public and interest groups like the SNCC, Save Nevada, or sorry Save Red Rock and Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
7.	Blakeley	Morgan		Public outreach	I am 83 years old and read the newspaper and watch T.V. news--that plans started years ago, started public outreach earlier this year and kicked off a 30 day public comment period Nov 8--I saw and heard nothing of this until today in the L.V.R.J.
8.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Public outreach	We note that desert tortoise is not listed among the five bullets on page 1-9 signifying the public's concerns under "Topic 3 - Biological Resources," which would certainly have been there had the Council been informed of the project and been allowed to provide scoping comments.
9.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Public outreach	Despite numerous, persisting requests of the Southern Nevada District of the BLM and a specific letter to your District Manager, Tim Smith on 7 November 2019, we learned of this project from a third party, and not from the BLM. In fact, we read on page 1-8 of the Draft RAMP/EA that a solicitation for public scoping comments was distributed in early 2021, which we are learning about now for the first time.
10.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Public outreach	Finally, as the BLM moves closer to the crafting of Climbing Management Plan, the AAC hopes the BLM will invite the national and local climbing organizations to advise on the development of the plan early in the process and provide ample opportunities for the climbing public to offer additional support.
11.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Public outreach	We encourage the BLM to continue to work collaboratively with the American Alpine Club, SNCC, and the Access Fund throughout the duration of this planning process in order to protect this valuable climbing resource. The AAC and our members possess abundant experience with Calico Basin and the RRCNCA broadly. We are connected to the local climbing community and are interested in helping the planning team develop a RAMP that sustainably manages the climbing resources of Calico Basin and ensures the protection of the natural resources of the region.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
12.	Ramsey	William		Public outreach	If BLM goes ahead with the implementation of the poorly defended reservation system, despite such strong public opposition, then it will be hard not to conclude that public input is in fact irrelevant to policy decisions, that the request for our suggestions and recommendations is just for show, and that BLM has no real interest in the sentiments of the public who they were created to serve. For organizations like the Southern Nevada Climber's Coalition and Save Red Rock, who desire to have a cooperative relationship with BLM based upon mutual respect and two-way compromises, it will add further support for the increasingly unavoidable conclusion that the current manifestation of Southern Nevada BLM management has no interest in real cooperation, and instead wants unilateral control and compliance with every policy decision, no matter how harmful to public access to public lands.
13.	McKell	Ryan	Long Range Division	Public outreach	Increase outreach and education on trees and landscaping.
14.	Kotab	Thomas		Public outreach	The BLM seems to have completely ignored all of the public input voiced in the "virtual meeting with the public on March 11, 2021." As such, section 1.6 is incomplete and public concerns need be reflected in that section
15.	Fisher	Heather	Save Red Rock	Public outreach	That the plan moving forward incorporates consistent, coordinated communication with a variety of user groups, such as we have done together in the past with the SRR Trails Committee. We appreciate the progress that we were able to start when working together and feel it would be critical to incorporate similar built-in open and consistent communication moving forward. The Trails Committee's recognized, responsible user group members and partners such as the SNCC rock climbers, the SNMBA mountain bikers, the SNVBC road bikers, and the RRCAC residents can provide broad, organized representation. Since BLM informed the public that decisions in the 2021 RAMP were directly transferred to the 2005 RAMP, we feel that it would be critical to balance that 2005 data with current data from the various user groups' modern technology and on-the-ground perspectives.
16.	Foley	Pete	Pete Foley Innovation	Public outreach	Finally please hold a well advertised meeting where sufficient time is given for everyone to have their say.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
17.	McKell	Ryan	Long Range Division	Cooperating agency relationships	Coordinate with Clark County on additional measures or policies that implement the MSHCP.
18.	McKell	Ryan	Long Range Division	Cooperating agency relationships	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) must continue be supported as it has proven to be an effective tool for concentrating urban growth while providing funding for open space.
19.	Not Provided	Not Provided		Purpose and need	In Section 1.3 Purpose and Need of the Calico Basin Recreation Area Management Plan and Draft Environmental Assessment states the following: "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." This statement of Purpose and Need is inconsistent with the established precedent of wilderness and recreational land usage in other notable areas. In all cases the priority of access to public lands by the public is prioritized over undesirable conditions for the residents of neighboring communities. Most National Parks were established for the protection of wilderness and the promotion of recreation at the expense of the residents of neighboring communities, many of whom were forced out of their residences to increase the total land area of the parks for the protection of the wilderness and the benefit of the recreating public. In another notable case, the restriction of access to Zion Canyon during high visitation periods has negatively impacted the residents of neighboring communities by increasing the use of parking and foot traffic immediately adjacent to residences, clearly demonstrating the prioritization of the public's ability to access public lands over the impacts to the residents of neighboring communities. If the opposite were true, then access to public lands would be prioritized for those land-owning individuals that purchase the lands surrounding wilderness and recreational areas, thus allowing the privatization of access to an entire public area by those private individuals immediately encircling that public area. This would be a horrendous precedent.

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20.	Kotab	Thomas		Purpose and need	I would start with the document, the draft document, starting with that there is a need, how has the BLM established this need only by citing the increase in visitation. I understand, and as John had just previously said much of this is self imposed because the BLM greatly increased the visitation of Calico when it severely restricted access to the scenic route
21.	Kotab	Thomas		Purpose and need	While there well might be a need "There is a need to provide management systems and recreational infrastructure", the BLM hasn't named any factors that lead it to conclude that "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 Red Rock Canyon management for the Calico Basin."
22.	Esker	Alli		Purpose and need	However, I encourage you to think more creatively about alternative options and empathize more with the climbers of the land. Although Muir Valley is private land, we don't restrict access, and we don't have a gate. If a gate is necessary, I suggest BLM to be explicit about why these measures are being taking and how they help to the goal of maintaining the land for everyone who steps foot on it.
23.	Hanks	Jen		Range of alternatives	The proposed RAMP plan states (section 2.4.3) that "Calico Basin is not suitable for motorized or mechanized use. Mountain biking is not compatible with the area's sensitive natural resources. It would also conflict with the area's pedestrian and equestrian uses". First, it is well documented that mountain biking has less impact on trails than equestrians and even some hikers. Second, through education and trail signage, it has been shown that multiple user groups can share the trail harmoniously. Personally, I use the trails for hiking, trail running, and mountain biking and have seen no conflicts with other user groups. As a former equestrian, I appreciate the concern equestrians have with horses getting spooked. That said, with education mountain bikers can and will follow appropriate trail etiquette when coming across the occasional equestrian on the Calico Basin trails. The number of people who own mountain bikes in Las Vegas far outnumbers the few people fortunate enough to own a horse.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
24.	Mulazimoglu	Cigdem		Range of alternatives	The list of eliminated alternatives that are in the Draft RAMP does not include a substantial alternative that incorporates many of the common sense ideas that immediately come to mind such as; parking improvements (adding new parking, improving existing parking, providing a carpool lot that would serve both the calico basin and the loop road, charging for certain lots to encourage carpooling); trail improvements (improving existing trails, adding additional trails); providing effective educational signage; adding more outhouses at major trailheads; providing more trash bins at strategic locations at trailheads and along trails; presence of more rangers for education and enforcement purposes; charging for certain amenities such as group picnicking/parking etc. None of these potential improvements are probably stand-alone solutions, but a combination of some of them could very well be packaged into a better alternative, and therefore eliminate the need for the proposed gate&fee alternative (at least for several years down the road).
25.	Mulazimoglu	Cigdem		Range of alternatives	The Draft RAMP has a very limited discussion of other alternatives, and there are no references to a supporting appendix or document that discusses the alternatives selection and elimination process in more detail.
26.	Borealis	Aurora		Range of alternatives	Including fully completed implementation plans, such as a climbing management plan or trail maintenance plan, with the RAMP. The RAMP is an overarching plan for managing the Calico Basin; it directs future implementation (see Section 2.5.4 for more details on implementation-phase undertakings)." Unfortunately, there was no section 2.5.4 for the reader to follow up with. Is this a typo, or will the public have access to this information before a climbing management plan is created?

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
27.	Ramsey	William		Range of alternatives	The Draft RAMP attempts to justify the implementation of the reservation system in Section 2.4.3: "Without implementing a reservation system, visitation to the Calico Basin would reach levels that the natural systems, resources, facilities, and trails could not support..." But this is not a real justification. In philosophy classes, we would teach this as a textbook fallacy - a restatement of a position, not an argument for that position. And that position is a speculative worst-case scenario that ignores the impact of other mitigating efforts, such as proper trail construction and signage, substantially improved facilities and toilets, educational outreach, a visible ranger presence and various other proposed changes to address the very large number of visitors. There has been no analysis, no evidence or study that demonstrates that with the new ameliorative modifications being proposed, the natural resources and trails of Calico Basin would collapse without a reservation system.
28.	McKell	Ryan	Long Range Division	Range of alternatives	Use native and adaptive plants to meet environmental objectives and reduce maintenance requirements.
29.	Kotab	Thomas		Range of alternatives	The BLM has arbitrarily eliminated alternatives without what itself demands of the comments-substantiveness. Opening the Calico Basin to mechanized use (or more precisely keeping the non-wilderness part open to mountain biking), Not implementing a reservation system and Not adding a fee system are by the BLM removed from consideration WITHOUT suggesting an alternative, identifying a different way to meet the project need, providing methodologies for RAMP/EA analysis and the reasons why they were used and identifying sources of credible research or data.
30.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Best available information and baseline data	With regards to "Resource Protection Strategy 2: Restore areas with native plant materials that are appropriate for use within the Calico Basin" and "Resource Protection Strategy 3: Restore burned areas or degraded habitats to improve wildlife habitat and visitor enjoyment of the Calico Basin," given on page 2-7, we are pleased to provide you with a set of best management practices for desert restoration (Abella and Berry 2016) with a link in the Literature Cited section below.

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31.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Best available information and baseline data	The mention of desert tortoise as the token federally threatened species in Section 4.2.5 on page 4-14 under "Special Status Species" does not constitute an analysis of status, current management, or new management under the Proposed Action, which is the requisite, regulatory function of a DEA. This and other sections need to be rewritten to provide sufficient baseline information that identifies tortoise concentration areas, resource conflicts, and proposed remedies for those conflicts that would be addressed by the Final RAMP/EA. Pertinent sections of the Final RAMP/EA must be rewritten to address these deficiencies.
32.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	GIS data and analysis	the Council recommends the following specific, bulleted components be added to the Final RAMP/EA: * Map showing suitable and (if possible) occupied habitats of the desert tortoise within Calico Basin. * Based on the distribution of tortoises depicted in the aforementioned map, please show: (1) Locations of existing and future kiosks, to be upgraded and established, respectively, to inform visitors of tortoise protection measures, which include, at a minimum, prohibition of collecting tortoises and releasing pet tortoises; prohibitions of littering and feeding wildlife like ravens and coyotes, which are known tortoise predators; etc. (2) Locations of signs informing visitors they are in tortoise habitats and to exercise heightened awareness of those prohibitions listed above and others the BLM may identify. * The two signage recommendations given above should be considered in the context of "Goal 1.4 (Trails and Access), Trails and Access Strategy 1," listed on page 2-10 as "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."
33.	Elliott	Gabriel		Direct and indirect impacts	given the new interest in our public lands, drastically altering Calico Basin access simply pushes the problem to other areas.

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34.	Skuba Gray	Michelle		Direct and indirect impacts	We've seen the direct effect of what timed-entry fees implemented at one location can do to another. We know this will begin to happen to other areas of Red Rock such as Oak Creek, First Creek, and Black Velvet -- all of which are even less prepared to handle crowds than Calico.
35.	Lin	Hongchang		Direct and indirect impacts	Calico Basin has been a mecca of bouldering sports in the US even the world. Definitely it should be climbers' responsibilities to protect this place while continuing to let this sport do good to so many existing climbers and young generations to come. Restricting the access just discourages people to carryon this sport in Calico Basin, and people will simply consider other places with easier or unrestricted access. Consequently, less people will consider visiting/living Las Vegas, Southern Nevada simply because there is restriction to do what they like, what they deserve to do.
36.	Stirling	Jephson		Direct and indirect impacts	I am strongly opposed to restricting access by way of a reservation system. I believe a reservation system will drive away outdoor enthusiasts of all types (not just climbers). This may push them towards areas that are not as well protected, more dangerous for inexperienced people, and create many new unforeseen challenges.
37.	Alicandri	Mike		Direct and indirect impacts	Creating a gated entry does not stop access to the area, just moves it to a different spot. No doubt the surrounding areas will be greatly impacted if access to Calico is restricted.
38.	Goldberg	Hannah		Direct and indirect impacts	By restricting the ability to access this area, you are not solving the problem, but simply moving it to another area. The same number of people will just be pushed to another climbing area in the region. Red rocks is a infamous climbing area, and people will continue to go there, so unilaterally enforcing restrictions without considering other options will create an antagonist relationship and push away the problem rather than solve it.
39.	Doig	Perry		Direct and indirect impacts	Enacting closures and fees for Calico will just cause visitors to move on to a different, fee-less part of Red Rock. We'll end up with the same problems, only in a different part of the conservation area.

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40.	Lavalley	John		Direct and indirect impacts	Environmental impact could shift to other uncontrolled areas. BLM proposes environmental conservation, access to facilities, and safety as one of the top reasons for implementing the control systems. However, the plan does not discuss the potential negative impact on other free access areas within the park lands. Individuals who cannot afford to pay to enter the park or cannot access it because it is closed, will surely look to other less established areas that do not come with such restrictions. BLM should explore whether such a shift of visitors to other areas in the park would offset any environmental benefit resulting from the current plan
41.	Page	Nathan		Direct and indirect impacts	The BLM heightened the restrictions on the Loop Road - was there no study on how this user base would pivot to less restrictive areas?
42.	Edwards	Bradley		Direct and indirect impacts	I do, however, have concerns on how the impacts of the most recent proposal (including gate entry, posted hours, etc.) will impact the area. Will this move the issue from Calico to other areas? Will the increase in other areas increase the likelihood of those areas being more heavily restricted? How do these restriction impact myriad outdoor users (climbers, hikers, etc.)?
43.	Kincaid	Jacob		Direct and indirect impacts	While sustainable recreation is undoubtedly an issue, there are other ways to address the increase in visitors. Recent access limitations in the nearby Red Rock Canyon Scenic Loop are responsible for a dramatic uptick in Calico Basin visitation in the last year, and if similar limitations are used in Calico Basin, it's only going to move the problem rather than solve it.

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44.	Petch	Tito		Direct and indirect impacts	I wanted to thank you guys personally for recognizing climbing as legitimate use, and while I understand how significant the impact of heavy traffic in Calico Basin is, I think it's important to thoroughly consider that restrictive access will only drive crowds to a different area in Red Rock rather than solve the issue at hand. Personally, I've only gone into the scenic loop a couple times because of the massive lines to get in, and I can see others like myself heading to more easily accessible areas. The swarming crowds at Calico Basin have already made me flock to other areas to climb-areas that require a lot more effort to get to (whether it be road conditions or longer hikes), but the majority of climbers will go to the next most easily accessible area. I am almost 100% sure this is what's going to happen if you begin to restrict access to Calico Basin. In other words, we are redirecting the problem elsewhere rather than tackling it. So I ask that the BLM find alternative management strategies to preserve fair and equitable access to Calico Basin.
45.	Frey	Lena		Direct and indirect impacts	Recent access limitations in the nearby Red Rock Canyon Scenic Loop are responsible for a dramatic uptick in Calico Basin visitation in the last year, and if similar limitations are used in Calico Basin, it's only going to move the problem rather than solve it
46.	Gladieux	Stephen		Direct and indirect impacts	Adding a gate and your outlined restrictions will severely limit climbing access when what is needed is to be more thoughtful about the amount of visitation, the types of activities, and the stewardship that is needed with it. A gate does not address these questions. The ability to access the area early and late is essential to fully utilizing the climbing activities, especially in differing seasons and temperatures. A gate and heavy handed restrictions will push climbers and visitors to other nearby areas. It won't solve questions of conservation or needed stewardship but will just move visitation to other, less restricted areas -- this moves the impact along and doesn't present any solutions. With each new area restricted the impact of over visitation could be even worse at those remaining places available.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
47.	Andrew	Nicholas		Direct and indirect impacts	I believe that building a literal gated community for the homeowners and restricting access to those who love to recreate there is a poor choice. I believe this will force people to other areas like First Creek Canyon or Black Velvet Canyon, effectively moving the problem rather than solving it.
48.	Foley	Pete	Pete Foley Innovation	Direct and indirect impacts	Just as introducing a booking system to Red Rock has increased demand at Calico, walling off Calico will simply squeeze existing supply into smaller and smaller spaces. Areas like First Creek will inevitable become more crowded. And if you fence those off, people will simple go elsewhere.
49.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Cumulative impacts	Finally, we note that the words, "Cumulative Effects/Impacts," do not appear anywhere in the Draft RAMP/EA, and must be included in the Final RAMP/EA (Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center v. BLM 2004, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals No. 03-35461 CV-02-03062-HO). Is this an oversight or was this requisite section intentionally excluded from the analysis?
50.	Wilder	John		Recreation Area Management Plan	It is my opinion that the scope of the RAMP should be limited to the Calico Basin proper (Gene's trail to the Calico Hills, and Gateway Canyon to the 159) and that the areas outside the Basin proper be revisited with their own EA and RAMP that is appropriate for their levels of use given that these areas have very limited access- currently there are only two small trail heads just outside residential neighborhoods (one of which sits about 75 yards from my home).
51.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Recreation Area Management Plan	On page 2-6, augment Principle 1 with the bold clause inserted below: "Resource Protection-Protect ecologic, scenic, cultural, other natural resources, including threatened and endangered species; wilderness; and recreation resources for present and future generations."
52.	Kotab	Thomas		Recreation Area Management Plan	2.2.1 - Table 2-1 is missing the primitive Kraft Mountain parking lot, providing the most important access to "Calico Basin's unique physical setting" and getting more visitation than the developed Red Spring picnic area

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53.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Goals and strategies	Goals and Strategies identified in Section 2.3.3 will likely benefit tortoises, it is important that the desert tortoise be specifically included in pertinent prescriptions, some of which are given above, so that these measures are intentionally implemented and modified as needed in the context of adaptive management for this species.
54.	Del Gizzi	Allison		Resource protection	We are in full support of Goal 1.1 (pg. 2-7) focusing on resource protection in Calico Basin. The strategies and decisions identified for this goal do not adequately address how community outreach, education, and engagement should be used as tools for resource protection. We recommend the planning team to add the following strategy to better address this: Resource Protection Strategy 5: Develop education and outreach programs in collaboration with local partners to help educate visitors (including climbers, hikers, and horseback riders), manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
55.	Vitello	Sam		Resource protection	We are in full support of Goal 1.1 (pg. 2-7) focusing on resource protection in Calico Basin. The strategies and decisions identified for this goal do not adequately address how community outreach, education, and engagement should be used as tools for resource protection. We recommend the planning team to add the following strategy to better address this: Resource Protection Strategy 5: Develop education and outreach programs in collaboration with local partners to help educate visitors (including climbers, hikers, and horseback riders), manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
56.	Not Provided	Not Provided		Resource protection	I would request that the document should be revised to eliminate any reference to undesirable conditions for the residents of the Calico Basin community, as these are not relevant to the protection of public lands.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
57.	Del Gizzi	Allison		Resource protection	Goal 1.1 (pg. 2-7) focusing on resource protection in Calico Basin. The strategies and decisions identified for this goal do not adequately address how community outreach, education, and engagement should be used as tools for resource protection. We recommend the planning team to add the following strategy to better address this: Resource Protection Strategy 5: Develop education and outreach programs in collaboration with local partners to help educate visitors (including climbers, hikers, and horseback riders), manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
58.	Hempel	Dwight		Resource protection	Goal 1.1 - Resource Protection Decisions: We recommend including a decision line-item that focuses on repairing and maintaining riparian habitats at Red Spring, Ash Spring and Calico Spring. While this could be considered adequately covered under the already listed decisions, the importance of these riparian habitats cannot be overstated.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
59.	Hempel	Dwight		Resource protection	Goal 1.1 -- Resource Protection Strategy 4: Realizing BLM does not have imminent domain authority, but must work with a willing seller, BLM in recent years has missed some important opportunities to reacquire private lands in the Basin. The BLM should change to a more active approach by reaching out to a land owner and/or real estate agent to let them know of BLM's interest in a parcel. Specific parcels I would recommend are: a. Girl Scout Camp: This 30-acre undeveloped edge inholding is critical to the Calico Basin view shed and the heavily used trail between Red Springs and Kraft Mountain parking lot. Possible future development of this parcel at one home per 2 acres would potentially block the trail and access to Calico Spring and associated canyon, unless BLM acquires at least trail easements. While the local Girl Scout council may not be interested in selling/exchanging this parcel, I've heard that the Girl Scout's National Office might be interested in a sale/exchange. Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 165-01-101-013.b. Three lots on east side of Calico Drive: These 3 lots, comprising 15.29 acres of undeveloped edge inholding are part of the Heyer Trust. A number of California multi-millionaires have been looking at these properties to combine them into a personal resort. This would not be consistent with the character of the Basin and, being on a ridgeline, would significantly impact view sheds within Calico Basin. APN-164-06-201-006, 007 and 008.
60.	Jordan	Jorge	SNCC	Resource protection	The RAMP intends to be implemented to protect species like the Spring Mountains springsnail, yet a more adaptive strategy would be better signage, barriers, enforcement, and education at the few places where the snail exists. The spring at Ash Spring for example, which is a home of the snails, has absolutely no signage, no warnings, no barriers, and nothing is being done to protect the species.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
61.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Resource protection	As such, before focusing on increased restrictions to access, we urge the BLM to keep building on the steps they have already taken to create a more rigorous ranger presence in the area, both for education and enforcement, in order to mitigate user impact. A stronger ranger presence will reduce parking violations (thereby reducing crowding), increase compliance with critical regulations to safeguard the landscape, and provide opportunities for the long term education of users. This approach is in line with broader recreation ecology principles, which affirm that simply limiting the number of users does not necessarily better protect or restore ecological integrity to a resource. Recreation carrying capacity concepts have evolved over several decades from a focus on fixed visitation limits to comprehensive decision making frameworks focused on sustaining high-quality recreational opportunities. ³ Marion, J. 2016. A review and synthesis of recreation ecology research supporting carrying capacity and visitor use management decisionmaking. Journal of Forestry. http://dx.doi.org/10.5849/jof.15-062 .

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62.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Resource protection	As such, before focusing on increased restrictions to access, we urge the BLM to keep building on the steps they have already taken to create a more rigorous ranger presence in the area, both for education and enforcement, in order to mitigate user impact. A stronger ranger presence will reduce parking violations (thereby reducing crowding), increase compliance with critical regulations to safeguard the landscape, and provide opportunities for the long term education of users. This approach is in line with broader recreation ecology principles, which affirm that simply limiting the number of users does not necessarily better protect or restore ecological integrity to a resource. Recreation carrying capacity concepts have evolved over several decades from a focus on fixed visitation limits to comprehensive decision making frameworks focused on sustaining high-quality recreational opportunities. ³ Marion, J. 2016. A review and synthesis of recreation ecology research supporting carrying capacity and visitor use management decisionmaking. Journal of Forestry. http://dx.doi.org/10.5849/jof.15-062 .

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63.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Resource protection	<p>Recreation ecology studies looking at the amount of visitor use related to resource impacts consistently find that use and impact are strongly related only at initial and low levels of visitation, with weak correlations at higher use levels.⁴ High levels of resource impacts often occur on established and heavily used trails and recreation sites: reducing use to improve resource condition is generally an ineffective practice. Because of the general asymptotic use/impact relationship and the influence of many other factors, reducing use on a heavily used trail is unlikely to improve trail and surrounding resource conditions.⁵ An increasing number of recreation ecology studies describe the efficacy of alternative management strategies, including the design, location, and maintenance of sustainable trails and recreation sites. For areas with high visitation, a containment, concentration, and education strategy is recommended and has been effectively applied.⁶ Many visitor impacts are directly related to human behavior by uneducated visitors who value the places they visit, yet lack the knowledge on proper outdoor ethics and behavior.⁷ ⁴ Ibid. ⁵ Ibid. ⁶ Leung, Y.-F., AND J.L. Marion. 1999. Spatial strategies for managing visitor impacts in national parks. J. Park Rec. Admin. 17(4):20 -38. ⁷ Hendee, J.C., AND C.P. Dawson. 2002. Wilderness management: Stewardship and protection of resources and values, 3rd ed. The WILD Foundation, Fulcrum Publ., Golden, CO.</p>

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64.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Resource protection	Recreation ecology studies looking at the amount of visitor use related to resource impacts consistently find that use and impact are strongly related only at initial and low levels of visitation, with weak correlations at higher use levels. ⁴ High levels of resource impacts often occur on established and heavily used trails and recreation sites: reducing use to improve resource condition is generally an ineffective practice. Because of the general asymptotic use/impact relationship and the influence of many other factors, reducing use on a heavily used trail is unlikely to improve trail and surrounding resource conditions. ⁵ An increasing number of recreation ecology studies describe the efficacy of alternative management strategies, including the design, location, and maintenance of sustainable trails and recreation sites. For areas with high visitation, a containment, concentration, and education strategy is recommended and has been effectively applied. ⁶ Many visitor impacts are directly related to human behavior by uneducated visitors who value the places they visit, yet lack the knowledge on proper outdoor ethics and behavior. ⁷ ⁴ Ibid. ⁵ Ibid. ⁶ Leung, Y.-F., AND J.L. Marion. 1999. Spatial strategies for managing visitor impacts in national parks. J. Park Rec. Admin. 17(4):20 -38. ⁷ Hendee, J.C., AND C.P. Dawson. 2002. Wilderness management: Stewardship and protection of resources and values, 3rd ed. The WILD Foundation, Fulcrum Publ., Golden, CO.
65.	Macmurtrie	Caitlin		Resource protection	I think hosting monthly cleanups and trail days in Calico coordinated with the BLM and other nonprofits with climbing organizations would be vital for longevity of the area and also allow climbers the opportunity to learn about how to preserve an area and foster a sense of community and code of conduct among their peers, because they helped preserve that area.
66.	Kotab	Thomas		Resource protection	2.3.3 Resource Protection Strategy 4 seems to be contradictory to BLMs recent actions, when it sold large swaths of edge-holdings for residential developments. BLM has not explained how acquiring in-holdings should lead to resource protection.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
67.	Griffin	Simone	BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails	Resource protection	Resource Protection Decision I 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. BRC Response: We recommend route rerouting rather than restoration. All management solutions should be exhausted and through NEPA and various alternatives must be considered.
68.	DeAngeli	Nicole		Resource protection	The trails in RRNCA are in much worse condition than trails adjacent to other major cities like Denver, Reno, or Phoenix. Hiring a trail crew and improving signage could help keep users on the trails instead of trampling sensitive ecosystems. It is pretty infuriating to see people walking in the red springs meadow nearly every day... again, we need rangers out there protecting sensitive areas.
69.	Stocking	Larry		Recreation use	Closing the Calico Basin area at 8pm in the summertime (and even earlier in other seasons) would be a tremendous loss to the rock climbing community. Las Vegas is a very hot place; in the summertime, it can be nearly impossible to climb on many areas inside the Calico Basin until after sunset. This is especially true for rock aspects that face the sun, which is the case for the majority of the established climbing areas in the Calico Basin. Post sunset access to these areas is a crucial element of maintaining recreational opportunity for rock climbing. Please, please consider a change to the proposed operating hours in the Calico Basin management plan. Forcing the same operating hours would mean the loss of one of the greatest recreational climbing opportunities in the country. All the objectives described in the management plan are still attainable while allowing extended nighttime use for the area.

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70.	Arnold	Ryan		Recreation use	I think we can all agree that the place and its surroundings should be cherished and protected by all. However, what puzzles me most, is the aggressive anti-mountain biking stance by BLM in this area. The puzzling part is that the vast majority of mountain bikers do it because of their love for nature and distaste for anyone that doesn't work to preserve it. That said, I'm hopeful that this process will allow us to find common ground, work together, and help educate the public on how best to enjoy the park together. My experience has shown me that most of the mountain bikers I know who frequent this area care about it far more than many of the visitors it receives. One only has to walk several feet on some of these trails to see the dog waste (often times in a plastic bag), discarded plastic water bottles or some random stomping off of the trail for a selfie, thus disturbing the surrounding area. This same group is also frustrated with the recent increase in new mountain bikers that have yet to be educated on the basic rules of the trail...yield to hikers and horseback riders, no off-trail riding, don't sanitize the trail by removing rocks, no skidding the rear tire, etc. I can assure you that there is a group that has spent many hours trying to rectify much of the trail damage and trail shortcuts caused by these few individuals. What is needed is a joint effort between the BLM and mountain bike community to educate visitors.
71.	Arnold	Ryan		Recreation use	We continue to hear that the primary reason for our exclusion is because of the negative interaction's mountain bikers have with both hikers and horseback riders. Given all my years and all of my acquaintances, I can't think of any time in this area where such a negative interaction has occurred. Are there trails in this area that aren't fit for shared use because of the sure volume of hikers? Absolutely. It also must be understood that mountain bikers don't want to be on these trails anyways.
72.	Hollis	Katherine		Recreation use	The BLM has a some good examples on how you manage climbing along the Scenic Loop: if you must move forward with a gate for the area, please allow for early entry and late exits for climbing, along with pedestrians being able to enter without a fee.

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73.	Lawrence	Ben		Recreation use	Also, many boulders and climbers climb at night. As fewer do that than in the day (so there are no crowding issues), and as they are generally quiet it should be allowed that they continue to have access to public lands in the evening. Climbing with a headlamp is common and acceptable.
74.	Cormier	Alison		Recreation use	Regarding mountain biking, I feel it is short sighted of the BLM to try to ban such users altogether. With the explosion of bicycling recently, there are more and more riders on the trails, and people are branching out to find additional places to ride. This is only going to increase in the coming years. Since it is located so close to populated areas, the Calico Basin is a natural place for mountain bikers looking for new trails. I understand that the trails currently being used by mountain bikers are not legally planned trails. But rather than an outright ban of mountain biking altogether, I feel that a better solution is for the BLM to work with the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association to find acceptable locations for trails within the Calico Basin in areas that are not environmentally or culturally sensitive, and to educate riders on the importance of these concerns.
75.	Hempel	Dwight		Recreation use	Goal 1.2 Recreation Use - Recreation Use Decision 1: As you heard on the public webinar and we observe almost every evening, especially during the full moon, there is a significant use of evening and early morning hiking and bouldering. This should be accommodated, while ensuring that visitors not engaged in these activities are not allowed. Unfortunately, it is also during the evening and night hours when significant resource damage and safety concerns occur.
76.	Lewis	Gabe		Recreation use	Want to keep options open for new developments, new boulders, etc. Not just "designated climbing areas" that already exist.
77.	Meester	Tyler		Recreation use	The hours of operation are not aligned with the sunrise and sunset, and people should be allowed to access these public spaces until dark. This is especially important in the summer time, when temperatures are not cool enough until late afternoon/early evening.

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78.	Stoker	Lawrence		Recreation use	the hours proposed for the summer are pointless. Many people go climbing in the summer well after dark once it finally cools off. The hours proposed effectively kill any opportunity for working professionals to get out very early before work, or late in the day when things cool off. You are discouraging those who work hard and pay their taxes by prohibiting their use of the public lands.
79.	Lawrence	Ben		Recreation use	Also, many climbers require cooler temperatures to send hard climbs and so purposefully bring lights and climb at night. The access hours would prevent them from doing so. Bouldering in the early evening is perfectly respectable and should 100% be allowed, regardless of whether the sun has just set.
80.	Lurie	Benjamin		Recreation use	I propose that any reservation or fee system that is proposed only be used within certain peak hours, and that after those hours, people are able to continue to visit without a reservation. I frequently use Calico early in the morning or during the evening to climb, run or hike due to the weather in hot las Vegas. Limiting access to the area after dark like is done for the scenic loop is not acceptable to me and will severely cut into my recreational opportunities.
81.	Berginc	Jasmine		Recreation use	· Extending the "curfew hours" or making it easy to apply for an after hours permit where folks could outline their specific plans. · Working with local organizations (such as climbing organizations) to perhaps have volunteer rangers/stewards that would trade access/cost for volunteer hours
82.	Clark	Suzanne		Recreation use	Please consider mountain biking as an acceptable form of recreation in the Calico Basin.
83.	Miller	Mike		Recreation use	I am a 80% disabled veteran. I am unable to hike the calico trails but I can enjoy them on a bicycle. I would like to see them designated for mountain bikes.

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84.	Atchley	Taylor		Recreation use	I just wanted to communicate how important the mountain bike trails in Calico Basin be recognized and legitimized. These trails provide a fun, friendly, non-polluting way of enjoying trails on bicycles. They are used by many in the local area, including children, with no good alternatives to enjoy the red rock landscape via off-road cycling. Also, my understanding is that biking has been shown to be less harmful for the environment regarding soil erosion than hiking is. There have been many, many studies and examples of mountain bike trail advocacy and access providing a large boom to local economies. They also provide a phenomenal way to promote physical health and mental well-being (for example, I can't hike much due to plantar fasciitis, so it is important to me to be able to ride my bike for fitness and wellness).
85.	Goodfriend	Aaron		Recreation use	I'd ask you to reconsider the time constraints for access to the park. Closing the park at 8pm will reduce the effective time available for climbing quite significantly and I believe it to be too restrictive.
86.	Andrews	Sophie		Recreation use	I strongly encourage the BLM to reconsider this plan, and consider alternatives which would not severely restrict one of Las Vegas's most important recreation destinations. At the very least, the area should remain open even after gate hours. This will still allow for managing the number of concurrent visitors at peak visitation hours, but will also keep the area open to all without a time restriction. After-sunset hours are not peak hours (or even close), so congestion would not be an issue like it can be during the day.
87.	Andrews	Sophie		Recreation use	Calico Basin is my primary source of outdoor recreation, and I, and many others, frequently visit the area outside of the proposed time restrictions. Many climbers enjoy bouldering at night to avoid the hot Vegas sun, and world-class climbers come here to climb at night in order to get the best conditions which gives them the highest chance at succeeding on their boulder. The time restrictions would make this impossible and would be tragic for the climbing community.

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88.	Skuba Gray	Michelle		Recreation use	Restricted hours have already been implemented in the Scenic Loop and it heavily restricts those who wish to accomplish larger objectives or longer days in cooler weather. The desert environment is hot and harsh and many climbers benefit greatly from night-time access to climbs and boulders. If nothing else changes in your proposition, I hope you at least allow unrestricted night-time access after peak hours to accommodate the few climbers who benefit greatly from night climbing.
89.	Scott	Casey		Recreation use	The local Las Vegas Metro area MTB community is massive and growing. The number of representative constitutes and trail users far exceed equestrians and should be allowed access to their public lands for recreational use just as equestrians do.
90.	Hesse	Travis		Recreation use	I am asking that the BLM change the proposed RAMP plan to reflect current user needs and allow mountain bikes as authorized trail users within Calico Basin.

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91.	Hanks	Jen		Recreation use	Mountain biking is increasing in popularity and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Over the past year, bike trail counts across the United States have shown increases of 100%-500%. This has continued into 2021 as bike shops in Las Vegas and across the country cannot keep up with demand. This trend does not show any indication of slowing as the next generation is taking a keen interest in mountain biking. Mountain biking is currently the fastest-growing high school sport in the US. Mountain biking in Las Vegas helps diversify the economy and supports small business owners. It is important that the Calico Basin trails permit mountain bikes because they are a vital part of the Las Vegas area mountain bike trail network for the following reasons: 1. Their proximity to neighborhoods makes them trails that can be ridden to instead of driven to. This reduces the number of cars driving Highway 159 to trailheads and reduces congestion in the area. 2. These trails also serve as vital connectors to many neighboring trail networks. This allows cyclists an option to connect to trails while avoiding Highway 159. Highway 159 has a speed limit of 50mph and vehicles often travel much faster. These connector trails give cyclists a safe way to avoid the highway. 3. The trails are beginner-friendly making them some of the most inclusive trails in the Valley. 4. Due to the reasons stated above, these trails are popular riding routes for local middle and high school teams providing them a safe place to ride close to neighborhood schools.
92.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Recreation use	Furthermore, SNCC and AF strongly feel that limiting the access hours to Calico Basin is unnecessary. Overcrowding in the afterdark hours is not an issue at Calico Basin, and many locals treasure the area as a post-work spot to hike, climb, and generally find time to be out in nature. Especially in the summer months, being able to visit Calico Basin during the cool of night or very early in the morning is an experience critical to the well-being of the local residents, and given the lack of crowding during those times, limiting access to the hours proposed in the RAMP (which are universally too early to allow afterwork excursions in the winter, and nighttime use in the summer) is not required for resource protection.

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93.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Recreation use	Furthermore, SNCC and AF strongly feel that limiting the access hours to Calico Basin is unnecessary. Overcrowding in the afterdark hours is not an issue at Calico Basin, and many locals treasure the area as a post-work spot to hike, climb, and generally find time to be out in nature. Especially in the summer months, being able to visit Calico Basin during the cool of night or very early in the morning is an experience critical to the well-being of the local residents, and given the lack of crowding during those times, limiting access to the hours proposed in the RAMP (which are universally too early to allow afterwork excursions in the winter, and nighttime use in the summer) is not required for resource protection.
94.	Dawn	Stefani		Recreation use	Lastly, regarding the timing of entry yeah those of us that are locals do love to continue to climb in the summer and that 6am to 8pm truly is not really enough for the summer we're in there at 5am climbing or we're leaving after 8pm. And going into the other areas like First Creek is such a long approach, it would quite frankly be dangerous to go in and go climbing and getting out before the heat really hits
95.	Jordan	Jorge		Recreation use	The proposed hours of operation during the summertime again don't actually pursue and adapt a strategy. As stated in the RAMP summertime visitation is very significantly lower so there's no need to restrict usage if the summertime carrying capacity is nowhere near being reached.
96.	Shane	Adam		Recreation use	Another option would be to consider the different types of mountain bikes and restrict usage based on class. This has already been addressed through the NPS and could be extended to the BLM land area. Ideally to only allow standard mountain bikes (no electric assist) and Class-I e-bikes. https://www.nps.gov/subjects/biking/e-bikes.htm

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97.	Hanks	Jen	Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association	Recreation use	<p>The current designation of not allowing mountain bikes in Calico Basin is based on a decision from 2005. As you know, trail user demographics have evolved exponentially over the past 15 years. The needs of the public today were not adequately anticipated ALL of those years ago, nor was the growth of mountain biking as recreation. Mountain biking has been steadily increasing in popularity for the past decade. This rise in popularity has been exacerbated by the pandemic. NPD Sports estimates a 117% increase in bike sales in March/April 2020 over the same months in 2019. Mountain bike trail counts across the United States are showing increases of 100%-500% compared to the same time in 2020. 2021 has shown a similar boom; bike shops in Las Vegas and across the country cannot keep up with demand. This trend does not show any indication of slowing as the next generation is taking a keen interest in mountain biking. Mountain biking is currently the fastest-growing high school sport in the US. Serving the needs of our young girls and boys is a great goal we can both share. Calico Basin trails are suitable for mountain bikes. Equestrians and hikers are already allowed within the area and it is well documented that mountain bikes have less impact on trails than equestrians and even some hikers. Mountain biking is no more harmful to the area's sensitive natural resources than equestrian and hiking use. With proper education and trail signage, it has been shown that multiple user groups can share the trail harmoniously, which is happening in the seven Western states that we are a part of.</p>

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98.	Spicer	David	Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association	Recreation use	The current designation of not allowing mountain bikes in Calico Basin is based on a decision from 2005. As you know, trail user demographics have evolved exponentially over the past 15 years. The needs of the public today were not adequately anticipated ALL of those years ago, nor was the growth of mountain biking as recreation. Mountain biking has been steadily increasing in popularity for the past decade. This rise in popularity has been exacerbated by the pandemic. NPD Sports estimates a 117% increase in bike sales in March/April 2020 over the same months in 2019. Mountain bike trail counts across the United States are showing increases of 100%-500% compared to the same time in 2020. 2021 has shown a similar boom; bike shops in Las Vegas and across the country cannot keep up with demand. This trend does not show any indication of slowing as the next generation is taking a keen interest in mountain biking. Mountain biking is currently the fastest-growing high school sport in the US. Serving the needs of our young girls and boys is a great goal we can both share. Calico Basin trails are suitable for mountain bikes. Equestrians and hikers are already allowed within the area and it is well documented that mountain bikes have less impact on trails than equestrians and even some hikers. Mountain biking is no more harmful to the area's sensitive natural resources than equestrian and hiking use. With proper education and trail signage, it has been shown that multiple user groups can share the trail harmoniously, which is happening in the seven Western states that we are a part of.
99.	Lurie	Ben		Recreation use	the proposed plan, as others have said, in the summer, does not provide sufficient access, particularly for locals who work long hours as I do, and I also do not believe that it's the only way to raise money for the area I think you can have some sort of entry system during the peak hours that you're trying to limit crowding while also keeping the park open during the entirety of the evening in the very early morning, rather than excluding residents during those hours

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100.	Macmurtrie	Caitlin		Recreation use	I also want to say i'm against the hours that you guys are suggesting for the use of Calico Basin, largely because Calico bouldering is a well known place for climbers to go boulder in the summertime at night when temperatures are cooler, you basically can't recreate outside during the day and many months of the summer here, and if you guys if the BLM enforces an eight o'clock end time that basically will eliminate the whole use of bouldering in the summer.
101.	Russ	Dylan		Recreation use	And I personally can't really make access to the scenic drive work for me due to the hours that are given. During the summer it is not open long enough to take advantage of cool temperatures and the dawn dust are the best times of days just explore the desert and the reservation system will just impede this use, especially a gate with set hours.
102.	Palermo	Grace	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	Recreation use	The climbing management plan should include analysis of and mitigation for climbing's affect on cliff-nesting raptors. Also, we believe this plan is more likely to be successful if created in close partnership with the Southern Nevada Climber's Coalition so that there's user buy in when the plan is implemented.
103.	Harrington	Christine		Recreation use	Work to find a strategy that maintains access for individuals who recreate in Calico Basin in the early morning or late evening hours. Closing a gate and preventing all entry after a certain time will drastically limit access for a large number of people who frequent Calico Basin for recreation. Even if they are still able to enter the area on foot, this type of closure will present a prohibitive barrier to their use of the area. It may also have major unintended consequences, such as development of unauthorized parking areas or trails leading into Calico Basin. Bearing in mind the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation that I mentioned earlier, I strongly urge you (as a healthcare professional) to preserve easy access during early and late hours. One idea would be to simply open all gates outside of peak hours, such as is done in several prominent National Parks.
104.	Kotab	Thomas		Recreation use	Recreation Use Decision 1: the BLM has not provided any rationale why current 24-hour access should be restricted to just very limited day use, in the absence of particularly strong justification to that effect, RUD 1 should be struck.

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105.	Kotab	Thomas		Recreation use	Further, if horseback riding should be permitted and mountain biking prohibited, BLM needs to provide rationale for this favoritism of equestrian use, considering, for instance, Catherine Marina Pickering, Wendy Hill, David Newsome, Yu-Fai Leung: Comparing hiking, mountain biking and horse riding impacts on vegetation and soils in Australia and the United States of America, Journal of Environmental Management, Volume 91, Issue 3, 2010, Pages 551-562, ISSN 0301-4797, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2009.09.025 . In the absence thereof, the mountain biking ban in RUD 2 should be struck
106.	Fisher	Heather	Save Red Rock	Recreation use	We would like the plan to consider a more balanced, egalitarian "basin and range" approach that recognizes the different geographical elements and respects the different user groups. The "basin" area (the rocks and residential area of Calico Basin proper) could allow hiking, climbing, equestrian, and road biking. And the "range" area (the open desert between Calico Basin and Summerlin) could allow mountain biking. It would be a travesty to close all the popular trails west of Summerlin, as they provide a necessary and unique trail experience for a necessary and unique type of trail user, the novice rider, such as families, kids, high school NICA teams and beginners, who cannot ride or access the more topographically advanced and further away riding. Furthermore, dispersed recreation in "the range" could provide pressure relief in "the basin".
107.	Griffin	Simone	BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails	Recreation use	Recreation Use Strategy I Address visitor health and safety, resource protection and use, and user conflicts by closing areas to camping, target shooting, and other uses. BRC Response: Closure should never be the first mitigation strategy used. Under NEPA, various alternatives must be considered in order to mitigate conflict. Creating more areas where different types or recreation opportunities can occur would not prioritize one user group over another and still allow for health and safety and resource protection. We support active management over closures.

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108.	Griffin	Simone	BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails	Recreation use	Recreation Use Decision 3 Develop a climbing management plan for the RRCNCA. This plan would include a comprehensive approach to how climbing and access to climbing will be managed in the RRCNCA. BRC Response: Recreation Use Strategy 2 states, "Maintain current management of climbing, bouldering, and slack lining in the Calico Basin, per the RRCNCA RMP." Decision 3 contradicts the strategy to continue to manage climbing as is.
109.	Holl	Susan		Recreation use	Please reconsider the proposed gates and access limitations to Calico Basin. Climbing is a rapidly growing sport and locking off access to Calico Basin isn't going to make anyone want to climb less. The climbers aren't going away so it's important to think longer term about how to accommodate the increasing numbers of climbers.. Similarly, restricting the hours is only going to concentrate the numbers and maximize the impact they're having. In general, most climbers are pretty environmentally conscious and happy to work together in minimizing impact, honoring culturally important practices on traditional native lands, and building infrastructure such as parking areas, trails and toilets and organizing cleanups..
110.	Stocking	Chris		Recreation use	My primary concern is about the introduction of severely limiting operating hours to the area. I can (begrudgingly) accept that there may be a need for gated access to manage a large increase in the number of visitors to the area. However, limiting the operating hours to 5pm in the wintertime and 8pm (well before sunset) in the summertime is completely unjustifiable. Rock climbing in direct sunlight is nearly impossible in a Nevada summer. Imposing the current loop road operating hours on the Calico Basin would have the effect of virtually eliminating climbing as a recreational use on large parts of the land for large parts of the year.
111.	Johnston	Denita		Recreation use	Please have an after hours gate access similar to Lake Mead and other places. It does work to reduce traffic but also increase revenue.
112.	Boyd	Kristin		Recreation use	I ask that you consider the specific needs of climbers in this plan, in particular the early morning access and evening departures that are necessary for the climbing of certain longer routes and more difficult to reach terrain.

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113.	Marsden	Sincerely, Elliott		Recreation use	Climbing in Calico Basin should remain open 24/7, as night climbing is an essential component of the sport (better conditions)
114.	Scarborough	Jesse		Recreation use	Closing gates after hours will be harmful for climbers who take longer than expected or get stuck while climbing and they will likely be forced to sleep in their vehicles (most of us don't have sprinter vans ready to sleep in).
115.	Lai	Daniel		Recreation use	As you're well aware of the Nevada climate, if the proposed plan is implemented, it limits majority of the climbing hour during the warmer season with the hour restriction. Locked gate might sound like an immediate solution, but education can go a long way and be truly transformative
116.	Headd	Rex		Recreation use	Please consider allowing early entry and late exit possibilities as part of any new plan/solution. Those of us who cherish Calico Basin will happily get there by 6 or 7 am to do the activities we love in this incredible setting. It would also be very sad for us devotees (and there are many of us) to lose the ability to recreate at dusk/night, a necessity in the hot months.
117.	Foster	Peter		Recreation use	I hope you will consider at the very least lessening the severity of these regulations and allowing people the opportunity for early entry and late exit to allow for climbers who often need more time to be able to accomplish some of their goals.
118.	Weinstein	Arielle		Recreation use	Last January, we spent most of our time bouldering during off hours and at night to decrease crowding and give more space to those choosing to climb during the day. The implementation of hours will only increase crowding as those who wish to use the area will need to be there all at the same time. This could create unsafe situations where too many people are attempting to climb in small areas. I strongly encourage the BLM to not implement a gating system to restrict access.
119.	Belohlav	Kate		Recreation use	If the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.

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120.	Bercaw	John		Recreation use	Many climbers are up before dawn and climb late at night so restricting access is a draconian measure
121.	Kahne	Emanuel		Recreation use	<p>Adding a reservation and fee system is understandable, what will have the greatest negative impact is having Calico Basin open only during daylight hours. The value of having access to Calico Basin after sunset cannot be overstated. Ideally, rock climbing and hiking would be permitted in Calico Basin 24/7. The beauty of the outdoors is that it is always available. I often enjoy bouldering at night for the improved conditions, quieter atmosphere, and absence of crowds. Night access to Calico Basin will be beneficial to non-climbers as well. Nothing ruins a good sunset like having to rush back early because the area closes at dusk. In addition, nighttime walks are a great way to become present and find a moment of calm in a chaotic world. Given that the Scenic Drive is completely closed between sunset and sunrise, Calico basin is the primary option for those looking to recreate and rock climb after dark. Prohibiting recreation in Calico Basin after dark, combined with the current hours for the Scenic Drive, would be a huge disservice to the public and significantly decrease the value of Red Rocks as a destination. Finally, providing night access to Calico Basin has environmental benefits. By expanding the possible hours that one can rock climb, the timing of visitation will be more dispersed and ultimately less people will congregate at one climbing area at one time. This will make it more possible to keep impact zones from expanding and harming the local environment. I understand that the nearby residents may have concerns about 24/7 access to Calico Basin. I believe the impact on residents will be virtually unnoticeable. In my experience those who chose to recreate at night, especially those who climb at night, tend to be quite experienced and acutely aware of outdoor etiquette. I cannot imagine that those recreating at night will be playing loud music, causing noise pollution, or disturbing residents in any way. The number of people recreating at night will be smaller than the number of daytime visitors to Calico Basin and thus I believe impact on residents is manageable. If 24/7 access is not possible then simply allowing people to recreate several hours after dark,</p>

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					maybe until 10pm or 11pm (11pm is the start of "quiet hours" in many circumstances) would still be of huge benefit. The more time after dark that one can experience Calico Basin the better!
122.	Bishop	Devin		Recreation use	If the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.
123.	Laws	Jerry		Recreation use	If the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.
124.	Hickner	Michelle		Recreation use	My biggest concern with the proposed gate and fee system is access for climbers in early mornings and late evenings. The nature of the climbing routes in Calico Basin mean that long days are sometimes necessary. Trying to finish a route in time to get back before the gate closes, or being unable to approach a route until after the sun rises can lead to safety problems with serious consequences.
125.	Andrews	Matthew		Recreation use	If the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.
126.	Luong	Brandon		Recreation use	Th 24/7 access to the area is needed for this Nevada climate as sundown hours are some of the best climbing conditions imaginable Taking that away will do the greatest disservice at honoring this beautiful rock and limiting some of the most momentous achievements in our community. It goes without saying that adding fees and locked gates will develop a tone of commercialism and take away from the rawness of this great canyon
127.	Zipser	Chris		Recreation use	However, this fee system and restricted access is an inequitable for much of the community who utilize and care for the land. Being able to access the grounds bright and early, or late at night has always provided an escape from the hustle and bustle. These new restrictions will inhibit those seeking solitude in the outdoors. Many climbers access these areas for that exact reason.

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128.	Marino	Matthew		Recreation use	If the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.
129.	Tran	Alisha		Recreation use	Many people, climbers included, enjoy activities before sunrise and after sunset, and you would be eliminating access for a significant subset of people.
130.	Spang	Christine		Recreation use	With these limited hours, early morning and late evening bouldering at the world class Kraft Boulders would no longer be permitted. In the desert, these times of day are often the only reasonable times of day to recreate due to the temperatures. Removing this access removes a recreational resource for locals and visitors alike. I'm happy to pay a reasonable fee to support the area and pay for ranger enforcement of rules. But the current plan will only encourage more overcrowding at other areas, and means that folks who actually live in Las Vegas through the inhospitable summer won't be able to climb outside anymore.
131.	Nibali	Martin		Recreation use	If the proposed gate is non-negotiable, BLM should at least allow early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee. Climbing access seems to be low on the list of considerations in land management decisions, but for this location it is vital that our community's voice be heard. If fees are deemed necessary, they should be directed toward improved signage, visitor amenities, and other infrastructure to support recreational use of one of the jewels of US climbing.
132.	Osipchuk	Mariya		Recreation use	Please understand that climbing slightly differs from other styles of recreation in that some routes require more time to do than hikes and so free, early and late access (like the system used to be inside the loop) is really key in providing fair access to this type of sustainable recreation.

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133.	McClintock	Lindsay		Recreation use	If the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee. It is no secret that Las Vegas is hot. In the summer months, climbers wake up early and stay up late to have all the time possible outside on the rocks without being baked to a crisp in the sun. This is an act of discipline, passion and commitment to the love of climbing and the love of the nature that allows us to climb. Beating the heat requires early and late access to climbing areas and must be accommodated by any implemented system. To not allow such access would be a ban on climbing in summer months and a ban on climbing for we for working climbers.
134.	Sun	Christine		Recreation use	think there are better ways to address land impact than restricting access, which raises the barrier for newer outdoors people and would push the impact elsewhere, where it will be difficult to do outreach. Restricting climbing hours would cause more crowding, since some climbers take the evening shift and climb with lights.
135.	Klein	Nelson		Recreation use	As you know, the greater Vegas area gets incredibly hot during the late-spring to early-fall months, and for many, climbing at night is the only way to make use of these public lands. Night closures are totally arbitrary and do not in any way address the heart of the issue, that being recreation taking place in an unsustainable manner.
136.	Joseph	Anna		Recreation use	However, the proposed changes will have a profoundly negative impact on the climbing community, in an area that is so near and dear to many of us. One example is the issue of restricted hours. Restricted hours access eliminates much of the big wall climbing red rock is known for. Big wall climbing days are full days, and restricted hours make it near impossible to fit in these types of adventures. Reservations are also a challenge- in order to preserve the beautiful geology of red rock, climbers do not climb the day after it rains- if they the to the rock often breaks. I fear reservations will encourage people to climb the day after rain because they have a reservation for that day, and would be unable to get it for another day.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
137.	Fishman	Jacob		Recreation use	If the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.
138.	Conlee	Eli		Recreation use	If - and I hope it's a last resort - the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, please should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.
139.	Tsao	Ray		Recreation use	If the Bureau of Land Management must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee. However, I hope that the BLM will consider less restrictive management alternatives.
140.	Lin	Hongchang		Recreation use	Secondly, it is very hard to enforce the access restriction too! Rocks are in its best condition for climbing when the temperature is low. Will BLM support booking of visiting slots in old winter nights? How would you enforce it if people just get there without respecting the restriction in cold winter nights. Will BLM ask tax payers to employ staffs patrolling in the cold winter nights?
141.	Bourne	Nat		Recreation use	Having official "hours" for climbing at Red Rocks is also inimical to the free spirit of climbing. People should be able to access BLM lands whenever they wish to, and stay as long as they'd like each day. Again, a crowded route like Epinephrine requires a crack of dawn start, or maybe a very late ascent. People need to be able to schedule their climbs whenever they'd like, even if that means watching the stars from the top. Limiting accessible times will only concentrate people even further, as there will be no way to climb early or late in order to avoid crowds.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
142.	Feinsilber	Howard		Recreation use	It has come to my attention that the BLM is proposing very strict access limitations to this great climbing area. I would very much like to see a fair and balanced approach to any new restrictions. When out climbing, safety is always of paramount concern, and I have experienced days where we were stuck on a route and had to stay until after dark in order to get safely back down. I feel that having flexibility for early arrival and late exit is very important to climber safety. If a gate is installed, I feel that it would be fair to allow pedestrian access without fees.
143.	Guenthard	Brittanny		Recreation use	Restricting times at which people can access the land is also an exclusive problematic solution. Yes, less people will be there, but often times it is too hot to climb during the day. I personally suffer from heat stroke easily. Even going in the shoulder seasons when it is not insanely hot, a day in the sun takes too much of a toll. It is often safer for my physical health to climb at night. Restricting the hours of access makes it so people like me can no longer climb this iconic area. Not only that but allowing the area to be accessed 24 hours a day allows for more staggered visitation. If everyone who wanted to use the area could only do so for a short window of time it would mean too many people and that would lead to more people going off trail and damaging the fragile desert ecosystem. It would also mean more people trashing the area as crowd mentality tends to bring the worst out in people and makes them psychologically less responsible for their actions. I appreciate that you recognize climbing as a recreational activity but i ask that you take into consideration they types of people you will keep from being able to access this land with these proposed systems. I ask that you find better way to solve issues of increased visitors in other ways.
144.	Bodin	Connor		Recreation use	If there is to be a gate, allow climbers early and late access by permit and do not charge an entry fee to this public space.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
145.	Herman	Steve		Recreation use	One important part of climbing is getting an early start to finish longer and harder routes before dark and for safety to allow a buffer in case the climb takes longer than expected. Along those lines if you decide to move forward with the gate you should allow early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop.
146.	Lieb	Michael		Recreation use	. And as you may know the desert of Las Vegas can get exceedingly hot at times. This makes climbing during the day not as productive as at night or in the morning. I am concerned these restrictive measures you have proposed would limit our access to these legitimate activities during these cooler (and already less crowded) times.
147.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Special recreation permits	In its current form, the information given in the Draft RAMP/EA and its associated Appendix A are conflicting and misleading. For example, on page 2-8, "Recreation Use Decision 2" prohibits camping, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, mountain biking, and shooting yet Appendix A, "Approved Commercial, Competitive, and Organized Use," lists all these activities, except for shooting, as permissible. We assume that Appendix A pertains to the entire RRCNCA and has been inserted for convenience into the Calico Basin-specific Draft RAMP/EA. Since this is a stand-alone document, operating independently of the RRCNCA RMP, we recommend that Appendix A be substantially modified in the Final RAMP/EA to list only those pertinent activities that are permissible in Calico Basin.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
148.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Special recreation permits	With regards to "Goal 1.3 (Special Recreation Permits) [SRP]: Provide opportunities for commercial and noncommercial group events and filming that are compatible with the area's natural resources," given on page 2-9, if not already, we ask that BLM develop a brochure to be distributed to all SRP holders that inform them of tortoise occurrence in the area and nondiscretionary protective measures to be implemented during their exercise of the SRP. * We ask that BLM close all areas of significant tortoise densities to SRP activities that involve large crowds (e.g., a wedding of X-number people). To implement such a measure, it is advisable that BLM complete programmatic surveys and/or assessments in appropriate areas [see Nussear et al. (2009), Feinberg et al. (2019), Gray et al. (2019)] to determine suitable and occupied habitats so that high density areas can be delineated and subsequently avoided.
149.	Gerard	Jenni		Special recreation permits	Hikers and climbers should be allowed separate permits in the Scenic Route area, and to prevent access to Calico Basin would be unnecessary and hurtful to the people who travel here just to climb.
150.	Hempel	Dwight		Trails and access	Goal 1.2 Recreation Use - Recreation Use Decision 2: As you heard on the public webinar, there is a lot of interest in allowing mountain bike trails in the eastern portion of the Calico Basin RAMP adjacent to the sub-divisions. We request you take another look at this use to determine is there might be an opportunity to accommodate a small mountain bike use area, while protecting the natural resources. The east boundary of the RRC NCA must be marked in some manner.
151.	Hutchinson	Robert	Southern Nevada Bicycle Coalition	Trails and access	We are asking that the BLM reconsider recognizing mountain bikes as legitimate trail users within certain Calico Basin trails (that are not within the Wilderness boundaries)

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
152.	Hutchinson	Robert	Southern Nevada Bicycle Coalition	Trails and access	The trails we are referring to are adjacent to Summerlin West in the Southern part of Calico Basin and removed from the higher traffic areas with climbers, hikers, and equestrians. The Calico Basin trails are a vital part of the Las Vegas area mountain bike trail network. Due to their proximity to neighboring communities and beginner friendly terrain, the Calico Basin trails are some of the most inclusive trails in the Valley. Additionally, these trails serve as vital connectors to many other neighboring trail networks. By opening these trails to mountain bikes, you are reducing automobile congestion and secondary air pollution on Highway 159 by reducing the number of people forced to drive to trailheads. You are also increasing the safety of cyclists by giving them options to connect to other trails without sharing the road with vehicles traveling upwards of 50mph on Highway 159. This is a win-win scenario for mountain bikers, the environment, and Red Rock Canyon/Calico Basin area. It is also important to note that these trails are popular riding routes for local middle and high school mountain bike teams as they provide a safe place to ride close to neighborhood schools.
153.	Lurie	Benjamin		Trails and access	I propose that a subset of trails be designated for and maintained with the intention of facilitating mountain biking. ALL trails do not need to be open to MTB, but a small subset would facilitate access to the area and adjacent trails. I also propose that the "cowboy trails" area around fossil ridge road be specifically open for mountain biking, as this area has a multitude of trails and is not overcrowded like the rest of Calico.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
154.	Dexter, Jr	Fred		Trails and access	Reducing the number of hiking and climbing routes does NOT ENHANCE. It restricts. Further, IMPROVE what? The climbing and hiking routes now being used DO NOT NEED IMPROVEMENT. The rocks and terrain are not being damaged. Further, the type of persons hiking and climbing naturally respect this area. Trash and graffiti are not found in the leivation areas of Calico Basin. Posting signage all over Calico Basin designating climbing and hiking routes would be graffiti itself. I have been hiking and climbing in Calico Basin for over a decade. I have consistently observed other users in this rugged back country behaving with great respect for personal safety. I have never observed any behavior damaging to the Calico Basin terrain.
155.	Bennett	Scott		Trails and access	I would just like to echo Jen's comments that we would like access to you know, not all of Calico trails but obviously the ones that are less used so that we can continue you know, using those trails for mountain biking and helping the younger, you know residents of this area, middle schoolers and high schoolers, learn in a safe environment where they have better access
156.	Boffeli	Shannon		Trails and access	I would just like to advocate for the inclusion of mountain biking in the Calico Basin area. I think a careful analysis of the traffic patterns in the Calico Basin area would show that mountain bikers are not specifically contributing to the increased numbers of users or automobile traffic in Calico Basin, as most of us access the trails from Summerlin and only use the trails to pass through Calico on our way out to Red Rock. I also know, as a member of the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association that these trails have been submitted to the local BLM for their consideration as recognized official trails and that the BLM has not responded to any of those requests and has not moved the process along in giving access or legitimizing any of the trails for mountain bike access, and I think that that needs to be considered in this plan thanks.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
157.	Dawn	Stefani		Trails and access	what i'm not clear about is whether the trail access is part of the RAMP only and how this might impact not only climbing but I know there's a lot of scramblers, for example, out there that are actually probably potentially more broadly using a lot of the non, um I guess standard trails in the area, so it would it would be helpful to know how the trail access is going to be handled, and if that's going to be part of this RAMP and where the climbing management plan and that overlap.
158.	Hanks	Jen		Trails and access	Today i'm asking that the BLM reconsider recognizing mountain bikes as legitimate trail users, within certain Calico Basin trails. The trails I am referring to are adjacent to Summerlin West in in the southern part of Calico Basin and removed from the higher traffic areas of Calico Basin. These particular trails are a vital part of the Las Vegas area mountain bike trail network for a few reasons. One their proximity to neighborhoods make them trails that can be routed into instead of driven to. This reduces congestion on highway 159 and at trail heads. Two, these trails also serve as vital connectors to many neighboring trail networks, this allows cyclists many options to connect to trails while avoiding busy highway 159, thus increasing their safety. Three, these trails are beginner friendly trails making them some of the most inclusive trails in all of Las Vegas. And four, due to the reasons stated above these trails are popular riding routes for local middle and high school teams, providing them a safe place to ride close to neighborhood schools.
159.	Harrison	Lisa		Trails and access	I think it's important that this plan is inclusive and mountain bike trails should be considered in the summerlin West area
160.	Hanks	Jen	Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association	Trails and access	We are asking that the BLM reconsider recognizing mountain bikes as legitimate trail users within certain parts of the Calico Basin. The area we are referring to is adjacent to Summerlin West in the southern and eastern parts of Calico Basin and removed from the higher traffic areas where climbers, hikers, and equestrians recreate. We are also asking the BLM to work alongside SNMBA in finding a pathway to legitimize these existing trails within Calico Basin.

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161.	Spicer	David	Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association	Trails and access	We are asking that the BLM reconsider recognizing mountain bikes as legitimate trail users within certain parts of the Calico Basin. The area we are referring to is adjacent to Summerlin West in the southern and eastern parts of Calico Basin and removed from the higher traffic areas where climbers, hikers, and equestrians recreate. We are also asking the BLM to work alongside SNMBA in finding a pathway to legitimize these existing trails within Calico Basin.
162.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Trails and access	With regards to "Trails and Access Decision 1: Do not evaluate or authorize the construction of any new trails with this RAMP," given on page 2-12, it is not clear to us the intent and function of "Inventoried Trails" versus "BLM designated trails." Except for Figures 3, 7, and a few others, we do not find any mention of Inventoried Trails elsewhere in the text of the Draft RAMP/EA. Will all Inventoried Trails be open for all uses, which is implied at the top of page 2-12? Does BLM intend to close some of these trails, or alternatively, will they function as BLM-designated trails? In any case, please explain in the Final RAMP/EA what the intent and function of Inventoried Trails is compared to BLM-designated Trails.
163.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Trails and access	Assuming they exist, please modify kiosks at the trailheads listed on page 2-10 (i.e., Red Spring Boardwalk and Picnic Area, Kraft Mountain, Gene's Trailhead, Calico Spring Trailhead, Brownstone Trailhead) to identify tortoise occurrence and protective measures applicable to the areas accessed at those trailheads (i.e., if it is determined no tortoises occur in a given area, this information may be excluded). And, if such kiosks do not exist, develop them with the tortoise-protective measures clearly identified. Protecting tortoises while enjoying the encounters, instead of prohibitions, should be emphasized.* In addition, we suggest this information be provided digitally on BLM's website for the Calico Basin Recreation Area and that the kiosks display QR codes that will link a smart phone user to this information.

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164.	Lurie	Ben		Trails and access	there are areas, particularly those on the other side of the highway and the few ones just outside of West summerlin that would provide better continuity of trail access if they were made opening mountain bikes and this needs to be addressed throughout the valley, and this is just a very important place to where if there is not something done to legitimize trails you're going to have the continued proliferation of illegal trails
165.	Palermo	Grace	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	Trails and access	With the decision to designate, maintain, and improve a Brownstone Trailhead, protecting the delicate cultural resources in this area must be prioritized. Improving access to this area is likely to lead to cultural resource damage. We agree that the vehicle barrier at this access point should be maintained, and that interpretive information could be helpful. However, access here should not be made easier and the area shouldn't be advertised, included on maps, or otherwise promoted.
166.	Palermo	Grace	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	Trails and access	We want to see annual trail maintenance plans that include goals for at least the next five years. We believe this will help make maintenance more proactive about addressing upcoming problems, rather than reactive to growing problems.
167.	Youngblood	Kevin		Trails and access	Additionally, as there are a number of existing trails within Calico Basin that have not gone through the BLM's examination process of natural and cultural resources, I am asking that the BLM work with local organizations such as SNMBA to work toward a pathway of recognition.
168.	Futrell	Aaron		Trails and access	It is critical for the Calico Basin trails to be legitimized to provide the growing number of Las Vegas mountain bikers trails that are easy to access, beginner-friendly, and connect to other trail systems in the area, the latter of which allows cyclists to avoid the busy Highway 159, reducing traffic congestion and improving safety.

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169.	Harrington	Christine		Trails and access	If the decision to continue prohibiting mountain biking on Calico Basin trails is related to user conflict, I might suggest adopting one of the many multi-user trail management strategies that have proven successful in other high traffic multi-user trail areas, such as directional travel or odd-day only use. Additionally, installation of signage educating riders on trail etiquette and proper passing technique to avoid off-trail travel could significantly reduce the impact of mountain bikes in the area and throughout the valley. One additional option would be to allow mountain biking conditionally for a specified length of time with specific parameters to study its compatibility with other trail uses and the conservation directive for the area.
170.	McKell	Ryan	Long Range Division	Trails and access	· Increase the amount of park and open space acreage and develop innovative park typologies as part of redevelopment.
171.	Kotab	Thomas		Trails and access	Trails and Access Decision I is illogical. BLM admits and expects increased visitation, but refuses to add trails to disperse hikers. TAD I should be rewritten to authorize existing inventoried trails or reroute where needed to minimize impact on sensitive species AND consider authorization/construction of new trails to alleviate possible overcrowding/overuse concerns.
172.	Griffin	Simone	BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails	Trails and access	Trails and Access Strategy 10 Consider seasonal or temporary closures following weather events to reduce trail impacts from visitor use. BRC Response: BRC opposes these closures as we believe other management strategies can and should be used. Often temporary closures result in permanent closures. Any seasonal or temporary closures need to be explicit on how and when they will be reopened.
173.	Griffin	Simone	BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails	Trails and access	Trails and Access Decision I Do not evaluate or authorize the construction of any new trails with this RAMP. BRC Response: There is clearly a need for more trails as visitation increases and will most certainly continue to increase. The BLM has the responsibility to consider new trails to accommodate visitation numbers.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
174.	Griffin	Simone	BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails	Trails and access	As recreation demands have increased tremendously the past few years and continue to increase, the BLM needs to analyze ways to provide adequate access without congesting sites. BRC strongly supports opening all current routes unauthorized or otherwise. These routes have been developed because of different needs. If there are any routes the BLM finds are appropriate for closure for protection, re-routing the trail and having proper education would be best management practices. We recommend replacing "reroute" for "decommission" or "closure". Resource impacts in this area are already minimized by adjacent areas that are designated wilderness. Leaving routes open would also benefit all types of user groups. As users continue to increase, providing the most amount of mileage possible will help mitigate impact.
175.	Griffin	Simone	BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails	Trails and access	Trails and Access Strategy 4 Close and restore undesignated social trails; prioritize restoration of trails through sensitive species' habitat or historic properties. BRC Response: These trails have most likely been created to see and observe an area of special interest. The BLM should look to officially designate these trails so that proper signage and education can be done to protect any sensitive areas that have motivated the creation of these trails in the first place. As visitation grows the BLM needs to also grow their trail system in order to accommodate use and mitigate impact.
176.	Kaplan	Shana		Trails and access	We have relied on accessing this area for decades making it a significant opportunity to recreate and maintain a healthy lifestyle on federal lands. We appreciate this use being recognized over the years. However the direction you are headed is only going to create further impacts elsewhere. We need to work on creating additional climbing areas not limiting the ones that currently exist. We need more people to access these areas not less not the last. With population growth as it is occurring here there is a greater need for outdoor recreation. Limiting access to this area is not the solution and makes it available to only those who can afford it, can plan in advance using technology, etc.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
177.	Hempel	Dwight		Safety	Goal 1.5 Safety - Decisions: Interestingly, there are no decisions listed under this goal. We recommend adding the following three "decisions": a. Safety Decision 1: Construct a bike trail from the planned Legacy Bike Trail at Gene's Trail trailhead to Red Spring, parallel to but separate from Calico Bain Road. Calico Basin Road is narrow and mixing bikes and cars on this road is a significant safety hazard. b. Safety Decision 2: Add "speed humps" and speed limit signs on Sandstone Drive. This is a road segment with some very high speed traffic, even though the speed limit is 25 mph. Potential options are speed humps in the vicinity of Little Springs Road and Sage Place. c. Safety Decision 3: Remove the cattle guard at the intersection of Calico Basin Road and SR-159. This is no longer needed and it is a safety hazard. The entire intersection needs to be re-engineered to accommodate traffic exiting Calico Basin.
178.	Lewis	Gabe		Safety	Similarly - Any plans to provide cell service in Calico (and in scenic loop)? Lots of Las Vegans get lost and stranded
179.	Jordan	Jorge	SNCC	Safety	As stated in the ramp at section "3.2 Law Enforcement Role", The SNCC and many other groups could be made available to provide designated volunteer. That increased presence could improve visitor experiences and may mitigate negative or unsafe behaviors which this RAMP states it would like to address.
180.	Dexter, Jr	Fred		Safety	Every public (and private) recreational area, worldwide, will have an occasional accident involving personal injury. Calico Basin, and RRCNCA in general, do have these unfortunate events. RRCNCA has limited access already, yet some accidents do happen, anyhow. Visitor number limitations will not improve safety and eliminate such events. So, if BLM is implying that the proposed Calico Basin management plan will improve safety, that is clearly not true based on the similar program now used in RRCNCA. Therefore, what does IMPROVE mean?
181.	Doumas	Alexander		Wilderness	Climbing bolts should only be allowed if they are installed without the use of motorized tools, as per the BLM wilderness management handbook. Installed climbing bolts are hard to spot (even when specifically looking for them) and so should not be banned outright.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
182.	Andrews	Sophie		Wilderness	I also would strongly encourage the BLM to design a plan to allow climbing bolts to be placed sustainably in the wilderness areas surrounding Las Vegas. There exists immense potential for Las Vegas to become one of the leading sport climbing destinations in the US. My recommendation would be to consider a permitting system for new route development and route maintenance in wilderness areas. This has worked well for other US climbing destinations.
183.	Palermo	Grace	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	Wilderness	We are in support of trail marking signs along the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail. Any such markers should be as minimal and natural in appearance as possible, perhaps like the cairns along the Turtlehead Peak Trail.
184.	Emery-Fertitta	Luke		Wilderness	I also would strongly encourage the BLM to design a plan to allow climbing bolts to be placed sustainably in the wilderness areas surrounding Las Vegas. There exists immense potential for Las Vegas to become one of the leading sport climbing destinations in the US. My recommendation would be to consider a permitting system for new route development and route maintenance in wilderness areas.
185.	Giuffria	Jonathon		Education	To mitigate resource deterioration, the BLM should permanently place one or more resource stewards whose principal job is to engage with the public encouraging them to recreate responsibly and Leave No Trace. Should the steward encounter unlawful practices, the steward should have the authority to issue fines. The BLM should better engage with local stewardship groups to organize resource maintenance days, such as trail rehabilitation, vertical mulching, trash removal, and so forth. Currently, it is exceedingly difficult for organizations to volunteer their time to protect the resource.
186.	Giuffria	Jonathon		Education	While gating the resource and limiting hours will decrease resource use, the action will push recreational users to other sensitive desert areas while not addressing the core problem: an uneducated user base.
187.	Elliott	Gabriel		Education	I'd like to see an education program for dog owners, climbers, hikers to emphasize the shared responsibility for picking up after ourselves, respecting local wildlife, plants and neighbors.

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188.	Lewis	Gabe		Education	Make better maps at all trailheads and trail intersections in order to limit "social trails" to "established climbing areas." Local climbers would LOVE to help with trail work (once Covid is over) to limit social trails and help delineate the actual trail to limit erosion. Most tourists (and probably most Americans) cannot read a topo map and figure out where they are/where they're trying to go. For example, the trail from the Kraft parking lot towards the east side of Kraft Mountain has a shortcut (that's technically private property), but no one knows this and keep making the path wider and more "established"
189.	Shatz	Alexei		Education	I urge you to consider spending money on educating visitors of the area on how to best preserve/maintain the land we all cherish, as well as on infrastructure efforts to support the increased traffic. Please reconsider (remove from the plan) the toll booth and/or the proposed operating hours restriction.
190.	Fryatt	Ed		Education	In all my time of riding, I have come across both hikers and horseback riders and have always had pleasant interactions with both. I was taught early on that they have the right of way and we must yield to both. I think there is a general lack of education in this aspect to most new mountain bike riders. But that can be rectified quite easily through signage and outreach through our local mountain bike associations.
191.	Goodfriend	Aaron		Education	I recognize the urgent need to address the overwhelming increase in visitors to the park. I'd like to see additional resources allocated for better public education, trail building, and bathroom services. I know as a community we can address this challenge without causing undue limitations for local and frequent users.
192.	Soucy	Michael		Education	Perhaps consider staffing the trailhead(s) with a ranger or two to point people in the right direction and educate them about their surroundings.
193.	Not Provided	Aimee		Education	With the addition of a gate with resources stationed there, educational brochures could be handed out to visitors to bring about awareness on minimizing impact (short-term solution before more permanent signage and amenities are set up).

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194.	Friesen	Bryan		Education	what we should be focusing on instead of building structures and gates to keep people out is educating the public on how to be better stewards of the land, I think this is much more important than trying to restrict access. Um one way that this could be done is there are large social media hiking and climbing groups that are Vegas based and these provide huge audiences to educate the public on how to better protect our resources. A greater social media presence by the BLM with simple messaging to protect these resources could be an easy first step to better protect Calico Basin.
195.	Hendrix	Leici		Education	Second, we would like to see the BLM increase the number of park Rangers present in Calico Basin. If there were more Rangers they could regularly walk trails and educate visitors in order to better manage recreation in Calico Basin. We believe this would be a more moderate approach that would allow management of a heavily used area without limiting access.
196.	Jordan	Jorge		Education	A poll of our Members stated that 56% of them have never seen a ranger while recreating, 32% of them I've rarely seen one, and this is what an average visitation to Calico alone of one to two times one to two times per week. Increased ranger presence, better enforcement of current regulations, proper parking enforcement, greatly improved trail signage, potentially self pay kiosks all seem like more appropriate for steps to pursue a proper strategy.
197.	Lewis	Gabriel		Education	I think the main difference is the signage in Red Rock. I've offered to, folks at the visitor Center and SNCC and the Friends of Red Rocks, but I think so many people on this call would be happy to go out and put additional signs up at the parking lots saying hey please stay on trails because a lot of people just don't know that that's the ethic as well as some of those little plastic signs out on the trails being like hey this is where you should be please don't walk on the crypto biotic soil because it's ruining it. Especially in Kraft around all the bouldering areas, as well as on the long approaches in the scenic drive
198.	Miller	Gigi		Education	More education at the trailheads needs to happen with rangers on foot or volunteers on the busy weekends and holiday periods

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199.	DeAngeli	Nicole		Education	Educational programs (could be run by volunteers) to teach leave-no-trace at trailheads could be a productive solution to reduce impact.
200.	Mlotkowski	Anthony		Education	A focus on visitor education can help preserve the condition in Red Rock, especially during busier seasons where Red Rock sees a massive uptick in tourists who are unfamiliar with leave no trace principles
201.	Karlson	Krista		Education	Rather than implement restrictive policies, please consider ways to invest in visitor education and adaptive management strategies that allow climbers to continue enjoying this land. Sustainable recreation access is crucial to our ability to care about the natural world; people can't care about a place if they can't access it. And if they can't care about it, they won't want to protect it for future generations to access.
202.	Weyenberg	Jacob		Education	I'm doing so, I believe that education is one of the best ways to preserve areas of the like. Giving people the knowledge to understand how they impact the areas they visit not only protects Calico Basin, but protects many areas all over the country. It brings a new sustainable approach by visitors that can be observed and learned by others. Additionally, stewardship programs that help build and maintain paths in the immediate area allows for easy and convenient exploring while preserving the area. It also allows those whole volunteer to have a deeper appreciation for the environment.
203.	Tran	Alisha		Education	However, there are many people who are unaware of Leave No Trace principles, and would benefit from further education, not restrictions, so that they may recreate responsibly in Calico Basin.

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204.	Nelson	Katherine		Education	Fees and gates exclude people from enjoying their public lands, something that goes against the goal of trying to get people outside. I believe education is much more critical than physical barriers. Teaching people to respect areas and value it as their own creates a stronger and more lasting way to preserve the landscape than anything else. I absolutely think many climbers can stand to learn a lot about preservation, LNT, and proper ethics outside, but I also think that a lot of the problems like littering, noise issues, and general disregard for the natural landscape come from non-climbing visitors. This issue needs more thought and consideration before taking action.
205.	Joan Lee	Nevada		Education	Instead of putting a BLM pay station, the bureau should focus on educational campaigns with Leave No Trace and outdoor stewardship. Therefore, we can both have a cleaner Calico Basin while establishing outdoor ethics to the newer members of our community.
206.	Sullivan	Megan		Education	As an alternative, I would love to see more resources at Calico Basin in particular to educate the public about how to keep climbing use as low-impact as a possible. This could be in the form of signs/information at parking lots, bulletin boards, and & visitors centers.
207.	Foster	Peter		Education	I'd love to see some less restrictive strategies proposed that would focus on educating the public and maintaining relatively unfettered access for the public!
208.	Doig	Perry		Education	If we're looking for a long term solution to these issues, I believe education and stewardship is a much more successful avenue. Rather than restrict access to the park, we should use this opportunity to create education opportunities for park-goers to learn about conservation, through "leave-no-trace" ethics, more trail maintenance volunteer opportunities (possibly with incentives like free entry into the main loop after volunteering), and partnership with the many non-profits who are dedicated to this exact topic.

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209.	Li	Genevieve		Education	A focus on visitor education can help preserve the condition in Red Rock, especially during busier seasons where Red Rock sees a massive uptick in tourists who are unfamiliar with leave no trace principles. There can be increased ranger presence and fines for improper behavior in the park to dissuade destructive littering and off-trail hiking. The BLM can also partner with local outdoors non-profits to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
210.	Asch	Halee		Education	Educating those who are utilizing these lands is a great way to start reducing impact. Having out reach days where volunteers can help clear trash or manage trail areas is another way. Many people climbers especially love and are deeply conected to these areas. I know for me calico basin is like a little slice of home in my heart and it deeply saddens me to know it may become a challenge for myself and others to access the much needed reprieve these places grant. I know myself and others would be happy to help log data, maintain and clean areas to keep these places open and accessible. I would also happily pay a fee to help with costs of maintenance of these areas as well. I would urge you all to do something similar to Red rock in that you allow option for early access and late entry to ensure the ability for climbers to handle longer climbs and unforeseen events that can be inevitable with bigger objectives. Supplying trash cans and bags at the trails are great. Please consider how these actions will affect the communitis who depend on these places for recreation and relying on those who are willing and able to help.
211.	Stroud	Ryder		Education	Why not partner with trail building crews and volunteers? Why not use the recent hiring of more rangers at the NCA as a reason to have them around in Calico Basin to enforce existing rules and regulations or to help educate the visiting public on how to reduce their impact? If you must impose hours, why not use a similar late exit structure that exists within the Loop? Why not divert funds generated by this proposed gate to improving public access infrastructure in Calico?

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212.	Meade	Devin		Education	Alternative options could include increased presence of BLM Rangers to educate and enforce the public while they recreate, parking fees, and more restrictive parking to limit parking on the streets, increased signage to instruct novice climbers on sustainable recreating and limiting erosion.
213.	Markov	Nikola		Education	When national parks closed due to Covid they overflowed with trash. The problem is people expected someone to come collect their garbage. This would not happen in Europe where people feel responsible to the sustainable maintenance of the land. A gate fee and reservation system will change the attitude of climbers from the one where they feel connected to the place and responsible to one of pure consumers expecting that an assigned person takes care of the land. The more sustainable option is to keep access as is and educate the users into best practices, use voluntary help to maintain the trails.
214.	Mascari	Stella		Education	I think a better alternative to try first is to spread the word on proper etiquette for outdoor spaces and parking. Perhaps working with a 3rd party non-profit that can help get the word out in TV commercials, facebook and instagram ads, more signage, and/or teaching free gym to crag classes at local and nationwide climbing gyms.
215.	Watson	Owen		Education	A much more effective policy approach would be an information campaign along with enforcement through rangers. Closing this site arbitrarily will only promote illegal access and will only enable those least likely to respect the area to access it

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
216.	Vollinger	Kathryn		Education	Please don't put the gate to calico basin in because it is not necessarily the most effective solution for protecting the land in and around there, and it limits folks from experiencing the sand stone desert landscape at night- a beautiful thing and some people's only time to visit and all they can afford. I've seen spray paint appear on rocks and trash thrown on trails only accessed via the loop road within a matter of hours in the middle of the day. There are heaps of social trails, damaged vegetation, and human waste in the canyons accessed only by the loop road. Restricting access to only people who can afford it during the allowed times obviously doesn't prevent such destructive behavior. Having climbing rangers and interp rangers and volunteers out in the field educating folks and role modeling LNT is a more effective tool. And it may have the added bonus of of helping prevent accidents. Having more toilets, wabags, signage, and trail markers can also help. Restricting parking space and enforcing it can also limit the number of people there at any one time.
217.	Franklin	Forrest		Education	While I understand the advantages of having a gate system to restrict access, I believe there are other ways to accomplish these goals. Using BLM resources originally intended for this gate, could instead be used to provide visitor amenities and to partner with nonprofits willing to help educate climbers and other visitors on more sustainable practices. I think you could find that people will be surprisingly cooperative if it means keeping access to calico open and easy.
218.	Pyne	Jacob		Education	I believe that a better solution to these issues would be working with the Access Fund and or other groups like it, to work on visitor education, trail and crag stewardship, and help address parking challenges.
219.	Nowicki	Leeanne		Education	First, there are many spidering trails. Adding signage would help greatly. Signage about trail names and distances as well as what trails go to what climbing areas as some newer climbers do not know the area well enough. Adding signage and blocking off the spidered trails would reinvigorate that land.

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220.	Myers	Dan		Education	The BLM should first consider updating the existing infrastructure at the site to better inform visitors of legal parking areas and access routes to the boulders, and then funnel and keep people on existing trails so that they do not damage the surrounding area by going off trail. This can be done through natural features and minimal man made fencing/guideposts similar to what currently exists in Joshua Tree National Park.
221.	Yartz	Connor		Education	As a climber the calico basin area has always been an area to has quick and easy access to climbing in situations where entering the scenic loop was not an option. This is especially true now with the hourly entry fees added on top of normal entry fees to the park. I would urge you to consider less severe actions in response to the surge of people entering calico basin recently. I believe that the RAMP proposal would be a great overstep in the gate keeping of our public lands and goes against the goal of keeping these lands open to all. I believe that these proposals will cause more issues than they will solve. We know that calico basin road already has issues with people parking in front of peoples properties and blocking roads and I think that these proposals will encourage more of this activity, further threatening climbing access. I think a better way to address current issues would be a focus on visitor education as well as a stronger ranger presence. I know in areas such as Joshua tree NP. There are events such as climber coffee where rangers and climbers can meet and hang out which allows for education opportunity's. I believe that working closer with climbers we can find a way to better solve these issues and continue providing public access to our land.
222.	Klein	Nelson		Education	Enforcement of existing rules which, yes, costs money, and education for land users, while less profitable than adding more gates and pay kiosks, is fundamental to these public lands keeping public access and doing so in a way that preserves them for future generations.

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223.	Foley	Pete	Pete Foley Innovation	Education	Instead of spending money and resources building walls and gates, spend them on education. Rather than having rangers collecting fees, put them on patrol, and increase fines for littering and graffiti to pay for this. Put up education materials at the parking lots that highlight both the reasons to not litter, but also highlight the downsides if you do.
224.	Weintraub	Abe		Visitation management	If overcrowding is the issue, limiting parking would be a more efficient and easier way than instituting a reservation system (particularly when the reservation system charges a fee that doesn't end up in the hands of the land managers).
225.	Wilder	John		Visitation management	It is my opinion that implementing this reservation system in Calico without first really studying its overall impact on the RRNCA from the implementation of it on the loop road is not the best idea. It is clear that the reservation system is causing visitation issues and impact outside of the loop and the BLM should study that and understand it before trying to use it as a tool for conservation.
226.	Wilder	John		Visitation management	Assuming the plan is executed as written, a late-exit system is appropriate for Calico Basin given the size of the recreation area. Hikers and climbers who wish to explore the full scope of the area, including the La Madre Mountain Wilderness, only have legal parking inside the Basin available to them, which naturally will put a time crunch on certain large goals that hikers like myself would like to accomplish. Without this option, I would personally need to add several miles to my hikes and increase my risks by doing so to accomplish those goals. It would be appropriate to create a late-exit system for both climbers and hikers in the Calico Basin with areas such as Gateway, Brownstone, and some multi-pitch routes in the Basin proper eligible for the late-exit pass.

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227.	Casey	Jeff		Visitation management	I personally find reservation systems and early morning admission (such as Red Rocks now allows without reservations) to be discriminatory. My retired friends who like morning hikes are not affected by this, but as I mentioned above, I prefer evening hikes, and my work constraints means that they are nearly always spontaneous. The Red Rocks system has excluded me, and if Calico Basin does the same I will be furious. This policy discriminates against evening hikers like myself, and discriminates against low-income hikers with day jobs. Needless to say, the fee system discriminates against all low-income hikers.
228.	Del Gizzi	Allison		Visitation management	We support Goal 2.1 (pg. 2-17), since the protection of both recreational use and natural resources should be priorities. Visitation management Strategy I proposes evaluating the use of an online reservation system, we strongly encourage BLM to abandon this strategy. Online reservation systems are barriers to utilizing public lands and should not be pursued as a management strategy. We strongly urge the BLM to consider less restrictive management alternatives that will preserve fair and equitable access to Calico Basin. For instance, providing limited designated parking.
229.	Vitello	Sam		Visitation management	We support Goal 2.1 (pg. 2-17), since the protection of both recreational use and natural resources should be priorities. Visitation management Strategy I proposes evaluating the use of an online reservation system, we strongly encourage BLM to abandon this strategy. Online reservation systems are barriers to utilizing public lands and should not be pursued as a management strategy. We strongly urge the BLM to consider less restrictive management alternatives that will preserve fair and equitable access to Calico Basin. For instance, providing limited designated parking.
230.	Foster	Anne		Visitation management	How far in advance would one have to book? Some people would block out the times every day...in advance... Taking up all the spots Oh, and you can only enter between 8 & 9 am... Or 9 & 10 am....etc....etc....oops...all reserved already.... And my grandkids want to visit... Now we are six....\$120.00 now it's absolutely out of the realm of possibility.
231.	Elliott	Gabriel		Visitation management	if this gate entry plan goes forward, please consider alternatives for pedestrian access.

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232.	Smith	Madalyne		Visitation management	If you do, god forbid, continue with the plan to charge fees, allowing only middle and upper classes to access outdoor recreation, at least allow pedestrians and cyclists to enter for free.
233.	Del Gizzi	Allison		Visitation management	Recent access limitations in the nearby Red Rock Canyon Scenic Loop (including an online reservation and fee system) are largely responsible for the increased traffic in Calico Basin the last year. We consider access to the scenic loop to be the most logistically difficult recreational access to public lands we have ever experienced. Similar management strategies to the Red Rock Canyon Scenic Loop are not viable options and do not preserve fair and equitable access to public lands.
234.	Del Gizzi	Allison		Visitation management	Visitation management Strategy I proposes evaluating the use of an online reservation system, we strongly encourage BLM to abandon this strategy. Online reservation systems are barriers to utilizing public lands and should not be pursued as a management strategy. We strongly urge the BLM to consider less restrictive management alternatives that will preserve fair and equitable access to Calico Basin. For instance, providing limited designated parking.

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235.	Hempel	Dwight		Visitation management	Goal 2.1 -- Visitation Management Visitation Management Strategy 1 and 2: There is a "capacity" interaction among (1) the number of visitors that can use the Red Spring Boardwalk, Picnic Area and trails; the Calico Springs trailhead and trails; and the Kraft Mountain trailhead and trails, to ensure natural resources protection and visitor expectation goals are met; (2) sufficient parking at Red Spring, Calico Spring trailhead, Kraft Mountain trailhead, and along the four BLM managed roads to accommodate these visitors; and (3) a fee and reservation management structure to balance these needs. This will be an evolving analysis based on experience of the management options being implemented. As provided in the draft RAMP, the start point might be to determine how many vehicles can be accommodated in existing designated parking locations. Then determine if this is too many visitors to support the natural resources goals and adjust accordingly by adding or reducing parking. A major component is the days and times fees will be collected and reservations required. Fee collection times and reservation times do not have to be simultaneous. Thinking of these as two separate actions would provide more management flexibility to fit the on-the-ground management needs. Consideration should be given to requiring reservations only during the peak seasons mentioned [October and November, Christmas to January 1, and March to May (Goal 1.5)] and perhaps only on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Parking fees could be assessed at all times and general access fee assessed only during reservation periods.
236.	Vargo	Julie		Visitation management	any plan with a proposed gate should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.
237.	Lewis	Gabe		Visitation management	If there's an entrance gate for Calico would be great to have a lane for pass holders
238.	Borsetti	Rae		Visitation management	It would also be nice for those of us who visit the park multiple days a week not to have to pay for the reservation each visit. Perhaps you could offer the option to make free reservations with a yearly pass but charge for no-shows.

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239.	Meester	Tyler		Visitation management	I am not okay with taxpayers paying to make Calico Basin essentially a gated community. It's absolutely unacceptable. Not to mention that the residents and their guests are exempt from the reservation system or it's costs. The residents of Calico Basin are benefiting immensely from these changes, and everyone else will be extremely inconvenienced or restricted due to these changes.
240.	Royal	J		Visitation management	If you have a lifetime pass to go into Red Rock Conservation areas and other national sites can you get into Calico Basin using that pass? Or will that be another fee? I am over 65 and would like to know.
241.	Stein	Steven		Visitation management	The cost and hassle of getting reservations limit my visits to the main loop. I feel it could be an option (such that when busy if you do not have a reservation you will not be allowed in). However - if there is no crowding then anyone arriving should be allowed in.
242.	Jordan	Jorge	SNCC	Visitation management	The proposed hours of operation during the summer time again don't actually pursue an adaptive strategy. As stated in the RAMP, summertime visitation is very significantly lower, so there's no need to restrict usage if the summertime carrying capacity is no where near being reached.
243.	Jordan	Jorge	SNCC	Visitation management	What is the actual carrying capacity of Calico Basin? A move from completely unfettered access to completely controlled access should be based on the actual carrying capacity of the resource, not based on current parking spots and historical lack of management.
244.	Goodfriend	Aaron		Visitation management	reconsider timed access reservation requirements and simply limit park access only when currently full.
245.	Butki	Alan		Visitation management	First, the reservation system may provide some level of control, but also restricts some of the impromptu nature of visits to the park. If revenue is the goal, raise the entrance fee at all times and allow visitors to come and experience the wonders of nature whenever the time fits their schedule.

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246.	Lewis	Angus		Visitation management	At the very least, the area should remain open even after gate hours. This will still allow for managing the number of concurrent visitors at peak visitation hours, but will also keep the area open to all without a time restriction. The availability of evening/night access could help reduce the number of visitors during the day.
247.	Fetterer	Ryan		Visitation management	Does someone visiting this area have the same access as someone living at 0 Calico Basin Road? Do they have a key card that gains them special access over someone else?
248.	Mutton	Debbie		Visitation management	Will those of us with our lifetime membership passes be able to use those? I hope this is addressed.
249.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Visitation management	Furthermore, the draft RAMP proposes an online reservation system to acquire a permit to access Calico Basin. While this is a fairly standard practice across federal land agencies, it can create a barrier for individuals who do not have access to a computer, internet, and a credit card. We suggest the BLM hold a certain number of permits available for the day of purchase with cash at the entrance (i.e. a walk-up option). This would provide all sectors of the population fair access to Calico Basin.

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250.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Visitation management	<p>The BLM proposes limiting user numbers based solely on the number of parking spots currently available. If limited entry day-use permits and quotas are implemented, they must be carefully tailored to reflect scientifically collected visitor use data and only require limited entry day-use permits be implemented during times proven by visitor use data to exceed carrying capacity beyond just parking infrastructure. Some reasonable level of Adaptive Management would allow the BLM to monitor use, allowing either daily quotas to be lowered or raised. If the BLM is only basing carrying capacity on the number of parking spots available they should explore the following possibilities: Only require reservations during critical peak periods - i.e. weekends, holidays, and other high-traffic times such as the weekdays around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Enforce existing parking regulations - far more people are using Calico Basin than there are actual delineated parking spots available, mostly by leaving their vehicles in unsanctioned locations. Simply enforcing the parking limits currently in place would reduce use levels. Instead of a gate, the BLM could install a self-serve kiosk and require users to pay a parking fee to park at the various parking areas in Calico Basin. Fees collected should be used towards visitor education, conservation, and recreational infrastructure. If the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter. Explore options for additional legal parking outside the Calico Basin that would allow climbers and other recreational users to access Calico Basin by foot. Increase the presence of rangers, both to enforce regulations designed to safeguard cultural and natural resources and also to better educate users. Both actions would reduce user impact on average, allowing more people to responsibly experience the area. Partner with SNCC and Access Fund to stabilize and harden existing staging areas, climbing access trails, and infrastructure, and close and reclaim redundant social trails. These improvements would protect natural and cultural resources.</p>

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251.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Visitation management	Furthermore, the draft RAMP proposes an online reservation system to acquire a permit to access Calico Basin. While this is a fairly standard practice across federal land agencies, it can create a barrier for individuals who do not have access to a computer, internet, and a credit card. We suggest the BLM hold a certain number of permits available for the day of purchase with cash at the entrance (i.e. a walk-up option). This would provide all sectors of the population fair access to Calico Basin.
252.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Visitation management	The BLM proposes limiting user numbers based solely on the number of parking spots currently available. If limited entry day-use permits and quotas are implemented, they must be carefully tailored to reflect scientifically collected visitor use data and only require limited entry day-use permits be implemented during times proven by visitor use data to exceed carrying capacity beyond just parking infrastructure. Some reasonable level of Adaptive Management would allow the BLM to monitor use, allowing either daily quotas to be lowered or raised. If the BLM is only basing carrying capacity on the number of parking spots available they should explore the following possibilities: Only require reservations during critical peak periods - i.e. weekends, holidays, and other high-traffic times such as the weekdays around Thanksgiving and Christmas.? Enforce existing parking regulations - far more people are using Calico Basin than there are actual delineated parking spots available, mostly by leaving their vehicles in unsanctioned locations. Simply enforcing the parking limits currently in place would reduce use levels.? Instead of a gate, the BLM could install a self-serve kiosk and require users to pay a parking fee to park at the various parking areas in Calico Basin. Fees collected should be used towards visitor education, conservation, and recreational infrastructure.? If the BLM must move forward with the proposed gate, they should allow for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter.? Explore options for additional legal parking outside the Calico Basin that would allow climbers and other recreational users to access Calico Basin by foot.? Increase the presence of rangers, both to enforce regulations

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					designed to safeguard cultural and natural resources and also to better educate users. Both actions would reduce user impact on average, allowing more people to responsibly experience the area.? Partner with SNCC and Access Fund to stabilize and harden existing staging areas, climbing access trails, and infrastructure, and close and reclaim redundant social trails. These improvements would protect natural and cultural resources.
253.	Not Provided	Aimee		Visitation management	If a gate is necessary, given that the plan references setting up similar capacity constraints and potential reservation as the Scenic Loop, the BLM should also consider allowances for early entry and late exit.
254.	Harrison	Lisa		Visitation management	I think late passes should be a consideration and reservations only for peak times and month.
255.	Hendrix	Leici		Visitation management	we'd like to suggest that, instead of implementing a fee structure via a tollbooth, that the BLM take a more adaptive management approach. That could include things like paid parking and parking enforcement of popular trailheads such as Kraft mountain. Paid parking and parking enforcement would help to decrease to visitation to Calico Basin without limiting access.
256.	Lawrence	Ben		Visitation management	I've heard that the problem that you're trying to address is overcrowding and also raise fees. And I do not see how closing the park in any way contributes to solving either of those and basically if if you restrict and the number of people that can come in peak hours, well then off peak hours are no problem so keep the park open that's my suggestion, keep the park open off peak there's no overcrowding you'd still get fees from people coming during on peak hours and you'd also throttle that on peak hour attendance.
257.	Macmurtrie	Caitlin		Visitation management	I also am suggesting a educational opportunity for more access. And what I mean by that is an alternative plan for people who use the area often. Maybe they can take some sort of educational course so that they can get more frequent use or after hours use. Suggesting that they know how to preserve the area and also maybe it's they volunteer four times a year to help preserve the area, and then they can get more access

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258.	Sitkin	Monika		Visitation management	I do think that part some sort of parking fees and pass may be helpful because it'll encourage people to carpool.
259.	Mulazimoglu	Cigdem		Visitation management	Another potential alternative that comes to mind: a middle of the way approach that requires reservations on holidays and weekends and keep it reservation free on weekdays - even the loop road does not seem to have any capacity issues on weekdays.
260.	Palermo	Grace	Friends of Nevada Wilderness	Visitation management	We encourage you to implement fees gradually by first seeing how the site-specific entry fee will affect recreation at Calico Basin before implementing a visitor Reservation System.c. We strongly encourage you to consider other options to limiting visitation, such as a shuttle or pay to park system.
261.	Borealis	Aurora		Visitation management	I believe a reservation system would be a fantastic way to combat overcrowding and protect natural resources. My suggestions for this change include: provide options such as a reservation call line AND/OR in-person/ park entrance reservation. A call line would lend those without access to technology or are visually impaired access to the reservation system. An example of successful reservation call line is seen with the current Timed Entry Reservations for Scenic Drive (call line is 877-444-6777) as well with with timed reservations at the Rocky Mountain National Park: (https://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/timed-entry-permit-system.htm) An at- park/ in-person entrance reservation would allow those without access to technology, lack of knowledge of the new online reservation system, etc. an opportunity to make a same day reservation at the park. Competitiveness for the amount of online spots vs. first-come first serve spots may be ameliorated by limiting the number of in-person day permit applications. Numbers for day permits can be based on these factors: amount of visitors accepted per day at Calico Basin, available number of parking spots, available number of online reservations (majority), available number of same-day permits (minority). Examples of successful use of same day permits/ reservation include Tahquitz Peak in California (https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet/cs/recarea?ss=110512&navtype=BRO)

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					WSEBYSUBJECT&cid=FSE_003738&navid=11024000000000&pnavid=11000000000000&position=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&recid=71977&ttype=recarea&pname=Tahquitz %20Peak%20Fire%20Lookout
262.	Borealis	Aurora		Visitation management	<p>I believe a reservation system would be a fantastic way to combat overcrowding and protect natural resources. My suggestions for this change include: provide options such as a reservation call line AND/OR in-person/ park entrance reservation. A call line would lend those without access to technology or are visually impaired access to the reservation system. An example of successful reservation call line is seen with the current Timed Entry Reservations for Scenic Drive (call line is 877-444-6777) as well with with timed reservations at the Rocky Mountain National Park: (https://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/timed-entry-permit-system.htm) An at- park/ in-person entrance reservation would allow those without access to technology, lack of knowledge of the new online reservation system, etc. an opportunity to make a same day reservation at the park. Competitiveness for the amount of online spots vs. first-come first serve spots may be ameliorated by limiting the number of in-person day permit applications. Numbers for day permits can be based on these factors: amount of visitors accepted per day at Calico Basin, available number of parking spots, available number of online reservations (majority), available number of same-day permits (minority). Examples of successful use of same day permits/ reservation include Tahquitz Peak in California (https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet/cs/recarea?ss=110512&navtype=BRO)</p> <p>WSEBYSUBJECT&cid=FSE_003738&navid=11024000000000&pnavid=11000000000000&position=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&recid=71977&ttype=recarea&pname=Tahquitz %20Peak%20Fire%20Lookout</p>
263.	Miller	Gigi		Visitation management	<p>Law enforcement can be utilized during the busy holiday periods and weekends to turn overflow away. Weekdays and off season, especially during the summer months should remain free and access not limited, as it's not busy on the trails at those times.</p>

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264.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Visitation management	Requiring reservations only during peak visitation periods of the year so as to not hinder access when issues related to overcrowding are not present.
265.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Visitation management	BLM should hold a certain amount of permits available for the day of purchase which would provide fair entry for visitors that may not have access to a computer to complete the online reservation process.
266.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Visitation management	If the BLM must move forward with a gate and timed entry, they should allow for early and late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop road. It's also important to note that the proposed timed entry will prevent local climbers from being able to climb when the temperatures are cooler during the warmer months - namely in the early mornings or evenings.
267.	Harrington	Christine		Visitation management	I strongly urge RRCNCA management to consider less restrictive alternatives. One idea would be to have automatic gated parking areas, similar to airport parking lots, which can automatically block entry once the lot is full during peak visitation hours. Another would be to drastically reduce the number of parking spots available in Calico Basin and implement a paid parking system such as an automated Pay for Parking kiosk or an "Iron Ranger". These options would require less staff time, reduce overhead, and maintain access for visitors who utilize the area during off-peak hours. They can also easily be adapted or scaled up as needed to meet management goals, which I believe makes them more suited to the practice of adaptive management than the currently proposed plans.
268.	Ramsey	William		Visitation management	If a reservation system is unavoidable, then at the very least is should be reserved for weekends and holidays, when the real crowds appear at Calico. This would preserve at least some of the spontaneous access - e.g., the after-work quickie hike - that the local residents (who do all of the trail-building, litter removal, graffiti removal, wag-bag upkeep, etc., etc.) have come to cherish. I have not seen an argument for why the reservation systems should be universally applied and not reserved for known peak overcrowding times.

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269.	Merkin	Max		Visitation management	Firstly, I'd like to suggest that instead of implementing a fee structure via a toll booth, that the BLM take a more adaptive approach to management. This could include things like paid parking and parking enforcement at popular trailheads such as Kraft Mountain. This sort of enforcement would help to decrease visitation to Calico Basin without limiting access.
270.	Deverell	Kelly		Visitation management	I'm saying, let's respect the locals who have been going to Calico all along. This can be done by letting us purchase a different permit that gives year round access without having to make an appointment.
271.	Mowers	Laralyn		Visitation management	I would like to propose a "Locals Pass," if you will, that would allow local climbers and hikers to maintain some of the privileges we currently enjoy. Perhaps after a mandatory education seminar and/or with mandatory stewardship activities in which we could "earn" this privilege. I realize this may seem unfair, but I feel it's unfair that non-local visitors have introduced so many issues that are now resulting in the need for a RAMP.
272.	Griffin	Simone	BlueRibbon Coalition/Sharetrails	Visitation management	Reservation systems tend to favor those who are in a financial position to make plans weeks out, and take advantage of these opportunities. We don't want to see certain demographics excluded from public land experiences. BRC believes the Department of the Interior needs to analyze and study data from areas where reservation systems have already been implemented.
273.	Barnwell	Colin		Visitation management	There are other ways to reduce impacts on the land, such as visitor education and parking restrictions.
274.	Gingras	Yannick		Visitation management	Cyclists and pedestrians have much lower impact on the land and in order to encourage more Calico Basins visitors to adopt those modes of transportation, it would make a lot of sense to loosen the controls that are imposed on cyclists and pedestrians
275.	Ellingford	KC		Visitation management	If the BLM worked with non-profits there could be a way to continue this free use. Maybe the BLM could implement a type of quota to restrict numbers of people/vehicle space.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
276.	Bodin	Connor		Visitation management	Put a gate station at the entrance, but only as a crowd control mechanism, rather than a ticket station. In this way, the gate operator may turn cars away when Calico is full, but will not charge or otherwise obstruct access.
277.	Lavalley	John		Visitation management	BLM should strongly consider studying the potential negative consequences discussed above and seek less impactful alternatives. For example, if there is a need to raise money to defray growing operating costs related to increased visitations, BLM could consider selling a special pass for specific activities (or affordable annual passes) or charge for parking in certain key areas. I encourage BLM to look at the system that was implemented at the Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz, NY. Mohonk implemented a similar system to protect the Shawangunk Mountains, while allowing visitors largely unrestricted access. This could result in a win-win outcome rather than implementing a system with significant unintended consequences.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
278.	Gingras	Yannick		Visitation management	<p>As you mentioned in the management plan, the increase in popularity in this area has been very impressive in recent years. I completely agree that something should be done to mitigate the impact of the growing crowd of users who come to enjoy this beautiful land. When aggressive management plans are proposed for a climbing area, I like to compare them with the one for Hueco Tanks. The plan there is very strict, but it ended up doing a very good job in both allowing people to enjoy the area while conserving the natural and historical resources well. There are a few things that I really like about the Hueco Tanks plan: - mandatory video watching; - possible to book a long time in advance; - release of entry passes as people exit the park. The mandatory video really helps to educate people on the sensitive nature of the area. After watching the video, park visitors are given a card that they can show at the gate to enter without having to re-watch the video for a full year. It's easy to book a trip to Hueco Tanks because the reservation system lets us know many months ahead of time if we will be able to get in or not. The reservations are done by phone, which levels the playing field compared to online booking, which gives an unfair advantage to tech savvy people who often have their way to automate the booking. As people leave the park, the rangers let in people who have been patiently waiting in line. This helps to give a chance to enjoy the park to visitors who are not fortunate enough to be able to plan their lives many months ahead of time. In addition to the very good features of the Hueco Tanks management plan above, I think that the BLM should consider these features in their management plan for Calico Basin: - increased ranger presence; - partnership with non-profit for education and outreach; - early entrance and late exit; - looser control for cyclists and pedestrians. Rangers are greatly skilled at education and at enforcing the management plan and common sense. Having more of them roaming in the area will be key to success.</p>

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
279.	Lund	Bethany		Visitation management	Allowing early access or fee free to walk in climbers and pedestrians will continue to preserve a fair and equitable access to people who care deeply about the outdoors. Educating the public on proper land stewardship will allow them to be part of a solution. We need to keep the outdoors free and attainable or we will lose the passion to preserve it.
280.	Mere	Andre		Visitation management	I do not support an access fee. I have witnessed the degradation of the calico basin over the past 5 years, which is truly stunning. Unbridled access is clearly unhealthy for this sensitive desert landscape considering it's proximity to Las Vegas and popularity for many different activities. In fact, it is not just climbers that impact this area, it is also hikers, mountain bikers, pets, ect. I think a gate and plan to control access is a step in the right direction. I believe pets/dogs should be STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Night access should be preserved with a reservation if possible. Please refrain from a timed access system with open access before a certain time in the AM. This system results in severely restricted parking for those with later reservations.
281.	Cooperrider	Wren		Visitation management	Extremely popular areas such as Kraft boulders, Sunny and Steep, the Yin and Yang crag, and the Riding Hood wall would become quite difficult to access. I urge the BLM to consider less heavy-handed measures that are more equitable, such as more visitor education and/or a climbing ranger presence. If there is truly no other viable solution, I ask that allowances be provided for climbers and other users to have early and late access. I have many fond memories of night sessions at the Kraft boulders, and this isn't a high-use time of day in my experience anyways. Restricting the hours which these areas can be used will only cause more congestion and will frustrate climbers even more. I hope that you will consider the requests of those who love to recreate on this land.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
282.	Achey	Ian		Visitation management	Before throwing a gate across the road with new fees and new restrictions that will limit locals from using Calico as an after work destination, consider some alternatives: 1. Can parking enforcement patrol for illegal parking more regularly? A reputation of ticketing illegally parked vehicles will spread quickly and with proper messaging will naturally limit the number of visitors at any given time. 2. Is there a way that a National Parks Pass could be incorporated into accessing the area? 3. Could we implement a fee that applies only to out of state (or out of county) license plates keeping it free to the locals who care for it and inevitably clean up after our visitors' mess.
283.	McIntyre	Cameron		Visitation management	Adding a gate and fees to gain entrance to Calico Basin would not be a huge deterrent on me, personally, but I can imagine it would have massive negative effects on the local climbers and the climbing community at large. The addition of a gate and fees would drive more recreational traffic to other non restricted areas, increasing the impact felt in those spaces. A possible alternative approach could be found in a no-cost online permit process that requires the visitor to educate themselves on the area through video or other media to receive a monthlong permit. There could be options available for donations to the Preserve and the Access Fund when applying for the permit.
284.	Hamilton	Keymon		Visitation management	If a fee is implemented it is essential that an early and late visitor pass is attainable.
285.	Rose	Kelsey		Visitation management	Is it possible to not restrict the time of entry and exit for those who love this area for climbing? I also think it would be helpful if during the week and non-peak seasons could be more open than weekends during peak season. As a climber, this area is truly special and I'm not aware of any other place as special as this region for climbing around the world. I know you understand this, so I hope you will work with the climbing coalitions and nonprofits in the area on this important issue!

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
286.	Purdy	Sabra		Visitation management	There are more flexible, sensible, and equitable ways to solve the dilemmas of overpopulated public lands. Please consider other options such as shuttles, reserving same-day access, increased stewardship and volunteer presence, parking management, and utilizing volunteers to help protect resources and educate visitors. This is a problem faced by many public lands managers and it is critical that the end result is not just public lands for the wealthy and privileged.
287.	Pugh	Harrison		Visitation management	1) Rescind timed entry access for the loop road. The pandemic-induced crush of users should abate once covid has passed, and this should negate the need for timed access. Performing (1) should reduce the burden on Calico Basin. 2) The Kraft and Red Springs parking areas should be ticked (modest \$5-10 parking fee) and the Kraft parking area enlarged 20%. Anybody parking outside these areas should be ticked, and the resulting revenues should be used to fund additional rangers to patrol the area. 3) There should *not* be limited timed access. This places dangerous externalities on climbers and other user groups to rush (either rappelling or hiking) at the end of the day to avoid a ticket.
288.	Przybylo	Michelle		Visitation management	One method I have seen used on other protected land is the need to purchase a sticker to park in the area. This sticker would be a one time purchase for the year. This would encourage locals to visit more and discourage tourists from over populating the area, also encouraging them to go to the loop.
289.	Abelea	Jinen		Visitation management	One option I like is to add a 24/7 free access gate for people on foot. This would make it possible to come and go whenever it works as the climbing conditions are better at different times of day, either in the early morning or sometimes after dark. Thanks for listening

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
290.	Ball	Jeffrey		Visitation management	I'm not opposed to there being regulation to the calico area similar to the rest of the loop. There's already a gate by the cattle guard at the front maybe that could be a national parks pass check station. However, just restricting access doesn't solve the real issues at hand which is too many vehicles and too many people leaving trash, disregarding trails and leaving human waste instead of using the bathroom facilities. The solution to that is a public shuttle service like the one that has been in place in Zion. And education to the public about trash, trails and poo. And then the enforcement of those rules.
291.	Treitler	Peter		Visitation management	At the very least, it should be open to anyone who is a resident of Las Vegas or the surrounding areas, and limited only to people who come to visit from outside areas. Otherwise, on the face of it this appears to be mostly about improving the quality of life of the very small number of ultra-wealthy people who live in the Calico Basin area. Instead of these drastic steps, the BLM could more carefully enforce regulations and step up patrols in the area, as well as provide training to area users, to minimize environmental impact.
292.	Krueger	Jade		Visitation management	In terms of climbing, perhaps there's a separate climbing access pass for calico basin? This could allow climbers to come earlier or leave later, etc.
293.	Richman	Spencer		Visitation management	I think that you should consider a more nuanced approach and gauge the results before deciding to charge a fee and put up a gate. You could, for example, limit the number of daily visitors and require reservations, but without charging a fee
294.	Gans	Maya		Visitation management	Another solution would be pay to park as this would encourage bicycling to the crag as well as carpooling! Thank you again for the ability to comment and for recognizing the climbing community.

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295.	DeAngeli	Nicole		Visitation management	One more suggestion would be to have rangers enforce parking in Calico Basin, limiting it to the two parking lots. When those fill up, turn people around. There aren't that many spots, so restricting parking would reduce the number of people without needing an expensive gate and reservation system. My experience in the loop road and Calico has been that it is only swamped on a few weekends each fall and spring, so you may be able to get away with enforcing parking only on those select weekends.
296.	Penney	Ethan		Visitation management	I think a less strict approach would suffice here. When we were there cars were parked everywhere. Reducing the parking spaces available would limit traffic without restricting it. A permit system if needed should be a last resort and early-entry, late-exit should be available
297.	Pollock	Brice		Visitation management	Calico Basin has remained a great place to visit when the unable to get entry access into the park or to simply enjoy climbing there. I understand there have been significant issues with parking overwhelming this region and would hope with collaboration with local organizations and the Access Fund we can implement approaches that do not require a gate such as expanded parking and facilities.
298.	Kao	Edmund		Visitation management	I feel that other, more intermediate steps should be investigated before putting up a gate and limiting access. More parking enforcement and visitor education could be an effective means of limiting crowds.
299.	Silverstein	Falafel		Visitation management	While an entry fee might be feasible, please consider equitable consolutions to keep the land accessible in spite of an entry fee; These measures might include :allowing for early entry/late exit (similar to the Scenic Loop),as well as allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee. Please keep these lands accessible to climbers and visitors alike

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
300.	Jones	Whitney		Visitation management	I am grateful to BLM for recognizing climbing as a recreational activity. As a university student I come to calico basin to relieve stress and maintain physical fitness while getting time outdoors. Red rocks has been a life changing outlet for me to grow closer with nature and heal from past trauma/cope with anxiety. This experience would never have been possible for me without the free access it currently exhibits. As I have limited funding and weird hours due to being a full time student. I believe the same resources that would go into this parking system would serve better in educational revenues for visitors. BLM could even consider partnering more with non profit organizations that seek to educate climbers and hikers on reducing environmental impact and respecting trails. I implore that if BLM does go forward with the gate system they make it affordable and with extended hours into the early morning and late evening and free entrance for pedestrians.
301.	Mascari	Stella		Visitation management	I think you should consider other options. I think it's really important to have an easy access free section of the park because public land is for EVERYONE, not just those that can afford to buy an annual pass AND pay \$ every time they make a reservation (on another note. I really hate that I can no longer just use my interagency pass. I also think the reservation fee needs to disappear). Outdoor recreation on OUR public lands should be accessible to ALL of us, even low income people. Calico Hills is a great compromise there. It even has a great wheelchair accessible boardwalk! Don't start charging for that and making the outdoors even less accessible to wheelchair users than it already is. And it's nice to have areas of the park that are accessible for local people after work in the winter. The sun sets too early to utilize the scenic loop after a full day of work, but people can still get in a quick jog, hike, or boulder session after work in the Calico Hills.

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302.	Foley	Pete	Pete Foley Innovation	Visitation management	Simply use parking capacity as a limiter, and fine people for illegal parking. A much better way of generating income that doesn't lock people out (c) Copy what the State parks do in Northern Nevada, and apply simple technology to let people know parking capacity is full several miles from the park. They do this very effectively at Sand Harbor. (d) Abandon the booking system for Red Rock, and allow it to take more of the overflow. You can still close it when it's full, but the booking system adds a major behavioral and convenience barrier to Red Rock, even for those who are able to pay, causing a 'convenience' overflow into Calico.
303.	Weide	Nathan		Visitation management	Smith Rock is a well know climbing destination that also includes those who are not associated with climbing. Climbers are very responsive and willing to negotiate ideas that will reduce impact that doesn't exclude people from accessing the area. Include paid parking fee and parking pass that locals can still use for their regular visits. A restriction on bolting is another way to reduce climbing in sensitive areas. An implemented trail system will keep visitors on designated trail and keep wandering on a minimum. Established easier routes will help spread climbers out and away from popular over climbed locations. Please consider other alternatives and communicate with other non profit organization than a complete lockdown of an area. There are other organizations who are willing to volunteer time and energy into making a location a better place for everyone to enjoy.
304.	Weintraub	Abe		Fee management	I strongly urge the BLM to consider other options. For example, the current system (free admittance at all hours) but a \$5 or \$10 fee to park would still raise money but not be as limiting.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
305.	Del Gizzi	Allison		Fee management	We do not support Fee Management Decision 1, specifically we do not support the implementation of a site-specific fee for the Calico Basin. Recent access limitations in the nearby Red Rock Canyon Scenic Loop (including an online reservation and fee system) are largely responsible for the increased traffic in Calico Basin the last year. We consider access to the scenic loop to be the most logistically difficult recreational access to public lands we have ever experienced. Similar management strategies to the Red Rock Canyon Scenic Loop are not viable options and do not preserve fair and equitable access to public lands.If the BLM chooses to move forward with the proposed gate and site-specific fee, we encourage allowing for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.
306.	Vitello	Sam		Fee management	We do not support Fee Management Decision 1, specifically we do not support the implementation of a site-specific fee for the Calico Basin. Recent access limitations in the nearby Red Rock Canyon Scenic Loop (including an online reservation and fee system) are largely responsible for the increased traffic in Calico Basin the last year. We consider access to the scenic loop to be the most logistically difficult recreational access to public lands we have ever experienced. Similar management strategies to the Red Rock Canyon Scenic Loop are not viable options and do not preserve fair and equitable access to public lands.If the BLM chooses to move forward with the proposed gate and site-specific fee, we encourage allowing for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee.
307.	Hardesty	Scott		Fee management	Please do not implement a fee or reservation system for this area. I believe that could hinder access in an unfair manner.
308.	Lawrence	Ben		Fee management	If money is still needed, I would like to suggest that instead of a gate and entry fee, you simply charge for safe parking. People would be much happier to pay for parking that provided video surveillance to keep their cars safe than just having an access fee and still having their windows smashed without recourse as happens in the scenic loop currently.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
309.	Cormier	Alison		Fee management	I understand the need by the BLM to manage the increased number of outdoor enthusiasts in the Calico Basin, but I think the idea of a gate with limited hours of access is far too extreme for this area. If additional funds are needed to help manage the increased use, I would urge the BLM to consider implementing parking fees. These fees can be collected via the same type of payment kiosks found in and around downtown Las Vegas. This would be far less costly to implement as well. This would allow for the collection of additional funds, while not restricting the hours of use, especially in the hot summer months when people go out very early in the morning, or later in the evening, to avoid the hottest part of the day.
310.	Foley	Pete		Fee management	.Some possible solutions include: (a) Instead of spending money and resources building walls and gates, spend them on education. Rather than having rangers collecting fees, put them on patrol, and increase fines for littering and graffiti to pay for this. Put up education materials at the parking lots that highlight both the reasons to not litter, but also highlight the downsides if you do. (b) Simply use parking capacity as a limiter, and fine people for illegal parking. A much better way of generating income that doesn't lock people out, or leverage disposable income as a filter for access. Less investment, and so fees could be much lower. You just need a person to enforce parking, but no gates or walls around this beautiful place (c) Copy what the State parks do in Northern Nevada, and apply simple technology to let people know parking capacity is full several miles from the park. They do this very effectively at Sand Harbor. (d) Abandon the booking system for Red Rock, and allow it to take more of the overflow. The BLM can still close it when it's full, but the booking system adds a major behavioral and convenience barrier to Red Rock, even for those who are able to pay, causing a 'convenience' overflow into Calico that is purely a function of BLM organizational protocol. (e) And if the BLM really, really, really must charge, at least provide free entry to all Nevada residents. It's not ideal, but most tourists are not the most disadvantaged, so at least this introduces some equity. Or only charge at peak weekends

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311.	Del Gizzi	Allison		Fee management	If the BLM chooses to move forward with the proposed gate and site-specific fee, we encourage allowing for early entry/late exit, similar to the Scenic Loop, along with allowances for pedestrians to enter without paying a fee
312.	Hempel	Dwight		Fee management	As many on the public webinar mentioned, BLM should take an incremental implementation approach to fees and reservations and apply adaptive management changes as needed to adjust fees and administration to the on-the-ground realities. Perhaps starting with a "parking fee" paid kiosks would be more acceptable to the general public. If that is not adequate, then graduate to an area use fee during weekends [Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday] during peak visitation times of the year. If that doesn't work well enough, then graduate to a full-time entrance fee station.
313.	Deverell	Kelly		Fee management	I'm not opposed to paying a yearly fee if it's put in place. I'd gladly pay even a higher fee for a "true local", "Resident of Summerlin" of "over 60" as long as I can access without having to make an appointment. If BLM moves forward with Calico fee, I'm asking that there be some way to protect this small demographic of Calico enthusiasts(Summerlin local and/or over 60).
314.	Vargo	Julie		Fee management	commit to investing any additional fees into recreational infrastructure, visitor education, and basic visitor amenities
315.	Berginc	Jasmine		Fee management	I appreciate that something "needs" to be done, and thus I would hope some items for consideration would be: · Lowering the daily fee (or keep it lower for Las Vegas residents, have out of town visitors pay more) · If there is an increase in fee, making it clear how that money is going directly back into the preservation of the area and the importance of the cost (otherwise it just continues to shut people out and unintentionally gentrify areas)
316.	Bonner	Jack		Fee management	Limit tourist access and push the fees to them and leave us locals out of the equation.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
317.	Goodfriend	Aaron		Fee management	I fully support a paid fee entry system, but it urge you to consider an annual pass option to provide access to frequent visitors. Personally, I rock climb (boulder, sport, and trad) between 1 and 3 days a week in the varying areas of calico basin depending on season. I'd happily pay \$200-\$300 per year for annual access pass.
318.	Butki	Alan		Fee management	Secondly, requiring additional, internal area restrictions or fees, such as a sub-area within the park like Calico Basin, complicates the visiting and hiking process. Once someone enters the park they should be able to visit whatever area they want.
319.	Butki	Alan		Fee management	Lastly, operating cost for day to day park operation should be borne by general admission, not a peak period reservation fees. Further, contingency funds and labor costs should be reserved; thus not having to renovate, repair, or replace toilet paper after temporary shut downs like the most recent Covid closure.
320.	Alger	Jay		Fee management	I propose a lower fee in addition to an online reservation system.
321.	D'Antonio	Robert		Fee management	My suggestion is charge 2-3 dollars for parking. A gate is a horrific idea and one that needs to die. Under no circumstances should a gate be put in place for the area. I also feel it's only a busy area Oct.-March. So no need to charge then.
322.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Fee management	On the technical side, fee collection for Kraft Mountain cannot be implemented until the 2018 Business Plan is amended to list the area as authorized for fee collection.
323.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Fee management	On the technical side, fee collection for Kraft Mountain cannot be implemented until the 2018 Business Plan is amended to list the area as authorized for fee collection.
324.	Cao	Andy		Fee management	Perhaps there are other avenues we can explore to reduce traffic and raise funds before we decide to build a gate. Perhaps we can charge peak hour parking fees at Kraft. That could help fund a pit toilet. I've seen solar powered parking stations where you enter in your license plate number and get a ticket to put on your windshield -- no attendant or ranger needed.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
325.	Anon	Anon		Fee management	I'm curious why we couldn't first try you know, a pay to park system where the fees would come in, where you know the concerns you have about about handling increased traffic can be mitigated through the collection of fees at the parking lot, however, you know restricting access wouldn't be the first measure taken.
326.	Friesen	Bryan		Fee management	As a previous caller mentioned paid parking could be a much more moderate approach to raising money for new facilities at Calico Basin, the BLM appears to overlook some of these more simple ideas that would not limit access to the area
327.	Foeh	Josh		Fee management	Additionally, if you do decide to implement a fee, I would ask that you consider offering reduced or free rates to low-income families.
328.	Hendrix	Leici		Fee management	we'd also like clarification on charging fees for Kraft mountain. Section 6802 of the Recreation Fee Authority of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 places clear restrictions on when recreation and amenities can be charged on Federal Land. Among these restrictions are the need for adequate infrastructure and amenities, including a permanent toilet facility and developed parking. Currently, Kraft has no amenities, and none are officially planned as a part of this RAMP we'd like to understand this further.
329.	Penlington	Parker		Fee management	Why not have a fee station that collects during the day but does not restrict access during the "closed" hours? National parks do it.
330.	Foley	Pete		Fee management	a much simpler approach would be to impose a moderate charge for parking on weekends. Virtually no capital expenditure is involved, and oversight would be one person to monitor parking on weekend day onlys.
331.	Webb	Adam		Fee management	If gated access does happen, early access and late exit should be allowed, as well as pedestrian access without fees.
332.	Ernst	DeAnna		Fee management	Charge the non-residents, limit their access and let locals have their accustomed unfettered access.
333.	Ernst	DeAnna		Fee management	Charge the non-residents, limit their access and let locals have their accustomed unfettered access.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
334.	Yee	Irene		Fee management	A smaller more manageable fee in parking areas in Calico, can lend to the cost of increasing services(bathrooms/trash) and is an actual adaptable solution.
335.	O'Rourke	Katie		Fee management	In the proposed plan there's a designated link for residents of Calico Basin to enter without paying a fee um I hope that we can include all southern Nevada locals to be able to use this express gate as well, instead of requiring the data entry extra fees and online reservation system RHE mandate on the RAMP for out of state visitors. Only this will allow for tracking of how many visitors are coming that are local and non local
336.	Blanchette	Danielle		Fee management	If you are to charge fees, I feel you need to consider lower income families, making it free or very cheap (\$1-2 per car) for locals, locals with children, or if someone has a Las Vegas student ID. It would also be nice for those of us with the America the Beautiful pass to be able to use it to enter. You can run programs like a "Buy 1 Give 1", where people have the option to pay an extra entrance fee to cover someone who can't afford it, in exchange for some benefit to themselves. However you decide on the details, non Las Vegas residents should pay a higher fee and this higher fee can be used to offset the cost for lower income families.
337.	Russ	Dylan		Fee management	As everybody said the fee system is exclusionary, but it also may be needed for giving the Red Rock area, the services it does need and I would really like to consider even to make it more inclusive, maybe adding certain amount of free passes per resident, maybe somebody could access it once or twice a year, but barring that, a parking pass is really reasonable to solving these issues.You can limit the amount of passes that parking pass is able to spit out each day or hour.
338.	Kaszuba	Brian		Fee management	For the proposal, I strongly advise against restricting hours and placing gates. Instead, I propose first collecting data on specific dates (ie. Holidays) for which overcrowding may be an issue and sampling what percentage of visitors are city locals versus tourists. One suggestion is a tourist-focused fee that does not set barriers for nor include the locals.

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339.	Woody	William		Fee management	I'm against locals (who already pay taxes) being charged a user fee. Charge the tourist not the locals, this could be done by providing a Nevada issued Drivers license which also might encourage the many people moving here to register as a Nevadian with DMV.
340.	Yogi	Dennis		Fee management	It is my humble opinion that entrance to Calico Basin remain free to Nevada Residents and that non residents be charged an entrance fee to help maintain the area. Residents already pay their share in taxes. This would not only assist in the cost of maintaining the area but also help to control the number of people.
341.	Borealis	Aurora		Fee management	Thirdly, consideration of lower fees for the start of the transition (perhaps the first year) as jobs and monetary support have exceedingly declined. Current literature search demonstrates the expansiveness of joblessness, lack of food security, and decline in population health. Lower entrance fees in a time of global uncertainty, would allow for accessibility for climbers and visitors in the categories of unemployed, unemployed minorities, low-income, middle-income populations access to our wild and beautiful places with the expectation that a small fee would allow for a grand experience. Past and current literature also elaborate on the value of nature's healing properties. Current literature discussing impact of COVID-19 on unemployment are seen in these recent articles: Chakrabarti S, Hamlet LC, Kaminsky J, Subramanian SV. Association of Human Mobility Restrictions and Race/Ethnicity-Based, Sex-Based, and Income-Based Factors With Inequities in Well-being During the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States. JAMA Netw Open. 2021 Apr 1;4(4):e217373. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.7373. PMID: 33825836; PMID: PMC8027913. Raifman J, Bor J, Venkataramani A. Association Between Receipt of Unemployment Insurance and Food Insecurity Among People Who Lost Employment During the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States. JAMA Netw Open. 2021 Jan 4;4(1):e2035884. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.35884. PMID: 33512519; PMID: PMC7846943. Rigby E. The COVID-19 Economy, Unemployment Insurance, and Population Health. JAMA

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
					Netw Open. 2021 Jan 4;4(1):e2035955. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.35955. PMID: 33512514.
342.	Borealis	Aurora		Fee management	Firstly, allow for the use of "America the Beautiful Annual Pass" as seen with current Scenic Drive entrance fees. (https://www.redrockcanyonlv.org/fees/)
343.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Fee management	Installing pay stations or self-serve kiosks at the Calico Basin parking lot, along with parking enforcement, may provide an effective alternative to the placement of a gate and timed entry system which will place undue burden on local citizens.
344.	Mauceri	Matt		Fee management	I shouldn't have to pay MORE money to get a reservation, and the entrance booths are horribly managed and the one time I came in it took us 25 minutes to get into the loop because no one had pre-paid their entrance fee. There should be a fast lane where we can scan our reservation, and my fees should be covered with the annual park pass that I already paid for!
345.	Harrington	Christine		Fee management	I would strongly encourage RRCNCA managers to consider a local access pass or an income-based discount on annual passes.
346.	Ramsey	William		Fee management	Compounding the public's concern for the proposal is knowledge that the reservation system would involve a fee, and that the revenues generated by this fee would likely go to a private organization rather than supporting the resources of Calico Basin. I can't think of a more damaging public-relations disaster for BLM than implementing policies that restrict public access in a way that promotes a private commercial enterprise. It creates the unavoidable impression that the federal agency is monetizing our public lands and treating them as an opportunity for commercial exploitation.
347.	Karafa	Lisa		Fee management	Perhaps a reduced or free pass could be offered to families/individuals that have an EBT card, much like the federal free phone program for families or individuals on welfare, social security or have been issued an EBT card.
348.	Gabbert	Gretchen		Fee management	Fees at Calico Basin are not a good idea at this time; however, I do support parking fees (like at the beach in California). I don't know if there's a bus route out to Calico, but that's another idea.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
349.	Belohlav	Kate		Fee management	The BLM should commit to investing any additional fees into recreational infrastructure, visitor education, and basic visitor amenities.
350.	Bishop	Devin		Fee management	That the BLM commit to investing any additional fees into recreational infrastructure, visitor education, and basic visitor amenities
351.	Gans	Maya		Fee management	As Las Vegas residents we see how popular the area is to visitors, and we therefore propose these fees to out of state visitors, or maybe an educational program to curb overuse that will exempt you from needing to pay
352.	Laws	Jerry		Fee management	- The BLM should commit to investing any additional fees into recreational infrastructure, visitor education, and basic visitor amenities.
353.	Herman	Steve		Fee management	And finally I would like to say that you should also insert into your plan a commitment to invest any additional fees into recreational infrastructure, visitor education, and basic visitor amenities.
354.	Hohl	Dan		Fee management	With every single car entering the Scenic Loop paying at least a \$2 reservation fee, even with an annual pass, I find it hard to believe that Red Rocks management needs more income from its users. This National Conservation Area has minimal trails, many of which are primitive, only one campground to maintain, which is no doubt being paid for by the camping fees, and very limited services within the Scenic Loop. What will this money be used for? How will charging the public just a little bit more lead to tangible benefits for those people? And is that all worth the cost of pricing out the people who cherish Red Rocks for the relatively affordable experience that it is?
355.	Andrews	Matthew		Fee management	The BLM should commit to investing any additional fees into recreational infrastructure, visitor education, and basic visitor amenities.
356.	Gold	Eric		Fee management	Please consider a less restrictive access management plan such as having parking fee/passes. Also, if revenue from these passes could be used to expand the size of the Kraft Mountain parking area

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357.	Marino	Matthew		Fee management	The BLM should commit to investing any additional fees into recreational infrastructure, visitor education, and basic visitor amenities.
358.	Govan	Kevin		Fee management	if necessary enact parking fees so the money from that goes back into managing the area.
359.	Fishman	Jacob		Fee management	The BLM should commit to investing any additional fees into recreational infrastructure, visitor education, and basic visitor amenities.
360.	Conlee	Eli		Fee management	Investing time and fee resources into visitor education, parking enforcement (aka, fee revenue), and increased ranger presence would be a great start.
361.	Sookprasong	Jamie		Fee management	Although fees are certainly one way to reduce visitation, it's important to still provide some form for free use or financial aid for accessing these public lands so as to not prevent poorer visitors from enjoying these lands too. If an online reservation system is used, it would be beneficial to still reserve some first-come-first-serve availability for those without reliable internet/computer access.
362.	Wolf	Diana		Fee management	How can we solve for this? 1. Teaching vs. forcing fees: deeper partnerships with local non-profits, hotels, visitor centers, and tour groups to better understand how to preserve the land. 2. If there is a fee, think about a local vs. out of state fee. A local (free) access would better support equitable access. 3. Allow for late access and entry. 4. Create fee stations or registration areas that do not require personnel. Shift those resources to watching the area, provide help to visitor to the area, and teach about the area.
363.	Simon	Todd		Fee management	However, I would not see the benefit in limiting the hours it is open. People being willing to show up early and stay late I see as a major benefit to reducing peak demand and limiting this seems very counter productive. A fee is not my favorite approach to limiting access, but I can see it would be effective, but I also fear it would turn away some people who could not afford it which disappoints me. If such a fee is needed, I hope that fee will be used to improve the Calico Basin, parking, restrooms, education on proper ethics / stewardship of the area and the outdoors in general.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
364.	Child	Andrew		Fee management	I am concerned about the proposed recreation area management plan which limits the hours that Calico is accessible to the public and imposes prohibitive fees on entrance. I urge you to consider a less restrictive approach which allows more open access to these public lands. For instance instead of installing a gate at the entrance the BLM could simply charge a small daily parking fee for access. I hope that you will consider this or some other more incremental and measured approach as you go about your policy making in the interest of the sustainable management of this beautiful public resource.
365.	Summerlin	Erin		Fee management	Could parking fees and more ranger presence help with funding?
366.	Foley	Pete	Pete Foley Innovation	Fee management	at least provide free entry to all Nevada residents. It's not ideal, but most tourists are not the most disadvantaged, so at least this introduces some equity. Or only charge at peak weekends
367.	Arnold	Ryan		Partnerships	I'm absolutely convinced that an opportunity exists here for the BLM to work with the mountain biking community to better the area for all. Jointly we should identify trails that are appropriate, create a proper educational component that includes signage, establish an ambassador program, organize trail cleanups/maintenance, and let us help find grassroots support via volunteer time and donations to do this correctly. I'm happy to participate in any such effort.
368.	Hollis	Katherine		Partnerships	Please implement a mix of visitor education, parking enforcement, and increased ranger presence to help manage this place. Deeping partnerships with nonprofit groups who are ready and willing to partner with land managers, help educate climbers, manage impacts and restore natural resources is another important step in conserving this area equitably and fairly.
369.	Lawrence	Ben		Partnerships	Please make the budget public. Let the people see how much money is needed and for what. It's highly likely that much of the budget could be reduced or eliminated through volunteer programs (that organisations like the southern nevada climbers coalition could run) and targeted fundraisers.

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370.	Cormier	Alison		Partnerships	Rather than trying to close off or limit access to the Calico Basin by these additional outdoor users, the BLM should be working with the various local interest groups to ensure that the additional use and impact on the area is done in an environmentally and culturally friendly manner as much as possible. I am certain that groups like the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association and Save Red Rock would be willing to assist the BLM in assessing the Calico Basin area to find the most environmentally friendly locations for trails, and to work with the members of their respective groups on education regarding the environment found in the Calico Basin and the need to protect it.
371.	Elliott	Gabriel		Partnerships	given the immense amount of land / activities that BLM manages I understand difficulty in allocating resources so I'd love to see collaboration with trail stewards, recreation non-profits that can take on some maintenance and interest group education (like climbers).
372.	McDermott	Erin	Friends of Red Rock Canyon	Partnerships	It would be wonderful if Friends of Red Rock Canyon could be listed in the following section as a partner. Chapter 3. Monitoring Enforcement and Adaptive Management Fee Management Decision 2 Goal 2.3 (Partnerships) Current Copy: Work with partner organizations, such as Get Outdoors Nevada, Southern Nevada Conservancy, Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition, and the Southern Nevada Mountain Bikers Association, to provide educational programming. Suggested revision: Work with partner organizations, such as Friends of Red Rock Canyon, Get Outdoors Nevada, Southern Nevada Conservancy, Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition, and the Southern Nevada Mountain Bikers Association, to provide educational programming.
373.	Vargo	Julie		Partnerships	I am glad to hear that the BLM acknowledges climbing as a recognized recreational activity on the public lands that the agency manages. With this recognition comes the responsibility to work with climbers and responsible non-profits, such as the Access Fund, to enable access to climbing areas.

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374.	Roberts	Michael		Partnerships	As an alternative, I would propose increased presence of park staff in the Calico Basin area, and outreach and collaboration with climbing community organizations like the Southern Nevada Climber's Coalition. The vast majority of climbers are conscientious users of outdoor lands and invest personal time and effort to ensure others can enjoy them in the least impactful way possible. If lack of funds to properly patrol the area is a concern driving the proposed plan, climbing advocacy organizations like the Access Fund have a long history of financial support to maintain open access to climbing areas, and they should be included and consulted as well, when making plans for future management of the Calico Basin area.
375.	Hesse	Travis		Partnerships	Additionally, as there are a number of existing trails within Calico Basin that have not gone through the BLM's examination process of natural and cultural resources, I am asking that the BLM work with local organizations such as SNMBA to work toward a pathway of recognition.
376.	England	Philip		Partnerships	Please consider working with organizations like the Access Fund to develop equitable and realistic strategies for balancing access and conservation.
377.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Partnerships	We understand that funding and staffing to facilitate such infrastructure and education initiatives is a major struggle for federal land managers. The SNCC and Access Fund are more than willing to assist the BLM as needed with devising creative solutions to this obstacle, from fundraising to replicating volunteer and/or Access Fund-supported climber-steward programs. Such programs are already in place at other popular climbing areas across the country - Access Fund recently partnered with the Utah BLM to create a new climber-steward program for the Indian Creek area outside of Moab, for example. ⁸ These and similar programs have the potential to create a major positive impact for minimal cost, and Access Fund is ready to assist the BLM in creating one for the RRCNCA. ⁸ https://www.moabsunnews.com/news/article_2f8f1422-2d13-11ec-8add-bba358568450.html .

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
378.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Partnerships	The Las Vegas climbing community and Access Fund are ready, willing, and able to help planners identify and improve the climbing related infrastructure, trail system, roads, and other management needs the BLM may require to provide for the outstanding opportunities found in Calico Basin. In addition, some aspects of this planning initiative may qualify for the Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grant Program or assistance from our Conservation Team
379.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Partnerships	We understand that funding and staffing to facilitate such infrastructure and education initiatives is a major struggle for federal land managers. The SNCC and Access Fund are more than willing to assist the BLM as needed with devising creative solutions to this obstacle, from fundraising to replicating volunteer and/or Access Fund-supported climber-steward programs. Such programs are already in place at other popular climbing areas across the country - Access Fund recently partnered with the Utah BLM to create a new climber-steward program for the Indian Creek area outside of Moab, for example. ⁸ These and similar programs have the potential to create a major positive impact for minimal cost, and Access Fund is ready to assist the BLM in creating one for the RRCNCA. ⁸ https://www.moabsunnews.com/news/article_2f8f1422-2d13-11ec-8add-bba358568450.html .
380.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Partnerships	The Las Vegas climbing community and Access Fund are ready, willing, and able to help planners identify and improve the climbing related infrastructure, trail system, roads, and other management needs the BLM may require to provide for the outstanding opportunities found in Calico Basin. In addition, some aspects of this planning initiative may qualify for the Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grant Program or assistance from our Conservation Team
381.	Not Provided	Aimee		Partnerships	Increase partnerships with identified organizations in Goal 2.3 to organize community-driven events to help increase involvement and resources to appropriately help cover inventoried trails that are not designated trails. This will also bring about awareness and a shared responsibility among the partners to educate their groups on designated trails.

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382.	Hendrix	Leici		Partnerships	the SNCC is listed in the document as a partner to the BLM and these decisions. As such, we would ask that the BLM meet with us regularly regarding developments in the Calico Basin RAMP as well as give us ample time to respond to any further draft plans.
383.	Hanks	Jen	Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association	Partnerships	SNMBA is prepared to partner with the BLM in educating trail users on being good stewards of the trails. With the updated RAMP plan recognizing mountain bikes as a form of recreation in Calico Basin, SNMBA looks forward to working closely with the BLM to find a pathway to legitimize the existing trails within Calico Basin. This is an opportune time to demonstrate willingness in partnering between trail users and land managers. With the future ahead of us full of many recreation areas yet to be discussed, we will need co-operators believing in the strength of this partnership. This will slow down and ultimately halt the building of unpermitted trails. A day we both can celebrate.
384.	Spicer	David	Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association	Partnerships	SNMBA is prepared to partner with the BLM in educating trail users on being good stewards of the trails. With the updated RAMP plan recognizing mountain bikes as a form of recreation in Calico Basin, SNMBA looks forward to working closely with the BLM to find a pathway to legitimize the existing trails within Calico Basin. This is an opportune time to demonstrate willingness in partnering between trail users and land managers. With the future ahead of us full of many recreation areas yet to be discussed, we will need co-operators believing in the strength of this partnership. This will slow down and ultimately halt the building of unpermitted trails. A day we both can celebrate.

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385.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Partnerships	The kiosk sign depicted in Figure 8 on page 2-16 is an excellent example of the sort of signs we would like to see developed for desert tortoise protection in the Calico Basin. The Desert Tortoise Council is willing to be identified as one of the partners working on "Goal 1.7 (Education): Expand visitor understanding and appreciation of the Calico Basin by providing diverse educational and interpretive opportunities." Herein, we make available our Education and Outreach Committee, currently chaired by Dr. Maggie Fusari (outreach@deserttortoise.org). We may be able to partner with the BLM to create the brochure recommended above and to develop strategically-placed kiosks promoting tortoise protection. As such, we support the strategies listed on page 2-19, under "Goal 2.3 (Partnerships)," and offer our assistance in implementing them.
386.	Spicer	David		Partnerships	SNMBA believes in the conservation of natural resources. And then all the partnerships and bettering that. We'll be approaching our suggestions and appropriate use to serve the needs all of us users out there. Gathering data data details and previous examples of how mitigations have similar issues, we will seek and provide. There are many examples in the seven Western states wherein solutions have been found regarding the use of public land similar to this one here. We believe that mountain biking can be an asset to the conservation area but working with you and education to the needs of it simultaneously serving the needs of the people who are using it now. IMBA, our parent organization has successfully implemented in almost all the States in the US, comprehensive educational and quality of life improvements in so many ways. They stand committed to this chapter us SNBA working with all of us as a reputation precedes them. together we all can make this conservation area and the users within it have the experiences they came for by working together, getting funding for signage, working for education, educational trailheads, fencing of sensitive areas if needed, and whatever else our partnership that we all have together as needed. We really believe in partnerships and will point out how it can it will work for a better outcome for the community of Las Vegas. We all need to use our

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					public land. Closing it to a certain group will only distance the relationships, when you together for future potential partnerships for, as you mentioned and all the other areas down and with the trails route, we need to have those partnerships working. This is a great opportunity for us to start now identifying uses of trails and how would be best to implement those from the needs of the land and the Community and the People.
387.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Partnerships	Our organization and our partners are prepared to assist with the planning and implementation of bringing the most important social trails into the official trail system or assisting the BLM and the climbing community to identify alternative access routes to protect sensitive habitats and species.
388.	Merkin	Max		Partnerships	Finally, the SNCC is listed in the document as a partner to the BLM in these decisions. As such, I would ask that the BLM meet with the SNCC regularly regarding developments in the Calico Basin RAMP, as well as give ample time to respond to any further draft plans. We also ask that the BLM works with the SNCC on climbing management of this area.
389.	Lesinski	Adam		Partnerships	The Access Fund has been at the forefront of a lot of climbing related access issues, and I believe they fight in the good spirit of access and conservation. I hope you can work with them to come to a better solution that helps everyone.
390.	Like	Betsy		Partnerships	The Calico Basin parking lot, trails and climbing routes were, for the most part, not busy, even on the weekend. At the popular cliffs, climbers were polite and respectful to their fellow climbers and to the environment. Please work with the Access Fund and other environmental groups to address the increase in visitors and the resulting impacts
391.	Silverstein	Falafel		Partnerships	The climbing community cares deeply about environmental protection and would be happy to assist in visitor education and data collection. The climbing community has a series of nonprofits committed towards environmental protection and folding in those that love these lands with the protection of the land itself. I would urge you to reach out to these organizations to not only educate climbers on proper ways to respect the land, but also to teach the climbers to teach others.

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392.	Karlson	Krista		Partnerships	I hope you will consider collaborating with the Access Fund-- who has a long history of finding multi-stakeholder solutions--to balance conservation and access.
393.	Grove	Kaylene		Partnerships	We believe there is a way forward for responsible climbers to continue using the area and hope the BLM will work closely with Access Fund to find a solution to the current challenges faced by the area.
394.	Grummons	Miranda		Partnerships	Working with climbers to solve access issues is the first step. We' grateful that the BLM includes climbing as a recognized activity. Conservation is important and climbers are going to be some of your greatest assets in ensuring the ongoing mission of the BLM is perpetuated.
395.	Palmer	Joel		Partnerships	We absolutely support mitigating impact and assuring sustainable access -- we just ask that you work with Access Fund and other community-based organizations in creating and implementing those plans.
396.	Lees	Richard		Partnerships	The Access Fund and SNCC both contain good folks who are able and willing to help, and bring live for the area and real expertise to the table. I think the BLM should work as closely with them as possible, taking their feedback and using their expertise and volunteer energy
397.	Dalsass	Michael		Partnerships	Please work with the Access Fund to find a better solution that fees and time slots
398.	Gaul	Michael		Partnerships	We need more people to get out and grow their appreciation for our amazing outdoor environments. We need more people to be encouraged to be involved in assessing and protecting our resources. Utilize the power of the groups ready to assist in less draconian protective measures
399.	MacDonald	Fraser		Partnerships	I would also urge the BLM to look at Non-profit partners such as the Access Fund or other "friends of " groups to help spread the word and educate users before taking dramatic steps to reduce visitor impacts. I'd also recommend using the additional fees collected to improve the visitor experience.

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400.	Scharping	Nathaniel		Partnerships	Non-profit groups like the Access Fund have a long history of working with land managers to make that happen in a way everyone can get behind. I support their proposals to increase visitor education, bolster parking enforcement and fees, and increase ranger presence in Calico Basin, as well as an allowance for late exits from a gate, should one be built, and an allowance for pedestrian access without fees.
401.	Stadtlander	Mindy		Partnerships	I also strongly urge the BLM to deepen their partnership with nonprofit organizations who are ready and willing to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
402.	Sullivan	Megan		Partnerships	There could also be the opportunity to employ "climbing stewards" similar to at Joshua Tree, who stay at the climber campground and can help to create a community amongst climbers where questions are encouraged and best practices can be taught.
403.	Kumar Kuthunur	Vinay		Partnerships	In addition, volunteer programs in conjunction with Access Fund can be expanded in the Calico Basin to enforce sustainable practices in the area.
404.	Timmerman	Caleb		Partnerships	Please consider partnering with the climbing community and the Access Fund and other non-profits to create a sustainable and mutually agreeable solution for access to Calico Basin.
405.	Foster	Peter		Partnerships	I'd be stoked to see the BLM partner with non-profits that would be willing to help educate visitors and climbers and help protect this wonderful space.
406.	Belohlav	Kate		Partnerships	The BLM should deepen their partnership with nonprofit organizations who are ready and willing to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
407.	Gingras	Yannick		Partnerships	Non profits like the Access Fund and the Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition have great reach with the community and can educate visitors even before they arrive. It would make a lot of sense to formalize the partnership with such organizations in the management plan itself.

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408.	Laws	Jerry		Partnerships	I ask that the BLM work with Access Fund to explore and implement other solutions (parking controls and enforcement, education, volunteer stewards) that balance sustainable and equitable access to the basin with conservation needs.
409.	Laws	Jerry		Partnerships	- The BLM should deepen their partnership with nonprofit organizations who are ready and willing to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
410.	Wang 6	Leah		Partnerships	Please consider alternative ways of managing this area such that climbers can continue to respectfully access the world-class climbing of Calico Basin. The Access Fund is an organization whose sole mission is to protect climbing areas in partnership with agencies like yours. They are ready to jump in with visitor education, parking enforcement, and innovative ideas for management of this area. And at the very least, expanding hours of entry (if you must move forward with having a gate) will not only provide more equitable access, but it will spread groups' impact over a longer time period throughout the day, and prevent everyone from arriving and leaving at the same time - a headache for everyone involved.
411.	Holl	Susan		Partnerships	The access fund has a lot of experience in proposing solutions to preserve the beautiful places climbers frequent for both climbers and nonclimbers. They also have the funds and volunteer manpower to make great things happen. Please use access fund as a resource- it will make BLM projects easier.
412.	Andrews	Matthew		Partnerships	The BLM should deepen their partnership with nonprofit organizations who are ready and willing to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
413.	McCarthy	Corey		Partnerships	I'd like to see the BLM work with the Access Fund and other non-profit climbing groups to accomplish shared goals to preserve Calico Basin

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414.	Kincaid	Jacob		Partnerships	Access Fund is ready, willing, and able to assist the BLM with implementing adaptive management strategies, like parking enforcement and visitor education, to find a sustainable solution.
415.	Ballon	Charles		Partnerships	Organizations like Access Fund are great at bringing education and setting standards to instill stewardship in all of us, especially those new to recreating in spaces like the Red Rocks
416.	Bourne	Nat		Partnerships	While I support the BLM's proposal to address overuse at Red Rocks, there are other, less restrictive options available. Many nonprofit groups exist that would help with environmental cleanup and restoration. Permanent walking paths could be built to channel impact into specific areas. (See the climbing path infrastructure at Smith Rock in Oregon, as an example.) Again, many nonprofits and local organizations would likely be willing to assist with any required construction. Informational signage and increased ranger monitoring can help reduce overuse. If a gate must be installed, there needs to be allowances for early/late exit and walk-in access at any time.
417.	Feinsilber	Howard		Partnerships	As a member of the Access Fund I know that they and other volunteer organizations are ready and willing to assist with climber education, minimizing impact and protecting natural resources. They have had great success in many, many areas throughout the United States.
418.	Cook	Bj		Partnerships	I agree with the Access Fund that other means (e.g. visitor education, parking enforcement and fees, and increased ranger presence) would be a great solution to ensure the preservation of the Calico area and would be happy to support that. But locking it down and limiting access would only force folks to skirt the regulations and create other issues which might be more costly at the end of the day. Working together with the Access Fund has proved fruitful with many other areas across the US as they have both the visitor and habitat's best interest at hand.

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419.	Yang	Alex		Partnerships	I believe if the BLM is worried about the sustainability of the increased crowds, or other concerns, it should partner with local or national groups such as the Access Fund, who have historically demonstrated a strong commitment to conservation and preservation while allowing for access to the outdoors.
420.	Manning	Jacob		Partnerships	I encourage you to consider less invasive approaches than those you have proposed. Please take time to work with the allies at the Access Fund to determine less invasive approaches.
421.	Marino	Matthew		Partnerships	The BLM should deepen their partnership with nonprofit organizations who are ready and willing to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
422.	Twomey	Alex		Partnerships	I believe BLM should deepen their connections with non-profit groups. Especially those that are already willing to help fund this areas protection. With this support, more education could be given to climbers and visitors. Natural resources could also be preserved and better managed.
423.	Purdy	Sabra		Partnerships	Please work with organizations such as the Access Fund and others to work on solutions that directly address the issues of increased visitorship without using methods that disproportionately hurt the ability of certain user groups to access their natural lands.
424.	Nardozzi	Kayla		Partnerships	Groups like the Access Fund are great organizations that are willing to partner with the BLM and other land management agencies to ensure that laws, policies, and actions are equitable and consider all user groups. It would be amazing to see the BLM lean into the Access Fund's considerations for the Calico Basin area. As a climber and outdoor educator, I would happily support the BLM partnering with the Access Fund to ensure the Red Rock climbing area remains accessible to folks, and is taken better care of.

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425.	McClintock	Lindsay		Partnerships	cal outdoor focused non-profits have also taken noticed and acted with increased clean-up and improvement projects to help clean and protect the areas we love. The BLM should deepen their partnership with nonprofit organizations who are ready and willing to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources. By working together we can make the most progress for the good of all.
426.	Willis	Fred		Partnerships	In my almost 40 years of rock climbing, I've found most rock climbers do care for the areas we visit, so I wonder why you need such a startling regulation of Calico Basin. The Access Fund and American Alpine Club (I'm a long-time member of both) have programs to educate folks about caring for wild lands, and there are several local organizations dedicated to preserving Red Rock Canyon and Calico, so why not partner up with them for more educational outreach, support, and other less-restrictive means before jumping in with full force?
427.	Willis	Fred		Partnerships	In my almost 40 years of rock climbing, I've found most rock climbers do care for the areas we visit, so I wonder why you need such a startling regulation of Calico Basin. The Access Fund and American Alpine Club (I'm a long-time member of both) have programs to educate folks about caring for wild lands, and there are several local organizations dedicated to preserving Red Rock Canyon and Calico, so why not partner up with them for more educational outreach, support, and other less-restrictive means before jumping in with full force?
428.	Hamilton	Keymon		Partnerships	Because of the large climbing population that visits Red Rock I would highly recommend the BLM to partner with a group such as the SNCC to brainstorm a fair and equitable plan to restructure the use of land.
429.	Fishman	Jacob		Partnerships	The BLM should deepen their partnership with nonprofit organizations who are ready and willing to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.

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430.	Ball	Jeffrey		Partnerships	Let's just say up front that if you've got the access fund wanting to work with you on park management you've been lucky. They are a well funded and very productive group who is honestly hoping to see land treated well. You should most definitely have them at the tabl
431.	Nowicki	Leeanne		Partnerships	I urge you to work with the Access Fund so that an agreeable solution for climbers, tourists, and BLM can be met as the area is a mecca for these groups. The Access Fund has a wealth of knowledge on access to climbing areas and has a large portion of climbers supporting them. Some of their ideas include free early entry, expanding facilities, and having a less restrictive system than Red Rocks so that climbers have this option open to them.
432.	Conlee	Eli		Partnerships	Consider using iterative management in partnership with non-profits like the Access Fund, American Alpine Club, and the SNCC to help structure, implement, and adapt the plan as needed.
433.	Herman	Steve		Partnerships	A better plan would be to deepen your partnership with nonprofit organizations who are ready and willing to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources. This is a win-win for you financially and with user response. And let your partners help with adaptive management strategies that use data and feedback to evaluate effectiveness-e.g. visitor education, parking enforcement and fees, and increased ranger presence.
434.	Lenss	Megan		Partnerships	I believe that sustainable recreation is an important goal and in order to achieve this the BLM and the climbing community must come together to create data based action plans that are beneficial to all parties involved. I strongly encourage the BLM to work with the Access Fund and other nonprofit organizations to develop a different method of protection for the lands in Calico Basin. The heavy handed approach currently proposed will not solve the problem, it will simply move it else where. Please consider collaborating with locals, the climbing community, and Access Fund/other nonprofit organizations to build a better plan.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
435.	Sun	Christine		Partnerships	Climbers care about the land and want to do right by the land managers, I think education and communication would go a long way. The climbing community is also eager to work together with BLM and we are collectively raising the resources to do so. Because climbers have an invested connection to the land, they are ready stewards. I've seen climbers point out the cryptobiotic soil and staying on trail to other recreationalists. Please consider working in partnership with the climbing community, like the Access Fund.
436.	Ball	Scott		Partnerships	As I hope the comments to these proposed regulations will demonstrate, the climbing community in general consists of stewards of the land. I admit that we need to do a better job of educating newer climbers who may be new to outdoor recreation on how to be effective stewards. The BLM could play a productive role in that effort by deepening its partnership with nonprofits such as the Access Fund. Greater education and outreach would do much to curtail the impacts of climbers on the land, without restricting the public's access to its own resources.
437.	Naughton-Rockwell	Clare		Partnerships	. I understand that increased foot traffic can have negative effects such as erosion but there must be a better way to mitigate those effects than putting a fee on entry. Recreational activities such as climbing are already wildly inaccessible due to the expense. Let's not make it even more inaccessible. Nature's beauties should be free for all to enjoy whenever they like. Maybe an alternative to a gate fee would be partnering with nonprofit organizations who are ready and willing to help educate visitors and climbers of proper Leave No Trace (LNT) practices, to manage impact and preserve natural resources.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
438.	Kreger	Charles		Partnerships	To limit access including a gate, fees, reservations, and limited hours will severely limit access for climbers and will further dampen the culture and heritage that Calico Basin has fostered in the climbing community. The proposed restrictions cater to those who typically visit Calico Basin once a season and are able to make a one time reservation and pay a fee. Although climbers routinely frequent the same areas, nationwide we have been on the forefront of working with land managers and non-profit organizations to help to preserve natural resources and make their use sustainable long term for all those who wish to recreate outdoors. The majority of those contributing to the over use of these areas do not contribute in this same way. On this basis, the BLM should consider other alternatives to help preserve access to these areas, specifically working with the access fund and other non-profits to manage the impact of the increase in visitors and educate climbers and visitors alike on their impact. If the BLM feels it must move forward with its plan it should include no fee for pedestrians, early and late access, evidence based decision making as to future restrictions and whether to continue any established restrictions, and reinvestment of fees back in to education and preservation of Calico Basin.
439.	Gans	Jordan		Partnerships	It would also be mutually beneficial to deepen the BLM/SNCC (and other non-profits) partnership to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources.
440.	Govan	Kevin		Partnerships	Please pursue other avenues such as working with non profits to spread outdoor education
441.	Summerlin	Erin		Partnerships	It would be great to provide more education around how to properly use this area, would it be possible to work with non profits to educate climbers and visitors on how to properly use this area?
442.	Casey	Jeff		Facilities	Rather than restrict or punish the climbers, and since funds are available as the article says, a small restroom (single seat vault toilet would be sufficient) should be installed out at the eastern flank of Kraft Mtn, and funds allocated to keep it serviced.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
443.	Doumas	Alexander		Facilities	If a tollbooth for fee collection is built, please also build bathrooms, an expanded parking lot, and install somewhere for trash to be collected.
444.	Lewis	Gabe		Facilities	Toilets at 1st and 2nd pullout - biological disaster on busy days, please clean these more often to keep the sanitation at a reasonable level
445.	Cochran	Judy	Vegas Hikers & other Hiking Groups through www.meetup.com	Facilities	Calico Basin - Kraft Mountain Parking Lot should not only be widened, but also lengthened, and better yet, provide a hard surfaced circular drive like in the Red Springs Picnic area for ease of entry and exit. Also, would like to see bathrooms installed.
446.	Blanchette	Danielle		Facilities	As a dog owner, I find it disgusting that other owners leave poop filled dog bags along the side of the trail, or worse, at the mouth of the trail because they can't be bothered to pack out their own trash. I do think garbage receptacles at the mouth of trails would help.
447.	Merkin	Max		Facilities	I would also like clarification on charging fees for Kraft Mountain. Section 6802, the "Recreation Fee Authority", of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 places clear restrictions on when recreation and amenity fees can be charged on federal land. Among these restrictions are the need for adequate infrastructure and amenities, including a permanent toilet facility and developed parking. Currently, Kraft has no amenities and none are officially planned as a part of the RAMP, so we'd like to understand this further.
448.	Kumar Kuthunur	Vinay		Facilities	The entry fee may be justified only if it is followed through with additional facilities provided in the area for example restrooms and drinking water supply.
449.	Goodwin	Dan		Facilities	A sanitation facility that mimics the facilities at Smith Rocks in Oregon. They use a composting system that always smells nice, due to the wood chips. These sanitation facilities would pose the least impact on our environment during the installation process and it makes it easier to maintain thereafter.

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450.	Gold	Richard		Facilities	<p>If an excessively strict system is added to gatekeep the Calico Basin, I know myself and many friends who would unfortunately have to consider a different wintertime climbing destination. I understand the need to regulate the area - it does see significant environmental impact from human traffic that definitely requires some attention. However, I believe there are better and more sustainable ways to address this issue without having to create a blanket reservation system. I think we can do better having rangers patrol the area and educate people on acceptable activity. Perhaps increase the signage significantly to make people understand the impact of their actions. The infrastructure could use an overhaul in general, too. Calico Basin is one of the largest recreational areas I've ever seen that doesn't have a real bathroom, or even some kind of pit toilet. The parking area is really small. If fees are collected, they should at least be used towards improving the area. I'm very confident organizations like Access Fund would happily work with the BLM to make any necessary improvements. At the very least, if a reservation system is implemented, you should be able to show up during off-peak hours (like early morning or afternoon) without a reservation. This would make planning last minute trips far easier.</p>
451.	Elliott	Gabriel		Roads and parking	<p>Parking enforcement would go a long ways towards preventing overcrowding.</p>

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
452.	Hempel	Dwight		Roads and parking	Goal 2.5 Roads and Parking: There is technology to monitor parking spaces that indicate whether a parking space is empty or occupied. We suggest looking into use of this technology as a component of any new parking lot construction. This information is useful to visitors and fee gate personnel. Roads and Parking Strategy 2: Adding a separate, parallel bike trail along Calico Basin Road is essential. "Share the Road" on such a narrow road does not work. To pass a cyclist requires moving into the on-coming traffic lane. Roads and Parking Strategy 3: a. Concur with widening Kraft Mountain parking lot and that it be paved, striped, and monitored. b. Calico Spring trailhead - possibly a parking lot on the south side of Assisi Canyon could be developed. This site might be large enough to accommodate horse trailers. Roads and Parking Decision 3 and 4: Shoulder parking along the four roads must be extensively signed, so that visitors know where parking is and is not allowed. Law enforcement personnel must enforce parking restrictions, otherwise there will be continuing conflict with residents.
453.	Lewis	Gabe		Roads and parking	Better parking near Kraft Boulders - possible to make it a loop so people don't have to turn around?
454.	Lewis	Gabe		Roads and parking	Please make loop road 2-way from 2nd pullout or Sandstone Quarry.
455.	Lewis	Gabe		Roads and parking	Other comments for Red Rock in general: Make sure people know the loop road is 2 lanes wide! Why are there no lane markers? Why is there no SIGN saying that the road is 2-lanes wide??
456.	Stoker	Lawrence		Roads and parking	in my many years of visting Calico Basin, the only problem I've observed is lack of parking. The place is still amazingly clean, most people stick to the trails, and it is far more convenient to visit Calico Basin because there is no time-sucking, poorly thought out, one-way road with limited hours. Please do not repeat the same mistakes! Let's make a real fix. Let's fix the parking. Let's fix the road. There is plenty of room in Calico Basin. There's just a lack of common sense towards fixing problems. More fees, more reservation, and more government bureaucracy is not the answer.

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457.	Stoker	Lawrence		Roads and parking	it is preposterous to consider that the BLM has the money, effort, and resources to build gates, expand the fees and reservation system, and enforce the onerous time restrictions, BUT DOES NOT have the money, effort, and resources to fix the limited parking issues.
458.	Alger	Jay		Roads and parking	To enforce the rules, there will need to be NO PARKING signs posted along the road into the parking area to ensure that the local residents don't have to contend with a surge in street traffic, and to actually restrict the number of people in the Basin at once.
459.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Roads and parking	Under "Goal 2.5 (Roads and Parking)," on pages 2-20 through 2-22, we ask that the BLM clarify speed limits associated with all existing roads in the Final RAMP/EA. For those roads accommodating traffic through tortoise habitats, we ask that 15 mile per hour speed limits and tortoise-crossing signs be posted at strategic locations.
460.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Roads and parking	Finally, additional parking options outside of Calico Basin should be explored, allowing climbers to more easily carpool or even walk into Calico Basin on foot.
461.	Kotab	Thomas		Roads and parking	Roads and Parking Decision 4 should be struck. Private property is private and with ownership come responsibilities. BLM is not to provide private benefits to a select few at public expense.
462.	Kotab	Thomas		Roads and parking	Roads and Parking Decision 5 The BLM will increase parking capacity where appropriate to make sure sustainable access by the growing population.
463.	Kotab	Thomas		Roads and parking	Roads and Parking Decision 3 should be supplemented: In such a case, BLM will increase parking capacity at other appropriate locations.
464.	Fisher	Heather	Save Red Rock	Roads and parking	That we avoid any dangerous entry station back ups onto the 159 scenic byway and bike lane, while also avoiding any massive, multi-lane pavement impacts that cannot later be restored to nature, when a more global solution becomes necessary like the Lake Mead model or the Zion shuttle model.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
465.	Lavalley	John		Roads and parking	Traffic may become a greater challenge. Calico Basin Road is a narrow two-lane road with an out-and-back system. How does BLM propose to manage traffic for visitors entering the gate and visitors that do not want to pay or do not know that reservations are required? The existing infrastructure does not appear sufficient to handle the congestion that could be caused by the entry related system. How will the queuing / exit be managed? Does this system improve emergency access if the roads are backed up? If the solution to the traffic problems is infrastructure related, has the BLM considered the environmental impact? What will the impact be on the residences in the area?
466.	Chen	Grace		Roads and parking	I feel that the park is large enough for the many visitors that come each weekend - the problem lies in the parking situation. The parking lots inside the loop (first 2 pullouts and sandstone quarry specifically) are too small to accommodate many cars. Instead, you could use part of the park fee to implement a shuttle system similar to the ones used at the Grand Canyon or Zion National Parks to control the vehicle traffic, rather than limit the number of people who can get into the park each day.
467.	Nowicki	Leeanne		Roads and parking	Parking is obviously a big issue at both sites. Parking at the second pull-out at Red Rocks needs to be expanded. This area is where many climbers, hikers, and other tourists like to stop because of the beauty and trail access. The expansion of the first pull-out helped greatly and something similar at the second pull out would help as well. The parking at Calico Basin could be improved by adding in painted lines and designating parking and non-parking areas.

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468.	Mulazimoglu	Cigdem		Roads and parking	Finally, a discussion of unintended consequences of the proposed project is crucial, yet not have been addressed. One example is potential traffic congestion and traffic safety impacts when folks start parking along SR 159, and environmental impacts when they then hike in through the desert. Also, how about the traffic congestion/safety and parking impacts at the First Creek, Oak Creek etc pullouts outside the loop along SR 159 as people start overcrowding those areas to avoid reservations and fees for Calico Basin - are mitigation strategies for such additional demand developed? Those areas again have been quite crowded since the loop road reservation system, and guaranteed to get worse with the Calico Basin gates. Are there parking improvements planned for those areas?
469.	Cohen	Nathaniel		Roads and parking	I think any traffic management policies developed need to be cognizant of unintended consequences like the increase in tourist trail impact to areas like Calico Basin. Short time of day hour limits severely compound crowding issues as the total volume of traffic to the area compresses to a more and more limited range of hours.
470.	Giuffria	Jonathon		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	The plan should be altered to be more adaptive responding to the needs of the time. It is unknown if the increased resource use as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be permanent. Further, it is unknown how well an education-centered plan will preserve the resource in comparison to a gate. The BLM should explore other avenues of resource protection while focusing on providing fair, equitable access to the general public and NOT solely the privileged few.
471.	Smith	Madalyne		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I would recommend implementing more educational and conservation programs, using primarily volunteer and non-profit organizations (think access fund, southern Nevada climbers coalition, leave no trace center for outdoor ethics, etc), developing apps so users can access maps of the area which include conservation and ethical use information (AllTrails and mountain project are good examples of existing apps which provide both trail and access info with ethics), and various adaptive management strategies (parking lot reconfiguration, increased ranger presence, more bathrooms and/or available wag bags etc).

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472.	Vanas	James		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Need to somehow enforce DOGS ON LEASH policy- tortoises, rabbits other wildlife are harassed. Dog scat is everywhere. I have been charged by dogs off leash more than once while tracking. Need more of a Ranger presence especially when getting dark. Perhaps whoever closes the gate at Red Spring should drive through Calico lot
473.	Berginc	Jasmine		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	· Alternatively - increased enforcement of current regulations or pursuing other adaptive management strategies (again, not putting in extremely intense restrictions that don't truly solve the issue and then never get undone)
474.	Berginc	Jasmine		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	the increase in visitation (pre COVID and beyond) has certainly caused a myriad of issues and complaints that the BLM is trying to address. An arguably finite (ie parking spots, places to go, etc) resource being sought after by everyone at an all time high isn't something that most have a road map for, and thus it's being created. That being said, I hope that rather than a road map, these plans could be looked at as something more flexible and that could evolve with time. Once restrictions are in place, it is rare that they are lifted.
475.	Hill	Cam		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Implementing a fee alone may dramatically cut down visitation, without needing to implement a reservation system. Please consider an adaptive management plan rather than moving fully into the restricted access proposed.
476.	Jordan	Jorge	SNCC	Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	The proposed decisions in the RAMP are not in line with the proposed adaptive management strategy. A poll of our members stated that 56% have never seen a ranger while recreating, and 32% say they have very rarely seen one, and this is with an average visitation of 1-2 times per week to Calico Basin alone among our members. Increased education and Ranger presence, better enforcement of current regulations, proper parking enforcement, greatly improved trail signage, potential self pay kiosks, all seem like more appropriate first steps to pursue a proper adaptive management strategy.

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477.	Cota	Christian		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Additional parking, rangers, vault toilets, and additional interpretive signage all would help increase responsible usage, reduce impact, and help mitigate the impact of visitors on nearby residences. I feel that an adaptive management approach will allow for greater flexibility, so that all recreationalists can enjoy this special area freely and at all hours, including the unique opportunity to hike Gateway Canyon in the moonlight, or enjoy a beautiful sunrise atop Kraft Mountain, without the restrictive hours associated with the loop.
478.	Morgan	Chase	Chase	Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	The current issues with the area (vegetation damage, improper waste disposal, etc.) are due to improper enforcement, or rather complete lack of enforcement, of current policies. These problems could be solved by simply assigning a ranger to the Calico Basin area during high use times. This past weekend I saw at least 50 people ignoring "Conservation Area, Keep Out" signs so that they could get better photographs. If a ranger were to be present to educate people on the fragility of the desert environment and ticket people if necessary, the current policies would more than suffice in keeping the area in good condition.
479.	Swain	Todd		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Much more pressing in the short term than the Calico Basin entry station is stopping the widespread car break-ins that have been occurring for nearly a year.
480.	Spotts	Richard		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Please review the attached recreation report. Although it focuses primarily on the Colorado Plateau, I believe that it also has relevant information and recommendations that apply in the Mojave desert and Great Basin ecosystems. As such, this report may offer positive suggestions to add to or revise the draft RAMP's proposed design features and mitigation measures.
481.	Not Provided	Aimee		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I urge you to consider implementing some of the measures above and utilizing current resources to continue with data collection in evaluating the effectiveness of these alternative measures within a given time period (e.g. 12 months after the installation of new signage, etc.).

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482.	Fisher	Heather		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	the original RAMP plan from 42.2 is from 2005, this does not reflect changes that have happened with the sudden population boom with COVID or the more organized user groups that are now more responsibility represented. More protection is needed, but also more use is happening and more user groups are more organized, so I, we believe that an adaptive management approach could be helpful
483.	Fisher	Heather		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	we also hear the concerns of users being singled out and access being limited based on outdated data. More education through signage and volunteers and even an extended access pass for educated users, that was mentioned earlier is a great solution that we feel could be considered and we are willing to provide resources to do that, to keep the area open. We know that other groups would be willing to do this as well, we encourage ongoing consistent conversation with all user groups, including climbers, hikers, bikers, residents, visitors, and equestrians rather than hard decisions based on data from a time that is completely different from now user groups who want to keep that using the area can provide resource assistance through the officially recognized and responsible organizations like Save Red Rock and Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition and the Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association and the Southern Nevada Bicycle Coalition. There's there's a bunch of new organized groups that weren't around in 2005, not all of them anyway, that can now offer some assistance, so this is why we encourage the adaptive management process and continual and consistent coordination with all the public user groups that we appreciate that this meeting is doing that and we just encourage ongoing use with that and we respectfully request that the decisions be considered with more current data.
484.	Friesen	Bryan		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I believe increased ranger patrol and outreach is another step the BLM should take. This is a step the BLM needs to take immediately, considering the repeated vehicle burglaries that have occurred in the Kraft parking lot and increased ranger presence could also be an opportunity for users to build a relationship with the BLM.

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485.	Harrison	Lisa		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I urge the BLM to take more adaptive management plan where smaller interventions are tried first, before gates are put up, maybe a pay for parking system, and you can adapt up as needed rather than starting kind of with the big use of funds and buildings.
486.	Hegyesh	John		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	There also seems to be a serious lack of visible law enforcement around Red Rock and crimes such as vehicle break ins have accelerated unabated and there seems to be no Rangers patrolling on foot on the trails. This has led to a perception of a lawless atmosphere that there used to be climbing Rangers and those positions appear to have been eliminated. I would suggest that the BLM enforce already existing laws and put some boots on the ground.
487.	Foeh	Josh		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	The largest issues I have seen at Calico Basin in recent years have been an increase of break-ins and people straying from trails (going into private land or trampling the area). I believe both of these could be addressed through: 1. Increased ranger activity. Just the presence of a ranger making rounds at the trailheads and parking areas would deter the blatant break-ins. 2. Working more with local organizations to formalize the trail system. Recently the SNCC partnered with the BLM to line the trails, those efforts should continue and expand.
488.	Koch	Brendan		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	An adaptive management plan, where gradual changes are made, and their respective successes gauged over the course of years, seems more appropriate, rather than a drastic, knee jerk reaction like building a gatehouse, requiring reservations, and keeping hours. Even if you built a gate, and require reservations, these should only be required during the busiest times of the "season" like weekends, thanksgiving week, all of march, etc. You can easily gather data as to when these are, and employ the system only when necessary.

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489.	Lippia	Weston		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	issue at hand is increasing education and law enforcement not gating this off and federally subsidizing a gated community for the wealthy residents in Calico Basin. This approach will permit those without the financial means, and also permit those who work shift work as a viable opportunity to be able to visit the area. Further, if this is implemented, if the gates and all matter implemented this will establish a slippery slope where in other wealthy areas around by public land can institute access. Put simply, enforce the laws on the book and teach people how to appropriately use the land not take the lazy way out gated.
490.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	On page 3-1 where specific candidate species and special status species are listed, we ask that desert tortoise be identified as an example of the threatened species to be monitored, and that the first bullet be modified to include the following bold wording: "The BLM will conduct an ongoing program of population monitoring for threatened and endangered species (Mohave desert tortoise [<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>]), candidate species (blue diamond cholla [<i>Cylindropuntia multigeniculata</i>]), and other special status species (Charleston Mountain angelica [<i>Angelica scabrida</i>], alkali mariposa lily, Mojave milkvetch [<i>Astragalus mohavensis</i> var. <i>hemigyris</i>], peregrine falcon [<i>Falco peregrinus</i>] and Spring Mountains springsnail)." Additional bullets and specified approaches will be needed to codify BLM's intent to manage for tortoises and adequately monitor tortoise populations at Calico Basin.
491.	Robertson	Stephanie		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	dogs should be on leashes if somebody could be out there, making sure that happens
492.	Vanas	James		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I am also very concerned and, and I think everybody else says about dogs off of leash this hasn't been brought up I know it's illegal, but it's rarely ever enforced. And just with the quail, the rabbit, the tortoises, snakes, gila monsters, dogs do chase all of those things I've witnessed it myself, and this is something that we really need to to kind of try to figure out.
493.	Hegybes	John		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Criminal behavior is rife and unabated at trailheads. I would recommend that the BLM focus on improving patrols on the landscape rather than continuing to lessen public access.

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494.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Adaptive management strategies like parking enforcement and visitor education may help the BLM accomplish their goals without placing burdensome restrictions on the climbing community. As the BLM monitors the effectiveness of these less restrictive means, they can revisit their management strategy and adjust tactics accordingly. Additional less restrictive management strategies that may help the BLM to accomplish the purpose and need for the RAMP include: I Deploying additional rangers in Calico Basin who can educate visitors on low impact recreation, ensure the effectiveness of the management plan, and monitor use levels. We are aware that the BLM has increased their ranger team from two to thirteen and applaud this investment however additional investment may be necessary.
495.	Harrington	Christine		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Per the DOI, adaptive management is operationally defined as a process which "...promotes flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood" (DOI, p.4, para 2). My understanding of this principle is that it is best served by starting with conservative actions, studying the results, and then taking further action as needed to meet objectives.
496.	Merkin	Max		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Secondly, I would like to see the BLM increase the number of Park Rangers present in Calico Basin. If there were more Rangers, they could regularly walk trails and educate visitors in order to better manage recreation in Calico Basin. We believe this would be a more moderate approach that would allow management of a heavily used area without limiting access.
497.	McKell	Ryan	Long Range Division	Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Enact additional policies to identify, contain, and eradicate invasive species, noxious weeds, diseased or infected trees, and insects, rodents, pursuant to the Las Vegas City Charter, Las Vegas Municipal Code (LVMC) Title 9, and Title 13.48, utilizing best-management practices.

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498.	Kotab	Thomas		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	BLM has presented no data indicating that „Demand for recreation at the Calico Basin and other areas in the RRCNCA is largely the result of population growth in nearby Las Vegas." Absent any such data, it seems far more likely that the spike in demand for recreation in the Calico Basin is a result of BLM's decision to impose reservation requirements and extra costs on the Scenic Loop.
499.	Mowers	Laralyn		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Perhaps consider increasing the visibility of rangers; introducing fines for littering and not picking up after children and dogs (also a potential revenue source)
500.	Lee	James		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I think more clearly demarcated trails, rangers, public education, and if necessary, appropriate fees are sufficient to protect and manage the area.
501.	Like	Betsy		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Please consider solutions that balance sustainable and equitable access with conservation needs. Please implement adaptive management strategies that use data and feedback to evaluate effectiveness of BLM policies. Much more can be done to educate visitors, for trail and crag stewardship, and to address parking challenges.
502.	Mlotkowski	Anthony		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	There can be increased ranger presence and fines for improper behavior in the park to dissuade destructive littering and off-trail hiking.
503.	Bodin	Connor		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Instead of a gate, increase ranger presence, education, and nonprofit participation inclean up, trail building, parking management, etc.
504.	MacDonald	Fraser		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	We have found that restricting parking, increasing enforcement and educating visitors has helped change visitor habits and practices. I urge BLM to consider exploring different strategies, to collect data on the results to see if other strategies could help mitigate impacts to the NRA.
505.	Stadtlander	Mindy		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I recognize the need to protect the fragile desert environment, however, and advocate for BLM to consider less restrictive management alternatives that will preserve fair and equitable access to Calico Basin. Please consider implementing and iterating adaptive management strategies that use data and feedback to evaluate effectiveness-e.g. visitor education, parking enforcement and fees, and increased ranger presence.

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506.	Gladieux	Stephen		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	The solution to this is to work with the climbing community via local climbing clubs and the Access Fund, as well as other stakeholder groups, and consider an appropriately nuanced solution. The gate and restrictions are a capricious and reactionary approach. If parking is an impact issue consider unrestricted pedestrian access. If trail use is an impact issue consider improved infrastructure and maintenance activities - these can be strongly supported by volunteer groups from the community. Please consider each impact concern and the specific means of addressing them rather than a blanket restriction or an undiscerning gate. Generally, the community is not opposed to reasonable access fees so long as access is allowed and intelligently managed. Any additional access fees should go to support infrastructure in this area that needs improvement. There is available space for infrastructure, many durable surfaces that can bear recreation and travel, and with good education of visitors access can be maintained and the resource can be protected.
507.	Emerson	Nate		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Please consider less restrictive management of the access to Calico Basin and the Loop in order to preserve fair and equitable access. There are other strategies that can be used to understand how use is concentrated and how it can be better managed. There are non-profit agencies that specialize in this process that can be willing and effective allies. If the gate is deemed the only solution, then it would follow to have the same entry/exit exceptions- early/late entry/exit and pedestrian exceptions.
508.	Ou	Celia		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I request that the BLM look into a less restrictive solution than the proposed reservation system and entry gates to Calico Basin, as that may push the problematic traffic to other areas. In my experience at various national parks and other recreational areas, proper education about Leave No Trace, and increased ranger presence have deterred harmful behaviors.
509.	Lieb	Michael		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Other options like education, parking enforcement, etc need to be attempted before moving toward broad restrictive measures. The access fund would be a wonderful partner in these endeavors to keep these lands protected but still accessible.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
510.	Guenthard	Brittanny		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	One school of thought is to implement and iterate adaptive management strategies that use data and feedback to evaluate effectiveness-e.g. visitor education, parking enforcement and or increased ranger presence. It is also not a bad idea to deepen your ties to with nonprofit organizations who are already willing to help educate climbers and visitors, manage impacts, and preserve natural resources. In some areas there have been funds pulled together to add portapotties for use by climbers to reduce human impact. This coupled with trash cans, funded by grassroots efforts to keep the basin free and accessible to all, would be a welcomed way to continue protecting this land. Lastly, If you must move forward with the proposed gate, please allow for early entry/late exit, and free use for pedestrians and bicycles.
511.	Pugel	Josh		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	The proposal to add a gate, fees, and limited access presents a barrier to entry for the climbers who do not come from higher income jobs, jobs with flexibility, and who aren't able to climb during traditional hours. As a climber who enjoys this area, I have had to get out before sunrise or wait until sundown to get conditions that are optimal for climbing, especially in the summer months. Please consider alternative options for sustainability and conservation by deepening partnerships with non-profit organizations, capitalizing on climbing groups for assistance, and reinvesting any fees toward infrastructure that maintains open access for all. If restricted hours can't be avoided, please consider a system for early entrance and late exit for a limited number of climbers and removal of fees for pedestrians.
512.	Wilkins	Skylar		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	Additionally, using feedback from policies in order to determine effectiveness and alter management strategies would allow for more access and a more nuanced limitation rather than large sweeping actions without feedback.
513.	Nowicki	Leeanne		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	If a fee system is to be implemented at Calico Basin, Perhaps you do not allow dogs at Red Rocks but do at Calico Basin. I have witnessed dogs being more invasive than humans sometimes and their behavior isn't always up to par

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
514.	Chen	Andrew		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	If a gate and reservation system are placed, I believe that Calico Basin will lose a lot of the natural wonder that amazes my friends and I. Please consider not using such limiting measures to control access, and work with non-profit outdoor organizations to find a better solution.
515.	Bucchieri	Marc		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I would encourage the BLM to try an iterative approach to managing this land, including visitor education and parking enforcement, before defaulting to such restrictive measures. I'm sure many recreational users, climbers and otherwise, would appreciate this strategy instead of pouring resources into a locked gate and reservation system. I know that a more lenient and communicative approach will create lasting goodwill and understanding with the people who love this area, and could even help generate grassroots efforts to help manage the land sustainably.
516.	Lees	Richard		Monitoring, Enforcement, and Adaptive Management	I think gates are the most detrimental, and increased ranger presence is the most beneficial thing to outdoor recreation. Please take an approach that maximizes those, maintains accessibility (including late hour availability) and minimizes the burden of reservation systems and fees.
517.	Carey	Scott	Nevada State Clearinghouse	Other Laws	All waters of the State belong to the public and may be appropriated for beneficial use pursuant to the provisions of NRS Chapters 533 and 534 and not otherwise. Water shall not be used from any source unless the use of that water is authorized through a permit issued by the State Engineer. For underground sources, certain uses of water may be authorized through the issuance of a waiver pursuant to NRS Chapter 534 and NAC Chapter 534.
518.	Not Provided	Not Provided		Access	As such, it the following is clear: 1. Access to the public should be prioritized over undesirable conditions for the residents of the Calico Basin community. 2. If reductions of impacts to the wilderness and recreational area are needed, the first course of action should be to remove private residences within close vicinity of the area in question. 3. After residences have been removed from the vicinity, additional restrictions of access to the recreating public should be considered without reference to undesirable conditions for the residents of neighboring communities.

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519.	Shatz	Alexei		Access	Many working people will lose access to the area because the only time they can visit (before and after work) will now be a time in which the area is closed. Personally speaking, walking around the Kraft Mountain loop after and/or before work was a cherished activity, one which alleviated a great deal of stress, and one which cannot be replaced.
520.	Blatnik	Kelley	Blatnik Law, LLC	Access	Most of the main attractions of Calico Basin were (1) Free access (2) World Class Climbing and (3) Mountain Biking. Your plan eliminates the main attractions of Calico Basin.
521.	Blatnik	Kelley	Blatnik Law, LLC	Access	Based upon the proposed plan, Calico Basin will be completely cut-off from myself and others. This decision destroys a huge local climbing attraction.
522.	Dexter, Jr	Fred		Access	The BLM stated need to limit the number of daily visitors to Calico Basin because of an escalating number of annual visitors may be an inevitable requirement to generally protect this rather small natural resource. The BLM stated explanation for doing this to "IMPROVE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES" is a falsehood. The plan to limit hiking and climbing routes does NOT ENHANCE the hiking and climbing experience. It restricts, limits and curtails these very same activities.
523.	Norman	Mark		Access	The BLM should consider keeping as many routes and trails open as possible. Why make them inaccessible to Americans with Disabilities? Many of us rely on our OHV's to get us to these places. Over 5,000 acres are used by many different types of recreation and use is only expected to increase. If these areas are limited then use will be concentrated into a smaller area which will increase impact and reduce safety.
524.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Access	There is a need to evaluate the impact of social trails on the environment, and in some cases close them to prevent impact, however consideration should be given to the closure of social trails that lead to a loss of climbing access. The BLM should partner with climbing groups to find solutions to this issue, whether that means bringing certain social trails into the official trail system or finding alternate access routes that mitigate impacts to sensitive areas.

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525.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Access	There is a need to evaluate the impact of social trails on the environment, and in some cases close them to prevent impact, however consideration should be given to the closure of social trails that lead to a loss of climbing access. The BLM should partner with climbing groups to find solutions to this issue, whether that means bringing certain social trails into the official trail system or finding alternate access routes that mitigate impacts to sensitive areas.
526.	Cao	Andy		Access	I am hesitant about a plan to put up a gate at this time. It feels like a very big jump from where things are today. Once a gate goes up, it is hard to undo. A gate has the potential to change the way people recreate: it limits the spontaneity of climbing trips, even during off hours and weekdays. It also limits evening "sessions" when boulderers climb at night or rope climbers come back late from Sunny & Steep or one of the multipitches. It's also cost prohibitive. I hold an annual pass, but even the \$2 transaction fee adds up. One trip per week will result in \$104 of transaction fees a year, 30% more than the cost of an annual National Park pass!

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
527.	Hanks	Jen	Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association	Access	<p>The existing Calico Basin trails are a VITAL PART of the Las Vegas area mountain bike trail network for several reasons:</p> <p>1. Their proximity to neighborhoods makes them trails that can be ridden to instead of driven to. This reduces the number of cars driving State Route 159 to trailheads and reduces congestion in the Calico Basin area. Analytics from Trail forks showing real-time GPS data from trail users shows that mountain bikers riding these trails access the trails from Summerlin and do not contribute to the automobile traffic in Calico Basin.</p> <p>2. These trails serve as vital connectors to many neighboring trail networks. This allows cyclists an option to connect to trails while avoiding State Route 159. State Route 159 has a speed limit of 50mph and vehicles often travel much faster. These connector trails give cyclists a safe way to avoid the highway. Additionally, connector trails create trail networks. Uninterrupted access to miles of trail is what makes a trail network truly great.</p> <p>3. The trails are beginner-friendly making them some of the most inclusive trails in the valley.</p> <p>4. Due to the reasons stated above, these trails are popular riding routes for local middle and high school teams providing them a safe place to ride that is close to neighborhood schools. As previously mentioned, Mountain Biking is currently the fastest-growing high school sport in the country. The Nevada South NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association) program has increased by over 100% each year since its inception three years ago. There are currently three teams who routinely hold practice on the Calico Basin trails and this number will continue to grow as the league grows. Safe access to local trails is imperative for the youth of our community.</p>

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528.	Spicer	David	Southern Nevada Mountain Bike Association	Access	<p>The existing Calico Basin trails are a VITAL PART of the Las Vegas area mountain bike trail network for several reasons:</p> <p>1. Their proximity to neighborhoods makes them trails that can be ridden to instead of driven to. This reduces the number of cars driving State Route 159 to trailheads and reduces congestion in the Calico Basin area. Analytics from Trail forks showing real-time GPS data from trail users shows that mountain bikers riding these trails access the trails from Summerlin and do not contribute to the automobile traffic in Calico Basin.</p> <p>2. These trails serve as vital connectors to many neighboring trail networks. This allows cyclists an option to connect to trails while avoiding State Route 159. State Route 159 has a speed limit of 50mph and vehicles often travel much faster. These connector trails give cyclists a safe way to avoid the highway. Additionally, connector trails create trail networks. Uninterrupted access to miles of trail is what makes a trail network truly great.</p> <p>3. The trails are beginner-friendly making them some of the most inclusive trails in the valley.</p> <p>4. Due to the reasons stated above, these trails are popular riding routes for local middle and high school teams providing them a safe place to ride that is close to neighborhood schools. As previously mentioned, Mountain Biking is currently the fastest-growing high school sport in the country. The Nevada South NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association) program has increased by over 100% each year since its inception three years ago. There are currently three teams who routinely hold practice on the Calico Basin trails and this number will continue to grow as the league grows. Safe access to local trails is imperative for the youth of our community.</p>

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529.	Hegyesh	John		Access	<p>The most serious problem that I fail to see addressed here is that the Calico Basin residents will be receiving major improvements, increasing the value of their landholdings with the installation of security infrastructure, while the burden of funding is born by public land users. I find it scandalous that the BLM would build and operate elaborate facilities that benefit only the few Calico Basin residents at the expense of the tax-paying members of the greater community. While public land users are forced to leave by 5pm under the strict operating hours, the residents of Calico Basin will be free to come and go as they please, enjoying what becomes a private, exclusive-access nature reserve. During the question-and-answer portion of the November 18 Virtual Public Meeting on this topic, I asked the question regarding how the residents of Calico Basin and their friends and business partners will be able to come and go through the toll booth, during and after operating hours. Josh Travers was unable to answer this question, saying that this access issue would be resolved during the design and implementation phase. This answer was insufficient, and I believe that any final decision made by the BLM should be subject to scrutiny on this exact issue. It is clear to me that there will be some sort of bypass lane at the toll booth for residents and their associates. The toll-booth operator will need to be provided with a guest list so these people can be granted access unhindered. Furthermore, after-hours access will need to be granted for this exclusive list of people, probably through a wireless transmitter or a card-reader that opens a gate.</p>
530.	Ramsey	William		Access	<p>Moreover, there has been no cost-benefit analysis that demonstrates how the very significant loss - spontaneous access - would be offset by adequate counter-balancing gains. In their assessment of the situation, there is nothing suggesting BLM appreciates this dimension (spontaneous, immediate access) of Calico Basin that the public finds so valuable.</p>

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531.	Mowers	Laralyn		Access	I feel that closing access early (i.e., 5pm during peak climbing season) may provide a visual reduction in usage, but will just squeeze the number of visitors into a shorter window, thereby having the opposite of the intended effect. Instead of spreading out usage on popular trails, and at popular boulders, it will instead increase crowds because hikers and climbers will feel pressured to tick off their objectives in a reduced timeframe. This will lead to more damage to the delicate ecosystem, more social trails-as people step off-trail to let others pass on established trails, and more impact from bigger groups of people ticking off classic climbs and hikes in a shorter timeframe.
532.	Lavalley	John		Access	I visit the park at least 2-3 per week after work and on the weekends for the purposes of trail running and rock climbing. If this parkland was restricted (like the loop road), I would not be able to visit it after work. Without access to this free natural resource during the week, there would be no reason for me to live in the Summerlin area or even consider Las Vegas home.
533.	Gans	Maya		Access	The proposed gate and entry fee would be a tremendous detriment to my access and quality of life. A gate is a literal barrier, and the proposed fees will create an access gap - the outdoors is for all to enjoy, not just for those who can afford it.
534.	DeAngeli	Nicole		Access	Lastly, I saw your document comparing fees to other attractions in Las Vegas. That comparison is unfair because Calico Basin is public land, unlike going to an attraction downtown. Public land should be for everyone regardless of socioeconomic status. By applying fees to recreation areas nearest one of the most diverse cities in the US, you are making it harder for folks of various backgrounds to access their public lands.
535.	Mlotkowski	Anthony		Access	Climbing is such a large part of the culture in Vegas, especially the locals who live here because of the unique access we have to world class climbing. It would be damaging to the local community to not have fair and equitable access to Calico Basin.

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536.	Li	Genevieve		Access	But with more restrictions in place, it will no longer be as accessible to me. I don't make very much money, so I already restrict how often I go into the scenic loop to enjoy the park and I instead go to Calico Basin for bouldering, hiking, and climbing. Restricting access to Calico Basin would take away one of the things that drew me to Vegas in the first place, and also limit other local climbers, hikers, and trail runners who have made visiting Calico Basin a part of their daily lives.
537.	Hetrick	Ivana		Access	I can afford to go climbing whenever I want but I often see people who are simply hiking and climbing up things, they don't own climbing shoes or crash pads. They are sometimes just younger people or families. I know that less fortunate people get to experience Red Rock and if there is a gate up around the land, I will be fine but others will not get to experience the land. Please keep Red Rock free for those of us who are less privileged. I know that adding a gate to the land will make the park a private location to those who are rich enough to own houses in the area. The park is supposed to be free. Again, please keep Red Rock free for those of us who are less privileged than those who can buy the land right there and always have access.
538.	Stroud	Ryder		Access	I have seen the direct consequences of restricting public land use to the benefit of a few wealthy property owners. Land is irreversibly degraded and developed for private use. More private interests than demand their needs be met in the region. Management plans become beholden only to development and the whims of a few key interests. Hard working citizens are permanently locked out of a place in which they spent years and had formed parts of their lives. Most importantly, the many regular citizens who live in the area lose a valuable resource for recreation and rejuvenation. Severely curtailing access to beautiful places like Calico risks eviscerating the inner life of local community, especially in a place like Las Vegas, where places to be outside and recreate freely are already extremely limited.

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539.	Morgan	Carys		Access	Implementing reservations will only pass the buck to another location and take away from the joy and organic nature of experiencing nature. Many folks cannot plan far enough in advance to get reservations due to their income volatility and work circumstances and these systems most impact low income people. Please consider alternatives recommended by the access fund instead of implementing the current proposal
540.	Blackinship	Jamie		Access	his is public land and i believe that it should remain open for all to access without restrictions. A fee would limit who would be financially able to visit the area. A reservation system would discourage visitors from visiting the area and would therefore decrease Las Vegas revenue from climbers traveling to the area. One of the best things about climbing is the sense of freedom that we get from the sport. Reservations and fees would greatly hinder this aspect. Red Rocks is one of our countries greatest climbing destinations and I believe it should remain open to use freely for the sake of the climbers experience, our ability to travel to the region on a whim, and for the local economy's benefit.
541.	Bourne	Nat		Access	Similarly, reservation systems ostensibly would reduce crowding, but really are just a burden on those who have less access to digital tools. Add-on reservation fees (such as with Recreation.gov) just increase the financial burden on those who can least afford it, and provide no added value to users.
542.	Cappiello	Joe		Access	Furthermore, the imposition of new fees creates an additional economic barrier to access to the Nation's Public Lands. Every citizen may claim ownership to these spaces, and these proposed measures seem only destined to further disadvantage already disadvantaged current and future land users. Equity cannot be created through barriers, fees, and bureaucracy.

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543.	DeRoche	Michael		Access	. The more broad based users, the more likely the land is to be continually protected. While the BLM, with its very long term perspective might see some harm being caused, the greater harm is dramatically increased user inconvenience through fees, quotas and reservation systems. Those things just make people mad and when they go home mad, they often don't come back and ultimately we all lose. Please investigate some intermediate way to alleviate congestion and allow unimpeded access and use of the climbing and bouldering areas of Calico Basin.
544.	Etopio	Aubrey		Access	Please keep Red Rocks open for climbing! Red Rocks is a magical climbing destination. Aside from the amazing climbing, one of the destination's strengths is its ease of access. Adding a gate, fee, and restricted hours would bum everyone out and restrict access to many climbers. Especially since Vegas is so hot, many climbers are out late at night when it's dark and cooler.
545.	Glantz	Josh		Access	I don't think a reservation system is welcoming to visiting guests who just as much deserve to come and go as they please. People work varying schedules which sometimes dictate "weird" hours for them to recreate in Red Rock. Having a gate w/ restricted hours unfairly penalizes them for enjoying public land. I have 0 qualms with a reasonable fee system that would hopefully accommodate and discount locals (I live in Seattle, so thinking outside myself here), but I ask you not to restrict hours, install a gate, or implement a reservations system.
546.	Godshall	Daniel		Access	. I would fully support any effort to enforce day/annual pass entry to Calico Basin either through a self service kiosk or increased ranger presence. Users of Calico Basin should be willing to financially support the amazing area of Red Rocks in the same way that users of the main loop do. But I am strictly opposed to gating the area. The gating and restrictive hours of the main loop have only created hardship and pushed users to other areas. Instead of building an expensive gate, I would much rather see money spent on educating users, and enhancing useful infrastructure (trails, signage, parking)

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547.	Manning	Jacob		Access	I worry the fee station and permitting process will impact many of our societies underserved populations and limit their access to the area. If such measures as a fee gate, set hours of operation, and permits are implemented, please continue to allow for late exit passes, early entrance options, and free entry for walk in visitors.
548.	Michaelis	Amber		Access	That being said, the restrictions being proposed would essentially eliminate my own and other travelers' access to this amazing area- as I'm sure you are aware, sandstone is fragile and you can't climb for days after any inclement weather, so planning/reserving so far in advance doesn't allow for weather-based decisions. I implore you all to consider less extreme approaches first, monitor your data, then save this as a last resort. Moreover, if reservations and gates absolutely have to move forward, at least allow for early and late departures as climbs of any significant length require an extremely early start and might take you into the night.
549.	Govan	Kevin		Access	I am concerned about the proposed gate and other access restrictions to Calico Basin, as I feel it will heavily impact the ability of people to responsibly pursue recreational activities within that area. For climbing especially, weather and daylight are very important and often it's required to start very early or finish very late as objectives can be incredibly long and challenging. Rigid, timed gate access already is negatively impacting the ability to pursue longer climbs along the scenic drive, even with early & late exit. I don't wish for that same limitation to affect calico basin.
550.	Munsing	Eric		Access	When I have lived and worked in the Summerlin neighborhood nearby, it was a delight to be able to drop in to Calico Basin for a quick after-work scramble or run without the time commitment required for driving the Loop Road, or the advance planning required by the permitting system. I want to ensure that any changes to access allow for easy after-work access for locals, and do not restrict any access to bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

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551.	McClintock	Lindsay		Access	Many of us work full-time jobs that contribute o the success and livelihood of our lovely Las Vegas. Restricting use hours of the Calio basin would basically eliminate recreational use of the area for many hard working locals, such as myself, during the weekdays. Nothing brings me.mkre.joy than driving out to Calico for bouldering after a long day of conference calls and working with various vendors. Often times, I climb from 7-9pm as this is the earliest I can arrive on-site due to my job obligations. These are some.of the most enjoyable hours of my life as the night is still, the nature is beautiful and the rejuvenating effect of being outside and climbing is immeasurable. The restricted use hours of the RAMP would severely effect the quality of life of working, local climbers such as myself. This beautiful area that I call home is meant to be shares by all. The BLM must consider less restrictive management alternatives that will preserve fair and equitable access to Calico Basin.
552.	LaFond	Bennett		Access	A reservation system is inherently inequitable, and requires an understanding of the bureaucratic systems to make a reservation that is predominantly available to insiders, a flexible schedule to make reservations at the appropriate time, and disposable income. This combination ensures that climbing, and outdoor access in general, will remain exclusive.
553.	Klein	Nelson		Access	Adding gates and pay restrictions defies the BLM's core mission to make public lands available to the public, and moreover makes these lands even less available to underserved communities that already face barriers to access in many forms.
554.	Cranston	Alison		Access	A gate, entry fee, restricted hours, and a reservation system would change the nature of recreation in this area and restrict access for people who do not have the means to pay or navigate a more complicated system.

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555.	Wright	David		Access	The longlines in park closures as well as recent changes to the red rock campground in the past several years have it negatively impacted my experience and my ability to access the red rock national conservation area for Climbing purposes. I fear that if a gate and access fees are added to the calico basin area that the same effect will occur for calico basin with long lines, park closures, and inability to access the area for the purpose of climbing.
556.	Sterling	Holland		Access	Putting a gate, fee, and restrictive times will only hurt people looking for recreation. This restricts access to only those who can afford it and only those who can manage to enter in the certain time window. But what about people who can't afford it or can't come in during the day because they have to work all day? They still deserve to be able to have access to Red Rocks and Calico Basin is that option for them. Climbing and hiking at night is special and actually helps lower day use numbers as more people are coming to Calico Basin at night. Please please consider other less restrictive options! It would be terrible to cut off access to this beautiful area for a large group of people.
557.	Meer	Julian		Access	I do not believe creating the same restriction (timed entry and gates) at Calico Basin is the solution. Not only does it limit the amount of places that climbers can recreate, it will push them into other places that don't have the restriction. In addition, it disproportionately affects lower income individuals from enjoying the outdoors. I would also like to add that the \$2 processing fee for the scenic loop is terrible. I would much rather donate \$2 to National Parks than to pay some processing company. Don't let this happen to Calico Basin as well, it would be a travesty.
558.	von Ruexleben	Christoph		Access	Calico Basin has long been an incredible place to enjoy Red Rocks with high accessibility, and the addition of restrictions will limit or impede the community from enjoying the area fully. Calico Basin has some of the shortest approaches, and I worry that climbers who can't make the long walks so typical of climbing in Red Rocks will have to deal with increased competition to enjoy the area at all.

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559.	Willis	Fred		Access	I typically visit the Las Vegas area on short notice, and only to enjoy Red Rock Canyon and the neighboring Calico Basin for the climbing and bouldering opportunities, and I do thank BLM for recognizing climbing as an OK activity. I care about the areas I visit, and have practiced Leave No Trace principles since well before it became a formal doctrine. Due to the short notice nature of my visits, a reservation system makes it more difficult for me to visit, and I'm sure there are others like me.
560.	Ferg	Nathaniel		Access	Reservations usually either don't allow for people to plan ahead or don't allow locals to make impromptu trips. Online reservations could only be accessed by people with internet access and a computer, and all available daily reservations were snatched up in a matter of seconds after the bidding opened. Climbers want to use this land for climbing, and your conservation concerns are reasonable, but climbers are not the enemy. Most climbers are stewards of the environment, they love the outdoors and are willing to work together with you to help these at risk areas. More often than not barring access to these areas pushes the problem to the remaining open areas. There are other options, just don't prevent the people who love this land to not be able to go there and enjoy it. We are outdoor enthusiasts who want to enjoy these areas, we want the same thing as you, and extreme solutions such as this really don't benefit anyone.
561.	Everly	Mitchell		Access	Already, climbers access in Red Rocks is limited by the hours of the scenic loop drive. By closing off access to Calico Basin after hours, Red Rocks will lose one of the only areas for after-hours climbing that currently exists there. I enjoy climbing there after work, which is often after the hours of the loop road. I will lose one of my main climbing destinations if this change happens!! Calico Basin is also a popular night climbing area, with sport climbing bouldering and multi pitch options, all of which are truly special to experience in the desert at night, either under a full moon or a blanket of stars. This change would be a tragedy for Red Rocks and the climbing community.

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562.	McCarthy	Corey		Access	I do not want to see a permitting system, as it makes it especially hard for visiting climbers to have any kind of flexibility over their trip. I'm all for fees to support the BLMs work, but restricted access is not beneficial to recreational pursuits.
563.	Ding	Jeffrey		Access	Throughout my education, I don't have a lot of money and access to outdoor climbing has been a huge source of recreation for me. Climbing outside is the primary motivating factor that has kept me in this sport and access has always been an issue. As my schedule becomes more busy in medical school, my climbing trips have become more limited due to access in terms of timing and finances. I believe these restrictions are going to alienate a variety of individuals in situations not unique to myself. Those who cannot schedule a trip months in advance. Those who cannot afford an entry fee or the possibility of obtaining a ticket for merely enjoying their recreation. Those who live for the sport and the great outdoors of America. If the BLM is planning restrictions then at least listen to communities that want whats best for all. Communities that the access fund represents
564.	Friedman	Satchel		Access	Finally, I'd ask BLM to consider who will be most impacted by this gated system - folks who work odd hours or have challenging personal obligations will be barred from outdoor recreation anywhere near their homes in Vegas.
565.	Benckekroun	Sarah		Access	t's open access is one of the biggest attractions for many climbers within the sport. By taking this away your are stripping climbing of one it's most fundamental components and that is it's accessibility.

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566.	Blanton	Jake		Access	I moved to Las Vegas 5 years ago for the ability to conveniently climb in Red Rock Canyon, in part, specifically to be able to climb after getting off work in town. The measures to limit access with a gate and restricted hours in Calico Basin will preclude the majority of my after-work options and much of my reason for living in the area. As a climber who's favorite place to climb is Red Rock, I have always gone out of my way to help steward this beautiful place by picking up trash I find (including dog and sometimes human feces), often mending trail boundaries (the stone borders added a couple years ago) in Calico Basin specifically, and helping other guests to find and stay on trails and conduct themselves appropriately in this space. I always give my time and attention to take care of this space. Limiting my access is limiting my contribution to your cause, and I believe this is true for limiting the access of the majority of climbers who love this area and work in their own small ways to take care of it.
567.	Overby	Jakki		Access	Calico Basin has become that place for me. My visits are short and I try to maximize my days filling myself with all those desert hues. What is great about Calico Basin is the accessibility. The scenic loop nearby is full of tourist vehicles at the parking lots and the loop closes early and limits the climbing and time in the desert. This area is cherished so greatly as it's not roped off with a price tag on it. It's not limiting access to those more privileged than others. It's welcoming those early risers and sending them home beneath a twinkling sky. Kraft mountain has a special place in my heart and I'd hate to lose that due to another added expense that limits my ability to take care of my mental health and well being. To some people it's just another way to generate money, charging entry fees to experience nature. For those of us that visit with hearts pumping with joy and ambition, it is livelihood.

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568.	Pidgeon	Thomasina		Access	Restricting access to Calico Basin and any public land in fact, to a fee system, restricted hours and gates is not a sustainable way to conservation but simply limits the numbers to those who are privileged enough to afford such luxuries, while allowing the BLM to turn a profit. This commodification of public land is outrageous. Like any punitive policy, these "solutions" do not deal with the problem and in fact, only create exclusionary environments, a commodification of public land which is meant to be accessible for ALL, and a relocating of the problem. I invite the BLM to look beyond these typical "solutions" to deal with the consumptive culture in which we find ourselves. I also ask the BLM to see their possible role in the disenfranchisement of people.
569.	Connole	Dylan		Access	I'm deeply concerned about the new proposals for management of Calico Basin. It has always been a place that has great access for easy afternoon/evening climbing. With the loop being so long and closing at dark there isn't a good option during the winter for easy climbing besides Calico Basin. If access is closed I and many others would be massively effected. Calico is also a great spot because it doesn't have a gate, lines to wait through or fees to enter. It is federal land with equality and access to anyone who wants to recreate on and the beautiful rocks there. Whether anyone wants to admit it or not, paying for access to federal land is a policy that negatively effects poor and minority groups.
570.	Treitler	Peter		Access	Adding a gate would negatively impact access to this area for many people, especially those who cannot afford to pay for entry (low income folks) or who have difficulty planning with enough advance notice to schedule a reservation (e.g., parents).
571.	Ulizio	Chris		Access	I am a traveling climber who has enjoyed recreating in the Calico Basin area numerous times over the last eleven years in which I've been visiting the Las Vegas area. The changes you propose will greatly hamper access for both traveling climbers and local climbers, and I believe the area needs a much more proactive plan to effectively balance the interests of all user groups.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
572.	Santiago	Stephen		Access	It was at Calico Basin that I was able to get into outdoor climbing with limited experience. Restricted access will make it difficult to enjoy such an area. Part of what makes calico basin so beautiful is the access and variety of visitors. People and families from all demographics are able to meet in this area and learn to respect the outdoors together. I believe, with a fee station, it will contribute to the exclusion of lower income individuals from falling in love with the outdoors.
573.	Betz	Nicholas		Access	Implementation of a permit system and hours of entry limits the ability for low income users groups to access the land. In addition, the gate further limit the type of people who will be able to use this land.
574.	Williams	Julie		Access	I am a college student and sometimes have trouble affording the fees associated with going into the loop and so I climb at calico basin instead. Another bonus of climbing there is having the freedom and flexibility to climb there whenever I have free time. As a college student, my free time is somewhat unpredictable. Some weekends I'm overwhelmed with coursework and sometimes I get a weekend where I was able to catch up on everything during the week which allows me to go on a spontaneous climbing trip.
575.	Rubin	Alissa		Access	As a visitor over long weekends and similar time-frames, I'm concerned about my ability to get a reservation for the Park, especially during popular weekends. Without knowing whether I will be able to spend several full days climbing and recreating in the area, I would likely not be able to make the trip. I also worry about my ability to afford entrance fees, but more so I worry about how this move restricts access to the outdoors for so many lower income people and families, young people, and students. These fees worsen a situation where the outdoors is a privilege for only some who have the means. During the hotter months of the year, I take advantage of the the lower dawn and nighttime temperatures to climb in the Park. With a locked gate and limited hours, these prime climbing hours are likely to become inaccessible. This would sadly restrict me from climbing for a majority of the year in this amazing location.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
576.	Strauss	Zachery		Trails	Additionally, the RAMP notes that there is already a meaningful biking presence in Calico, and closing them off from legal access will remove the ability to collect any proposed usage charges as well as potentially divert bike usage to uncontrolled areas that lack the safety and environmental impact assessments of maintained trails. Closing of Calico Basin to mountain bikers also removes access to any SNMBA volunteer labor or trail upkeep experience.
577.	Hutchinson	Robert	Southern Nevada Bicycle Coalition	Trails	While SNMBA is conscious of the sensitive and fragile environment of the desert; studies show that mountain bikes in fact have less environmental impact on trails than equestrians and heavily laden hikers. Cessford (1995) asserts that: "Mountain bikers will exert a downward force through their tyres (translated to tires - Cessford is from New Zealand)which comprises the wheel load divided by the contact area, is likely to be less than that of heavier motorized vehicles, horses, and heavily laden hikers." (Off Road Impacts of Mountain Bikes: A Review and Discussion, Science and Research - G.R. Cessford, Department of Conservation Wellington New Zealand).
578.	Scott	Casey		Trails	1.)MTB tire contact patch is equal to or less than typical foot traffic. 2.)MTB riders are taught to respect others on the trail, signage can encourage the generally accepted yield priorities supporting multi-use trails. 4.)Horse trail use is 10x more impacting on the local environment causing massive amounts of erosion and seeding invasive species. 4.1) We have decades of evidence that trails used by the MTB community are better maintained and suffer less erosion than those used by equestrians. This is not an anecdotal point, there are hundreds of miles worth of trail as evidence to support this conclusion in the Calico Basin alone.

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579.	Boffeli	Shannon		Trails	In addition, the trails used by mountain bikers in Calico Basin are completely removed from those accessed by equestrians or climbers. Maintaining mountain bike access to these limited trails on the far eastern and southern borders of Calico Basin can be done without impacting any other trail user groups. The trails currently used by mountain bikers in Calico Basin include a majority of the more beginner friendly biking terrain in the Vegas valley. The trails are low angle, less rocky, and lacking the exposure common on a majority of the trails in Las Vegas. These beginner friendly trail systems are critical to young riders and riders new to the sport as they provide a safe, low risk environment for riding and experiencing the outdoors.
580.	Kaszuba	Brian		Trails	I also recognized the current proposal is limiting certain recreational activities in the Calico Basin area such as mountain biking. With the number of established trails and space, not only is this restricting people from various hobbies and outdoor activities, but encouraging (ie. biking) off-trail use in other natural areas, or formation of new trails elsewhere that will impact the environment more than permitting use of the trails that have already been established.
581.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Special recreation permits	Table 4-3 on pages 4-5 and 4-6, which tabulates an extensive list of permitted activities within the larger RRCNCA, many of which are prohibited from the Project Area, but fails to specify the truncated list of permissible activities in the Calico Basin RAMP. Since Chapter 4 combines the Affected Environment with the Environmental Effects, we feel that a new table, perhaps "Table 4.3a," needs to be included in the Final RAMP/EA that lists only those activities that are allowed within the Calico Basin Project Area.

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582.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Cultural Resources	Though the Brownstone Canyon trailhead is mentioned multiple times in the RAMP, the document does not emphasize how potential enhancements in the plan area might affect Brownstone's abundant cultural resources, nor is there clarity on the future of its access. Due to expanding housing development on Calico Basin's eastern side, access routes to the Brownstone Canyon trailhead are in flux. There must be clarity on the intended legal access to the area, whether that means cross-country travel within Calico Basin or access through the eastern housing development. With Brownstone Canyon included in the northern boundary of this RAMP, the plan must both prioritize the cultural resources of Brownstone, and outline decisions for the future of the ongoing access to this designated trailhead.
583.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Cultural Resources	Though the Brownstone Canyon trailhead is mentioned multiple times in the RAMP, the document does not emphasize how potential enhancements in the plan area might affect Brownstone's abundant cultural resources, nor is there clarity on the future of its access. Due to expanding housing development on Calico Basin's eastern side, access routes to the Brownstone Canyon trailhead are in flux. There must be clarity on the intended legal access to the area, whether that means cross-country travel within Calico Basin or access through the eastern housing development. With Brownstone Canyon included in the northern boundary of this RAMP, the plan must both prioritize the cultural resources of Brownstone, and outline decisions for the future of the ongoing access to this designated trailhead.
584.	McDermott	Erin		Cultural Resources	A primary concern for Friends regarding the draft of this RAMP for Calico Basin is the lack of priority for the cultural resources in Brownstone Canyon, which is in the northern part of the project area. Brownstone is mentioned a number of times in the plan when it comes to the wilderness, the creation of restrooms, trailheads, and parking areas but we respectfully request at the BLM in their sub plan work continue to consider the impacts of those enhancements on the precious cultural and natural resources in Brownstone Canyon, thank you.

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585.	McKell	Ryan	Long Range Division	Biological Resources	Use native and adaptive plants to meet environmental objectives and reduce maintenance requirements.
586.	Lewis	Gabe		Vegetation	The trails through Kraft Boulders could use massive improvements to protect fragile vegetation. Climbers would volunteer to place trail signs and close off unused trails (as they have been doing), but some support from BLM would be helpful. The influx of tourists walking off trail (without knowing this is bad for the environment) and taking selfies atop boulders is painfully-eye-rolling, and destructive. Please help limit the number of people wandering around on the biocrust.
587.	Spotts	Richard		Special Status Species	Please also review the attached documents relating to Mojave desert tortoise conservation, including references relating to the significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from increased road and route density in tortoise habitats. If not properly controlled, increased recreational uses may cause the creation of additional roads and routes. Effective BLM route designation and enforcement are therefore key components in terms of protecting tortoises and other sensitive resources.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
588.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Special Status Species	A search of the Draft RAMP/EA reveals that the words, "desert tortoise," appear three times, each time indicating that the species occurs within the Project Area. This means that there is no analysis of desert tortoise occurrence within the Project Area, where the tortoise may and may not occur, within the Affected Environment discussion in the Draft RAMP/EA; no description of current management to protect desert tortoises; no proposals to upgrade protection of desert tortoises in the Alternatives Analysis in Chapter 2, particularly given recent ubiquitous declines in the listed population of <i>Gopherus agassizii</i> (Allison and McLuckie 2018); there is no explanation how raven management, elimination of nonnative weeds, fire suppression, and adaptive management addressing climate change may need to be augmented to protect desert tortoises and their habitats. In short, a naïve member of the public reading the Draft RAMP/EA has no idea of the current status of tortoises within the Project Area, how the BLM has managed for the species, and how the BLM intends to manage for tortoises given impacts likely to result from burgeoning visitor use documented in Section 4.2.1 on page 4-1. Given these and other recommendations below, the Draft RAMP/EA is significantly flawed and deficient, requiring that the Final RAMP/EA be substantially modified to address these deficiencies.
589.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Special Status Species	We assume that any new roads envisioned by the "Roads and Parking Strategy 1: Consider maintenance costs, benefits, impacts, and other concerns when evaluating the need for a new road," given on page 2-21, will be evaluated in project-specific environmental assessments, and that avoidance of impacts to tortoises will be part of site selection and subsequent alternatives analyses and mitigation. If not, please explain in the Final RAMP/EA the types of projects that would and would not be analyzed by future project-specific environmental assessments.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
590.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Special status species	how does the BLM intend to protect nesting special status raptors, such as prairie falcons (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>), which is not mentioned in the Draft RAMP/EA, and peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), which is listed on page 3-1, from climbing impacts? Spring inventories may be necessary to see if prairie falcons and peregrine falcons are nesting in designated rock-climbing areas.
591.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Special status species	In fact, it is not clear to us why, for this Draft RAMP/EA, the BLM has chosen to depart from the standard environmental assessment format that routinely addresses threatened and endangered species in their own subsection, apart from a subsection for special status species, both of which are components of the larger Biological Resources section?
592.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Special status species	As an example, it is inexplicable why a paragraph is dedicated to alkali mariposa lily (<i>Calochortus striatus</i>), which is a BLM-designated Sensitive species, at the bottom of page 4-15 and top of page 4-16, while not more than the common and scientific names of three federally endangered species and one federally threatened species are listed in Table 4-5 and not discussed anywhere in the text.* At a minimum, there should be an appendix in the Final RAMP/EA that includes occurrence status, distribution including maps, threats, protection under current management, and foreseeable protection under future management under the Proposed Action for each of the species listed in Table 4-5.
593.	Pidgeon	Thomasina		Native American concerns	Given the presence of the Paiute peoples in this area since time immemorial, I am confident that they would have some more evolved ideas on how people can be in good relationship with the land and interact in a sustainable way. Have they been consulted so they can claim their place at the table where the management of their natural resources is being discussed? If the BLM wants people to honestly be in "good relation" with the land around us, I can think of no better people to consult with than the knowledge holders of the Paiute people.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
594.	Smith	Patricia		Public health and safety	I did not see the speed limit of 30 miles per hour on that road at either the start or end of the Basin. This was misleading and confusing. Because this is a "free activity" for people practicing bolder-climbing, they are carrying equipment including large pads on their backs. This blocks your view as a driver and pedestrian. You can be knocked down as you walk to the Kraft hiking trail. The overflow from the parking lot goes to the sides of the road. You cannot see the people on foot who step out from their cars or are crossing the street.
595.	Pace	Joshua		Public health and safety	I also think that a gate and then hours of operation could potentially cause issues even exiting the place it already gets a little crowded leaving in the at the end of the day, and I wonder if everyone's leaving around the same time how that would impact it

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
596.	Kaszuba	Brian		Public health and safety	I am a local family medicine resident physician that frequents Calico Basin and do not represent any organization or facility with my personal comment. I strongly advocate for patients and our community members to take advantage of this tremendous outdoor resource for improving mental health and physical wellbeing. The pandemic has gravely impacted the mental health crisis. I work closely with the vulnerable populations of Las Vegas, most of which are struggling to make ends meet. I frequently recommend Calico Basin as a free recreational area, many of which have found it to be a safe haven for spiritual and mental growth beyond the average city park. The impact it has for our locals is incredible and I can certainly assure that restricting hours and imposing fees will directly impose a barrier for our most vulnerable community members that need this space most. For the proposal, I strongly advise against restricting hours and placing gates. Instead, I propose first collecting data on specific dates (ie. Holidays) for which overcrowding may be an issue and sampling what percentage of visitors are city locals versus tourists. One suggestion is a tourist-focused fee that does not set barriers for nor include the locals. As part of promoting much-needed healthy living, locals should not be restricted to a fee or a reservation system. Unlike tourists that plan itineraries and schedule trips, our locals already struggle to find time to get outdoors and stay active. It is very important to recognize that imposing daytime hours with closure times directly serves as a barrier to our locals that access the park after work hours
597.	Miller	Gigi		Public health and safety	Limiting hours will cause users to hike or climb in the more extreme heat hours, which is dangerous. Also, limiting hours can force climbers to have to rush in order to prevent a costly ticket and will cause more accidents.
598.	Hegyesh	John		Public health and safety	Threatening expensive parking citations leads to public land users to rush back to their vehicles by closing time, leading to an increase of accidents due to hasty decision-making.
599.	Anonymous	Anonymous		Public health and safety	I fear that putting a gate and fee area there will drive a lot more traffic into the area and will result in increased destruction of the area similar to the blatantly evident destruction within the loop.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
600.	Hoschke	Matt		Public health and safety	Restricting the opening hours is also disappointing. It is extremely important for climbers to be able to climb and walk out at night to avoid the desert heat.
601.	DeAngeli	Nicole		Public health and safety	As someone in healthcare, I also worry that any restrictions on hours to access Calico could result in heat-related illnesses in the summer because recreating when the sun is out can be too hot.
602.	Shang	Connie		Public health and safety	It is staggering how many times I have personally or indirectly witnessed car break-ins in broad daylight at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot and the Kraft Mountain parking lot. Sometimes windows are smashed in an act of pure vandalism, regardless of whether there are valuables in the car. This is demoralizing, dangerous, and totally black-and-white unacceptable. Clearly, gated access and restricted hours have not solved this problem since it still happens frequently in the park. I personally would not mind if the parks collected a day use fee of \$20 if we could assure that it will pay for a full-time patrol and/or CCTV surveillance. The property damage to visitors, not to mention the psychological stress and reputational damage on our beloved areas, must be addressed immediately. This is infinitely more urgent than addressing crowds or new pit toilets.
603.	Struck	Danielle		Public health and safety	Additionally, the limited entry times make it extremely difficult to enjoy the area in a safe manner, considering the extreme temperatures during the summer.
604.	Johnsen	David		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	If this unfair proposal should be passed by the BLM, then it will be just another in a long list of the federal government's disregard for the welfare of low income citizens. \$20.00 to use the Calico Basin or buy food, that would be the type of decision this proposal would make citizens like me have to make.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
605.	Giuffria	Jonathon		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	I'd like to speak to resource equity. The majority of the homeowners who live near the Calico Basin will retain unfettered access to the resource during the currently proposed "closed" hours while the general public will not. This sole consequence is unlawful and will be challenged. A small, privileged population cannot enjoy the resource freely while the broader population cannot. Aside from the fact that many of the home owners in Calico Basin do NOT live there on a full-time basis, the resulting inequity in accessibility goes against the one of the BLMs core values of providing equal access to our Nation's federal lands.
606.	Elliott	Gabriel		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	I am emailing to urge further discussion regarding a management plan for Calico Basin. I have been living in Las Vegas for a couple years and I am so grateful for the incredible, unparalleled access to public lands in Southern Nevada. Calico Basin usage has skyrocketed even in the short time that I've been here and it clearly needs a new management plan. However, a gate, entry fee, restricted hours and reservation system akin to the management plan for Red Rock Canyon is harmful to inclusive, equitable access to our public lands. I have seen outdoor recreation balloon during the COVID pandemic and I fully agree that we need to find a balance of sustainable recreation that doesn't overtly impact wildlife, plants, etc. But severely curtailing access (akin to the new system at Red Rock Canyon) doesn't address the new high demand for outdoor access and it will constrict who is able to visit Calico Basin to those who can afford to put in extra time and money to navigate the reservation system. That disadvantages lower income folks and people who did not grow up with access to outdoor education. It is widely known among outdoor professionals and recreation groups that people of color generally grow up with less access.

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607.	Foley	Pete		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Turning Calico Basin into a publicly funded, walled and gated community to be enjoyed primarily by an elite and privileged few, is a deeply flawed idea, and one that goes against equity, diversity, and perhaps most importantly, the education of the general public about the value of our environment. Long term it will reduce public engagement with the environment, and environmental stewardship. 1.Public lands are an opportunity to educate the public about the value of the environment, conservation, and the importance of individuals contributing to stewardship. If you fence off an area, and lock it up, it reduces any feeling of ownership, and turns it into 'somebody else's property, and hence somebody else's problem. This is particularly true when an elite group of very wealthy people live in the space, as it creates the perception that it is 'theirs', not 'ours'. 2.By charging a fee, you automatically exclude those who have the least resources, for the benefit of those who have the most. 3.Building a 'wall' around Calico will not reduce demand, but it will reduce supply. Just as introducing a booking system to Red Rock has increased demand at Calico, walling off Calico will simply squeeze existing supply into smaller and smaller spaces. Areas like First Creek will inevitably become more crowded. And if the BLM fence those off, people will simply go elsewhere. This is not removing a problem, it's simply shifting it from one place to another. The only solution then becomes to block the underserved from all public lands. Is that what we really want?
608.	Meester	Tyler		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The \$2.00 'processing fee' will severely affect users who regularly visit the park, myself included. Someone who uses this area several days a week should not have to pay hundreds of dollars in 'processing fees' throughout the year... not to mention the steep entry fee that is being proposed. Public spaces such as Calico Basin should not be introducing pay walls that limit access, this is especially relevant for lower income individuals who have just as much of a right to access these areas as wealthy residents and visitors.

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609.	Shatz	Alexei		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	How many fewer people of low income will visit the area as a result of this toll booth? A steep drop-off in visitation rate (highly likely if the toll booth is added) from low-income residents should not be taken lightly. Fewer experiences with outdoor recreation/resource areas likely have a strong correlation with indifference towards caring and preserving such areas. We need to encourage and improve access to these areas for present lower income populations for future generations, not make it more difficult and/or restrict it.
610.	Shatz	Alexei		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The management plan cites Calico as a major resource attraction for visitors to the greater Las Vegas area. Surprisingly, however, the plan doesn't seem to consider (via rigorous scientific studies) how limiting access proposed in the plan will impact the local economy (via tourism) and the outdoor industry
611.	Berginc	Jasmine		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	While I understand the need for reservations and trying to cap some of the deluge of visitors, the suggested restrictions and extra cost continue to separate the haves and the have nots. I imagine that for many underprivileged folks, \$20/day to visit their public lands means they won't be able to go at all, and the 5 PM in winter/8 PM in summer restrictions also mean those who work full time schedules won't be able to enjoy the land in their backyard (unless you're able to live in the "gated neighborhood" which is extremely limiting).
612.	Boettcher	Lisa		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The Calico Basin residents stand to gain millions in property values as they receive a gated community structure and 24-hour guard service provided free of charge to them by BLM. Please don't take this resource and punish the local "underprivileged" who cannot afford BLM fees. My proposal: Charge the tourists the fee and restrict access to tourists but allow locals free access.
613.	Schlange	Georg		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	What about local hikers, climbers, mountain bikers, families & pets who live in Summerlin - I've been living here 20 years - BLM land seems do disappear at the thought of raising revenue.

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614.	Crinite	Brianna		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Calico Basin is one of the few stroller friendly areas that I can take my young children to enjoy the weather and nature, without having the extra hassle of paying a fee. Having the area free for the public ensures that families from all walks of life are able to enjoy part of the beautiful place that we call home; charging a fee would only hurt disadvantage or underprivileged families and their children.
615.	Boone	Jim		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	I understand that many of our western parks are suffering from overcrowding, and I understand that pricing often is a useful way to allocate scarce resources, but adding entrance fees is not a good way to go about solving the overcrowding problem. As a rich person, entrance fees might enhance my park experience, but pricing poor people out is poor long-term strategy, especially given that the parks originally were set up so the masses would have the same right to recreate on public lands and the upper class.
616.	Andrews	Sophie		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Traveling climbers boost tourism in the Vegas area, which is the main economic driver of the area. Less climbing time means less money for our hometown as fewer climbers would visit.
617.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	SNCC and AF understand that fees can be necessary to protect the lands we all love, and that fee increases are often needed in the long term. With that said, if the BLM wishes to fully consider the justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion ramifications of the fee increases proposed, the BLM must also have a plan to deal with the negative impacts of the increase on marginalized communities within the RAMP. This does not currently exist.

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618.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Though Calico Basin is federal public land, and therefore managed for the good of all Americans, many of the changes proposed by the BLM will disproportionately impact locals, many of whom moved to the area and built their ways of life around access to Red Rock and Calico Basin. Limiting hours to day use only, for example, is especially harmful to locals, whose use is predominantly in the uncrowded after work hours - see the below section for more details on this issue. Similarly, requiring reservations year round, instead of just during peak times, places an extra logistical and financial burden on local residents, many of whom visit the RRCNCA over a hundred days per year, often during periods of the year and/or week when overcrowding is a nonissue.
619.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The RAMP explicitly states that increasing the day use fee to \$20 "could cause a disproportionate impact on lower-income populations," and that a full 17% of all visitors to the RRCNCA are from a disadvantaged group. Despite this, the BLM also says that it does not expect the increase in fee to be a deterrent to visitation to the area, and that spending will essentially be unimpacted. ⁴ It is unclear how the BLM has come to this conclusion, but it seems unlikely that the nearly one in five RRCNCA users the BLM classifies as from disadvantaged backgrounds will not change their use patterns in the face of such a fee increase.
620.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	SNCC and AF understand that fees can be necessary to protect the lands we all love, and that fee increases are often needed in the long term. With that said, if the BLM wishes to fully consider the justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion ramifications of the fee increases proposed, the BLM must also have a plan to deal with the negative impacts of the increase on marginalized communities within the RAMP. This does not currently exist.

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621.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	We urge the BLM to work with the local community to advance inclusive and equitable access to Calico Basin and Red Rock Canyon at large. By reaching out to, and learning from, the 17% of disadvantaged users identified by the BLM's own research, the BLM can find solutions to the potential equity pitfalls identified in the RAMP. It is well documented that people of color often use outdoors spaces at lower rates than their white peers. In addition, people from other marginalized communities, such as the LGBTQ+ and differently abled communities, can face additional challenges to getting out on public lands.
622.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	We recommend a robust analysis that considers whether fee collection is equitable and the minimum administrative tool for protecting resources and improving visitor experience.
623.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The RAMP explicitly states that increasing the day use fee to \$20 "could cause a disproportionate impact on lower-income populations," and that a full 17% of all visitors to the RRCNCA are from a disadvantaged group. Despite this, the BLM also says that it does not expect the increase in fee to be a deterrent to visitation to the area, and that spending will essentially be unimpacted. ⁴ It is unclear how the BLM has come to this conclusion, but it seems unlikely that the nearly one in five RRCNCA users the BLM classifies as from disadvantaged backgrounds will not change their use patterns in the face of such a fee increase.
624.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	We urge the BLM to work with the local community to advance inclusive and equitable access to Calico Basin and Red Rock Canyon at large. By reaching out to, and learning from, the 17% of disadvantaged users identified by the BLM's own research, the BLM can find solutions to the potential equity pitfalls identified in the RAMP. It is well documented that people of color often use outdoors spaces at lower rates than their white peers. In addition, people from other marginalized communities, such as the LGBTQ+ and differently abled communities, can face additional challenges to getting out on public lands.
625.	Ahmad	Taimur	Access Fund	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	We recommend a robust analysis that considers whether fee collection is equitable and the minimum administrative tool for protecting resources and improving visitor experience.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
626.	Hendrix	Leici	Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Though Calico Basin is federal public land, and therefore managed for the good of all Americans, many of the changes proposed by the BLM will disproportionately impact locals, many of whom moved to the area and built their ways of life around access to Red Rock and Calico Basin. Limiting hours to day use only, for example, is especially harmful to locals, whose use is predominantly in the uncrowded after work hours - see the below section for more details on this issue. Similarly, requiring reservations year round, instead of just during peak times, places an extra logistical and financial burden on local residents, many of whom visit the RRCNCA over a hundred days per year, often during periods of the year and/or week when overcrowding is a nonissue.
627.	Anon	Anon		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	I understand, supporting the communities that live there, but what about supporting low income people or people whose public lands, these are just as much a part of as the people who decided to live there? And we, I think we know that charging fees disproportionately hurts people of low income. You know I'm not one of those Members, but if we want people to care about the public lands, we need them to have access to it, and this is a highly popular area, and so I think restricting it past a certain hour is going to disproportionately affect certain populations and, unfortunately, it seems like it's going to come at the benefit of the people who are Have a much higher income status and live in that area at the expense of everyone else, and that is kind of sad to me.
628.	Koch	Brendan		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	I was just wondering, it seems like this question keep getting deflected how you can justify the the fact that underprivileged populations will have even less access to red rock than they do now considering a lot of these costs are prohibitive to them already?
629.	Anon	Anon		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	To charge this proposed amount further keeps low income families from enjoying nature with thier kids. It only serves to provide a setting where many of these children will not have the benefit of this life experience.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
630.	Parrish	Cathrine		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	A fee to enter Calico Basin will limit who can enter. The members of our community who have low incomes would be shut out from reaping the benefits of being in Calico Basin. Charging the proposed fee of \$20 is enough to feed an entire family a meal. These families who struggle with money would choose feeding their family over being outdoors. This is a shame that that choice would have to be made, especially since there are many healthy benefits to being outdoors.
631.	Lewis	Gabriel		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	I don't think that putting a gate and a paywall up is the solution. As a lot of other people have said just further just dis-incentivizes lower income folks from using it, and we see a lot of that. It's not just rich white people climbing in Vegas, which is one of the nicest things you see a lot of different shapes, sizes, colors of people recreating in Red Rock and it's phenomenal to see that because that's pretty rare in the US
632.	Gomez	Eddie		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Charging to get in would make it difficult not just for me but for many others as well, that are on a fixed income.
633.	Kaszuba	Brian		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	It is very important to recognize that imposing daytime hours with closure times directly serves as a barrier to our locals that access the park after work hours and our hobbyists (ie. photographers, rock climbers, spiritualists, etc..) that visit Calico in the evening and dusk/dawn hours.
634.	Miller	Gigi		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Extra fees hurt the underprivileged who may not have a credit card or internet access to make a reservation or can afford a fee to park. The picnic area is often used by shift workers to take their families to enjoy a picnic or a stroll in the great outdoors in Calico Basin, and the 20.00 entrance fee would be a burden to people of lower means.
635.	Miller	Gigi		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The only people who will stand to benefit from this toll-booth and gate are the residents of Calico Basin who will receive substantial infrastructure improvements, creating an exclusive gated community, with access controlled by the BLM - all at the expense of public land users.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
636.	Luneau	Taylor	American Alpine Club	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	we are concerned that the current proposal raises unintended barriers to entry for all users of this space. The AAC believes that all communities should have equitable access to the outdoors and a fee system may unintentionally prohibit local residents from accessing this outdoor resource due to the cost of entry. As an important outdoor destination located in close proximity to the Las Vegas metro area, we feel a critical justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) lens must be applied to this land management decision.
637.	Harrington	Christine		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Ensure access for low income/minority residents of Las Vegas isn't hindered by this change. RRCNCA is an incredible resource and access to it should not be limited by socioeconomic status. According to the data cited in the RAMP draft (which I assume are still fairly representative even though they are outdated) approximately 20% of Calico Basin visitors have an income of \$25,000 or less. It is logical to assume that a fee of \$20 may drastically reduce access for those individuals, meaning it will adversely and disproportionately impact this population. Given the extensive medical research demonstrating that spending time in nature can contribute to overall wellbeing and health (see this article from Yale: https://e360.yale.edu/features/ecopsychology-how-immersion-in-nature-benefits-your-health), and the higher prevalence of certain chronic diseases among individuals of lower socioeconomic status, it seems unreasonable and unwise to reduce access for those individuals.
638.	Zellinger	Andrew	US Environmental Protection Agency	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The Draft EA includes an Environmental Justice analysis which analyzes a population local to census tract 58.23 that includes Calico Basin. The EJ analysis states the local population has a lower percentage of families below the poverty level and a lower percentage of minorities than those of Nevada or other portions of Clark County (p. 4-20). The EJ analysis does not fully consider the population of visitors to Calico Basin residing outside census tract 58.23 which may include higher percentages of families below the poverty level and/or minorities than the population living in the local census tract.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
639.	Zellinger	Andrew	US Environmental Protection Agency	Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Recommendations for the Final EA: · Estimate the annual number of potential visitors from communities with environmental justice concerns which may be disproportionately impacted by the proposed fee collection system, including those that do not live in the local census tract used in the Draft EA analysis. · Identify, to the extent possible, policies which could mitigate the impact of the proposed fee collection and online reservation systems to these populations, such as fee waivers and a telephone contact for reservations. · Consider addressing impacts to communities with environmental justice concerns through existing partnerships.
640.	Anonymous	Anonymous		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The fee will also disincentivize the lower income community from being able to freely access at least one of our natural areas of southern Nevada.
641.	Kimball Stephenson	Sarah		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	I am opposed to installing a fee station to access Calico Basin. Obviously this is a barrier to low-income people who have just as much of a right to enjoy the outdoors as people with \$20 to spare. This proposal will hinder poor families from bringing their kids to enjoy the outdoors and rob children of the opportunity to grow up with a place to foster their love of the outdoors.
642.	Lavalley	John		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Building gates could drive hate. Participation in outdoor activities have been in decline throughout the US, especially for lower-income households. The proposed fee system could only further deter outdoor participation. Is it fair for lower-income households to not have access to Calico Basin moving forward? BLM should provide clear analysis around how such plans would not discriminate against lower income households and provide equitable access to park lands and natural resources for all people

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
643.	MacDonald	Fraser		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The current proposal that BLM has put forward will favor those with access to technology and those that have higher socio-economic status. That is not how we should manage public lands. If you are going to develop a permit system, it needs to be fair to all, we also probably owe it to disadvantaged groups to ensure that they have the same access to recreation to promote health and well being. Depriving people of this access will have negative results and will likely push impacts to other recreation areas where land managers might not be as equipped to deal with it, thereby cumulatively increasing the impacts to public lands. I would urge collaboration with other neighboring land owners and recreation areas.
644.	Losinski	David		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The BLM needs to consider equitable access in its recreation plan. These restrictions will likely only harm climbing populations that lack money and travel flexibility.
645.	Joan Lee	Nevada		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	The homeowners in Calico Basin knew what they were getting into when they bought property out there. Establishing a pay station is just a selfish way to keep lower income people out of the area. The increased traffic to Calico Basin is beautiful as it means more are experiencing all the things we, seasoned outdoor people, already love. There are ways in which we can mitigate harm to the environment without cutting financially burdened people out.
646.	Joan Lee	Nevada		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	One of the reasons I am so proud to be from Nevada is the fact that we have so many awesome public lands that are FREE for people to use. I am also so incredibly happy that as I've gotten older, I've seen more and more BIPOC enjoying the outdoors, especially climbing around Calico Basin. Establishing a pay station would only make it harder for individuals who already have incredible hurdles to accessibility in the outdoors.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
647.	Lee	Jordan		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Not only would this affect me as a climber and hiker, but these restrictions would greatly affect the native groups who hold ancestral claims to the land. This system would make it so that only those with privilege, ability to plan months in advance, and reliable access to internet and online payment would be able to access this land. This is unacceptable and we must work out a solution to sustain the land and provide equal access to it. Many Native American groups in the country do not have access to reliable internet and online payment systems, and it would be a horrible thing to restrict their access to their ancestral lands.
648.	LaFond	Bennett		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	I believe that a reservation system is not the right way to go about it. A reservation system is inherently inequitable, and requires an understanding of the bureaucratic systems to make a reservation that is predominantly available to insiders, a flexible schedule to make reservations at the appropriate time, and disposable income. This combination ensures that climbing, and outdoor access in general, will remain exclusive.
649.	Lafferty	Jon		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	access to the public land and the outdoors, (especially in Vegas) should be protected equitably without putting additional burden on users to whom the fee is a significant and disproportionate encumbrance.
650.	Sullivan	Megan		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	I ask you to please consider less intense regulations on access to Calico basin climbing areas. Restricting access will disproportionately affect those who have less means to enjoy the outdoors and gatekeeping the outdoor community does a disservice to us all
651.	Kim	Diana		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Restricting access will disproportionately impact those who may not have the means to pay an entry fee.
652.	Hernández	Natalia		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	These changes will affect climbers of lower socioeconomic levels. It's going to prevent so many people from enjoying Red Rock. I appreciate the BLM recognizing Climbing as a sport and recreational activity, but these changes will bar so many from enjoying Red Rock.

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
653.	Zaporowski	Kristen		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Adding the proposed restrictions limits minority's from accessing this beautiful place. Minority's are restricted by income access to the internet to make reservations and planed time off. Adding fees, hours and reservations only limits the poor and serves the rich.
654.	Lavalley	John		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Potentially severe negative financial consequences (- \$200,000,000 per year). BLM cites that up to 1,000,000 people will visit the park by 2025. The report does not provide a breakdown of where visitors are coming from. Based on my experience, most people visiting Calico Basin travel from outside of Las Vegas. The proposed system could force out-of-towners to reconsider visiting Las Vegas. Assuming there's a 10% decline in visitation due to the BLM proposal, there could be 100,000 less visitors / year. If the average out-of-town visitor stays in Las Vegas for 1-week and spends \$2,000 on renting a car and paying for food and lodging, the total loss in business related income could exceed \$200,000,000 per year. This amount does not include the loss in tax related revenue from high-income earners who choose to live in the Las Vegas/Summerlin region because of access to the park lands.
655.	Wolf	Diana		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	1. Time access to only "working hours" will highly impact (i) lower income individuals and (ii) locals. 2. Fees will highly impact lower income individuals 3. Taking the \$ and resources around building such a system could be better used to teach visitors to the area how to better respect the land. 4. As a climber, access to even climbing is everything! Restricting to daylight hours (especially in Nov - Spring) pretty much restricts my ability to access the boulders all together

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
656.	Purdy	Sabra		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Fees and reservation requirements disproportionately affect lower income visitors and visitors of color who are already amongst the least likely to be able to access public lands. It is a matter of urgent necessity to develop management approaches that create more equity in access, allow for unplanned opportunities to experience public lands, give access to a wide demographic of users. Allowing only those that have the luxury of planning trips far in advance to have preferential access to public land defeats the very notion of public lands and will discourage visitorship the populations that most need encouragement to access wild and natural places.
657.	Allfrey	David		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	It disproportionately effects lower income populations of Las Vegas, creating more barriers for entry for enjoying the outdoors for the black and brown community of Vegas.
658.	LaFond	Bennett		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Please consider alternate adaptive management strategies, such as increased enforcement and education. If a reservation system is indeed put in place, please hold a certain number of slots per day for socially and economically disadvantaged groups
659.	Ballon	Charles		Socioeconomics and environmental justice	Setting restrictions would create boundaries but it would also impede those who need to adventure, enjoy, and help nurture our need for outdoor therapy to help mental health. I've been thankful for the BLM to let us experience the land and hope that it doesn't change.
660.	Strauss	Zachery		Soils	Multiple trail advocacy groups and other land managers note that while there are often fewer equestrian trail users, their per-user impact is higher than hikers or bikers. [1,2,3] Paper [3] goes further to cite other works finding that modern mountain bikes will have erosion impacts similar to or less than many hikers. [1]: https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1324/files/hoosier%20nf%20trail%20report,%20final.pdf [2]: https://www.americantrails.org/resources/horses-as-trail-users [3]: https://www.recpro.org/assets/Library/Trails/comparing_relative_impacts_various_trail_user_groups_keen.pdf

Row #	Last Name	First Name	Organization Name	Comment Code Name	Comment Text
661.	Scott	Casey		Soils	The BLM has continued to allow the use and even supported the equestrian community in the same basin. Any logical and reasonable person can see the net negative effects of a 1200lbm animal with steel shoes destroying the trail systems. The trails typically used by horses are full of erosion, top soils are scattered during rain events and the equestrian community has rarely if ever gone in to repair or sustain trail systems they destroy.
662.	Harrington	Christine		Soils	The current draft of this plan fails to clearly substantiate why mountain biking is not a compatible use of trails in this area. Although there is limited research on the impact of mountain bikes vs. hikers or equestrians on trails and conservation, the data that does exist (Pickering et al. 2010; see attachment) strongly suggests that mountain bikes generally have less impact on trails than equestrians. Therefore, if equestrian use is permitted, it is difficult to understand why mountain bike use is not.
663.	Kotab	Thomas		Visual resources	Fee Management Decision 2 Do not construct any new fee booths, it deteriorates visitor experience and done the BLM way, often causes other problems- vehicles backing up on SR 159, etc.
664.	Hauck	Patrick		Request documents or information	Can a get a copy of the entire RAMP to review before the meeting? I would be glad to pick it up if needed.
665.	Larue	Ed	Desert Tortoise Council	Request documents or information	Please note that although a BLM comment report (BLM 2021a) is referenced, it was not included in the Draft RAMP/EA, was therefore unavailable for our review, and in the literature section on page 6-2, was one of the few references that did not provide a link enabling our review.

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Appendix D

Calico Basin Area–Kraft Mountain Loop Trail
in the La Madre Mountains Wilderness
Minimum Requirements Decision Guide

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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS DECISION GUIDE WORKBOOK

"...except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act..."

-- The Wilderness Act of 1964

Project Title:

Calico Basin Area- Kraft Mountain Loop Trail in the La Madre Mountains Wilderness

MRDG Step 1: Determination

*Determine if Administrative Action is **Necessary***

Description of the Situation

What is the situation that may prompt administrative action?

The 3.5-mile Kraft Mountain Loop Trail is located within the Calico Basin area of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRNCA). Approximately 1.6 miles of the trail is located within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness area. The Calico Basin area and the La Madre Mountain Wilderness are popular destinations for visitors to participate in outdoor recreation. RRCNCA received more than 3 million visitors in 2020; of these 3 million visitors, 800,000 recreated in the Calico Basin area.

The Kraft Mountain Loop Trail is well maintained and signed in the non-wilderness portions of the trail with brown tri-view posts and stickers indicating the RRCNCA, trail name, and directional arrows. As the trail crosses into wilderness, it begins a steep ascent through the Kraft Boulders. Near the northernmost portion the trail, the terrain opens and eventually enters a wash before returning to the common trail surface and beginning the trek south. At this point, the designated trail is not easily discernable from a network of visitor-worn hiking paths crisscrossing the wash and open terrain. The visitor-worn hiking paths deviate from the designated trail and have an inordinate impact on the natural resources in the immediate vicinity of the trail. Since many visitors cannot distinguish the designated trail from the visitor-worn hiking paths, they mistakenly follow the wrong route, which results in several lost visitors and numerous search and rescue activities, occasionally involving helicopter use.

Continued use of the visitor-worn hiking paths would exacerbate the environmental degradation of the area in the form of vegetation trampling and soil erosion. The prolific visitor-worn hiking paths create much confusion with well-intentioned recreation users resulting in occasional search and rescue operations in the Calico Basin Area. A combination of high visitor-use, a prolific visitor-worn hiking path system, and many lost visitors results in much degradation to the quality of wilderness character within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness Area.

Options Outside of Wilderness

Can action be taken outside of wilderness that adequately addresses the situation?

YES

STOP – DO NOT TAKE ACTION IN WILDERNESS

NO

EXPLAIN AND COMPLETE STEP 1 OF THE MRDG

Explain:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-RRNCA has prepared trail maps and georeferenced digital maps to reduce impacts along the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail. Additionally, at each trail head RRNCA staff installed interpretation kiosks with maps. RRNCA has worked with a friend's group to increase the amount of online interpretation and resources for the area. These efforts have not been effective at mitigating the environmental degradation to natural resources along the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail within wilderness. It is not feasible for the RRNCA to station multiple personnel at trailheads to help with education and information to visitors throughout the year, though staff presence does increase during high visitor-use days. All feasible options for providing information and education to visitors outside of wilderness have been explored and have not been successful at preserving wilderness character related to the use of the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail. Since there are no further such options the BLM can pursue, some form of action within wilderness would be necessary to address the situation.

Criteria for Determining Necessity

Is action necessary to meet any of the criteria below?

A. Valid Existing Rights or Special Provisions of Wilderness Legislation

*Is action necessary to satisfy valid existing rights or a special provision in wilderness legislation (the Wilderness Act of 1964 or subsequent wilderness laws) that **requires** action? Cite law and section.*

YES NO

Explain:

B. Requirements of Other Legislation

*Is action necessary to meet the requirements of **other federal laws**? Cite law and section.*

YES NO

Explain:

C. Wilderness Character

Is action necessary to preserve one or more of the five qualities of wilderness character?

UNTRAMMELED

YES NO

Explain:

Untrammeled in relation to wilderness is defined where wilderness ecological systems are unhindered and free from intentional actions of modern human control or manipulation. Action is not needed to preserve this quality of wilderness character because the existence of visitor-worn hiking paths is not an intentional action aimed at controlling or manipulating ecological systems.

UNDEVELOPED

YES NO

Explain:

Undeveloped in relation to wilderness is defined as an undeveloped area retaining its primeval character of influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. An area where motorized and mechanized transportation and use do not occur. Action may be necessary to preserve this quality of wilderness character. Though not an administrative development, the prolific visitor-worn hiking paths have left behind a system of unauthorized wilderness developments. The increased search and rescue activity in the area resulting from lost visitors, additionally impairs this quality of wilderness character by the occasional use of a helicopter during rescue operations.

NATURAL

YES NO

Explain:

The natural quality of wilderness character describes a place where ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. The Wilderness Act defines wilderness in part as an area “which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions” (Section 2 (c)).

There is a prolific visitor-worn hiking path network near the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail. These paths have an adverse impact on this quality of wilderness character by surface disturbance, soil erosion and compaction, and native vegetation loss. Action is necessary to preserve this quality of wilderness character. The abundance of visitor-worn hiking paths compacts soil, making it difficult for native vegetation to reestablish. Furthermore, the use of the extensive visitor-worn hiking paths may increase the spread of invasive species by serving as vectors for the spread by inadvertently carrying invasive seeds and plant parts associated with visitation.

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE & UNCONFINED RECREATION

YES NO

Explain:

Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Action is not needed to preserve this quality of wilderness character.

OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE

YES NO

Explain:

Action is not needed to preserve this quality of wilderness character.

Step 1 Determination

*Is administrative action **necessary** in wilderness?*

Criteria for Determining Necessity

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| A. Existing Rights or Special Provisions | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| B. Requirements of Other Legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| C. Wilderness Character | | |

Untrammeled	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Undeveloped	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Natural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Solitude/Primitive/Unconfined	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Other Features of Value	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

Is administrative action **necessary** in wilderness?

YES

EXPLAIN AND COMPLETE STEP 1 OF THE MRDG

NO

STOP – DO NOT TAKE ACTION IN WILDERNESS

Explain:

Action is necessary in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness portion of the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail to preserve wilderness character. The Calico Basin area increased in popularity now receiving 800,000 visitors annually. The increase in visitor-use in the Calico Basin area has resulted in an increase in search and rescue requests. Many of these search and rescue activities result from well-intentioned visitors under the assumption they were following the designated Kraft Mountain Loop but in fact following a visitor-worn hiking path and becoming lost. Administrative action is needed to ensure that well-intentioned visitors can effectively navigate the designated trail, and thus reduce the likelihood of search and rescue activities and creation of additional visitor-worn hiking paths. Additionally, action is necessary to address the prolific visitor-worn hiking path network and the associated degradation to the natural quality of wilderness character.

MRDG Step 2

Determine the *Minimum* Activity

Other Direction

Is there “special provisions” language in legislation (or other Congressional direction) that explicitly **allows** consideration of a use otherwise prohibited by Section 4(c)?

AND/OR

Has the issue been addressed in agency policy, management plans, species recovery plans, or agreements with other agencies or partners?

YES

DESCRIBE OTHER DIRECTION

NO

SKIP AHEAD TO TIME CONSTRAINTS BELOW

Describe Other Direction:

The La Madre Mountain Wilderness and Rainbow Mountain Wilderness Management Plan (WMP) addresses designated trails (pg. 20), visitor-worn hiking paths (pg. 22), trail standards (both designated and visitor-worn pg. 23), sign plan (pg. 28). (DOI-BLM-NV-S020-2012-0004-EA), and group size limits of 15 (pg. 45).

No motorized or mechanized travel or motorized equipment would be considered. All trail work would rely on only hand tools, and all staging areas would be outside of the wilderness boundary and in a previously disturbed area.

Time Constraints

What, if any, are the time constraints that may affect the action?

This work is likely not going to be conducted from June 15-August 15 due to the unsafe temperatures Las Vegas experiences. Additionally, work would not occur during the weekend throughout high visitation months (October-April) to mitigate potential user and staff conflicts.

Components of the Action

What are the discrete components or phases of the action?

Component X: *Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site*

Component 1: Transportation of personnel and equipment to and from the project site

Component 2: Designated trail marking

Component 3:	Condition of site after completion
Component 4:	
Component 5:	
Component 6:	
Component 7:	
Component 8:	

Proceed to the alternatives.

Refer to the [MRDG Instructions](#) regarding alternatives and the effects to each of the comparison criteria.

MRDG Step 2: Alternatives

Do Not Conduct Any Work

Alternative 1:

Description of the Alternative

What are the details of this alternative? When, where, and how will the action occur? What mitigation measures will be taken?

No work would be performed under this no action alternative.

Component Activities

How will each of the components of the action be performed under this alternative?

Comp #	<u>Component of the Action</u>	Activity for this Alternative
X	<i>Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site</i>	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>
1	Transportation of personnel and equipment to and from the project site	No activity through this alternative
2	Designated trail marking	No activity through this alternative
3	Condition of site after completion	No activity through this alternative
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		

Wilderness Character

What is the effect of each component activity on the qualities of wilderness character? What mitigation measures will be taken?

UNTRAMMELED

Activity #	<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>	Positive	Negative	No Effect
------------	--	----------	----------	-----------

X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	No activity through this alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	0	NE
<u>Untrammed Total Rating</u>		0		

Explain:

No activity is taken under this alternative; therefore, there are no impacts to this quality of wilderness character.

UNDEVELOPED

Activity #	<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	No activity through this alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Number of Effects	0	-1	NE
<u>Undeveloped Total Rating</u>	-1		

Explain:

Alongside the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail there are many visitor-worn hiking paths, which are user created wilderness installations. Additionally, with the visitation increase there has been an increase in search and rescue activities, occasionally requiring helicopter use. Taking no action allows the current situation to this quality of wilderness character not only to remain but further degrade. Taking no action, paired with the increasing trends to visitation, it is likely the visitor-worn hiking paths would increase in size and new ones would be created. Additionally, well-intentioned visitors who wish to remain on the designated trail may begin marking the trail with paint (as seen on the Turtlehead Peak Trail), inadvertently marking paths that are not designated. Taking no action fails to maintain or enhance this quality of wilderness character and increases the probability of further degradation.

NATURAL

Activity #	<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	No activity through this alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	-1	NE
<u>Natural Total Rating</u>		-1		

Explain:

Taking no action allows for the disturbances to the natural quality of wilderness character (identified in step 1) to persist and even worsen. Under this alternative the designated trail would remain unclear to well-intentioned visitors and may result in more people going off trail and creating additional visitor-worn hiking paths. If this occurs there will be an increase in vegetation trampling, more soil compaction, native vegetation loss, and more erosion in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE & UNCONFINED RECREATION

Activity #	Component Activity for this Alternative	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	No activity through this alternative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	0	NE
Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Rec. Total Rating		0		

Explain:

No activity is taken under this alternative; therefore, there are no impacts to this quality of wilderness character.

OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE

Activity #	Component Activity for this Alternative	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	No activity through this alternative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	0	NE
<u>Other Features of Value Total Rating</u>		0		

Explain:

No activity is taken under this alternative; therefore, there are no impacts to this quality of wilderness character.

Summary Ratings for Alternative 1

Wilderness Character	Rating Summary
Untrammeled	0
Undeveloped	-1
Natural	-1
Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Recreation	0
Other Features of Value	0
Wilderness Character Summary Rating	-2

MRDG Step 2: Alternatives

Alternative 2:

Mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail with directional TriView signs

Description of the Alternative

What are the details of this alternative? When, where, and how will the action occur? What mitigation measures will be taken?

Under this alternative, all transportation of personnel and equipment would be by foot travel and a group size would be limited to 15 or less personnel during working operations. The staging area would be at the gravel/dirt parking lot near the community of Calico Basin, NV on the existing disturbance there. All work inside of the wilderness would utilize non-motorized and no mechanized equipment or travel such as: picks, Pulaski's, rock bars, post-hole diggers, and other hand tools.

The crew would stage at the gravel parking lot near the Kraft Mountain Loop Trailhead, outside of the wilderness area and then proceed to hike non-motorized/mechanized equipment to the job site within the wilderness boundary. The crew would then proceed to strategically place 8 brown TriView marking post to identify the designated trail. The TriView marking post would be placed at areas where the designated route is not easily discernable (2), at junctions of the designated trail and visitor-worn hiking paths (4), and at junctions where the trail and wash intersect (2).

The TriView marking post would have the same look and feel as the non-wilderness portions of the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail. They would be 4 feet or less tall and have stickers identifying the Red Rock National Conservation Area, Kraft Mountain Loop Trail, and a directional arrow. None of these signs would direct visitors to any land feature or point of interest, nor would they display mileage. TriView signs would be brown to appear natural with the surrounding landscape. TriView signs can withstand temperatures up to 150° Fahrenheit and substantial ultraviolet exposure, which means they would not have to be frequently replaced, despite the extreme summer conditions in the area.

No restoration or rehabilitation of the existing visitor-worn hiking paths would be implemented in conjunction with the installation of the TriView signs. The RRNCA will soon conduct a Climbing Management Plan (CMP). As part of the CMP development process, the visitor-worn hiking paths would be thoroughly analyzed to determine if they are utilized for recreational access to climbing routes. If the visitor-worn hiking paths are associated with recreational access they may be retained. However, if the visitor-worn hiking paths are not associated with recreational access they may be actively restored. Active restoration is necessary in the Mojave Desert Ecosystem because restoration is slow, it can take several decades to achieve full recovery. Restoration in wilderness was analyzed in DOI-BLM-S010-0062-EA, any restoration conducted resulting from the CMP would follow the proposed action analyzed in that document.

Component Activities

How will each of the components of the action be performed under this alternative?

Comp #	Component of the Action	Activity for this Alternative
X	<i>Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site</i>	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>

1	Transportation of personnel and equipment to and from the project site	Personnel would travel by foot. Equipment would be non-motorized, non-mechanized hand tools carried by personnel.
2	Designated Trail Marking	8 directional TriView post would be placed.
3	Condition of site after completion	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9"		

Wilderness Character

What is the effect of each component activity on the qualities of wilderness character? What mitigation measures will be taken?

UNTRAMMELED

Activity #	Component Activity for this Alternative	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Personnel would travel by foot. Equipment would be non-motorized, non-mechanized hand tools carried by personnel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	8 directional TriView post would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	0	NE

<u>Untrameled Total Rating</u>	0
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Explain:

Untrameled in relation to wilderness is defined as wilderness ecological systems that are unhindered and free from intentional actions of modern human control or manipulation. This alternative does not attempt to control or manipulate ecosystem processes.

UNDEVELOPED

Activity #	<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Personnel would travel by foot. Equipment would be non-motorized, non-mechanized hand tools carried by personnel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	8 directional TriView post would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		+1	-1	NE

<u>Undeveloped Total Rating</u>	0
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Explain:

Undeveloped in relation to wilderness is defined as an undeveloped area retaining its primeval character of influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation, where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. This alternative would utilize 8 TriView posts with directional information at key locations along the trail. As installations, prohibited by the Wilderness Act unless the minimum necessary to preserve wilderness character, these posts would negatively impact the undeveloped quality of wilderness character.

However, the directional trail indicators would substantially increase the likelihood of visitors to the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail remaining on the designated trail, rather than mistakenly following existing visitor-worn hiking paths, or creating new disturbances and trail-like developments. Because visitors intending to remain on the designated trail would have directional guidance for how to do so, there would also be fewer people getting lost and decreased demand for search and rescue support in the area. With fewer search and rescues, any occasional helicopter use for that purpose would also decrease, thereby reducing instances of motorized transport and landings in wilderness as compared to current conditions.

NATURAL

Activity #	Component Activity for this Alternative	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Personnel would travel by foot. Equipment would be non-motorized, non-mechanized hand tools carried by personnel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	8 directional TriView post would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	0	NE
Natural Total Rating		0		

Explain:

The natural quality of wilderness character describes a place where ecological systems that are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. The Wilderness Act defines wilderness in part as an area “which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions” (Section 2 (c)).

Installing the TriView signs may have a negligible impact to the soil within the immediate installation site of each sign. However, this would not be significant and would occur in places already void of vegetation. The presence of the signs would encourage visitors to remain on the designated trail and discourage the proliferation of additional visitor-worn hiking paths as compared to current conditions, preventing further degradation to the natural quality of wilderness character.

The visitor-worn hiking paths would not be immediately restored as part of this project, and the natural quality of wilderness character would not be improved over current conditions in the short term. However, the presence of the TriView directional trail signage would reduce the probability that more than the current number of visitor-worn hiking paths will exist when the CMP development process assesses which of the existing paths should be rehabilitated or retained, enhancing the BLM’s near-future opportunity to conduct the restoration work that will eventually result in long-term benefits to the natural quality of wilderness character.

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE & UNCONFINED RECREATION

Activity #	Component Activity for this Alternative	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Personnel would travel by foot. Equipment would be non-motorized, non-mechanized hand tools carried by personnel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	8 directional TriView post would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	-2	NE

Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Rec. Total Rating

-2

Explain:

The presence of staff working in the wilderness would temporarily impact solitude. However, due to the high visitation use (over 800,000 in 2020) in the area, this impact is likely to be unrecognizable during work operations. The installation of 8 TriView post would constitute as a sign of civilization and would impact solitude. This impact may be small given the high use of the area; visitors may not have a high expectation of opportunities of solitude while recreating on the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail.

The visitor-worn hiking paths exist in part as a result of the unconfined nature of the La Madre Mountain wilderness. Although there is no change to the cross-country travel management direction, these signs may add a pressure to remain on the designated trail. Although, it is unlikely that a visitor setting out to do a cross country pursuit would not continue with plans based on this alternative.

OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE

Activity #	<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Personnel would travel by foot. Equipment would be non-motorized, non-mechanized hand tools carried by personnel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	8 directional TriView post would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	0	NE
<u>Other Features of Value Total Rating</u>		0		

Explain:

No other features are impacted by this alternative.

Summary Ratings for Alternative 2

Wilderness Character	Rating Summary
Untrammeled	0
Undeveloped	0
Natural	0
Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Recreation	-2
Other Features of Value	0
Wilderness Character Summary Rating	-2

MRDG Step 3: Alternatives

Alternative 2:

Mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail with rock cairns

Description of the Alternative

What are the details of this alternative? When, where, and how will the action occur? What mitigation measures will be taken?

Under this alternative, all transportation of personnel and equipment would be by foot travel and a group size would be limited to 15 or less personnel during working operations. The staging area would be at the gravel/dirt parking lot near the community of Calico Basin, NV on the existing disturbance there. All work inside of the wilderness would utilize non-motorized and no mechanized equipment or travel.

The crew would stage at the gravel parking lot near the Kraft Mountain Loop Trailhead, outside of the wilderness area and then proceed to hike to the job site within the wilderness boundary. The crew would then proceed to strategically place 14 rock cairns to mark the designated trail. These rock cairns will be placed using human powered stacking, not mechanized or motorized equipment. The rock cairns would be placed at areas where the designated route is not easily discernable (2), at junctions of the designated trail and visitor-worn hiking paths (8), and at junctions where the trail and wash intersect (4). The rock cairns would not have any stickers or markings for directional information so at each junction (wash or visitor-worn hiking path) there will be two rock cairns clearly indicating the designated trail. Two rock cairns will be utilized so that well-intentioned visitors do not become further confused at junctions of the designated trail and visitor-worn hiking paths or wash. A rock cairn will be placed approximately 50 feet prior to the junction, with flexibility in the distance to accommodate sightlines for visitors, on both sides of the intersection to clearly indicate the direction of travel at the designated trail. This will ensure that the well-intentioned visitor has clear waypoints to follow the designated trail. (For example, if a visitor is traveling north and wash goes to the west, but the designated trail continues north, a rock cairn will be placed approximately 50 feet south and north of this junction.)

The rock cairns would have a standard rock stack look and would utilize rocks from the Calico Basin area. They would be at least 18 inches tall, but no more than 48 inches tall. There would be no paint, stickers, or any other markings on the rock cairns.

No restoration or rehabilitation of the existing visitor-worn hiking paths would be implemented in conjunction with the installation of the rock cairns. The RRNCA will soon conduct a Climbing Management Plan (CMP). As part of the CMP development process, the visitor-worn hiking paths would be thoroughly analyzed to determine if they are utilized for recreational access to climbing routes. If the visitor-worn hiking paths are associated with recreational access they may be retained. However, if the visitor-worn hiking paths are not associated with recreational access they may be actively restored. Active restoration is necessary in the Mojave Desert Ecosystem because restoration is slow, it can take several decades to achieve full recovery. Restoration in wilderness was analyzed in DOI-BLM-S010-0062-EA, any restoration conducted resulting from the CMP would follow the proposed action analyzed in that document.

Component Activities

How will each of the components of the action be performed under this alternative?

Comp #	Component of the Action	Activity for this Alternative
X	<i>Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site</i>	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>
1	Transportation of personnel and equipment to and from the project site	Personnel would travel by foot
2	Designated Trail Marking	14 rock cairns would be placed.
3	Condition of site after completion	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9'''		

Wilderness Character

What is the effect of each component activity on the qualities of wilderness character? What mitigation measures will be taken?

UNTRAMMELED

Activity #	Component Activity for this Alternative	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Transportation of personnel and equipment to and from the project site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	14 rock cairns would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	0	NE
<u>Untrameled Total Rating</u>		0		

Explain:

Untrameled in relation to wilderness is defined as wilderness ecological systems that are unhindered and free from intentional actions of modern human control or manipulation. This alternative does not attempt to control or manipulate ecosystem processes.

UNDEVELOPED

Activity #	<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Transportation of personnel and equipment to and from the project site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	14 rock cairns would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		+1	-1	NE
<u>Undeveloped Total Rating</u>		0		

Explain:

Undeveloped in relation to wilderness is defined as an undeveloped area retaining its primeval character of influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation, where the imprint of man’s work is substantially unnoticeable. This alternative would utilize 14 rock cairns placed at key locations along the trail. Despite the use of native materials, the stacked-rock cairns would be installations, prohibited by the Wilderness Act unless the minimum necessary to preserve wilderness character. Thus they would negatively impact the undeveloped quality of wilderness character.

The presence of the cairns as directional indicators along the trail would increase the likelihood of visitors to the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail remaining on the designated trail, rather than mistakenly following existing visitor-worn hiking paths or creating new disturbances and trail-like development. Because visitors intending to remain on the designated trail would have directional guidance for how to do so, there would also be fewer people getting lost and decreased demand for search and rescue support in the area. With fewer search and rescues, any occasional helicopter use for that purpose would also decrease, thereby reducing instances of motorized transport and landings in wilderness as compared to current conditions.

In the nearby Calico Tanks Trail area, many visitor-created rock cairns currently exist. The administrative installation of rock cairns on the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail may serve as inadvertent encouragement for visitors to create their own cairns in this area, as well. Cairn proliferation would negatively impact the undeveloped quality of wilderness character in two ways. First, the number of developments or installations in wilderness would increase over current conditions as well as over what would be placed intentionally to mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail. Second, visitor-placed cairns would likely be used to mark visitor-worn hiking paths, encouraging further development of the system of unauthorized pathways, also developments within wilderness.

The likelihood of visitor-created rock cairn proliferation would, over time, as the number of cairns in the area increases, decrease the effectiveness of the administratively placed cairns meant to mark the designated Kraft Mountain Loop Trail. Use of visitor-worn hiking paths would eventually again increase, and frequency of lost visitors following cairns that may not mark their intended route would also eventually again increase. Therefore, the need for search and rescue support would increase, as would the incidence of helicopter use for that purpose. The visitor-created rock cairn proliferation would, in the long-term, eliminate the identifiableness of the trail warranting additional administrative action.

NATURAL

Activity #	Component Activity for this Alternative	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1	Transportation of personnel and equipment to and from the project site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	14 rock cairns would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	0	NE
<u>Natural Total Rating</u>		0		

Explain:

The natural quality of wilderness character describes a place where ecological systems that are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. The Wilderness Act defines wilderness in part as an area “which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions” (Section 2 (c)).

Rock cairn installation would involve some negligible impacts to soil and vegetation as personnel collect rocks from the surrounding area, although cairns would be constructed in locations already void of vegetation. The presence of the cairns would encourage visitors to remain on the designated trail and discourage the proliferation of additional visitor-worn hiking paths as compared to current conditions, preventing further degradation to the natural quality of wilderness character.

The visitor-worn hiking paths would not be immediately restored as part of this project, and the natural quality of wilderness character would not be improved over current conditions in the short term. However, the presence of the cairns to indicate the designated trail would reduce the probability that more than the current number of visitor-worn hiking paths will exist when the CMP development process assesses which of the existing paths should be rehabilitated or retained, enhancing the BLM’s near-future opportunity to conduct the restoration work that will eventually result in long-term benefits to the natural quality of wilderness character.

As mentioned in the description of impacts to the undeveloped quality of wilderness character under this alternative, the administrative installation of rock cairns to mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail could result in the proliferation of visitor-created rock cairns around the area. To construct those rock cairns, visitors would be likely to walk off trail for rock collection and may trample more vegetation as compared to current conditions. Additionally, as the number of cairns in the area increases over time, the likelihood of visitors intending to stay on the designated trail but instead wandering along visitor-worn hiking paths or creating new visitor-worn hiking paths also increases. Therefore, the effectiveness of the cairns at solving the problem as described in the Description of the Situation would decrease over time, leading back to a situation in which the wilderness in the area of the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail would be subject to continuing and potentially eventually increasing negative impacts to the natural quality of wilderness character.

SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE & UNCONFINED RECREATION

Activity #	Component Activity for this Alternative	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Transportation of personnel and equipment to and from the project site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	14 rock cairns would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	-2	NE
<u>Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Rec. Total Rating</u>		-2		

Explain:

The presence of staff working in the wilderness would temporarily impact solitude. However, due to the high visitor use (over 800,000 in 2020) of the area this impact is likely to be unrecognizable during work operations. The installation of 14 rock cairns would constitute a sign of civilization and would impact solitude. This impact may be small given the high use of the area; visitors may not have a high expectation of opportunities of solitude while recreating on the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail.

The visitor-worn hiking paths exist in part because of the unconfined nature of the La Madre Mountain wilderness. Although there is no change to the cross-country travel management direction, these cairns may add a pressure to remain on the designated trail. Although, it is unlikely that a visitor setting out to do a cross country pursuit would not continue with plans based on this alternative.

OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE

Activity #	<u>Component Activity for this Alternative</u>	Positive	Negative	No Effect
X	<i>Example: Personnel will travel by horseback</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	Transportation of personnel and equipment to and from the project site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	14 rock cairns would be placed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	The designated trail would be easily identifiable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Number of Effects		0	0	NE
<u>Other Features of Value Total Rating</u>		0		

Explain:

No other features are impacted by this alternative.

Summary Ratings for Alternative 2

Wilderness Character	Rating Summary
Untrammeled	0
Undeveloped	0
Natural	0
Solitude or Primitive & Unconfined Recreation	-2
Other Features of Value	0
Wilderness Character Summary Rating	-2

MRDG Step 2: Alternatives Not Analyzed

Alternatives Not Analyzed

What alternatives were considered but not analyzed? Why were they not analyzed?

Mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail with directional signs on a set interval: This alternative was ultimately not analyzed based on policy in MS-6340 that directs the BLM that “only a minimum of signs should be installed within wilderness areas.” Placing signs at a set interval does not satisfy policy direction to utilize a minimum number of signs to address the issue at hand. An alternative where directional signs were posted at a set interval is obviously not the minimum necessary action to address the situation; therefore, this alternative was removed from a detailed analysis.

Creating interpretive information outside of wilderness: This alternative was not analyzed, but has already been implemented several times, unsuccessfully. The BLM has placed kiosks with detailed maps and interpretive information at the trailheads outside of the wilderness. Additionally, the BLM has created georeferenced maps for visitors who want an electronic map. The BLM has created brochure with trail descriptions, maps, and interpretive information available for free to visitors of RRNCA. Lastly, the BLM works with partner groups to get online interpretation material out to the public, as well as updating the RRNCA web pages. All these actions have been conducted outside of wilderness but have been unsuccessful at addressing the situation currently observed.

Mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail with wooden posts: Though wooden post is a natural material they do not look natural in the sandstone, Yucca, and Creosote observed in the Calico Basin Area. Additionally, the desert climate would require the posts to be frequently replaced due to weathering from the sun, more so than either of the action alternatives. Therefore, this alternative was removed from analysis.

Stage Staff at the Trailheads to Educate Visitors on the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail: This alternative is not feasible for the RRNCA to implement. There is not an adequate number of staff members to stay at one trailhead daily. Even if staff was only present at this trailhead during high use days there is an inadequate number of staff to make this alternative feasible. Therefore, this alternative was removed from analysis.

Rerouting the Trail: The trail traverses a ridge on the west side of the Kraft Mountain before dropping into a wash and heading southeast, and ultimately back into the parking lot. The issue with visitor-worn hiking paths occurs at the northernmost portion of the trail where the terrain opens. Rerouting the trail would still utilize this area, and the issue would persist. Therefore, this alternative was removed from analysis.

MRDG Step 2: Alternative Comparison

Alternative 1:	Do Not Conduct Any Work
Alternative 2:	Mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail with directional signs
Alternative 3:	Mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail with rock cairns
Alternative 4:	

	Alternative 1	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 4
Wilderness Character	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
Untrammeled	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Undeveloped	0	-1	+1	-1	+1	-1		
Natural	0	-1	0	0	0	0		
Solitude/Primitive/Unconfined	0	0	0	-2	0	-2		
Other Features of Value	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total Number of Effects	0	-2	+1	-3	+1	-3		
Wilderness Character Rating	-2		-2		-2			

MRDG Step 2: Determination

Refer to the [MRDG Instructions](#) before identifying the selected alternative and explaining the rationale for the selection.

Selected Alternative

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1: | Do Not Conduct Any Work |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2: | Mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail with directional signs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 3: | Mark the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail with rock cairns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 4: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 5: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 6: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 7: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 8: | |

Explain Rationale for Selection:

Alternative 2 is determined to be the minimum necessary action to address the situation and preserve the wilderness character in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.

Taking no action under Alternative One would result in further degradation of the undeveloped and natural qualities of wilderness character beyond current conditions as visitor use continues to increase, which would result in increased use of existing visitor-worn hiking paths, increased proliferation of more visitor-worn hiking paths, increased incidences of visitors getting lost off the designated trail, and increased demand for search and rescue activities, including the occasional use of helicopters. Because this alternative would result in degradation, not preservation, of wilderness character, it was not selected.

Installing rock cairns as directional markers along the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail under Alternative Three may preserve and improve wilderness character in the short-term by reducing use and proliferation of visitor-worn hiking paths and helping visitors with wayfinding to prevent them getting lost and needing search and rescue support. However, because the administrative installation of rock cairns may encourage the creation and proliferation of visitor-created rock cairns, the benefits to wilderness character would decrease over time, and the same problems creating the current degraded conditions would eventually begin to occur again. Even though the use of native materials would have less impact to the undeveloped quality of wilderness character and opportunities for solitude than the use of TriView signs, the cairns would not be effective at preserving wilderness character in the long term. Therefore, this alternative was not selected.

Installing eight TriView directional signs at key points along the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail is the minimum action necessary to preserve wilderness character. While the signs would be installations and impact the undeveloped quality of wilderness character and opportunities for solitude, they would be much more effective at preserving the natural quality of wilderness character through discouraging use and proliferation of visitor-worn hiking paths. The presence of the signs would also have benefits for the undeveloped quality of wilderness character by preventing the proliferation of developments, as represented by the visitor-worn hiking paths, and by reducing demand for search and rescue activities which sometimes involve the use of a helicopter.

Additionally, anyone could mark paths with rock cairns and create a situation worse than the current situation. Alternative 3 does not ensure that the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail will be clearly marked well into the future and has a high probability of needing additional administrative action in order to prevent a relapse in the current situation.

Alternative 2 preserves wilderness character over the long-term by clearly marking the designated trail at junctions with visitor-worn hiking paths, where the trail surface is not discernable, and at junctions where the trail intersects with the wash. Alternative 2 utilizes 8 brown TriView post which is a minimal amount of signage to address the issue. These directional posts would be strategically placed in areas where they would have the most beneficial impact. The TriView signs are able to withstand the extreme heat and ultraviolet exposure that occurs in the Las Vegas area, ensuring a long-lasting solution and minimal administrative action to clearly marking the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail. Additionally, it is unlikely that visitors will mark visitor-worn hiking paths with TriView signs, ensuring that well-intentioned visitors are able to clearly follow the designated trail if that is their chosen pursuit. Alternative 2 is the minimum necessary action to address the situation in the Kraft Mountain Loop Trail area and accomplish the long-term preservation of the wilderness character in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.

Describe Monitoring & Reporting Requirements:

The Kraft Mountain area will have additional monitoring for recreational use on the visitor-worn hiking paths because of the CMP. Any restoration work and additional monitoring prescriptions will be identified in the CMP.

The TriView sign locations will be documented and saved in the La Madre Mountain Wilderness file. The search and rescue operations in the area will be tracked and compared to levels of activity prior to the implementation of work on the Kraft Mountain Trail.

Approvals

Which of the prohibited uses found in Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act are approved in the selected alternative and for what quantity?

Approved?	Prohibited Use	Quantity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mechanical Transport:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motorized Equipment:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motor Vehicles:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motorboats:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landing of Aircraft:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary Roads:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Installations:	8 directional TriView post.

Record and report any authorizations of Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses according to agency policies or guidance.

Calico Basin Area- Kraft Mountain Loop Trail in the La Madre Mountains Wilderness

Refer to agency policies for the following signature authorities:

Prepared:

Name **Braydon Gaard** Position **Outdoor Recreation Planner-
LVFO**

Signature **BRAYDON GAARD** Digitally signed by BRAYDON GAARD
Date: 2021.09.09 14:59:47 -07'00'
Date _____

Recommended:

Name **Jamie Fields** Position **Outdoor Recreation Planner-
NVSO**

Signature **JAMIE FIELDS** Digitally signed by JAMIE FIELDS
Date: 2021.09.09 18:27:25 -07'00'
Date _____

Recommended:

Name **Joshua Travers** Position **Assistant Field Manager- Red
Rock/Sloan Field Office**

Signature **JOSHUA TRAVERS** Digitally signed by JOSHUA
TRAVERS
Date: 2021.09.09 18:46:24 -07'00'
Date _____

Approved:

Name **Catrina Williams** Position **Field Manager- Red Rock/Sloan
Field Office**

Signature *Catrina Williams* Digitally signed by CATRINA
WILLIAMS
Date: 2022.04.01 10:37:32 -07'00'
Date _____