

June 12, 2014

**Staff Report****Subject:** Consider Revision to Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Trails Plan**Contact:** Katie Barrows, Director of Environmental Resources ([kbarrows@cvag.org](mailto:kbarrows@cvag.org))

---

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the revised Public Use and Trails Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains and direct staff to submit a Minor Amendment to the Wildlife Agencies for their concurrence.

**BACKGROUND:** In May 2012, CVCC staff initiated an effort to update and revise the Public Use and Trails Management Plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, referred to as the "Trails Plan." This Trails Plan was developed as part of the original CVMSHCP to meet two primary goals. These goals are to minimize potential adverse impacts to Peninsular bighorn sheep from recreational activities, while also providing recreational opportunities throughout the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains that are consistent with recovering and sustaining bighorn sheep. Initially, members of the Trails Management Subcommittee and Trails Plan partners (BLM, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)) provided input on potential changes to the CVMSHCP Trails Plan.

A smaller working group of the Trails Management Subcommittee was established to review and discuss proposed changes. The Trails Management Subcommittee (TMS) identified a need to incorporate more flexibility in the Trails Plan. In the original Trails Plan, final approval of certain management actions is conditional on completion of the five year research program. In 2012, the CVCC decided to suspend the plans for a focused research program on trails and bighorn sheep and instead approach research needs on an ongoing, case-by-case basis. The revision to the Trails Plan incorporates a more flexible approach to research to be conducted on an ongoing basis in response to specific questions or management needs. National Monument Manager Jim Foote took on the task of revising the Trails Plan which was then provided to the Trails Working Group for review. Over the last two years a considerable amount of time and effort has been invested by the TMS and in particular by members of the Trails Working Group. After a great deal of constructive work by the Trails Working Group, a proposed revision was developed. The Trails Management Subcommittee (TMS) and Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area Reserve Management Unit Committee (RMUC) met on March 19, 2014 to review the Trails Plan revisions. After some discussion, the TMS and the RMUC recommended that the Trails Plan be forwarded to the Reserve Management Oversight Committee (RMOC). The RMOC is responsible for making recommendations to the CVCC and on April 23, the RMOC recommended that the CVCC approved the revised Trails Plan. The Trails Plan revision is included for your review. Staff will provide an overview of the revision and the changes from the original Trails Plan at the meeting.

After discussions with the Wildlife Agencies, it was determined that the Trails Plan revision would be subject to a Minor Amendment with Wildlife Agency Concurrence. Such a minor amendment requires that written notice be provided to CDFW, USFWS and affected Parties

who have 60 days to submit any comments in writing. Pending approval of the Trails Plan revision by the CVCC, staff will submit the Minor Amendment to the Wildlife Agencies for their final review. They have been involved in the Trails Plan revision process all along so we do not anticipate anything other than minor changes, if any. The revision of the Trails Plan has been a collaborative process and the efforts of all involved are appreciated.

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:** There are no direct costs associated with the Trails Plan revision.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Draft Trails Plan Revision

### *7.3.3.2 Public Use and Trails Management on Reserve Lands within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area*

#### ***Introduction***

The public use and trails management plan (“Trails Plan”) for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains is designed to meet two primary goals. These goals are to minimize potential adverse impacts to Peninsular bighorn sheep (“PBS” or “bighorn sheep”) from recreational activities<sup>1</sup>, while also providing recreational opportunities throughout the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains that are consistent with recovering<sup>2</sup> and sustaining bighorn sheep subpopulations<sup>3</sup>. The related objectives for each goal are included at the end of this Introduction.

Planning for public use and trails management in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area involves trails that cross both federal and nonfederal lands. The Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) has been prepared pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) to provide Take Authorization for Covered Activities and compatible activities on nonfederal lands. Take Authorization on federal lands is provided under the FESA through Section 7. The Peninsular bighorn sheep is a California Fully Protected Species and as used with respect to PBS, Take Authorization refers only to disturbance of habitat. The MSHCP does not permit Take of an individual PBS. All Covered Activities of the Plan must avoid actions in violation of Section 4700 of the Fish and Game Code that addresses Fully Protected Species (see Implementing Agreement, Section 15.5). Use of trails on California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) land is subject to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Permittees, CDFW, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have coordinated in the planning process for public use and trails management. The MSHCP, however, can only provide authorization for impacts to Covered Species for those portions of trails and any other compatible uses on nonfederal lands. BLM anticipates issuing a separate decision and pursuing a Section 7 consultation for

---

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this section, interchangeable terms such as ‘recreational activities’, ‘recreational opportunities’, and ‘recreational use’ are used. These terms relate to trail use and related recreation including hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking, and may include other non-motorized forms of trail use that develop in the future.

<sup>2</sup> Recovery is the process by which the decline of endangered or threatened species is arrested or reversed, and threats to survival are neutralized, ensuring long-term survival in nature. The goal of recovery is the maintenance of secure, self-sustaining wild populations of species with the minimum necessary investment of resources. See USFWS (2000) to review the downlisting and delisting criteria for Peninsular bighorn sheep.

<sup>3</sup> The Peninsular bighorn sheep population exists in known subpopulations (ewe groups) that are distributed across Riverside, Imperial and San Diego Counties, from the San Jacinto Mountain Ranges to the Mexican border, well beyond the MSHCP boundaries. Therefore, use of the phrase “subpopulations” is intended to reference only those PBS subpopulations that persist within the boundaries of the MSHCP area to maintain consistency with the larger population recovery goals outlined in the PBS Recovery Plan.

components of the coordinated plan on BLM-managed lands. On other federal lands, the USFS will determine whether public use and trails management will require consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the FESA. State of California lands within Magnesia Spring and Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserves, as well as other State lands administered by the CDFW, are subject to decisions made by the State. Trails and lands within the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation are not subject to the MSHCP, including this section addressing public use and trails management, although coordination and collaboration with Tribal government has been ongoing.

Impacts to Covered Species associated with the Trails Plan described in this section were authorized upon issuance of the Permits. For existing trails in bighorn sheep habitat, this authorization applies only to those trails specifically listed in Section 7.3.3.2.1 (“Trails Management Program”).

In order to illustrate the entire public use and trails management plan, text and maps in this section do not distinguish between trail segments on federal and nonfederal lands, except in Table 7-12, which identifies the applicable jurisdictions for each trail. The names of all trails, both on federal and nonfederal lands, are provided below for informational purposes to provide context for the reader. References to management of Magnesia Spring and Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserves similarly provide context regarding recreational access in the Santa Rosa Mountains on a landscape basis, but as indicated above, such management is subject to decisions made by the State of California; these decisions may or may not reflect management prescriptions herein identified.

**Goal 1:** Minimize potential adverse impacts to PBS from recreational activities.

- Objective 1: Manage trails to preserve the opportunity for bighorn sheep to move across the landscape.
- Objective 2: Design trail management measures to support predictable use patterns by trail users.
- Objective 3: Manage trails to preserve the opportunity for bighorn sheep to access water sources during the hot weather months.
- Objective 4: Manage trails to avoid degradation of and protect bighorn sheep habitat, such as lamb rearing areas, escape terrain, water sources, and high-value forage areas.
- Objective 5: Conduct research to evaluate the effects of recreational use on Peninsular bighorn sheep

within Essential bighorn sheep Habitat<sup>4</sup> (depicted in Figure 7-11) in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.

Objective 6: Implement a monitoring program to track trail use and bighorn sheep activity that adheres to the Plan's Scientific Principles.

Objective 7: Provide a mechanism to evaluate effectiveness of the trails program and recommend modifications to management actions if necessary.

**Goal 2:** Provide recreational opportunities throughout the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains that are consistent with recovery of bighorn sheep.

Objective 1: Provide opportunities for recreational trail use on a year-round basis; where year-round opportunities are determined as inconsistent with bighorn sheep recovery, provide seasonal opportunities for recreational trail use.

Objective 2: Enhance opportunities for recreation that avoid certain areas of bighorn sheep habitat such as lamb rearing areas, escape terrain, water sources, and high-value forage areas.

Objective 3: Provide consistent management of the trails system across jurisdictional boundaries.

### **7.3.3.2.1 Trails Management Program**

The trails management program in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area adopts an Adaptive Management approach emphasizing the utilization of data collected from ongoing research and monitoring to help make management decisions. The management program is comprised of seven elements, which are described below. Section 7.3.3.2.2 ("Other Public Access Issues and Uses on reserve Lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area") further addresses additional public access and use issues. The seven elements, detailed in the following sections, are summarized here:

---

<sup>4</sup> Essential Habitat is certain lands delineated in the Recovery Plan for Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges, California (see Figure 2 on page 11 of USFWS [2000]). In short, modeled Essential Habitat includes habitat with or near the following features:

- a) areas with slopes  $\geq 20^\circ$ ,
- b) areas within 0.8 km (0.5 miles) of slopes  $\geq 20^\circ$ ,
- c) areas with unobstructed/high visibility, and
- d) small areas of "nonhabitat" that were known to contain PBS or which narrowly intruded into stable/manageable "habitat".

Urbanized areas, lands without long-term conservation value, 'mud hills' habitat, and other areas were removed from and are not included within the final Essential bighorn sheep Habitat model.

- (1) Establishment of an approved trail system that includes seasonal access restrictions and other management prescriptions to ensure the goals of the Trails Plan are met;
- (2) Establishment of an ongoing Monitoring Program to evaluate recreational trail use as it relates to habitat use by bighorn sheep;
- (3) Establishment of an ongoing research program to evaluate any effects of recreational trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep within Essential bighorn sheep Habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains;
- (4) Rerouting and decommissioning of trails to protect habitat, soils, vegetation, and other natural resources, including Essential Peninsular bighorn sheep Habitat;
- (5) Potential construction of new trails where consistent with the recovery of bighorn sheep;
- (6) Design and implementation of a public outreach and education program; and
- (7) Annual review of the effectiveness of the public use and trails management program, including results of monitoring, research, and trail management prescriptions.

A Reserve Management Unit Plan (RMUP) for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area has been prepared and approved by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC). It identifies specific management actions, schedules, and responsibilities for lands managed by the Permittees, and provides a framework that facilitates collaborative management by all the involved management entities (local, State and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations) for effective, efficient, and cooperative use of the combined available resources. The RMUP refers to this Trails Plan section (7.3.3.2) of the MSHCP for more specific information on management and planning decisions regarding public access to the Conservation Area.

#### **(1) Trail Management Program Element 1: Approved Trail System**

Trails identified in Table 7-12 and depicted in Figures 7-11, 7-12, 7-15 and 7-16 constitute the approved trail system within Essential bighorn sheep Habitat. Trails not identified in the approved trail system are subject to removal, as may be any trail in the identified system shown by research to be incompatible with recovery of PBS (see Element 7: Rerouting and Decommissioning of Trails). Additionally, as part of the research program, some of the trails listed in Table 7-12 may be subject to manipulation of trail use levels--including increases, decreases, or prohibitions of use altogether--to determine the effects of recreational trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep (see Elements 2 and 3). Federal and nonfederal ownership for each trail is shown in the table, as well as seasonal restrictions and prohibitions of certain uses affecting approved trails. Seasonal closures during the hot season (June 1 through September 30) minimize potential impediments for access to water by bighorn sheep and other wildlife. Trails closed during the earlier part of the year (January 1 through June 30) minimize potential disturbances to bighorn sheep where lambing and rearing occur. Where no seasonal restrictions are

identified, approved trails are available for year-round use. Certain approved trails and trail segments are not available for use by bicycles or similar mechanized conveyances (see column 6 of Table 7-12). Access with dogs is allowed on a few trails only (see column 7 of Table 7-12); conditions of use in this regard, as well as additional information, are provided following the table. Figures 7-12 and 7-16 depict approved trails that are affected by seasonal restrictions, bicycle prohibitions, and dog prohibitions.

The approved trail system provides for non-motorized recreational access throughout the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains. Recreationists must stay on these approved trails from January 1 through September 30 to support the recovery of Peninsular bighorn sheep by minimizing potential adverse impacts during the lambing season and hot weather months; findings of the research and monitoring program could result in modifications to the seasonal off-trail travel prohibition as an Adaptive Management response. By staying on approved trails, recreationalists also promote the conservation of natural resources by minimizing soil erosion and the crushing of vegetation, as well as limiting the establishment of unapproved user-created (“social”) trails that may result from off-trail activities (see Section 7.3.3.2.2, “Off-Trail Travel”). Although off-trail travel is allowed in most areas from October 1 to December 31, recreationists are encouraged to stay on approved trails to conserve natural resource values. The trails research program, *Limits of Acceptable Change* (LAC), or other such assessment processes may be used to ensure resource conditions remain consistent with desired outcomes. Utilizing a monitoring protocol that compares observed impacts with current resource conditions, strategies can be developed to address discrepancies between impacts and the desired standard.

#### Approved Trails, Allowed Uses, and Restrictions<sup>5</sup>

Trail-specific prohibitions, restrictions, and seasonal closures subject to decisions made through the Trails Plan, as highlighted in yellow in Table 7-12, require changes to local municipal codes for trail segments that are under the jurisdiction of City and County Permittees. Cells highlighted in green indicate existing prohibitions, restrictions, and allowances of use that require no further action for their continuation. Prohibitions, restrictions, and seasonal closures occurring on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management require a separate decision by the BLM, the implementation of which would occur in accordance with Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, subsection 8364.1. The management of State of California lands in Ecological Reserves, including the designation of trails available for public use, is subject to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. Current restrictions on State lands include an off-trail travel restriction in Magnesia Spring and Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserves from January 1 through September 30 to minimize potential adverse impacts to Peninsular bighorn sheep during the lambing, rut, and hot seasons.

---

<sup>5</sup> The Trails Plan does not authorize recreational activities on private and non-Permittee lands, nor does it preclude private and non-Permittee landowners from accessing their lands during the period when off-trail travel is prohibited.

**Table 7-12: Approved Trails, Allowed Uses, and Restrictions**

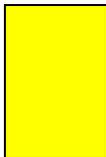
**The general geographic extent of PBS recovery regions in the Plan Area is described as follows:**

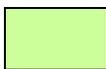
Region 1: San Jacinto Mountains

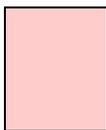
Region 2: Santa Rosa Mountains—north of Highway 74

Region 3: Santa Rosa Mountains—south of Highway 74 through Martinez Canyon

Region 4: Santa Rosa Mountains—south of Martinez Canyon

 Closures and restrictions subject to decisions made through the Trails Plan and requiring changes to local municipal codes where trails or trail segments are under the jurisdiction of Permittees. Closures and restrictions on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management require a separate decision by the BLM, the implementation of which would occur in accordance with Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, subsection 8364.1.

 Current prohibitions, restrictions, and/or allowances of use in accordance with municipal codes or federal regulations requiring no further action.

 Jurisdiction is by other entities, including Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Tribal), CDFW, University of California, and U.S. Forest Service. Decisions regarding the management of trails on lands under these jurisdictions are not subject to the MSHCP, including this section addressing public use and trails management.

**Table 7-12: Approved Trails, Allowed Uses, and Restrictions**

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
Alexander East Trail	1, 2	Tribal	2.8 (1.7)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Alexander Trail	1, 2	Tribal	2.4 (1.5)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Andreas Canyon Loop Trail	1	Tribal	1.5 (0.93)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	0.2 (0.12)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Andreas Canyon North Trail	1	Tribal	0.7 (0.43)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
Andreas Canyon South Trail	1	Tribal	3.2 (2.0)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Araby Trail	2	BLM	0.5 (0.31)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Allotted trust or fee	1.2 (0.74)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	0.9 (0.56)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
Art Smith Trail from Art Smith Trailhead to Hopalong Cassidy Trail intersection	2	BLM	0.3 (0.19)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: City of Palm Desert	1.8 (1.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: CVWD	0.4 (0.25)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Art Smith Trail from Hopalong Cassidy Trail intersection to Dunn Road	2	BLM	5.4 (3.3)	Closed June 1 – September 30	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: City of Palm Desert	0.3 (0.19)	Closed June 1 – September 30	Allowed	Prohibited
		State: CDFW	3.4 (2.1)	Closed June 1 – September 30	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	2.0 (1.3)	Closed June 1 – September 30	Allowed	Prohibited
Bear Creek Canyon Trail	3	BLM	1.5 (0.93)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: CVWD	0.3 (0.19)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Bear Creek Oasis Trail segment within wilderness	3	BLM	1.1 (0.68)	Closed June 1 – September 30	Prohibited	Prohibited
		State: Univ. Cal.	2.4 (1.5)	Closed June 1- September 30	Prohibited	Prohibited
Bear Creek Oasis Trail segment outside wilderness	3	BLM	2.1 (1.3)	Closed June 1 – September 30	Allowed	Prohibited
Berns Trail	2	BLM	1.5 (0.93)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Boo Hoff Trail segment within wilderness	3	BLM	2.6 (1.6)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		State: CDFW	2.8 (1.7)	None	Allowed	Allowed

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
Boo Hoff Trail segment outside wilderness	3	BLM	6.3 (3.9)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: CVWD	0.7 (0.43)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	1.1 (0.68)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Cactus Spring Trail	3	BLM	0.9 (0.56)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		USFS	2.8 (1.7)	None	Prohibited	Allowed
		State: CDFW	3.1 (1.9)	None	Allowed	Allowed
Carrizo Canyon Trail	2	State: CDFW	3.1 (1.9)	Closed January 1 – September 30	Prohibited	Prohibited
		BLM	0.6 (0.37)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Cathedral Canyon Trail	2	BLM	1.1 (0.68)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Desert Water Agency	<0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		FODM	1.9 (1.2)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: Riv. Cnty. Flood Ctrl.	0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Clara Burgess Trail	2	BLM	3.0 (1.8)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	1.2 (0.74)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Coffman Trail	1	Tribal	2.0 (1.2)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Dead Indian Canyon Trail	2	BLM	2.5 (1.6)	Closed January 1 – September 30	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: CVWD	0.3 (0.19)	None	Allowed	Prohibited

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
Dry Wash Trail	2	BLM	3.4 (2.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		State Permittee: CVMC	0.8 (0.50)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Tribal	0.7 (0.43)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Dunn Road	2	BLM	13.3 (8.3)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		FODM	1.2 (0.74)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	4.9 (3.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Dunn Road Trail	2	BLM	0.9 (0.56)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Tribal	0.9 (0.56)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
Dutch Charlie Trail	2	USFS	0.8 (0.50)	None	Allowed	Allowed
Eagle Canyon Trail <sup>6</sup>	2	Allotted trust or fee	1.9 (1.2)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	1.0 (0.62)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Earl Henderson Trail	2	BLM	0.3 (0.19)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Allotted trust or fee	0.6 (0.37)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	1.4 (0.87)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited

<sup>6</sup> Eagle Canyon Trail does not have a legal access point.

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
East Fork Loop Trail	2	BLM	0.6 (0.37)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Tribal (inside reservation)	1.0 (0.62)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Tribal (outside reservation)	1.0 (0.62)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		State Permittee: CVMC	0.2 (0.12)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
East Fork Trail	2	Tribal	3.0 (1.9)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Eisenhower Mountain Loop Trail (access through <i>The Living Desert</i> )	3	BLM	0.7 (0.43)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: City of Indian Wells	4.2 (2.6)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: CVWD	1.9 (1.2)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		The Living Desert	1.2 (0.74)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Fern Canyon Trail	1, 2	BLM	1.1 (0.68)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Tribal	3.0 (1.9)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Gabby Hayes Trail	2	Permittee: City of Palm Desert	0.6 (0.37)	None	Allowed	Allowed
Garstin Trail	2	BLM	2.0 (1.2)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Allotted trust or fee	0.6 (0.37)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
Goat Trails	2	Allotted trust or fee	0.3 (0.19)	None	Allowed	Prohibited

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs	
Guadalupe Trail	3	USFS	1.7 (1.1)	None	Prohibited	Allowed	
		State: CDFW	4.7 (2.9)	None	Allowed	Allowed	
Hahn Buena Vista Trail	2	BLM	3.2 (2.0)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
		Private	2.1 (1.3)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
Herb Jeffries Trail	2	Permittee: City of Palm Desert	1.0 (0.62)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
		State: CDFW	0.4 (0.25)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
Homestead Trail	2	BLM	<0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Allowed	
		Permittee: City of Palm Desert	0.7 (0.43)	None	Allowed	Allowed	
Hopalong Cassidy Trail north of Gabby Hayes Trail intersection & south of the cross	2	BLM	0.7 (0.43)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
		Permittee: City of Palm Desert	4.5 (2.8)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
		State: CDFW	2.9 (1.8)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
		Private	2.9 (1.8)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
Hopalong Cassidy Trail segment between Gabby Hayes Trail intersection and the cross	2	BLM	1.6 (1.0)	None	Allowed	Allowed	
		Permittee: City of Palm Desert	0.2 (0.12)	None	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
		Private	0.6 (0.37)	None	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Indian Potrero Trail	1, 2	BLM	1.5 (0.93)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
		Tribal	0.3 (0.19)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited	
		FODM	1.7 (1.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	
		Private	0.2 (0.12)	None	Allowed	Prohibited	

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
Jo Pond Trail	1	BLM	1.7 (1.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Tribal	0.7 (0.43)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
		USFS	5.2 (3.2)	None	Prohibited	Allowed
La Quinta Cove to Lake Cahuilla Trail	3	BLM	2.2 (1.4)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: CVWD	0.6 (0.37)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	1.1 (0.68)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Magnesia Spring Canyon Trail	2	Permittee: City of Rancho Mirage	<0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: CVWD	0.3 (0.19)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		State: CDFW	2.0 (1.3)	Closed January 1 – September 30	Prohibited	Prohibited
Martinez Canyon 4WD Route	3, 4	BLM	3.6 (2.3)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		State Permittee: CVMC	0.2 (0.12)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		FODM	1.0 (0.62)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	1.3 (0.81)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Martinez Canyon Trail	3, 4	BLM	7.0 (4.3)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		State: CDFW	4.7 (2.9)	None	Allowed	Allowed
		FODM	0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Maynard Mine Trail	1	Tribal	3.3 (2.1)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	1.7 (1.1)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
McManus Trail	2	Allotted trust or fee	0.7 (0.43)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Desert Water Agency	<0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	0.7 (0.43)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Mike Schuler Trail	2	Permittee: City of Palm Desert	0.4 (0.25)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: CVWD	<0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		State: CDFW	0.4 (0.25)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	0.4 (0.25)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Mirage (Bump & Grind) Trail, Lower	2	State: CDFW	1.1 (0.68)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: CVWD	0.4 (0.25)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	0.4 (0.25)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Mirage (Bump & Grind) Trail, Upper	2	State: CDFW	0.9 (0.56)	Closed February 1 – April 30	Allowed	Prohibited
Murray Canyon Equestrian Trail	1	Tribal	0.6 (0.37)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Murray Canyon Road Trail	1	Tribal	0.5 (0.31)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Murray Canyon Trail	1	Tribal	2.8 (1.7)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Museum Trail	1	Permittee: City of Palm Springs	0.7 (0.43)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	0.6 (0.37)	None	Allowed	Prohibited

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
North Lykken Trail	1	BLM	0.2 (0.12)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: City of Palm Springs	6.1 (3.8)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Allotted trust or fee	0.4 (0.25)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Oak Canyon (Live Oak Canyon North) Trail	1, 2	USFS	4.0 (2.5)	None	Allowed	Allowed
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	1	BLM	1.1 (0.68)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		USFS	13.9 (8.7)	None	Prohibited	Allowed
		State Permittee: CVMC	0.8 (0.50)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	0.8 (0.50)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Palm Canyon Trail	1, 2	BLM	2.0 (1.3)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		State Permittee: CVMC	0.6 (0.37)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Tribal	3.8 (2.3)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
		USFS	7.5 (4.7)	None	Prohibited / Allowed <sup>7</sup>	Allowed
		FODM	1.5 (0.93)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Picnic Table Trail	1	Permittee: City of Palm Springs	1.0 (0.62)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	0.4 (0.25)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited

<sup>7</sup> Palm Canyon Trail winds in and out of the “recommended wilderness” land use zone in accordance with the current and proposed amendment to the land management plan for the San Bernardino National Forest. As determined by the Forest Service, areas zoned as “recommended wilderness” will be managed to exclude mountain bike use.

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
Potrero Canyon Trail	2	BLM	1.9 (1.2)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		State: CDFW	2.1 (1.3)	None	Allowed	Allowed
		USFS	0.8 (0.50)	None	Allowed	Allowed
Randall Henderson Trail	3	Permittee: City of Palm Desert	4.0 (2.5)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Shannon Trail	2	BLM	1.3 (0.81)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
Skyline Trail	1	BLM	2.8 (1.7)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Permittee: City of Palm Springs	0.8 (0.50)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		State Permittee: Cal. Dept. Parks & Rec.	0.3 (0.19)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		State Permittee: CVMC	0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Tribal	4.1 (2.5)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	2.8 (1.7)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
South Lykken Trail	1	Permittee: City of Palm Springs	2.5 (1.5)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Tribal (Sec. 22)	2.4 (1.5)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Allotted trust or fee (Sec. 34)	1.8 (1.1)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
Tahquitz Canyon Trail	1	Tribal	2.8 (1.7)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Thielman Trail	2	BLM	2.3 (1.4)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Desert Water Agency	0.1 (<0.1)	None	Allowed	Prohibited

(1) Approved Trails	(2) PBS Recovery Region(s)	(3) Jurisdiction	(4) Km (Miles)	(5) Seasonal Restriction	(6) Access via Bicycle	(7) Access with Dogs
Vandeventer Trail east of East Fork Loop Trail intersection	2	BLM	1.1 (0.68)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Vandeventer Trail west of East Fork Loop Trail intersection	2	BLM	1.2 (0.74)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Tribal	2.3 (1.4)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Vargas Palms Trail	1	BLM	0.5 (0.31)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Private	1.5 (0.93)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
Victor Trail	2	Tribal	2.0 (1.3)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Wash west of Cathedral City Cove from Dunn Road to northern boundary of Section 5, T5S R5E	2	BLM	1.4 (0.87)	None	Allowed	Allowed
West Fork Trail	1	Tribal	3.0 (1.8)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	0.5 (0.31)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
West Fork North Trail	1	Tribal	2.0 (1.8)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
		Private	3.6 (2.2)	Closed 1st Monday after 7/4 – Sept. 30, except Fri., Sat. & Sun.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Wild Horse Trail	2	BLM	2.8 (1.8)	None	Allowed	Prohibited
		Tribal	1.8 (1.1)	None	Prohibited	Prohibited
<b>TOTAL (68)</b>			307 (194)			

Kilometers / miles of approved trails on lands under jurisdiction of Permittees: 85 km. / 53 mi. (27%)  
Kilometers / miles of approved trails on lands under jurisdiction of BLM: 98 km. / 61 mi. (31%)  
Kilometers / miles of trails on lands not subject to Trails Plan decisions: 131 km. / 81 mi. (42%)

A seasonal prohibition of off-trail travel is in effect on lands under the jurisdiction of Permittees (see “Off-Trail Travel” in Section 7.3.3.2.2). Restrictions on off-trail travel on BLM-managed lands will be determined by the BLM under a separate decision. Off-trail travel is prohibited year-round on lands managed by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the University of California. A seasonal prohibition of off-trail travel is in effect from January 1 through September 30 within State of California Ecological Reserves. Off-trail travel is allowed year-round on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and on State lands outside Ecological Reserves under jurisdiction of the CDFW.

Equestrian access on trails that are subject to decisions made through the Trails Plan is the same as for hikers.

A trailhead is the point where a trail begins, and often includes a place for motorized vehicles to park. Signs that explain the rules for trail use and include other pertinent information may be located at trailheads. Figure 7-11 depicts major trailheads that provide access to the trails identified in Table 7-12.

Access for mountain bikers differs from that for hikers and horseback riders as indicated in this table (see column 6). Restrictions to mountain biking are consistent with existing laws, regulations, and local ordinances. The following trails, in their entirety or in part, are closed to bicycles in designated wilderness by statute: Bear Creek Canyon Trail (segment), Bear Creek Oasis Trail (segment), Boo Hoff Trail (segment), Guadalupe Trail (entire), Cactus Spring Trail (entire), Martinez Canyon Trail (segment), and all U.S. Forest Service trails within and leading to designated wilderness. Bicycles are also not allowed on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, or within Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserve. Bicycles are allowed on certain trails within Magnesia Spring Ecological Reserve per Title 14, Chapter 11, § 630(b)(73)(E). The Fern Canyon Trail west of its intersection with the Wild Horse Trail, and the Vandeventer Trail west of its intersection with the connector trail to the Dry Wash Trail are also closed to bicycles for consistency with the existing bicycle prohibition on adjacent Tribal lands. Bicycle closures consistent with an existing bicycle prohibition due to terrain-related user conflicts on lands under jurisdiction of the City of Palm Springs include the Araby, Shannon, Garstin, Henderson, South Lykken, and Picnic Table Trails. The City’s existing prohibition of bicycles on the Berns Trail is eliminated to enhance trail connectivity; the potential for terrain-related user conflicts on this trail are minimal.

Lands identified as “Allotted trust or fee” pertain to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and are subject to City of Palm Springs municipal codes by virtue of an agreement between the two entities. Allowed uses and restrictions applicable to such lands are consistent with those for other lands under the jurisdiction of Palm Springs where subject to the trails management plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.

### Access with dogs and other pets: conditions of use and additional information

#### *Conditions of use where allowed:*

- Dogs and other pets are allowed in designated areas only.<sup>8</sup>
- Dogs must be leashed and under the owner’s control where allowed, except on the flat, fenced City of Palm Desert lands at Homme-Adams Park where dogs may be under voice control in accordance with a local

---

<sup>8</sup> Private and non-Permittee lands are subject to municipal codes aligned with management prescriptions of the Trails Plan that prohibit dogs on such properties in PBS Essential Habitat.

ordinance—this area is outside Essential bighorn sheep Habitat. Maximum leash lengths are established by the applicable jurisdiction.

- Picking up and properly disposing of a dog’s fecal matter is required on all trails and at all locations.
- Persons requiring accompaniment by a service animal (as defined by the American with Disabilities Act), or those using dogs to facilitate search and rescue, law enforcement operations, or research are exempt from the prohibition where applicable.
- The prohibition of dogs does not apply to dogs inside a motor vehicle.

*Additional information:*

- Use restrictions will be enforced by the appropriate jurisdiction. Compliance with and enforcement of these restrictions will be addressed by the Trails Management Subcommittee. If noncompliance is a recurring problem that is not effectively controlled by the appropriate jurisdiction(s) for more than 2 years, dog use areas may be decommissioned.
- Availability of educational information at each designated dog-walking area is encouraged. The CVCC, BLM, and the Trails Management Subcommittee are available to assist agencies responsible for dog-walking areas with providing this information. This educational information may include basic bighorn sheep ecology and behavior, potential threats to bighorn sheep due to the presence of dogs, or other relevant information. Trails and boundaries of areas where dogs are allowed will be clearly signed.
- The Garstin to Thielman Link Trail (to be known as the “Frank Bogert Trail”), located east of the Andreas Hills residential community, is proposed for construction. If constructed, leashed dogs would be allowed along the lower segment of the Garstin Trail, the link trail, and the lower segment of the Thielman Trail.
- Dogs and other pets are not allowed in Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserve and Magnesia Spring Ecological Reserve (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 630).
- An additional designated dog area is located south of La Quinta Cove between Calle Tecate and the flood control levee in Section 13, T6S R6E. This area is outside Essential bighorn sheep Habitat and not within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area.
- Designated dog areas and trails are depicted in Figure 7-16.

### Trails on Tribal lands

Tribal lands are not part of the MSHCP. Therefore, trails and trail segments located on Tribal lands are not subject to management prescriptions identified in this Trails Plan. To the extent practicable, management prescriptions herein identified are consistent with public access policies of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians..

### Trails on U.S. Forest Service lands

The use of trails on Forest Service lands is subject to existing regulations, policies, and land management plans.

## **(2) Trail Management Program Element 2: Monitoring of On-Trail and Off-Trail Use and Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Subpopulations**

The Monitoring Program for the MSHCP will, in part, evaluate recreational trail use as it relates to habitat use by bighorn sheep. Among questions the Monitoring Program will address is, “*What are year-round levels of human use on and off recreational trails in bighorn sheep habitat?*” The intent of this effort is to expand currently available data and information regarding levels of human trail use by employing statistically valid protocols (see Section 8.3.2, “Scientific Principles”). These research and analysis protocols will be developed within the first two years of Plan implementation. Compliance with hot season closures and other trails management prescriptions will also be assessed as part of the Monitoring Program. Monitoring should also assess the availability of water at natural and artificial water sources, particularly those near approved trails, as well as address other ecological factors which may be important for bighorn sheep persistence. Depending on the findings, the list of trails or trail segments subject to hot season closures or other restrictions may be expanded or reduced.

From 1998 to 2010, CDFW conducted population surveys of Peninsular bighorn sheep on a biannual basis in cooperation with the Bighorn Institute; these rangewide surveys are expected to resume in 2014. Subpopulation level monitoring of Peninsular bighorn sheep for the MSHCP will increase in resolution at least during the first seven to nine years of the implementation of the research program, in order to obtain, at a minimum, data on the distribution, abundance, recruitment, survival, and cause-specific mortality of bighorn sheep in the Trails Plan Area. This intensive monitoring may continue beyond the first seven to nine years of the implementation of the research program.. Ongoing annual Peninsular bighorn sheep monitoring is provided for in the Monitoring Program; monitoring of bighorn sheep will be a cooperative effort involving CDFW, USFWS, BLM, CVCC, and other partners, with funding provided primarily by CDFW, to the extent possible, and CVCC. All data supporting decisions for the public use and trails management plan will be available to the CVCC and appropriate management committees (such as the RMUC and RMOC) and subcommittees (such as the TMS).

The program to monitor the relationship between Peninsular bighorn sheep and recreational use of trails is outlined in Section 8.4.7.1.1 (“Relationship between Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and Recreational Trails”).

### **(3) Trails Management Program Element 3: Research Program**

Focused, ongoing research to evaluate the effects of recreational trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep within Essential bighorn sheep Habitat in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains is emphasized as part of Trails Plan implementation, and will be initiated no later than MSHCP year one. The research program will be ongoing and integrated with PBS monitoring in an Adaptive Management and case-specific approach (e.g., key questions that will help guide trails management). As stated in USFWS permit condition #38, “Upon completion of the trails research program described in Element 2 (*now* 3) of the proposed Trails Plan (Section 7.3.3.2), the Trails Management Subcommittee, RMUC, and RMOC shall develop a trails management plan to be implemented by Plan Year 10. Should these timeframes not be met, the CVCC and the Wildlife Agencies shall meet to determine appropriate actions. The revised public use and trails management plan shall be based on results from the research program (Element 2 (*now* 3) of the Trails Plan), abundance levels of bighorn sheep, and the best available science, in addition to professional judgment and wildlife conservation principles where study results are less than definitive. Implementation of the public use and trails management plan for the portions of trails on non-federal land, shall be subject to the review and approval by the RMOC, of which the Wildlife Agencies are members. The resolution process related to the development and implementation of the Trails Plan through the RMOC shall not limit the Wildlife Agencies ability to ensure the Trails Management Plan is in compliance with the Plan, IA, and Permits.”

The research program will be carried out through a contract (or contracts), solicited by a Request for Proposals (RFP). As stated in USFWS CVMSHCP permit condition #33 “The roles and responsibilities of participating agencies are outlined in Section 8.5.1 (“Research on Effects of Recreation on Peninsular Bighorn Sheep”). Funding for this research is outlined in Section 8.8.2 (“Personnel for Monitoring Program”). Development of the RFP and selection of contractors shall be by 1 qualified representative each from BLM, CDFW, CVCC, and USFWS, and up to 3 outside objective reviewers. The 3 outside reviewers will be chosen by the consensus of the agency representatives. The above group shall (1) oversee implementation of the research program in coordination with the RMUC for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area and the Trails Management Subcommittee, (2) provide advice and guidance on issues that arise during the field phase of the research, and (3) provide review of draft reports and articles. The selected researcher shall provide the review panel with semi-annual oral/written reports.” Additionally, all contracted research on recreational trail use must conform to the Scientific Principles (see Section 8.3.2, “Scientific Principles”).

This research may require manipulation of use levels on trails. Manipulation could include increases, decreases, or prohibitions of use on one or more trails while simultaneously monitoring responses of bighorn sheep. Manipulated trail use will be based on a research study design focused on addressing specific research questions related to the impacts of trail use on Peninsular bighorn sheep (see Section 8.5.1, “Research on Effects of Recreation on Peninsular Bighorn Sheep”). The research study design will describe which trails, if any, would be subject to manipulation of use levels. Implementation of the research program will be coordinated with the Trails Management Subcommittee. Access for research and monitoring on private and non-Permittee lands will require approval by the landowner.

Management recommendations emanating from scientific data gathering and analysis will be evaluated and used to revise any future version of the public use and trails management plan, based on best available science, professional judgment, and wildlife management principles where study results may be less than definitive. This integrative process will include a review of the status of the species, evaluation of scientific literature, and other available data. Initial research results in their entirety will be made available for review and use by the Trails Management Subcommittee, Reserve Management Oversight Committee (RMOC), CVCC, and other entities by no later than year nine of Plan implementation. It is anticipated that interim feedback from initial and ongoing research on bighorn sheep and recreational use of trails will be available and provided to the CVCC and appropriate management (sub)committees (such as the TMS) for their use. Re-initiation of Section 7 consultation between the BLM and USFWS will occur for federal lands upon revision of the Trails Plan, as appropriate. Depending on bighorn sheep subpopulation fluctuations, research results, and management needs, research on key questions is anticipated throughout Trails Plan implementation as part of the Monitoring Program, Management Program, and Adaptive Management.

Additional description of the research program is provided in Section 8.5.1 (“Research on Effects of Recreation on Peninsular Bighorn Sheep”).

#### **(4) Trails Management Program Element 4: Rerouting and Decommissioning Trails**

*Trail Reroutes.* As with construction of new trails (Element 5, below), proposals to reroute trails will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, subject to existing regulations, policies, and land management plans. The construction and use of trail reroutes will be a Covered Activity unless project-specific CEQA/NEPA analysis or information derived from ongoing or completed research indicate the proposed reroutes would adversely impact bighorn sheep and such impacts could not be avoided or mitigated. Construction of trail reroutes within Essential bighorn sheep Habitat may be restricted to October 1 through December 31, depending on location and site-specific issues. Trail reroutes on BLM lands are not a Covered Activity under the MSHCP; BLM will undertake its own approval process for rerouting trails on lands it administers. Rerouting trails on State lands requires authorization from CDFW.

Trails to be rerouted to support the recovery of bighorn sheep will be based on research findings, sheep subpopulation trends, habitat use patterns, home ranges, available research data, and other applicable information. Trails may also be rerouted to protect areas important to bighorn sheep (e.g., water sources, lamb rearing areas) and other taxa, or other resources (e.g., soils, cultural resources). Reroutes are assumed to replace, not augment, trails or trail segments. Recommendations for rerouting trails will be made by the Trails Management Subcommittee to the RMUC. Approval of a trail reroute by the appropriate project lead agency will include approval for decommission and removal of the associated trail or trail segment, unless restrictions on the use of the associated trail or trail segment is deemed more appropriate than removal (see subsection below regarding trail decommission and removal).

*Trail Decommission and Removal.* Trails may be decommissioned and removed if their use is determined to cause adverse impacts to resources, including visual resources where multiple trails occur in close proximity to one another (e.g., “braided” trails). Measures to mitigate adverse impacts will be considered as an alternative to trail removal. Recommendations for decommissioning and removing trails will be made by the Trails Management Subcommittee to the RMUC. Final approval for trail decommissions and removal rests with the entity having jurisdiction over the applicable lands, following completion of NEPA and CEQA requirements, as applicable. Trail removal in Essential bighorn sheep Habitat may be restricted to October 1 through December 31, depending on location and site-specific issues.

Prior to making recommendations for decommissioning and removing trails in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area, an inventory of all trails in the Conservation Area will occur. This inventory will be completed within one year of Permit issuance. Trails not identified in Element 1 are not part of the approved trail system and therefore subject to removal. The Trails Management Subcommittee will evaluate and make a recommendation to the RMUC for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area whether such trails will be decommissioned and removed or proposed to become approved trails. Removal of trails recommended for decommission shall be completed within 3 years.

The following trails to be considered by the Trails Management Subcommittee for decommissioning and removal include :

- A spur trail in Section 9, T4S R4E that extends in a westerly direction from the North Lykken Trail.
- A spur trail in Section 14, T6S R6E that extends in a westerly direction from the southwest corner of La Quinta Cove.
- Social trails in the Murray Hill Complex, with particular emphasis on redundant trails in the Murray Hill/Eagle Canyon/Goat Trails area.

- Trails in the Coral Reef Mountains north of the La Quinta Cove to Lake Cahuilla Trail.
- The western leg of the Cathedral Canyon Trail from the toe of slope to its intersection with the new perimeter trail encompassing Cathedral City Cove upon completion of the perimeter trail.

Removal of these trails shall be completed within nine years of Permit issuance. The location of these trails is shown in Figure 7-15.

The Trails Management Subcommittee should help to recommend criteria for prioritizing which trails should be decommissioned and removed. The prioritization of trail decommissions and removals should be annually reviewed by the Subcommittee to reflect new information and/or funding availability, and recommendations made to the RMUC, as necessary. A summary of time frames associated with rerouting, decommissioning, and removing trails, taken in part from CVMSHCP USFWS permit condition #37, is listed below:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timing</b>
An inventory of all trails in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area will be completed...	within one year of Permit issuance.
The Trails Management Subcommittee shall evaluate and prioritize for decommissioning, all trails, paths, routes, or ways on Reserve Lands within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area not specifically authorized in the Trails Plan...	within 5 years of Permit issuance.
Removal of approximately five previously identified trails shall be completed...	after consideration by the TMS and within nine years of Permit issuance.
State and Federal regulatory processes must be completed and a final decision about trails to be decommissioned will be made...	by year 10 of Permit issuance.
All trails, paths, routes, or ways not given authorization under the Minor Amendment process shall be decommissioned and removed by the CVCC or appropriate Permittee in coordination with the land owner and the affected state and federal land management agencies...	no later than Plan Year 15.
Removal of new trails recommended to be decommissioned shall be completed...	within 3 years of the recommendation.
All unauthorized trails, routes, paths, or ways detected or on lands acquired post Permit issuance shall be decommissioned...	within 3 years of detection or parcel acquisition.

## **(5) Trails Management Program Element 5: Constructing New Trails**

Construction and use of new trails must be consistent with the recovery of PBS. Any new trails proposed will be addressed on a case-by-case basis subject to existing regulations, policies, and land management plans. Construction and use of new trails will be a Covered Activity if project-specific CEQA/NEPA analysis<sup>9</sup> and information derived from ongoing or completed research indicates the proposed trails would not likely adversely impact bighorn sheep. Proposed perimeter trails identified and evaluated in the 2007 EIR/EIS for the MSHCP are listed below. As described in Section 6.12.3 (“Minor Amendments”) and Section 4.4 (“Required Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures”), construction of new trails other than the identified new perimeter trails will require a Minor Amendment with Wildlife Agencies’ concurrence. Non-perimeter trail construction in Essential bighorn sheep Habitat may be restricted to October 1 through December 31, depending on location and site-specific issues. Trail construction on BLM lands is not a Covered Activity under the MSHCP; BLM will undertake its own approval process for trail construction on lands it administers. Construction of new trails on State lands requires authorization from CDFW.

### *New Perimeter Trails*

Perimeter trails are intended to provide alternative recreational opportunities and thereby reduce trail usage in other areas of bighorn sheep habitat. Following completion of the trails research plan (Elements 2 and 3), or after review and analysis of interim results by the Wildlife Agencies, construction of proposed perimeter trails could occur if research results demonstrate that expected future recreational use of these proposed trails is not likely to adversely impact the health, demography, subpopulation sustainability, and subpopulation connectivity of Peninsular bighorn sheep. Once constructed, these trails would be available for year-round use by all means of non-motorized conveyance (e.g., on foot, bicycle, or horse), unless restrictions on a particular type or season of use are deemed necessary.

General guidelines for development of perimeter trails are as follows:

- Perimeter trails will generally run parallel to and not rise more than 200 vertical feet above the toe of slope, except where necessary to avoid residential or other developed areas or inaccessible terrain, such as cliffs.
- Perimeter trails will not be constructed within 1/4 mile of wildlife water sources, including active springs, seeps, and man-made guzzlers.
- Perimeter trails will incorporate topographic variability where possible.

---

<sup>9</sup> In short, CEQA/NEPA requires local, State, and Federal organizations to analyze the environmental consequences of discretionary actions or projects these organizations plan to fund, permit, or undertake. Part of a CEQA/NEPA analysis involves the determination of how proposed impacts would be avoided, minimized, or mitigated.

- Construction of perimeter trails may be restricted to July 1 through December 31, depending on location and site-specific issues.

Identified perimeter trails, listed from west to east, are as follows:

- Garstin to Thielman Link Trail (to be known as the Frank Bogert Trail): Trail along the western flank of the Murray Hill complex of trails linking the Garstin Trail with the Thielman Trail.
- Cathedral City Cove: Trail along the eastern, southern, and western flanks of Cathedral City Cove, except for a segment of the trail in Section 33, T4S R5E. This perimeter trail will utilize segments of the lower Cathedral Canyon Trail.
- West La Quinta Cove: Trail to summit of isolated prominence in Section 1, T6S R6E, northwest of La Quinta Cove. This trail would connect with the proposed new Palm Desert to La Quinta Connector Trail.
- East La Quinta Cove: Trail on the western flank of the Coral Reef Mountains starting from the flood control basin access gate at the south end of La Quinta Cove. Although a specific trail alignment has been identified (Figure XXX), development of a new reservoir by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) will require some modification to the identified trail alignment. CVWD has agreed to cooperate in determination of this alignment.

#### Prioritization for New Trail Construction

The Trails Management Subcommittee should help recommend criteria for new trail construction. Once criteria are established, the Trails Management Subcommittee may help to identify potential new trails. The prioritization of potential new trails should be reviewed annually by the Subcommittee to reflect new information and/or funding, and a recommendation for any revision of priorities should be made to the RMUC, as necessary.

#### Palm Desert to La Quinta Connector Trail

An alignment for a trail connecting the Randall Henderson Trail south of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center with the northwest portion of La Quinta Cove has been identified and is known as the Palm Desert to La Quinta Connector Trail. Portions of the preferred alignment traverse areas used by wild sheep. Therefore, the portion of the Palm Desert to La Quinta Connector Trail between the Randall Henderson Trail and *The Living Desert* will be a Covered Activity when the research program evaluating the effects of recreational trail use on wild sheep in the Conservation Area and a subsequent research program evaluating the effects of this portion of the Connector Trail on captive sheep at the Bighorn Institute have been completed. When research is pursued on the captive sheep at the Bighorn Institute, the permission of the Bighorn Institute will be obtained prior to the study being initiated. If adverse impacts to wild and/or captive breeding Peninsular bighorn sheep would result as

determined through the research programs and Feasible<sup>10</sup> mitigation measures cannot be implemented to reduce impacts, then all or a portion of the preferred alignment of the Connector Trail will not be constructed. If research results are less than definitive, then wildlife management principles, professional judgment, and the best available science will be used to assess impacts and develop mitigation measures. Mitigation measures will be considered that will reduce potential adverse impacts to levels that are less than significant. Subsequent CEQA and/or NEPA analysis of the Connector Trail will be conducted.

Depending on the results of the research, construction of the Connector Trail and alternative access trail could be initiated as soon as feasible, depending on funding availability and acquisition of easements or other authorizations, and completion of applicable CEQA and NEPA requirements.

A trail beginning on Portola Avenue in Palm Desert just north of *The Living Desert* and connecting with the Palm Desert to La Quinta Connector Trail is under consideration. Because a specific alignment for this trail near *The Living Desert* has not been fully analyzed in the EIR/EIS, a preliminary trail alignment as well as the corridor in which this trail may be constructed is identified. This trail would be available for use by all means of non-motorized conveyance (e.g., on foot, bicycle, or horse), unless restrictions on a particular use are deemed necessary. Limits on the use of this trail by equestrians may be necessary pending coordination with *The Living Desert*.

Figure 7-13 depicts the proposed Palm Desert to La Quinta Connector Trail as well as the alignment and corridor for the trail near *The Living Desert*.

#### **(6) Trail Management Program Element 6: Public Outreach and Education Program**

A public outreach and education program will be developed and implemented by CVCC, BLM, and other participating individuals and organizations in consultation with the Trails Management Subcommittee, with the following objectives:

1. To inform the public about desert ecology, conservation issues, and status of Peninsular bighorn sheep recovery.
2. To educate trail users about benefits accrued from implementation of the Trails Management Program.

The outreach and education program will include information about Peninsular bighorn sheep ecology and behavior in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, as

---

<sup>10</sup> As per the definitions associated with the CVMSHCP, Feasible is defined as “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.”

well as the overall conservation program for this species. In addition, outreach material will include information such as bighorn sheep subpopulation trends (bighorn sheep information will be approved for accuracy by the Wildlife Agencies prior to public dissemination), recreational trail use data, and other new data reviewed and summarized annually by the Trails Management Subcommittee. Information provided to the public will identify specific elements of the public use and trails management program, such as trails that constitute the approved trail system, seasonal access restrictions, approved dog use areas, and bicycle restrictions. Updates regarding on-going research and monitoring will be highlighted. As new perimeter trails are completed, information about the availability of these trails will be provided to the public in as many outlets as possible to encourage the use of these trails. The program will also convey that recreationists should stay on trails to minimize potential adverse impacts to natural resources, such as erosion of soils, crushing of vegetation, and spreading invasive species, as well as to avoid the establishment of unapproved user-created (“social”) trails that may result from off-trail activities.

Outreach and education information will be provided in a variety of ways, including contact with rangers and other personnel, distribution of maps, signage and kiosks at trailheads, brochures and written information, news releases to local media, and postings to the websites of the MSHCP, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, and other, associated organizations. Existing educational materials may be used or modified as appropriate; BLM and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument already provide information to trail users about measures to benefit bighorn sheep conservation.

#### **(7) Trail Management Program Element 7: Review of Trails Program**

The Trails Management Subcommittee will annually review effectiveness of the overall public use and trails management program. Annual review will consider progress reports and recommendations from researchers addressing bighorn sheep issues within the Plan area, bighorn sheep subpopulation trends and other demographic data, results from ongoing agency monitoring programs, recreational trail use data, compliance with hot season closures and other trail management prescriptions, and other new data acquired.

Until such time as the initial monitoring and research program tasks are completed (see Elements 2 and 3), the annual review will consider the best information available to evaluate the public use and trails management program and any effects on the Peninsular bighorn sheep. Best information available will include, but is not limited to, Peninsular bighorn sheep demographic data, results from ongoing or future monitoring programs, and interim results of the monitoring and research program.

The Trails Management Subcommittee will make recommendations to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains RMUC regarding modifications to the public use and trails management program. Based on input from the RMUC, the RMOC will make

recommendations to CVCC for the portions of trails on non-federal land. See Sections 6.1.1.2 (“Duties and Responsibilities of CVCC”) and 6.3 (“Trails Management Subcommittee”) for additional information regarding the Trails Management Subcommittee.

As described in the Recovery Plan for Peninsular bighorn sheep (USFWS 2000), a variety of approaches are recommended for the recovery of bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges. These approaches include, but are not limited to: protecting, restoring and acquiring habitat; removing non-native vegetation; managing fire to restore habitat; maintaining existing water sources and developing additional water where necessary; developing bighorn crossing areas over highways or other barriers where necessary to maintain or improve habitat connectivity; constructing fencing to exclude bighorn sheep from urban areas; reducing or eliminating detrimental human activities within bighorn habitat (including potential trail closures); and if the number of ewes in any recovery region drops below 15 and mountain lion predation is known to be a cause of death within that area, removal of mountain lions.

In accordance with recovery task 1.2.2 and CVMSHCP USFWS permit condition #32, if the number of ewes within a ewe group (defined by Rubin et al. 1998 as groups of ewes having overlapping 100% minimum convex polygon home ranges) or subgroup (a group of ewes with overlapping 90% fixed-kernel home ranges) drops below 15, the CVCC shall convene a meeting of the Trails Management Subcommittee, RMUC, Wildlife Agencies, BLM, a representative of the CVCC, and appropriate researchers as soon as possible, but in no more than 30 days of notification by CDFW or the USFWS of the subpopulation estimate. The convened group shall review all data regarding the decline of ewe abundance and the causes thereof, and recommend to the RMOC appropriate measures to be taken regarding the observed decline. The RMOC shall forward a recommendation within 30 days of the initial meeting to the CVCC for a decision so that implementation of appropriate management actions can commence, consistent with State and Federal regulations, within the following 30 days. If the subpopulation estimate indicates that a ewe group has dropped to 5 or fewer adult female PBS, immediate management action to address the decline and/or reduce potential stress to the sheep subpopulation shall be taken within 3 days. Concurrent with any action taken, CVCC shall initiate the process described above to identify long-term management action to address this condition. Management actions needed to address the decline may include but are not limited to trail rerouting, adjustments in use levels, enforcement actions, and/or trail closures. A contingency plan may be developed at any time to expedite adaptive management actions in response to a decline of ewes within a ewe group or subgroup (e.g., more than 15 ewes in a ewe group or subgroup, but with consistent or dramatic declines in ewe numbers; less than 15, but more than 5, ewes in a ewe group or subgroup). The delineation of ewe groups is subject to review and modification by the Wildlife Agencies, as data warrant.

Table 7-13 provides adult ewe-yearling subpopulation estimates as well as total (adult rams + adult ewes + yearlings) subpopulation abundance estimates in the four

recovery regions (at least partially) within the Plan area from 1998 (when PBS were federally listed as endangered) through 2010.

It is expected that, over time, as bighorn sheep subpopulations increase, new ewe groups may form. These ewe groups will be monitored to determine what, if any, management actions may be necessary to ensure their survival.

For more information about management of trails and public use, see Section 8.4.6.2 (“Management: Desert Scrub, Chaparral, Woodland, and Forest Communities”).

### ***7.3.3.2 Other Public Access Issues and Uses on Reserve Lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area***

Because Reserve Lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area provide Essential Habitat for Peninsular bighorn sheep, the Trails Plan must address other recreational activities on federal and nonfederal lands. Modifications to the management prescriptions listed here may occur using an Adaptive Management approach, as information from scientific monitoring, data gathering, and analysis becomes available.

#### **➤ *Off-Trail Travel***

- “Off-trail travel” is hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, or similar non-motorized conveyance off trails specifically identified in Table 7-12, which constitute the approved trail system.
- Off-trail travel in Essential bighorn sheep Habitat is prohibited from January 1 through September 30, and allowed from October 1 through December 31.
- During the period when off-trail travel is allowed, recreationists are encouraged to remain on trails to protect resource values, limit erosion, avoid damage to vegetation, and minimize other impacts.
- During the period when off-trail travel is prohibited, individuals may venture no more than 50 feet from centerline of trails on either side for purposes of resting, nature study, or other similar activities; this use does not constitute off-trail travel.
- Holders of permits issued for research and extended study, as well as employees or agents of Permittees or other agencies in the performance of their official duties, are exempt from the off-trail travel prohibition.
- Bicycles are prohibited year-round from traveling off trails; travel by such conveyance is restricted to approved trails.
- The BLM may seasonally prohibit off-trail travel in selected areas only instead of across all Essential bighorn sheep Habitat. This approach, as for

all other aspects of this Trails Plan relating to BLM lands, requires a separate decision by the BLM.

➤ ***Camping***

- Camping in Essential bighorn sheep Habitat is prohibited from January 1 through September 30, and allowed from October 1 through December 31, except where prohibited in accordance with existing municipal codes.
- Camping is prohibited more than 50 feet from approved trails identified in Element 1 and within 1/4 mile of water sources.
- Campers must obtain a permit for camping where and when camping is allowed. The Permittees, CVCC, CDFW, and BLM will develop a system for administering these permits.
- Carrizo Canyon Ecological Reserve and Magnesia Spring Ecological Reserve are closed to camping (California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Section 630).

➤ ***Horses and Pack Animals***

- Pack stock is limited to horses, donkeys, and mules.
- Resting or tethering horses and pack animals is not allowed within 200 feet of any water source, including springs, seeps, or man-made guzzlers.
- Feeding of horses and pack animals within Essential bighorn sheep Habitat is restricted to weed-free pellets.

➤ ***Noncommercial, Noncompetitive Organized Group Activities***

- Organized group activities on lands under the jurisdiction of Permittees are subject to applicable local ordinances.
- A permit may not be required for noncommercial, noncompetitive organized group activities on BLM-managed lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument when the primary purpose of the activity is hiking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding; waiver of the permit requirement is dependent on the BLM's separate decision regarding applicability of MSHCP trails management plan prescriptions to BLM lands. An organized group activity is defined as a structured, ordered, consolidated, or scheduled event for the purpose of recreational use that is not commercial or competitive. If the primary purpose of the noncommercial, noncompetitive organized group activity is other than hiking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding, a representative of the group must contact the BLM to determine whether a permit is required. Upon completion of the research program, or the review and analysis of interim monitoring and research results by the BLM and the Wildlife

Agencies, permit requirements for noncommercial, noncompetitive organized group activities may be modified as appropriate to support recovery of Peninsular bighorn sheep.

- Organized group events on State lands are subject to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 550, 551, and 630.

➤ ***Non-Motorized Commercial and Competitive Recreation Activities***

- Non-motorized commercial and competitive recreation activities may be allowed, except on selected trails when manipulations of use under the research program, or lambing or hot season closures are in effect (see Elements 1 and 2). CVCC in conjunction with CDFW, BLM, and USFWS shall develop a permit system for commercial and competitive activities on nonfederal lands in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area. In developing this permit system, consistency with permitting requirements for commercial and competitive recreation activities on federal lands will occur to the extent practicable. Non-motorized commercial and competitive recreation activities may require a permit for the use of BLM-managed lands consistent with the requirements found at Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 2932. Applications for permits will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, subject to existing regulations, policies, and land management plans, including compliance with CEQA and/or NEPA, as applicable. Consistent with CEQA/NEPA requirements, non-motorized commercial recreation activities and competitive events may require consultation with the Wildlife Agencies, except for activities and events on paved roads or at developed sites, exclusive of trailheads. For non-motorized commercial and competitive recreation activities on BLM-managed lands, applicants must submit a Special Recreation Permit application at least 180 days in advance of the intended use, must pay a use fee, and may be required to pay a fee for recovery of processing, monitoring, and enforcement costs. Based on environmental analysis and other factors, the applicant's proposal may or may not be approved.

➤ ***Motorized-Vehicle Use of Trails***

- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all trails, except Dunn Road or as specifically approved for trail maintenance and construction projects. Motorized-vehicle use of Dunn Road is limited to administrative purposes; motorized access by the public is prohibited.
- Use of motorized vehicles for trail maintenance and construction projects in designated wilderness is generally prohibited; exceptions to the prohibition must be in conformance with existing laws and regulations.

- Motorized-vehicle use of trails may only be authorized where and when limitations on public uses are not in effect (see Section 7.3.3.2.1, “Trails Management Program”).
- Employees and agents of Permittees or other agencies are exempt from the motorized-vehicle prohibition when performing official work duties such as, but not limited to: law enforcement patrols, search and rescue operations, pre-suppression and suppression activities for wildland fires, and actions related to flood control. This exemption also applies to private and non-Permittee landowners upon their respective properties, except where motorized-vehicle access is otherwise prohibited (such as in designated wilderness areas).

#### ***7.3.3.2.3 Existing Trails outside the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area***

Trails on Reserve Lands outside the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area have been established primarily in association with existing parks, preserves, and wilderness areas. These trails are considered as compatible activities under the Plan and are as follows:

- A system of trails on the Thousand Palms Preserve
- The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail traversing Reserve Lands in the Snow Creek/Windy Point and Stubbe and Cottonwood Canyons Conservation Areas
- Trails on non-federal lands within Dos Palmas Preserve/ACEC

**Table 7-13: Total (Adult Rams + Adult Ewes + Yearlings) Subpopulation Abundance Estimates and Adult Ewe/Yearling Subpopulation Abundance Estimates per Recovery Region in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area<sup>11</sup>**

Year	Recovery Region 1 – San Jacinto Mountains		Recovery Region 2 – North Santa Rosa Mountains		Recovery Region 3 – Central Santa Rosa Mountains		Recovery Region 4 – South Santa Rosa Mountains <sup>12</sup>	
	Total Abundance	Adult Ewes + Yearlings	Total Abundance	Adult Ewes + Yearlings	Total Abundance	Adult Ewes + Yearlings	Total Abundance	Adult Ewes + Yearlings
1998	23	8	22 (1)*	13	72	Unknown	35	Unknown
2000	17	8	32 (2)*	14	53	Unknown	51	Unknown
2002	22 (4 adults)*	4	40	18	115	Unknown	84	Unknown
2004	32 (6)*	12	57	32	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
2006	21 (5)*	9	49	30	163	Unknown	179	Unknown
2008	26	12	77 (2)*	32	122	Unknown	155	Unknown
2010	16	10 (10) <sup>†</sup>	90 (1)*	51 (50) <sup>†</sup>	133	71 (68) <sup>†</sup>	149	84 (75) <sup>†</sup>
2012	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

\* An asterisk denotes the subpopulation was augmented with captive-reared bighorn sheep from Bighorn Institute (with the number of augmented sheep in parentheses).

<sup>†</sup> A dagger denotes the number of non-yearling female bighorn sheep (listed in parentheses). The first survey year for which ewe abundance estimates were reported separately from female yearling abundance estimates was 2010.

**Associated Trails-related Issues Not Addressed by the Trails Plan**

Due to specific resource concerns associated with the Art Smith Trail and the Mirage (“Bump and Grind”) Trail, management actions to support Peninsular bighorn sheep recovery were addressed separately from the Trails Plan and were completed prior to issuance of the Permits. These actions include rerouting the easternmost segment of the Art Smith Trail to incorporate the southern Schey Trail; restricting access to Dead Indian Canyon and decommissioning a segment of the Art Smith Trail; constructing the Hopalong Cassidy perimeter trail; closing the upper portion of the northern Schey Trail; providing an alternate access to the Mirage Trail; closing the upper Mirage Trail; and implementing an education, signage, and enforcement program to support these actions. Environmental documentation addressing these actions is separate from the Trails Plan and consists of a Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact approved by the Palm Desert City Council on November 17, 2005, and Environmental Assessment CA-660-06-04 approved by the BLM on November 29, 2005. See Figure 7-15 for a depiction of the affected trails. In 2013 state legislation was signed by the governor providing for opening the upper Mirage Trail for nine months, and closing the trail for

<sup>11</sup> Subpopulation estimates taken from Peninsular Bighorn Sheep 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation, Appendices 2 and 5 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2011). Augmentation counts taken from 1998–2010 Bighorn Institute annual reports.

<sup>12</sup> More than half of Recovery Region 4 extends into Imperial County, outside the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Area.

three months (February through April). A decision by the Fish and Game Commission is pending.

### ***Ongoing Revisions to the Trails Plan***

As an element of the MSHCP, the Trails Plan was approved in 2008 coincident with approval of the MSHCP. To provide greater flexibility in implementing management prescriptions, enhance recreational opportunities, and streamline monitoring processes, all while ensuring that the recovery of Peninsular bighorn sheep is not compromised, the 2008 Trails Plan has been revised as a Minor Amendment to the MSHCP in 2014. Principal among the 2014 revisions are: (1) addressing new trail construction, rerouting trails, and decommissioning trails on a case-by-case basis based on ongoing or completed research results, instead of deferring such actions until the initial five-year phase of the monitoring and research program has been completed; (2) eliminating the mandatory self-issue permit system as part of monitoring trail use by hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders; (3) expanding opportunities for hiking with leashed dogs by allowing them on a segment of the Hopalong Cassidy Trail between its intersection with the Homestead Trail and the cross in Palm Desert; and (4) eliminating the programmatic prohibition of competitive recreation events in Essential bighorn sheep Habitat in favor of addressing proposals for such activities on a case-by-case basis.

The 2014 revision process originally included the solicitation of comments and recommendations from the full Trails Management Subcommittee. Later, a Trails Plan Working Group (TPWG) was convened to refine the revised Trails Plan. The TPWG consisted of public members of the Trails Management Subcommittee, as well as staff from the Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Final 2014 TPWG input will be presented for consideration and a recommendation to the full Trails Management Subcommittee, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains RMUC, and the RMOC. The RMOC will be asked to make a recommendation to the CVCC. The revised Trails Management Plan will require a Minor Amendment Requiring Wildlife Agencies' Concurrence and approval by the CVCC.