



Memo
Alabama Hills Management Plan (AHMP)
January 20, 2021

Overall

The Decision selects a combination of strategies and actions from all alternatives of the EA (no action, alt 1 and alt 2). Life of plan is 15-20 years with an adaptive management approach and appropriate amendments to the plan on an as needed basis. Management strategies and action will be implemented as time and funding allows.

The AHMP covers the 18,745 acre National Scenic Area and the 10,520 acre Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The current public comment period for the DRECP amendment includes opening up the SRMA to renewable energy development. The AHMP does not mention renewable energy development.

Public Comments

- Scoping-76 written comments
- EA- 128 comment letters, plus 302 form letters

Overnight Use

- Free limited permits of 50 in designated areas only, 5 group sites, reduction and possible elimination of sites if resource issues occur (human waste, safety, etc.). Fee based if needed. Camping limits up to 7 days, or 14 days in a calendar year
- Campfire permit required, campfires in designated fire rings only
- Signage indicating the difficulty of parking for larger vessels
- Tuttle Creek name changed to Alabama Campground, amenities improvements, consider reservation system for all or part of the campground. Add additional campsites for group and equestrian
- Develop a new campground outside the NSA
- Develop a campground on City of Los Angeles lands along Whitney Portal Road, near Movie Flat

Day Use

- No permits needed for day use activities, subject to change based on use data and resource damage
- Pets on leash and under control of person
- Develop an ADA climbing site. Seasonal climbing closures if needed. Remove bolts from routes that damage scenic values. Define and delineate popular climbing areas. Allow for bolt replacement and repositioning
- No permit required for new routes
- Implement Best Practices for climbing
- Permit required in NSA

Roads and Trails

- 95 miles of designated routes, 15 miles non-motorized, pedestrian only on Arch trail. Development of new routes may occur to improve visitor experience and reduce resource damage
- Travel management- designated Limited Use Area
- Convert 5 miles of routes to one-way
- Convert 4 miles of routes to non-motorized
- Close up to 5 miles of routes
- E-bikes only on motorized routes
- Create inter-park walk at movie rd. south entrance kiosk

Facilities

- Require use of toilets or appropriate pack it out
- Temporary toilets with visual screening to determine the best location and then once decided, install up to 3 permanent toilets within the plan area. Supplement with portables as needed
- Improve picnic area and install toilets and trash/recycling at AHs information station
- Install toilet, trash and recycling receptacles, and information kiosks on the corner of Whitney Portal Road and Movie Road (requires LADWP coordination)

Parking

- Allow for day use parking on disturbed areas, 25 pull outs on narrow roads. Install infrastructure to limit expansion of parking areas

Signage

- Add large NSA sign at south and north entrances
- Add interpretive panels and kiosks at multiple locations and entrances

Wildlife

- Wildlife resistant trash, recycling, food storage lockers at Tuttle creek. Any new facilities will be wildlife resistant
- *No requirements for permit semi-primitive camping*

Inventory and Monitoring

- Use patrols and traffic counters to collect visitor use data
- Monitor human waste and trash and address accordingly, installing up to 2 additional toilets, trash, etc if needed bringing total to 5
- Evaluate traffic use and road conditions

Special Use Permits

- First come first serve, then move to lottery system with capped #
- Issue only one SUP per day per site, maximum # of participants varies based on location (i.e. shark fin 10 users)
- No cross country travel permitted
- Max # of vehicles on a case by case basis
- Priority given for camping permits to SUP holders

Scenic Values

- No scenic byway
- Manage to meet VRM class II objectives
- Enforcement of VRM at key observation points only
- Temp project may exceed VRM standards

- Update VRI, establish a schedule to keep VRI current
- Dark Sky guidance and monitoring

Geological and Mining

- Casual use mining only on active mining claims in NSA, casual use mining allowed outside NSA
- Manage Alabama Gulch Claim as a recreational prospecting area open to public
- Personal surface rock collection allowed, scientific rock coring or drilling by permit only
- Notify claim holders of mineral withdrawal in NSA
- Initiate mineral examinations and validity as funding allows
- Access and prioritize mitigation of abandoned mine sites.
- Mineral collection can occur outside the NSA

Cultural

- Status quo with Bishop RMP
- Provide assistance to LPPST trust land parcel to protect cultural resources
- Develop co-management agreements with LPPST for shared stewardship and mgmt actions
- Develop and implement a site steward program
- Analyses of sites for listing on NRHP

Historic

- Status quo with Bishop RMP
- Evaluate HRHP eligibility in the Chicken Ranch vicinity
- Document historic trail east of chicken ranch, treat invasive plants in the area
- Remove modern trash in historic area
- Stabilize yellow sky arrasta, protect the structure from vandalism and vehicular traffic
- Document LADWP storage bunkers that are now part of BLM lands. protect from damage
- Interp signage at Gunga Din bridge site
- Survey and document other historic structures in the planning area
- Inventory historic film sites

Plants

- Status quo with Bishop RMP and 2015 EA for plants
- Treat non-native plant species
- Locate and eradicate invasives where there are small and manageable
- Rapid response to Tamarisk and Russian Thistle and other invasives not identified in 2015 EA

Wildlife

- Repair, maintain or remove Movie Flat Spring box to restore water flow and function for habitat
- Complete raptor, breeding bird and spring snail surveys and create an updated inventory of species in the planning area
- Evaluate distribution of Mohave Ground Squirrel every 5 years, if occupied implement CMAs in accordance with DRECP
- Implement habitat improvement projects for a variety of wildlife species

Fuels and Fire

- Fuels treatments currently occur on 35 acres in the plan area, increase 850 additional acres of fuels treatments focused on specific vegetation types that present a wildfire risk

Education and Interpretation

- Complete and implement an interpretive plan with specific deliverables

Partnerships

- Consult and coordinate with AHSG, LPPST, ESIA, Museum of Western Film History, Inyo County and LADWP, CDFW, USFWS
- Coordinate with Friends of the Inyo on stewardship projects
- Install donation boxes at kiosks and facilities locations

Science

- Use the National Landscape Conservation System Science Strategy to support research and education in the plan area