



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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www.ca.blm.gov



Date: August 24, 2016

Bureau of Land Management California State Office Report to the California State OHV Commission

Introduction to BLM California

As a courtesy for the newer OHV commissioners, this report will be an overview of current and ongoing topics within California:

The BLM's multiple-use and sustained yield mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

BLM California oversees:

- 15.2 million acres of public lands in California area and 1.6 million acres in northwestern Nevada.
- 47 million acres of subsurface mineral
- 1.6 million acres of surface in northwestern Nevada.
- Just over 19,000 miles of designated routes, 9,000 miles non-designated routes (Majority within the West Mohave Route Network Project)
 - Routes include: Paved and Non-paved roads, Primitive routes (OHV) and Trails.

Map 1: BLM California Overview





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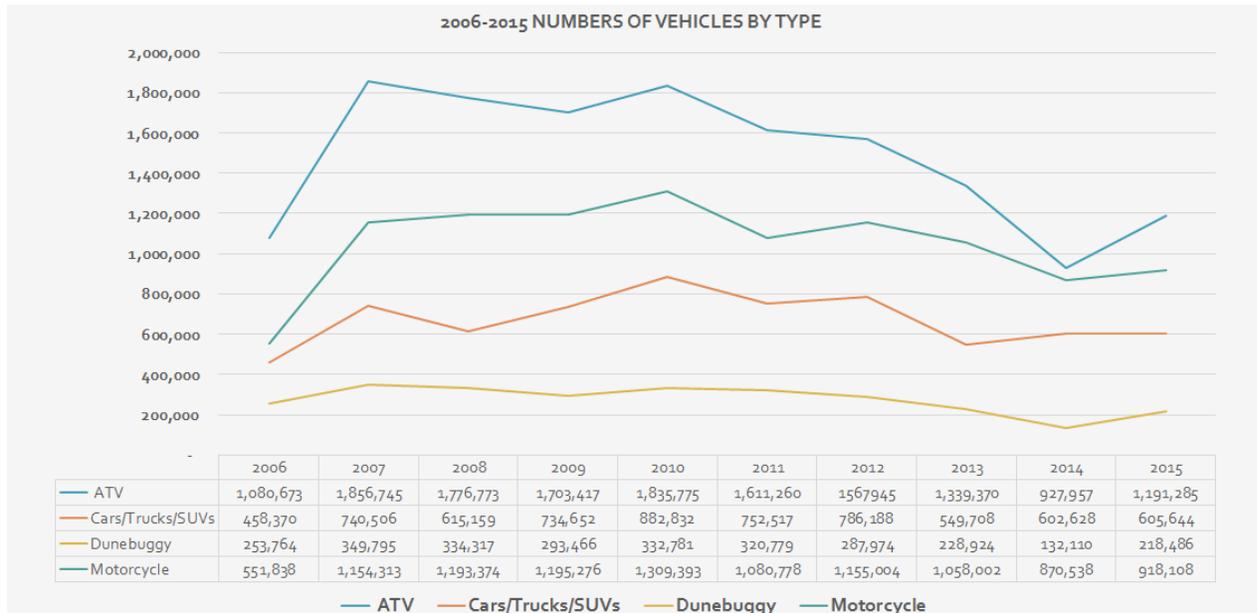
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- 27 designated OHV areas with 600,000 acres, of which 14 open OHV areas with 400,000 acres.
- 6.1 million Recreational visits with a average of 5 million motorized visits. (See Chart 1)

BLM California consists of three districts (Northern, Central, and Desert Districts) and 13 Field Offices.

Chart 1: Number of Vehicles 2006 – 2015



West Mojave Route Network Plan Amendment and Travel Management Plans

The West Mojave Route Network Plan (WMRNP) (see map 2) is a travel management planning effort covering 9.4 million acres in the West Mojave area of the California desert. Approximately 3.2 million acres in the planning area are public lands managed by the BLM. The WMRNP supplements the 2006 West Mojave Plan. The planning area



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covers the western portion of the Mojave Desert in southern California including parts of San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Kern, Inyo, and a small portion of Riverside Counties.

The WEMO Supplemental EIS responds to a 2009 U.S. District Court Summary Judgment and a follow-up 2011 Court Remedy (remand) regarding the 2006 West Mojave Plan. The Court remand requires that the BLM: 1) provides for a clear and consistent baseline for the route network, 2) analyzes at least one alternative with fewer routes than the No Action, 3) enhances the analysis of route and grazing impacts, and 4) applies route designation criteria as per regulations.

Since 2011, extensive public engagement in the WMRNP has included Desert Advisory Council involvement. Additionally, route inventory has been updated and now includes over 15,000 miles, primarily in the Barstow and Ridgecrest Field Offices. The draft Supplemental EIS was published in March 2015. There were over 600 unique public comments, including requests to extend the public comment period. The comment period was reopened on September 25, 2015. Just over 250 additional comments were received. Many comments included issues raised during the original comment period. New comments included concerns about how disturbance caps proposed in the DRECP would be considered during the analysis and designation of routes, as well as how the route network would support DRECP's landscape level goals. These comments and methodology of calculations of the disturbance caps will be addressed in the final document.

For information: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/west_mojave__wemo.html



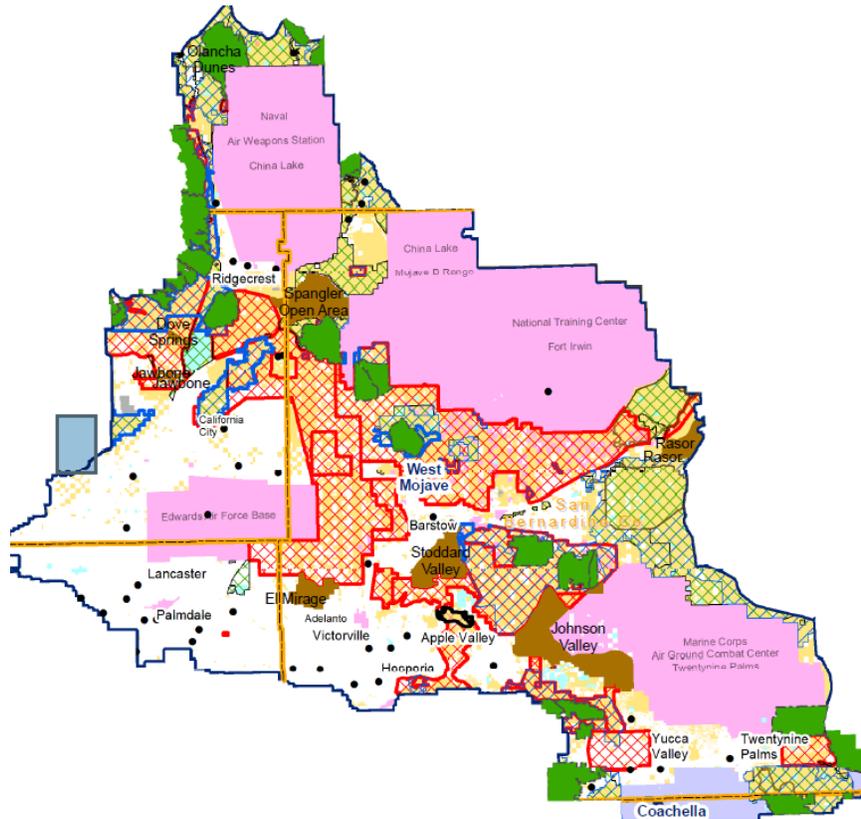
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Map 2: WEMO Planning Area



Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), a major component of California's renewable energy planning efforts, will help provide effective protection and conservation of desert ecosystems while allowing for the appropriate development of renewable energy projects. The DRECP plan area covers 22.5 million acres, nearly 10 million of which are BLM-managed public lands. The DRECP is focused on the desert regions and adjacent lands of seven California counties - Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. The DRECP will result in an efficient and effective biological mitigation and conservation program providing renewable project developers with timely permitting, while at the same time preserving, restoring and enhancing natural communities and related ecosystems.



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The DRECP will designate National Conservation Lands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, wildlife allocations, and Special Recreation Management Areas to conserve biological, cultural, recreational, and other values and uses. The vast majority of lands within these designations would not be available for renewable energy development.

Map 3: DRECP Planning Area



The DRECP proposes two recreation designations – Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA). The proposed 3.8 million acres of SRMA/ERMA occurs in areas where recreation is considered a high priority; currently there are only 193,000 acres of existing SRMAs. In the proposed ERMA, recreation is given specific consideration, but management is largely custodial.

The DRECP proposes conservation and management actions (CMAs) for SRMAs, ERMAs, and all BLM land to protect and promote recreation. The CMAs, both in and out of the recreation designations,

include a mitigation requirement for any activity that would have an adverse impact on approved recreational uses. Renewable energy development is not an allowable use in SRMAs due to the potential for conflicts with high priority recreational values, with exception of when a allowable use if a geothermal-only DFA overlays the SRMA designation and complies with a “no surface occupancy” and except for Ocotillo Wells with those areas already under lease, and Township 11 South, Range 9 East, sections 2, 10, and 14, which may have surface occupancy.

For Information: <http://www.drecp.org/>



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Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area

The BLM is preparing an environmental impact statement to analyze the efficiency and effectiveness of resource and recreation management at the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) and a proposed amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan. The California State Parks, who manage the SVRA through a Memorandum of Understanding, will jointly prepare an environmental impact report for their General Plan update.

*Note: As a proposed new designation of a SRMA, DRECP has authorized disposal (sale, exchange, or transfer) with like use of BLM managed lands within the SRMA.

For Information: http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1217

Military Withdrawals

The BLM is working with the military on withdrawals of public land for the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) and the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS).

In the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2014, Congress legislatively withdrew approximately 88,000 acres in the Johnson Valley OHV area for exclusive military use (78,993 acres BLM and 9,137 acres of state/private to be acquired). Once the President signed the 2014 NDAA in December of 2013 transferring the land from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the Secretary of the Navy, the EMUA became immediately withdrawn for military use.

The BLM is working cooperatively with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms, California, to implement the withdrawal and reservation of public land in the Johnson Valley OHV Area identified in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-66) (NDAA 2014). The NDAA 2014 also established the "Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area" which includes a Shared Use Area (SUA) to be managed for recreational and natural resources conservation purposes ten months of the year and for military purposes two months of the year.



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The 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has withdrawn 3,479 acres of the Spangler Hills Open OHV Area and 20,466 acres of the Draft Red Mountain SRMA of BLM managed lands to the Department of the Navy, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. The withdrawn lands will be jointly managed under a Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies.

Temblor Special Recreation Management Area

The Temblor Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) was designated in the 2014 Bakersfield Resource Management Plan. The Temblor SRMA consists of approximately 25,000 acres of public lands located in western Kern County/ eastern San Luis Obispo County. The area is bounded on the east by Carrizo Plain National Monument and on the west by the Central Valley communities of Taft, Maricopa, and Fellows.

The public currently accesses the Temblors through trespass across intensively developed oil fields owned by Chevron and TRC Production Company. Although long used for OHV riding, target shooting, hunting, and other forms of recreation, the Temblors were not historically managed for recreation. The BLM is in negotiations with Chevron and TRC Production Company to gain a point of permanent legal public access to the SRMA, initiating an implementation travel management planning effort, and pursuing basic infrastructure improvements for the area.

The BLM held a public meeting on March 4 to re-initiate public outreach and implementation planning for the area. Future planning decisions include locations for legal access and staging, re-designation of some routes to improve trail system quality and sustainability, and determination of management actions to protect threatened and endangered species. In the interim, the BLM plans to increase management presence in the Temblors by installing core route signs, identifying public land boundaries, and provide messaging on responsible use.



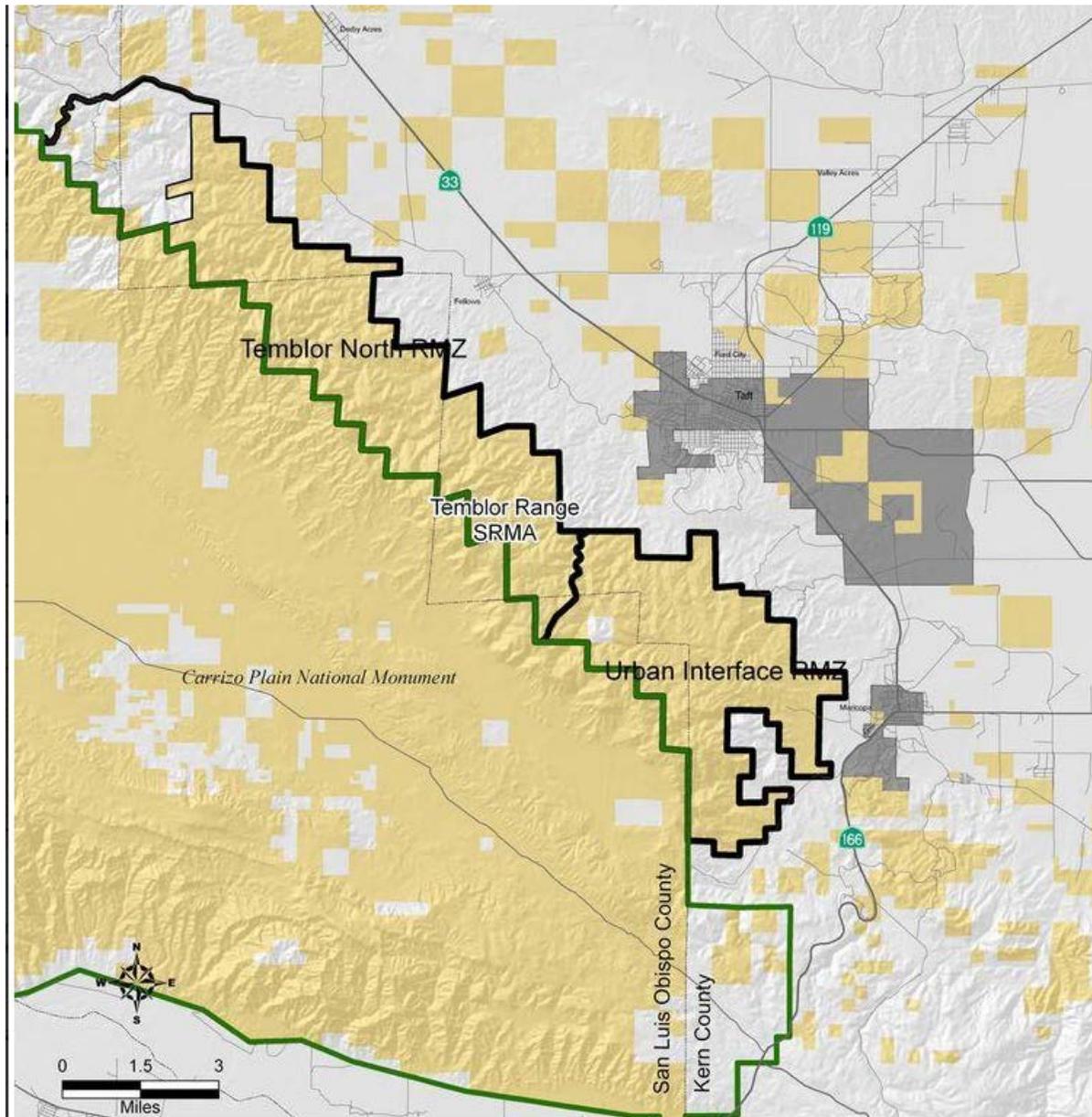
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Map 4: Temblor SRMA





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Keysville Recreation Activity Management Plan

The BLM is drafting a Recreation Activity Management Plan (RAMP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Keysville, Bakersfield's most heavily visited recreation area. The 10,860 acre Keysville SRMA is popular for motorized trail riding, mountain biking, and equestrian use. Seasonally it receives thousands of visitors a day, with people coming to camp, fish, raft, and water play. The area is also popular for recreational mining and is home to the site of a major gold mining strike in the 1870's. It also contains prehistoric resources important to Native American communities.

BLM solicited community input to develop a vision for managing public lands at Keysville and held six public workshops in Lake Isabella and Keysville beginning February 2014 and ending June 2015. The anticipated Draft RAMP and EA is expected in the fall of 2016.

For Information:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/Recreation_opportunities/keysville_planning.html

Clear Creek Management Area

The BLM manages approximately 63,000 acres of public lands in the 75,000-acre Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA), managed by the Central Coast Field Office. The area is home to many diverse natural and cultural resources and offers recreation and other multiple-use opportunities. The area also contains 30,000-acres of serpentine rock with naturally occurring asbestos.

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency concluded that asbestos exposure in the area may result in excess lifetime cancer risks, especially among children. As a result, the BLM limited high-risk activities within the Serpentine ACEC in its 2014 Clear Creek Resource Management Plan (RMP). Under the RMP, highway licensed vehicles are allowed on 32 miles of major roads in the Serpentine ACEC to provide access to key areas of interest for non-motorized recreation. Access into the Serpentine ACEC is authorized by permit only, with vehicle touring limited to five days per year and pedestrian activity limited to 12 days per year.



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Based on the concerns regarding the health risks of naturally occurring asbestos, criteria were added to the management plan to allow the BLM to reassess land use plan decisions if significant new information on human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers becomes available.

BLM will continue to work with California State Parks, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to identify opportunities for activity-based studies on asbestos exposure to recreational users in the Serpentine ACEC portion of the CCMA. BLM will also consult with the BLM Central California Resource Advisory Council to assist with plan implementation and adaptive management.

Legislation introduced by Rep. Sam Farr would establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties and expand recreation in an area that contains naturally occurring asbestos, potentially exposing the public to increased cancer risks. HR 1838 passed the House by a voice vote. It has been sent to the Senate.

BLM supports the conservation goals of H.R. 1838 but is concerned about its ability to close areas and protect public and employee health and safety. BLM believes language in the bill that allows the Secretary of Interior to close any area is ambiguous, especially given that the bill directs the Secretary to open the CCMA to motorized recreation, mountain biking, hiking, hunting, and camping.

As part of H.R. 1838, BLM supports the designation of 20,500 acres of public land as the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in San Benito and Fresno counties, which include three large sandstone monoliths known locally as Las Tres Piedras. The rocks are home to a number of raptors, including the prairie falcon and the majestic California condor.

For Information:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/hollister/recreation/clear_creek_recreation.html



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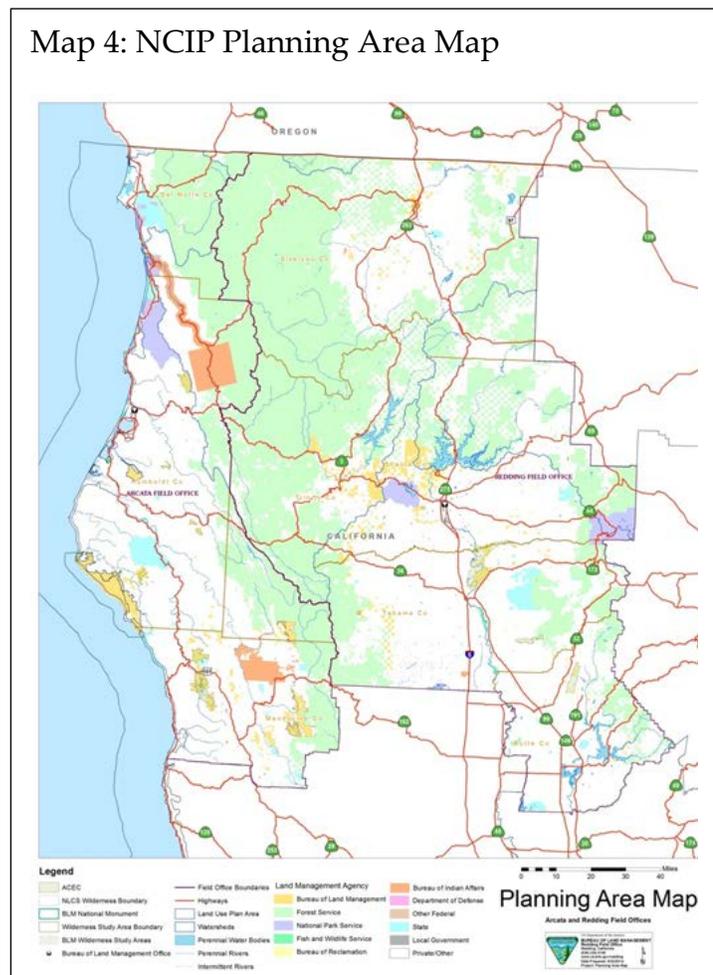
Development of the Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan

The Bureau of Land Management, Northern California District, Arcata and Redding Field Offices are developing the Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan (NCIP). The NCIP will, to the extent possible, incorporate the BLM's new proposed planning rule (Planning 2.0) and replace the existing "Arcata Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, April 1992" and the "Redding Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, June 1993" with the NCIP.

The planning area includes approximately 396,000 surface acres and an additional 300,000 subsurface acres of BLM-managed lands across 8 counties and 7 ecoregions. Approximately 70 percent of the planning area is within the boundaries of the Northwest Forest Plan. Three National Lands Conservation System units, King Range National Conservation Area, Headwaters Forest Reserve, and California Coastal National Monument are within the planning area but have separate RMPs and will not be included in the NCIP.

The BLM planning process is evolving towards planning over larger geographic scales and multiple levels. The NCIP embraces

Map 4: NCIP Planning Area Map





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a collaborative approach among federal agencies, Tribes, and state and local governments, and will incorporate additional steps and information proposed in the draft planning rule.

The NCIP crosses administrative boundaries and captures efficiencies by sharing field office staff, resources, and contractors throughout the planning process.

For information: Contact Lisa Grudzinski, NCIP project lead, at 530-224-2140 or by email at lgrudzinski@blm.gov.